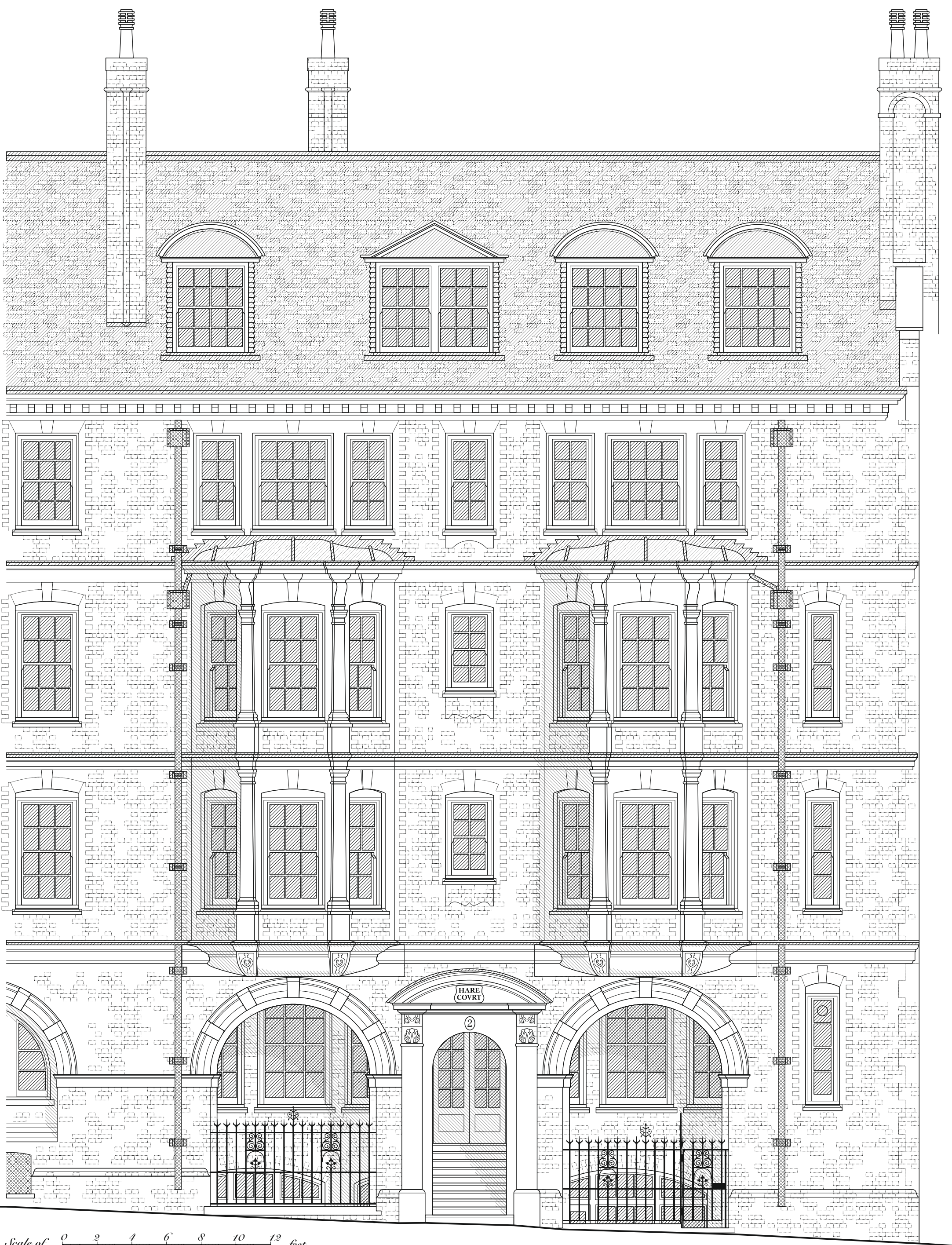


THE INNER TEMPLE IS ONE OF THE FOUR INNS OF COURT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SELECTION AND TRAINING OF BARRISTERS. Its history began in the 12th century, when the Military Order of Knights of The Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem built a church between Fleet Street and the banks of the River Thames. After the abolition of the Order in 1312, lawyers came to occupy the site and formed the middle and inner inn, and these inns then became the Middle and Inner Temple, the latter occupying the consecrated area near the Temple Church. The Inner Temple was sacked and destroyed during the Peasants' revolt in 1381, and then rebuilt. It was briefly confiscated by Henry VIII during the Dissolution of the Monasteries. In the Tudor period all the inns were substantially enlarged, as the 16th century became an age of expansion for the common law.

Hare Court takes its name from Sir Nicholas Hare, who was Speaker of the House of Commons under Henry VIII. He was one of the Masters of Requests in 1537, and was created Master of the Rolls in 1553. Hare was briefly imprisoned in the Tower after having advised Sir John Skelton how to evade the Statute of Uses that restricted the application of 'uses', or duties, in English property law. While Master of the Rolls, he sat as one of the commissioners to try Sir Nicholas Throckmorton for his alleged participation in Thomas Wyatt's rebellion against the marriage of Queen Mary to Phillip of Spain. Hare died in Chancery Lane in 1557 and was buried in the Temple Church. His son, also named Nicholas Hare, financed a building scheme in 1567 to greatly enlarge the Inner and Middle Temples, and this is when the original Hare Court was built.

Generations of the Hare family subsequently occupied chambers forming the south side of the building. However the original Hare Court is primarily associated with Judge Jeffreys, the notorious "hanging judge", known for the brutality of his conduct on the Bench. He entered the Inner Temple in 1663 and had chambers at 3 Hare Court, directly on the site where number 2 Hare Court now stands.

A fire in 1678 almost totally destroyed the Court. The Thames was frozen over at the time, so instead beer was pumped from the Temple cellars to try and quell the fire. This was soon exhausted, and eventually the Inner Temple library was blown up with gunpowder in an attempt to halt the progress of the blaze. Numbers 2 and 3 Hare Court were rebuilt in 1679. Parts of the ground floor of number 2 were then occupied by Sir George Cooke, Chief Prothonotary, and used as the Common Pleas Office; the office remained here until 1771. Dick's Coffee House used to occupy the northwest corner of Hare Court. It was a favoured resort of the younger



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Templars, mainly due to the presence of the proprietor's daughters. Allegedly at 'Dick's' the Lord Chancellor William Cowper, on reading a letter in a news-sheet, resolved to hang himself; his attempt to do so in his chambers failed.

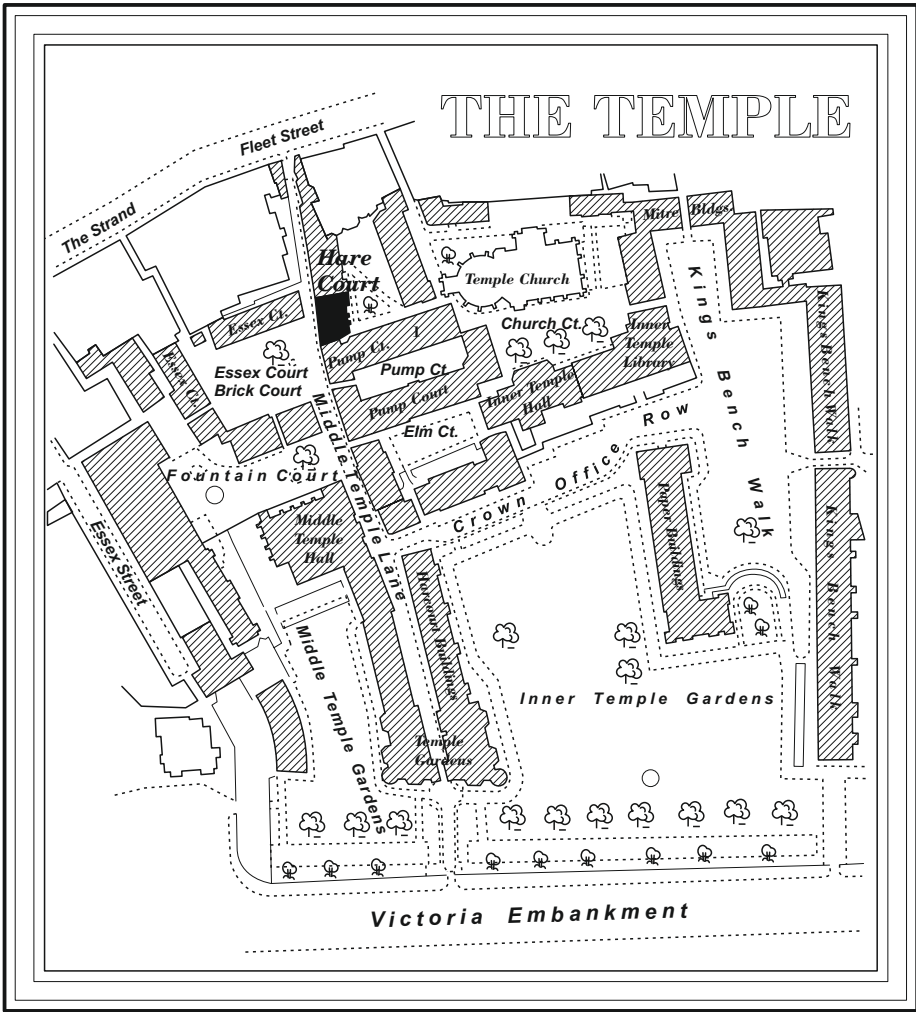
In 1833 William Makepeace Thackeray became a member of the Middle Temple and began his legal studies by reading with Mr William Taprell, a special pleader at 1 Hare Court. After 12 months Thackeray abandoned his studies, stating: 'this lawyer's preparatory education is certainly one of the most cold-blooded, prejudiced pieces of invention that ever man was slave to'. He then embarked on his career as a writer of Victorian fiction. His interest in the period of Queen Anne helped to prompt the Queen Anne Revival in architecture, which may well account for the design choices later made in the rebuilding of Hare Court.

During Thackeray's occupancy, sets of Chambers in the Temple were described in Punch as follows:

"They were fusty, they were musty, they were grimy, dull and dim; The paint scaled off the panelling, the stairs were all untrim; The flooring creaked, the windows gaped, the door posts stood awry; The wind whipt round the corner with a wild and wailing cry".

This echo of public opinion eventually prompted the Bench to pull down Hare Court and replace it. The architect commissioned in 1893 to design the new building was Sir Thomas Graham Jackson. During the 1890s Jackson was heavily involved in the Queen Anne Revival. Just one year before starting

on Hare Court, Jackson had co-edited a book entitled 'Architecture, A Profession or an Art?' with the well-known architect Norman Shaw, builder of the Bedford Park Estate and a leading inspiration in the movement. Jackson was later most remembered for his 1914 design for Hertford Bridge, popularly known as the Bridge of Sighs, in Oxford.

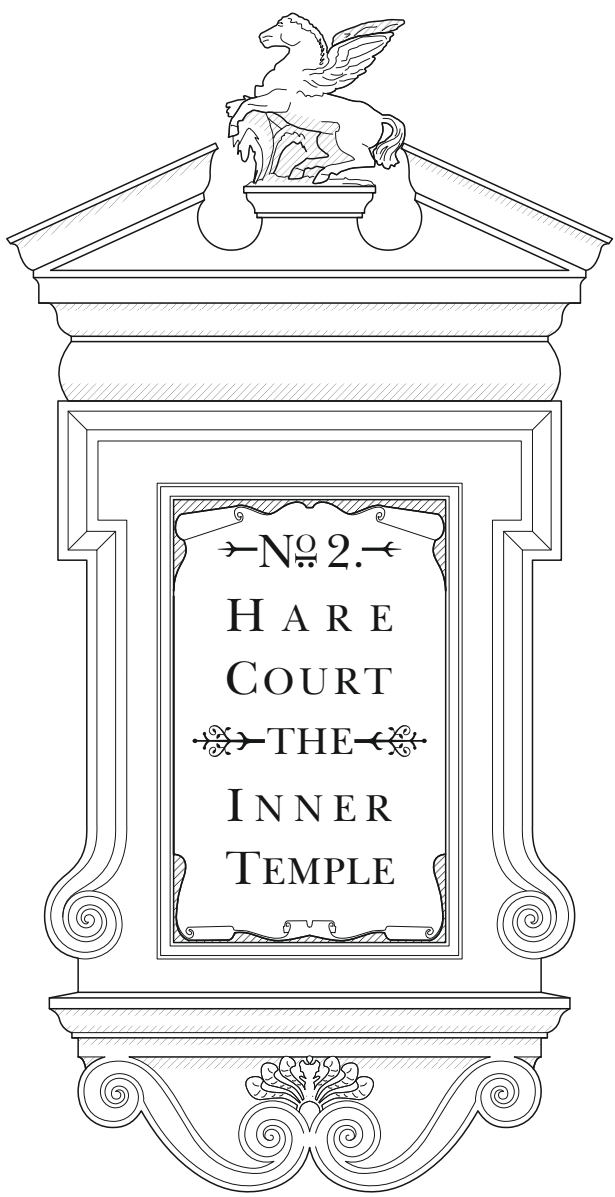


Hare Court was constructed as barristers' chambers and designed to suit sole practitioners with a single clerk. It is a fine example of the popular Queen Anne Revival style, drawing together elements of late 17th century Dutch architecture, such as the large and ornate gables to the east range of the building, with a simplicity of style and pared down use of materials. This trend was a direct backlash against the baroque and over-ornamented style of the Victorian Gothic. Jackson's plans for the building did not attract the degree of controversy that bedevilled E. M. Barry's 'fantastically elaborate French Renaissance' Temple Gardens Building constructed between 1875 and 1880 and located

towards the river at the end of Middle Temple Lane. However the editor of the Saint James Gazette described the pulling down of the old Hare Court as an act of 'godforsaken vandalism', and others described the erection of the new building as an excuse to greatly increase the room rents.

Jackson's original design for Hare Court had to be hastily changed in 1893 when the District surveyor objected to the proposed east side. The architect promptly submitted a new elevation that involved the alteration of four hipped dormers into gables. The building work was contracted on 21st July 1893 to Messrs' John Shillitoe and Son for £14,400. During the construction Jackson decided to increase the thickness of the central walls and to deepen the foundations of the south-facing wall. Hare Court's red brick façade, its clean lines and modest architectural features picked out in gauged brick emphasise the vertical, and present a pleasing contrast to the other buildings in Brick Court and Middle Temple Lane.

Tenancies in the new building began in 1895. In the same year the introduction of 'speaking tubes' or telephones was approved by the Inner Temple Committee, and a year later there was a request for a 'telephone call station' or switch-board. Barristers tended to rent rooms for one or two years at the most. The finished ground floor south of 2 Hare Court, for example, was first let to the General Council of the Bar for £60 per year; in 1897 it was occupied by Mr L. Copeland, but then passed later in the year to Mr A. J. Walter, along with a substantial drop in rent to £35 per annum. In fact,



within the first ten years of its existence Hare Court rents were all greatly reduced, perhaps to a more realistic level. Internal redecoration followed in 1902. At this time it was sufficient for new tenants to be introduced to the Heads of Chambers and to be admitted to the Inner Temple purely on recommendation. This practice remained common up to the 1950s.

Number 2 Hare Court has, as a building, been a haven for many illustrious barristers. Among them before World War II was Bernard Stuart Homer, who after serving in World War I and later in the Indian Army, became Head of Chambers until his retirement in 1977. Harold Heathcote Williams, who also served in the trenches, became a specialist in property law. During World War II the Inner Temple was severely bomb damaged and both barristers had to occupy 2 Hare Court which narrowly missed destruction. In the post-war years, eminent lawyers practising from the Court have numbered among them Sir John Foster, the Conservative Party politician, and Stanley Brodie, who was elected Reader of the Inner Temple in 1999 and Treasurer in 2000. The building received its Grade II listing in 1977.

Hare Court was completely refurbished at the end of the 1990s to accommodate large commercial practices with modern clerks' rooms, conference and meeting facilities. The external façades to Middle Temple Lane and the Hare Court courtyard were sensitively cleaned to reveal the original colours and fine craftsmanship of the gauged brick and stone design features.

The set of chambers currently occupying 2 Hare Court came into existence in the 1950s with the merger of two long established sets, those of Lord Justice Sebag-Shaw and Judge Bernard Gillis QC, and was initially accommodated in the ground floor of 1 Hare Court. Following the extensive refurbishment programme in Hare Court during the late 1990s the set moved to its current, larger, premises at 2 Hare Court. Both buildings have housed some of the foremost criminal advocates of the last sixty years, who have practised under the guidance of successive Heads of Chambers including Michael Kalisher QC, HHJ Stephen Kramer QC, David Waters QC, Orlando Pownall QC and since 2013, Jonathan Laidlaw QC. The set's cornerstone has always been the provision of specialist advocates who advise, prosecute and defend in criminal cases and trials heard from the Magistrates' Court to the Supreme Court. In more recent years the set's barristers have expanded their practices to include all forms of financial, business and regulatory crime, professional discipline, extradition, licensing, sports law and more. The set is proud of its heritage and history in the Temple, and 2 Hare Court, both building and barristers, remains a byword for excellence in advice and advocacy.