



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
Edinburgh Law School

Newsletter

| Summer 2016 |

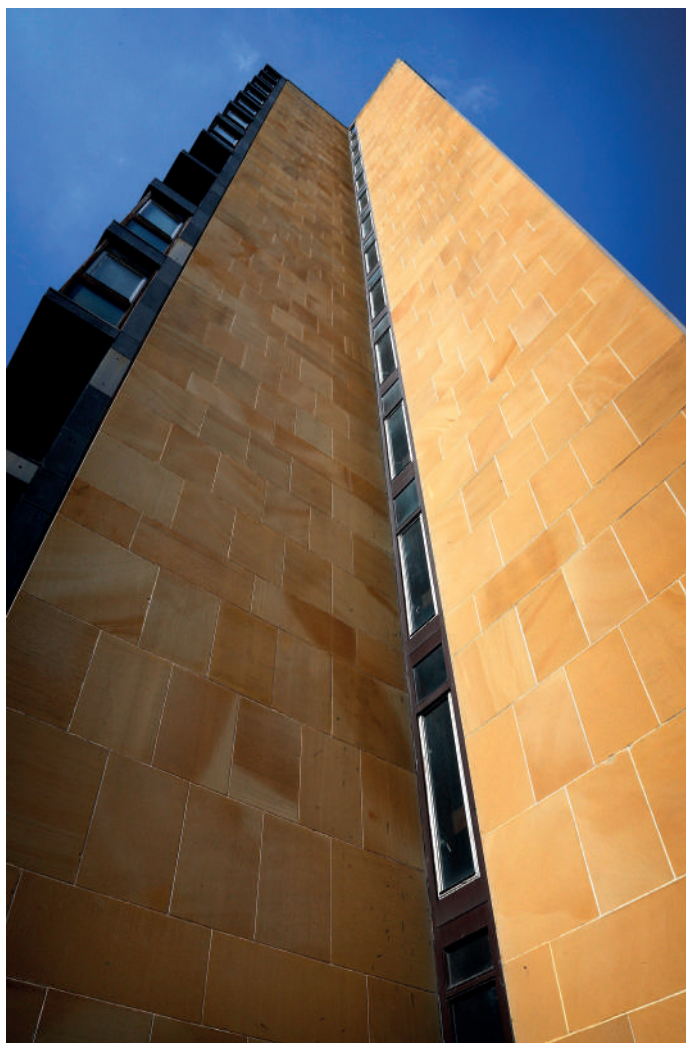


The 'Farewell' edition

Also in this issue

| Farewell Prof George Gretton | Spotlight on 1981 | EU Referendum |

Welcome to the first electronic edition of the Edinburgh Law School Alumni Newsletter



Our temporary home at David Hume Tower

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As you read this edition of Edinburgh Law School's alumni newsletter, we will have bidden adieu to Old College and settled in to our temporary home in the David Hume Tower. Refurbishment work on the Law School is making wonderful progress and we are on track to move back in to our state-of-the-art building in January 2018. You can have a look at the construction in progress on [page 9](#).

The month of June not only saw us say farewell to our historic home, but also to our esteemed colleague and friend Professor George Gretton. George retired from his position as Lord President Reid Professor of Law at the end of June; as tribute to his 35 years with the School we have a dedicated feature to 1981, the year he started. During the decant of Old College we (serendipitously) uncovered an archive of the old Law Student Council's biannual magazine *The Old College Times*. As part of this special feature, we sent a copy of the Autumn 1981 edition to the editors and contributors and were delighted to receive some lovely memories of that time. Head to [pages 6 & 7](#) to read this feature and the 1981 Old College Times.

As always, this issue will not just look to the past. The work of our staff continues to reflect contemporary issues and is becoming ever more significant, influencing debates on the EU referendum, bioethics, police practices and peace processes. You can read more about the impact of our research on [page 4](#).

So as we celebrate our past and invest in our future, we hope you will continue to join us on our journey. Don't forget to send us your latest contact details and sign up to our mailing list to stay up to date with the School's latest goings on.

The Law School's Temporary Relocation – Need to Know



MOVE DATES
20th June to 4th July



NEW ADDRESS
David Hume Tower,
George Square,
Edinburgh, EH8 9JX



PHONE NUMBER
0131 650 2008



**INTENDED MOVE
BACK DATE**
4 January 2018

School News

News in brief



Professor Susan McVie receives an OBE

Susan McVie, Professor of Quantitative Criminology, was recognised in the Queen's New Year's Honours. Her OBE investiture took place on Thursday, 9th June at Buckingham Palace. Professor McVie is the Director of Applied Quantitative Methods Network (AQMeN) in Scotland. She is also co-Director of the Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime, a longitudinal study of youth offending.



Professor Ken Reid awarded Honorary Degree from the University of Cape Town

The degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*, was conferred upon Professor Kenneth Reid, Chair of Scots Law, by the University of Cape Town on 19 December 2015. Previous recipients of this prestigious honour have included Professor Sir Thomas Smith (1959), who also held the Chair of Scots Law.



Major Research Fellowship from the Leverhulme Trust awarded to Professor Niamh Nic Shuibhne

Professor Niamh Nic Shuibhne, Chair of European Union Law, has been awarded funding for a research project entitled "(Con)Founding the Union: Equal Treatment in an Unequal Europe". The project will commence on 1 September and will last for three years.



Dr Kath Murray receives prestigious Early Career Impact award

The Scottish Centre for Crime & Justice Research's Dr Kath Murray has been awarded the prestigious Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) prize for her agenda-setting work on police stop-and-search practices. Kath's PhD research on stop-and-search led to a high-profile debate about policing in Scotland and even prompted policy changes within the Scottish Government.

Staff leavers and joiners

We will be saying goodbye to several esteemed colleagues over the next few months. Losing such friends is only eased by the arrival of new faces.

We are bidding a fond farewell to Dr Liz Campbell, Professor Elisa Morgera, Dr Apolline Roger and Dr Lynne Copson as they move onto exciting new positions in other institutions. Professor George Gretton retired in June after 35 years at the School – further details on his life at Edinburgh Law School may be found in our feature on [page 5](#).

We are delighted to be welcoming Dr Leandro Mancano, Lecturer in EU Law, and Dr Emmanuel Oke, Lecturer in International Intellectual Property Law in August.

What's on at the Law School

We will be releasing our new events calendar for the 2016/17 year in August. There are some exciting events planned, including a second Leadership Foundation for Women Lawyers following the success of the inaugural event this May.

Visit www.law.ed.ac.uk/events for the most up to date events listings, or email law.events@ed.ac.uk to join the events mailing list.

Research News

Shaping the future of the UK post-Brexit

Following the historic decision of the UK electorate in June to leave the European Union, the country now faces many difficult considerations and the legal questions surrounding the future of the UK outside of the EU are at the heart of discussions.

Edinburgh Law School's academics are at the forefront of the debate about the UK's membership of the European Union and the implications of Brexit. They have been involved in a variety of ways from media engagement to key governmental advisory positions and publishing widely on the topic. We wanted to share with you some of the ways in which we are shaping the discussions about the UK's future.

Europa Institute

The Europa Institute at the University of Edinburgh is one of the most active and longest-established specialist centres of advanced study on European integration in the United Kingdom and Europe. The Institute brings together world-class scholars on EU law, politics and policy as well as supporting a vibrant community of early career research fellows and postgraduate students. It emphasises research, teaching, and the exchange of ideas with the wider world.

[Find out more about the Europa Institute](#)

European Futures blog

Many of our people have contributed to the European Futures blog both pre- and post-referendum. Recent articles include:

- 'Brexit and Direct Taxation: What are the Implications?' by Dr Luca Cerioni and Ms Sandra Eden ([European Futures](#))

- 'A European Future for Scotland?' by Dr Tobias Lock ([European Futures](#))
- 'A Lame Duck Member State: The UK's Position in the EU after the Referendum' by Dr Tobias Lock ([European Futures](#))

Read more from the blog at [European Futures: Edinburgh Law School](#).

Scottish Universities Lawyers Network on Europe (SULNE)

The Scottish Universities Lawyers Network on Europe (SULNE) is a new joint initiative from Edinburgh Law School, the Europa Institute, and Glasgow School of Law.

The network is co-chaired by Professors Jo Shaw (Edinburgh) and Noreen Burrows (Glasgow) and its core membership will consist of legal academics from across Scotland's universities. Expressions of interest have been received from over 50 colleagues representing 8 different institutions.

One of the main objectives of SULNE will be to provide legal expertise on Scotland's future position following the vote to leave the EU.

For further enquiries or expressions of interest contact maria.fletcher@glasgow.ac.uk

Standing Council on Europe

The Scottish Government has elected a group of experts to advise on Scotland's relationship with the EU. Two members of the Law School have joined this group. Professor Andrew

The International Association of Bioethics comes to Edinburgh

From 14th to 17th June, Edinburgh hosted the [13th IAB World Congress](#). Edinburgh Law School staff from the [Mason Institute](#) organised the largest bioethics conference, bringing together global thought-leaders in the field. Researchers, professionals and students joined together to seek enlightenment on issues of peace, health, environment and technology around the question of "what can bioethics contribute to individuals, public interests and public goods?"

This year's Congress featured an Arts and Ethics stream for the first time, exploring the relationship and interactions between bioethics and the arts. This stream included oral and poster presentations, symposia, performances, film presentations and a curated gallery of work from around the world. Conference delegates experienced a special headline event in the form of *Eidolon*, a theatrical production from the

Edinburgh College of Art. *Eidolon* has received rave reviews from the Scotsman.

The new stream of IAB 2016 has benefitted greatly from extensive support from members of the IASH-funded Arts and Ethics Research Group, a new collaboration based in the Law School, which will be meeting following the Congress.

It's always wonderful to have the opportunity to share our University and our research with colleagues throughout the world – well done to our staff who have worked so hard on this significant event.



Display at the Arts and Ethics exhibition

Farewell Professor George Gretton

At the end of June our colleague and friend of 35 years, Professor George Gretton, retired from his post as Lord President Reid Professor in Law. George has been at the heart of Private Law teaching and research throughout this time; many of you may well remember his inimitable lectures or from his renowned conveyancing tours with Prof Ken Reid and Alan Barr - now immortalised as a kitchen tea towel. Here George remembers his first day at the School and reflects on how much has changed.



"Tuesday 1 September 1981. First day. Old College deserted. I walked down silent corridors and chapped on locked doors. Eventually I found the Faculty's administrator, Bill Bell. He was surprised to see me: "I didn't know you were coming till next month". Since I had resigned from my previous post – assistant solicitor at

Messrs Ketchen & Stevens WS – I had a sudden panic that I had arrived too soon, and would thus miss a month of salary, which, given my hand-to-mouth circumstances at the time, would have been disastrous, (happily, I was not mistaken). An office? No, he hadn't an office for me. Since I showed no signs of turning round and disappearing, he put me in Bill Wilson's office. Where Bill was I do not know, but I spent much of the next couple of weeks happily browsing the shelves of the Lord President Reid Professor of Law, and learning much: especially, I recall, about the law of partnership.

How much has changed since September 1981? One must not exaggerate: the changes have been large but not everything changed. The story has been one of evolution, not revolution. Some highlights:

First, those were the pre-computer days. In 1981, academics generally composed with pen and paper, or dictated, and support staff did the typing. When I arrived I was one of the few who could type. I asked for a typewriter. The request was refused: typing was to be done by support staff. I quietly brought in an old portable and all my early publications were hammered out on it: clackety-clackety-clack. Later I bought, and brought in, an early home computer (a Sinclair QL); it was many years until the university provided academics with desktop computers. The pre-computer age did at any rate have the great blessing of being free from email. (I received my first email at 10.54 on Monday 4 May 1992. It was from Kenneth Reid). The "no equipment for academics" rule was bureaucratic, not financial, but in fact, 1981 was the onset of a long period of austerity.

In the summer of 1981, the Government announced major reductions in tertiary education funding. For reasons that I cannot now recall, my contract was entered into in the summer of 1980, though I was not to take up my duties until about twelve months later. A few weeks after I arrived, the Dean said to me, with more candour than tact, that my arrival was financially awkward and

that the University had been on the verge of asking me not to come. The difference in the financial environment between now and then, both for the School of law and the University as a whole, is remarkable and welcome.

One campaign I embarked on almost as soon as I arrived concerned Old College itself. The use of the quad as a parking lot shocked me: the contrast between the parking lot and, on the other hand, the enlightenment ideals expressed by the architecture, was blatant and painful. This campaign brought me into conflict with the Principal. Others joined the fight, and eventually the change was made, with the current graceful layout dating from 2011. I would like to see a plaque put up: "Old College. Construction begun August 1789. Completed September 2011."

What else to add to my random list? Student numbers? Here the change has been striking: I don't have the numbers for 1981, but today the total, counting both UG and PG, is over 1500. Staff numbers – both academic and support - have likewise grown.

One more thought. Back in 1981, it must be admitted, the Law School was a bit parochial. Visits by others to us, or by us to others, whether academics or students, were uncommon, and visits to or from places outwith the UK were rare. That has changed partly because the world has changed, but moreso it has changed because Edinburgh Law School has changed: parochial no more.

I have been lucky. These 35 years have been a fascinating, almost intoxicating, time in the history of law in the UK, and not least in Scotland. To have been at Edinburgh, involved as a teacher, as a scholar, and also as a legal adviser to government, is to have been blessed by fortune."

G L Gretton



Bar, Gretton & Reid's Conveyancing Tours are immortalised in a tea towel.

Spotlight on 1981

In honour of George Gretton's outstanding and valued contribution to the Law School we wanted to dedicate this feature to the year it all began for him: 1981.

As part of this dedication (and thanks to the clear-out of Old College for the refurbishment) we are thrilled to share with you a copy of the Old College Times (OCT) from Autumn 1981. The Law Student Society newspaper revealed some fascinating articles about academic and legal issues that our students faced in that year. We have put an electronic copy of the newspaper on the Alumni pages of our website for you to peruse. [Have a read on our alumni webpages.](#)

We got in touch with some of the editors and contributors of that issue and asked them what their memories were of that year and of their time at Old College. Here some of them share their stories.

Eric Robertson QC, Class of 1981

Eric, now an Advocate with AM Advocates, wrote and article entitled 'The Life and Times of Old College: The Birth of the University', page 8 of the OCT.

"In some ways the old place looks the same - but today it's clear the books are on the move. Stacked crates await removal to new shelf space in David Hume Tower – the Law Library's short-term home while the transformation of Old College into a new living and learning space takes shape. Soon this whole area will be the domain of workers in hard hats, building out Phase 1 of the future.

For now, it's a space in transition – the footprint of the library desk as was, but with no furniture there now. To that library desk we would come, seeking guidance on how best to find the volumes, cases and articles that stubbornly refused to be found. In 1981, our world was one of card indices and written records; electronic law reports were in their infancy, personal computers and devices not yet part of the everyday.

Study then involved these perennial key ingredients – a congenial space in a room with light and quiet, room to spread out, access to the materials you needed, good advice from library staff and ideas from colleagues. Walking through the rooms now, I remember some were sociable areas and the further flung rooms with US or Commonwealth materials spaces were "head down, write the essay".

Library hours, like licensing hours, were more restricted then. At 10 pm, when some of us would adjourn for a well-earned pint on library closing, it was rumoured that Douglas Brodie – then a keen fellow student – would secretly re-enter the building to catch up on some unmissable new Statutory Instruments ...

Walking through those emptied rooms now, I recall the Law Library as a place where I came to understand the world as a place of laws and lawyers, precedents and principles - and good no-nonsense arguments."

Simon Di Rollo QC, Class of 1981

Simon, now an Advocate with Ampersand, was one of the Editors of the OCT Autumn 1981 edition.

"The *Old College Times* was perhaps a bit too serious and certainly too time consuming to produce to the digital era. The idea was to keep the student body informed at a time of radical change. The autumn of 1981 saw the Thatcher government getting into its stride with what we now call "austerity". The LSC produced this freebie (long before the "Metro") and funded entirely out of advertising (she would have approved).

Looking back, we were very privileged - a minimum grant for all and no tuition fees (postgraduates excepted). The plan to reduce tutorials and cut other important services in response to the government cuts was real enough. Another hot topic was the future of legal education -the Diploma had just begun. Professor Black had recently been appointed to the Chair of Scots Law and used his inaugural lecture to express concern at the lack of "black letter law" content of honours courses such as 'Sociology of Law'.

George Gretton was another new kid on the block. He gave up a successful career in private practice to become an inspirational teacher, writer and law reformer. There were hardly any up to date textbooks accompanying most of the private law courses. His areas of interest required particular attention. Thanks to his and his colleagues' contributions, courses were recast, textbooks written and the law modernised. As students and practitioners we gained enormously from these developments as I am sure have our clients.

As for the OCT, it faded away but not before being gently lampooned by a satirical faction of students producing an alternative version 'The Cold Porridge Times'."



[OCT 1981 Front Cover](#)

Andrew Sobolewski, Class of 1981

Andrew wrote the article, 'Bargain Basement Motoring – Cross the Channel!!', page 3 & 9.

"Looking again at the Old College Times Autumn 1981 reminded me of how quickly life passes you by. It seems only like yesterday when I was embarking on my final year in the Faculty of Law, having graduated LLB in June and about to start the Diploma in Legal Practice that October. As I recall this was an unwelcome additional year for a number of us who had embarked on double degrees and had been caught out by the introduction of the Diploma. Perhaps what most comes to mind, however, is why I wrote the article for the Old College Times in the first place.

Having spent many summer holidays working, I had built up enough money which with the help of a personal loan (banks were more understanding of a student's needs in those days!) allowed me to import a new BMW from Luxemburg at a significant saving to UK prices. What was more memorable, however, was being able to drive it under the archway and into the Old Quad, parking it in one of the many car parking spaces that existed in those days and then to amble up the stone stairways to 9 am start lectures and tutorials. It was certainly a convenience for me, but perhaps today's Old Quad with its coiffed lawn and polished flagstones is a more befitting reflection of its **grand architecture."**

We gave the Law School's outgoing President of the Law Student Council, James Bailey a copy of the 1981 edition and spoke to him about how the issues in 1981 compare to those affecting Law students in 2016.

James Bailey, Class of 2016

"Reading through the Autumn 1981 edition of the "Old College Times" I was struck by how many of the issues which were on the minds of students and staff over three decades ago are still relevant to the Law School today. Concerns relating to class sizes, the availability of resources and financial pressures have been discussed on many occasions during my studies and will doubtless continue to be reflected upon in future years. It is clear that the Law Students' Council played an active role in representing students' views on such matters in the 1980s and it continues to serve this important function in the modern era. In addition to this, the LSC continues to be involved in welcoming new students to the university with a Welcome Week help desk and a Strawberries and Fizz event on the Old College lawn, supporting other societies within the Law School, and hosting several social events throughout the year. Of particular note is Mummies and Daddies, an academic families event, which continues to enable students to get to know individuals from different year groups and now takes place in the Playfair Library. This event appears not to have changed too much over the years, although it seems that there was perhaps more wine and less members of staff at the 2015 event than in 1981!

Although in many ways the Law School of 2016 resembles that of the early 1980s, it is clear that the Law School has undergone several considerable changes too, which have led to improvements in both the quality and variety of legal education on offer. While full year Honours courses were once the norm, single semester courses are now on offer. This has given students opportunities, which would not have been available to them previously, resulting in an eclectic assortment of options such as Neuroscience and the Law; Asylum and Refugee Law and Policy; The Law of Fiduciary Duties; and Economic Analysis of Corporate Finance Law. The range of resources available to students has also broadened considerably, due to the wide variety of online databases now subscribed to, which has undoubtedly reduced the lengthy queues which must have formed in the library to read the latest cases and journal articles. Without doubt the most significant change is a development, which has recently begun: the Old College Refurbishment Project. This redevelopment will enable the Law School to adapt to contemporary conditions, enabling a truly modern legal education to be delivered in the building which has been at the heart of Scottish legal scholarship for generations."

Do you have any fond memories of your time at Edinburgh Law School? Please do share them with us.

Email us at law.events@ed.ac.uk or Tweet us [@UoELawSchool](https://twitter.com/UoELawSchool).

Alumni in the News

- Congratulations to **Eilidh Wiseman**, who has taken up post as President of the Law Society of Scotland. Eilidh graduated in 1985 and worked previously at Dundas and Wilson. The outgoing President, Christine McLintock, commented: "Eilidh is someone of the highest ability and integrity... I have no doubt that she will bring all of her expertise, energy and enthusiasm to the role of President".
- The Church of Scotland has appointed alumna **Mary McLeod** as Solicitor of the Church and Law Agent of the General Assembly. Mary has become head of the Kirk's nine in-house solicitor team, delivering legal advice and support to 1,400 congregations. Congratulations!
- Our warm felicitations are offered to alumni **Andrew Stewart QC** and **Sherriff John Beckett QC**, who have been named Senators of the College of Justice! In this capacity, they will deal with a wide range of civil matters, particularly complex and high value cases based on contractual disputes, judicial review, delict and the law relating to property, revenue, commerce, companies and intellectual property.
- **Douglas Alexander**, Former Secretary of State for International Development and Edinburgh Law School graduate, has been appointed as strategic adviser to Pinsent Masons. Richard Foley, senior partner, commented: "Douglas has a stellar reputation as one of the most capable and engaging politicians of his generation. At the heart of Douglas's remit with us is the issue of responsible business".
- Following nomination by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, **James Wolffe QC** took up post as Lord Advocate. Formerly Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, The Rt Hon James Wolffe took up the post in June following Frank Mullholland's resignation.

Do you have any successes that you'd like to share with the Law School community?

Email us at law.alumni@ed.ac.uk to share your story.

Prof Neil MacCormick Sculpture Fund

As a lasting tribute to the outstanding contribution to intellectual life in Scotland of Professor Sir Neil MacCormick, the Law School has commissioned four busts in his likeness. Created by sculptor Kenny Hunter, the busts will be cast in jesmonite. Two of the sculptures will be mounted on wooden plinths and will frame the new main entrance to the Law School in Old College. The remaining single busts will be displayed in the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Scottish National Portrait Gallery.

We would like to thank everyone who has kindly donated so far to help us to celebrate and commemorate the life of Neil MacCormick for generations to come. [Donations are still gladly received.](#) [You can donate by clicking here.](#)



Photo of Neil MacCormick sculpture in new main entrance

Photo Story

Edinburgh Law School's Refurbishment

In the last edition of *Edinburgh Law School News* we announced that the Law School refurbishment project would be changing from the planned five year phased project to a two-year project, during which the majority of the Law School would be temporarily decanted to the University's David Hume Tower. This now means that the School will be able to move back to its new facilities in January 2018 – two years ahead of schedule!

Excellent progress has already been made and we wanted to share a few pictures with you.

Sign up to the refurbishment blog [here](#) to keep up to date with the latest refurbishment news and progress.

Clockwise from top right:

Northwest (octagonal) corner

This is a view of the Northwest corner of the ground floor in what will be the new library octagonal bookstacks. This was previously the old Legal Practice Unit (for those who remember that far back) and more recently teaching spaces 164-169 and offices. Many original features have been uncovered in this area and will be reclaimed and restored.

Senate Room

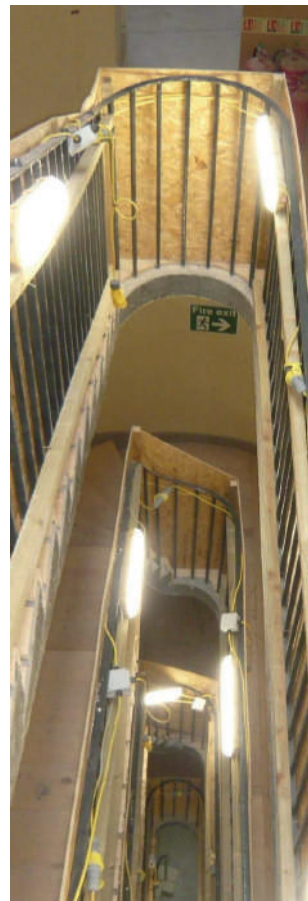
This photo shows the Senate Room in the new Law Library. This room was not previously part of the Law School. The columns and cornicing were fully revealed as stud walls and floors were removed. They will be sensitively restored and the room painted in colours used in the original building.

18th century graffiti

These engravings were found carved into stone that was reused as hearth lintel to a blocked up fireplace on the second floor. The 18th century graffiti seems to show two names 'Will Blaine' and 'I.A. Elphinstone' and the date May Day 1722 – 67 years before the foundation stone of Old College was laid.

Adam/Playfair Staircase protected

The original Adam and Playfair staircases are being maintained as part of the refurbishment. Here you can see that the construction company have made all efforts to protect the staircases during the works.



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