

Waterside Press, Hampshire

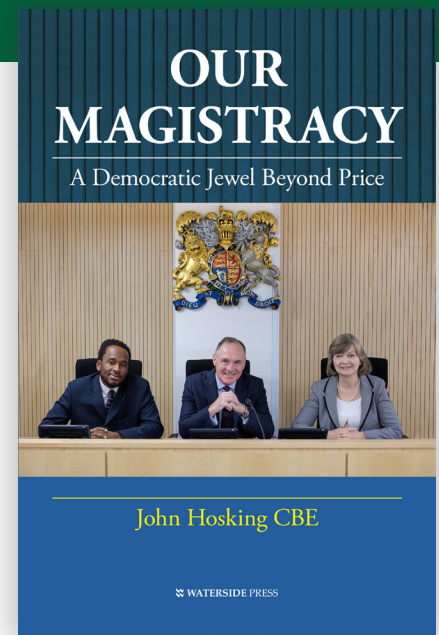
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Advance Information

Title	Our Magistracy	
Subtitle	A Democratic Jewel Beyond Price	
Author	John Hosking CBE	
Publisher	Waterside Press Ltd	
Format	Hardback 240x154mm; Paperback 234x156mm, 256 pages	
ISBNs	978-1-909976-75-7 (Hb); 978-1-909976-74-0 (Pb)	
Price	£29.95 (Hb); £19.95 (Pb)	Rights Worldwide
Publication	18 March 2020	Edition 1st
Category	courts and sentencing, magistrates, law, crime	
Subjects	LNAA=Courts and procedure; LNFB=Criminal justice law	
Who will buy it?	Magistrates, lawyers, students, legal historians, politicians, policy-makers, civil servants, administrators, researchers, libraries.	



In this highly informed account of the magistracy the author deals with key issues touching on that institution. Focussing on what Lord Bingham, Lord Chief Justice, described as a 'democratic jewel beyond price', he explains its rationale, goals and over-riding values. Dealing with major developments, economics, management, day-to-day practicalities and changing times he casts an experienced eye over summary justice, law and order and its fascinating history of local administration.

Describing the magistracy as a great national institution, independent, respected and a true people's court, John Hosking nevertheless decries a halving of its size, closure of courthouses, remote services and increasing reliance on professional judges rather than community volunteers. Though much has changed for the better to increase competency, meet criticism and maintain integrity, etc., this personal viewpoint explains how a casualty of such changes has been the very status of the lay magistracy and inroads into the cherished principle of public and democratic participation in the justice system.

Extracts

'It ... ill-behoves politicians and reformers to support actions which may be designed to improve the justice system as

a whole, but which devalue the magistracy in the process. Likewise, the sustainability of the magistracy can only be assured if the popular demands of the present ... are met without compromising the future of the whole institution.'

'In addition to its unquestioned integrity and independence, the most persuasive reason for having a lay magistracy is that ... it manifestly does a good job at a very low cost.'

Key Selling Points

- **A rare insight and celebration of the magistracy.**
- **Sets out its core role and values.**
- **Critical of threats to a 'democratic jewel'.**
- **Identifies mistakes by politicians and others.**
- **By a former chairman of the Magistrates Association.**
- **Published to coincide with the centenary of that body.**

Author

John Hosking combined a lifetime in business with service as a justice of the peace. Chairman of the nationwide Magistrates' Association from 1987 to 1990, he is life vice-president of the Kent branch (where he served on the Ashford bench). He has acted as a Deputy Lord Lieutenant and was awarded the CBE in 1990 for services to the magistracy.



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Putting justice into words