

Dear Member,

There will be no newsletter in August; the first newsletter back after the summer break will come out on 2nd September. Thank you as ever for reading and being a part of the Sussex Law Society.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Welcome to the July edition of the Sussex Law Society newsletter.

First of all, I would like to say a big thank you to all of those who were able to attend our Summer Charity Ball last month in support of our Society. We enjoyed a fantastic turnout and sold over 270 tickets. It was a pleasure to share the evening with friends, family, colleagues and members of the local legal community. As I said in my speech, I thought that the 'Great Gatsby' theme suited the Grant Hotel perfectly, and I am extremely grateful to all of those who helped to organise such a wonderful evening. I also mentioned in my speech about the strong connection that I have to Sussex; having lived here my entire life, as well as studied and trained here too. Finally, I spoke about my chosen charity for the year, Rockinghorse, to whom I will be forever grateful for the support they provided to me and my family following my premature birth. Thanks to your generosity at the Ball, Rockinghorse raised £2,876.40, and this really will make a huge difference to children and families across Sussex. I would also like to thank our sponsors [1 Crown Office Row](#) and [X-Press Legal Services](#); without their support of our Society, events like the Ball would not be possible.



Following a short break after the Ball, I met with the University of Sussex last week to discuss the legal advice clinics that many of our practitioners kindly support. There is an increasing demand for such services and the clinics not only provide much needed advice to those who may not otherwise be in a position to receive it, but also give valuable experience to the students who gain an insight into what life in practice is all about. Next week, I look forward to meeting representatives from The Law Society and other local practitioners as part of the bicentenary year celebrations. I also look forward to attending a charity golf day in further support of Rockinghorse, and to playing in 1 Crown Office Row's annual volleyball tournament in support of Ghulam Hussain, who sadly passed away in 2015. Ghulam was a very popular and well respected barrister, and somebody that I have fond memories of working with.



On a final note, I hope that many of you will be taking the opportunity to enjoy a well earned break over the coming months and I wish you an enjoyable and relaxing summer.

NEWS

- **[Tisshaws Family Law Solicitors](#)** are delighted to announce that Richard Adams has been shortlisted for Family Lawyer of the Year at the forthcoming Private Client Modern Law Awards 2025. This is well deserved recognition for his legal expertise, experience and championing of non-court dispute resolution approaches in resolving issues arising from family breakdown.
- It was announced yesterday that **[Rix and Kay](#)** have been acquired by Knights. Read more [here](#).
- **[Family Law Partners](#)** has announced the arrival of Family Law specialist, Matthew Richardson. The **[arrival of Matthew](#)** as a Consultant, Mediator and Arbitrator, marks a significant step in Family Law Partners' ongoing commitment to expanding its approach to family law across the region. To find out more, read [here](#).
- **[Bate & Albon Solicitors](#)** are delighted to announce the following new appointments as they continue to develop and build on the teams at their 5 sites:
Lynda Russell joins the team at our office in Cooksbridge, Lewes as a Residential Property Solicitor, working alongside Clive Smith.
Isabella Quick joins the Brighton Office, as a Residential & Commercial Property Solicitor, working alongside Carl Bate.
- **[Lewis Denley Solicitors](#)** is pleased to announce that Victoria Coombs has rejoined the firm as an Associate Solicitor in the Residential Property team. Vicky brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the department, having worked extensively across both residential and commercial property matters. Her return strengthens the team and reinforces the firm's commitment to providing practical, high-quality advice to clients.
- **[JE Bennett Law](#)** are delighted to announce they have bolstered its Private Client team to help support its growing client base. Rob Sullivan has joined as Senior Associate, Samantha Watson as a Senior Paralegal and Talia Higgins has joined the team internally as Junior Paralegal. To read more click [here](#).
- Joining the **[reclAW](#)** team is Solicitor **[Peter Collyer](#)**, bringing with him 17 years of experience in employment law, predominantly before the tribunals.
- **[Claire Nash Solicitors](#)** are thrilled to introduce the latest addition to their team; Samantha Norgate, who will be assisting with our Business Development. Samantha recently joined us after 13 years progressing in a not-for-profit organisation. Skilled in event management, developing business and community relations, strategic networking, PR, as well as supporting a well-being team, Samantha's highly transferable skills will be used to help our business to continue to flourish and grow. To find out more about Samantha see [here](#).
- Members please be aware that the SRA Adjunction panel resolved to intervene into the recognised sole practice of Mr Groat practising as **[Waugh Solicitors](#)** based in East Grinstead. If you or your clients have been effected by this, Mr Chris Evans of Lester Aldridge LLP has been appointed to act as the Intervention Agent
Intervention.Enquiries@LA-Law.com

CALLING ALL SLS MEMBERS!

Thank you for being a valued member of The Sussex Law Society! We're committed to ensuring the Society meets the needs of its members, and your feedback is essential to that goal. Please take a few moments to complete this [short survey](#) and share your thoughts on how we can continue to improve and best serve our members. There is an option for the survey to be anonymous.

 Please complete the survey by 31st July and have the chance to **win 2 x tickets to our hugely popular Autumn Quiz which includes a fish and chip supper for 2!** (if you want to leave your email address) 

RIP JOHN GREEN – SENIOR PARTNER WHETHAM & GREEN

Whetham & Green Solicitors are deeply sad to report the passing of Senior Partner, John Green.

John succeeded to the practice in 1976 and has been an integral part of the legal world in Sussex ever since.

John was a trusted and highly respected Solicitor and the heart of Whetham & Green. His unwavering commitment to his clients, his professionalism, and his integrity helped shape the firm's values and reputation over many years. John had a wonderful calming presence and ability to guide clients through difficult periods with ease – his client base often spanned through generations, a true reflection of his capability and life's work.

He will always be fondly remembered for his kindness, gentle humour and helpful nature and forever sorely missed by his family, friends, colleagues and clients.

Whetham & Green Solicitors, and John's legacy, will continue to practice under the partnership of Marianne Trott and Sian Saunders.

SUSSEX LAW SOCIETY WEBINARS

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

- [July AI Working Group](#) (last one before the summer break!) 15th July 2025 2pm-3pm FREE FOR MEMBERS
- [Conveyancing Law Update](#) 2nd July 2025. Live Webinar 13.30am-16.30pm £110 + VAT for members / £125 + VAT for non-members (if you can't make today, I can email a recording)
- [Reporting to the Lender and Other Hot Mortgage Issues](#) £30+VAT for members/ £40+VAT for non members
- [Civil Litigation 2025 Autumn Update](#) 15th October 2025 9.30am-11.30am £110 + VAT for members / £130 + VAT for non-members

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

IN PERSON CONVEYANCING SEMINAR SPONSERED BY X-PRESS LEGAL SERVICES

Join us on Tuesday 7th October at The Amex stadium for a **half-day conveyancing seminar** sponsored by [X-Press Legal Services](#) with 2 fantastic speakers along with a lunch and networking opportunity. The session will start with registration at 8.30am with a prompt 9am start. Lunch; which is included in the booking, will be at 1pm with the session closing at 2pm. Both talks, as well as lunch for the bargain price of **Earlybird price of £50+VAT PP if booked before 31st July**. *10% discount for X-press clients*

As a busy conveyancer, you need to keep up to date with changes in practice as well as changes in the law. This engaging presentation with Stephen Desmond is designed to provide you with a vital overview on a range of current matters that you otherwise might not have time to read about. A key part of this seminar will be its focus on the practical implications of developments in the field of residential conveyancing.

As well as Stephen's course, our resident AI expert Geoff Davies will be on site to deliver a shorter talk 'From Deeds to Data: How AI is Transforming Property Law'

There are only **30 places** available so act fast if you'd like to attend. To find out more visit [here](#) or email alice.wylie@sussex-law.co.uk to book.

SUSSEX JUNIOR LAWYERS DIVISION

The Sussex Junior Lawyer Division has just had two great events over the last couple of weeks! We hosted the SJLD June Networking event in Crawley, massive thanks to our sponsor [Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP](#). We also hosted the Quantuma X SJLD networking event, kindly sponsored by [Quantuma Advisory](#), at OHSO Social in Brighton. A big thank you to all those who attended... it was nice catching up with all of you!

"Oh no, I missed it!" I hear you say... Worry not – our next event is our monthly Parkrun on July 26th. Due to popular demand, we are running at Hove Prom again! So, pick up your running shoes and meet us there at 8:45 AM!

Not a runner? Our next networking event combines volunteering and networking opportunities! The [Coole Bevis X SJLD Beach Clean-up and Ice Cream](#) will take place on August 27th at Brighton Beach. All materials will be provided... and did we mention FREE ICE CREAM at Marrocco's?

For more information and to sign up for the event, please visit sussexjld.co.uk. We hope to see you there!

SRA DIVERSITY DATA – DUE 4th JULY

All SRA-regulated firms must collect diversity data from their staff and report it to us every two years. Please report your firm's data before **4 July 2025**.

In 2023, more than 203,000 people took part in our survey across more than 9,200 firms, giving us a good picture of diversity in the sector. Please make sure you report your data to us on time this year. If you do not do this, we may take regulatory action. This means your firm could be issued a [fixed penalty fine](#) for non-compliance with this regulatory request.

Read more about [publishing your data](#). If you have any queries, you can [contact us](#).

THE SRA ANNUAL AML AND SANCTIONS DATA COLLECTION – ARE YOU READY?

It's that time of year again. The SRA will be collecting their annual AML and Sanctions data starting in July. There are 44 questions to be answered and you must complete the questionnaire regardless of whether you carry out any of the activities in scope of the MLR2017 or not.

The questionnaire must be completed between 7th July – 15th August so don't leave it to the last minute! For more information, click [here](#).

Agentic AI: Preparing Your Business for the Next Wave of AI Innovation (Advertisement)

Artificial intelligence is no longer a futuristic concept; it is a present-day necessity. For modern businesses, integrating AI is not optional. Those that fail to adopt it risk falling behind in an increasingly automated and competitive world.

One of the most exciting advancements in AI is the emergence of agentic AI. These autonomous agents can perform complex or repetitive tasks with minimal human input. Companies like Microsoft are already leading the way with tools such as [Microsoft Copilot Studio](#).

To find out more about Agentic AI Vs Traditional AI, read [Extech's cloud](#) article [here](#).

SLS MEMBERSHIP

Individual and corporate membership subscriptions for the period 01/09/24 – 31/08/25 are now due (please note this is the correct period as we always collect later in the subscription year).

You should have been contacted regarding your renewal. If you haven't, can I please ask you to complete the following as soon as possible (and no later than Friday, 17th July, 2025)

[Corporate Membership Form](#)

[Individual Membership Form](#)

Consultancy Vs Traditional Law Firm – Which models comes out on top?

Thanks to all those members who took part in Cognitive Law's recent survey. The study carried out this year compared the experiences of lawyers working in traditional law firms with those working as consultants. It looked specifically at how each model affected working hours, flexibility, autonomy, pay, job satisfaction, stress levels, and overall wellbeing. To read the findings, [download the report here](#).

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT

We have a full Council meeting scheduled at Chancery Lane on Wednesday, 1st July, and I will report on that in the next newsletter. On Monday, 23rd June, your Vice President, Angela Arnold, and I attended an event at Chancery Lane celebrating the bicentennial of the Law Society.

It was a celebratory occasion, with the Solicitor General, Lucy Rigby MP, delivering the keynote speech. Walking through Chancery Lane, one can't help but notice the many portraits of former presidents—most of whom are men. It took 100 years after its founding for the Law Society to admit women into the profession. The Solicitor General, herself a solicitor (unlike many of her predecessors), remarked that there have been five times as many Solicitor Generals named

“John” as there have been women in the role. While there is still progress to be made, there is reason to be optimistic about the strides we’ve made toward greater gender and racial equality.

The event also featured a panel discussion on a topic currently dominating the Society’s agenda: Artificial Intelligence (AI). Each month, the Sussex Law Society hosts a lunchtime AI presentation, and I strongly encourage those who haven’t yet attended to do so. AI is here to stay, and only those solicitors and firms who embrace it will thrive in the future.

That said, the technology is far from perfect. I shared with the panel my experience of receiving conflicting answers from ChatGPT and Copilot to what should have been a straightforward question: the hourly rate for a psychologist preparing an expert report under legal aid in a criminal case. I ultimately had to consult the statutory instruments myself—something I had hoped AI would spare me from.

Still, AI is a young and rapidly evolving technology, and there is much to look forward to.

And finally a confession –the above report is the result of a revision by Copilot. Ending the last sentence with a preposition grated with me but Chat GPT says that it is ok!

Andrew Bishop

Law Society Council Member for Sussex

RENAISSANCE LEGAL HOSTS ARTWORK EXHIBITION 2025 – A CELEBRATION OF SEND TALENT

The team at Renaissance Legal proudly hosted its 2025 Artwork Exhibition at Projects Nile House in Brighton, celebrating the extraordinary creativity of children and young adults with disabilities and special educational needs (SEND). Held as part of the firm’s 15th anniversary, the event brought together more than 100 attendees including families, carers, charities, arts organisations and educators from across the region.

The exhibition showcased an inspiring collection of artworks under the theme “What I Love to Do,” giving young artists aged 4 to 25 a platform to express their passions, from family time to hobbies and future aspirations.

Read more here: <https://renaissancelegal.co.uk/blog/renaissance-legal-hosts-artwork-exhibition-2025-a-celebration-of-send-talent/>

OTHER USEFUL WEBINARS/COURSES/ARTICLES/RESOURCES

- **Sherrards Employment Law Solicitors** are pleased to announce this year’s Employment Law Latest programme. Essential for HR and people managers, join the team in Sussex on Monday 10th November, London on Thursday 13th November and in Surrey on Thursday 20th November to run through critical employment law updates. All of the sessions will run from 9:00 – 13:00 and the cost per delegate is £180 + VAT. To book please visit: <https://www.sherrardsacademy.com/collections/open-courses>
- **Martin Searle Solicitors** are sponsoring **Last Gasp, Infinite Oxygen**, an exhibition of oil paintings by artist [Derek Ogbourne](#) to celebrate their 21 years in business. This exhibition will be at the Brighton Fishing Quarter Gallery on Brighton Seafront, 11am to 7pm from Tuesday 8 to Saturday 12 July. They are also raising awareness and funds for

Medical Aid for Palestinians to support the vital work they do– you can donate [here](#). Find out more about this exhibition [here](#).

- **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. This will ensure they 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 17 July 2025**. 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.

- The Judicial Appointments Commission is currently accepting applications for the role of Regional Judge of the First-tier Tribunal, Property Chamber, Residential Property. Applications will close on 9 July 2025. We would greatly appreciate it if you could share the vacancy details with your members.
This role has two vacancies in London (WC1E) and Manchester (M1), with a salary of £157,380.
Vacancy Details:
<https://apply.judicialappointments.digital/vacancy/qbiJweRfGv9xrSLMMMrI/>
- **Legal Support Officer - Property Team** BHCC: Central Hub. We are looking for an enthusiastic, highly motivated person with excellent organisational and admin skills to work as a Legal Support Officer/Paralegal in the Legal Services Property Team. To find out more and apply, click [here](#).

- *Helix Law are seeking two ambitious post graduate applicants, preferably with SQE1 or 2 (or both), to join our team. We are a specialist litigation firm based in Brighton, acting nationally. Applicants will have an excellent academic record and some demonstrable evidence of interest and commitment to a career in dispute resolution, in particular; commercial litigation; property litigation or construction disputes. Our busy team are looking for confident individuals who are aware how the commercial world and legal industry are changing, and who want to participate in that change; people prepared to work hard to position themselves for success. We work on challenging disputes and litigation across the country ranging from hundreds of thousands to tens of millions in dispute. Further details on everything Helix Law can offer employees available here; www.helix-law.co.uk/careers).*

We are forward thinking, innovative and technology led, in many ways more closely aligned to an IT startup than a traditional law firm. Applications via www.helix-law.co.uk/join-helix-law

SITUATIONS WANTED

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@susex-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. Realistic rates charged for noticeable results.
- Patrick Richards- Un-Notarised legal translations, office and Court interpreter services offered by fluent French and Italian speaking local [Solicitor. Contactpatrickrichards27@hotmail.com](mailto:Solicitor.Contactpatrickrichards27@hotmail.com)
- Manjinder Nagra – Legal Support and Speaking Availability - 20 + years experience specialising in property and contracts & procurement. Available 1-2 days p/wk for legal support. Also available for key note speaking on her unique journey into law and sport. Get in touch: m74nagra@gmail.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

- CAROL KANE D.O.B 05.02.1945
- JONATHAN KANE D.O.B 26.01.1967

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.

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

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