

Dear Member,

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Welcome to the February edition of the Sussex Law Society newsletter. I hope this update finds you well in what has been an extremely busy start to 2025.

I am pleased to report that you are now able to book tickets for both of our upcoming events; [the Spring Quiz on 3rd April 2025](#) and the [Annual Ball on 6th June 2025](#). We are expecting to sell out both events so please do book early to avoid any disappointment; we have an 'early bird' discount for bookings to attend the Ball before 31st March 2025. I am delighted that 1 Crown Office Row have again agreed to sponsor the Spring Quiz and we thank them for their ongoing support of our Society. I am also excited to announce the theme for this year's Ball; we are having a 'Great Gatsby' evening and I look forward to sharing further details in due course.

Last Friday, I had the pleasure of attending the Eastbourne Law Society's Annual Dinner at the wonderful Grand Hotel in Eastbourne. I am grateful to their President, Paul Chaloner of Barwells Solicitors, for his very kind invitation and congratulate him for organising such an enjoyable evening. There was a fantastic turnout in what was their first Annual Dinner since the pandemic. It was lovely to meet their members and to catch up with some old colleagues as well.

Finally, I am pleased to note that the Sussex Junior Lawyers Division are hosting another event this month after a very well supported January event; further details of which can be found below.

Daniel Dickson

AND IT'S GOODBYE FROM ME (AT LAST!)

Way back in 1990, pregnant with my second child, I made my way to the offices of Griffith Smith in Brighton to be interviewed for an admin role at the Sussex Law Society. My husband Francis was on the committee at the time and suggested I apply. The job was part-time and working from home, which was a rarity back then, and we thought an ideal fit around raising a young family.

I would love to say that I got the job because of my academic achievements and/or my past experience of organising conferences around Europe, but I think in reality it was because I was the only candidate! There was some confusion about what the role actually involved but an offer was made and I accepted nonetheless. I was given a PC, a box of files and thought I'd give it a go for a few years, at least until the children started school

34 years later I am writing my goodbye to you all and it strangely feels like all that time has passed in the blink of an eye. I have worked with 32 different Presidents, organised

33 Annual Dinners and Balls, sat through a zillion hours of legal training courses and planned, organised and attended too many social events to begin to remember. I have been so lucky to have worked alongside some wonderful committee members who give up so much of their time and energy to keep the Society alive and thriving and who have given me so much encouragement and support over the years. And I have loved my interactions with members and so many of you in the local legal community, both in person and online. It has been a privilege!

But it is time to pass the baton on and I am so happy that it is going to Alice Wylie who brings youth and a welcome breath of fresh air to the role. I have absolutely no doubt that she will be fantastic for the Society!

So what lies ahead for me in life's next phase? There are grandchildren to care for, cupboards to clear out, years of travel blogs to write up, photos to sort, etc, etc – so it seems that life admin will be replacing Sussex Law Society admin! But not before Francis and I channel our inner hippy, throw on our backpacks and head off to India in 2 weeks' time.

Peace and love to you all!!

Jeanette Lacy Scott

NEWS

- **DMH Stallard** welcomes two new Partners to the firm. **Roger Cohen** becomes a real estate dispute resolution consultant after previously being Senior Counsel at global real estate firm BCLP. Mr Cohen specialises in commercial property litigation, representing developers, investors and occupiers. **Katie Raymond** joins the real estate team and has garnered extensive experience across various types of real estate transactions. Her portfolio includes commercial landlord and tenant matters, lease renewals, deeds of surrender, assignments, sales, purchases, remortgages, and refinances. To find out more visit www.dmhstallard.com
- **Loch Associates Group** is delighted to announce the appointment of new employees across our legal, HR and Operations teams, further strengthening our multi-disciplinary offering to clients. In our legal team, joining as Partners, Lauren McLaughlin and Neil Kelley will bring further expertise to our employment law and commercial/corporate law offerings respectively. Also joining are Associate Solicitors Emre Vurgun, in our Corporate Commercial team, and Najia Robbani and Lydia Ashman who specialise in Employment Law, and Trainee Solicitor Shree Ganesha. To find out more visit <https://lochassociates.co.uk>

QUIZZERS - LAST REMAINING SPACES AVAILABLE FOR THE SPRING QUIZ

Back by popular demand is our Spring Quiz at The Palm Court Restaurant on Brighton Palace Pier on Thursday, 3rd April. Last 6 tables remaining so book fast! To reserve an individual or team place please email alice.wylie@sussex-law.co.uk

'EARLY BIRD' DISCOUNT FOR OUR SUMMER BALL

Our Summer Charity Ball will be held on Friday, 6th June at the Grand Hotel in Brighton and this year's theme is The Great Gatsby! So grab your tickets now!

We are offering an 'early bird' discount of £90 + VAT (£90 including VAT for trainees and members of the Sussex JLD and individual members who are not VAT registered) if booked and paid for before 31st March 2025. After that tickets will be the full price of £95 + VAT (£95 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 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 the President's charity – [The Rockinghorse Children's Charity](#). The Ball 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 and live music, it is always a brilliant 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.

TIM MCCABE RIP

Last week we received the sad news that Tim McCabe, a former partner at Edward Harte, had died at the age of 86 in the south of France where he had been living with his wife Gillian for over 20 years since retiring. Tim will be remembered by many for his wonderful personality and, often somewhat irreverent, sense of humour! Our thoughts are with his family at this difficult time.

SUSSEX JUNIOR LAWYERS DIVISION

The Sussex Junior Lawyers Division kicked off the year with an incredible turnout at their first networking event at the Mesmerist in January. Now, mark your calendars for their next big event ready to make new connections and strengthen the Sussex Junior Lawyers community: **Quiz Night** on **18 February 2025** at the **John Harvey Tavern** in Lewes, starting at 6:30pm. Interested? You can enter individually or in teams. If you don't have a full team, don't worry! All participants will be re-assigned to teams at

random to really get into the networking spirit. Tickets are priced at £15. Hurry, as tickets are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Don't miss out on an evening of trivia, food, and great company!

Contact sussexjld@gmail.com for bookings.

AI WORKING GROUP

Last month we had a fantastic webinar from speaker Geoff Davies on 'An Introduction to AI for Law Firms'. Geoff Davies is a specialist in AI and technology transformation, with over 30 years of experience working in regulated environments. As the Founder of Pivotal Edge AI, he helps law firms and software companies adopt AI to improve efficiency and compliance. Geoff focuses on using the latest AI technology to streamline processes and ensure data privacy. With such brilliant feedback from the course, Mr. Davies has offered to set up an AI working group for the Sussex Law Society with the possibility of a monthly session where he can provide an update on the latest in legal AI and members can bring questions and discuss their own firm's experiences using AI. If you would like to join the group or find out more please email alice.wylie@sussex-law.co.uk

SALARIED JUDGES OF THE EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNALS PRE-APPLICATION SEMINAR

In March the Judicial Appointments Commission are opening applications for the role of [Salaried Judges of the Employment Tribunals](#). To help potential applicants prepare for the application process, they are running an online pre-application seminar on Thursday 20 February from 5:00PM to 6:15PM.

[Please see here for the details](#)

MEMBER BENEFIT

Brighton's award winning escape room - [Pier Pressure](#) - would like to offer members of The Sussex Law Society a 15% discount code until March 31st 2025. Head along with colleagues and see if you can escape in less than 1 hour! Please send any photos and what time you escaped the room in to alice.wylie@sussex-law.co.uk and I will include the team with the fastest time in May's newsletter.

To book please visit [Home - Pier Pressure](#) and enter code 'LAWSOC15' at checkout. T&C's - 15% off, minimum team size of 3 players, excluding Saturday games.

SUSSEX LAW SOCIETY WEBINARS

Click on the links below for more details about these webinars and the application forms:

- 12th February 2025 [‘Restrictive & Positive Covenants in Freehold Land’](#) 9.30am-12.30pm. Live webinar by Richard Snape
- 11th March 2025 [‘Quarterly Compliance Update for Law Firms’](#) – 12noon – 1pm. Part 1 of Jo Morris ‘8 part lunchtime Compliance Webinar Series’ **For more information on this see below**
- 12th March 2025 ‘Renters Rights Bill’. Live webinar by Richard Snape. 12pm – 1pm
- 12th March 2025 [‘Carbon & Net Zero in the Legal Sector’](#). 10am-11am. Live Webinar by Guy Longmore
- 3rd April 2025 – [‘Spring Civil Litigation Update’](#). 9.30am – 12.30am. Live webinar by Dominic Regan.
- 29th April 2025 – ‘AML Update’. 10am – 1pm. Live webinar by Jo Morris

For more details of any upcoming courses check our [website](#) or email [Alice Wylie](mailto:Alice.Wylie@sussex-law.co.uk)

8-PART LUNCHTIME COMPLIANCE WEBINAR SERIES BY JO MORRIS

We have been hearing from some member firms recently that they have been the subject of SRA AML and Transparency audits with as little as 7 days notice! To make sure your firm is prepared for spot checks like these, our series of 1 hour lunchtime compliance webinars presented by Joanna Morris are a fantastic way of keeping up to date and extremely good value at £30 +VAT per session or £200 + VAT for the complete series.

The series starts on 11th March. Please take a look at the list below of what we are offering to see if any or all would be of interest to you and/or your colleagues. As everything in our legal world is changing so quickly, we have decided to include in the series quarterly compliance update webinars, in which Jo will be going over all the changes that have happened in the previous three months.

Webinar details/application forms are available for those webinars with highlighted links below. Subject titles and more details on the remaining webinars will be available soon, but if you would like to book the series of sessions for one or more people, please let alice.wylie@sussex-law.co.uk know.

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 11.03.25 | Quarterly Compliance Update For Law Firms |
| 25.03.25 | ‘The SRA Accountants Report Spotchecks and Residual Balances’ |
| 08.04.25 | ‘The ROLE AML training framework - SRA thematic review on AML training’ |

22.04.25	TBC
06.05.25	TBC
03.06.25	TBC
17.06.25	TBC
01.07.25	TBC

CALLING ALL LAWYERS

Cognitive Law are comparing the experiences of lawyers in **traditional law firms** vs. **consultancy law firms** to uncover the impact of these models on your career, your time, and your happiness. Please take 2 minutes to complete [this short questionnaire](#).

This survey is totally anonymous and every response is entered into a **£50 voucher prize draw!** (if you want to leave your email address) 🍷

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT

I updated members on the December meeting of the Law Society Council in the last newsletter and there have not been any meetings of Council in the meantime.

My next visit to Chancery Lane will be for the Law Society Strategic Planning Event, being held on 26th and 27th February. This will involve members of the Law Society Board (Chief Executive, Board Chair), those that run important departments at Chancery Lane and Council members, representing the 97 constituencies, both geographical and special characteristic seats. If anyone is interested in the governance of the Law Society then take a look at [Our Governance/The Law Society](#). The purpose of the two day planning event is firstly to review delivery by the Society against the current corporate plan, 2022/25. That plan can be found at [Corporate Strategy 2022/2025/The Law Society](#). The second part of the event will be a summary of work done to date on development of the 25/28 plan with emphasis on showing how Council Member contributions have been captured and reflected.

If on reading the 2022/25 plan any Sussex members have any points they would like me to take into the event then please do email me. I shall report on the event in the March newsletter.

Andrew Bishop

Law Society Council Member for Sussex

Andrew.bishop@bishopandlight.co.uk

MEMBERS - ARE YOU LISTED ON THE SUSSEX LAW SOCIETY WEBSITE?

One of the benefits of being a member of the Sussex Law Society is that you can be listed on our [website](#) which is often visited by members of the public looking for lawyers in Sussex. If your firm is a corporate member and is not already [listed here](#), you can send us a description (up to 500 characters not including spaces) which can include the services you offer and a link to your website. There is also a page for Individual Members – [see here](#) – where you can list your area of law, contact details and website.

Please contact alice.wylie@sussex-law.co.uk with your entries.

SUSSEX DOMESTIC ABUSE CONFERENCE

On 21st January 2025, Committee Members Charlotte DeCecco of Tisshaws Solicitors attended the Sussex Domestic Abuse conference (*hosted by the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, Katy Bourne OBE, Victim Support and West Sussex County Council*). Charlotte has helpfully shared her report on the event below:

There were talks from a number of speakers working to protect and help victims/survivors of domestic abuse and to share good practice. I would encourage practitioners to check out the [Safe Space Sussex Directory](#) so they can signpost clients to local domestic abuse services. It is important to remember that victims/survivors want to feel believed, treated with compassion and that there is accountability/justice.

Some examples of good practice mentioned at the conference:

- Research local domestic abuse services and refer to other professionals when needed.
- Embrace professional curiosity – ask questions. Is your client disappearing for long stretches and not giving full instructions, do they have visible bruising or injuries, what is their demeanour? Could these be signs of domestic abuse?
- Be aware of your own cognitive biases (in particular, towards allegations from minority groups. Men, black women, LGBT+ communities, and adults with disabilities have been highlighted as though who are especially vulnerable).
- Consider the core training within your own firm and practice, as well as your employability markers.
- Think about the communication used in your campaigns/website/factsheets and correspondence – how can we better include those minority groups and make clear that we are here to support and represent their interests. Interestingly, the ManKind Initiative has found that for male victims, it does not matter the gender or identity of the legal practitioner, but male victims need to feel included in the wording used on websites etc. Instead of saying: “*we support all victims/survivors...*”, could you say “*we support all female, male and non-binary...*” These are small changes that can have a big difference. The same

applies to the images used on your website/campaigns – Are you depicting a diverse cross-section of society?

- Consider any cultural and religious needs – For example, make a record of religious holidays and consider the timing of communications. Would it assist to direct the client to a particular helpline or recovery programme that aligns with their gender, identity, culture or religion?
- Are there any adjustments that could be helpful? – For adults with disabilities, be live to the possibility that the abuser could be their carer. Does your risk assessment include meeting with the client individually or assessing risks posed by third parties?

EXTENSION OF CIVIL JUSTICE COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON LITIGATION FUNDING

The Civil Justice Council (CJC) announced today that it is extending its consultation on litigation funding for an additional month. The consultation, which was due to close this Friday 31st January 2024, will now close on Monday 3rd March 2025 at 23:59. The consultation, and the accompanying interim report, can be found on [here](#). A reminder that consultees do not need to answer all questions if only some are of interest or relevance. Answers should be submitted by PDF or word document to cjclitigationfundingreview@judiciary.uk

Respondents must complete and submit [the cover sheet](#) with their response. If you have any questions about the consultation or submission process, please contact cjc@judiciary.uk

INTRODUCING A SPECIALISED MANAGEMENT CONSULTING FIRM

D'Chimes Consulting, based in Sompting, West Sussex, is a specialised management consulting firm that helps law firms optimise their operations. With a team of experienced consultants bringing senior-level expertise from the legal sector, they focus on Legal Aid Agency Tenders, SRA Applications, Lexcel Accreditation Preparation, and Anti-Money Laundering compliance. Their hands-on approach particularly benefits small and medium-sized firms by implementing efficient systems, policies, and structures that maximize billable hours, effectively bridging the gap between legal practice and practice management for busy firms seeking operational excellence.

To find out more visit www.dchimes.co.uk / Phone: **01903 947907**
Email: ogo@dchimes.co.uk

INFLUENCE THE FUTURE OF MENTAL HEALTH IN THE LEGAL SECTOR

Take part in LawCare's Life in the Law 2025 research. LawCare, the mental health charity for the legal sector, has launched its new "Life in the Law 2025" surveys and invites you to take part.

There are two separate surveys: one for individuals in the legal sector, and another for organisations, such as law firms, chambers, and in-house legal departments.

The surveys are **anonymous** and take approximately 10 to 15 minutes to fill out.

- Complete the [Life in the Law 2025 Survey for Individuals](#)
- Complete the [Life in the Law 2025 Survey for Organisations](#)

The surveys are open until Friday 21 March and are confidential, which means your answers will remain anonymous. Your participation is crucial to the development of practical, evidence-based recommendations that will lead to improvements in working practices to better support mental health.

If you have more questions about Life in the Law 2025 see the [FAQs on the LawCare website](#)

OTHER USEFUL WEBINARS/COURSES/ARTICLES/RESOURCES

Webinars

The latest online training opportunities from Sherrards Employment Law Solicitors includes a **Restructuring the Workforce** webinar on Tuesday 4th March as well as a session on Tuesday 11th March exploring **Settlement Agreements & Without Prejudice Conversations**. Both sessions will run from **10:00 – 11:00** and the cost to attend each session is **£100 + VAT** per delegate, discounted to **£150 + VAT** if you book to attend both courses. [Click here](#) to find out more.

Paying for Care & Securing Funding Masterclass - Cate Searle, Head of Community Care Law at Martin Searle Solicitors is hosting a virtual seminar in partnership with MBL Seminars. This practical 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 more about how to run successful public law challenges. This two-part session will run on **Tuesday 18 February** and **Wednesday 19 February** from **9.30am – 12.30pm**. For more information and to book your place, [click here](#).

BOOK YOUR ADMISSION CEREMONY AT THE LAW SOCIETY IN ITS BICENTENNIAL YEAR

Celebrate your success on qualifying to become a solicitor and mark the occasion with friends and family. Whether you qualified recently or are already established, it's never too late to celebrate your success at an admissions ceremony. Mark 200 years of the Law Society and attend an admission ceremony in 2025, its bicentenary year. As part of the celebrations, you will receive a bespoke bicentenary themed admission certificate and will have access to exclusive bicentennial merchandise. [See here](#) for more information and to book a ceremony.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Listing job vacancies in the Newsletter & putting more detailed vacancies on the [jobs page of the website](#) is FREE for Sussex Law Society member firms and individual members and £100 + VAT for other contributors. Contact alice.wylie@sussex-law.co.uk to place an advert. More details about each vacancy and how to apply can be found by following the highlighted links.

Bate & Albon Solicitors are a growing, modern, cloud-based firm, established in 2015, with offices in Brighton, Worthing, Chichester, Eastbourne and Lewes. We are looking for :

An **experienced residential conveyancer** for our Lewes office.

A **commercial property fee earner** (would suit a recently qualified solicitor or legal executive) for our Brighton Office.

A **residential conveyancing assistant** for our Chichester office.

Excellent career prospects and flexible working arrangements available for the right individuals. If you are interested in either of these roles, please contact Debbie Knight, Office Manager debbie.knight@batealbonsolicitors.co.uk No Agencies please.

Residential Property Role Lewis Denley Solicitors is seeking a motivated and skilled Residential Property Solicitor to join our dynamic team. The ideal candidate will have a strong focus on delivering exceptional client service while managing a diverse caseload. We value innovation, technology, and a collaborative work culture. To find out more please see [here](#) Interested candidates should send a covering letter and CV to heather.gaffney@lewisdenley.com

Conveyancing Solicitor/Legal Adviser, West Sussex - Mayo Wynne Baxter are looking for an experienced Conveyancing Solicitor or Legal Adviser to join our expanding West Sussex teams. To find out more and to apply [click here](#)

Associate Solicitor/Legal Adviser, Conveyancing, Eastbourne - Mayo Wynne Baxter are seeking a highly experienced Conveyancing Solicitor or Legal Adviser to join our growing team at our brand new Eastbourne hub. To find out more and to apply [click here](#)

Conveyancing Solicitor/Legal Adviser, Lewes – Mayo Wynne Baxter are looking for a highly accomplished Conveyancing Solicitor or Legal Adviser to join our Lewes hub. To find out more and to apply [click here](#)

LOCUMS

If you would like to be added to the list of locums published monthly in this Newsletter, please email your details to alice.wylie@sussx-law.co.uk . Listing your details here is free of charge for members:

- Margaret Dowdles 07947 771593 - experienced property locum used to hitting the ground running to get things done.
- Patrick Richards- Un-Notarised legal translations, office and Court interpreter services offered by fluent French and Italian speaking local Solicitor. Contactpatrickrichards27@hotmail.com
- Patrick Rusk – Patrick Rusk – Legal Translation Services – Trainee Solicitor and Member of Chartered Institute of Linguists (CIOL no. 55485) offering legal translation services from German, French and Spanish into English. For all enquiries, please email Patrick.rusk@hotmail.com or text +44 7534 747667.

LOST AND MISSING WILLS

Graham John BOWLES (RIP 13/10/2024) D.O.B 2/9/1955 Last address:
Flat 12, Chester Court, 30 Davigdor Road, Hove BN3 1RB. Any Information
to Jessica.cole@thompsonallen.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 alice.wylie@sussex-law.co.uk 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

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.

Bob Mayfield - Secretary, SLSGS

Bobmayfield111@googlemail.com

CHOSEN CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

[Rockinghorse](#) Golf Day is back for 2025! This year's event will be at the fabulous Mid Sussex Golf Club, on **Friday 23 May 2025**, and will include a shotgun start, teams of four players, a bacon roll and a lovely lunch. We will also be offering goodie bags, a raffle and prizes to be won throughout the day.

The wonderful [Bibby Finance](#) are our Headline sponsor. If you would like to sponsor a hole on the day for £100, please let me know and we will include your name and company logo next to your chosen hole.

Please follow [this link](#) to sign up and once you have registered we will be in touch to get the names of your team, handicaps and any dietary requirements. We are really excited to be running this event again this year and can't wait to see you there. Any questions please contact amanda@rockinghorse.org.uk

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 Solicitors Network](#), [In House Lawyers](#), [Junior Solicitors Network](#), [Disabled Solicitors Network](#), [LGBT+ Solicitors Network](#), [Small Firms Network](#), [Solicitor Judges Network](#), [Women Solicitors Network](#).

Institute of Risk Management Awards.

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 [Alice Wylie](#).

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 [Alice Wylie](#) if you no longer wish to receive the monthly Newsletter and put **UNSUBSCRIBE** in the subject heading