

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The clocks have gone forward, the pressure of the financial year-end has come & gone, and we look ahead to the longer warmer Summer days & holidays ahead. Writing of endings, at the end of March I attended DJ David Pollard's valedictory to mark the culmination of his many years working in and supporting the legal profession. In a packed Court 1 and full bench DJ Pollard's many achievements were marked and it fell to his daughter, Eleanor Pollard, to give a marvellous address on behalf of the Roll. David of course, for those who recall, held the office of this Society's president in 2000/2001 and as one of his successors, and on behalf of all the local Court users, I thank him for his years of dedication.

Picking up on one of the things said during the valedictory, the rule of law, and (I believe) what we all do whilst practising our profession, are as essential to a functioning democratic society as electricity. As invisible too. No one seems to notice whilst it's working. Quite different though when the power is off, it's dark and you can't ask Alexa, Google or Siri. We all excel in what we do every day, for those we work for and work with. We should be proud of our achievements and what it has taken to get each of us to where we are now, and where we want to get to. As practitioners, we all deliver value, we should all feel valued because, for society's sake, we are valuable.

Coming full circle, and speaking of holidays, Easter is upon us and the long weekend is ahead. Then May comes, with a flotilla of bank holidays and a new King crowned. So, happy Easter and – if you're off on holiday – have a relaxing time and come back refreshed for the year ahead.

*Oliver Maxwell-Jones*

## LOCAL NEWS

- **GoodLaw Solicitors LLP** are pleased to welcome two new members of staff: **Lauren Robinson**, Solicitor, who joins our family department care team and **Rachel Jones**, Chartered Legal Executive joins our Private Client department in Hassocks
- **WMC Legal LLP** are delighted as at 1 April 2023 to announce our new Partner, **Sammy Sansone**. We and the whole team welcome her to her new management role and look forward to the addition of her wisdom and experience in guiding the future of our Firm.
- After 28 years as Managing Partner and then Managing Director of **Bishop and Light Solicitors**, **Andrew Bishop** has moved on to a Consultancy role with the firm. He will continue to work closely with the firm as a Duty Solicitor, case worker and assisting in the smooth transition of management to the continuing Directors. He would like to thank his 4 co directors, Kevin Light, Madeleine Priestley, Ed Fish and Ramon Pape for their support and friendship over the last 28 years and every employee that has worked so hard in the firm. It continues to represent some of the most vulnerable people in society, facing challenges in the criminal justice and mental health systems. Kevin Light will take over as Managing Director.
- **Cognitive Law** are delighted to welcome **David Lawrence** to the team. Consultant Solicitor David Lawrence brings a wealth of experience with him to strengthen the firm's Commercial Property offering. David is dual qualified and based in Gibraltar. Having worked as the General Counsel and Legal Director within an international group of Companies David is now looking to re-establish his presence in Sussex and continue to act for commercial clients with a real estate portfolio.

- **Coole Bevis LLP** is delighted to announce that it has acquired Fleming & Co, a Family Law practice based in Eastbourne. **Karen Fleming**, an experienced Divorce Solicitor, founded Fleming & Co in 2017, following an extensive career working in senior positions at law firms across Sussex, including Woolley Bevis Diplock, which was one of the legacy firms that merged with Coole & Haddock in 2016 to form Coole Bevis LLP. Fleming & Co has a registered office in Eastbourne and specialises in providing Family Law advice to clients across East and West Sussex. The acquisition will see Fleming & Co's clients transfer to the experienced team of Family Lawyers at Coole Bevis. The team comprises **Susan Knight**, Partner and Head of the Department, **Julia Dyson**, Partner (both trained Collaborative Lawyers) and **James Leach**, Solicitor, whilst Karen will join as a Consultant.
- Members from **Westgate Chambers** specialist Financial Remedy Team continue to provide Training. In March, **Laura Buchan** was invited to speak to **Goodman Ray** Solicitors Family Team, about how the Courts deal with Cryptoassets within Financial Remedy proceedings, whilst in April, **Trina Little** was the most recent expert to join **Jacqueline Mensah** and **Sarah Pennicott** on the **Bennett Griffin LLP** Podcast 'Family Matters' providing her expert opinion on later life divorces, with that Podcast soon to go live.

#### IS CYBER ESSENTIALS ADEQUATE DEFENCE FOR YOUR BUSINESS IN TODAY'S THREAT LANDSCAPE?

Any business can fall victim to a cyberattack. Two of the main causes are outdated antivirus and not applying changes to update operating systems, or 'patching'. Almost 60% of data breaches are caused by software that isn't patched.

Businesses are advised to begin with Cyber Essentials requirements as a base level of security. However, they should also be looking for a continuous level of protection. An innovative cloud-based cyber security solution, called CDE (Cyber Defence by Extech Cloud\*) has been developed by specialists at Extech Cloud, to help businesses like yours keep cybersecurity up to date. Unlike many cybersecurity products, CDE enables continuous monitoring of a business's compliance level, and automatic remediation of any security threats posed. Learn [more](#) about how Extech Cloud can help your business.

Extech Cloud is an accredited Microsoft Solutions Partner, Microsoft 365 and Azure Specialist, and an award-winning IT Consulting business located in Sussex. Contact 01444 443200, or [info@extech.co.uk](mailto:info@extech.co.uk), or visit [www.extechcloud.com](http://www.extechcloud.com)

\*CDE is only available to Extech Cloud customers, with a minimum of Microsoft 365 Business Premium licences and an active IT support agreement.



#### A NOTE OF THANKS FROM D J POLLARD

As Oliver said in his President's Report, he attended District Judge David Pollard's valedictory at the end of March. DJ Pollard was presented with a small gift from the Society to mark his retirement and consistent support for the Sussex Law Society over the years. DJ Pollard has written to ask that his thanks be passed on to members in this newsletter adding "I have always held the Sussex Law Society dear to my heart, as it gave me so much support and led to lifelong friendships through my membership. So to receive a gift of the golf shop token from the Society meant so much to me. I will be putting it to good use!"

He also asked that we thank the local solicitors who organised a fantastic bunch of flowers for his wife, which were delivered by Alison Harbour.

### FIND OUT ABOUT NEW CORPORATE MEMBER FIRM LEWIS DENLEY

A big welcome to new corporate member firm [Lewis Denley](#). The Horsham-based law firm has relocated their team of 30 employees into larger premises at nearby Springfield House which is testament to the firm's achievements over a five- and half-year trading period, an aggressive recruitment drive and expansion into further practice areas. Led by managing partners **Natasha Lewis** and **Colin Secomb**, the team will now take residency on the fourth floor spanning over 3,400 sq ft of office space which has been refurbished to a high standard and includes breakout areas, a boardroom, open plan working and facilities to entertain clients. Based in the centre of Horsham, they are one of the few West Sussex law firms to receive 5-star reviews for their customer service across the region, a quality that allows them to continue winning new business across residential and commercial property, family law, employment practice areas and their newly integrated private client practice. A recruitment drive has been supporting the needs of the company's growth now standing at 30 employees – most of which were recruited throughout the pandemic. Two of these team members – **Greer Pratley** and **Mary Casey** - account for their newly formed private client team, established to meet the demands for an in-house wills, trust and probate service.

Attention is now turning to Natasha and Colin's next steps. The duo created their own legal tech software when starting the business to move the legal process away from paper and into the digital age. Plans to expand this service to the wider legal sector in 2023, building on Lewis Denley's brand reputation as a progressive and pioneering law firm, is fully underway. Natasha Lewis said: "Moving into new premises to expand the business is a great way to mark our continued growth. Colin and I started Lewis Denley as we spotted a gap in the market for a forward thinking, client focussed law firm and we are proud that we have made a real impact and we have achieved so much during the last five and a half years. We've built a law firm from the ground up which is in no small part owing to the strength of our incredible team. "Now we can continue to grow the team in our professional new office space which has been designed with future talent in mind. We couldn't be more thrilled with the extra space Springfield House provides and how it has really motivated the team by giving them a working environment they are really proud of – it's a nice way to pay back their loyalty." Colin Secomb added: "We are excited about our future plans as we have so much in the pipeline this year. Relocating nearby and staying in Horsham marks an exciting new chapter for us as we continue to create a vision for a distinctive kind of legal practice in West Sussex which looks very different to the traditional practice of law."

### COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT

We had a full Council meeting at Chancery Lane on 31st March 2023, Chaired by Law Society President Lubna Shuja. Rather than summarise the meeting I am going to highlight three issues that may interest Sussex members.

#### Legal Heroes

The Society has launched its Legal Heroes campaign, to recognise and celebrate solicitors who have made a lasting and tangible difference to the profession, their local communities, and society. The deadline for nominations is midnight on 30 April. Nomination forms can be found online at [Legal Heroes | The Law Society](#). The Legal Heroes for 2023 will be announced at a celebration this

September. Full details and an easy online nomination form are online via the aforementioned link. It would be great if some Sussex Legal Heroes are nominated.

#### Law Society Council Elections

I took over the Sussex seat on Council from Holly Goacher in August 2022 and the seat had one year left of its term. This means that the seat will be up for election with voting in August of this year. I have very much enjoyed representing Sussex on Council so far and will stand for re-election but of course anyone else is free to stand. Watch out for notification of nominations (by 29th June) and ballot papers (27th July) and full details will be on the Law Society website in due course.

#### London Legal Walk

This annual event to raise funds for charity takes place on 13th June and full details are at [London Legal Walk 2023 - London Legal Support Trust - LLST](#)

*Andrew Bishop, Law Society Council Member for Sussex*

### HURRY AND BOOK YOUR TICKETS FOR THE SUSSEX LAW SOCIETY BALL

Tickets are selling fast for our Mid-Summer Masquerade Ball on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> June at the Grand Hotel in Brighton. Don't leave it too late to get yours!

The Ball is open to both members and non-members and is the perfect opportunity to entertain partners, colleagues, staff, clients and business connections all in one evening and raise funds for the President's charity – [The Clocktower Sanctuary](#). It is the only local event of its kind for members of the profession and all those who make up and are associated with the local legal community. With great food, wine, DJ, Photo Booth and live music from Xcaliber Party Band, it is always such a great evening so, if you have never been before, why not come along! Exclusive tables seat a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 12 but if you are a smaller group or wish to come alone that is no problem at all – we will accommodate you on a mixed table.

Tickets are £75 + VAT (£75 including vat for trainees and members of the Sussex JLD and individual members who are not VAT registered). The application form can be downloaded from the website [here](#). The Ball is being sponsored by:



### SUSSEX LAW SOCIETY WEBINARS

**4<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 – ‘Building Safety Act 2022 – Part 2’** . 2pm – 3.30pm. This is a follow up webinar to the one presented by Richard Snape on 14th March which will look at recent developments. There may be some overlap. Full details and an application form will be published on the website shortly but you can reserve a place now by emailing [Jeanette Lacy Scott](#)

**30<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 – ‘Performance Management – The Good, The Bad & The Ugly’** – 10am – 11.30 am. A live webinar presented by Pam Loch targeted at supervisors, managers, partners, heads of

departments and HR managers. More details to follow but if you are interested, please contact [Jeanette Lacy Scott](#).

**19<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 – ‘The New Fixed Costs Regime’.** 9.30 – 12.30. Professor Dominic Regan is the presenter of this really important live webinar. Details are to follow but you can reserve a place by emailing [Jeanette Lacy Scott](#).

#### OTHER COURSES/WEBINARS/ARTICLES/RESOURCES

- **Attracting and retaining the best people for your firm** - The need to attract and retain skilled employees has heightened. Leading law firms to review the benefits, productivity tools and models of work they offer. Download this white paper to receive further understanding and guidance on how your law firm can attract and retain the best talent and overcome the current skills shortage. <https://info.leap.co.uk/sussex-law-society/newsletter/white-paper-skill-shortage>
- **‘Marketing concerns when setting up as a sole legal practitioner’** – a useful article sent to us by Orion Legal Marketing.
- April is Stress Awareness Month and this year’s theme is ‘taking action to create a positive change’. Join us for some free training on how to manage stress. Our webinar will help you and your staff learn how to deal with stress with tips for managing stress personally, as well as providing advice for managers in relation to stressed staff with a view to supporting them back to work. We'll also explore steps employers can take to reduce the likelihood and prevalence of stress in their workplaces to create healthy, safer and more productive organisations. To book your place, sign up here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/574607204617>
- **Paying for Care & Securing Funding Masterclass** - Cate Searle, Head of Community Care Law at Martin Searle Solicitors is hosting a live seminar in London in partnership with MBL Seminars. This practical and tactical session is designed for professional deputy and private client law teams who have a working knowledge of the health and social care funding systems and want to know how to run successful public law challenges that make a difference for their clients. This full-day interactive workshop will run from **9.30am – 5.15pm on Thursday 25 May**. For more information and to book your place, [click 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 £100 + 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.

- **Childcare Lawyer** – Brighton & Hove City Council are seeking a qualified lawyer to become a part of their well-respected childcare team. For full details and how to apply see [here](#).
- **Conveyancing Paralegal/Assistant** – Whetham & Green are looking for a full-time paralegal/assistant Mon – Fri (9am – 5pm) to assist in the conveyancing department. This would ideally suit someone who has previous legal experience, but not essential. To apply, please email a copy of your CV to [sgiles@whethamandgreen.com](mailto:sgiles@whethamandgreen.com) (no agencies please).

- **Conveyancing Secretary** - Due to growth, GWCA Solicitors have a position for a Conveyancing Secretary within our branch in Steyning. For more details and how to apply see [here](#).
- **Court of Protection Health & Welfare / Mental Capacity Lawyer** - Martin Searle Solicitors are looking for an experienced person to join their Community Care Law team. For a full job description and to apply, please [click here](#).
- **Employment Lawyer, Legal Executive or Case Worker** - Martin Searle Solicitors are looking to recruit someone with experience to join their Employment Law team. For a full job description and to apply, please [click here](#).
- **Marketing Assistant** - Dawson Hart Solicitors seek a bright, enthusiastic, creative and confident marketing assistant to provide marketing support on a range of marketing and business development activities including: Implementing and coordinating social media campaigns, designing and creating marketing material, assisting and organising firm events, measuring client satisfaction. For more information on how to apply, please refer to our website: [Careers at Dawson Hart Solicitors, Uckfield, Sussex \(dawson-hart.co.uk\)](http://dawson-hart.co.uk).
- **Office Manager** – Rohan Solicitors in Haywards Heath seeks an experienced Office Manager to oversee the day-to-day operations of the office. Reporting directly to the Senior Management Team, the successful candidate will have solid IT knowledge, HR experience and communication skills, excellent organisational and time-management skills, good attention to detail and the ability to prioritise and delegate where appropriate. For more details and to apply see [here](#).
- **Paralegals and Trainees for Specialist Litigation Solicitors** – Helix Law are seeking applications for a paralegal position with us with a view to training and qualification as a specialist litigation solicitor. For more details and how to apply see [here](#).
- **Private Client Lawyer** – Bennett Griffin are looking for a technically strong individual with 5 – 10 years PQE to join their growing Private Client Department, covering all areas of private client work. Full details and how to apply can be found [here](#).
- **Probate/Private Client Solicitor** - A new position has arisen within GWCA at our Steyning office for a qualified Probate/Private Client Solicitor. For more details and how to apply see [here](#).
- **Probate Secretary/Paralegal** – Due to growth GWCA Solicitors are recruiting for a Probate Secretary/Paralegal for one of our branches in Worthing. For more details and how to apply see [here](#).
- **Property Litigation** – Helix Law are seeking applications from a newly qualified – 3 years PQE solicitor with a proven interest and experience in property litigation, in particular. For more details and how to apply see [here](#).
- **Property Litigation Solicitor** – Bennett Griffin in Worthing are recruiting for someone with 5 years + PQE, a strong technical background in both commercial and residential property

litigation and a strong network of both clients and referrals in the local and surrounding areas. For more details and how to apply see [here](#).

- **Prosecutions & Community Safety Lawyer** – Brighton & Hove City Council are seeking a qualified lawyer ready to use their expertise and advocacy skills to conduct community safety applications and prosecutions on behalf of the council and community we serve. See [here](#) for full details and how to apply.
- **Receptionist** - GWCA Solicitors are looking for a Receptionist within their Hove Office. This vacancy is 35 hours per week Monday to Friday 09:00 – 17:00. For more details and how to apply see [here](#).
- **Senior Property Lawyer** – Brighton & Hove City Council are looking for an experienced property lawyer, ideally with some experience of regeneration projects. Previous management experience would also be beneficial. For full details and how to apply see [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 [mgtdles@gmail.com](mailto:mgtdles@gmail.com) 07947-771593. Charges realistic rates.
- 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

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)

## SUSSEX LAW SOCIETY GOLF SOCIETY

Please note the following dates in your diaries for our three matches this year. Further details of each match will follow in due course.

- 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 - Necessity Bowl - Lindfield Golf Club. The match manager is Paul Drake.
- 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023 Captains Day - Seaford Head Golf Club. The match manager is our captain, Michael Harris.
- 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023 - Cassels Cup - West Hove Golf Club. The match manager is Mick Barry.

The format is simple: early lunch followed by golf and a drink afterwards. Please let me know if you will be able to play in any of these matches. Also, if you will require a buggy or have special dietary needs.

The Sussex Law Society Golf Society is open to anyone with connections with the legal profession, whether you are in practice or retired, whatever your standard of play. There is no joining fee. If you have not played with us before, why not give us a try.

Paul Sagoo - Secretary, SLSGS  
[rps.sagoo@googlemail.com](mailto:rps.sagoo@googlemail.com)

## 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](#)

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.