

Galloways

Accounting

Dear Member,

This month's newsletter is kindly sponsored by Galloways - – thank you to Galloways for their continued support!

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Welcome to the May edition of the Sussex Law Society newsletter. I hope that you all enjoyed another bank holiday weekend.

As you will see, this newsletter is sponsored by Galloways. Galloways are a local firm of Accountants who specialise in advising businesses and individuals on a range of financial matters; including taxation, payroll, and financial planning. Their offices are based in Brighton, Worthing, Horsham and Haywards Heath. I have worked with several of their Partners throughout my career and our Society is very grateful for their support.

It was lovely to see so many of our members at the Spring Quiz last month. I can remember attending our quiz nights in the basement of Al Duomo restaurant in Brighton several years ago, and it's a sign of how well supported our Society is that we now have such a large turnout in the Palm Court restaurant on the Brighton Palace Pier.

Many congratulations to the winning team from DMH Stallard. Thank you also to all who attended and purchased raffle tickets to support my chosen charity, Rockinghorse. Many of you will be familiar with the wonderful work that Rockinghorse do; they are a charity that I and my family were supported by following my premature birth and they were very grateful for your generosity.



Following the Spring Quiz, I was invited to attend the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital to see the impact that our support is having. It was an incredibly moving experience, and I know that Rockinghorse will continue to be supported at our Annual Dinner next month. We have now sold over 200 tickets for the Summer Charity Ball and with less than 50 tickets remaining, please do contact us if you would like to attend before we sell out. The theme is 'Great Gatsby' and we have lots of exciting entertainment planned for the evening.

Finally, when speaking with law students and junior lawyers over the past few months, I have often been asked for advice in dealing with 'difficult' clients. I came across an article recently (<https://www.legalfutures.co.uk/blog/how-junior-lawyers-should-deal-with-difficult-clients>) which I thought gave some useful tips in this respect. The advice is particularly helpful for those who are beginning the transition from assisting on a file to dealing with the day-to-day contact with a client.

A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR – GALLOWAYS ACCOUNTING

As the fastest growing and largest accountancy firm in Sussex, we have over 200 people looking after thousands of businesses and individuals in multiple offices across the county. You're in great hands. We provide all the services that you would expect from a firm of our size, and all are delivered with your needs at the centre of our thinking. Happy people working for the interests of happy clients. That sounds good to us.

We help clients manage their financial and compliance matters, as well as trying to help them make or save money. We embrace the digital world through our cloud accounting but recognise the importance of face to face and empathetic advice.

Like the Sussex Law Society, Galloways has been a part of the Sussex community since the late 1800s. Our shared history of the area and commitment to serving the people of Sussex make this partnership a natural and meaningful fit.

To find out more about us click [here](#) or contact us on 0800 0129190 or email us at hello@wearegalloways.com

NEWS

- **The Jonathan Lea Network** are pleased to announce that after joining the firm as an intern in 2022, [George Harrison](#) has now qualified as a solicitor. To read more see [here](#).
- **Lewis Denley is pleased to announce that Heather Gaffney has recently become a Shareholder at the firm.** Heather has been with Lewis Denley since 2018 and heads up both the Private Wealth and Residential Property teams. Her leadership and expertise have played a key role in the firm's continued growth, and we're delighted to welcome her to the leadership team alongside Managing Partners Natasha Lewis and Col Secomb.
- **Family Law Partners transfers to an Employee Ownership Trust** On 1st April 2025, [Family Law Partners announced it is now employee owned](#) having become an Employee Ownership Trust (EOT). This significant step forward reflects the firm's commitment to its team to ensure a sustainable future for its team while continuing to lead the way in family law and non-court dispute resolution (NCDR) for its clients.
- **Coole Bevis** is delighted to announce the promotions of [Teresa Pender-Stratford](#), [Robert Hutchins](#) and [Joanna Parks](#). Teresa Pender-Stratford has been promoted to Head the Court of Protection Department, Robert has progressed his career with a promotion to Salaried Partner and Joanna has been promoted to Associate Solicitor. Further information on the promotions can be found at [here](#).
- **Loch Associates Group** welcomes Penny Hall as a Commercial Property Solicitor and Partner as Loch expands the services it offers and adds weight to their Commercial and Corporate department. Penny will be dealing with all aspects of commercial conveyancing, landlord and tenant, the purchase and sale of investment properties and secured lending. She also handles land development matters, working on both commercial and residential development projects. To learn more click [here](#).
- **recLAW celebrates its 4th anniversary!** Since day one, this specialist legal team has fought recruiters' battles – from backdoor hires to unpaid invoices and everything in between. Here's to many more wins ahead...

SUSSEX LAW SOCIETY BALL 2025 – FINAL 40 TICKETS REMAINING!

Our Annual 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!

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 Rockinghorse Children's Charity](#).

To RSVP for the event please click [here](#) or contact [Alice Wylie](#) for more info

RIP TONY LEWIS

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of GWCA's much loved friend, Partner and colleague Tony Lewis.

Tony passed away last week after a short illness and his loss to the firm will be profound and immeasurable. He was widely known, loved and respected in the local legal and property community, amongst his colleagues and by his broad base of loyal clients having been a key figure within the firm for over 35 years. Tony will be missed immensely by all those who had the pleasure of knowing him. GWCA will simply not be the same without him.

On behalf of the Partners and staff at GWCA, we send Tony's family and friends our most heartfelt condolences, sympathy and support at this sad time.

If any further assistance is required, please contact our Managing Partner, Emma Chatwell on 01903 234064 or at emma.chatwell@gwca.co.uk

SUSSEX LAW SOCIETY WEBINARS

Click on the links below for more details about these webinars and how to apply to attend:

- [Data breaches – have they occurred in your office today?](#) 6th May 2025. Live Webinar. 12pm – 1pm
- [May's AI Working Group](#) 13th May 2025. Webinar. 1pm-2pm FREE FOR MEMBERS
- [The Leasehold and Freehold Reform Act 2024](#) 19th May 2025. Live webinar. 12pm-1pm
- [TOLATA](#) 20th May 2025. Live webinar. 1pm-2pm FREE FOR MEMBERS
- [Climate Change Practice Note Update & The Future of Commercial Environmental Searches](#) 21st May 2025. live webinar. 1pm-2pm FREE FOR MEMBERS
- [Conveyancing Law Update](#) 11th June 2025. Live Webinar 9.30am-12.30pm

For more details of any upcoming courses check our [website](#) or email [Alice Wylie](#)

SUSSEX JUNIOR LAWYERS DIVISION

The SJLD's next event in our Park Run series will be in Hove on Saturday 31st May at 8:45am starting at The Lawns Café followed by coffee and a chat. Please register with Park Run [here](#) and RSVP on our website [here](#) by Friday 23rd May.

Keep your calendars free for our next social event on Thursday 12th June at The Old Punch Bowl in Crawley, kindly sponsored by Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath. RSVP via our [website](#) and sign up to our newsletter for more detail.

The application window to become mentors and mentees for the 2025 SJLD Mentoring Scheme is now open. The scheme pairs mentees with experienced legal practitioners with a wide range of backgrounds and experience, who are committed to providing career guidance, sharing their experiences and unique insight into law. If you are interested in becoming a mentor or mentee please [visit our website](#) or contact the Sussex JLD at sussexjld@gmail.com. Successful applicants will be contacted once the window has closed.

SRA APPROVED; THE FUTURE OF LAW WITH REVIEWSOLICITORS (ADVERTISEMENT)

In a 2016 report, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) published its recommendations regarding the future of the legal sector. Almost 10 years on, ReviewSolicitors has offered its perspective on the CMA's investigation, highlighting concerns about transparency, competition, and consumer choice. Within legal services, the conclusions provide valuable insights into the common challenges that the industry still faces. To read more, visit [here](#).

PROCUREMENT LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

On behalf of the Public Sector Sub-group of the [Procurement Lawyers' Association](#) (PLA) Executive Committee, please can any public sector procurement members message [Manjinder Nagra](#) directly if the following proposed PLA initiative may be helpful:

*We all appreciate the financial pressures many local authorities are facing, so Kieran McGaughey and I are looking to set up a **Public Sector Procurement Forum** for our public sector members. The idea is to hold short, informal sessions — initially quarterly and lasting no more than an hour — where public sector practitioners can get together to share good practice, discuss templates, terms and conditions, common issues and approaches and hear how other authorities are tackling similar challenges. You'll be welcome to send in questions in advance, or just join and contribute on the day. If this sounds of interest, please email Manjinder.nagra@brighton-hove.gov.uk with a simple "yes" (or feel free to send a more detailed response if you have time)? If there's anything else you'd like to see from the PLA to support your work, I'd really appreciate your thoughts too in the next couple of weeks. Please do feel free to forward this email to any other legal procurement colleagues who might be interested.*

CPD AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES – STEP SUSSEX EVENTS

For those not aware, STEP is a global organisation comprised of lawyers, accountants, trustees and other professionals in the Private Client sector. Their website is here: [About STEP](#)

STEP Sussex hosts in-person CPD and networking seminars in Brighton. The topics cover the breadth of Private Client practice from Wills, Powers of Attorney, Trusts, Tax, and navigating contentious issues. The sessions include updates on relevant law & practice, practical advice on drafting various types of documents. There are typically 5 events each year between February and November.

The events are open to anyone who wishes to attend, there is no membership requirement, and appeal to junior and senior professionals alike.

The upcoming events are:

- 4pm on Wednesday 7th May – CGT planning in estate administration with Anthony Nixon – find out more and book your place [here](#).
- 1pm on Wednesday 11th June – Summer Special – talks from Professor Lesley King, Giles Goodfellow KC, and Cate Searle – find out more and book your place [here](#).

VALUE-DRIVEN CLOUD MIGRATION: STRATEGIES FOR LAW FIRMS WITH EXTECH CLOUD (Advertisement)

Migrating to the cloud can be a catalyst for growth for law firms of all sizes. To ensure long-term business success, your cloud migration should focus on value. It needs to improve efficiency and optimise workloads.

Let's cover the ins and outs of value-driven cloud migration, and how to plan and optimise your cloud strategy with a focus on value. We'll look at some of the main forms of 'value' and how to get the most out of each one. To read more, click [here](#).

CONVEYANCERS BEWARE!

Updated AML guidance specifically addressed to Regulators in the legal sector has just been issued. The recent hike in SRA fines targeted well-meaning small/medium sized firms which are heavily reliant on conveyancing reflects the seriousness of their exposure to sophisticated criminals. The guidelines provide practical assistance with and clarifies the expectations particularly associated with the extent of I.D. checks on both Clients and Third Party contributors of funds to a transaction. They repeat the onus on Firms where due diligence is seen to be failing the most to address such failings in a firm-wide Client and Matter risk assessment, assessing source of funds and omitting to record corrective measures taken.

Pat Richards, Compliance and Regulatory Affairs Committee

STUDENT SURVEY NEEDS YOUR INPUT!

A group of researchers at the University of Sussex are interested in understanding legally trained perspectives on sentencing. They would like to invite you to take part in a short (less than 20-minute) [study](#) to advance their understanding of sentencing decision-making. This will involve reading scenarios about hypothetical offences and making decisions about appropriate sentencing outcomes. They will also ask about your judgement of the culpability and responsibility of the offender involved, and about your broader opinions regarding legal issues surrounding mental disorder and criminal responsibility.

Your participation may influence future legal policies and will contribute to our understanding of sentencing decision-making. It will also contribute towards the completion of a PhD thesis. To link to the Survey, please click [here](#).

If you have any questions about the research before taking part, please contact PhD researcher Shan Plant (sp533@sussex.ac.uk) or project supervisors Prof Hans Crombag (h.crombag@sussex.ac.uk) and Simon Flacks (s.flacks@sussex.ac.uk). This research has been approved by the University of Sussex Sciences and Technology Cross-Schools Research Ethics Committee (C-REC), reference number ER/SP533/2

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT

There has not been a Council meeting since the last newsletter. The next meeting is 7th May and I shall report on that meeting in the next Newsletter. One of the items on the agenda at the next meeting is Hustings and voting for the next Deputy Vice President (DVP) of the Law Society who will take office in October of this year, the Bicentennial year of the Law Society. There are 5 candidates, 4 women and 1 man. Council votes on the position and we have been provided with written statements from the candidates. On 7th May they will be questioned before Council in Hustings. I have read all statements, will listen carefully at the Hustings and vote on behalf of Sussex for your next DVP, who in due course will become the President of the Society.

PC Fee survey

The Practising Fee will be due in October, a matter close to the heart of all of us. It is worth bearing in mind that of the PC Fee it is only 27% of the total that goes to the Law Society, so less than £100. I

wholeheartedly believe that this is great value for the work carried out by the Society. The rest goes to the SRA (the greatest share) and also to fund the Legal Ombudsman, Legal Services Board, Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal and Office for Professional Body Anti-Money Laundering Supervision (who knew this existed?). The Law Society is seeking just a 2% increase in its share of the PC. Want a say in what it is spent on? Well there is a live survey on the Law Society Website at: [2025 practising certificate fee consultation | The Law Society](#)

Enjoy the sun everyone.

Andrew Bishop

Law Society Council Member for Sussex

IMPORTANT UPDATE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES, NHS ICBS, CARE PROVIDERS AND PROCUREMENT TEAMS:

HMRC has issued a clear statement regarding VAT grouping structures used by state-regulated residential care providers. Some providers have introduced unregulated entities into the supply chain to recover VAT on welfare services, which would otherwise be exempt. HMRC views this as tax avoidance.

Key points:

- HMRC will refuse new VAT group applications designed to enable such structures.
- Existing VAT groups are encouraged to review their VAT practices and seek independent advice.
- HMRC will actively investigate suspected cases and may remove parties from VAT groups under its statutory powers.

Investigations are commencing immediately, with any actions taking effect after completion.

[Use of VAT grouping within the care industry - GOV.UK](#)

OTHER USEFUL WEBINARS/COURSES/ARTICLES/RESOURCES

Sherrards Employment Law Solicitors will be hosting an Employment Law Latest Mid-Year Update Webinar on Tuesday 20th May. Join the team on Zoom to explore details of recently announced amendments to the Employment Rights Bill. The session will run from 10:00 – 11:00am and the cost per delegate is £50 + VAT. To book please visit:

<https://www.sherrardsacademy.com/courses/employment-law-latest-webinar2025>

Loch Associates Group: When preparing a business for sale, the strength, structure, and alignment of the management team play a critical role in determining valuation and transaction success. Potential buyers will scrutinise leadership capability, team stability, and strategic alignment to assess the business's sustainability post-transaction. This assessment involves legal, financial, and HR considerations, each offering a unique lens. Loch Associates Group recently co-hosted an event with M&A specialist Marktlink, guiding business leaders on the importance of ensuring they were setting themselves up for future success. To learn more, click [here](#).

<https://becket-chambers.co.uk/articles/hello-compulsory-mediation-has-arrived/>

<https://becket-chambers.co.uk/articles/can-i-recover-my-costs-after-a-fact-finding-hearing-where-no-findings-are-made-against-me/>

<https://becket-chambers.co.uk/articles/we-do-not-have-a-court-order-is-the-financial-arrangement-between-me-and-my-ex-spouse-enforceable/>

<https://becket-chambers.co.uk/articles/help-theres-an-immigrant-in-my-caravan/>

<https://becket-chambers.co.uk/articles/the-crime-and-policing-bill/>

<https://becket-chambers.co.uk/articles/nicole-jennings-financial-remedy-proceedings-webinar/>

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.

- **Experienced Private Client Lawyer** wanted for Worthing's Ling Solicitors. We are looking for an experienced Private Client Lawyer to join our friendly, supportive and expanding team. The ideal candidate will have a passion for providing excellent client service whilst managing a full and varied caseload. Please send your CV and a cover letter to Stacey Davidson (stacey@lings-solicitors.co.uk) or call 01903 700303 for more information
- **Commercial Property (Rural) Solicitor/Legal Adviser**, Lewes – Mayo Wynne Baxter have a fantastic opportunity for a Solicitor or Legal Executive to join their dynamic Lewes Rural Property and Business team. 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](#)

SITUATIONS WANTED

- Manjinder Nagra, is currently available to take on overflow legal work one or two days a week. With over 20 + years experience specialising in property and contracts & procurement, she offers a flexible, efficient and pragmatic approach and strong public and private sector insight. If your firm or organisation needs reliable short or long term support or assistance managing peaks in workload, please get in touch. In addition, Manjinder is an accomplished public speaker. With a unique journey into law and sport, she is available for key note speaking engagements at events and conferences. Contact her at manjinder_nagra@hotmail.com
- Can you help Aaliyah, a high-flying 2nd Year Law degree student at Southampton Uni, seeking work experience at a firm, private or in-house, in Sussex; with any length of placement considered, and with a particular interest in Family Law and International Law? If you or your firm might be able to accommodate in any way, please contact Jacqueline Mensah on 07528 270521, thank you!

I am often emailed my hopeful students who will be the next generation of solicitors for advice on who to contact for work experience. **If you or your firm are in the position to offer work experience, please contact alice.wylie@sussex-law.co.uk**

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@sussex-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

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.

LOST AND MISSING WILLS

- COLETTE LOUISE O'REGAN D.O.B. 15/4/1969
- GARY DAVID BATES D.O.B 14/7/1965
- TERENCE BARBER 30/01/1937

Please contact alice.wylie@sussex-law.co.uk if you are looking for a will, know the location of any of the above wills or if you want to be part of our lost/missing wills scheme (free of charge for members)

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.

OUR PRESIDENT'S CHOSEN CHARITY

Rockinghorse Beach Clean which is being held on Wednesday 25th June - [Beach Clean - Rockinghorse Children's Charity](#)

Point of Care Ultrasound, for the Emergency Department at the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital

Can you help us replace this vital piece of equipment, to ensure that more babies and children get the urgent care they need, right when they need it the most.

Rockinghorse Children's Charity want to fund a brand-new Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) machine for the children's Emergency Department at the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital.

The POCUS uses this same technology as a normal ultrasound but instead of the patient having to go to where the machine is located, it brings it to the patient's bedside. Not only does this help to aid a speedy diagnosis, but it also reduces treatment time and helps reduce the anxiety a patient and their family feels during an already stressful situation.

This vital piece of equipment costs £50,000, can you help us to save the lives of children in our local Sussex community. To find out more on how to help please email amanda@rockinghorse.org.uk

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, SLGS
Bobmayfield111@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 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