

Welcome to November's Newsletter. Congratulations to Oliver Maxwell-Jones from Coole Bevis LLP who was elected President for the second time at last week's AGM. We also welcomed Dean Wilson's Sarah O'Sullivan to the General Committee. It is so encouraging that so many members are willing to get involved and keep the Society thriving! Many attending stayed on for drinks and dinner and a lovely evening was had by all! You can find out who is on the 2022/23 committee [here](#).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I first joined the Society to meet fellow professionals, after I relocated to Brighton nearly 20 years ago, and I have been on the Committee ever since. It has been quite a journey and I have met some incredible people along the way who have dedicated their personal time to serve the Society's members. It is then an honour and a privilege to be able to serve as the Society's President for a second time. For, without the support of its committee, the Society's members and the amazing work Jeanette does as our COO, my role as president would be all the much harder to perform. So, it is with great thanks I look forward to working with & supporting you all over the year to come.

Oliver Maxwell-Jones

LOCAL NEWS

- **Launch of Renaissance Trust** - Renaissance Legal has announced the launch of a new company, Renaissance Trust Corporation Ltd, trading as Renaissance Trust. The newly formed Trust company is in partnership with the team from Castlewood Trust & Company, who have provided unparalleled expertise in Trust and Company structures, advising individuals, families, companies and existing Trustees on the ongoing management, administration and compliance associated with Trusts, for the past 20 years. Read more about it [here](#).
- **Mayo Wynne Baxter** are delighted to announce the appointments of two new Partners, Daniel Jenking and Nick Stockley. They join MWB as part of our continuing growth strategy, Daniel further enhancing our corporate and commercial offering in the Gatwick Diamond area and Nick Stockley our commercial Litigation offering; specialising in commercial contract advice and litigation, insolvency litigation and director and shareholder disputes.

FRC UPDATE FROM HHJ FARQUHAR

Dear All

I hope that all is well in the FRC world – or as well as it can be in present circumstances.

I am well aware that there are many problems we face and I am not going to set them all out here, but we are doing all that we can to deal with them all. I know that we all have far too many e-mails which are too long so I will keep this as brief as possible.

1. The contested online portal is to become compulsory at some point in early 2023 – please see [this letter](#) for details. Can I add one detail that is not widely known. The case numbers for the online portal are 16-digit numbers in the form 1111-2222-3333-4444. The same format is used for new divorces. However, the divorce number is NOT the same as the FRC number!! This has been raised as an issue and we have been informed that there are IT reasons why this must be the case. Please bear this in mind when using the portal – we will all slip into error on this one from time to time, but no doubt we will get used to it.

2. First Appointments. In general, these remain remote hearings. Do practitioners believe this is achieving the best outcomes? Would more be achieved if they were all attended hearings? Please let me know if there are strong views either way. I know which system is easier for practitioners, but the question is in relation to outcomes of hearings.
3. Complex cases – these should all remain in the Kent, Surrey & Sussex area unless they are allocated to a High Court Judge – the days of transferring these to the CFC have now gone.
4. Judicial Resources. I am sure that many of you have been faced with the ‘hearing vacated due to lack of judge’ e-mail. I know how incredibly frustrating this is but there is simply no ‘magic Judge tree’. I am doing all I can to persuade judges from other areas to agree to sit in our beautiful part of the world, but there is a limit – and it just passes the problem on to a different area. I am sorry that this is still happening, but the number of times it has occurred is reducing.
5. FRC Court Users Meeting – can I suggest we have a meeting on Teams on 15th November 2022 at 4.30. Invites to follow. [The link to join is here.](#)
6. Please feel free [to email me](#) in relation to any issues and to raise any points that you would wish to discuss at the meeting on 15th November.

I hope to see as many of you as possible on 15th November at 4.30.

HHJ Stuart Farquhar
Brighton Family Centre

NEW DATE FOR 2023 ANNUAL CHARITY BALL

We have moved the date of the Sussex Law Society Annual Charity Ball next year to Friday, 19th May so please save the date. It will be held at the Grand Hotel in Brighton.

WESTGATE CHAMBERS

Invites to our Family and Civil Teams Solicitor Christmas Event have now been sent. A CPD accredited seminar from 5-6pm, will be followed by a champagne drink’s reception from 6-9pm, at The Terrace, Cote Restaurant, Brighton on 9 December.

If you are yet to receive your invite, or have any queries about the event please do not hesitate to contact [Sean Gould](#) or [Stuart Taylor](#).

OCTOBER 2022 PII RENEWAL FOR LAW FIRMS. STILL A GLIMMER OF LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL?

Do you want to know the outcome of the 1 October 2022 renewal for solicitors PII? Is the glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel we saw in April still there? Read the overview [here](#) in advance of Howden’s full Market Report for Law Firms that will be published in January 2023.

COUNCIL MEMBER’S REPORT

I attended my first Council meeting as the Sussex representative at the Law Society on 12th October 2022. Over the years I have had cause to attend various meetings at the Law Society, mostly in my

role as a Criminal Law Solicitors Association committee member and mostly to do with Criminal Law, Legal Aid or Mental Health Law. I had not been since before the pandemic and am conscious that some Solicitors go through most or all of their career without visiting Chancery Lane, or at least not since an admission ceremony. That is a shame since it is your Society, you pay for the building and the facilities are very pleasant, a peaceful library and nice dining area. If visiting London, I'd recommend a visit. The Council meeting was in the elegant Reading room. The meeting was fairly formal and expertly chaired by the President I Stephanie Boyce. I liked the Countdown clock that limited contributions from the floor to 3 minutes. I've been on a few committees where that would have been useful, though not, of course the Sussex Law Society where contributions are always succinct and on point. I may suggest they add in the Countdown music for the last few seconds.

It was the last meeting for some on Council, there is now a 12-year limit and some fond farewells. It was also the formal transfer of office holders. The outgoing President, first black President and only the 6th female President, put the chain of office around the neck of the new president, the first Muslim President and 7th female. The new President passed her old chain on to the new Vice President and the new Vice passed his chain to the new Deputy Vice President. The music stopped with the DVP but to his disappointment he didn't appear to have a parcel to unwrap. There were some genuinely moving speeches from all concerned and we look forward to a constructive year with Lubna Shuja as our new President.

As for the formal business of the Council, I can summarise as follows and if anyone wants more details there is a paper that I can email out.

- 1.1 The President sent a letter expressing condolence and loyalty to His Majesty the King.
- 1.2 Criminal Legal Aid - Criminal Legal Aid had been a continuing focus. The Society's campaign to secure the full implementation of the Bellamy review would be ongoing. This is essential to secure the future of a viable publicly funded service.
- 1.3 Solicitors Indemnity Fund - The SRA had launched (on 6th October) a consultation on the rules and regulations for a future indemnity scheme: SRA | Consumer protection for post six-year negligence | Solicitors Regulation Authority. I. Stephanie Boyce reported to Council she was optimistic that by continuing to work cooperatively with the SRA, the Society would achieve a positive outcome that will protect both consumers and our members.
- 1.4 Diversity Framework

The outgoing President also highlighted to Council on 12 October that the Law Society has launched a new framework, which serves as a roadmap for workplaces to develop and deliver a strategic approach to Diversity and Inclusion (D&I): <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/topics/diversity> - Use of the framework will help firms to establish purpose, develop a plan and ensure performance in their D&I activity.

Andrew Bishop

TRAINING IN-HOUSE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The October edition of the SLS newsletter spoke about how Bethane Harland and Iko Onuh, trainee solicitors at Brighton & Hove City Council, are raising awareness of training contracts and legal careers in local government.

LawCareers.Net recently published articles providing an insight into their education and adult social care seats:

<https://www.lawcareers.net/Explore/LCNSays/A-day-in-the-life-trainee-solicitor-in-local-government>

<https://www.lawcareers.net/Explore/LCNSays/A-day-in-the-life-of-a-local-government-trainee-solicitor>

To follow this, LawCareers.Net have featured Bethane and Iko on their most recent podcast episode titled 'training in-house in local government'. In the episode, Bethane and Iko elaborate on their 'day in the life' articles to discuss the benefits of training in local government, differences between practice and local government, application tips, and more! The podcast can be streamed via Spotify, Apple Podcasts, or Soundcloud: <https://soundcloud.app.goo.gl/zaYzVYfeEi3nbGfS6>.

A NEW CHAPTER FOR GREEN WRIGHT CHALTON ANNIS

Green Wright Chalton Annis launched their new brand "GWCA Solicitors" on 7th November, on the same date they were joined by BBMW Ltd (formerly Burnand Brazier Malcolm Wilson) which increases their presence in Sussex to 8 offices.

GWCA Solicitors has a long history as a local high street solicitor, which it has nurtured and grown over the years into a modern, accessible, and approachable practice. It enjoys a solid reputation and with the acquisition of BBMW Solicitors will have offices in Worthing, Rustington, Goring, Lancing, Arundel, Steyning, Hove, and Broadwater. GWCA Solicitors will continue to grow their team and focus on their core services: litigation, family law, conveyancing, personal injury, wills, and probate, and commercial and business. GWCA remain 100% committed to focusing on servicing their clients' needs, whilst also growing and developing their specialised teams.

Senior Partner at GWCA, Emma Chatwell commented: "This is an exciting time for GWCA. We are thrilled to be joined by BBMW, who bring with them many years' experience, professionalism, and excellence. Rest assured the firm will continue to be steered by the fundamental principle of delivering exceptional client service." BBMW Partner in Lancing Nigel Brazier said: "We have a fantastic team here, which will only be strengthened by uniting with GWCA Solicitors. Together we will be able to further develop our combined practice enabling us to consolidate our position as one of the leading firms in Sussex." For further information please contact naomi@consortiumbiz.co.uk

MANAGING PARTNERS' NETWORKING GROUP

Remote and hybrid-working is here to stay for the time being and there are no doubt pros and cons. Pam Loch, Managing Director of Loch Associates Group, will be presenting a lunchtime webinar on Thursday, 19th January 2023 from 12.00 – 13.30 pm and will be talking about the emerging trends in the employment law and HR world and the challenges firms face in our ever evolving workplaces, especially around mental ill health and remote/hybrid working and the menopause. If this is something you would like to join then please let [Jeanette Lacy Scott](#) know. There will be time for questions and a confidential discussion.

LAW SOCIETY LAUNCHES JUNIOR SOLICITORS' NETWORK

The Law Society launched its Junior Solicitors Network (JSN) on 1st November to positively engage and support junior solicitors, talk about the pressing issues they face and provide easy access to information and resources in order to support their careers. To help the Law Society formulate plans and deliver effectively against the priorities and issues of junior solicitors, they have established the JSN Advisory Committee which will also be able to help the Law Society as it refines content for a flagship conference on the Future of Work,

suggest speakers for webinars looking at workplace culture and help shape in-person topical seminars and networking held in London, Wales and the regions. More widely, the committee will work with the Law Society as it influences on legal aid, wellbeing, accessibility of the Solicitors Qualifying Exam and their flagship initiative on 21st century justice.

Time to change

The Junior Lawyers' Web Hub (find out more [here](#)), which also launched on 1st November, will provide easy access to member news, information and upcoming events. It also has a wide range of resources to support career and personal development, working practices and wellbeing. On why the Law Society is making this transition now, Nick Emmerson said: "This change is within the wider context of the Law Society working closely and collaboratively with regional and local grouping such as local JLDs and local law societies and shifting from operating siloed 'divisions' to establishing inclusive and joined up working via Law Society 'networks' in order to encourage greater collaboration and exchange of ideas and perspectives. "We look forward to working with the JSN Advisory Committee, National Junior Lawyers Division (JLD) Committee and local JLDs throughout the next year and beyond," concluded Nick Emmerson. The current Vice-Chair of the Junior Lawyers Division, Darja Cernobrivec, will become the JSN Advisory Committee's first Chair. She will hold this role until October 2023. JSN Chair Darja Cernobrivec said: "I am delighted to launch our new Junior Solicitors Network today. "Speaking to junior solicitors across the country, one major need emerged above all others, the need for increased engagement and support for junior and aspiring solicitors. "We will play our part to ensure that junior solicitors don't feel alone, but rather a part of one inclusive profession with common vision and determination to excel in their careers and promote the rule of law."

The National Junior Lawyers Division

The Law Society will continue to support and collaborate with the National JLD Committee – which will be fully independent from the Law Society, with its own independent voice and programme of work.

The National JLD Committee is comprised of representatives from all the local JLDs across England and Wales. The National JLD represents the views of junior lawyers up to five years post-qualified experience (PQE) and campaigns on their behalf. The JSN Advisory Committee will be chaired by Darja Cernobrivec. If you are a junior lawyer interested in getting involved with the JSN Advisory Committee, please contact Darja at JuniorLawyers@LawSociety.org.uk

'EXERCISING BREAK CLAUSES AND OTHER METHODS OF TERMINATING COMMERCIAL LEASES' WEBINAR

This is a very topical area in the post pandemic online world. Richard Snape will look at break clauses and other termination methods. Topics covered include: Conditions Precedent and Breaks; - The Time for Exercising the Break; - Right of Entry; - Tenants Notice to Quit. The webinar is from 9.30am – 12.30pm on Tuesday, 6th December. You can download an application form [here](#).

SUSSEX LAW SOCIETY WEBINARS

Click on the links below for full details of each course and application forms. Check the website regularly as new webinars are being added all the time.

- **15th November, 2022** – ‘[Newbuild Issues for Conveyancers](#)’. Speaker: Richard Snape. LIVE Webinar. 11am – 12pm. £35 + VAT (members), £45 + VAT (non members)
- **6th December, 2022** – ‘Exercising Break Clauses Exercising Break Clauses and Other Methods of Terminating Commercial Leases’. Speaker: Richard Snape. LIVE Webinar. 9.30am – 12.30pm. £100 + VAT (members), £120+ VAT (non members)

OTHER COURSES/WEBINARS/ARTICLES/RESOURCES

- **Sherrards Employment Law Solicitors Employment Law Latest and Employment Headaches programme.** Essential for HR and people managers, join the team in Sussex on Thursday 10th November, London on Thursday 17th November and in Surrey on Tuesday 22nd November to run through critical employment law updates and practical workplace scenarios. The cost for one delegate is £170 + VAT. The sessions run from 9:00 – 13:00 and include all training materials, refreshments and a buffet lunch. Click [here](#) to book and pay for your place online at any of the 3 events.
- **Acting for Elderly Clients – MBL Virtual Conference** – Cate Searle from Martin Searle Solicitors will be speaking at the annual MBL Acting For Elderly Clients conference alongside a panel of leading experts providing comprehensive updates on the latest developments in this fast-moving area. Cate’s talk is on **Paying for Care Update: Topics and Tensions**, proving the latest updates on the law around paying for care. The virtual conference runs from **10am – 4.15pm on Friday 9 December** – to view the complete programme or to book tickets, [click here](#)
- **Westgate Chambers Seminar Programme** - Chambers Seminar Programme is in full swing. Members of our specialist Family Team have spoken in recent seminars with East Sussex Resolution and Worthing Law Society. We look forward to the upcoming West Sussex Resolution AGM in November, where we will again provide Counsel to speak on complex and interesting topics within Family Law. We are also proud to also offer direct in-house training to Solicitors firms on a variety of areas of law with several dates and firms lined up for the coming months. If we can assist you with any topics that you would like to know more about, please do not hesitate to contact our Deputy Senior Clerk, [Stuart Taylor](#).

SUSSEX COMMUNITY FOUNDATION COST-OF-LIVING APPEAL

At Sussex Community Foundation our vision is to see a fairer and more equal Sussex where people and communities thrive today and in the future. We do this by working with people and their professional advisors about using personal, family or business wealth to take on the challenges on their doorstep.

Despite Sussex appearing as a wealthy county there is deep-rooted inequality with pockets of deprivation. As everyday costs rapidly outpace wage and benefit growth, Sussex charities have seen vast increases in people in need of their services. We undertook a cost-of-living survey across our networks and the results were sobering. The message we are hearing can be summed up by one charity who told us:

“If the pandemic was a crisis, this is an emergency. There is no way out for the many who are suffering. We are going to witness food poverty and food insecurity on a level never seen before by this generation”

85% of the groups we support are facing large increases of their own and are worried they won't be able to continue their support. This is why we have launched our Cost-of-Living Appeal. To see more information and survey results click [Cost of Living Appeal - Sussex Giving](#)

If you would like more information about Sussex Community Foundation please contact Stephen.Chamberlain@sussexgiving.org.uk

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.

- **Conveyancing Paralegal** – Green Wright Chalton Annis in Rustington are seeking a Conveyancing Paralegal to undertake a busy and varied workload, working with clients, estate agents, mortgage advisors and colleagues. Details, person spec and how to apply can be found [here](#).
- **Court of Protection Lawyer** - The award-winning team at Renaissance Legal are looking for a specialist Court of Protection lawyer. This newly created role is an exciting opportunity for an experienced Court of Protection specialist to join the firm's leadership team and contribute to making a life changing difference to the lives of the vulnerable and disabled members of society. Find out more about the role and how to apply [here](#).
- **Employment Lawyer**. Martin Searle Solicitors are looking to employ an experienced litigation Solicitor, In-House Counsel / Barrister, Legal Executive or Case Worker to join their Employment Law team. For a full job description and to apply, [click here](#)
- **Family Paralegal** – Mayo Wynne Baxter have an exciting opportunity for someone looking for their first step into a legal career. You are likely to have a strong administrative background and enthusiasm to take on a real career opportunity. Full details and how to apply can be found [here](#).
- **Legal Adviser (Residential Property)** – Mayo Wynne Baxter in Eastbourne have an exceptional opportunity for an accomplished Residential Property Solicitor with around 1-4 years PQE with ambition and drive to join their team. Full details and how to apply can be found [here](#).
- **Legal Secretary (Conveyancing)** – Green Wright Chalton Annis are looking for 2 conveyancing legal secretaries for their Worthing and Steyning offices. Details, person spec and how to apply can be found [here](#).
- **Private Client Support Assistant** – Lings Solicitors have a new position for a full-time administration support to our Private Client lawyers. For full details and how to apply see [here](#).
- **Probate Solicitor** – Green Wright Chalton Annis in Steyning are seeking someone with a Law Degree / Solicitor / CILEX / TEP or equivalent vocational experience in legal services with at least 4 years' experience managing estate administration cases. Knowledge of private client work and a willingness to proactively develop technical expertise and keep up to date with

legal developments is also required. Details, person spec and how to apply can be found [here](#).

- **Property Lawyer** - Rohan Solicitors has openings within its property department for solicitors, legal executives or licensed conveyancers who are looking to advance their career within a small, friendly firm. Based in Haywards Heath, we have for almost 25 years enjoyed a reputation for exceptional service to clients both locally and nationally and are now looking to expand our team. For more information and how to apply see [here](#).
- **Residential Property Paralegal** – Mayo Wynne Baxter are seeking someone with previous paralegal experience and a high standard of interpersonal and communication skills to join the team at the Storrington Office. Ideally you will have the ability to work independently and proven experience of working towards financial targets. Full 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). 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 mgtldles@gmail.com 07947-771593. Charges realistic rates.
- 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 patrickrichards27@hotmail.com 07715928563.

LOST & MISSING WILLS

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

Patrick DOWNER (RIP)	D.O.B. 17/03/1938	He lived in Hassocks from the mid-1960s and it is thought made a will between 1999 and 2001 (approx). Any information please contact his son, Matthew Downer (matthew-downer@sky.com)
Charles Richard CROUCH (RIP 11/8/22)	D.O.B 7/10/1950.	10 Lansdowne Place, Hove, BN3 1HG. Any information to Julia Kinsey, Bereavement Officer, Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (julia.kinsey1@nhs.net)

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 for members)

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](#)

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.