



KING CHARLES III'S VISIT

On 22 November 2022 His Majesty The King, the Senior Royal Bencher of Gray's Inn, honoured the Society with a Royal visit. As His Majesty arrived in South Square, he was warmly welcomed by a large crowd, many of whom had come from across the Estate to be present, and they were particularly delighted – and applauded loudly – when The King went over to speak to some of them.

On the steps to the House premises, The King was greeted by the Lord Lieutenant for Greater London Sir Kenneth Olisa OBE, the Treasurer of Gray's Inn Master Peter Gross and Vice Treasurer Master Nicola Davies. The King was then introduced to Brigadier Stephen Cartwright OBE, our Under-Treasurer, and to former Under-Treasurer Brigadier Tony Harking OBE, as well as to a number of Senior Benchers.

In the Small Pension Room, Master Gross presented The King with a Gray's Inn tie and both were photographed standing in front of the portrait of His Majesty, painted in 1979 by the renowned portraitist June Mendoza OBE, which is positioned above the fireplace in the Small Pension Room. Before leaving the Small Pension Room The King met



other Benchers, including the Dean of Chapel (Master Roger Eastman), who reminded His Majesty of a contribution he had made, when Prince of Wales, to a Christmas entertainment at the Inn over 40 years previously.

Proceeding into Hall, The King met, and spoke to, Barristers and Scholars of Gray's Inn, including Residential Scholars and, most importantly, Prince of Wales award winners. Many senior and other members of the Inn's staff were also presented to The King, and His Majesty had an appropriate word for everyone to whom he was introduced.

The King then donned a coat (a shower had just subsided) and, accompanied by Master Gross, walked to Field Court to be greeted by 50 or more pupils of the City of London Junior School.

It was clear that none of the children needed any prompting whatsoever to wave their Union flags

enthusiastically as The King approached and, in response, His Majesty did not hesitate to stride over to speak to them.

The King's visit was over all too soon and, after taking leave of Master Gross and Sir Kenneth Olisa, The King drove slowly away, waving once more to the crowds applauding in South Square. ■

Photographer: Liz Isles © The Honourable Society of Gray's Inn

