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Jobs for the old boy

FRIENDS of New Labour saloniste Lady Taupe have been summoned to a special evening at her Holland Park home (next to the Pinters). 'Fundraiser and Group Discussion', it says on the invitation card. 'Topic: What are we going to do about Charlie?'

The evening is being held to discuss the career prospects of Charles Falconer, the former Lord Chancellor who was sacked the moment Gordon Brown became Prime Minister. Lady Taupe's event will raise money to enable Charlie to buy himself an interview suit, have a haircut, and get down to the local Job Centre Plus. What sort of job can he possibly do? There isn't much call for ex Lord Chancellors. That's why the position previously went to older men. Afterwards, they would simply retire.

'What a beastly business modernisation can be,' says Lady Taupe's friend, Minty Glynte. 'It's all right for Mandelson. He can go and become a hairdresser. Poor Charlie looks like Estragon from Waiting For Godot.'

