

Dear Member,

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome everyone to April's newsletter although with the weather as wintry as it is I am wondering if I have got the month wrong! I hope you are all managing to stay safe and well as despite what the Government would have us believe in my personal experience, and that of many people around me, COVID has far from left the building.

On a lighter note, I am so pleased to say that the Sussex Junior Lawyers Division is now up and running again, thanks to the hard work of Committee Members Lawrence Corr and Daniel Dickson - although poor old Lawrence is laid up after a cycling accident so please join the SLS Committee in wishing him a speedy recovery. In the meantime, I would warmly invite any junior lawyers who are interested in joining the JLD to email [Lawrence.corr@thompsonallen.co.uk](mailto:Lawrence.corr@thompsonallen.co.uk)

In my presidential term it has been a mission of mine to support junior lawyers, whom I feel have suffered the most from homeworking during the pandemic lockdowns. So, in addition to rejuvenating the JLD, I would also like to put a shout out to all member firms who would be interested in taking on aspiring lawyers for an internship or work placement. If your firm can offer some hands-on experience to law under-graduates or post-graduates, I would love to hear from you at [lucy.tarrant@cognitivelaw.co.uk](mailto:lucy.tarrant@cognitivelaw.co.uk).

Finally, I can't tell you how much I am looking forward to our Charity Ball on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May at the Grand Hotel in Brighton. After 2 cancelled years, it's going to be a blast, and I hope to see you there.

*Lucy Tarrant*

## NEWS

- Helen Evennett has joined **Goodman Ray** as a Solicitor doing all aspects of Family Law.
- **DMH Stallard** are expanding their offering across Brighton and Hassocks with their merger with highly regarded Sussex law firm, Griffith Smith, which completed on 31 March 2022. Managing Partner, Richard Pollins, said "... The merger will increase choice for our clients who can meet with us virtually or at one of our wide network of office locations throughout Sussex, Surrey and London. This is another key merger for DMH Stallard with a firm comprising top quality partners who share our core values around providing a first-class service to their clients. It is also another important milestone in our broader expansion plans for the coming years as we continue to grow".
- **Martin Searle Solicitors** are pleased to announce Christine Gannon's promotion to Associate Solicitor and Chloe Scarr's return to the firm. Christine, a member of the Employment Law Team, brings expertise in advising on complicated discrimination issues and bringing and defending claims in the Employment Tribunal. Chloe took a career break in 2020 to spend time with her family, and now returns to the Community Care law team as an Associate Solicitor. For more details [see here](#).
- **DMH Stallard** have won the prestigious Professional Services Firm of the Year at the 14th Gatwick Diamond Business Awards. The award was secured for the consistent delivery of outstanding service to clients, making staff wellbeing a number one priority, constantly pursuing innovation across the business and demonstrating market leading legal knowledge

and expertise. The firm's innovative client listening programme came in for particular praise by the judging panel.

### ARE YOU COMING TO THE BALL?

We have now sold 250 tickets for our Annual Charity Ball on Friday, 6th May at the Grand Hotel in Brighton which is absolutely fantastic and we are excited to get members of our local legal community together again after the pandemic.

If you haven't got your tickets there is still time, but we will soon reach capacity (so best to email [Jeanette Lacy Scott](#) to check availability).

The Ball is open to both members and non-members and if you want to come alone or in a small group we can seat you with other smaller parties. There are more details and an application form on the website [here](#)

### NO FAULT DIVORCE

On 6 April 2022, there will be a significant change in divorce law for England and Wales. It's the first change for 50 years. The changes will mean that instead of grounds for divorce being a mix of fault and non-fault, they'll be entirely non-fault. Moreover, it will be an entirely digital process. The Law Society held a useful 90 minute webinar on 23 March discussing these changes with the aim of helping you to:

- understand the new divorce legislation
- gain a better understanding of the new rules and available forms
- complete the revised online application processes

You can listen to a recording of the webinar [here](#).

### MANAGING PARTNERS' NETWORKING FORUM – PREPARING FOR YOUR NEXT PII RENEWAL

It is not too late to register to attend this free session on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> April from 9am-11am at Malmaison, Brighton Marina.

Colin Taylor, Director, Howden Insurance Brokers Ltd is presenting a workshop to this group where he will share his knowledge and experience around the increasingly complex subject of preparing for your PII renewal. For those of you who have not heard Colin speak he has a wealth of knowledge and a rare ability to make training on PII fun!

All Managing Partners (or their nominees) are invited to attend this free event so please let [Jeanette Lacy Scott](#) know if you would like her to put your name down for this and she will send you further details nearer the time.

### RELAUNCH OF HASTINGS & DISTRICT LAW SOCIETY (HADLAW)

Hastings and Rother District Law Society has relaunched after being dormant for the past years. They held an AGM in March and now have a full committee moving forward as follows:

Emily Hope of Clarke Willmott - President

Charlotte Hustwayte of Antony Clapp Solicitors - Vice President

Beth Reid of Heringtons - Secretary  
Tom Johnson of Heringtons - Treasurer  
David Cooper - Committee Member  
Natalie Jones - Committee Member

To gauge where they are re their membership they are asking their members to confirm whether they would like to remain being a member of the HADLAW this year. They have made the decision to suspend membership fees for a further year. If you are a member of HADLAW and wish to remain on their mailing list please confirm this by emailing [Emily.hope@clarkewillmott.com](mailto:Emily.hope@clarkewillmott.com) otherwise your name will be removed (but can easily be readded if necessary!)

They have lots of exciting things planned for the upcoming year and have also made the decision to open the HADLAW membership to any person working within a law firm to ensure inclusivity for everyone. If you have any colleagues who are not familiar with the HADLAW and would like to become a member this year whilst the fees are suspended, please forward their information to Emily Hope who can ensure they are added to the mailing list for all future information and event invitations.

### LAWCARE – KNOW WHO TO TURN TO FOR HELP WHEN THINGS GET TOUGH

[LawCare](#) is an independent charity which offers free and confidential emotional wellbeing support to everyone working in the legal profession. We won't ask for your roll number or details of your workplace, you don't have to give your name, and we are independent of professional bodies and regulators. All those working at LawCare answering calls, emails and online chats have experience of working in the legal profession and are keen to support anyone going through a tough time. We'd rather people contacted LawCare early, when they just need to let off steam or talk through a situation; we want them to know that they don't have to wait until things have escalated, we're here anytime they need to talk

If you need support call us on 0800 279 6888, email [support@lawcare.org.uk](mailto:support@lawcare.org.uk) or go to [www.lawcare.org.uk](http://www.lawcare.org.uk). We understand life in the law.

### HOWDEN THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Our main sponsor, Howden, have shared a few articles which readers may find interesting. The links to these are below:

- [SRA guidance for solicitors advising on leasehold property](#) – Conveyancing continues to be the area of practice that generates the most claims for insurers of solicitors' PII which includes claims arising from poor or inadequate advice in relation to leasehold property.
- [Taking on roles outside your practice as a solicitor](#) – understanding the regulatory implications of engaging in roles outside regular work as a practising solicitor, and the potential for incurring personal liability.
- [Solicitors' PII – A 'claims made' policy – what does that mean?](#) – where a claim is brought in relation to a matter which was completed and closed a few years ago – which PII policy should you notify the matter to? The policy in place when the work was done or the policy in place now?
- [Stakeholder solicitors defeat buyer-funded development claim](#) – guest written by DAC Beachcroft who consider the outcome of a recent case *Various North Point Pall Mall Purchasers v 174 Law Solicitors Ltd v Key Manchester Ltd* [2022] EWHC 4 (Ch) which dismissed claims against 174.

- [Market gets touch on cyber insurance for law firms](#) – with an increase in cyber threats, we outline developments in the cyber insurance market that law firms need to be aware of
- <https://www.howdengroup.com/uk-en/how-to-better-support-womens-health> - brochure on women's health
- <https://www.howdengroup.com/uk-en/tackling-menopause-taboo-law-firms> - spotlight on taboo subject of menopause and how it can affect those going through it and guidance on how law firms can better support their workforce.

Finally, To support law firms renewing in April, they have also created a simple infographic to include five articles they have previously written and which might be useful. [Guidance for firms renewing their PII in April](#)

## COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT

If you want to get a better idea of what is discussed at the Law Society Council Meetings you can access the minutes of the January meeting [here](#).

The Law Society have also published a paper to update Council on the various strands of activity undertaken by the Law Society since the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation which may be of interest and can be accessed [here](#).

## NEWS FROM CHANCERY LANE

All the latest news from across the Law Society can be accessed [here](#). Below are some of their more recent articles which you may find interesting:

- [Online damages claims become mandatory](#) - From Monday 4 April, all damages claims that fall within the scope of Practice Direction 51ZB must be issued online, using the damages claims portal on MyHMCTS.
- [How lawyers can show support for people in Ukraine](#) - The Law Society stands in solidarity with people in Ukraine following the Russian Federation's illegal invasion of the country.
- [British justice in crisis: the end of criminal legal aid?](#) - We're fighting for the future of the criminal justice system after it emerged that solicitors will receive a fee increase that is 40% less than what Sir Christopher Bellamy recommended as the bare minimum to keep the system functioning
- [What you need to know about sanctions on Russia](#) - The government has imposed a tranche of sanctions on Russia in response to the situation in Ukraine. Check our guidance on the UK regime to find out what steps you and your firm must take to comply and safeguard the reputation of the profession.
- [Apply for judicial assistant vacancies](#) - Develop key legal skills and gain invaluable insight into the workings of the court system as a judicial assistant.
- [Legal aid pay rise and means testing: what you need to know](#) - We've championed the interests of legal aid solicitors at the highest levels and welcome the fact that government proposals echo many of our campaign recommendations and research findings.

## RESTRICTIVE & POSITIVE COVENANTS IN FREEHOLD LAND

Both restrictive and positive covenants are frequently met: over 70% of all freehold titles being subject to the former. The course aims to look at the enforceability of such covenants. In addition, estate rentcharges continue to be a major issue. This webinar by Richard Snape will look at:

- Enforceability of restrictive covenants: • The consequences of the Supreme Court decision in *Alexander Devine v Housing Solutions*; • Interpretation of restrictive covenants; • When to advise and when to insure; • The implications of the Court of Appeal decision in *Bath Rugby v Greenwood 2021*;
- Enforceability of positive covenants; • Flying freeholds; • Estate rentcharges in freehold land.

The webinar is from 9.30am-12.30pm on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> April and an application form can be downloaded [here](#).

### SUSSEX LAW SOCIETY WEBINARS

Click on the links below for full details of each course and application forms:

- **6<sup>th</sup> April, 2022** – [‘Civil Litigation Update Spring, 2022’](#). LIVE Webinar. 9.30am-12.30pm. Speaker: Professor Dominic Regan. £100 + VAT (members), £120 + VAT (non members)
- **20<sup>th</sup> April, 2022** – [‘Restrictive & Positive Covenants in Freehold Land’](#). LIVE Webinar. 2pm – 5pm. Speaker: Richard Snape. £100 + VAT (members), £120 + VAT (non members)
- **4<sup>th</sup> May, 2022** – [‘TRS: Getting to grips with the difficult issues ahead of 1st September deadline’](#). LIVE Webinar. Speaker: John Bunker. £80 + VAT (members), £100 + VAT (non members)
- **18<sup>th</sup> May, 2022** – [‘Conveyancing Law Update’](#). LIVE Webinar. Speaker Richard Snape. £100 + VAT (members) £120+ VAT (non members)
- **18<sup>th</sup> May, 2022** – [‘Enquiries & How to Respond to them’](#). LIVE Webinar. 2pm – 5pm. Speaker: Richard Snape. £100 + VAT (members) £120+ VAT (non members)

### OTHER WEBINARS/ARTICLES/RESOURCES

- **Martin Searle Solicitors - Ask the Experts - Community Care Law Q&As** - Cate Searle, Head of Community Care Law and Paula Jones, Services for Professional Deputies Lead, are running free Community Care Law Q&As focusing on topical issues in community care law and mental capacity law. Their next virtual session is on **Tuesday 26 April** from **1 - 2pm** and deals with “Securing Statutory Funding and Health & Welfare Costs in Personal Injury Litigation” This is an interactive session based on an in-depth case study, where we will look at the tensions and challenges we all come across in our day-to-day practice. For more information and to book your place, [click here](#).
- We know that some staff are still facing mental health challenges as we move into the post Covid restriction era and with retaining staff high on all our agendas looking after and training staff is important. **Loch Associates Group** is therefore running a **certified training course on 27 April 2022 which would enable you to help support your team’s mental health and wellbeing** but also show you care about them too. Places can be booked [here](#)
- Join **Sherrards Employment Law Solicitors** for the next cohort of their CPD accredited, UK Employment Law Course. Commencing on **5th May 2022 and running for 4 weeks**, the LIVE bite-sized webinars alongside the invaluable resources will provide delegates with a deeper understanding of the key aspects of UK employment law in a practical and interactive way. To find out more and book your place: [www.sherrardsacademy.com](http://www.sherrardsacademy.com) or send an email to [academy@sherrardslaw.com](mailto:academy@sherrardslaw.com)

- **The University of Sussex** are holding an interesting programme of public lectures on a range of subjects (some legal topics). You can find out what's on offer up to **June 2022** [here](#).

## SITUATIONS VACANT

Listing job vacancies in the Newsletter & putting more detailed vacancies on the [website](#) is **FREE** for Sussex Law Society member firms and individual members and £50 + VAT for other contributors. Contact [Jeanette Lacy Scott](#) to place an advert. More details about each vacancy and how to apply can be found by following the highlighted links.

- **Experienced Employment Lawyer, Brighton.** Martin Searle Solicitors are looking to employ an experienced litigation Solicitor, Legal Executive or Case Worker to join their Employment Law team. For a full job description and to apply, please visit [www.ms-solicitors.co.uk/careers](http://www.ms-solicitors.co.uk/careers). The closing date is **Friday 19 April**.
- **Family Law Partner with Following** - Susan Clark Solicitor is looking for a Family Law Partner with a following to join her practice based in West Grinstead. This would be with a view to taking over the practice on my retirement in the future in around 2 years' time. The business has been established for over 20 years during which time I have been a sole practitioner. However, the business has great opportunity for expansion but I am currently working at full capacity. I would welcome a discussion if you are interested in such a role. Please either e-mail on [susan@susanclarksolicitor.co.uk](mailto:susan@susanclarksolicitor.co.uk) or call on 07974 808101.
- **Loch Associates Group are hiring!** - If you are an experienced Employment Solicitor looking to work with a fun, friendly and supportive team, then please join us at Loch Associates! As well as a great salary, we offer Group Life Insurance, a Health Cash Back Plan scheme, an Employee Assistance Programme and Private Health Insurance. We also reward performance with our bonus scheme and our quarterly 'Above and Beyond award'. If you would like to progress your career in a growing business, which offers flexible working, get in touch with us at [humanresources@lochassociates.co.uk](mailto:humanresources@lochassociates.co.uk)
- **Operations & Admin Assistant** - Cognitive Law is recruiting for an enthusiastic and committed Operations and Admin Assistant to join the team at their Head Office in Brighton. This is a full time hands-on exciting role, and a great opportunity for someone interested in supporting the running of our fantastic legal consultancy. Find out more and apply [here](#)
- **Part Time \*School Hours\* Legal Assistant** - WMC Legal LLP are recruiting a Part Time Legal Assistant to work in their busy Childcare/Family Team. This is a great opportunity to join a small friendly firm. Experience in childcare law not essential although desirable. For more information, please contact Sammy Metcalf, Managing Partner, [Sammy.metcalf@wmclegal.co.uk](mailto:Sammy.metcalf@wmclegal.co.uk)
- **Private Client Legal Secretary/Assistant** – Bennett Griffin in Worthing are recruiting for an Assistant for one of their Estate Administration specialists. This is your chance to be part of a highly successful and close-knit team as well as part of a progressive, commercially successful firm. For more details and/or to apply see [here](#).
- **Volunteer Services Co-ordinator** – Sussex Prisoners Families are looking for an enthusiastic, energetic and motivated person to join their team. You will be responsible for overseeing the recruitment of volunteers, co-ordinating and training volunteers, developing the

volunteer strategy and policies and the effective facilitation of referrals on to their family support services. More details and how to apply can be found [here](#).

## LOCUMS

If you would like to be added to the list of locums published monthly in this Newsletter, please email your details to [Jeanette Lacy Scott](mailto:Jeanette.Lacy.Scott@sussexlaw.org). Listing your details here is free of charge for members:

- Margaret Dowdles - commercial/residential property. Happy to discuss how firms can practically work together so she can innovate on pricing and still deliver real value at this challenging time and going forwards -Contact [mgtdles@gmail.com](mailto:mgtdles@gmail.com) 07947-771593. Charges realistic rates.
- Robin Bates - family and civil dispute resolution. contact mob 07710 202422 ; e-mail [robin-bates@sky.com](mailto:robin-bates@sky.com)
- Elin Dukes - private client/court of protection - contact: [elindukeslaw@gmail.com](mailto:elindukeslaw@gmail.com) / 07585800258.
- Patrick Richards- Un-Notarised legal translations, office and Court interpreter services offered by fluent French and Italian speaking local Solicitor. Contact [patrichards27@hotmail.com](mailto:patrichards27@hotmail.com) 07715928563.

## LOST & MISSING WILLS

Can you please check if your firm holds the following will(s):

Peter MURPHY (RIP 25/1/22)	DOB: 2/6/58	last address: 79 South Street, Lewes
Any information please contact Tim Dakers <a href="mailto:tim@dslaw.co.uk">tim@dslaw.co.uk</a>		
Belinda CHAPMAN (RIP 13/01/22)	DOB: 4/4/54	last address: 79 South Street, Lewes
Any information please contact Tim Dakers <a href="mailto:tim@dslaw.co.uk">tim@dslaw.co.uk</a>		

All wills previously held by Howlett Clarke are now safely held with the Right Legal Group, Wyvern Business Park, 16 Stanier Way, Derby, DE21 6BF. Telephone number 01332 424511.

Please contact [Jeanette Lacy Scott](mailto:Jeanette.Lacy.Scott@sussexlaw.org) if you are looking for a will or if you want to be part of our lost/missing wills scheme (free of charge)

## LAW SOCIETY DIVISIONS/NETWORKS

The Law Society has some really useful divisions/networks full of information and resources which are worth exploring. The links are here: [Ethnic Minority Lawyers](#); [In-house Lawyers](#); [Junior Lawyers](#); [Lawyers with Disabilities](#); [LGBT+ Lawyers](#); [Small Firms](#); [Solicitor Judges](#); [Women Lawyers](#)

## SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE

Following the introduction of the new GDPR laws on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018, if you are not an individual or corporate member of the Sussex Law Society and wish to continue to receive this monthly newsletter you will need to [opt in here](#). If you are unsure about whether you are/are not a member please contact [Jeanette Lacy Scott](mailto:Jeanette.Lacy.Scott@sussexlaw.org)