

CONFIDENTIAL FILING

The Election of the Prime Minister as an Honorary Bencher of Gray's Inn

PRIME  
MINISTER

Policy on Honorary Appointments

February 1983

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
<del>12.5.83</del>							
<del>28.7.83</del>							
<del>10.11.83</del>							
6.12.84							

PREM 19/1351

PRIME MINISTER

Lincolns Inn

Sir Justice Warner, whom I am told is an old friend of yours, is going to be Treasurer of Lincolns Inn next year and they wonder whether you would like to attend a dinner at the Inn some time during 1985. No speech would be required.

You should be aware that you are a Bencher of Grays Inn and have not yet been able to dine with them. If we accept Lincolns Inn and receive a further invitation from Grays Inn, it may be difficult to say no this time.

How would you like me to reply to Lincolns Inn?

6 December, 1984

PRIME MINISTER

Lincolns Inn

Sir Justice Warner, whom I am told is an old friend of yours, is going to be Treasurer of Lincolns Inn next year and they wonder whether you would like to attend a dinner at the Inn some time during 1985. No speech would be required.

Do you wish me to give the Inn a date?

CP

Caroline

4 December 1984

I held on to this because the PM is an Hon. Bachelor of Gray's Inn, but has not dined there since her ~~was~~ election. It might offend them if she went to Lincoln's Inn first. At speak. day 5/10

Prime Minister

mf

Professor Graveson telephoned  
to tell me that you had been  
elected an honorary bencher of  
Gray's Inn last night. <sup>A letter is</sup> ~~has been~~  
in the post and I will give you  
a letter of thanks when it arrives.

---

Gray's Inn will tell The Times  
of the election tomorrow, and so it  
will probably appear in Saturday's  
newspapers.

F.R.B.

10.11.

File

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CONSULTANT  
L. C. B. GOWER

01-404 0606

**9-11, FULWOOD PLACE,**

**GRAY'S INN,**

**LONDON WC1V 6HQ**

CABLES AND TELEGRAMS: LITSURE, LONDON, W.C.1

TELEX: 21210 LITLAW G

L D E. 122

YOUR REF

OUR REF G/CM

DATE 28th July 1983

*Dear Mr. Butler*

Thank you very much indeed for your letter of 22nd July. I am most grateful to you for all the efforts you have made and it is inappropriate to make any further comment except once again to express my thanks to everyone concerned.

*Yours sincerely*

*Goodman*

Personal

Robin Butler, Esq.,  
PPS to the Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street,  
London, S.W.1.

P.M.

Pl. file on our paper

~~ROBIN~~

The Prime Minister dictated  
this thank-you letter to me  
which I have now sent off.

Jay

20.7.83



10 DOWNING STREET

July  
19 August 1983

Dear Professor Graveson,

I should like to thank you most warmly for your hospitality last evening.

It was a great pleasure to attend the Gray's Inn Guest Night and to have the chance to talk to so many of the Benchers, both during and after dinner. It was a stimulating and enjoyable evening. You were a wonderful host and I am most grateful to you for your kindness.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher

---

Professor Ronald Graveson CBE QC



GRAY'S INN

---

DINNER

Monday, 18th July, 1983

Master Professor Ronald Graveson, C.B.E., Q.C., LL.D

*Treasurer*



# Menu

Melon au Porto

—

Poached Salmon and Hollandaise Sauce

—

Chocolate Soufflé

—

DINNER

Master Barry Pinson, Q.C.	Master Professor Randolph Quirk, C.B.E., D.Lit., F.B.A.
Master Jean Southworth, Q.C.	Master The Hon. Mr. Justice McCowan
Master Esyr Lewis, Q.C.	Master His Honour Judge Colin Sleeman
Master Maurice Bathurst, C.M.G., C.B.E., Q.C.	Master The Hon. Mr. Justice Kenneth Jones
Master Sir Edward Gardner, Q.C., M.P.	Master The Rt. Hon. The Lord Edmund-Davies, P.C.
Master The Hon. Mrs. Justice Heilbron, D.B.E.	The Prime Minister, The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Master Hugh Francis, Q.C.	The Treasurer
Master The Hon. Mr. Justice Croom-Johnson, D.S.C., V.R.D.	Mr. Denis Thatcher
Master His Honour Judge Judge Raymond Stock, Q.C.	Master His Honour Judge Brian Gibbens, Q.C.
Master Sir Douglas Frank, Q.C.	Master The Lord Wigoder, Q.C.
The Hon. Mr. Justice Hobhouse	Master The Hon. Mr. Justice Hollis
Master Conrad Dehn, Q.C.	Master Jon Harvey, Q.C.
Master Maurice Price, Q.C.	Master William Millar
Master James Wellwood	Master Simon Goldblatt, Q.C.
The Under-Treasurer	

ENTRANCE

DESSERT

The Under-Treasurer	Master William Millar
Master Barry Pinson, QC.	Master The Hon. Mr. Justice Hollis
<del>Master Maurice Price, QC.</del>	Master Sir Edward Gardner, QC., MP.
Master Esyr Lewis, QC.	Master His Honour Judge Brian Gibbens, QC.
Master Hugh Francis, QC.	Master The Hon. Mr. Justice Croom-Johnson, DSC., VRD.
The Treasurer	Master The Right Hon. The Lord Edmund-Davies, PC.
The Prime Minister, The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP.	Master The Hon. Mrs. Justice Heilbron, DBE.
Master Professor Randolph Quirk, CBE., D.Lit., FBA.	Master Maurice Bathurst, CMG., CBE., QC.
Master The Hon. Mr. Justice Kenneth Jones	Master The Lord Wigoder, QC.
Mr. Denis Thatcher	Master His Honour Judge Colin Sleeman
Master Conrad Dehn, QC.	Master Jean Southworth, QC.
Master Jon Harvey, QC.	Master James Wellwood

ENTRANCE

# Wines

Meursault Poruzots 1969

---

Coutet 1967

---

DESSERT

Graham 1948

---

Coutet 1967



File w/L FERB

PPS

Box

Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York

PO BOX 161 Morgan House, 1 Angel Court, London EC2R 7AE

The Rt. Hon. Lord Shawcross, G.B.E., Q.C.  
Adviser on International Operations

Telephone 01-600 2300

**The  
Morgan  
Bank**

12th July 1983

EB/7

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher MP  
Prime Minister's Office  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

mt

*Dear Rt. Hon. Member:*

As the Senior Bencher at Gray's Inn I would naturally have wished to be present when you both dine there next Monday and I am very disappointed I cannot be.

Alas, however, I have another and unavoidable commitment. On Monday after giving lunch to the Chancellor of the Exchequer (following one at my home on Sunday for the new Chinese Ambassador at which Ian Gow, Timothy Rathbone and Tufton Chelwood will be the other guests!) I am entertaining the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia and the High Commissioner to dinner preparatory to giving the former an Honorary Degree at Sussex University.

Your own meeting with Dr Mahathir was most successful and our relations with Malaysia, where I have several interests, are very much better. But I am doing what little I can in my small way to improve the University link.

Please accept my excuses and apologies.

*Of course - sorry*

*John  
Harris Rowman*

LILLIAN 13/5

Thank you for your minute of 12 May suggesting that I write to Professor Graveson about the Election of the Prime Minister as an Honorary Bencher of Gray's Inn. This was very useful and I have written accordingly.

✓ Could you please have a word with Alan Davies-Jones about the filing of these papers. As well as filing them on papers about the engagement of the Prime Minister to dine at Gray's Inn, it would be useful if a copy of the sets of papers both about Gray's Inn and about the Royal Society were kept on a file dealing with the policy on honorary appointments accepted by the Prime Minister, so that if similar proposals come up in the future we will know what the policy has been in these two particular cases.

R.R.B.

12 May, 1983



huc

10 DOWNING STREET

Principal Private Secretary

12 May, 1983

Now that the timing of the General Election is clear, it may be helpful if I reply to your letter of 15 April about the timing of your kind suggestion that you should propose the Prime Minister for election as an Honorary Bencher at Gray's Inn. As you know, the Prime Minister would be delighted to accept this proposal provided that it can be done outside the General Election atmosphere.

Mr and Mrs Thatcher are now planning to dine with you at Gray's Inn on Monday, 18 July. Thereafter, the most convenient course that would be consistent with the provisional plan which you and I discussed would be for the election to take place during the Michaelmas Term. Unless you let me know to the contrary, I will brief the Prime Minister to assume that this is the timing which you have in mind.

BE 4/12/83

Professor Ronald Graveson CBE QC

MR. BUTLER

HONORARY BENCHER OF GRAYS INN

The Prime Minister has been nominated for election as a Fellow of the Royal Society and the above.

Please see a copy of the Prime Minister's letter to Sir Andrew Huxley of the Royal Society.

Do you wish to write in similar terms to Grays Inn?

*William*

12 May 1983



Ref. A083/1299

MR BUTLER

---

Your minute of 25 April.

2. I confirm that I can see no objection whatever to the Prime Minister agreeing to be nominated for election as a Fellow of the Royal Society and as an Honorary Bencher of Grays Inn, and accepting these honours if elected. On the contrary, there is ample and respectable precedent for both appointments, and they seem to me to be entirely appropriate and fitting.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

9 May 1983

From: Professor Ronald Graveson, CBE., QC.

TELEPHONE  
01-405 8164/8  
TELEGRAMS  
GRAIENSIS, NORPHONE, LONDON.

PENSION CHAMBER,  
GRAY'S INN,  
WC1R 5EU.

26th April 1983.

*es. 27/4*  
Dear Prime Minister,

I understand that you would be free to dine at Gray's Inn on Monday, 18th July. We here are delighted at this news and invite Mr. Thatcher and yourself to join us for dinner between 6.30 and 6.45 p.m. on that evening. This is a normal dining night when, as you will know, day dress is worn.

I look forward to welcoming you both.

*Yours sincerely,*  
*Ronald Graveson*

Treasurer

The Right Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP.  
House of Commons,  
London, S.W.1.



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

IN CONFIDENCE

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

---

The Prime Minister has been approached by the President of the Royal Society who has enquired on behalf of his Council whether the Prime Minister would be willing to allow her name to be recommended to the Society for election to the Fellowship this year. She would be elected under a statute which empowers the Council to recommend for such election persons who either have rendered conspicuous service to the cause of science or are such that their election would be of signal benefit to the Society. The Prime Minister has it in mind to accept this invitation, but to say in her reply that, in the event of a General Election being announced before the election process is complete, she would expect the election either to be deferred or suspended until after the Election period.

*12/4/83*  
The Prime Minister has also been approached by the Treasurer of Grays Inn who has asked to be allowed to nominate her for election as a bencher. It is possible to make this election at any time during the dining terms, and the Prime Minister is minded to reply that she would be willing to be put forward for election during the November term.

Do you see any objection to the Prime Minister's accepting these invitations on the basis which I have described?

25 April 1983

25 April 1983

When I wrote to you last week I promised to let you know whether Mr. Thatcher could attend your dinner on 18 July.

Mr. Thatcher would be delighted to do so.

CAROLINE STEPHENS

Professor Ronald Graveson, C.B.E., Q.C.

CAROLINE



10 DOWNING STREET

MR. THATCHER

Are you free to accompany  
the Prime Minister that  
evening?

CS.

22 April 1983

Yes, interest

8 25/4



14/e  
a. RB  
BT

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

22 April 1983

I spoke to your secretary today about the difficulties of finding a mutually convenient date when the Prime Minister can dine at Gray's Inn on one of your Guest Nights.

I offered your secretary the only available evening the Prime Minister has in July, namely Monday 18th. I have made a note that your dinners start at 1900 hours and are informal.

BU |  
27/4

I will be letting you know about Mr. Thatcher's attendance next week.

CAROLINE STEPHENS

Professor Ronald Graveson, C.B.E., Q.C.

MR. BUTLER

You asked me to look at some dates when the Prime Minister could dine at Gray's Inn.

Mrs. Thatcher cannot manage any of the dates for the following reasons:

- 6 July: Speaker's Dinner
- 13 July: Reception for MPs and Wives  
(always goes on some time)
- 20 July: Reception for MPs and Wives
- 27 July: Reception for MPs and Wives
- 10 Nov.: This is the Thursday before the Lord Mayor's Banquet on Monday 14 November, so it is really going to crowd her.

What do you suggest? I know I am going to be in great difficulties finding any convenient date.

*C.S.*

P.S. and we are going to have  
to find another date when  
she is elected as Honorary  
Barrister.

22 April 1983

*H.T.  
15 July*



10 DOWNING STREET

Caroline

Could the PM dine at  
Gray's Inn on any of the  
dates mentioned in the last  
paragraph please?

FRB

22-4



From: Professor Ronald Graveson, CBE.,QC.

TELEPHONE  
01-405 8164/8  
TELEGRAMS  
GRAIENSIS, NORPHONE, LONDON.

PENSION CHAMBER,  
GRAY'S INN,  
WC1R 5EU.

15th April 1983.

*Dear Mr Butler,*

I thought it might be helpful if I were to write to you regarding my call on the Prime Minister on the 13th April. I should first repeat my thanks to the Prime Minister for agreeing to see me, especially when the purpose of my visit was not known to her. I am sorry that I reached the top of your staircase somewhat out of breath.

My purpose was to ask the Prime Minister to allow me to propose her for election as an Honorary Bencher of Gray's Inn. The grounds on which I do so are her personal distinction in the field of international relations, and her eminence as a woman in the life of the United Kingdom. I have no political purpose in making this proposal. I was delighted that this suggestion was received with pleasure and fully appreciate the reservation expressed over the timing of the proceedings in Gray's Inn for this election because of extraneous political reasons. I explained to you the need to complete the internal process of election within one of the law terms, and enclose a calendar of Gray's Inn indicating the remaining terms this year. I hope you will be good enough to let me know as soon as it is convenient to proceed with my proposal.

Coupled with the deferment of the implementation of this proposal, the Prime Minister suggested that it might be helpful if she were to attend some function in Gray's Inn. This possibility had been in my mind in enquiring whether she would be free to come to our Grand Night on 5th May, but she was already committed for that day.

Accordingly I had in mind to suggest that the Prime Minister might attend the Michaelmas Grand Night, taking place on 17th November. Since writing the above we spoke on the telephone, when you told me that she would find that date inconvenient and that she was already committed to dine elsewhere on 7th and 21st July, the Gray's Inn Guest Nights of our Trinity Term. Our only other Guest Night during the year falls on 10th November in the Michaelmas Term, and while it would still be possible to complete the election as an Honorary Bencher in the remainder of the Michaelmas Term, it would be a close-run thing. I should, of course, welcome the Prime Minister on any

cont.....

TELEPHONE  
01-405 8164/8  
TELEGRAMS  
GRAIENSIS, NORPHONE, LONDON.

PENSION CHAMBER,  
GRAY'S INN,  
WC1R 5EU.

- 2 -

cont.....

of these dates, but she may find it more convenient to dine with the Bench on a normal dining night, and I would suggest one of the following Wednesday evenings:

6th, 13th, 20th or 27th July ;

preferably one of the earlier dates. These are normal dining nights, in day dress, but there would be every opportunity for meeting a group of Benchers. On none of the occasions for dining is there any speech or reporting.

If you would like to discuss this matter further perhaps you would have lunch with me in Gray's Inn one day.

*Yours sincerely*

*Ronald Grosvenor*

Treasurer

Robin Butler, Esq.,  
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street,  
London, S.W.1.

HILARY TERM 1983

Wednesday 19th January	Term Begins, Debate in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Thursday 20th January	Benchers and Barristers Guest Night.
Friday 21st January	Concert in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Monday 24th January	Moot in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Tuesday 25th January	Sponsorship Night.
Wednesday 26th January	Debate in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Thursday 27th January	Barristers and Students Guest Night.
Friday 28th January	Concert in Hall.
Monday 31st January	Moot in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Wednesday 2nd February	Debate in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Thursday 3rd February	Benchers and Barristers Guest Night.
Friday 4th February	Concert in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Monday 7th February	Moot in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Tuesday 8th February	CALL DAY.
Wednesday 9th February	Debate in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Thursday 10th February	Term Ends.

EASTER TERM 1983

Wednesday 13th April	Term Begins, Debate in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Thursday 14th April	Barristers and Students Guest Night.
Friday 15th April	Concert in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Monday 18th April	Moot in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Tuesday 19th April	Sponsorship Night.
Wednesday 20th April	Debate in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Thursday 21st April	<del>Benchers and Barristers Guest Night.</del>

Friday 22nd April	Concert in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Monday 25th April	Moot in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Tuesday 26th April	Sponsorship Night.
Wednesday 27th April	Debate in Hall. 8.00 p.m. <b>28<sup>th</sup> BENCHERS &amp; BAR C</b>
Friday 29th April	Concert in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Monday 2nd May	BANK HOLIDAY, NO DINING IN HALL
Tuesday 3rd May	CALL DAY
Wednesday 4th May	Debate in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Thursday 5th May	Grand Day. Term Ends.

Cumberland Lodge - 10th-12th June, 1983.

TRINITY TERM 1983

Wednesday 6th July	Term Begins, Debate in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Thursday 7th July	Benchers and Barristers Guest Night.
Friday 8th July	Concert in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Monday 11th July	Moot in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Tuesday 12th July	Sponsorship Night.
Wednesday 13th July	Debate in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Thursday 14th July	Barristers and Students Guest Night.
Friday 15th July	Concert in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Sunday 17th July	Mulligan Service in Chapel 11.15 a.m.
Monday 18th July	Moot in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Wednesday 20th July	Debate in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Thursday 21st July	Benchers and Barristers Guest Night.
Friday 22nd July	Concert in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Monday 25th July	Moot in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Wednesday 27th July	Debate in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Thursday 28th July	CALL DAY. Term Ends.

MICHAELMAS TERM 1983

Wednesday 2nd November	Term Begins, Debate in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Thursday 3rd November	Barristers and Students Guest Night.
Friday 4th November	Concert in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Monday 7th November	Moot in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Tuesday 8th November	Sponsorship Night.
Wednesday 9th November	Debate in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Thursday 10th November	Benchers and Barristers Guest Night.
Friday 11th November	Concert in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Monday 14th November	Moot in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Wednesday 16th November	Debate in Hall. 8.00 p.m. <b>17<sup>th</sup> GRAND DAY</b>
Friday 18th November	Concert in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Monday 21st November	Moot in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Tuesday 22nd November	CALL DAY
Wednesday 23rd November	Debate in Hall. 8.00 p.m.
Thursday 24th November	<del>GRAND DAY.</del> Term Ends.

Carol Service in Chapel on Sunday, 18th December at 3.00 p.m. Christmas Miscellany in Hall on Friday, 16th December. Gray's Inn Pantomime in Hall 9th and 10th December. THE HILARY TERMS BEGINS ON WEDNESDAY, 18TH JANUARY 1984.

CALL TO THE BAR

Students who wish to be called to the Bar this year are reminded that arrangements for Call must be completed at the Treasury Office by the first day of each Dining Term.



file

R14

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

16 February, 1983

Further to our telephone conversation this morning I am writing to confirm that you are coming to No.10 at 1430 hrs on Wednesday, 13 April for a meeting with the Prime Minister.

CAROLINE CHARLTONS

Professor Ronald H. Graveson, CBE QC.,

RG

Mirr Stephens

After speaking to Her PM

I spoke with her permission to Professor Graverson and offered my services

He was not to be put off, however but did agree that what he had to say was not urgent and some time before Easter would do. Pl. fit him in for

MR. BUTLER

The attached correspondence is

self-explanatory. My view is that it is a complete waste of the Prime Minister's time to see the Treasurer of Gray's Inn. I wonder if you could put this to her again verbally and try and persuade her to change her mind?

Some time next month  
when there is not a  
speech - say in the  
week beginning  
28 February. (My  
conversation with him  
gave no grounds for  
confidence that he had  
anything of value to say

*C.S.*

14 February 1983

FERS

15.2.



MB

10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

The Treasurer of Gray's Inn, Professor Ronald Graveson has asked to come and see you on a personal matter.

I have it in mind to turn down this request unless he is a personal friend.

*C.S.*

10 February, 1983

*As Treasurer of*

*Grays - 1*

*must give him*

*15 mins or so*

*MB*

From: Professor Ronald H. Graveson, CBE., QC.

TELEPHONE  
01-405 8164/8  
TELEGRAMS  
GRAIENSIS, NORPHONE, LONDON.

PENSION CHAMBER,  
GRAY'S INN,  
WC1R 5EU.

9th February 1983.

*Dear Miss Stephens,*

Thank you for your prompt reply to my enquiry.  
I am sorry that the Prime Minister will be unable to attend Gray's Inn Grand Night on 5th May. Apart from the honour of her visit, I had hoped to speak to her then on a completely non-political matter which is hardly susceptible of a discussion by letter or telephone.

If the Prime Minister could spare a few minutes during her very busy life I should like to call on her to mention this matter.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Ronald H. Graveson*

Treasurer

Miss Caroline Stephens,  
Private Secretary to The Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street,  
London, S.W.1.

