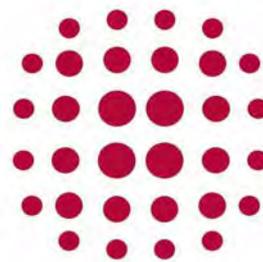


Osborne Morris & Morgan expands as SRA shut down two local law firms

With the recent news of the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) closing down Giffen, Couch & Archer and Ray Nixon Brown, as “there was reason to suspect dishonesty”, we are experiencing a huge increase in work.



Solicitors
Regulation
Authority

Back in August the SRA, who are the solicitors and law firm regulators for England and Wales, closed a large law firm consolidator which operated under the different names across the country.

Tim Woolford, Principal and owner of OM&M, released the following statement:

“This was indeed a very sad week for the town. The partners and staff at both of these firms were decent, honest and hardworking people. They have been let down badly by others who appear to have had no regard in preserving the very high standards of the legal profession.

I have seen first-hand the upset and distress that it has caused not only to them but also to their clients who have been left high and dry at important times in their lives.

Whilst GC&A and RNB were our competitors, this is not something that we would ever want them or their clients to go through. I wish those who are blameless in this unhappy situation all the very best for the future.”

Regulated solicitors and law firms follow principles and a strict code of conduct set by the SRA, to ensure they operate with integrity in the interests of their clients and in the wide public interest.



By working to protect the general public, the SRA also closely supervise those whom they regulate and can take enforcement action if needed.

Continued on next page



**LIFE IN
LOCKDOWN**



**NEW PRINCIPAL
ANNOUNCEMENT**



**DRAWING
COMPETITION
WINNER**



**PEACE MARATHON
FUNDRAISING**

Continued from front page

What should I look for when choosing a solicitor?

When choosing a solicitor, checking if a firm is regulated by the SRA is a great place to start. There are also many voluntary accreditation schemes that individuals or firms can join, which can tell you a lot about the service you are likely to experience.

At OM&M, we are not only authorised and regulated by the SRA, but we also hold current, top excellence accolades obtained through various schemes.

One is Lexcel – the accreditation scheme run by the Law Society, the professional body for solicitors in England and Wales. For 17 years, we have achieved this voluntary, quality standard through independent, rigorous application and assessment.

Our Conveyancing team also retain The Law Society's Conveyancing Quality Scheme Mark, year on year. They have proven that they meet the standards of technical knowledge and client service, and have all the skills and expertise to provide residential conveyancing services to the highest standard.

As well as accreditation schemes, we have received top recognition from the national charity and panel, AvMA, and won regional business awards.

OM&M expand the team

To meet the increased demand in our Conveyancing services, we have employed a new Conveyancing Paralegal, Donna Aldridge and Admin Assistant, Vanessa Spurr.

Paul Lockhart, our Practice Manager, says; "Since the closure of the other firms, we have been inundated with requests for help from people who have, completely without warning, found themselves without legal representation. There are some who today should be enjoying the first days of life in their new home but instead are wondering if or when that will happen.

Others are unable to make progress with important matters such as finalising their Will, drafting an LPA or organising Probate matters.

Donna and Vanessa have joined OM&M to make sure that we have the capacity to help and support clients at this difficult time.

Whilst we wish that it had been under different circumstances, nevertheless we are delighted that Donna and Vanessa have joined us and we look forward to them having long and happy careers at OM&M."

If you have been affected by these recent events and need assistance please call Osborne, Morris & Morgan on **01525 378177** or email info@ommlaw.co.uk.

New Principal Announcement

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Tim Woolford as Principal of the firm, effective as of April 1, 2020.

Tim will continue to further the firm's longstanding philosophy of helping to make a difference by delivering exceptional legal support, advice and guidance.

Tim joined OM&M in 2000 and has specialised in catastrophic brain and spinal injury claims since. In this area, he also acts as Deputy for clients under the Court of Protection and as a Professional Trustee.

In his new role as the Principal of the firm, Tim is responsible for the financial management and development of the practice.

Tim said of his appointment;

"I am absolutely delighted to lead the firm in providing the very highest standards of legal advice and assistance to our clients. It is an exceptional firm and we have a fantastic team that I am very proud to be a part of."



Exam Success

Sarah Stothard

A huge congratulations to Sarah Stothard who passed her AAT Advanced Final Accounts Preparation exam with an impressive 85%. Well done Sarah!



Melissa Lirmanis

Congratulations to Melissa who passed her Cilex Level 3 - Conveyancing module. Superb job Melissa!



Welcome to the team



Donna Aldridge

Conveyancing Paralegal



Vanessa Spurr

Admin Assistant



Never lose your Will - The OM&M Wills Card

Once you've written your Will, it's important to make sure it is stored in a safe place. This can be at home, although there's always the risk of it getting lost, stolen, or damaged, or it can be stored with us for complete peace of mind.

When you arrange your Will with us, you will receive a FREE Wills card for you to pass onto your executor(s). It will detail the location of your Will.

Make a Will, or amend an existing one with our specialist Wills team by calling us on **01525 378177** or sending us an email.

Our commitment to the community...

Supporting charities and organisations close to our hearts

Rain fails to dampen spirits as VJ Day Peace Marathon triumphs

Runners and walkers continued undaunted in the wet weather to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of VJ Day on the 15th August.

The names of the men who made the ultimate sacrifice during in the Second World War were carried around on a baton by marathon participants in Leighton Buzzard.

Individuals from local charities and other organisations, such as MK Dons Set, Dogs 4 Good, MS Society, Buzzards Inclusive, Navel Cadets Corps and Guides and Scouts groups were among those who took charge of passing the baton during the marathon.

Each relay leg was 2,194 yards, acknowledging the 2,194 days that World War Two lasted.

Alison March, from our Conveyancing team, ran in the marathon relay on behalf of OM&M. Alison's leg of the race was a distance of approx. 1.8km between

the Cod & Waffle in Theedway, and the Clay Furlong Roundabout.

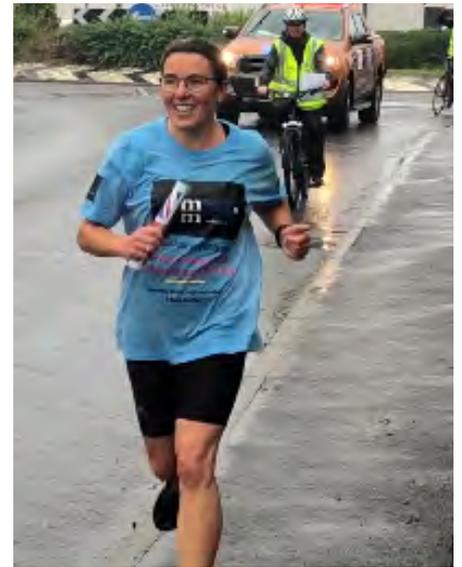
Alison said, "I was expecting it to be a hot run, but the rain didn't put anyone off. It was a privilege and a pleasure to be involved with such a great event."

President of the Rotary Club of Leighton-Linslade, Richard Johnson OBE, said of the event;

"On behalf of the Rotary Club, I would like to express our sincere thanks for Osborne Morris & Morgan's significant contribution to the Marathon 4 Peace.

After all the scorching hot weather, who would have thought we would have had a day of almost constant rain, but then that is the joy of our green and pleasant land.

We were so pleased to be able to put



together an event in these challenging times which both honoured the sacrifice of a special generation, but also enabled the area's community spirit to shine through."

Paul's fundraising feat continues despite London Marathon postponement

News of the cancellation of the London Marathon for amateur runners due to COVID-19, has been both understandable and disappointing for everyone involved. Our Practice Manager, 41-year-old Paul Lockhart, is among them.

But, Paul remains incredibly upbeat and continues in his mission: to raise funds for Headway – the brain injury charity.

In May, Paul and his daughter, Amber, ran 26 laps of their garden whilst in lockdown at home as part of the 2.6 challenge.

"This lockdown is bringing with it a silver lining – to get over some injuries I have suffered and now I am focused on using the extra time to raise as much

money as possible for Headway. Thank you to everyone who continues to support me and the fantastic cause," said Paul.

Amber, who was seen in the video clearly enjoying running with her daddy, said, "it was great fun, but really tiring."

The duo's effort was filmed live via Paul's Facebook page 'Lockhart's Headway London Marathon Journey'.

£2,390
raised so far!



So far, Paul has raised £2,390 – 47% of his £5,000 target. To donate, visit his fundraising page; www.virginmoneygiving.com/PaulLockhart1

Ewan's drawing of Captain Sir Tom Moore wins VE Day competition

In May, we organised a poetry and drawing competition for the 75th Anniversary of VE Day.

Children were invited to get creative by either writing a poem or drawing a picture to both celebrate and remember those who fought and died and the incredible civilian effort during the war, and the sense of relief that it was all over 75 years ago.

Entries were posted onto our Facebook page, and it was 8-year-old Ewan's drawing of Captain Sir Tom which finished with the most 'likes' – declaring him as the winner of a £50 national garden voucher for him and his family to use.

"I wanted to draw this picture for Captain Tom as he was in World War 2 and we were learning about VE Day at school," said Ewan.

"Thank you to everyone who liked my picture, it made me really happy as I enjoy drawing."

Ewan's winning entry was inspired by honorary colonel, Captain Sir Tom Moore's recent challenge to walk 100 laps of his garden before he celebrated his 100th birthday in April.

To keep up to date with our news and get involved in our next competition, follow us on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ommlaw.



Have you seen our 'Keeping it Local' campaign?

This summer, we have been sharing some of our favourite local shops and spots across our social media in a bid to encourage everyone to shop local, where possible, during these challenging times for businesses.



So, whether you need veg from the market or a birthday gift for a friend, we hope everyone can buy and shop locally wherever they can.

[#LawyersLoveLeightonBuzzard](#) [#Buylocal](#)

OUR SERVICES

Whether you're moving home, dealing with Probate, or updating your Will, we have award-winning teams of specialists in their field who are ready to help you.

Here's a reminder of all of the services we can help you with...



Court of Protection



Lasting Powers of Attorney



Medical Negligence



Personal Injury



Personal Injury Trusts



Probate



Conveyancing



Wills

We are ready to listen and learn all about you and your circumstances so that we can provide the very best legal advice and support for you.

Our solicitors can make a difference

For more information, simply visit our website www.ommlaw.co.uk today.

OM&M excited to continue to support Eversholt CC

Cricketers from Eversholt and the surrounding areas will be going into bat with the support of OM&M behind them.

We are proud to announce that we have sponsored Eversholt Cricket Club as part of our 'Keeping it Local' campaign and commitment to supporting the community.

Based at one of the most picturesque grounds in the country, near Milton Keynes, Eversholt CC exist to provide the highest possible standard of facilities to players and spectators of all ages and abilities.

Eversholt have senior teams who compete on a Saturday in the Saracens Hertfordshire Premier Cricket League, and on a Sunday in the Bedfordshire County Cricket League, as well as an impressive academy for all junior age groups.

The Saracens Hertfordshire Cricket League is the largest single league in the country with 27 divisions, 98 clubs and over 260 sides. The Bedfordshire County Cricket League is widely considered the most competitive Sunday cricket league in the country.

They also have several junior sides (from the age of 6 through to 16) playing in various divisions of the Bedfordshire

Youth Cricket League.

The club are proud holders of the ECB Clubmark accreditation, which recognises their efforts in prioritising junior development and creating a benchmark for high quality community club cricket.

With OM&M's support, the club have purchased a new kit with a splash of colour. The Club's Senior 1st XI wear the kit whilst competing in limited overs competitions including a Sunday tournament, rapidly organised by local clubs following the cancellation of the usual Bedfordshire Cricket League Premier Division fixtures due to the COVID pandemic.

Dave Garratt, Chairman of Eversholt Cricket Club, said that the sponsored kit is also being worn by many players in their thriving Junior Section – a vital and growing area of activity for the Club.

OM&M's Clinical Negligence Consultant and Vice President of Eversholt CC, David Turner, said of the news;

“OM&M are excited to be able to offer continued support to Eversholt Cricket Club and become official shirt sponsors.



We've seen how this wonderful sport has the ability to bring people together and promote teamwork, trust and friendship. Now united with OM&M, we feel privileged to be associated with such a successful and well-regarded club and are excited to watch their development in the weeks and months to come.”

Eversholt Cricket Club would like to thank Osborne Morris & Morgan for their generous and continued support that is helping sustain cricket now and for the future.

All new players, of all ages and abilities, are welcome to join Eversholt CC. To find out more about our junior cricket, visit eversholtcricketclub.co.uk.

OM&M continue to support MK DONS SET

It is no big secret that community support and charity work is very important to us.

We're proud to support initiatives which help to improve the lives of people within our community and MK Dons SET is one of the charities who we work closely with, to help them to deliver their many projects across Milton Keynes.

MK Dons Sport and Education Trust (SET) is an independent charity aligned to Milton Keynes Dons to improve the lives and experiences of its local community. The SET delivers life-changing programmes in Milton Keynes and the surrounding area and focuses on education, social inclusion, health and wellbeing, girls and women's football,

football development and community delivery.

Some of their projects include running football courses and academies for children, providing schools with free curriculum and extracurricular activities, and personal support to help vulnerable adults get back into employment.

The Friends of the Trust is an initiative which aims to raise the vital funds for MK Dons Sport and Education Trust to deliver these community and educational streams, to provide positive change to the lives of many.

Practice Manager at OM&M, Paul Lockhart, said;

“We are very pleased to, once again, donate £1,000 to MK Dons SET this year, so that they can continue to



deliver these amazing projects aimed at children, young people and adults across the region. We're extremely proud to support the work that they do and look forward to establishing close links with them.”

To discover more about MK Dons SET, you can visit their www.mkdonsset.com

Life in Lockdown

A day in the life of a law firm paralegal

Melissa Lirmanis shares with us her day as a Paralegal working remotely in our Wills, Probate and Lasting Power of Attorney team.



It is fair to say that there have been a huge number of changes over the past six months, which have led to a need to rapidly adapt our ways of working and ensure that we continue to function smoothly.

The same can definitely be said for how I have changed the way that I work during this time.

8:00am I start the day with a large cup of coffee at my desk after getting back from a long morning walk with our puppy, Mabel. She's a Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen - PBGV for short, and we got her just before the start of lockdown.

8:30am My working-from-home set up doesn't really differ too much from my work setup; I am equipped with a phone and computer. I start to review incoming emails.

9:00am After reviewing the emails received overnight, I am then able to prioritise work for the day.

9:30am Throughout lockdown we have been continuing to offer Will and Lasting Power of Attorney appointments via the

telephone and also on Zoom. I review my colleague Sarah Crook's diary – (Head of the Wills, Probate and LPA team) to make sure that everything is in place for the upcoming telephone appointments that she has today.

10:00am I am contacted by a client who would like to receive one of our free Life Organisers and arrange to get this sent out to them.

11:00am I begin to draft Mirror Wills for a young couple who wish to include a Life Interest Trust in their Wills. These clients are taking advantage of our current Will & LPA Packages that we offer.

12:00pm Lunchtime, and I head out for a walk with Mabel and we head to her favourite place which is a meadow not too far from the house. When I return, I start to continue some training with her which she is picking up really well.

1:00pm I return from lunch and respond to any incoming emails and ensure that all letters and correspondence are ready to go out in the post.

14:00pm On one of our Probate files, the deceased's property sale has recently completed. I begin arranging for final distribution payments on estate to be sent out to the beneficiaries.

15:30pm I begin to draft Lasting Power of Attorneys for clients who are taking out both Property & Finance and Health & Welfare LPAs. This is a great way of ensuring that Attorneys are appointed in order to manage their affairs, should they lose mental capacity.

16:30pm I take a call from a client who has sadly recently lost her mother and provide her with some guidance on the steps in administering her estate – taking her through the process of applying for Probate.

17:00pm I review my emails for the day and make a plan of tasks to complete tomorrow.

To speak with our expert Wills, Probate and Power of Attorney team, please call us on **01525 378177**.

Why choose OM&M?

At Osborne Morris & Morgan, your feedback matters. This is why we send questionnaires to our clients, to gain an insight into the service we deliver. And we're very pleased with the response we've had. A huge thank you to everyone who has taken the time to let us know how we're doing.



100%

were likely or certain to
recommend us



96%

said our staff
listened well



96%

said our staff were
very informative



96%

were very satisfied with our overall
level of service