

# A brief update

Rowlinsons  
SOLICITORS

Issue 8  
Summer 2018

## Office Expansion for Rowlinsons



*Pictured: Donna Eland, Tom Parkinson and Andrew Graves with staff outside the new Rowlinson House office.*

Rowlinsons  
SOLICITORS

- Commercial Law
- Commercial Property
- Residential Conveyancing
- Employment
- Family Law
- Wills, Probate & Estate Planning

We are delighted to announce the largest expansion of our firm since it was founded in 1980. To support our recent recruitment drive and plans for further development you may have noticed that we have opened a new additional office in a prominent location in Sutton Weaver.

Our head office will remain at Church Street in Frodsham continuing to offer the full range of legal services we currently provide and the movement of some staff to Sutton Weaver will improve the number of free parking spaces we have available for clients in the town centre.

The new modern and easily accessible premises will provide an excellent working environment for staff, with breakout areas and free parking and there will be a significant investment in facilities. The expansion itself, supported by a further upgrade in our IT systems will also allow the practice to improve the delivery of legal services and offer assistance to more clients across the region.

Andrew Graves, Managing Director said *"We had found ourselves close to capacity for some time now and the chance to take on these superb office facilities just a few miles away was an opportunity we didn't want to miss. About half of our staff have moved to the new offices, which allows us substantial room for growth, but we remain firmly committed to our Frodsham office and the local community."*

Cllr Lord Frank Pennington recently visited the new offices to officially declare them as open and commented, *"It's great to see further investment in the local area by a long standing and well thought of business such as Rowlinsons. It was a pleasure to meet the staff during my visit and to officially open the office. I wish them all the best for the future."*



*Main: Cllr Lord Frank Pennington meeting the Directors Tom Parkinson and Andrew Graves at Rowlinson House. Top left: Mike Daly, Bottom left: Nicola Cooper.*

## Rowlinsons nominated for National Law Society Award

We are delighted to announce that our Private Client Team has recently been shortlisted for the National Law Society Award for Excellence in Private Client Practice.

Our Private Client Department deals with a wide variety of matters, including Wills, Powers of Attorney, Estate Planning and Probate and our nomination focused on a number of successes and initiatives. In particular the growth of the department, the recruitment of new starters, our level of expertise, the investment in staff training, our accreditations, the overall quality of service provided and our efforts to assist the local community and its charities. Indeed you will note later on that through charitable legacies we have raised over £3 million for Cancer Research!



The Law Society Excellence Awards are the most recognised and prestigious awards in our profession and there were a significant number of applicants in our category. To be shortlisted with just 7 other firms including the likes of global firm Mischon de Reya is a fantastic achievement.

**Andrew Graves, Managing Director commented** "This is a great reflection on the team and the service that they provide to our client base. We are very much looking forward to attending the awards dinner in London in October and will keep you updated. Fingers crossed it will be a positive outcome, but it is fantastic for Rowlinsons to be recognised at this level."

If you do require advice in respect of any private client matters please do not hesitate to contact us. We would be delighted to demonstrate the service and expertise that we can provide.

## Charity of the year

At the start of the year we were proud to announce OPAL Services as our charity of the year for 2018. For those of you who don't know, OPAL are a local charity who provide a range of services and activities for older people in the local community, in particular helping to reduce isolation and loneliness.

It was great to have the OPAL team attend our office where they provided a very engaging and informative presentation - indeed our staff were moved by the work that they do and motivated to raise as much money as possible.

Following the presentation we set up a dedicated charity committee, chaired by our Director, Donna Eland and consisting of our Trainee Solicitors.



They were tasked with organising a calendar of fund raising events and activities, notably the Sandstone Trail Challenge which 25 of our staff completed on 9th June. The 34 mile walk, starting in Whitchurch and finishing in Frodsham, is normally completed over a 2 day period, however we managed it within 12 hours!! It was a fantastic event, great for morale and provided a great sense of achievement especially as we **raised over £4500** for OPAL Services.

**Donna Eland, Director at Rowlinsons Solicitors commented:**

*"OPAL is a fantastic charity, which is perhaps less well known in our local area and we're hoping to raise thousands of pounds for them throughout the year with the various activities we have planned and raise awareness of the great work they do. We're also providing legal support for the charity itself."*

**Jane Colville, Chair RCS/Opal said** "We are delighted to have been selected by Rowlinsons as their Charity of the Year 2018. We look forward to working with Rowlinsons' Charity Committee and staff in delivering a programme of activities, combining fun with raising money. This partnership will generate much needed funds for our services across rural West Cheshire benefitting older people and helping to reduce loneliness."

For more information on OPAL please visit [www.opalservices.org.uk](http://www.opalservices.org.uk)

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## It's not just Law...

Kirsty Poston, Solicitor



Kirsty Poston, a solicitor in our Private Client Department provides an insight into her role and some of the more unusual aspects.

People often think Private Client Solicitors deal purely with drafting Wills and Powers of Attorney, obtaining Grants of Probate and providing Inheritance Tax advice, but our role can be far wider, dealing with non-legal matters and personal tasks.

Two of the Directors at Rowlinsons act as Attorneys or Court of Protection Deputies for a number of local clients. On the face of it this means that we are responsible for assisting the clients in the management of their financial affairs and payment of their bills, but in reality it means that our Private Client Team, including myself, become closely involved in the day to day running of client's lives on a much more personal level.

As professional attorneys we are required to involve these clients in decision making about their own affairs as far as possible, even if they have reduced mental capacity. This means spending time with them and often requires us to explain in simple terms the issues we are handling and the decisions which need to be made.

For example, we act as financial attorney for one gentleman and I am responsible for the management of his finances, however such is the nature of his circumstances, our involvement extends far beyond this.

Last year this gentleman was diagnosed with a serious illness and due to his mental capacity he was unable to weigh up the pros and cons of treatment or to understand his diagnosis. Due to this, he was unable to sanction or refuse the treatment and so others responsible for caring for him, including myself, were then consulted in order to reach a decision. This led to me being involved in lengthy discussions with his carers regarding whether or not it would be best for him to receive the proposed treatment. Ultimately everyone concerned reached agreement that it would have been his preference, considering he is in no pain and happy as he is, to continue to enjoy the rest of his time and so to refuse the treatment.

On a lighter note as part of my job I regularly visit the clients for whom we act as attorneys and always enjoy chatting to them, getting to know their likes and dislikes and their routines. Part of our role involves ensuring their well being, and putting arrangements in place for them to continue their ordinary lives as they would wish. In the last few months we have therefore arranged for a new cooker and fridge/freezer to be installed for one client, and bought another client's favourite perfume as she was unable to go to the shop herself to get it.

Indeed, on Christmas Eve I went to visit one of our clients only to find that she had no power. Running into the Christmas break with no power was totally unacceptable so we had to arrange an emergency call out. Our job doesn't finish at 5pm and even on Christmas Eve, long after most people had gone home, I waited with the client until 7pm to ensure everything had been resolved and the power was working again. The client was particularly happy as she loves food and without power couldn't have had her Christmas dinner in her own home!!

The above just highlights some of the elements of our role which go above and beyond simply making sure the clients' bills get paid. We can find ourselves involved in making tough decisions and doing what we can to make sure that the elderly and the vulnerable are looked after properly. It's an incredibly rewarding job which is not just about the law, it's about people, their lives and their wishes.

**For more information about Wills, Probate and Estate Planning please contact  
Nikki Barnes or Kirsty Poston on 01928 735333.**

### Cancer Research UK Free Wills Scheme

Since becoming a partner in the CRUK free Wills scheme earlier this year we're delighted to have raised over £3 million in legacy donations for this great charity. The scheme operates all year round and is open to anyone over 55, covering a basic single Will or mirror Wills where at least one party is over 55 years old. To make your appointment call 01928 735 333.



### Rowlinsons visit Chester Races

On Saturday 29th July we thanked our staff for all of their hard work this year by taking them to Chester Races to enjoy the Stella Artois Midsummer Meeting. Much fun was had by all with some of us lucky enough to back the winning horses.



The race meeting itself was preceded by breakfast and pre-race drinks at Commonhall Street Social and despite the threat of rain we were treated to sunshine and good weather for the best part of the afternoon to cap off a really good and thoroughly deserved day out.

**To find out more call 01928 735 333 or email [info@rowlinsons.co.uk](mailto:info@rowlinsons.co.uk)**

## National Acclaim for Family Lawyer

Linda Hunter, Solicitor



We are delighted to announce that our Head of Family Law, Linda Hunter, has been granted the prestigious accolade of Law Society Accredited Family Mediator.

Family mediation is an alternative way for separating couples and families to resolve disputes and difficult issues in an amicable way. Linda, who trained as a mediator in 2014, has been working towards her accreditation with the Law Society.

Mediation works by talking things through using a trained, independent third party mediator to help reach a resolution without conflict. The process is voluntary and confidential, and can often be more cost effective and quicker than court processes.

Linda commented " *Mediation can be a great option for separating families to make informed decisions in a safe and supported way. I am thrilled to have been accredited by the Law Society as a family mediator, and I hope to be able to continue to promote mediation, and other alternative dispute options, to local families in need of support.*"

**To make a free initial appointment with Linda please call 01928 735333**

## New Starters at Rowlinsons

We are delighted to welcome five new faces to the Rowlinsons team over the last few months as we continue to develop the range and depth of services we are able to offer our clients.

Strengthening our Property Department led by Tom Parkinson are two solicitors, Andrew Hazeldine and Suzi Hughes and a Conveyancing Executive, Kate Mitchell.

Andrew has 11 years experience in a wide range of property matters and joins us from a law firm in Birkenhead. He is able to advise on many aspects of Property Law, including new build work, lease extensions and enfranchisement, together with more bespoke matters such as licences and advising on company purchases.

Suzi, who is also a solicitor and newly qualified, recently completed her training contract where the majority of her work was focused on Residential Property with particular interest in new build and leasehold property transactions, a field which she specialises in now.

The latest addition to the department Katie, moved to Rowlinsons from a Cheshire based firm where she dealt with the purchase of investment properties and is currently studying to qualify as a Licensed Conveyancer by September 2018. She is presently specialising in the niche area of Relocation Conveyancing and also assisting local purchasers and sellers with their property transactions.

Moving away from Property, the Private Client Department fronted by Donna Eland welcomes Megan Renshaw who recently worked and qualified as a solicitor at a national law firm. She specialises in Private Client work including Wills, Powers of Attorney, and the administration of estates. She has commenced studying for the STEP Diploma and in her most recent exam obtained a mark of 91% which given the challenging nature of the exam is extremely impressive.

Lastly, Katie Hassett becomes the latest member of our Accounts Department. Katie has joined us from a local specialist conveyancing practice and will provide our Accounts Department with valuable support, especially considering the growth we are experiencing and increasing number of transactions that we are completing.



*Pictured L-R: Suzi Hughes, Megan Renshaw, Andrew Graves (Managing Director), Katie Mitchell, Andrew Hazeldine, Katie Hassett and Tom Parkinson (Director).*



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**Our opening hours are:**

**Monday - Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm**

**Tuesday and Thursday 8.30am to 7.00pm**  
*(By appointment only at Rowlinson House)*

**Saturday 9.00am to 12.30pm**  
*(At 9 Church Street, Frodsham Office)*

**Visit us online at [www.rowlinsons.co.uk](http://www.rowlinsons.co.uk)**