

NEXT
HUNDRED
YEARS

100

THE WAY WE ARE



On Thursday 19th January, the female Past Presidents' and current President of the Society were invited to join the 11 finalists selected for 'The Way We Are' photographic project in London. The photographic project was established by the Next 100 Years in March 2020.



Those in attendance were current President, Janine McKinney, Laura Pinkney (2018), Kathryn Meir (2017), Deborah Hutchinson (2010), Christine Doughty (2002) and in spirit Nora Heeley (1975). The photograph chosen for the final of the project was taken at the 2019 Past Presidents' Lunch, which is held annually in December at Trent Bridge Cricket Ground.

Nora Heeley was the first female President in 1972, some 97 years since the Society was incorporated.

Past Presidents' Deborah Hutchinson and Christine Doughty, share their memories of Nora and their experiences of the day trip to London.

Pictured from left to right:
Susanna Whysall (1993), Christine Doughty (2002),
Deborah Hutchinson (2010) holding a picture of the late
Nora Heeley (1972), Kathryn Meir (2017) & Laura Pinkney
(2018)

Becoming Calendar Girls – Deborah Hutchinson

It all began when Michelle suggested a photo opportunity for the select bunch of women who have passed through the Presidency of the Nottinghamshire Law Society. I had the idea that this should include the photo of Nora Healy, the first of our number, becoming President in 1972 and who had died in 1994 aged 81. By all accounts she was a formidable woman throughout her career but when I met her and began to look after her affairs towards the end of her life, she had completely mellowed.

The photo was taken by Michelle at the 2018 Past Presidents Lunch and none of us thought any more about it until Michelle announced we were finalists in The Way WE Are photographic competition and were all invited down to London for the Awards Evening on 19th January. Susannah was already on tour of the Caribbean but four of us accompanied by Michelle and Janine (and Nora's picture) went on our own tour down to London.

The advance party of Michelle, Kathryn, Christine and myself met up at St Pancras availing ourselves of some sustenance at The German Gymnasium whilst waiting for Laura to join us, then it was on to The Wolseley, meeting up there with Janine, for a gloriously decadent and a deliciously tasty champagne cream tea.



Fully replete we made our way to the Awards Venue, the offices of DLA Piper where we were the first to arrive and were plied with yet more drink and canapes – I must say I had to say no more often than I usually do.

The twelve finalist photographs were being displayed on a large screen and the room gradually filled. Chatting to the Senior Partner of the hosting firm, he came out with a mantra we could all do well to heed.

More photos were taken, and the prize winners were announced. Third prize went to a photograph of six female presidents - not of your own Society however but of THE Law Society. Up against such an entry we were not disappointed, just flattered that out of all the many entries the judges felt that our sextet still merited a finals place.

We all were agreed that the judges chose worthy winners and then came the announcement – each of the finalists were to feature in a calendar.

Your Past Presidents appear as Miss(es) June. We came away with smiles on our faces and calendars in our bags

And that mantra? “ No-one says no to Michelle!”



Nora... by Christine Doughty

When Michelle took the photograph of female Past Presidents in 2018, little did we (or she) know that in 2022 she would be entering us in a competition, or that we would become calendar girls in 2023.

Women Solicitors are nothing unusual today, but in the first 40 years only 8 women qualified in Nottingham. The one I remember is Norah Healey who qualified in 1941.

She was also unusual in that she undertook advocacy. My abiding memory is of Norah representing young women in Affiliation proceedings. (Younger readers may need to look that up).

She set up in practice with a man by the unlikely name of Fred Smith who dealt with the non-contentious work. In later years she left private practice to become a Tribunal Chairman (now known as Judge). Her appointment as Nottinghamshire Law Society President in 1972 was a first and was not to be repeated until Susanna Poppleston in 1992.

Although she had to be taken out of her frame, we decided to take Norah with us to London for the presentation ceremony on 19th January. I do not know what she would have made of travel by EMR, lunch at the German Gymnasium, Afternoon Tea at The Wolseley, a trip on the new Elizabeth Line, drinks and canapés at the opulent offices of DLA Piper, and a nightcap at the Champagne Bar at St Pancras International. I hope she would have enjoyed it and approved of those of us who have admired and followed her.







Kathryn Meir, Christine Doughty, Michelle Foster, Deborah Hutchinson holding Nora Heeley, Laura Pinkney, Janine McKinney with the Past President of The Law Society, I. Stephanie Boyce



The Way We Are – 3rd Finalist – Female President's of The Law Society



2nd Finalist – Judicial Oath on the Quran



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The Way We Are – Winner – Bridging The Bar in Action. Mentoring should be by all for all.

