

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the May newsletter, and what a May it has already been!

Thank you to everyone who attended the Sussex Law Society Annual Charity Ball last Friday night and made it such a special occasion. We had a fantastic turnout with over 250 attending from Barclays, Bate & Albon, Becket Chambers, Brighton & Hove City Council, Burt Brill & Cardens, Cognitive Law, Conveyancing Data Services, Coole Bevis, Crown Office Row, Dean Wilson, DMH Stallard, Eastbourne Borough Council, Family Law Partners, Gates & Moloney, Gerard Maye, Goodlaw Solicitors, Groundsure, Howden Insurance Brokers, Kreston Reeves, Leap Legal Software, Lewes District Council, Mayo Wynne Baxter, Old Bailey Solicitors, Rohan Solicitors, Search Legal, So Legal, Taylor Rose MW, Tisshaws, Tuckers and Westgate Chambers and representatives from all of the other Sussex and Kent Law Societies, The Vice President of the Law Society, His Honour Judge Farquhar and the Chair of the Bar Mess. Frankly, I think I am still recovering 4 days' later!

I am delighted to say that for my chosen charities – The Starr Trust and the Brighton Yoga Foundation – we raised just shy of £2000, which just endorses what a wonderful profession we are.

I'm confident that anyone who attended last Friday night does not need to hear any more from me, so I will leave you to enjoy the rest of this newsletter and (hopefully) some sunshine!

Lucy Tarrant

NEWS

- **Renaissance Legal** have been announced winners of the Boutique Law Firm of the Year (small) award at the Modern Law Awards 2022 on Thursday 7th April, in a ceremony in London attended by hundreds of professionals from the legal services industry. The team were also finalists in the Client Care Award. Read more [here](#).
- **Stuart Taylor joins Westgate Chambers in Brighton as Deputy Senior Clerk** - Stuart has over 20 years' experience clerking in the local area and has continued to be recognised in both Chambers and Partners and the Legal 500 for providing 'Client Service at The Bar'. Stuart joins a clerk's room led by Sean Gould with over 28 years' experience. Stuart can be contacted on 01273 480510 and direct line 01273 049353.
- We are delighted to announce Nadia Hammond has joined **Cognitive Law** as Operations Assistant. Nadia specialises in operations and compliance and supports the management of the day-to-day running of the firm. Nadia ensures that our consultants are able to operate hassle-free, therefore enabling them to focus on providing top quality legal services to their clients.
- **James Leach Joins Coole Bevis' Family Team** - Coole Bevis LLP are delighted to announce that James has joined the Family Department and will be based at the Brighton office working alongside Sue Knight. He is returning to his Sussex roots after spending time abroad working in Human Rights and more recently, working for Dutton Gregory, a regional firm based in Hampshire and Dorset. James acts for clients in private children, financial remedy and TOLATA proceedings and regularly undertakes advocacy in the Family and County Courts.

- Congratulations to Claire Busuttil, Jon Clays, Jess Partridge, Tracy Rowden and Gail Waller on their promotions to Partner at **Mayo Wynne Baxter** and to Aneliese Awty and Estella Hlisnikowski who have been made Associates
- **Mayo Wynne Baxter** have completed their merger with Ampa as of 1st May 2022. More details here <https://www.mayowynnebaxter.co.uk/about-us/mwb-join-ampa-group/>

'INVISIBLE SENTENCE'

What happens when someone you love gets a prison sentence? Can love survive the separation, the shame, and the stigma? And who cares?

This new play by Dinas Aristidou, created in collaboration with [Sussex Prisoners Families](#), is based on powerful verbatim accounts from women who have a son, daughter or partner serving a prison sentence. Directed by Julia Roberts, the company brings to life the experience of families under extreme pressure who are key, but largely silent and forgotten, figures in the criminal Justice system.

Tickets available for performances at 7.30 pm on 17 May and 2.30pm and 7.30 pm on 18 May at [The Old Market](#), Brighton. [Book Here](#).

HAVING DIFFICULTIES WITH THE COURTS?

At a recent General Committee meeting it became clear that many members were extremely frustrated from experiencing multiple difficulties with the Courts which was having a severe impact on some of their clients. Problems with turnaround times, losing papers, the inability to contact anyone were just a few of the difficulties people were experiencing and it seemed that the only way to get any response was if the client made a direct complaint. The Committee agreed that they would like the Law Society to be doing more on members' behalf about this, but we need your stories to pass to them as evidence that these are real problems solicitors are facing every day in Sussex and, no doubt, around the Country.

If this sounds familiar and is affecting you and your clients can you please send any examples to [Jeanette Lacy Scott](#) and at the same time encourage clients to write to their MP.

JOIN THE BRIGHTON LEGAL WALK & RAISE FUNDS FOR LOCAL FREE LEGAL ADVICE AGENCIES IN BRIGHTON & HOVE

Lawyers and colleagues from Brighton are getting together to raise money for local free legal advice agencies in Brighton & Hove. The Legal Walk, returning for the 8th year, will take place on Wednesday 18 May.

The 10km walk will welcome fundraisers from all across the legal profession and anyone else who wants to support fair access to justice for all. Fundraisers are hoping to beat last year's total of over £5,000 which went towards crucial local free legal advice agencies such as Citizens Advice Brighton, Possibility People, Money Advice Plus & Brighton Housing Trust. The walk will begin at the Magistrates Court, on Edward Street, and finish with a drink's reception at the Citizens Advice Brighton office on Tisbury Road Hove. The walk commences at 5:30pm and fundraisers can join in groups or as individual's, everyone is welcome.

Last year, the walk welcomed law firms, barristers' chambers, courts, law schools and those associated with the law industry to enjoy the natural beauty of Brighton whilst walking alongside the local community, all in the name of access to justice.

To sign up to the Brighton Legal Walk and for more information, see the link [HERE](#)

(ALMOST) ANYTHING BUT FAMILY COURT

One of our members, Jo O'Sullivan of O'Sullivan Family Law, has written a book in aid of Only Mums & Dads called '(Almost) Anything But Family Court.' It's a guide for the public, in particular separating and divorcing couples who often feel overwhelmed with choices in the marketplace. The President of the Family Division, Sir Andrew McFarlane, has written the foreword, at the end of which he says: 'This book is a detailed roadmap.....Oozing with common-sense and emotional insight, the available options and various routes are explained in non-legal language. The advice that readers will need two copies, one for themselves and one for their former partner, is an example of the neutral and open approach adopted throughout. I hope that '(Almost) Anything but Family Court' will be widely used. I confidently predict that any reader is likely to share my own admiration and gratitude to Jo O'Sullivan for writing it and to 'Only Mums & Dads' for making it available.'

RICHARD W LOADER SOLICITORS

We have been asked if anyone has any information on what happened to the firm Richard W Loader Solicitors, 21 Southwick Street, Southwick. It is understood that the firm closed in 2004 and a firm in the Isle of Wight are trying to find out where their will files went to. If you have any information which might help with this search please contact emma.dobbins@gdlegalservices.co.uk

LEASEHOLD REFORM (GROUND RENT) ACT 2022

The Leasehold Reform (Ground Rent) Act 2022 comes into force on 30 June 2022, except for retirement properties where it will not come into force before 1 April 2023. It puts an end to ground rents for new, qualifying long residential leasehold properties in England and Wales. This is part of the most significant changes to property law in a generation. After the Act comes into force, ground rent in most new leases cannot legally be for anything more than "one peppercorn per year". This "peppercorn rent" means that no money can be legally charged or paid as ground rent on leases regulated by this Act. The Act bans freeholders from charging administration fees for collecting a peppercorn rent. Fines of up to £30,000 may be levied where ground rent is charged in contravention of the Act. There are very few exceptions from the Act, which are:

- applicable community-led housing
- certain financial products
- business leases which are defined by the Act as leases of commercial premises which include a dwelling, use of which substantially contributes to the business purposes.
- Statutory lease extensions for both houses and flats remain unchanged and are therefore exempt from the provisions of the Bill.

For existing leaseholders entering into voluntary lease extensions after commencement, the extended portion of their lease will be reduced to a peppercorn. Documents relevant to the legislation can be found on the [Parliamentary Bills website](#) and final versions of the Act are on legislation.gov.uk. The government will shortly publish guidance for consumers and enforcement authorities on the operation of the Act.

ISSUES WITH MyHMCTS PORTAL

The Law Society have contacted us to say that there has been an issue for some members with the MyHMCTS portal and the selection of firms and have asked us to share the information below:

“When using the portals, it is essential that users select their own firm (and any firm represented by the other party) by using the 'search for an organisation' function.

Users can only search for organisations already registered with HMCTS. Only one address can be registered for an organisation (for a multi office firm this may well be a different address than the office you are dealing with).

When searching for an organisation, try to search for a unique part of the organisation name, rather than using 'LLP, Solicitors or Ltd' in the search field. Type in the first part of the organisation name and use Ctrl and F (on your keyboard) to use the browser search function. If searching by post code, do not leave a space between the 2 parts so rather than DE1 2MO, use DEM12O. (If dealing with a multi office firm, please check with them which address/postcode they have registered on HMCTS.

By using the search feature in this way and selecting the organisation, the case will be automatically allocated to the correct organisations and once assigned, can be shared within that firm across other registered colleagues.

Failure to search and select in this way will impact on service and response times, slowing progress”.

AS MANAGING PARTNER THE BUCK STOPS WITH YOU!

There is a lot to shoulder. Do you find yourself losing sleep over financial compliance? Do you lose hours in your day dealing with HR issues? Does your own fee earning suffer as you get pulled from pillar to post?

Join two experts in their fields who can help to lighten your load. Lou McArragher ([Consciously Connected Leadership - Conscious Connections \(cconnections.co.uk\)](#)) and Claire Ellis ([JJ+H Accounting Services - www.jjandh.co.uk](#)) will deliver 2 insightful workshops over a lunchtime, so you can learn and fuel yourselves at the same time!

You will come away with simple, actionable steps that you can implement straight away that will start shifting you towards feeling in control and on top of everything.

Please email info@jjandh.co.uk if you are interested in attending. Further information regarding dates and venue will be shared in the Managing Partners' update.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR NEXT QUIZ

Thursday, 15th September is the date for our next Quiz on Brighton Pier so please save the date. More details will follow in next month's newsletter but you can reserve a table (up to 6) for your team by contacting [Jeanette Lacy Scott](#).

COMPLIANCE & REGULATION

Private Client practitioners in particular will be aware of the recent emergence and rapid growth of unregulated pre-paid funeral plan providers. With consumer protection in mind the Financial Conduct Authority is introducing new regulated activity Rules from 29th July. In their anticipation, the

SRA has just released [a discussion paper](#) to the profession inviting views on how best and proportionate it would be to either regulate those firms which carry out this work directly or they seek specific approval from the FCA. Whilst the paper is open for comment until 1st June, the SRA's position cannot be finalised before the 29th July and consequently transitional arrangements are being discussed, with an update from the SRA to follow. You can respond by way of the SRA's [on-line questionnaire](#).

CONVEYANCING LAW UPDATE

Conveyancing continues to undergo major changes. In particular, estate rent charges continue to cause problems. In addition, the External Wall System (EWS) certificates in relation to cladding are causing major problems. **Richard Snape** will cover topics including: - First Homes and the new Model Shared Ownership Lease; - Estate rent charges; - The Leasehold Reform (Ground Rent) Act 2022; - Competition and Markets Authority investigation of ground rents; - The Fire Safety Act 2021 EWS1 Certificates including the latest 2022 Government guidance and RICS guidance and cladding; - Recent case law; - Solicitor's undertakings after the Supreme Court case of *Harcus Sinclair v Your Lawyers* (2021); - Planning permission changes
Recent case law on leases, service charge, restrictive covenants and easements.

The webinar is from 9.30am-12.30pm on Wednesday, 18th May 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:

- **18th May, 2022** – '[Conveyancing Law Update](#)'. LIVE Webinar. Speaker Richard Snape. £100 + VAT (members) £120+ VAT (non members)
- **18th May, 2022** – '[Enquiries & How to Respond to them](#)'. LIVE Webinar. 2pm – 5pm. Speaker: Richard Snape. £100 + VAT (members) £120+ VAT (non members)
- **18th October, 2022** – '[CPR Update by Dominic Regan](#)'. LIVE Webinar. 9.30am – 12.30pm. £100 + VAT (members) £120+ VAT (non members)

OTHER WEBINARS/ARTICLES/RESOURCES

- Following the success of last year's online Probate Update seminar, **Worthing Law Society** have arranged a virtual seminar with Paul Ashwell of 1 COR on **Tuesday 24th May 2021 at 1pm**. This is a free event with no charge for attendees. The seminar is due to last approximately 1 hour and a handout will be circulated after the event. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to brighton.events@1cor.com <<mailto:brighton.events@1cor.com>>
- 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 or send an email to academy@sherrardslaw.com
- **Managing Staff Performance** – Fiona Martin, Head of Employment Law at Martin Searle Solicitors is hosting a free virtual seminar on Managing Staff Performance from **1 – 2pm on Thursday 26 May**. This is open to employers, HR professionals, and anyone responsible for

personnel issues in their organisation. Attendees will learn to deal with capability and performance issues efficiently and fairly. For more information and to book your place, [click here](#).

- **The £86,000 Care Cap Promise in Practice** – Cate Searle, Head of Community Care Law at Martin Searle Solicitors is running this live virtual workshop in partnership with MBL Seminars. This interactive session is designed for people who are already advising clients about the current paying for care rules and social care means testing. Cate will work through case studies and calculations to analyse how the changes will impact your clients and what advice you need to be giving now. Dates in May have now sold out. There are still spaces available on **Wednesday 6 July** and **Tuesday 11 October** from **2pm – 4pm**. For more information and to book your place, [click here](#).
- [How to create the most eye-catching and compelling advert design for lawyers](#) and [Be aware of the 'proprietary platform' lawyer website design](#) – two interesting articles from Orion Legal Marketing.
- **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.

- **0-3 PQE Solicitor, Guildford** – DMH Stallard are currently looking for an NQ to join their busy team in the Guildford office. They are ideally looking for a Solicitor, Licenced Conveyancer or Legal Executive to undertake a wide variety of Residential Property Matters. As an effective member of the Real Estate Guildford team you will work on a variety or property transactions including acquisitions and disposals. Please contact Jodie.cashman@dmhstallard.com if you are interested in applying for this role.
- **0-3 PQE DR Family Solicitor, Guildford** – DMH Stallard are currently looking for an NQ to join their Dispute Resolution Family team in Guildford. They are looking for someone who is able to build good working relationships with clients, referrers and other team members. You will also need to have an empathetic approach with people in difficult situations, an understanding of their needs, and the ability to manage their expectations. Please contact Jodie.cashman@dmhstallard.com if you are interested in applying for this role.
- **0-2 PQE Construction Solicitor, London** – DMH Stallard are looking for an NQ to join the London Real Estate group, specialising in Construction. They need a solicitor who will undertake a wide variety of non-contentious construction work and to support the continued development of the practice. Please contact Jodie.cashman@dmhstallard.com if you are interested in applying for this role.
- **Assistant Director of Planning, Gatwick** – DMH Stallard are looking for an Assistant Director of Planning to support the Head of the Planning Consultancy team, as well as supporting the Partners and other members of the Legal Planning team as required. Please contact Jodie.cashman@dmhstallard.com if you are interested in applying for this role.

- **Associate Planner, Gatwick** – DMH Stallard are looking for an Associate Planner to join their Planning team in Gatwick. They will work alongside the Chartered Planning team, Chartered Planners, Planning Solicitors, and external technical consultants, such as architects, surveyors, traffic engineers, landscape architects and ecologists. Please contact Jodie.cashman@dmhstallard.com if you are interested in applying for this role.
- **Company Commercial Lawyer** - Solicitor required to join busy company commercial team in Haywards Heath - experience preferred but could suit NQ solicitor with commercial acumen seeking varied + challenging caseload and capable of working to tight deadlines. Please send CV with covering letter to rdavage@rohansolicitors.co.uk
- **Conveyancer 1 yr + PQE** – We have an exciting opportunity for an ambitious qualified Residential Conveyancer with 1+ years PQE looking for personal and career growth opportunities to develop the conveyancing department in a small and friendly firm in Worthing. For full details and how to apply see [here](#).
- **Conveyancing Assistant/Paralegal** - We have an exciting opportunity for a Conveyancing Assistant looking for personal and career growth opportunities to develop in a supportive working environment within a small and friendly firm in Worthing. The successful will have at least one year of experience working in conveyancing. For more details and how to apply see [here](#).
- **Corporate Solicitor** – SO Legal are looking for someone with at least 3 years PQE to join their team in Brighton. The role will involve working alongside our highly experienced and reputable corporate team, with the opportunity to expand your knowledge and take your career to the next level. For more details/to apply see [here](#).
- **Experienced Litigation Solicitor** - 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.
- **Family Law Partners** are looking for a Paralegal and Family Solicitor (2-4 years PQE) to join their Horsham team. More information and how to apply can be accessed here <https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/3042741166/> (Paralegal) <https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/3042741113/> (Solicitor)
- **Lawson Lewis Blakers are recruiting!** As a result of our continuing growth and expansion, we have a number of superb vacancies for experienced lawyers/support staff to join our existing teams at our offices in Eastbourne and Peacehaven in the following areas: Private Client; Residential Conveyancing; Civil Litigation; Receptionist. For more information, please contact Liz Grace on 01323 433001 or e-mail your CV to: liz.grace@lawsonlewisblakers.co.uk
- **Legal Team Assistant** - Martin Searle Solicitors currently have a vacancy for a Legal Team Assistant based in their Brighton office. The post would suit an organised, pro-active, articulate and highly motivated person, preferably with experience of working in professional services. For full job description and to apply, [click here](#).
- **Legal Secretary** - Green Wright Chalton Annis Solicitors have a vacancy for a Legal Secretary in their Probate Department in their Worthing office. Please send CV and application to Elise Mason – elise.mason@gwca.co.uk

- **Private Client Solicitor or experienced Legal Executive** – Warwick Barker LLP Solicitors in Rustington are looking for someone to assist in our busy private client department. The work will comprise estate administration, Will writing, preparing deeds of variation, declaration of trust deeds, LPAs and some Court of Protection Work. We offer a competitive salary and are flexible on full or part-time working. Knowledge of Isokon would be a distinct advantage. Please email your CV to gillcollins@warwickbarker.co.uk
- **Property & Commercial Litigator** – SO Legal are looking for someone with at least 2 years PQE. You will be expected to manage your own caseload and have broad experience of litigation matters across residential property, commercial property, corporate and commercial matters. For more details/to apply see [here](#).
- **Residential Property Lawyer** - Solicitor / Legal Exec / Licenced Conveyancer required to join growing property team based in Haywards Heath. Candidate should have minimum 3 years PQE. Competitive salary package. Please send CV with covering letter to rdavage@rohansolicitors.co.uk
- **Residential Property Legal Secretary/Assistant** – Bennett Griffin in Worthing have an exciting opportunity for an experienced Legal Secretary providing administrative support to the whole Residential Property Team. For full details and how to apply see [here](#).
- **Residential Property Paralegals** – SO Legal are looking for residential property paralegals keen to take their careers to the next level. We currently have positions available in Brighton and Eastbourne. Successful applicants will have the potential to get a training contract which will run for two years. You will support our solicitors with various tasks, including drafting and preparing legal documents, assisting the team with file management, typing, liaising with external providers for research purposes, taking client instructions and fee earning responsibilities after suitable training. Candidates should have a good understanding of handling residential conveyancing matters and be proactive and organised with at least 12 months of experience. Please get in touch with recruitment@solegal.co.uk with your CV and for further details. No agencies.
- **Residential Property Solicitor/Conveyancer** – SO Legal are looking for someone to work from their Brighton office. You must be able to run your own conveyancing matters from start to finish and manage a mixed caseload of freehold and leasehold transactions. It would also be beneficial if you already had links within the local residential property sector. For more details/to apply see [here](#).
- **Senior Associate Commercial Property** – SO Legal have an excellent opportunity for an experienced solicitor, at least 6 years PQE, to deal with a wide range of commercial property matters, including sales and purchases, lease negotiation, licences and landlord and tenant matters. For more details and to apply see [here](#).
- **Trust Manager** - This newly created role with Renaissance Legal is an exciting opportunity for someone experienced in running Trusts and working closely with clients and colleagues to have their own case load and develop this area of work. The firm is looking for an experienced Trust Manager who is proactive and self-sufficient, to start by taking over an existing case load and then set up structures and procedures to grow and expand this area of work. The successful candidate will have the full support of the firm's dedicated and

friendly close knit team and be able to make the role their own. Further details and how to apply here: <https://www.renaissancelegal.co.uk/about-us/vacancies/trust-manager/>

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). 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 07947-771593. Charges realistic rates.
- Robin Bates - family and civil dispute resolution. contact mob 07710 202422 ; e-mail robin-bates@sky.com
- Elin Dukes - private client/court of protection - contact: 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 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 tim@dslaw.co.uk		
Belinda CHAPMAN (RIP 13/01/22)	DOB: 4/4/54	last address: 79 South Street, Lewes
Any information please contact Tim Dakers tim@dslaw.co.uk		

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) 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 25th 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)

If you would like to receive information about courses and events in any of the following areas of law, please sign up to one of the following lists:

[Litigators List](#)

[Private Client Practitioners List](#)

[Property Practitioners List](#)

[Family Practitioners List](#)

[Criminal Law Practitioners List](#)

Contact [Jeanette Lacy Scott](#) if you no longer wish to receive the monthly Newsletter and put **UNSUBSCRIBE** in the subject heading.