

Samuel scoops carnival prizes in our 'Colour the Carnival' competition

This July, we organised a colouring competition in celebration of Leighton-Linslade's annual town carnival which, due to covid, couldn't run as normal this year.

We wanted to bring colour and cheer to the town in a different way.

Local youngsters coloured in a clown design using pens, paints, glue, anything they could get their hands on, before uploading their entries onto our Facebook page.

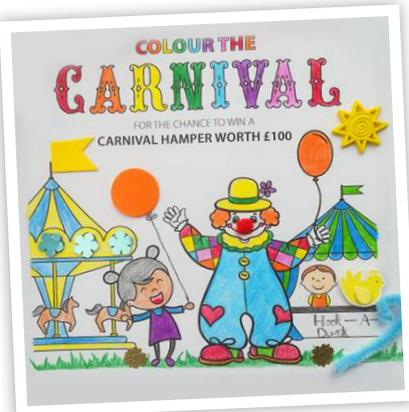
The competition saw a great number of entries and was said to have been a positive activity to bring the community together.

Office Manager at Osborne Morris & Morgan, Sarah Winters, said, "We were disappointed to hear that the usual Parsons Close carnival event wouldn't be going ahead this year due to the

current Covid-19 restrictions, and so we wanted to provide a fun activity for children, as well as give them the chance to recreate the carnival at home!

A huge congrats to Samuel, for his brilliantly colourful design – a very worthy winner indeed! We loved seeing all of your competition entries and hope that you all had lots of fun taking part."

Samuel Debenham, aged 9, was selected by our OM&M team as the winner. Samuel was delighted to collect his prize hamper; "When I first found out that I'd won the 'Colour the Carnival' competition I felt shocked and surprised because I wasn't expecting to be so lucky. I was so happy afterwards that my mouth hurt from smiling so much! I can't wait to have a mini-carnival with my family and play with the hamper goodies with my big sister, Abi."



Samuel's winning entry



**PEACE OF MIND
PACKAGE**



**LAURA'S
AN ULTRA-
MARATHONER!**



**10 REASONS TO USE
A SFE ACCREDITED
LAWYER**



**TECHNOLOGY
FOR CHANGE**

Elaine & Neil Stoker rely on OM&M for Probate and Conveyancing

When Elaine Stoker and her husband Neil were asked to be the executors of Neil's parent's Will and estate two years ago, little did they know that they would be carrying out their duties sooner than they imagined.

Background

Neil's parents had sought advice and help from Osborne Morris & Morgan to make their Wills. Sadly, not long after the Wills had been finalised, Neil's father, Ben, passed away. Thankfully, his Will was made with his input and the support of his family members, so his wishes regarding his estate were honoured.



His widow, Claire, liaised with OM&M for Probate support during this difficult time. Elaine said; "She was full of praise for the work OM&M completed on her behalf". It is because of this positive feedback, that Elaine had the confidence to instruct OM&M to deal with Probate and house sale.

Support with Probate

Fast forward two years, Elaine has been working with Probate Team Leader, Sarah Crook, on her case. Elaine says, "I am one of those annoying people who has lots of questions and was constantly firing long missives to Sarah – who answered them fully and in a timely manner. She is always available if I need to speak with her, and happy to go outside her specialist field to get additional information".

This isn't to say that there weren't any challenges during the process. Elaine admits that some family members had tried to lay claim to items they were not entitled to, but thankfully Sarah was able to help her come to a resolution to manage the situation.

Support with Conveyancing

Elaine also trusted OM&M for the Conveyancing needs that came with the responsibility of being an executor of her in-law's Will.

Elaine has already suffered a few bad experiences with other firms in the past: "I have always found the process very frustrating. I have had to constantly push and chase for updates and at times they have not been proactive."

OM&M were pleased to provide Elaine and her family with all the advice and support she needed to complete the house sale.

"Given that we were also dealing with the emotions attached to selling a family home, we also had some anxiety about the process. I am happy to say these were unfounded! Our Conveyancing Solicitor at OM&M, Alison March, was always available, she answered all our questions and helped us to 'fill in the blanks' when it came to paperwork."

Despite selling the home with limited information and documentation, the sale went through smoothly. Elaine has been more than satisfied with the work provided by OM&M; "I would have no hesitation in recommending Alison and her team; in fact, I have already done so!"

"I cannot thank Sarah and Alison enough for the sensitivity shown, their professionalism and the kind, sensitive way in which they have conducted themselves. They made a truly testing situation manageable and I will always be thankful for that."

Wills, Probate and Conveyancing can often tie in together in situations like Mr and Mrs Stoker's. This is where it can be even more important to find an expert, reputable and professional law firm that can work with you across all of these services.

For information on any of our services, contact us today.

TECHNOLOGY FOR CHANGE

We're pleased to announce that we have implemented software tools that will enable us to not only streamline processes in-house, but also improve our clients' experience even further.

The Arken Product Suite will help our Wills Team to produce comprehensive bespoke Will packs, and digital solutions for online Wills, enhancing the overall quality of our service.

Using the Arken Intestacy tool, visitors on our website will also be able to find out what should happen to affairs and assets, should they die intestate (without a Will).

To find out more about these exciting new tools and how they can help you with your legal needs, please contact our Wills Team today.



Congratulations!

We're delighted to announce that Melissa Lirminis, our very own Wills and LPA Paralegal, has just completed a qualification in Cilex Client Care Unit, with a distinction.



Mel is currently studying to become a Chartered Legal Executive. The exam is compulsory in working towards achieving the Cilex Level 3 Diploma in Law & Practice.

Big congratulations to Melissa for passing the exam, from all of us at OM&M!

PEACE OF MIND PACKAGE

Did you know that, with just three pre-prepared and carefully considered documents, you can organise your affairs now, so that your family avoids delay, stress and huge expense later on?

Our Peace of Mind Package is designed to help you to prepare your three vital documents that will stand up to scrutiny.

The First Document – a Valid Will

Our specialists will draft your Will correctly, and to your specific circumstances, to ensure that your wishes are carried out after you have died. In doing this, you can also save inheritance tax for your estate and protect your family from the expense and uncertainty that comes with a situation where someone has died intestate (without a Will).

The Second Document – Lasting Power of Attorney (Financial)

Our Lasting Power of Attorney specialists will help you to put an LPA in place for property and financial affairs. So, should you lose mental capacity due to illness or injury, your trusted “Attorney” will have the power to manage these affairs for you.

Without an LPA in place, your loved ones would need to apply to the Court of Protection for an Order to appoint a Deputy – a significantly costly and time-



consuming process. It would ultimately be the Court who decides who is appointed and not you.

The Third Document – Lasting Power of Attorney (Health and Welfare)

Our Lasting Power of Attorney specialists will also help you to appoint someone to make decisions about your health, treatment and wellbeing, should you lose mental capacity.

This can include decisions around medical treatment and residential care.

Without an LPA in place for your health and welfare, then often the Local Authority (Social Services) will step in and make decisions on your behalf. If you are in hospital, the doctors will make the decisions on how to treat you and whether this treatment is in your best interests.

Peace of Mind Package

At OM&M, we have designed the

Peace of Mind Package, because we are committed to helping you and your family be prepared should any unforeseen circumstance happen.

We also offer:

- Discounted fees for complete protection
- Our free-to-download OM&M Life Organiser – a brilliant document for you to complete and provide to your loved ones, to provide even further peace of mind. This single document provides an essential overview of all the information needed for your affairs to be managed easily if you lose capacity, or have died.
- Our Service Pledge promise; to carry out a thorough exploration of your wishes and circumstances, and keep you updated on progress throughout
- Regular updates on changes in the law via our newsletters.

THE OM&M SERVICE PLEDGE *Our promise to you*

We are committed to looking after you and your family, by ensuring that you receive the best possible service and outcome.

By taking the time to understand your personal circumstances, we work tirelessly to ensure your affairs are in order, so that you needn't worry whether you are organised and prepared, now and later in life.

By becoming part of the ‘OM&M Family’, our Service Pledge is our promise to you, and enables us to be proactive, so that we can deliver an excellent client experience for you.

To achieve this we will...



Respect



Transparency



Consistency



Direction



Inform



Explain



Proactive



Responsive



Action



Confidentiality



Relieve



Minimise



To find out more simply scan the QR Code or visit:
www.ommlaw.co.uk/service-pledge

Our commitment to the community...

Raising valuable funds for the charities close to our hearts

Paul completes the Virtual 2020 Virgin Money London Marathon

In October last year, our Practice Manager, Paul Lockhart, joined 45,000 other participants and bravely ran 26.2 miles in the virtual 2020 Virgin Money London Marathon.

With the official London Marathon postponed again due to Covid, the world's largest virtual marathon took place instead, so that much-needed money for charities could be raised.

Paul's route totalled 28 miles, beginning near the canal museum at Stoke Bruerne, on the grand union canal and finishing at The Grove Lock in Leighton Buzzard.

Thanks to his incredible efforts throughout his training and on the day itself, Paul has raised a total of £3,152 for

his chosen charity, Headway – the brain injury charity.

Paul said, "I'd like to thank all of you who have added to my target of £5,000.

I started the day at just over £2,400 and the aim for the virtual was to get this over £2,500, but you helped me get to over £3,000.

I would also like to thank my amazing wife, Debbie, and my kids for supporting me through the virtual 2020 Virgin Money London Marathon. To Rob and Annalie, who saw me off the start line with Debbie and who found me on two other occasions to shout words of encouragement. To Emma my sister, my Dad and Sue for finding me too.

To Lyn and Mike along with Debbie and



the kids came to the Three Locks along with Paul and Christine Glide. And to all the other runners and supporters who gave me encouragement along the way.

It was a great day and one I will not forget."

On the day, Paul was filmed live via his Facebook page 'Lockhart's Headway London Marathon Journey'.

To help Paul go even further and reach his £5,000 target, please visit his fundraising page: www.facebook.com/LockhartsMarathonJourney

Laura's an ultra-marathoner as she Races to the Stones

This July saw our Head of Conveyancing, Laura Everitt, face one of her toughest challenges yet. No, not a property chain consisting of ten houses, but the ultramarathon Race to the Stones!

The 100km challenge along Britain's oldest path, The Ridgeway in Oxfordshire, with competitors given the option to complete the distance non-stop or across two days.

The route takes runners past historic sites such as the Uffington White Horse and Barbury Castle, before reaching the finish at the iconic ancient Stone Circle at Avebury.

Voted as the UK's most popular endurance events, around 3,400 ultra-marathon enthusiasts tackled the trail on the weekend of 10 and 11 July.

"Mind are a charity very close to my heart. They have helped me personally with some grief counselling following

the loss of my dad, and they are always available.

Although I couldn't manage the 100k, I am still so proud that I managed to do 80K. The blisters alone were worth the £800 I raised for MIND".

All of the funds are going to Wiltshire Mind, a charity that provides mental health support to those in need of counselling and support.

Well done Laura! We're all so proud of you!

If you would like to contribute towards Laura's fundraising total, her page is: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/laura-everitt5



Paul Lockhart's wax on, wax off!

To add to his fundraising efforts for Headway, Paul also braved a beautician's wax strips as he took part in a charity waxing night on July 16.

The event, which involved the removal of Paul's chest hair streamed live on his Facebook page, helped to increase the total amount raised to an incredible £3,124.

Congratulations and well done Paul, on such a brave achievement and for all your fundraising efforts so far!

OVER
£3,000
RAISED!



CYBER ESSENTIALS ACCREDITATION AWARD

We are proud to share that we continue to hold our Cyber Essentials accreditation – demonstrating to all of our clients that we continue to take cyber security seriously.



Cyber Essentials is a government approved scheme designed to help protect organisations from the threat of most common cyber-attacks.

According to a government survey, almost 50% of businesses and charities have not implemented the government's five basic security practices, such as maintaining firewalls, and running anti-virus software.

At Osborne Morris & Morgan, we have demonstrated that we are using all five of the security practices, and

we continuously work on implementing and managing controls so that we are protected against cyber attacks.

Paul Lockhart, Practice Manager at Osborne Morris & Morgan, said:

“Cyber security should be taken seriously by businesses, particularly with COVID – which has meant that more and more of our work is being done online.

We continue to remain committed to give clarity and assurance to our clients and our employees. A big thank you to Mirus IT Solutions for the support in helping us with our accreditation.”

PARTNER CONTRIBUTION

Rotary's Great Sunday Walk

Why not take part in a great British tradition, a Sunday Walk.

The Rotary Club of Leighton Linlade have put together a fantastic route that will take in much of the wonderful countryside that surrounds Leighton Linlade and as a added bonus you will be raising funds for local charities.

The routes offer a choice of between 5 or 10 miles easy walking, with no steep hills - making it ideal for families.

What better way to set up your appetite for that Sunday evening meal than by going for gentle exercise in the fresh air, and the chance to see nature at its very best, come rain or shine.

Whichever route you choose a full guide will be supplied, and you may even choose to stop off for a drink or a picnic along the way. Rotary are also thinking of your safety and general



well-being with marshalls posted along the whole route to help and advise as necessary.

So, dust off those walking shoes and come and join the Great Sunday Walk.

For more information and joining instructions just access Leighton- Linlade Rotary's Facebook, website or email rotaryll2020@gmail.com

JOIN OUR TEAM

Private Client Solicitor/Legal Executive

Hours: Full time, 9am – 5.30pm

Location: Leighton Buzzard

We are seeking a private client solicitor or legal executive to join our successful and highly regarded team.

The ideal candidate will be an established solicitor or legal executive with a broad base of experience who might already have, or will be studying towards their STEP qualification.

You will deal with a broad mix of work predominantly within the probate department to include probate applications, deeds of variation and estate administration. Experience of both lifetime and post-death trusts would be an advantage. You will also take on some marketing and business development activities. This role would suit an ambitious fee earner looking for a fresh challenge with a growing practice, or someone looking for that next step in their career.

To apply for this role please send your CV and covering letter to:
sarah.winters@ommlaw.co.uk



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 executors, so that they know the location of your Will.

Make a Will, or amend an existing one with our specialist Wills Team by contacting us on **01525 378177** or info@ommlaw.co.uk

10 reasons to use a Solicitor for the Elderly (SFE) accredited lawyer

If you, or your loved one is elderly, there are many reasons why the services of a particular solicitor may be vital. Not only because of the kind of services that are needed, but also the experience that the solicitor has in helping older people.

Solicitors for the Elderly (SFE) was set up in 1996 as a membership organisation, to provide help and support for elderly and vulnerable people who are seeking legal advice. Solicitors in practices across the UK can train and qualify to be SFE members, demonstrating that you, as an elderly person, are in safe hands.

So why should you use an SFE accredited lawyer?

1. Experts in their field

SFE are very careful about who they accredit as members. If you find an SFE member in a practice, you can be assured that they are fully qualified and insured Solicitors, Barristers or Chartered Legal Executives. They also spend a minimum of 50% of their time assisting elderly or vulnerable clients, so have great experience here.

An SFE lawyer will typically be an expert in a wide range of areas, such as:

- Preparing and executing Wills
- Estate and succession planning (e.g. planning for inheritance tax)
- Trusts and related issues
- Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) and Guardianship
- Arranging for funding of care
- Dealing with issues of abuse

2. Plenty of relevant experience

For you to be confident that you feel safe with the lawyer who is helping you, they need more than just qualifications and knowledge. You will also want a lawyer who has many years of experience, particularly in helping older and vulnerable people.

3. Independently accredited

Before a lawyer can become a member of SFE, they must be independently assessed

and accredited. This involves receiving extra training in matters concerning older clients to receive the Older Client Care in Practice Award.

The award focuses on issues such as capacity and undue influence in more detail, and the best ways to respond to someone who may be more vulnerable to abuse or undue influence.

4. Follow a strict code of conduct

SFE members follow an additional code that is specially tailored towards the particular needs around supporting elderly and vulnerable people.

This involves ensuring the ways they communicate and interact with clients is calming and reassuring to older people in particular.

5. Use of plain, simple communication

SFE members are specially trained to avoid legal jargon and make sure that elderly and vulnerable people can understand everything clearly before they are invited to sign any documents.

6. Part of a community of experts

Each SFE lawyer is an expert in the law as it relates to older and vulnerable people, but of course no-one can know everything about the topic. Your situation may be so unusual and complex, that it is outside the lawyer's personal experience.

An SFE lawyer is in touch with more than 1,500 fellow experts they can consult. However complex or unusual your situation is, someone will have the answer.

7. Your interests are paramount

An SFE lawyer will have the training and experience to know how to put options to you in a way so that you will feel no

pressure. At the same time, they will help you to understand all the implications of whatever decision you are making.

8. See the bigger picture

The training and experience of an SFE lawyer means that they are well positioned to understand the full range of issues that might affect how you plan for your later life.

9. Offer outstanding support and care

SFE lawyers go the extra mile to understand your individual needs and provide support that is especially targeted at those needs.

10. Ensure you get the best possible outcome

An SFE lawyer has the knowledge, experience and commitment to navigate all the different complexities of law. This will give you the best possible chance of getting you the outcome you want.



Rebecca Newman
Head of Wills & Lasting Power of Attorney

Rebecca Newman is our Head of Wills & Lasting Power of Attorney, and is proud to be a fully accredited SFE member. To get in touch with Rebecca and her team, simply contact us by calling **01525 378177**, or emailing **info@ommlaw.co.uk**