

## Snowmen win our Christmas card competition

**Congratulations to eight-year-old, Tae Petts-Simpson from Milton Keynes, who won MK Theatre vouchers, a Christmas Eve hamper and a pack of his own Christmas cards, in our 2019 Christmas card competition.**

Tae's entry, featuring two cheery snowmen, was chosen amongst the 110 entries to be featured as our company Christmas card this year.

Tae said of the news he'd won;

"I'm so happy with myself that I won, thank you!"

Tae's mother, Charlie, said;

"His little face was a picture. He didn't believe me at first. Definitely a proud mum moment when I got the phone call!"

Sarah Winters, Office Manager at Osborne Morris & Morgan said:

"This year, we received the largest number of entries we've ever had. 110 Bedfordshire

children took the time to submit a design that represented their favourite thing about Christmas.

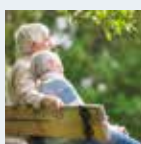
It was Tae's design that won the hearts of our staff, with his two friendly snowmen. A big thank you and congratulations to him and his family for winning the competition.

We hope that they enjoy the theatre vouchers and the Christmas Eve hamper.

A BIG THANK YOU to all of the children who took the time to draw and send in their designs, we loved looking at every single one of them."

Tae was presented with his prizes at our offices.

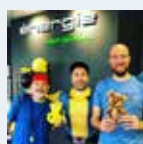
OM&M run several social media competitions throughout the year. To get involved in the next one, simply follow our Facebook page @ommlaw.



**LEGAL FOCUS :  
LASTING POWER  
OF ATTORNEY**



**UNUSUAL  
CHRISTMAS  
TRADITIONS**



**CHILDREN  
IN NEED 2019**



**CHARITY  
FUNDRAISING  
QUIZ NIGHT**

# Our commitment to the community...

Supporting charities and organisations close to our hearts

## Bicycle, Bicycle...

In October, our Costs Lawyer and cycling enthusiast, Mike Fittell, completed yet another fundraising bike ride. This time, in aid of much needed funds for St Peters Church, Tyringham.



The bike challenge - 'Le Tour de Tyringham' - had two route options, a 25-miler and a 50-miler. Naturally Mike chose the 50-mile option! The route was picturesque, starting and finishing at St Peter's Church.

One added bonus of the day was that Mike happened to bump into founding Partner Eric Morris and his wife Pat, and their dog, Rosie, who were there to support their son, David, who was also taking part in the event. David's company, DP9, were one of the sponsors of the event.

Mike said of the challenge;

"This is the third year 'Le Tour de Tyringham' has taken place, and the second time I have taken part. I am hoping to take part in it again next year in order to keep raising money for much needed funds for St Peters Church and also because the homemade cakes are some of the best I've tasted! It was also great to bump into Eric and his wife too and lovely to see them both."

## Children in Need 2019

**We donned our dots and took part in a duck race sweepstake on November 15th, for BBC's Children in Need.**

Members of staff paid for the privilege to dress down and enter a fun duck race to raise funds for the children's and young person's charity, which has been making a difference to lives since 1980.

Organiser and Admin Assistant, Amy Leotta said;

"We had a lot of fun on the day, all whilst raising money for Children in Need.

The duck race sweepstake was a great hit! The race was won by our Senior Accounts Assistant, Sarah Stothard, with her duck named 'Beakwell Tart'!

Fundraising efforts also took place offsite, as our Practice Manager, Paul Lockhart, and Costs Lawyer, Mike Fittell, joined local gym, Energie Fitness, in their 12-hour Mount Everest Challenge. This

included a long stint at box jumps! So, very well done to them too!"

A cake sale was also held in the reception of OM&M on the day - bumping the grand total raised on the day to £140.



## REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR 2019

After last year's successful Reverse Advent Calendar initiative, we decided to hold another this year at our offices, in aid of the Salvation Army Food Bank and Toy Appeal.

Thanks to staff and members of the community, we received hundreds of donated food items and festive treats to give to the local families of Leighton Buzzard, who depend on the initiative.

Sarah Winters, who managed the project here at Osborne Morris & Morgan, said;

"We love having our Reverse Advent Calendar, as it is a simple way to make a big difference in our local community at Christmas. It is always such a difficult time of year and we know that every donation helps a family who may be struggling.

We're looking forward to hearing how many parcels will be made up with our contributions and distributed into Leighton Buzzard.

In the meantime, we wish to thank all of those who took the time to pop by and drop off the food and gift items."





## Wear It Pink Day

On the 18th October, we chose to 'Wear It Pink' for Breast Cancer Now - a charity formed in 2015, after the merger of Breast Cancer campaign and Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

Staff came to work wearing something pink for a £2 donation to charity. There was also a sweepstake and a 'guess how many flamingos' game for staff to win a bottle of prosecco and chocolates! Amy Leotta, Administration Assistant at OM&M, said;

"We were so pleased to raise £58 on the day and to raise awareness for breast cancer. Not only does Breast Cancer Now focus on treatment for breast cancer, but it also works to prevent and detect cancer early. It is also important to remember that sadly, it affects men too."



## Practice Manager hosts quiz night for marathon efforts

OM&M's Practice Manager, Paul Lockhart, raised an impressive £520 at a charity quiz night at Leighton Town Football Club.

The proceeds from the night have provided a healthy contribution towards Paul's London Marathon fundraising efforts, where he hopes to raise £2,000 for Headway - the UK charity that works to improve life after brain injury by providing vital support and services.

Paul, who is the great nephew of Philip Lockhart, one of the founding members of Headway, says;

"I'd like to thank all of those who came to the quiz.

Special thanks to my quiz master Jon Woolford, my wife Debbie for trying to keep me calm, my kids for being awesome,



OM&M Partner, Tim Woolford, my mother-in-law, Lyn, for doing the football card."

Also, congratulations to the winning team, Milebush Minds, made up of OM&M staff & family members; Tim Woolford, Julie Woolford, Steph Hilton, Steve Hilton and Ray Henderson, took home winnings of £120.

Paul is now busy preparing for the marathon by following a training schedule. You can follow Paul in his marathon journey, including the lead up to the big day, by 'liking' his Facebook page: Lockhart's Headway London Marathon Journey.

**To sponsor Paul on taking on this epic challenge, please visit his fundraising page: [uk.virginmoneygiving.com/PaulLockhart1](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/PaulLockhart1)**

*Congratulations to the winning team, 'Milebush Minds', made up of OM&M staff & family members!*



## Welcome to the team

### Uzmah Rasool

Solicitor

Uzmah joined the firm in July 2019 as a Solicitor in the Court of Protection Team.



### Julie Vincent

Conveyancing Assistant

Julie joined our Conveyancing team in November 2019 as a Conveyancing Assistant.



### Alison March

Solicitor

Alison joined the firm in November 2019 as a Solicitor in the Conveyancing Team.



## Team Move

Paralegal, Melissa Lirminis, who was formerly in the Conveyancing team, moved to join Sarah Crook in the Wills team in November. We wish her well in her new role.



## 'Mince Pie Afternoon'

Our Medical Negligence lawyers, Natalizia Capizzi and Sarah Stephen, braved the cold on November 29th (to co-inside with the town's Christmas lights switch on), and handed out mince pies to those passing by.

Proceeds from the 'Mince Pie Afternoon' were donated to Headway - the brain injury association.



## MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

On the 27th September, we joined the World's Biggest Coffee Morning campaign and raised £40 for Macmillan Cancer Support by hosting our own coffee morning.

Thank you to everyone who took part and made a donation.



## Exam success

Sarah Stephen, who is an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives in the Medical Negligence team, has passed her fourth level 6 CILEx exam, a huge well done Sarah!



## Baby News #1

Gemma Eason, our Head of Court of Protection, and her husband Russell, have become parents for the first time - after welcoming their baby boy, George Isaac, into the world.

George, who weighed exactly 7lbs, was born on the 21st October. A huge congratulations to you both!

## Baby News #2

On 7th December, Jemma Blackstaffe from our Conveyancing team, and her husband Jake, welcomed their baby girl, Maisie Violet into the world, weighing 7lb.

A huge congratulations to both of you too!



**46 Naidex**

17th & 18th March 2020 at the NEC, Birmingham

Get your FREE TICKETS to NAIDEX – Europe's largest dedicated independent living and healthcare event, via the website [www.naidex.co.uk](http://www.naidex.co.uk).

We hope to see you there!

Visit us  
on stand  
**N369**

where we will be giving  
away goodies!

# HAVE YOU SET UP YOUR LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY YET?

LEGAL  
FOCUS

There are significant differences in the costs between setting up an Lasting Power of Attorney vs applying for Deputyship via the Court of Protection (if there isn't a Lasting Power of Attorney arranged).

The cost of not having a  
Lasting Power of Attorney

**£686**

Setting up an  
LPA in advance

**£4,285**

Applying to the  
Court of Protection

**Be prepared** and set up  
your LPA today!

These above fees are an estimate and represent an LPA for one person and a simple application for a lay Deputy

Without a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA), your family and friends may not know your wishes and may find it difficult to manage your affairs. If you lose your decision-making ability, you need an LPA in order for somebody to legally make decisions or deal with your sole assets for you. If you do not have an LPA, a Deputyship application would then need to be made to the Court of Protection, which can be a costly and time-consuming process.



At Osborne Morris & Morgan we are currently offering 50% off Lasting Power of Attorney when you write your Will with us. So, be prepared today and save even MORE money, by contacting our Lasting Power of Attorney specialists to make an appointment, on **01525 378177**.



# Unusual Christmas Traditions

It's amazing that whilst Christmas is known as a Christian holiday, people from all over the world embrace the festive season in some way or other. We thought we would share how different countries celebrate:

## Guinness for Santa

### IRELAND

It's tradition to leave Christmas pies with a bottle of Guinness out for Santa.

## The Yule Goat

### SWEDEN

Thought to be the oldest tradition dating back to the 11th century, a town named Gvåle in Sweden erects a giant goat made of straw to mark the beginning of the holiday season. Every year vandals try to burn down the goat before Christmas Day, and have failed 10 times since the tradition began in 1966. The vandals will often disguise themselves as Santa or elves in order to get passed the guardians and ignite the straw monument.



## To Marry or Not to Marry

### CZECH REPUBLIC

On Christmas Eve, single women find out if they will marry in the following year, by performing an unusual ritual involving the throwing of shoes. A woman will stand with her back to her front door and then throw one of her shoes over her shoulder. If the shoe lands with the heel towards the door, then it is believed she will remain single. If the shoe lands with

the front of the shoe pointing towards the door, then it is thought that she will move out of her parent's house and make wedding preparations.

## Shoes by the fire

### NETHERLANDS

On December 6th, Children in the Netherlands leave their shoes, filled with carrots, hay and sugar, by the fire, so that when Sinterklaas (St. Nicholas) and sidekick, 'Zwarte Pieten' ('Black Peters'), arrive by steam boat, they are left with sweets and nuts, as a thank you, for leaving treats for the white horse, named 'Amerigo'.

## Leave a boot

### GERMANY

Germany also celebrate Nikolaustag St. Claus Day on 6th December, and on the eve, children leave out a shoe or boot by their door in the hope for candy or small toys.



## Kentucky for Christmas

### JAPAN

Believe it or not, since 1974, it has been popular in Japan to have a KFC meal for Christmas dinner – thanks to KFC's

'Kentucky for Christmas' campaign. It is so popular that reservations have to be made at the fast food restaurant!

## Coffee & Cake

### GREENLAND



The Polar Inuits families have coffee and eat cakes at parties and exchange brightly wrapped parcels. Traditional presents include model sledges, a pair of polished walrus tusks, and sealskin mitts.

## Hope for no mess

### SLOVAKIA



In Slovakia, a traditional Christmas dish, made from bread, poppy seeds and water, is prepared for Christmas Eve dinner, where it is tossed onto the ceiling. The amount of mixture that remains on the ceiling, the richer the family's crops will be for the following year.

## Skate to Mass

### VENEZUELA



On the morning of Christmas Eve, in the capital city of Caracas, roads are closed so that people can roller skate to morning Mass.

## CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

Fri 20th Dec

Mon 23rd Dec

Tue 24th Dec - Wed 1st Jan

Thu 2nd Jan 2020

Finish at 1.00pm

Finish at 2.00pm

CLOSED

Open as usual!

**Merry Christmas**



# A day in the life of a Wills, Probate and Power of Attorney Lawyer

When it comes to helping families plan for the future, or deal with matters when they have lost loved ones, a Private Client Lawyer in the Wills, Probate and Power of Attorney areas, would describe their work as full of variety.

Sarah Crook shares with us, her day, in the life as Head of Wills, Probate and Lasting Power of Attorney at Osborne Morris & Morgan.

**08:30am** I collect any post from reception and look at my diary to reveal the day's appointments.

**09:00am** After reviewing the emails received overnight, a few matters are easily responded to and others are flagged to be dealt with later that day. I am then able to prioritise work for the day, before making a cup of tea!

**10:00am** I meet with new Will clients, and today, I am drafting a Will for a young family who wish to appoint guardians for their children.

**11:00am** Time to sort through the post and action anything that arises. A couple of client feedback forms have arrived back today; always great to receive such positive feedback about the work we do!

**12:30pm** Lunchtime and I head home to walk Sky - my German Shepherd. It's always good to get out for some fresh air.

**1:30pm** I return to deal with emails (usually more complex ones at this time), dictate letters and draft documentation for clients.

**2:30pm** A young couple arrive for their appointment to sign their Lasting Power of Attorney paperwork - they are putting sensible arrangements in place should they lose the capacity to make or carry out decisions.

**3:15pm** Another appointment, but this time a sensitive matter with a recently bereaved family. I explain how the estate administration process works, what insurers, banks and other companies tend to need when a person dies and



the various options available as to how we can help and the likely fees involved. The client confirms our instruction to apply for the Grant of Probate and I agree to write an introductory letter to them setting everything out. The letter is dictated soon after the appointment, typed up and checked over.

**4:00pm** Outgoing post is sorted, signed and ready to go out.

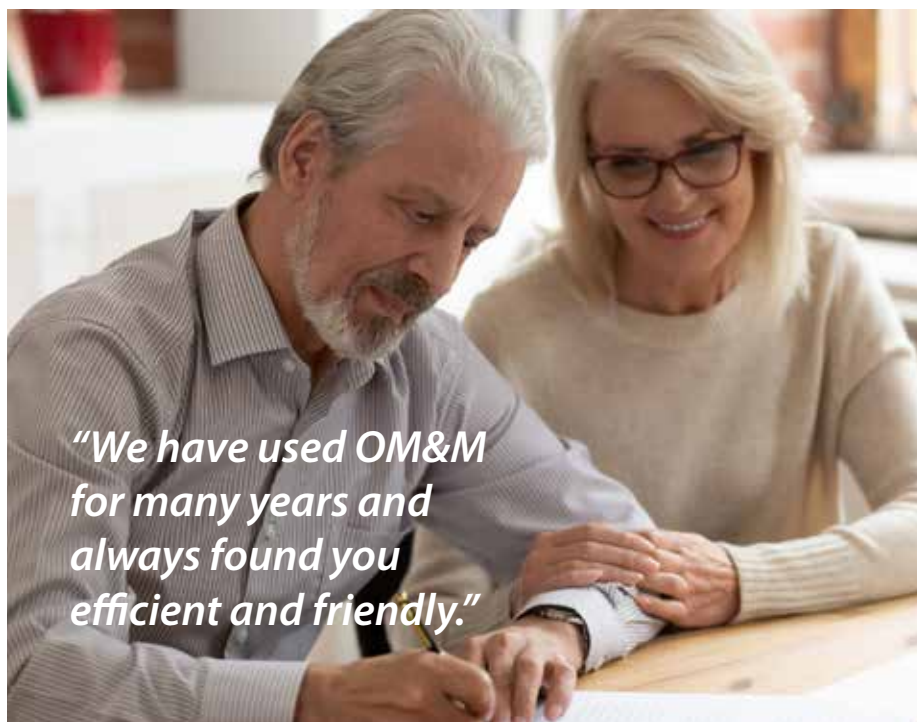
**4:30pm** I briefly meet with Melissa, a current member of staff who has recently joined our Wills team and make sure she is happy and settling into her new role.

**5:00pm** Once I plan to get ahead for tomorrow's day, it's time to head home.

Throughout the day, I'll also be responding to particular matters, dependant on their urgency.

Due to my role as a Private Client Lawyer, my days are typically varied – from helping young parents to make future plans should they lose the mental capacity to manage their own affairs - to visiting elderly clients in a nursing home to give advice – to attending to a deceased's property to liaise with estate agents.

Here at Osborne Morris & Morgan, our award-winning Wills, Probate and Power of Attorney specialist team are experts in their field and are prepared to work around you and your commitments. To make an appointment at a time to suit you, speak to our specialist team today on **01525 378177** or email **info@ommlaw.co.uk**.



*"We have used OM&M for many years and always found you efficient and friendly."*