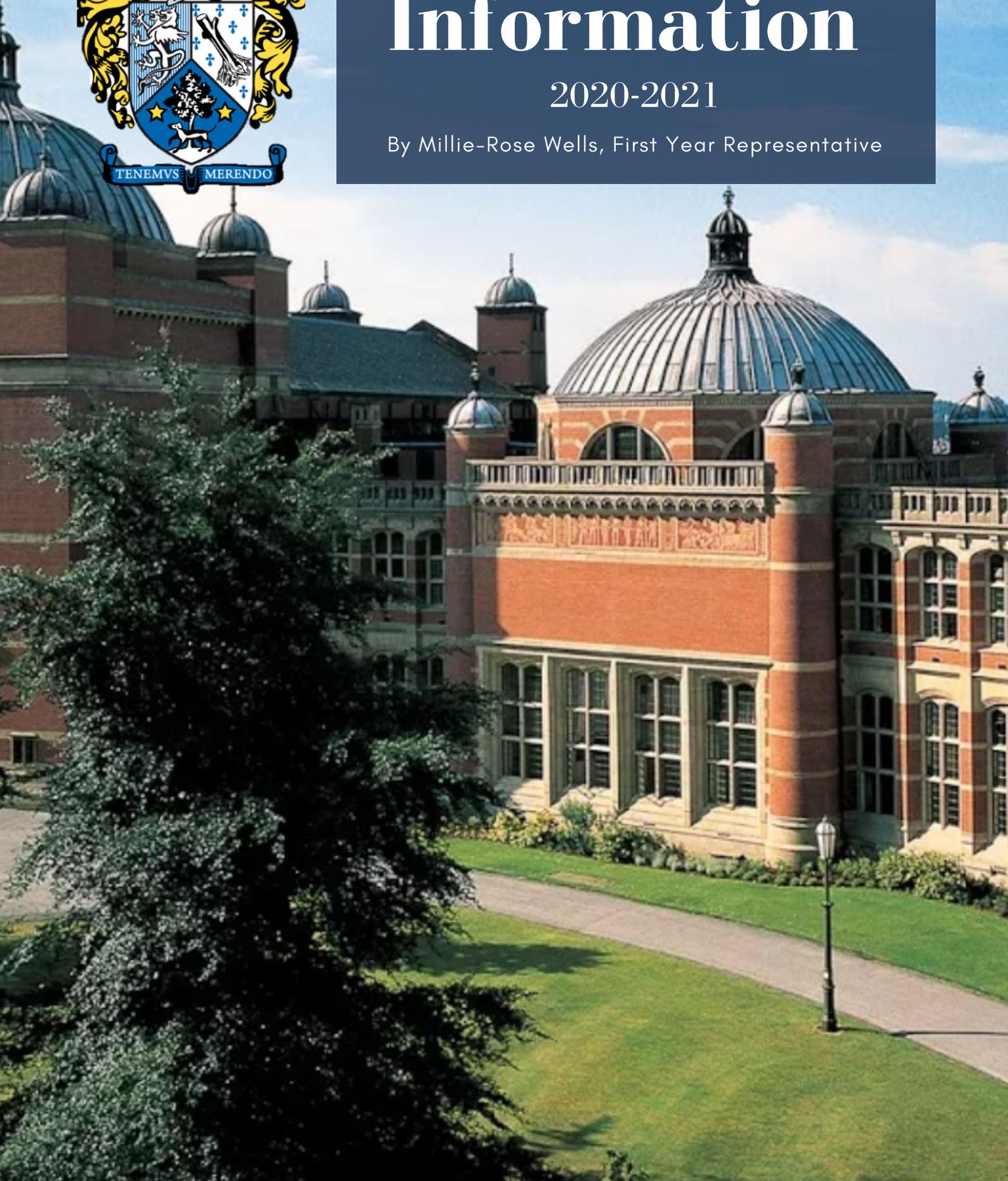




Freshers Information

2020-2021

By Millie-Rose Wells, First Year Representative



Contents :

As you have all now met your offers to study at the University of Birmingham, you will have the exciting opportunity to join the Holdsworth Club - the Official Law Society of the University. However, you might be asking : ***what exactly is the Holdsworth Club?*** In this booklet, we hope to explain who we are and the opportunities that we will expose you to throughout your time at University.

Page 3 : A Message from the Chair and Vice Chair

Page 4 : Hello and Welcome from your First Year Representative

Page 5 : Meet the Team!

Page 6 : Holdsworth Events

Page 7 : Academic and Careers Events & The New Era

Page 8 : Bar Opportunities

Page 9 : Holdsworth Sports

Page 10-11 : Diversity and Welfare

Page 12 : Membership

If this booklet leaves you with any further questions, or if you just want to say hello, please feel free and comfortable to contact either the Freshers Rep directly (see page 4), or find and message us on any of our social media profiles :

Website : www.holdsworthclub.com

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/The-Holdsworth-Club-Official-Law-Society-at-the-University-of-Birmingham-243954418975691/>

Twitter : @holdsworthclub

Instagram : @theholdsworthclub

A Message from the Chair and Vice

CHAIR : MR ALEX WILLIS

Firstly, congratulations on getting into our fantastic law school. You may have arrived here in very unusual circumstances but you should still be very proud of making the cut. I can assure you that by the time you leave, you will have realised all the hard work you put in over the last few years was worth it. Speaking from personal experience, I do believe that joining The Holdsworth Club is one of the best ways to maximise the value you get from coming to this great university. Whether it's our amazing socials, sports teams, careers events or academic tutoring scheme, there is something in our society for everyone. And while the first semester of this year may be slightly different, COVID-19 will not alter that core principle. Then, when life does go back to normal, we stand ready to provide you with some memorable experiences that will stay with you long after you graduate. I wish you every success for the duration of your studies here.



VICE CHAIR : MS LINH HOANG

Hello everyone and the warmest welcome to the Law school at the University of Birmingham! Whether we were your first choice or through clearing, you are now part of a legacy of great history and people. Here at the Holdsworth Club, we aim to enhance your experience studying Law, enriching you with many opportunities, academically and socially, to become the lawyer you aspire to be. Most importantly, ensuring you are well settled and welcomed into the Law school is our priority during this global circumstance. Our team is here for you.

Hello and Welcome from your First Year Representative

First Year Students,

Firstly, congratulations on being accepted to the Birmingham Law School! You are about to start the first of many socially and academically exciting years, and most importantly, you are about to experience your first real taste of what law is really about.

I'm Millie-Rose Wells, a current fourth year Law with French Law student, and I am going to be your First Year Representative for this academic year. My role is to make sure that you have a fantastic first year, and feel completely at home and supported during your time at the Law School. Moving to University, especially studying something as intense as Law, it is easy to feel out of your depth - it is completely normal to not know what you're doing at any point throughout your studies! Trust me, we have all been there. As your Freshers Rep, I will be here to support you through this year and to answer any questions that you might have; no matter how big or small.

The Holdsworth Club has a representative for almost anything that you might have queries about, with every committee member here to provide more specific and detailed advice. Whether it be about your academic or career opportunities, or about your wellbeing during your studies, we have somebody that will be able to help you. As you will see on the 'Meet your Team!' page, there is a way to contact everybody. As your first port of call, I am available to help you in whatever way makes you feel most comfortable - whether that is via email, Facebook or on Campus (Corona-depending!). The most important thing to succeed is to feel comfortable and to have fun. Because of this, if you need anything at all during your first year of studies, please let me know and I will try my best to help you. Just enjoy it!

EMAIL : HOLDSWORTHFRESHERS@GMAIL.COM

FACEBOOK : MILLIE-ROSE WELLS



Meet the Team!

The Holdsworth Club is composed of a number of elected students who each take responsibility for different aspects of Law School life. If you have a specific request or enquiry, more often than not there is somebody whose role it is to help you with that particular problem. The Committee can be contacted either via Facebook or their Holdsworth email addresses :

Chair : Alex Willis (he/him) - chair.holdsworthclub@gmail.com

Vice-Chair : Linh Hoang (she/her) - vicechair.holdsworthclub@gmail.com

Secretary : Elizabeth Baillie (she/her) - holdsworthsecretary@gmail.com

Treasurer : Aled Luckman (he/him) - holdsworthtreasurer@gmail.com

Publicity Officer : Daniel Folayan (he/him) - publicityholdsworth@gmail.com

Diversity and Welfare : Angel Valdivieso (he/him) & Gwyneth To (she/her) - holdsworthdiversity@gmail.com

First Year Rep : Millie-Rose Wells (she/her) - holdsworthfreshers@gmail.com

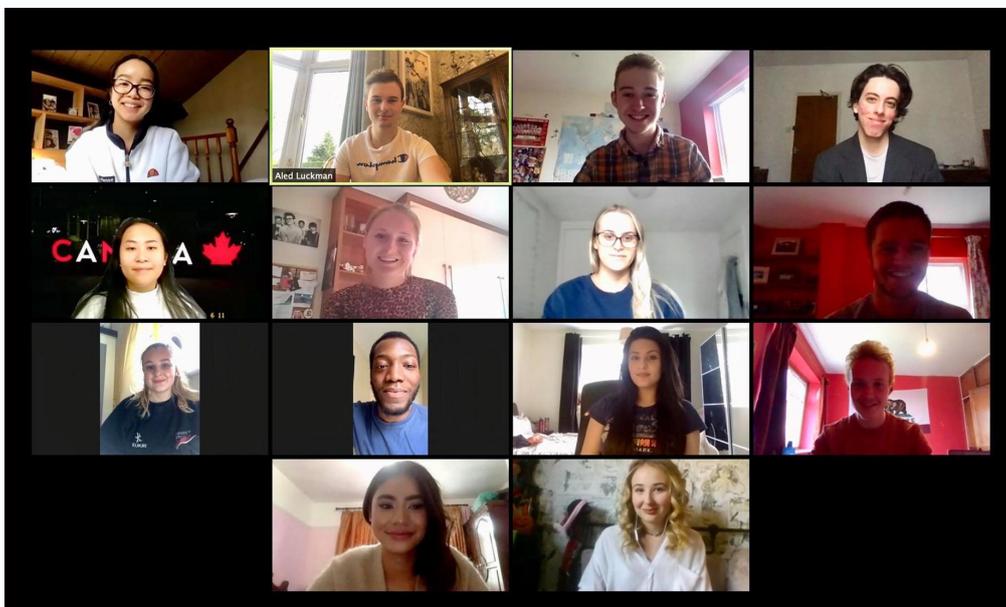
Events Officers : Rebecca Stretch (she/her) & Michelle Chan Pit Chu (she/her) - social.holdsworth@gmail.com

Barrister Representative : Emily Wilson (she/her) - holdsworthbarristerrep@gmail.com

Careers Officer : Alex Penney (he/him) - holdsworthcareers@gmail.com

Academic Officer : Sara Shekarchi (she/her) - hwacademics@gmail.com

Sports Officers : Archie Perks (he/him) & Abi Wyeth (she/her) - holdsworthsport@gmail.com



Holdsworth Events

As a member of the Holdsworth Club, you have access to a wide range of events held through the year at a discounted cost. Although a number of events are Coronavirus permitting, we are planning for an events filled year in any circumstances. For the first time, the Holdsworth Club has created a Facebook group specifically for the communication of all Events news, ideas and suggestions. Get involved to keep up to date with information on:

- **LAWD** : The 'Law Annual Welcome Drinks' is one of the highlights of the Holdsworth's social agenda. This bar crawl along Birmingham's famous Broad Street is a great way to meet other freshers as well as students from other year groups
- **Law v Medics** : Undoubtedly the two most prestigious degrees - absolutely no hint of competitiveness intended - Law v Medics puts the two subjects head-to-head to decide who is, in the end, the more superior set of students (when it comes to having a drink...)
- Nights out
- Sober socials
- **Christmas Party** : New in the last couple of years, the Holdsworth Christmas Party quickly became one of the highlights of the year, giving students a chance to unwind before Christmas and after the formative assessment deadlines
- **Law Ball** : Law Ball is of course the most anticipated event of the year. Students can get dressed up in their finest attire for an evening of entertainment, fine food and free wine

Holdsworth Events 2020/2021: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/289910118752118/>



Academic/Careers Opportunities and Events

As well as a large number of social events, Holdsworth Members get exclusive access to academic seminars and networking events attended by prestigious law firms and field experts. We have a number of things that we can tell you about - and many more that we are still planning!

- **Tutoring** : Holdsworth Students have the exclusive opportunity to attend tailored tutoring classes. These classes will be run by students, for students. Your tutors are students who have experienced the modules, so know exactly where the hurdles are, and have created methods to make the module easier for you.
- **Careers** : This year, our Careers Officer, Alex Penney, has been working hard to create a number of virtual careers-related sessions that will run on a weekly to fortnightly basis. These sessions will each have a different focus to help you engage with your career opportunities and to improve and enrich your CV when applying for mini pupillages and first year schemes
- **BPP Events** : BPP, a provider of postgraduate legal courses, will be running events with Academic Officer, Sara Shekarchi, to help you learn more about postgraduate options in law. When you graduate from your Law degree, there are so many options for what you can do afterwards. These events in collaboration with BPP will help you work out the best path for you.

A New Era of Holdsworth

This year, unlike any year before, the Holdsworth Club has decided to open up our audience. Following on from a members referendum, we are now open to accept **non-law members** who wish to pursue a legal career.

What does this mean for you? From now on, you will be able to meet more non-law students and get to know people outside of your courses. Additionally, as we have a wider audience, we will be making an effort to diversify our events, collaborate with other subject societies and get to know a larger amount of people working toward the same career goal.

Bar Opportunities

The Holdsworth Club is committed to ensuring access to all potential legal career pathways. A career as a Barrister is becoming increasingly more difficult to attain, and that is why our Bar Representative is here to help you in your progression to the Bar by holding Bar-exclusive events, including :

- **The Legal Cheek Virtual Pupillage Fair** : This event will run in the first semester for students to gain more information about a career as a Barrister. A huge range of Chambers are due to attend this event, allowing you to tune into virtual booths where you can gain invaluable advice from lawyers, graduates and trainees
- **Scholarships** : Upcoming talks covering 'Scholarships tips for the Inns of Court'
- **Application** : Talks giving application and interview advice for Inns, mini-pupillages and pupillages
- **Outreach Events** : Outreach events by the Inns of Court - introducing you to them and providing you with advice and tips for pursuing the Bar

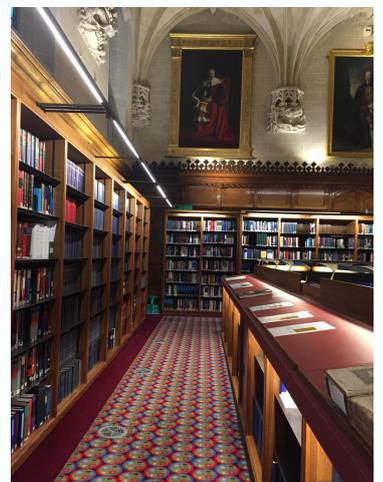
Greater detail about these events and all future opportunities and events will be advertised on the Facebook page '**The Bar @ Holdsworth Club: Birmingham University 2020-2021**' and through the weekly email newsletter circulated by the Holdsworth club. Please join this page!

Please do not hesitate to contact Emily about any questions you have about the Bar or advice about what you could be doing in your first year to gain experience and skills.

'The best piece of advice I would give you is to get involved in as many Bar events as possible. It is never too early to start building up your CV! By talking to Judges, lawyers and trainees at these events, you will be provided with insightful tips and useful contacts for gaining work experience!'

Enjoy your first year!'

EMAIL : HOLDSWORTHBARRISTERREP@GMAIL.COM



Holdsworth Sports

In the Holdsworth Club, sport plays a large role in giving students the opportunity to engage with other students on both a friendly and competitive level. Holdsworth sports teams have had great success and we hope to continue this success over the next academic year. As well as football and netball, which we have always offered, this year we are working to also formally put together rugby and dodgeball teams as well as some other informal sports.

We also hope to organise a Sports Day where Holdsworth members can work together, enjoy a break from their studies and take part in some light hearted sporting classics (yes - there will be an egg & spoon race!)



EMAIL : HOLDSWORTHSPORT@GMAIL.COM

Diversity and Welfare



Hi! We are Angel Valdivieso and Gwyneth To, your Diversity and Welfare Officers for this academic year. We know it is going to be an unusual one, but we are preparing great things for it to be an awesome first year nevertheless!



First year can be stressful for many because it is a new chapter in a new place, with new people, in a new way. Because of this, we aim to make your transition as smooth as possible and will have an array of events, groups, and workshops for you to make the best of it. Because, no matter who you are and what your background is, you are now a member of our great law school, and your uniqueness makes it greater!

Here are some of the things we will be doing:

- **Family Scheme** : Along with the Freshers Rep and the Events Officers, we are currently setting up a new family scheme. All new members of Holdsworth will be assigned a 'parent' from second or final year, who will become your friend and guide and will show you around and help you settle in! If you ever have any questions regarding university life, they will be there to help you.
- **Diversity Panels and Talks** : We will be bringing in highly successful and interesting guests on a regular basis to talk about their experiences in the industry. Everyone will be welcome to attend and ask questions.
- **Holdsworth Amplify Networks** : We will be setting up small groups within Holdsworth targeted at BAME, LGBTQ+, and disabled students. The aim for these is to meet fortnightly/monthly for roundtables and discussions on the experiences, issues, and challenges of these groups both within the legal industry, and outside of it. These will be led by a second/final year student and any concerns and ideas will be compiled and shared with the law school and law firms. These groups will be open to everyone and will be a place to meet people of similar backgrounds and interests and make friends!
- **Wellbeing Workshops** : We will be running workshops on skills that will help you stay calm in stressful times, such as yoga, mindfulness, and meditation.

Welfare Office Hours

As well as the schemes and sessions put in place on a group basis, our Welfare and Diversity Officers will be holding weekly office hours. This is a safe space for you to drop in on your own, as frequently or infrequently as you need, to discuss any issues you are having throughout your studies. If you need professional welfare advice, we are able to point you in the direction of the Law School's Wellbeing Team if you need this additional help, as it is important to make sure that you are receiving all of the help that you might need throughout the duration of your studies.

Law School's Wellbeing Team Contact Email: law.welfare@contacts.bham.ac.uk

Holdsworth's Welfare office hours will be there for more day-to-day advice on managing student life, rather than safeguarding issues. Instead, we are your friends and fellow students who will be there to listen to you when you need someone to talk to about all the university life concerns. We can give you help from the point of view of a fellow student. But if you are afraid of asking for help, we will redirect you to the right services – our university has got lots of people who will be there to help you.

All of these things offered by the Welfare and Diversity Officers are able to be run online and/or physically, following both the government and University guidelines.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to email them at any point during your studies : **holdsworthdiversity@gmail.com**

Membership

As a Holdsworth Club member, you have access to a number of aforementioned perks as well as having a lifetime membership to one of the most prestigious law societies in the UK.

- £55 for a lifetime membership
- Exclusive access to tutoring, careers events and sporting activities
- Discounted tickets to events such as Law Ball and LAWD
- Membership is required in order to attend a number of Holdsworth events, meaning that, without your membership, you will not be able to attend
- After your first year, your membership will enable you to run to be on the committee of one of the UK's most prestigious law societies

How Do I Join?

As soon as you have reached your offer to join the University of Birmingham's Law School, membership is available to buy online on our website. You will receive your unique membership ID upon subscription.

You are able to purchase your membership at any point during the year.

Available through the **website** : <https://www.holdsworthclub.com/membership>

