

**1896 - 1996**

*“100 years of  
legal service”*



**BAND  
& HATTON  
COMPANY**  
S O L I C I T O R S

## Foreword

Founded in 1896, Band Hatton & Company enjoys a reputation throughout the Midlands and beyond for providing a high quality, professional legal service to a wide range of private and business clients. Our commitment to the highest standards of client care and service is based on the three principles of –

- thoroughness, accuracy and efficiency in the advice we provide and the work which we carry out
- personal and individual care and attention for each of our clients
- good value for money

As a medium-sized provincial legal practice, the range and diversity of expertise and experience within the firm provides us with the ability to offer the specialist advice our clients require across a wide spectrum of legal issues - quickly and efficiently.

At the same time, we are sufficiently compact to ensure a high degree of personal contact and involvement at Partner and Senior Executive level. We place great emphasis upon building a good personal relationship with our clients, and ensuring that we are accessible and responsive to their needs.



*"Personal and individual care and attention"*

We are also keenly aware that cost effectiveness is a vital part of any service, and our aim is to provide good value for money for our clients. It is the combination of high quality advice and personal service, allied to an awareness of the need to offer value for money, which defines our approach to legal practice in the 1990s.

Band Hatton & Company is a member of LawNet, one of the leading national groups of some 75 independent law firms throughout the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland, who share a common philosophy of the highest standards of client care. Our membership of LawNet enables us to enhance our own specialist skills by drawing on a formidable range of additional resources normally only available

to City practices. We are also members of LawNet Europe, which is part of the Eurojuris Network, a grouping of some 500 legal practices throughout Europe, giving our clients direct access to legal advice in the member countries of Eurojuris and beyond.

We have addressed the issue of "Quality Assurance" by adopting the LawNet Quality Standard "Quality in Law", which is similar to ISO9000 but specifically adapted to legal practice. The purpose is to assure our clients of a consistently high level of service. Our compliance with this Standard is subject to external audit, a strong demonstration that our clients can be confident in the efficiency and quality of the service which we offer.



## Short History

The firm maintains a keen sense of tradition, and the constant emphasis is on tried and trusted principles of accessibility, responsiveness and efficiency in the services we provide, qualities which we know are important to our clients and which have scored favourably in the surveys we conduct of our clients' needs and their perception of our service.

However, at the same time, our strategic vision is focused very much on the future, using modern technology and management techniques in order to underpin our commitment to traditional principles of service, and developing links throughout this country and beyond to enhance the range of services and specialist skills we are able to offer.

Our aim throughout our first one hundred years has been, and remains, to build a close relationship with our clients, based upon integrity, trust and friendship. We look forward with confidence to the new millennium, determined to continue to provide a high quality, professional legal service which is relevant to the needs and aspirations of our clients in these challenging times.

One hundred years ago Band Hatton & Company was founded in Coventry. Throughout times of boom and recession the firm has served the people of the City and the region with a high level of skill and integrity.

It is always fascinating to look back in self-congratulatory mood over one hundred years of history and while acknowledging its debt to those who built up this successful enterprise, Band Hatton & Company now looks confidently to the future. We are determined to maintain a leading position by providing the service that clients demand, that the ever-changing law dictates and the pace of modern life requires.

We set out originally to write a formal history of the firm to mark

the centenary but soon found that the rich parade of personalities and happenings made a far more fascinating story. It conjures up a picture of life in what has always been a forward-looking firm ready to build on the foundations so soundly laid.

If, in these pages, you recognise names and figures you knew, or still know today, that is no accident. Some of the most able and prominent characters in the Coventry legal and commercial world have been and are associated with Band Hatton & Company.

We are proud of our heritage as a firm which has played a significant part in the development of Coventry.



*Our High Street Offices Survive the 1940 Blitz.*

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## Charles James Band

Band Hatton & Company came into being through Charles James Band, son of Alderman Henry Band, of Coventry. He began his legal career as an articled clerk with Shorthouse Bowen of Shorthouse Bowen and Freeland of Birmingham, qualifying as a solicitor in 1896. In the same year, he acquired the firm's Coventry office, which he had been managing as an articled clerk. He took into partnership Leonard Ernest Hatton, who left his name with the firm on retirement.



**Councillor J Clifford,**  
Lord Mayor of Coventry

*"In this year of centenaries in Coventry, I am pleased to congratulate Band Hatton & Company on one hundred years of legal service in the City. I express my hope that Band Hatton & Company continues to share in the prosperity of the City in the years to come."*

The founder of Band Hatton & Company had a distinguished career as a solicitor, being at one time president of the Warwickshire Law Society, but equally was known for his work in commerce and industry.

As an influential solicitor he was responsible for much of the residential development in Earlsdon and other areas of the City. He was involved in many major property transactions including the purchase of Coventry Corporation's portion of the Stoneleigh Estate from Lord Leigh on the Corporation's behalf – a transaction which transformed the City's development.

In 1918 Charles Band took into partnership George William Moore and these two exceptionally gifted solicitors developed the practice and soon made it into one of the leading firms of solicitors in the Midlands. In 1913 Band Hatton & Company became solicitors to the Standard Motor Company, one of the leading motor manufacturers in Coventry at that time. Charles Band made an important contribution to the Company's development when he negotiated the purchase of the Canley site in 1916. In 1920 he was appointed to the Board, and remained a Director until his retirement in 1956 and during 19 years that were vital for the



Company, he was Chairman of the Board.

Repaying what he felt was a debt to his old school, King Henry VIII, he gave devoted service as Governor and Chairman of the Governors. He was also a Governor of Bablake School.

For 37 years he was Coventry's Official Receiver in Bankruptcy. When he retired from that position in 1941 he was, in length of service, the senior Official Receiver in the country.

Throughout his working life he gave time and expertise to helping charitable organisations, including being a trustee of General Charities.



But what was this quiet man of action and achievement really like? Son of a city alderman and watchmaker, Charles Band was not born into riches. He went to King Henry VIII School in Coventry but had no further education, because his father could not afford it.

His grandson, Richard Leonard, now a farmer in the south of England, recalls him as "a delightful man and one who commanded respect. I learned a lot from him," says Richard. "He

became quite well-off, but without ostentation. As a youngster I used to try to scrounge a penny off him. He was generous but sensible. He liked to see his money was properly used."

"He quietly helped a lot of people, but was not ambitious to make a fortune. He made as much as he thought he needed." Richard also remembers his grandfather was great fun at parties.

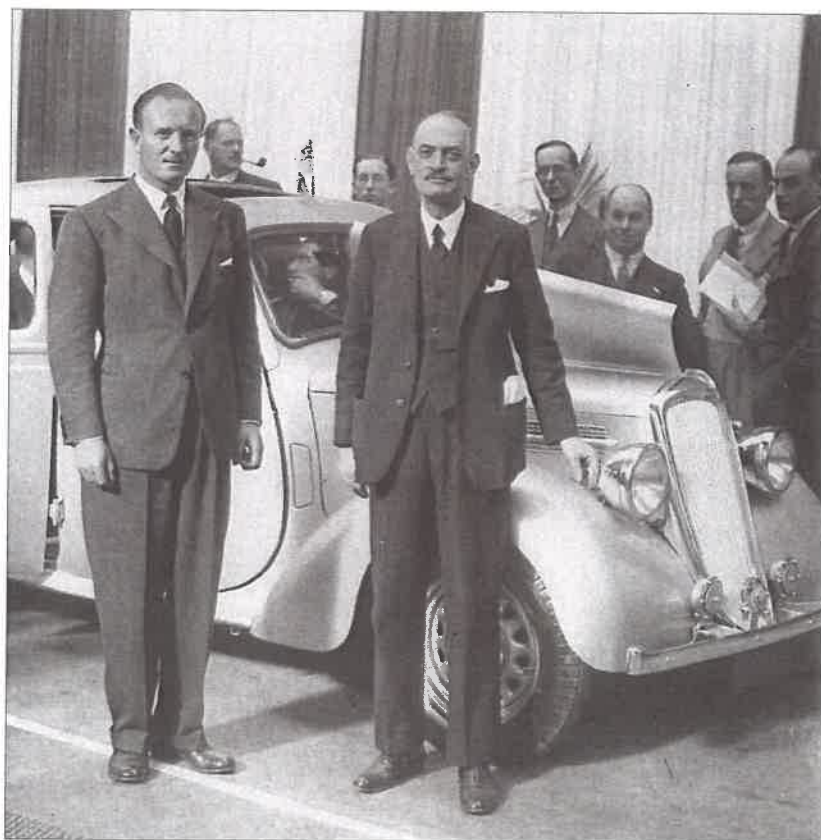
He never had any ambition to travel abroad. Except on

business, about the furthest he used to go was to Goodwood for the racing, where he would have a modest bet. Another interest was shooting and he had a shoot on the Stoneleigh Estate. The quieter sport of flyfishing also attracted him.

He lived in Coventry for most of his early life, moving to "Flax Hill", a large house near Harbury, during the war. After four years he moved again, to Northumberland Road, Leamington Spa.

In his later years he still went to the office one half-day a week. A few days before Christmas 1961, when he was 87, Charles Band worked his usual half-day. Then he went home and a few hours later, just as he would have wished, died there – peacefully and still a man of business.

Charles Band, said not long before his death: "Today I am a stranger in Coventry. Now it is a big city but once I could walk down Hertford Street and know almost everyone I saw."



*Mr Charles Band, Chairman of the board of the Standard motor Company from 1935 to 1953, and Captain (later Sir) John Black, the managing director, at the launch of the 1936 "Flying Standard."*

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## George William Moore

George Moore was born in Coventry in 1889. After leaving Bablake School, he was articled to Charles Band, only to have his articles interrupted by the First World War. As a lieutenant with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, he was severely wounded at Gallipoli in 1915, losing his right leg and part of his left foot.

He had qualified as a solicitor in 1913 with high honours, winning the Travers-Smith and Law Society's Prizes. By 1918 he had become a partner at Band Hatton & Company, and in 1961 became senior partner. Throughout his career he was rightly regarded as

*Stanley Bramley was a brilliant articled clerk but liked his joke. One day he was not back in his room on time and was docked 2s 6d from his salary by the managing clerk, Harry Smith.*

*But Stanley had his own back. He took Mr Smith's hat from its peg and pawned it for 2s 6d, leaving the ticket for its owner. It meant that Mr Smith had to go round the corner to the pawnbroker's and redeem his headgear. It cost him 2s 6d plus an extra shilling.*

a leading lawyer, his expertise extending over a wide range of legal work, commercial and court based.

During the 1939-45 war, George Moore was a chief staff officer, with the rank of major, to the Home Guard Zone Commander for Warwickshire, Col. Sir Reginald Cash.

After his retirement as senior partner in 1972, he became a consultant and died in 1982.

Even after ceasing to be a partner in the firm, he took a very active interest in the practice of which he had been a member for 55 years. By that time he was living in the Cotswold village of Broadway, where he was Lord of the Manor and, despite his failing health, travelled from his home to the office frequently.

George Moore was a man totally dedicated to his profession, but still found time to spare for his interests in gardening, genealogy and heraldry.

During his professional career, he was at various times President of the Warwickshire Law Society, President of the West Midland Association of Law Societies and Master of the Mercers' Company of Coventry.



As with other distinguished figures in the firm, he was closely involved with major local companies, becoming chairman of Radenite Batteries Limited and deputy chairman of Coventry Gauge & Tool Limited.

*On a warm day in 1939, when all the windows in Band Hatton & Company's offices were open, the centre of the city was shaken by a shattering explosion. The IRA bomb had gone off in Broadgate.*

*The staff ran out to help and met some of their colleagues staggering down the street, blood running from cuts.*

*A nearby chemist shop was pressed into service as a dressing station and clerks, juniors and secretaries gave first aid to the stream of wounded.*



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**One character deserves a whole chapter to himself in any history of Band Hatton & Company – Peeping Tom.**

*He is the wooden effigy, reputed to be the famous historical figure which now is on display in the Cathedral Lanes Shopping Centre. At one time, he peered down from a niche at the King's Head Hotel, on the corner of High Street near to the firm's offices at that time.*

*When the hotel was badly damaged in the 1940 Coventry blitz, he was lodged in the National Bank. From there, staff at Band Hatton & Company "rescued" him and stored him in an alcove on the top floor. The figure quickly became the source of legend with the staff.*

*High-spirited articulated clerks one evening dressed Peeping Tom in clothes. In the gloom of the evening, a cleaner caught sight of the leering figure, and fainted on the spot.*

*Lionel Winterson, then a conveyancing assistant, recalls seeing Peeping Tom stored in a corner of the strong room. "We used to dust him down and one day he seemed a bit dry, so I gave him a coat of linseed oil."*

*But the most eerie reminiscence*



*Conveyancing Clerks Jack Richards (left) and Frank Hallam carry the Peeping Tom from the bank opposite the offices for safe keeping soon after the war.*

*of all comes from consultant Alex Frankl. "Peeping Tom had always stood upright in a corner and nobody took much notice of him or touched him. Yet the day before the firm moved from High Street to Copthall House, the figure fell over. It was very strange, nobody could explain it," he remembers.*

*And what became of Peeping Tom? He stood for many years in a glass case on the first floor of the Hotel Leofric. When Cathedral Lanes was built, he was moved*

*there, only a few yards from where his old "home" had been in the former King's Head Hotel.*



**Tim Hopkin,**  
President of The Warwickshire  
Law Society

*"I am very happy to send my good wishes to Band Hatton & Company on the centenary of the founding of the firm and to wish them continuing esteem and success in future years."*

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### **Antony William Moore**

Tony Moore, nephew of George Moore, joined Band Hatton & Company in 1940 when there were only three partners and a staff of 17. He went straight into the office from school at 16 and found that most of the male staff had gone into the Forces. When he was called up he went into the Fleet Air Arm for four years. It was 1945 before he could start his articles. By 1950 he was a partner, becoming senior partner in 1972. Tony played an important role in the litigation practice of the firm.

In retirement, he has some vivid memories of his early years with the firm. "Papers were stored at Mr Band's house at Flax Hill, near Harbury, and if we wanted something I had to cycle all the way out there and bring it back. Not the best of filing systems," he remembers.

"When I was 16 or 17 one of my tasks in wartime was to put all moveable items like typewriters into the strong room every night. The office suffered very little damage except that the bombs destroyed the lavatories, which were in an extension at one side of the building. After that people used to disappear for hours from the office, looking for a public lavatory."

"I had been at Band Hatton & Company for two years when Mr Band shoved some papers into my hand and told me to take them to Mr Moore junior. He did not realise that I was Mr Moore junior."

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### **William Henry Davidson Jenson**

Bill Jenson joined Band Hatton & Company in 1936 as a book-keeper and retired as a partner in 1984. He became one of the most respected company and commercial lawyers in Coventry and the Midlands.

"When I joined Band Hatton & Company there were three

partners, four articled clerks and three girl secretaries."

"I worked hard but found time to study in the evenings to become a certified accountant and a chartered secretary. I qualified as a solicitor in June 1950, and was made a partner the same day."

"During the war Mr Band was a member of the Shadow Aero-Engine Committee, which was concerned with producing the necessary aero-engines in so-called 'shadow factories'. It meant he was often out. We were very short-staffed and we all used to work late." "After work we went back to fire-watching. When bombs started to fall we used to take the books all the way down to the strong-room. Then back we would go to the roof with our shovels, buckets of sand and a stirrup pump."

*Joe Bates was one of the articled clerks in the thirties. His grandfather, Alderman Bates, left him £10,000 on condition that he passed his exams by 1934.*

*But Joe used to spend his afternoons in the cinema, giving an office boy twopence to fetch him if Mr Band wanted him. He sat his exams four times without success. The fifth time he scraped through just in time to claim the legacy.*



"We moved the papers to safety on the night of Coventry's big blitz, when we just had to sit there and watch the cathedral and the King's Head Hotel burn. There was little or nothing we could do."

"In the morning, with the fires still threatening, we moved the papers out into the middle of the road for safety. Then they all had to go back in again after the fire was extinguished."

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### **John Stanley Herbert Hattrell**

John Hattrell was articled in 1954, and became a partner of Band Hatton & Company in 1959. During the next 25 years, he made a deep impression on his colleagues for his legal competence and his personal and social qualities. Senior Partner, David Cule remembers him as "an urbane man, relaxed and intelligent."

By the time of his retirement in 1985, he had forged close connections with many institutions and organisations in Coventry. The charities to which he was legal adviser included Sir Thomas White's, Samuel Smith's and the very successful Walsgrave Hospital Scanner Appeal.

He established the Coventry

School Educational Trust in 1975 and became its first chairman. At one time he was Master of the Drapers' Company of Coventry. His close interest in the University of Warwick led to his becoming a member of the Court of Governors.

John Hattrell was known and liked by an enormous circle of friends and acquaintances, in Coventry and much further afield. As a lover of field sports, he was never happier than when shooting in Scotland.

After retirement from partnership with Band Hatton & Company, he spent a year as a consultant and then went to live near King's Lynn in Norfolk. Sadly he enjoyed only a short time in retirement before his premature death in 1987.

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### **Anthony John Matthews**

Tony Matthews took a Bachelor of Laws degree at King's College, London. He was articled with Wragge & Company in Birmingham and admitted as a solicitor in 1965. In the Law Society's Final Examinations, he gained Second Class Honours with distinctions in conveyancing, commercial law, revenue law and family law, and was also awarded the Birmingham Law Society's Bronze Medal.

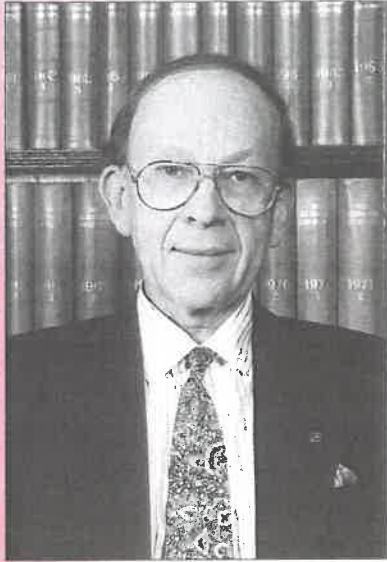
*Norman Bayliss, a former senior clerk remembers: "There was a strict pecking order in the office and this became clear at coffee time. Mr Band and Mr Moore regularly went out to the Broadgate Cafe; then Mr Smith, the managing clerk and as far as I was concerned next to God, went to the Lounge Cafe. After this we scrubbers nipped out to Lyons, had a quick coffee and were back before we were missed."*

He became a partner of Band Hatton & Company in 1968 and senior partner in 1990. Only a year later he died prematurely in hospital. His death robbed the firm of a fine lawyer. Careful in his work, he attained a high standard of practical and legal competence. For many years Tony was Treasurer of the Warwickshire Law Society.

As a partner he was principally involved in commercial conveyancing and property matters, as well as residential conveyancing, wills, trusts, leases and commercial and general matters.

Today's Senior Partner, David Cule, remembers him as "skilful and dedicated, ambitious for the firm and with a good sense of humour."

## Present Day Partners



### **David Cule (Senior Partner)**

David Cule was born in Gloucester in 1935. He was educated at Jones' West Monmouth Grammar School in Pontypool and at Bristol University. He qualified as a solicitor in 1963 and joined Band Hatton & Company after obtaining valuable experience with leading firms of solicitors in Cardiff and Bristol. David has always concentrated on conveyancing work and deals with a wide range of this kind of work, including residential, commercial and agricultural property transactions, and land development agreements.

### **Paul Wright**

Paul Wright was born in Coventry in 1949. He was educated at King Henry VIII School and Keble College, Oxford. After serving his articles of clerkship with Band Hatton & Company, he qualified as a solicitor in 1975. He became a partner in 1982. Paul specialises in civil litigation matters, in both the High Court and County Court. He also deals with licensing matters in the Magistrates Court.

### **Philip Costigan**

Born in Crosby in 1953, Philip Costigan was educated at King Henry VIII School, and Bristol University. After serving his

*Charles Band's "family tree" has been traced as far back as 1540 to Robert Band, a weaver. In 1725 Martin Band was born, the first of a long line of parchment makers working in the area of Spon Street. In the mid-1800's this branch of the family had left Coventry and continued to trade in London. By then the Bands were also established as watchmakers in Chapelfields, and it is from this line that Charles Band is descended.*

articles with Band Hatton & Company, Philip was admitted as a solicitor in 1977. He became a partner in 1982. His work is principally involved with commercial and property matters. Philip is also a member of the Solicitors' European Group.

### **Haydn Jones**

Haydn Jones was born in Coventry in 1951. He was educated at Bablake School and the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. He was articled with Band Hatton & Company and was admitted as a solicitor in 1977, becoming a partner in 1982. Haydn's work is principally involved with company law and commercial and business matters.

### **Simon Rock**

Simon Rock was born in Oxford in 1954. He read law at Merton College, Oxford. He served his articles in Northampton and qualified as a solicitor in 1981. After gaining valuable experience in practice in the West Country and in Birmingham, he joined Band Hatton & Company in 1990, becoming a partner in 1996. Simon specialises in Probate and Inheritance law, and his work includes the drafting of wills and the administration of estates.



## *Present Day Consultant*

### **Alex Frankl**

Alex Frankl was educated at Warwick School and at Birmingham University. After serving his articles with Band Hatton, he qualified as a solicitor in 1954. His national service followed and he was commissioned as a Pilot Officer (Radar). He became a partner in 1960, and senior partner in 1991. Alex retired in 1994. His work covers litigation matters, with an emphasis on employment law, as well as conveyancing and leases.

*Whatever happened to "Hatton", of Band Hatton & Company? Manchester-born Leonard Ernest Hatton was practising at Leamington before being taken into partnership by Charles Band in the early 1900s. But, by 1910, he had become a wealthy man and retired to live at Kempsey, near Worcester. Mr Hatton died in London in 1932 aged 66.*

*The title of the firm was changed to include his name and has remained the same to this day.*



*Looking confidently to the future.*