
VISIONARY LANDSCAPES

Albert Goodwin exhibition

BUILT TO LAST

Owning a listed property

HORATIO'S GARDEN

Award-winning local charity

WILSONS
LEGAL &
LIFESTYLE
MAGAZINE

800 YEARS OF HISTORY

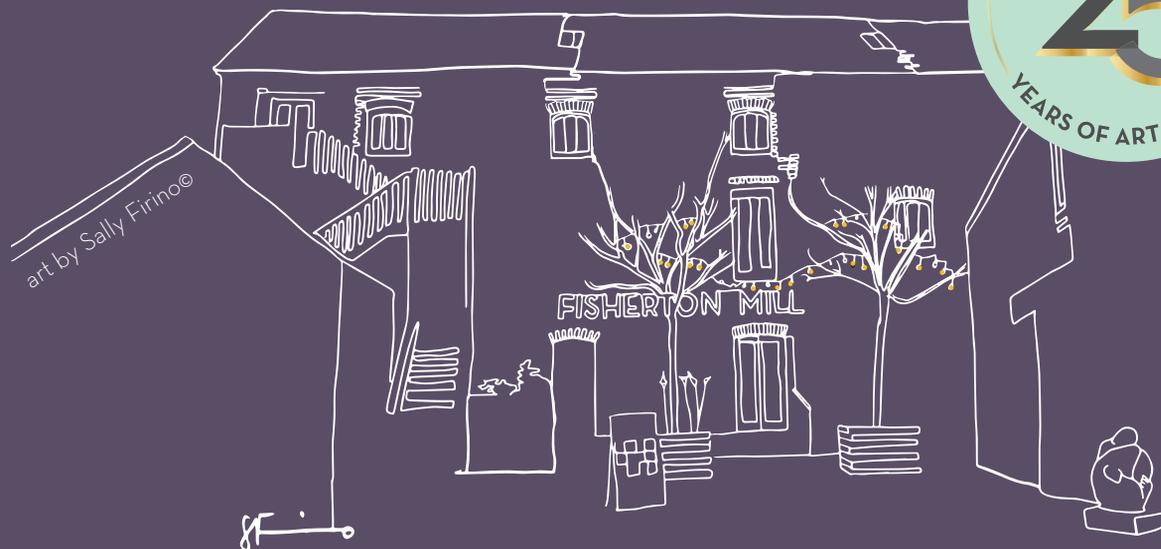
*Salisbury Cathedral reaches
a remarkable anniversary*

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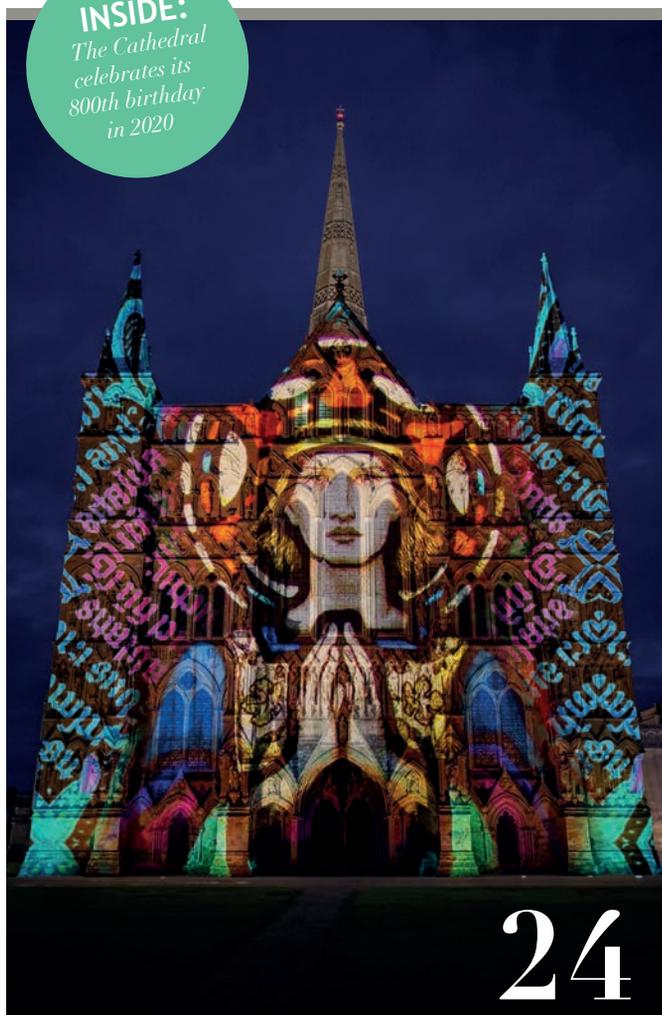
EXHIBITIONS

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WELCOME

INSIDE:
The Cathedral
celebrates its
800th birthday
in 2020



Paris has its wrought-iron tower. London has its bonging clock. New York has its Art Deco skyscraper. Salisbury has its Cathedral. All are landmarks with iconic power that magically capture the essence of an entire city. At 404ft (123m in new money), Salisbury Cathedral's spire is the tallest in the United Kingdom, and now in 2020 the building is celebrating its birthday. But it's not just any birthday, and no fewer than 800 candles are needed for the cake. You can read about a year-long programme of events to celebrate it, and the founding of the city as we know it today, on page 24.

The impressive cover image of the Cathedral is the work of Albert Goodwin, the subject of another of our features in this issue. Turn to page 36 and you can read all about this exceptional yet lesser-known Victorian landscape artist.

The famous Salisbury International Arts Festival returns this year and runs from 22 May to 7 June with an impressive line-up of artists and performances. We've put together a preview of what you can expect on page 30.

The Wilsons team have been busy offering advice, as always, and a number of features in the magazine share some of their specialist legal knowledge. These include a guide to owning a listed property (p.8), as well as some invaluable advice on reputation management (p.12) and an article on what to do when expert advice goes wrong (p.16).

As ever, we hope you enjoy reading our latest issue. ■



Mike Parker
Managing Partner
T: 01722 427 742
E: mep.mag@wilsonslp.com

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

www.wilsonslp.com/mag
Email: enquiries.mag@wilsonslp.com

WILSONS OFFICES

Salisbury
Alexandra House
St Johns Street
Salisbury SP1 2SB
Tel: 01722 412 412
Fax: 01722 411 500
DX: 58003 Salisbury 1

London
4 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London WC2A 3AA
Tel: 020 7998 0420
Fax: 020 7242 7661
DX: 199 London Chancery Lane

Wilsons 
Solicitors

PUBLISHING TEAM

MediaClash.
www.mediaclash.co.uk

Editorial Director: Gary Tipp
gary.tipp@mediaclash.co.uk
Creative Director: Carly Dugdale
carly.dugdale@mediaclash.co.uk

Contributors: Jon Ashbridge, Debbie Ashenhurst, Stephanie Boxall, Anthony Edwards, Jacqueline Fitzgerald, Carol

Gourlay, Louise Moseley, Stephen Oxley, Mike Parker, Jayna Patel, Kate Penn, Simon Pert, Sue Russell, Ben Smith, Georgina Spampinato

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CONTENTS



LAW

08 BUILT TO LAST

Our comprehensive feature looks into the legal aspects and challenges of owning a listed property

12 STICKS AND STONES...

Just how do you protect your reputation in an age of social media and seemingly nonstop commentary?

14 BULLETPROOF YOUR DIVORCE

Our guide to protecting your wealth and assets in the unfortunate event of a relationship breakdown

16 WHEN EXPERTS GET IT WRONG

The experts you rely on don't always get it right. But what should you do if you've been a victim of professional negligence?

20 DIGITAL CURRENCY

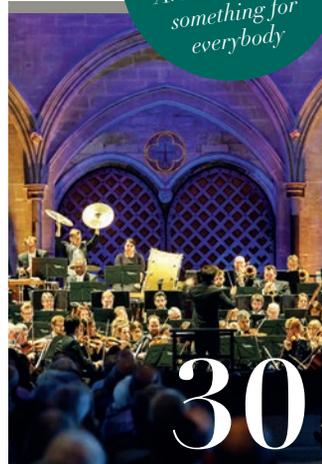
Here today, gone tomorrow? How to make sure your cryptocurrency investments outlive you



24



28



30



32

INSIDE:
Salisbury
International
Arts Festival has
something for
everybody

LIFESTYLE

24 DARKNESS INTO LIGHT

Salisbury Cathedral has its 800th birthday this year. We look back at its history and forward to the events planned to celebrate it

28 MAGICAL SPACES

The story of an award-winning charity creating beautiful accessible gardens in the heart of NHS regional spine injury centres

30 LIGHTING UP THE CITY

The Salisbury International Arts Festival is back and its impressive list of events is more spectacular than ever

32 OBJECTS OF DESIRE

Renowned auctioneer Woolley & Wallis gives us the lowdown on 20th-century British pottery

36 VISIONARY LANDSCAPES

Salisbury Museum plays host to an exhibition of paintings by the eminent Victorian landscape artist Albert Goodwin

DIRECTORY

40 NEWS

All the latest news and views from the Wilsons team, including the latest staff appointments

43 INTERVIEW: JON ASHBRIDGE

Partner Jon Ashbridge loves the diversity of town and country property and counts many clients among his friends

44 TEAM PROFILE

Meet the Property Estates team, who use their depth of knowledge to help estate owners in England and Wales achieve their goals

46 LEADING A DOUBLE LIFE

During the day, Simon Pert provides IT Support to his Wilsons colleagues, but at night he's a (published) crime writer

50 INTERVIEW: ANTHONY EDWARDS

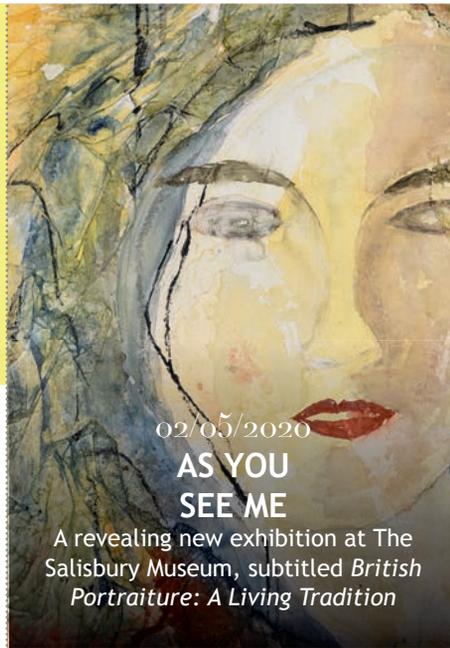
Partner Anthony Edwards enjoys his job in the Employment team but he's known for his love of sport and the outdoors



26/04/2020

ELEVATE DANCE COMPANY

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02/05/2020

AS YOU SEE ME

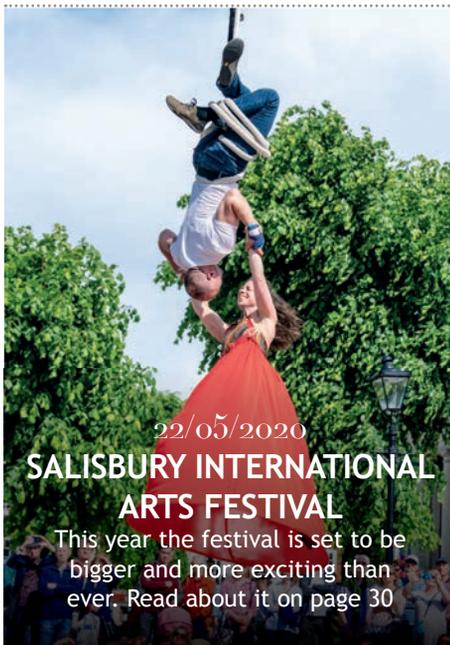
A revealing new exhibition at The Salisbury Museum, subtitled *British Portraiture: A Living Tradition*



17/05/2020

LAND ROVER RUMMAGE

A day out at the Beaulieu Estate dedicated to owners and enthusiasts of the great British Land Rover



22/05/2020

SALISBURY INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL

This year the festival is set to be bigger and more exciting than ever. Read about it on page 30

EVENTS DIARY

A WILSONS GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN WILTSHIRE THIS SPRING AND SUMMER



06/2020

FABULOUS SUMMER TEA PARTY

Salisbury-based charity Horatio's Garden wants you to host your own tea party. More on page 28



15/06/2020

SMALL YACHT BIG SEAS

An exhibition at Arundells celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the 1969 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race and a famous victory for Sir Edward Heath



04/07/2020

ALBERT PALEY

Messums Wiltshire is honoured to present an exhibition of large sculptures and architectural works from renowned artist Albert Paley



13/08/2020

SALISBURY RACES

It's Summer Holiday Family Races & Sovereign Stakes Day at Salisbury Racecourse, with fun to be had for all ages

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Listed buildings

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Kate Penn
Associate
T: 01722 427 711
E: kep.mag@wilsonslp.com

What exactly are the challenges of owning a listed property?

KEY POINTS

- Commission a full structural enquiry
- Appoint a chartered surveyor
- Remember that there are no short cuts

Some of the country's most beautiful and attractive homes are period properties, and they are always in demand. Thatched cottage, old rectory, Georgian townhouse or country manor, many of them will be listed buildings and it's important that buyers understand from the beginning what impact this listing may have on their plans.

BEFORE THE PURCHASE

Most listed residential properties on the market are likely to be Grade II listed. Grade II is the lowest and least restrictive rating but even that comes with significant obligations.

The first step is to find out what work has been done on the property over time. The potential buyer will need a full history of adaptations to the building, anything from replacing a single window to adding an extension. All work to a listed building, however minor, may require Listed Building Consent, in addition to planning permission.

It's a criminal offence to carry out alterations without Listed Building Consent. Kate Penn, Associate Solicitor at Wilsons points out that there is no time limit on enforcement. "If you buy a house where unauthorised alterations have been carried out, or where alterations have not complied with conditions, it will unfortunately be your responsibility to rectify the problem." The buyer would have to apply for retrospective Listed Building Consent and pay any costs

involved in remedial work. It's no defence to say that you didn't know the building was listed, although in practice that is unlikely to happen as estate agents will flag up the listed status of any property they sell.

Some buyers might consider taking out indemnity insurance to protect themselves against claims where work has been done without Listed Buildings Consent but in most cases it's not a good idea. Not only are indemnity policies astronomically expensive but they don't fix the problem. Kate Penn explains: "Indemnity insurance only works if you plan on doing no work at all in the future. It's just not practicable; even ongoing maintenance means that at some point you'll need to apply for Listed Building Consent, and all will be revealed. If you find yourself in this situation, it may be better to bite the bullet and get an opinion from your local planners before you commit to the purchase".

It is important to commission a full structural survey. It would be extremely foolhardy to buy a listed building, or any period property, without a full structural investigation. Even though a building has stood for hundreds of years, it could have any number of structural problems. A survey may provide reassurance, or uncover all sorts of faults. Appoint a chartered surveyor who has experience of dealing with similar properties.

You should also check if the property is in a conservation area, which will



AT HOME WITH PROPERTY

We understand the demands of a fast-moving market. Whether your brief involves a three-storey home in the heart of London, or a landed estate in the Wiltshire countryside, we can apply our expertise to ensure your transaction goes through as smoothly as possible.

The sophistication of our caseload reflects the varied requirements of the clients we look after. This frequently means advising on higher value or bespoke, complex properties, as well as the transfer of rural land and rights of way plus other conveyancing work.



SPECIAL CHARACTER: Listing protects buildings for future generations

mean some additional planning controls and considerations to take into account, especially in terms of the external look of the building and its plot.

MAKING CHANGES

Listing is not intended to preserve a building in aspic for all time. The best way to ensure the survival of an historic building is to use it, ideally for the purpose for which it was originally designed, and period homes would become uninhabitable if we couldn't make changes to support modern standards of living.

You don't have to live with the existing 1970s avocado bathroom suite. Internal repainting or redecoration of previously decorated surfaces or the replacement of modern bathroom or kitchen fittings won't always need consent. Wiltshire County Council says regular maintenance and minor 'like for like' repairs won't usually require Listed Building Consent so long as the repairs don't include removal of historic material or changes to its character. You are unlikely to be allowed to replace your sash windows with contemporary UPVC frames, but you can repair or replace the sashes, like for like.

Large scale repairs such as structural roof repairs, substantial re-pointing or external cleaning will require consent. Painting of exterior walls may also require consent if the walls were previously unpainted or if

you want to use a significantly different colour that would affect the building's character. Internal refurbishment or alterations that include removal of historic fabric such as doors, fireplaces, panelling or plaster or replacement of external doors or windows will certainly require consent.

Some local authorities may give consent based on sight of your plans; others will want to see samples of the proposed new window frames or hall tiles. It's best not to try and guess what the council will say. Far better to ring and chat to a planning officer in the early stages of the project. Explain what you want to do and follow their guidance. Remember that many alterations may require Listed Building Consent, planning permission and to comply with any local conservation area conditions.

Kate Penn recalls: "Assume you should check everything before you start work. I recently handled a case for some first-time buyers who were buying a Grade II listed terraced cottage. Originally the cottage had an outside WC. This space had been absorbed into the downstairs living area and a bathroom installed upstairs, but without gaining Listed Buildings Consent. The situation caused endless trouble for the buyers. If you want to make any kind of change to a listed property, you've got to check your plans with the Local Authority team. And get it in writing. One of our »

“The best way to ensure the survival of an historic building is to use it”



LIVING HISTORY: There are over 400,000 listed buildings in England

“It’s when clients don’t tell us what they plan to do with the building that they get into trouble”

» clients wanted to sell a property but her builder had not liaised properly with the council and she had no written confirmation that any pre-conditions had been met.”

Failure to obtain Listed Building Consent is a criminal offence. Councils have extensive power of enforcement. If you’ve made changes without Listed Building Consent then you can be required to put the building back to how it was, whether that’s replacing a single window frame or demolishing an entire extension. The most severe offences carry heavy penalties including a fine or imprisonment.

DEVELOPING A LISTED HOME

In general, major alterations, such as adding an extension, removing a chimney or converting the attic will require Listed Building Consent. If you want to build a garage on the side of your listed house then you will require consent but not necessarily if you build a free-standing garage in the garden (although you will need regular planning permission). It all depends on the ‘curtilage’ - the land attached to the building - of the listing, and that is not always clearly defined.

Says Kate Penn: “It is when clients don’t tell us what they plan to do with the building that they get into trouble. With listed buildings, there is so much to understand, to take into account and there really are no short cuts. Rectifying problems can be hugely expensive.”

Before you start any works of repair or alteration to a listed building make sure that your builder or contractor is aware that the building is listed. Talk to them about it and give them copies of the plans, any Listed Building Consent conditions and the specifications. In

absolute emergencies, you may be able to carry out limited work, as long as you follow up and notify the local authority as soon as possible.

Historic England offer grants for ‘outstanding’ listed buildings but normally only Grade I and II structures are eligible. Sadly, there are no grants available to owners of regular Grade II listed properties.

MOVING ON

If you’re planning to sell your listed property, then before you appoint an agent and put the property on the market, pull together a pack of information on adaptations to the building. Sometimes this is easier said than done. A previous owner might have done work but not handed over any documentation. Sometimes you need to play detective, trawling through old photos or tracking down former owners to talk to. Says Kate: “Keep everything. Paper copies of all planning permissions, consents, correspondence, plans, drawings - the full set. Destroy nothing. Plan ahead, take lots of before and after photos of any changes you make.”

DEEP POCKETS

Period properties can command a premium price. Not only are historic listed buildings more expensive to buy but they are expensive to run and maintain. There is no government funding for all but the most exceptional listed properties.

However, buyers of older homes are rarely buying it for the first time. Says Kate: “Our clients are often very switched on. They’ve bought and sold period homes before and know what they are undertaking in times of effort, time and money.”

WHAT IS A LISTING?

Listing marks and celebrates the specific 'architectural and historic interest' of a building and protects it for future generations. Listing highlights what is special about a building or site and subjects it to planning controls so that any changes don't result in the losing any of its special characteristics. 'Listing' is the term that applies to buildings, but the same protections extend to monuments, parks, gardens and battlefields.

The idea of listing buildings first came up during World War II, to identify important buildings that should be rebuilt should they be damaged by bombing. The first list of buildings of special historical or architectural importance was put together following the introduction of the Town and Country Planning Act in 1947.

Today, there are between 400,000 and 500,000 listed buildings in England. It's hard to pin down a specific number because some listings - a terrace of cottages, for example - will cover more than one building. Historic England is the organisation responsible for listing and maintains the National Heritage List for England. The Historic England website www.historicengland.org.uk is the first port of call for anyone who wants to find out more about listing, check if a property is listed or suggest a building for listing.

In principle, the older a building is, and the fewer the surviving examples of its kind, the more likely it is to be listed. The general principles are that all buildings built before 1700 and survive in anything like their original condition are likely to be listed, along with most

buildings built between 1700 and 1850. Buildings less than 30 years old are not usually considered to be of 'special architectural or historic interest' because they have not yet passed the test of time. However, 'new' buildings can eventually be listed. In July 2019, Sainsbury's 1980s store on Camden Road, London was listed at Grade II, the first purpose-built supermarket to be added to the National Heritage List for England.

Listed buildings are classified into three grades:

- Grade I buildings are of exceptional interest, and account for 2.5 per cent of listed buildings. Salisbury has around 37 buildings and structures listed as Grade I, including 21 properties in the Cathedral Close.
- Grade II* buildings are particularly important buildings of more than special interest, and 5.8 per cent of listed buildings are Grade II*.
- Grade II buildings are of special interest warranting every effort to preserve them. More than 90 per cent of all listed buildings are in this grade.

Listing covers a whole building, including the interiors (unless specifically excluded in the listing description). It can also cover:

- Other attached structures and fixtures
- Later extensions or additions
- Pre-1948 buildings on land attached to the building. (In the planning system, the term 'curtilage' is used to describe this attached land.)

STAMPS OF APPROVAL

If you want to make changes to a listed building, it's highly likely you will need both planning permission and listed building consent. And if you live in a conservation area, that's another set of conditions you'll have to comply with.

- **Planning permission** Whatever the age of the building, you'll probably need planning permission if you want to build something new, make a major change to your home such as converting the loft space or adding an extension to the kitchen. Your first step is to check your local authority's website to find out if your project will need planning permission. Local authorities have extensive powers to enforce planning controls.
- **Listed building consent** If you want to alter or extend your listed property in any way that might impact its character or appearance as a building of special architectural or historic interest, you must first apply for listed building consent from your local planning authority. Carrying out unauthorised works to a listed building is a criminal offence and individuals can be prosecuted.
- **Conservation area** Conservation areas protect the special architectural and historic characteristics of a place. Every local authority in England has at least one conservation area and there are more than 10,000 in England, covering 2.2 per cent of the country. ■

Reputation Management

Sticks and stones...



Debbie Ashenhurst
Partner
T: 01722 427 679
E: da.mag@wilsonslp.com

Protecting reputation in an age of nonstop commentary



HARD PRESSED: It's important to take prompt action if reputation is under threat

KEY POINTS

- Act quickly
- Contact your lawyer
- Litigation is a last resort

The internet and social media have extended the reach of traditional media and given the rest of us the means to comment freely on events and people. A lie can now travel all the way round the world before the truth has pulled its boots on. But what can you do if you are the subject of falsehoods or damaging comments by a third party? We talk to Wilsons partner Debbie Ashenhurst about how you can protect your reputation.

What defines damage to a reputation?

The most obvious damage is from defamation: any comment or allegation that makes people think less of you (or your business). Defamation is not limited to print publications or commercial publishing and is equally likely to play out in social media. Your reputation can also be damaged by the publication of confidential or private information.

How common is reputational damage?

It's more common than it used to be, thanks to the internet and the subsequent 'democratisation' of media - so many organisations and individuals can now publish content and reach a large audience. Also, defamation used to largely involve celebrities and public figures suing newspapers and broadcasters. Today it affects many 'ordinary' people and organisations such as companies, charities and schools. And defendants are more likely to be individuals, trade unions, football clubs, or even political parties.

In the 2019 general election campaign, Jo Swinson, then Liberal Democrat leader, brought a case against the Scottish National Party, objecting to an election leaflet that accused her of hypocrisy over fracking. A judge ruled that the leaflet was defamatory, made an order preventing its further distribution and ordered the SNP to pay Swinson's legal costs.

Has social media changed the landscape?

Social media creates new opportunities for someone to say something potentially defamatory or abusive and for it to be widely read. But the law has evolved to address this situation and we handle a lot of claims against digital media such as websites, blogs, Google, Facebook and so on.

How easy is it to bring a defamation claim?

The Defamation Act 2013 introduced a new requirement to prevent defamation claims except in cases where 'serious harm' occurs or is likely. As a result, the number of pure defamation cases has declined but other laws have developed to fill the gap, such as the right to privacy and data protection regulation, which allow us to be more imaginative and creative in how we protect reputation.

In 2018, Sir Cliff Richard sued the BBC for infringing his privacy rights after they broke the news that he was being investigated in relation to child abuse claims, and used a helicopter to film the police search of his home. Because the broadcast was accurate, he could not sue them for defamation. However, the court held that the BBC's sensationalist reporting of the story was a serious invasion of his privacy and, without an equally serious justification, it was illegal.

Another advantage of using data protection legislation is that if the defendant doesn't remove or correct its publication, we can complain to the regulator - the Information Commissioner's Office - rather than having to go to court for a remedy.

How does it work in the case of a business?

Allegations against a business can be traumatic for staff, directors and shareholders but can also damage the business' reputation and outcomes. Although businesses don't have privacy rights, they can protect their confidential information and intellectual property through copyright, trade mark and passing off laws. They can also sue for defamation where a false allegation is likely to cause serious financial loss.

What steps can you take to protect yourself?

The best solution is to prevent publication of damaging material in the first place. Traditional media organisations will usually contact you for comment before publication. This gives you an opportunity to respond with a view to persuading the editorial team not to publish at all, to omit some of the allegations or to at least tone down their remarks and include your side of the story. At this stage it can help to involve a lawyer who can make sure the journalist knows what legal risks they run if publication goes ahead.

If damaging material has already been published, you can send a letter before you claim, seeking post-publication redress. This might be the removal of online material, publication of a correction or apology and, in exceptional cases, payment of compensation and your legal costs. If you make no headway, then you can complain to an appropriate regulator (OFCOM for broadcasters, IPSO for other press organisations) with the power to provide limited remedies. Litigation is a last resort and may be used to obtain an injunction preventing further publication, damages and legal costs.

When it comes to social media, often a solicitor's letter is enough to result in the removal of offending content and to prevent the repetition of allegations. However, sometimes defendants refuse to respond, or we can't identify who's behind a post. In this situation, we'll go directly to the host platform and ask them to remove damaging content.

UK-based platforms such as Mumsnet are generally willing to comply; US-based companies are usually more reluctant. If the host company fails to comply, it might be possible to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office.

Are there time limits on making a claim?

Yes, you must bring a claim for defamation within one year of the date of first publication. For other types of claim relating to privacy, confidentiality, personal data or intellectual property, you have up to six years in which to bring a claim. ■

“When it comes to social media, often a solicitor's letter is enough to result in the removal of the offending content”



REPUTATION MANAGEMENT

When your personal or business reputation is under threat or has been damaged, it is important to act quickly to protect yourself and on the basis of high-quality advice from experienced lawyers. We are able to advise individuals, businesses and other

entities on how to use the law of defamation (libel and slander), malicious falsehood, privacy, confidentiality, harassment and data protection to protect their reputations and guard against or respond to adverse and intrusive publicity.

Pre-nuptial agreements

Bulletproof your divorce



Jacqueline Fitzgerald
Partner
T: 020 7998 0421
E: jaf.mag@wilsonslp.com

How to protect your wealth in the case of a relationship breakdown

KEY POINTS

- Talk about the pre-nup as soon as you are engaged
- Think about what you want to protect
- Each partner should appoint their own solicitor

Once upon a time, pre-nuptial financial agreements were the stuff of celebrity gossip columns, something for super-rich couples such as Elizabeth Taylor and Larry Fortensky, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Michael Douglas, Beyoncé and Jay-Z. But no longer. Pre-nuptial agreements are increasingly popular with the rest of us as a precautionary measure to safeguard personal wealth in the event a relationship breaks down.

The divorce rate is slowing in the UK, not because couples no longer fall out but because fewer people are getting married, choosing cohabitation instead. However, whether you and your partner embark on marriage, a civil partnership or just live together, you might want to consider some kind of financial agreement that sets out what happens should things not work out, especially as so many people are marrying later in life and may have built up some personal wealth.

Jacqueline Fitzgerald is a partner at Wilsons, who specialises in family law. She says, “the good news is that there are more options than ever before, for couples who would like to plan their finances in preparation for marriage, or who simply wish to add a greater layer of certainty to their existing relationships.”

IT'S AS IMPORTANT AS THE SEATING PLAN

For couples who are to marry, or enter a civil partnership, the best place to start is

with a pre-nuptial agreement. The ‘pre-nup’ sets out the financial and property rights of each partner should they divorce. So, when is the best time to talk about a pre-nup? As soon as you are engaged. “You should give at least as much attention to your pre-nup as you do to choosing the venue, flowers and honeymoon destination.”

A pre-nup starts with thinking about what you want to protect. It might be property, pensions and investments, shares in a business or an expected future inheritance. Each partner will need to appoint their own solicitor. The next step is for both to make full disclosure of their assets. “It’s important not to rush at it,” says Jacqueline. “It can be a bit of a Pandora’s box. Sometimes couples are surprised - pleasantly or not - to find out what their other half is worth. On the other hand, isn’t it best to start your married life with complete honesty?” During this process, couples find their thoughts begin to come together about what they would want to happen to their assets should they split up, and their solicitors can draft the agreement.

AFTER THE MARRIAGE

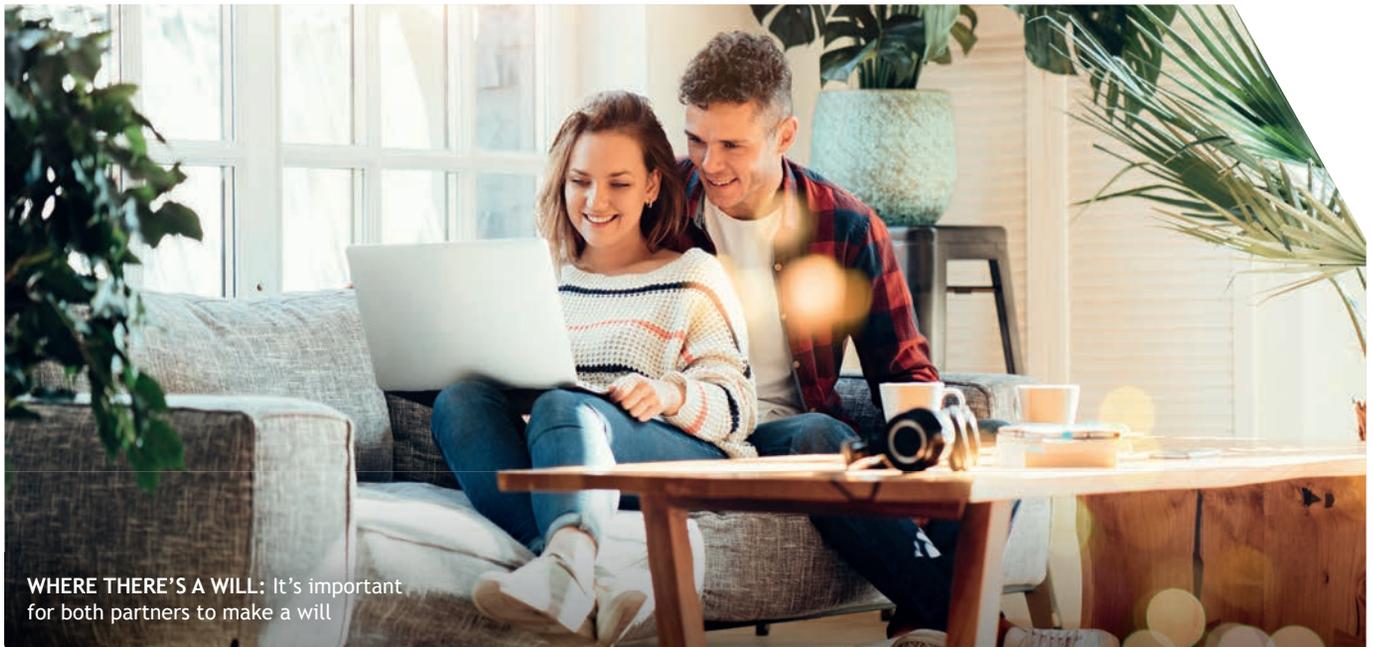
While it is always best to sort out the pre-nup before you sign the register, if you did not have time before your wedding, or your circumstances have changed, then a post-nuptial agreement is possible. According to Jacqueline, post-nuptials often come about because one half of the



DIVORCE & SEPARATION

Our family law experts will negotiate strongly on your behalf protecting your interests throughout the divorce and separation process. Our divorce and separation team includes specialists who can advise on all aspects of this stressful process with your dignity in mind.

They work closely with Wilsons' well-known Tax & Trusts team to ensure the solution is structured with each client's future plans in mind, in a tax-efficient way. And we are proud of our commitment to resolving matters in a non-confrontational manner wherever possible.



WHERE THERE'S A WILL: It's important for both partners to make a will

couple has a sudden increase in wealth, such as a significant inheritance or a lifetime gift. Maybe one set of parents has decided to share out the family business between adult children and would like those assets protected. Last year, the post-nup even popped up in BBC Radio 4's series *The Archers*, in a storyline about protecting the family farm.

PROTECTING THOSE LIVING TOGETHER

While married couple remain the most common type of family structure, couples who live together but are not married are the fastest growing family type in the UK. The Office for National Statistics reports that the number of cohabiting couples has increased by 25.8 per cent in a decade, rising from 2.7 million in 2008 to 3.4 million in 2018. If you do not plan to get married, and are happy living together, it is almost more important to have some form of financial agreement in place, and it is essential if you have children.

A formal cohabitation agreement will set out who owns what property, who pays which bills and what happens if the relationship comes to an end. "Cohabitation agreements are not as common as they should be," advises Jacqueline. "People still think that they'll be ok, that there's a degree of legal protection for unmarried couples. That simply is not the case. Without an agreement in place, individuals can find themselves homeless, or with no income."

Cohabitation agreements are also good practice where young people are using the 'bank of Mum and Dad' to

help buy a home, to ensure that the property stays in the right hands.

AND DON'T FORGET YOUR WILL

Alongside working out their pre-nup, post-nup or cohabitation agreement, any couple should also tackle making a will. As any existing will is immediately revoked on marriage, it is important for both partners to make a new will, especially if the couple are or plan to become parents. For cohabittees, the death of one partner may mean that the other loses out to former spouses or children from a previous relationship.

Pre- and post-nuptial agreements are not absolutely enforceable in English law but the courts are increasingly willing to uphold them, provided that certain criteria have been met, namely:

- there has been full financial disclosure from both parties
- the arrangement was agreed a reasonable time before the wedding
- the couple both took independent, separate legal advice
- the agreement is fair.

Jacqueline concludes, "I know that when you are all loved up, talking about a pre-nup is not especially romantic, but neither is arguing over money further down the track. The average cost of a wedding in the UK is now more than £30,000. Spending a fraction of that on a fair financial agreement will give you and your family peace of mind for the future". ■

“Talking about a pre-nup is not romantic, but neither is arguing over money further down the track”

Professional negligence

When experts get it wrong



Jayna Patel
Associate
T: 01722 427 527
E: jp.mag@wilsonslp.com

What to do if you believe that you've suffered from professional negligence

KEY POINTS

- Consider carefully whether it's worth pursuing the claim
- Don't delay
- Find the right legal adviser

Regulators and consumer bodies are always urging us to take professional advice before making big and potentially expensive decisions - buying a house, making an investment, starting a business. They're right of course: we should all seek expert advice for complex affairs. But sometimes it backfires. Sometimes experts don't carry out their responsibilities properly and their clients lose out. Claims for professional negligence are rising. If you think you are the victim of professional negligence, what can you do about it?

First, let's understand what professional negligence is, and what it is not. Advice that is wrong, or of a poor standard of service, is not necessarily negligent. Professional negligence arises when work carried out falls below the standard that is expected of a reasonably competent professional, and the client suffers physical damage or financial loss.

Most professionals owe a duty of care to their clients. Typical breaches of that care might include:

- A solicitor erroneously drafting a will, or failing properly to advise on the title or ownership of a property, such that you suffer financial loss.
- A surveyor missing a structural defect in a building, which results in the buyer having to find money for expensive repairs.
- An accountant failing to prepare a tax return correctly with the client then receiving an unexpected bill from HMRC.
- A financial adviser recommending

investments that are inconsistent with the client's attitude to risk.

Wilson's Associate Jayna Patel (a member of the Professional Negligence Lawyers Association) explains that for a negligence claim to succeed, you must be able to show loss. "When a solicitor or specialist conveyancer fails to notify you about, say, a right of way across the home you are buying, you can argue that the right of way will have a negative impact on the value of your property, and that it will reduce privacy and security for your family."

Negligence against surveyors is often difficult to prove. You would have to show (normally by employing an independent expert) that the surveyor failed to pick up on a defect that was either visible, or there were sufficient clues to warrant further investigation, and that as a result you over-paid for the property, or have to fund costly remedial work.

Negligence claims against accountants might arise from closing down a business. When winding up a company, it is essential to withdraw any money left in the corporate bank account before the business is shut down. Once the company has ceased to exist, under the law of bona vacantia, any money left in the business account automatically reverts to the Crown. An accountant that failed to advise the client of this would be negligent.

"It's important to know that you are obliged to try to mitigate any loss," says Jayna.



COMMERCIAL DISPUTES

Where a dispute cannot be avoided, we have a reputation for being fair, but firm. We believe alternative dispute resolution (ADR) can be an effective way to resolve disputes when supported by the parties. Should litigation remain the only option,

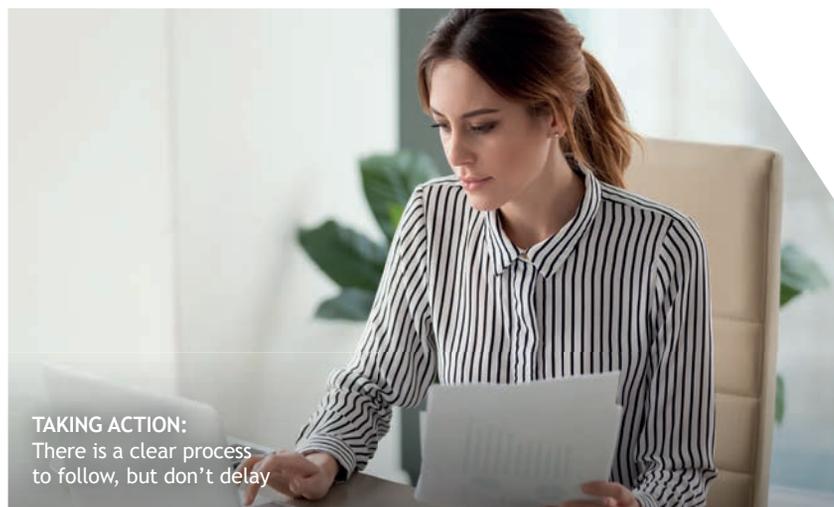
however, we're strategic and effective. Our 10-partner contentious practice is one of the largest departments in the firm and continues to grow, offering particular expertise in commercial disputes, as well as those relating to property, trusts, wills and probate.

“You also need to show that you relied on the advice and the negligence has caused your loss. You should also consider what you might have done differently if the advice or work had not been negligent? These issues are complex and you will need expert legal advice.”

TAKING ACTION

If you think you have experienced professional negligence, there is a clear process to follow.

1. Decide if it really is worth the time and expense of pursuing a claim. What is the claim worth? £500? £5,000? £50,000?
2. As an initial step, consider lodging a complaint with the negligent professional and, if necessary, escalating it to their regulating body or ombudsman. Be careful in accepting any offer in full and final settlement at this stage, as it might prevent you from pursuing a civil claim.
3. Don't delay. There are strict time limits for making a claim. Generally, you have six years from the date of breach or when loss is suffered to make a claim. For a house sale, this is generally the date you exchanged contracts. If you miss the deadline then you are unlikely to be able to pursue your claim.
4. Find the right legal adviser. Appoint a solicitor (or another lawyer if your dispute is with your existing solicitor) with experience in professional negligence.
5. Your solicitor will want to speak with you to hear the details of the case, what loss you think you have suffered and to discuss potential ways to resolve the situation. You'll need to provide the documentation you have (papers, emails, personal notes), and your solicitor will likely request documents from the other parties.
6. Once he or she has reviewed the matter, your solicitor will give you an idea of timescales, costs and prospects of recovery.
7. The Professional Negligence Pre-Action Protocol then kicks in. It sets out good practice and lists steps which parties should follow before starting court proceedings. According to Jayna: “The protocol requires everyone to engage in early discussions. Parties are encouraged to settle the case using mediation or other means of alternative dispute resolution. In my experience, nine out of ten cases are resolved at this stage without the need for court action.”
8. However, if a negotiated settlement is not possible, then court proceedings are likely to be necessary. Your solicitor will issue proceedings, obtain witness statements



TAKING ACTION:
There is a clear process to follow, but don't delay

and so on. He or she will also explore other ways to resolve the problem so to avoid having to go to trial. As Jayna says, “Taking a matter all the way to a final hearing will incur considerable legal fees (for both sides). The costs risks also need to be taken into account.”

IT'S A COSTLY EXERCISE

Your solicitor will have explained the costs involved. They can be considerable. Pursuing a £3,000,000 claim through the courts could cost each party as much as £300,000. It is worth checking your home insurance policy to see if it covers you for legal fees. Also, your solicitor will advise you if there are any other ways of funding a claim, such as ‘no win no fee’ agreements.

There is also an emotional and individual cost to making a professional negligence claim. “Even if you have appointed an excellent solicitor, you must be prepared for lots of input,” says Jayna. “The pre-action phase takes around 12 months and it can take another 12 to 18 months to get to trial. Even if you succeed, you will probably still be out of pocket to some degree, both financially and in terms of your own personal time, which is why you must be very sure that making a claim is the right thing to do.”

CLOSE THAT STABLE DOOR

Nothing can guarantee you will not be the victim of professional negligence, but there are steps you can take to minimise the risks. Err on the side of caution. Choose a professional practitioner with full accreditation. The lowest fee quotation is not necessarily the best. If you are about to make possibly the largest investment of your lifetime, such as buying a home or business, it pays to invest in the best advice you can afford. ■

“It is important to know that you are obliged to reasonably mitigate any loss”

How much is a quick sale worth?

At its simplest, a capital gain arises when an individual disposes of a chargeable asset that has risen in value. The most common examples of such assets are land and buildings or shares. This does not require a sale; for example, a gift to a relative is taxed as if it occurred at market value regardless of whether any actual cash is paid.

The rules for selling a UK residential property are set to change from 6 April 2020 and will result in significant additional tax obligations and tax charges for some individuals.

Who is affected?

Additional filing obligations and accelerated tax payments will apply to all individuals selling UK residential property, except where there is no tax to pay. For example, where private residence relief covers the whole gain, or brought forward capital losses or any annual exemption is available to cover the gain.

Where the vendor moved out of the property over nine months prior to the sale or let the property for a period during which they did not also continue to live in the property, additional tax liabilities may apply.

New obligations

A disposal will be subject to the new rules if exchange of contracts occurs on or after 6 April 2020.

If the new rules apply, the seller will have 30 days from completion to:

- A) calculate the capital gain;
- B) file a return with HMRC; and
- C) pay the tax due.

The disposal may also need to be disclosed via the normal self-assessment system (by 31 January following the end of the tax year). This gives an opportunity to correct any tax liability, for example, for losses or EIS investments made after the sale was completed.

Penalties will be similar to the current regime for non-resident capital gains and self-assessment.

Additional tax

Where exchange takes place by 5 April 2020, a vendor who has previously lived in the property as their only or main home will be entitled to exclude from the taxable gain (on a straight-line basis):

- the gain attributable to their period of occupation;
- additionally, that attributable to the last 18 months of ownership if not part of the period of occupation; and
- up to £40,000 (per owner) arising when the property was let.

From 6 April 2020 these become:

- the gain attributable to their period of occupation;
- additionally, that attributable to the last NINE months of ownership if not part of the period of occupation; and
- up to £40,000 (per owner) attributable to the portion of the property used by a lodger while the vendor occupied the property.



Example (this example is for illustrative purposes only)

Albert bought a house for £100,000 in July 1990 and moved in immediately. In April 2007, he married and moved into a larger property, letting his original house from May 2007 to June 2019. He then put it on the market for £500,000, exchanging and completing on the same day in April 2020. Albert is a higher rate taxpayer.

Sold (exchanged) 5 April 2020:

Gain	£500,000 - £100,000 =	£400,000
Period of occupation	201 months x £400,000 =	(£225,843)
	356 months	
Last 18 months	18 months x £400,000 =	(£20,225)
	356 months	
Lettings relief	145 months; capped at	(£40,000)
Taxable gain		£113,932
Tax due at 28% (after annual exemption)		£28,541

Sold (exchanged) 6 April 2020:

Gain	£500,000 - £100,000 =	£400,000
Period of occupation	201 months x £400,000 =	(£225,843)
	356 months	
Last 9 months	9 months x £400,000 =	(£10,112)
	356 months	
Lettings relief	no longer available	(£0)
Taxable gain		£164,045
Tax due at 28% (after annual exemption, assuming 2019/20 level)		£42,573

One day delay in exchange has cost Albert £14,032 and accelerated the tax payment from 31 January 2021 to 6 May 2020 - 270 days earlier.

Indeed, Albert could accept only £485,000 for the house in order to exchange by 5 April and would still be over £500 better off than if exchange was delayed (as his tax liability would fall to £26,925).

Tax legislation is that prevailing at the time and is subject to change without notice and depends on individual circumstances.

For more information, please contact:



Penelope Lang
Partner, Smith & Williamson LLP

t: 01722 431 064

e: penelope.lang@smithandwilliamson.com

smithandwilliamson.com

Offices: London, Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Cheltenham, Dublin (City and Sandyford), Glasgow, Guildford, Jersey, Salisbury and Southampton.

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Managing your digital afterlife

Digital currency - here today, gone tomorrow?



Ben Smith
Solicitor
T: 01722 427 523
E: bs.mag@wilsonslp.com

How to ensure your cryptocurrency investments outlive you

KEY POINTS

- Tell your nearest and dearest that you own digital currency
- Accept that the value of digital currencies can fluctuate enormously
- Understand the tax consequences
- Make a will

Now that millions of us routinely go online to bank and/or to manage our pensions and investments, it's important to make sure that family and professional advisers know where to find those financial assets in the event of our death. Especially if we own any purely digital assets such as crypto currencies.

While only a minority of people hold cryptocurrencies, there isn't yet an established process to ensure that they can be passed on properly when you die. Wilsons has a team looking at the implications of the 'digital afterlife' with a view to better understanding how to help clients better manage and protect their digital assets. We spoke to solicitor Ben Smith to find out more.

Q Ben, what's the issue here?

We know that some of our clients are increasingly concerned about what happens to their digital assets and footprint when they die. Technology is moving so quickly that the law doesn't always keep up with the reality of how we live today.

Many of us have all sorts of assets online. Some of those have huge personal value - photos and social media pages, a family tree, or an amazing collection of music tracks and recordings. We don't want those to be lost forever. In 2015, more than half of adults said no-one, including friends or family,

would be able to access their online accounts should anything happen to them. For social media and cloud storage services the position is more complex. People can simply leave a note of their accounts and passwords with a family member but when those assets have financial value in the form of cryptocurrencies, it can be more difficult.

Q Not everyone is familiar with cryptocurrency. What exactly is it in a nutshell?

Crypto currencies exist only in the form of a piece of computer code. The best-known is Bitcoin but others are available. They are not a currency in the regular sense; no banks are involved, and Bitcoins are not traded on financial markets. Indeed, Bitcoin was originally designed to exist outside traditional marketplaces.

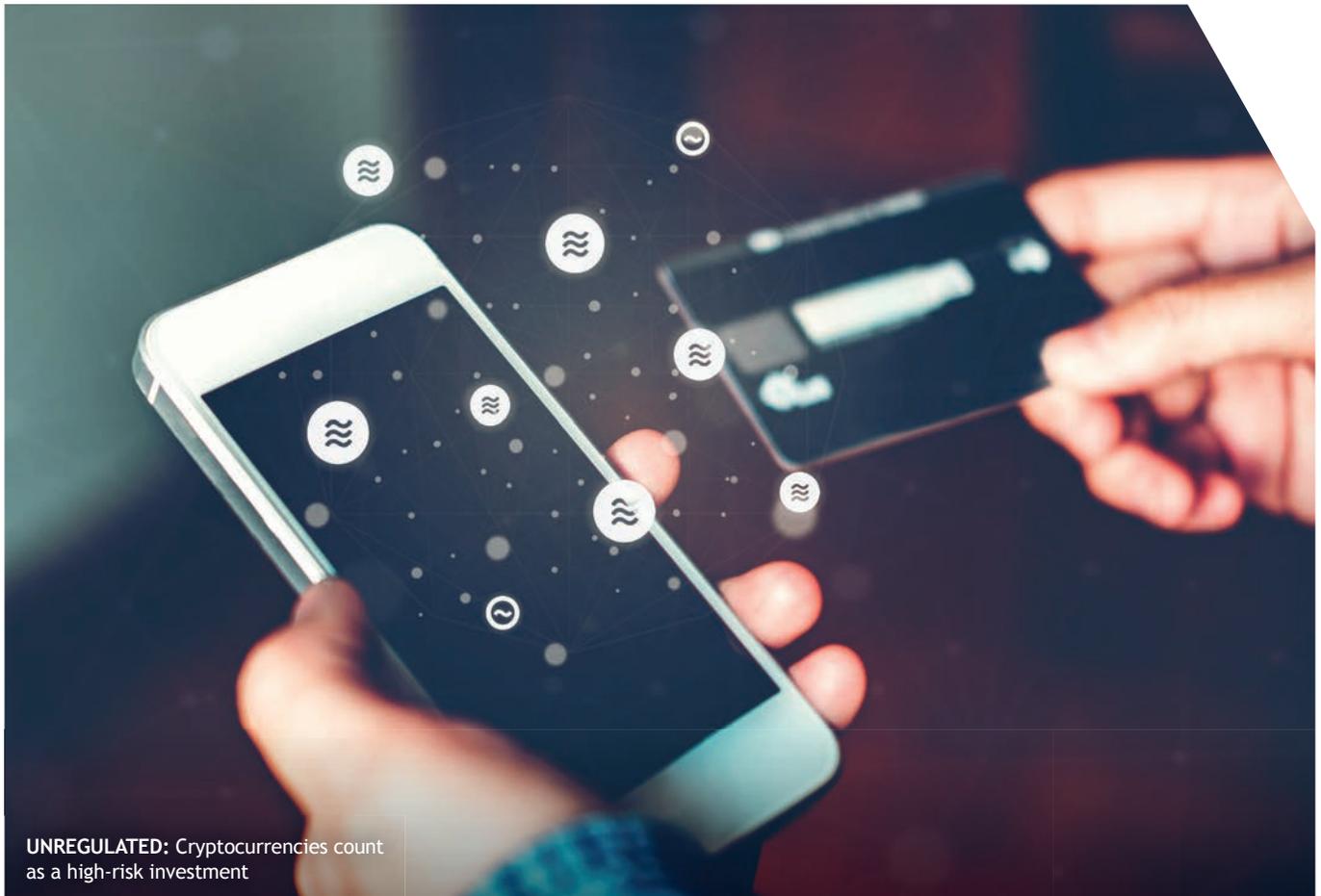
Bitcoin transactions are anonymous - which is part of their appeal - and require a digital wallet for which you have a password. There's no physical evidence, no paper trail that you have ever bought or own Bitcoins. All you have is a password which provides you with access to your digital wallet. If you lose the password, or if you were to die without leaving anyone access to your password, then there is no way of getting hold of your Bitcoin investment.



TAX & TRUSTS

We always aim to understand your personal circumstances, your objectives, and provide clear, pragmatic and commercial solutions. Much of our work still focuses heavily around using trusts legitimately to protect and devolve assets for individuals, families

and their asset holding structures. This ranges from the drafting of wills and trusts to more complex tax advice for UK and international trustees. Our experience extends to advising individuals and trustees in Europe, America, the Middle and the Far East.



UNREGULATED: Cryptocurrencies count as a high-risk investment

Q Can this really be a problem? Do many people die and leave their Bitcoins behind?

Actually, yes, there are several well publicised examples. In 2013, Bitcoin pioneer Matthew Moody died in a plane crash, leaving his Bitcoin fortune lost forever. Last year, Gerald Cotton, the young CEO of Canada's largest cryptocurrency exchange, QuadrigaCX, died unexpectedly. It turned out that he was the only person with the password to access around \$200 million of customer funds, all of which remains inaccessible to the investors.

Q How many people use cryptocurrencies?

In the UK, research suggests 5.3 per cent of people already own Bitcoin - that's around 350,000 individuals - and 6.8 per cent were planning on buying some. It's early days but the trend is clear. Cryptocurrencies will become part of the mainstream. It's important for us as lawyers to think through what it means for our clients and keep ahead of the curve.

Q How are cryptocurrencies regulated?

They are completely unregulated, and

“Bitcoin pioneer Matthew Moody died in a plane crash, leaving his Bitcoin fortune lost forever”

count as a high-risk investment. Governments around the world take very different views of cryptocurrencies, from banning them outright to restricting what you can do with them.

Q What's the tax position on crypto currencies?

HMRC set out its position on cryptocurrencies in December 2019. Interestingly, this confirms that HMRC will treat your Bitcoins as an asset, not a currency. As a result, you can buy and sell Bitcoins and any gains you make will be subject to Capital Gains Tax (CGT) when you dispose of the asset (whereas normally cash is exempt from CGT). The HMRC position reflects the reality that, in most cases, individuals hold cryptocurrency assets as a personal investment, usually either for capital growth or to make particular purchases. They will be liable to pay Capital Gains Tax when they dispose of those cryptoassets.

Also, HMRC makes it clear that individuals will be liable to pay income tax and »

“Unless someone can access your digital wallet after your death, your Bitcoin fortune will be worthless”

- » National Insurance contributions on any cryptoassets they receive from an employer as a form of remuneration or earn in other ways such as ‘mining’ new Bitcoins.

Q If you own Bitcoins or similar, what can you do in order to ensure that wealth is not lost on your death?

As it stands, you either accept all your Bitcoin wealth will be lost on your death, or you have a conversation with your family and executors of your will and give them the means to access your digital wallet. It’s tricky. With cryptocurrencies, there are not the same checks and verification procedures that you find with traditional online investments. BBC journalist Monty Munford had £25,000 worth of cryptocurrency Ethereum stolen after mistakenly storing his password in an email. And we must acknowledge that some people will not wish to admit they have any Bitcoin, for all sorts of reasons.

However, if you want to make your cryptocurrency investments part of your legacy, then you must act. There are of course various implications for tax and estate planning.

Here’s our advice:

1. Have a conversation with your nearest and dearest. At the very least, tell them that you own digital currency.
2. Accept that the value of Bitcoin and other digital currencies can fluctuate enormously. That’s really important from a tax perspective, both CGT and IHT.
3. Tell your solicitors and executors that you have cryptocurrency

investments. Sometimes people just forget or wish to keep it secret.

4. Understand the tax consequences. If you buy and sell Bitcoin and make a large gain, you’ll need to tell HMRC. And as cryptocurrency becomes more established, we can expect HMRC to tighten up the rules.
5. Make a will. Everyone should make a will, whether or not they own cryptocurrency. It’s also worth pointing out that the age group most likely to buy cryptocurrencies are millennials - and they are least likely to have made a will.
6. Decide if you are going to give your password to a trusted party. Unless someone is able to access your digital wallet after your death, your Bitcoin fortune will be worthless, as if it never existed.

Q Where does inheritance tax (IHT) fit in?

From the point of view of planning for IHT, suddenly introducing a potentially valuable asset such as Bitcoin could make a huge difference. If your solicitor knows that you have Bitcoin investments, they will make sure that this is reflected in any estate planning advice.

Q Is it time we all gave more thought to what happens to our digital assets?

Yes, definitely. A broader understanding of our digital assets will help us all manage that legacy. As cryptocurrencies can be significantly valuable, it is vital that people consider what happens to them before it is too late. ■

BEGINNER’S GUIDE TO BITCOIN

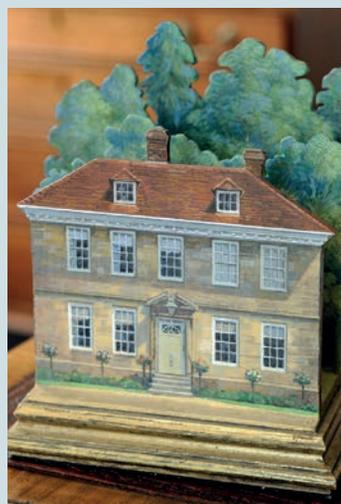
- Bitcoin is like cash that only exists online. Each Bitcoin is a piece of computer code.
- When you buy Bitcoin, you store it in a ‘digital wallet’ app on your smartphone or PC. Lose your wallet and/or password and say goodbye to your Bitcoins.
- The underlying technology is the blockchain, which maintains an inalterable record of transactions. This makes it hard to produce fake Bitcoins or carry out fraudulent transactions.
- Bitcoin transactions are peer to peer. No banks are involved. You can buy Bitcoins with regular currencies, sell something and be paid in Bitcoin.
- New Bitcoins are created by ‘mining’ - solving a complicated mathematical problem using computing power. There’s a limit of 21 million Bitcoins, and 18 million already exist.
- Bitcoin was created in 2009, by the mysterious Satoshi Nakamoto. Its initial value was zero. Since then, it’s been a volatile investment. At the time of writing, February 2020, the price of a single Bitcoin is around £7,500.
- Bitcoin is the dominant cryptocurrency. Others include Litecoin, Ethereum and XRP.
- In 2017, a house in south London became the first in the UK to go on sale priced at £1.7 million or 500 Bitcoins.
- Up to 3.8 million Bitcoins worth around £22.8 billion have already been lost, following the death of investors who neglected to tell anyone they had some or how to find them.



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Darkness to light

It is 800 years since Salisbury Cathedral moved from Old Sarum to its current location. Here, Dean Nicholas Papadopoulos tells us why the anniversary is so important



Salisbury has just had a couple of very difficult years. March sees the second anniversary of the shocking incident in which two residents were poisoned with a nerve agent and, overnight, life changed for everyone in the city.

However, this is eclipsed by a much happier anniversary and one that has sparked off a whole year of celebrations: 800 years ago the Cathedral was moved from its original place up on Old Sarum down to where it is now and, on 28 April 1220, foundation stones were laid for the Cathedral in its new location in the Close. The city as we know it today grew up around it and has continued to flourish ever since.

The Very Reverend Nicholas Papadopoulos, 81st Dean of Salisbury, is keenly aware of the connection between these two anniversaries. "One of the important things about the Cathedral is its permanence," he says. "We have lived through a very difficult two years. But the reality of the Cathedral is that it has lived through many more than two difficult years. It has lived through two World Wars, the Civil War, the Black Death and all the fortunes and misfortunes of English history. And its very presence is a reminder that these troubled times will not last, and there will be other times ahead of us."

1. Main picture: Composite courtesy of Salisbury Cathedral/Ash Mills/Luxmuralis
2. *The Reader* by Stanza, digital interactive
3. *Large Reclining Figure*, 1984 by Henry Moore Photograph by David Mitchinson, reproduced by permission, Henry Moore Foundation
4. *Death of a Working Hero*, 1990, Tapestry by Grayson Perry. Image courtesy Osborne Samuel Gallery
5. *Daedalus*, 1990, Bronze by Eduardo Paolozzi Image courtesy Osborne Samuel Gallery
6. *The Reader* by Stanza, digital interactive

"The Cathedral belongs to the city and we work together, so it is our celebration"

A BID FOR FREEDOM

One of the main reasons the Cathedral was moved in the thirteenth century was that up on the hill it was right next to the Castle and under the watchful eye of the Royal Garrison. Occasionally, the clergy found themselves being denied entry to their own building by the soldiers, and moving it down to the Plain was an attempt to escape from this military oversight.

"One of the treasures that came with it was our copy of Magna Carta," says Dean Nicholas, "which symbolises the English tradition of freedom from authority, and we retain that and treasure it. We have a tradition of caring about our liberty and in 2018 we saw the worst kind of oppressive power in Salisbury. So I think what the Cathedral represents for the city, the region and the nation is a determination to resist that sort of unchecked, arbitrary power, which diminishes people and makes them less than God would want them to be."

Coincidentally, also in 2018, an attempt was made to steal the Cathedral's copy of Magna Carta. The accused, who threatened staff with a hammer, claimed that he had tried to take the historic document because he "doubted its authenticity". Fortunately for everyone, the attempted theft failed, no one was hurt and the document - one of four copies of the original charter - was undamaged.

JOINING THE CONVERSATION

One of the ways in which the Cathedral makes the community welcome is with The Salisbury Conversations. This is a series of three discussions in which four panelists and a facilitator discuss different topics of the day, and they are all broadcast on BBC Wiltshire. "I see the series as part of the tradition that goes back to Magna Carta," says Dean Nicholas. "It's a place where citizens can discuss safely and responsibly the issues

that are of greatest importance to them.

This year's topics include the role of women in society and the role of Artificial Intelligence in our lives. The third, on 17 March, looks at the Climate Crisis - an issue the Cathedral already plays a very active role in addressing.

This year the Right Reverend Nicholas Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury, announced that the Church of England had committed to reducing their carbon emissions to net zero by 2045 - five years ahead of the Government target. And, in 2018, Salisbury Cathedral earned a Silver Award as part of the Eco Church scheme.

The Dean is determined to improve on that and go for Gold. "It's a natural thing for Christians to care about the planet," he says, "because we believe it is God's greatest gift to us. And it's natural for Salisbury Cathedral to care about the environment because we have always been in the business of creating this place anew and caring for it. But I think what we are waking up to now is that that creativity needs to be applied to the whole planet and to our climate."

A BEACON OF LIGHT

It is this vision of Salisbury Cathedral's role within the community and also within the wider world that characterises Dean Nicholas's approach. It also informs the decision to join with other organisations to celebrate the move with a whole year of events across the city.

When the Dean was appointed in 2018, he said: "We live in uncertain times. But Salisbury Cathedral embodies a gospel of light in place of darkness and hope in place of fear. It is a symbol of hope that is visible for miles around."

Two years on, he is very much looking forward to the anniversary celebrations, which began in February with Sarum Lights, a spectacular light show projected on to the Cathedral telling its story (see left and p.27). And he is very clear about what this year of »

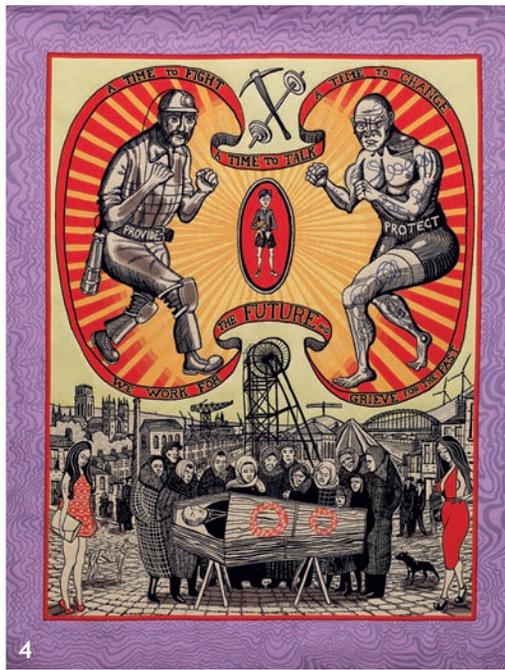
» celebration really means: "This year is the 800th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stones of the Cathedral," he says, "but that means it's also the anniversary of the founding of Salisbury as we know it, and that's why Salisbury 2020 is called City on the Move.

"The Cathedral belongs to the city and we work together, so it's *our* celebration. And I hope that as many people as possible will find something in the year that they enjoy, and that offers them a glimpse of new possibilities and of a hopeful future." ■

For more information on Salisbury Cathedral and on Salisbury 2020: City on the Move, visit www.salisburycathedral.org.uk and www.visitwiltshire.co.uk/salisbury



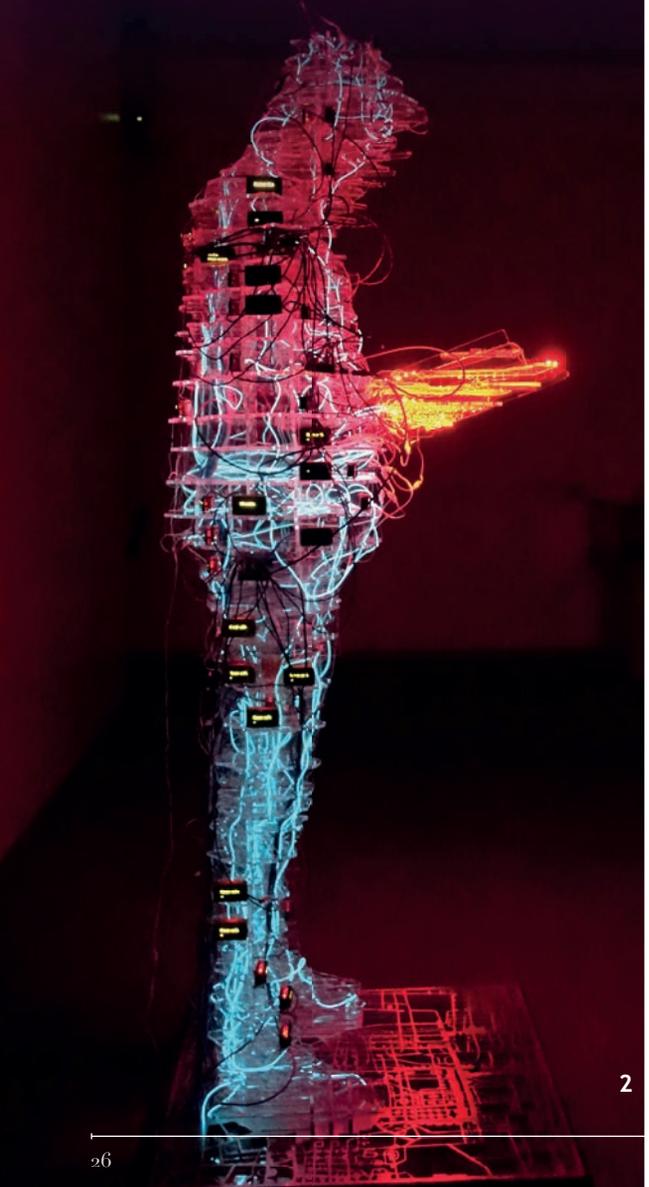
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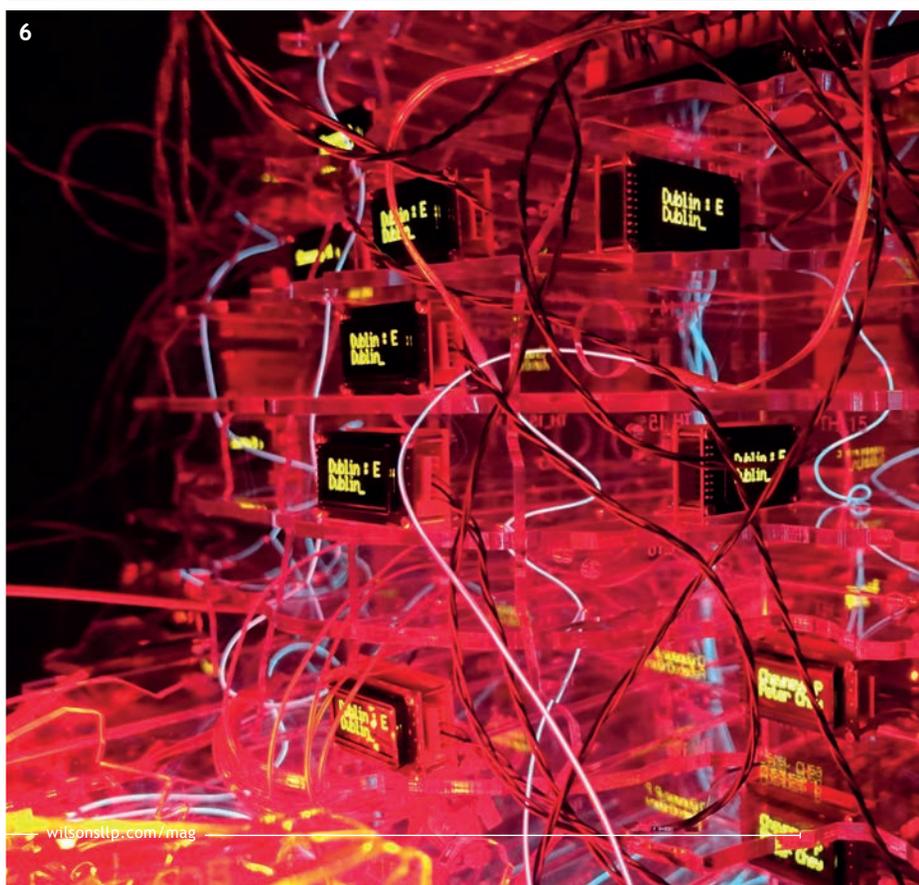
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A CITY ON THE MOVE

Throughout 2020, there will be a year of events and activities across the city celebrating the 800th anniversary of the Cathedral moving from Old Sarum and the birth of Salisbury as it is today. Here are some of the highlights

Spirit and Endeavour

25 March to 25 October

A major exhibition of contemporary art (left) featuring works by 20 world-renowned artists, including Henry Moore and Grayson Perry.

Confluence:

A Festival of Flowers

15-20 September

A spectacular floral display featuring 30,000 blooms set against the backdrop of Salisbury's medieval architecture.

Salisbury International Arts Festival 2020

22 May to 7 June

Spilling out of the Playhouse and Arts Centre and on to the city streets, this year's Festival celebrates Salisbury 2020.

Cathedral Stakes Race Day

14 June

A fun-filled day with exciting races and plenty of free entertainment for all the family to enjoy.

Daily Mail Chalke Valley History Festival

22-28 June

A festival like no other, offering a unique blend of talks, discussions and debates alongside a living history encampment.

Salisbury Literary Festival

16-18 October

Celebrating the history of Salisbury's literary past, this festival champions the best of today's writing and inspires the next generation of writers.

For more information and update see: www.visitwiltshire.co.uk/salisbury/salisbury-2020

MUSIC ON A GRAND SCALE



© ASH MILLS

Since January 2019, the Cathedral organ has been undergoing restoration. This spring, the iconic instrument will be back in its rightful place and Assistant Director of Music John Challenger tells us what an adventure it has been

Q How long has the organ been in the Cathedral? It was built by the absolute giant of the Victorian organ-building world, Henry Willis and we call him Father Henry Willis. It would have originally been made in his factory, but it has been in use here in the Cathedral since 1877.

Q Has it been restored before? It has had restorations, including a major one in 1934 and another at the end of the 1960s. But the crucial thing about this organ is that very little about it has changed since 1877. The sound is essentially one that Henry Willis would recognise from the day it was put in.

Q What does the process involve? It's a huge undertaking. The organ has thousands of components, including 4,000 pipes ranging from 32ft to a few millimetres. It had to be completely dismantled and each individual piece cleaned and repaired. Then the whole thing had to be reassembled.

Q Whom do you trust with such a delicate job? We've been using the same firm, Harrison & Harrison, since 1978, and they employ people with a wide range of skills. As well as being organ builders, they have to have highly trained musical ears. They are currently working on 'voicing' the instrument - making sure each pipe sounds exactly the way it is supposed to sound. It's a fine art.

Q What's special about this organ? We're hugely lucky here at Salisbury to have this very fine organ, and it's not an exaggeration to say that it's one of the finest Cathedral organs in the country. As he did for all the organs he made, Henry Willis designed it for this building and it's a perfect match. It's the perfect size and the building's acoustic takes it to that extra level.

Q And what does it mean to you? The important thing about this instrument is that it's not a museum piece. It's a treasure, but it's something we use every single day. It can do very soft music, such as for Evensong on a rainy January with only a few people here, or it can be very loud for our Darkness to Light services where we have thousands of people. It can do everything, and it's an incredible job to be able to play it every day.

Q It's wonderful that the return of the organ coincides with Salisbury Cathedral's anniversary year. When will it be back in use? The organ will come back into use just as we go into the season of Lent. Then on Easter Sunday, at Evensong, it will be rededicated with a special blessing. Our first major concert will be on 13 May, with world-renowned organist David Briggs playing his transcription of Mahler's 2nd symphony. This starts off a year of events - some concerts, some more informal occasions - to celebrate our Organ Festival, and we're absolutely delighted to be able to welcome it back with a bang.

MAGICAL *spaces*



Dr Olivia Chapple

Horatio's Garden is an award-winning charity that creates beautiful accessible gardens in the heart of NHS regional spine injury centres

Horatio's Garden is named after Horatio Chapple, who was a volunteer at the Spinal Treatment Centre, Salisbury. Horatio and his father David Chapple, a spinal surgeon at the hospital, came up with the idea for a garden. Tragically, Horatio was killed at the age of 17. In what can only be described as an outpouring of love and goodwill, donations flooded in for his garden to be created. We talk to Dr Olivia Chapple, Horatio's mother and Chair of Trustees, about the magical spaces created by a most wonderful charity.

Q Is it the case that the idea for a garden was actually floated before Horatio's death?

Yes, Horatio wanted to do it and so we suggested he did some volunteering. At the age of 16, he used to take the bus up here and make cups of tea and help out. It was to learn about the medical

environment and to learn about disability. It had a profound impact on him, and during that time he was very struck by the fact there was nowhere to go. People didn't have a place to get outside, and this troubled Horatio.

He talked about it to David and they came up with the idea that the area of land here could be turned into a garden. So we encouraged him to do some research, and he asked patients what would they want if there was going to be a garden here.

Q What did Horatio's initial research discover?

His results were that people were really craving a space outside. People can be here for a considerable time with life-changing injuries. It's important that their families and friends are coming to visit them in a comfortable environment. He also found that patients really wanted somewhere to get away from it all. Somewhere that was completely

accessible, and that the accessibility of it was subtle, so it didn't remind them of things they couldn't do, but more about things they could do. Designed thoughtfully for users of wheelchairs and also hospital beds.

Q After Horatio's death, the response opened up an opportunity to make a difference?

When Horatio first had the idea we didn't know we would ever be able to do things on this scale. It was initially a much more modest concept. But after Horatio died there was the most extraordinary generosity, which came from people all over. We had a fund of money that we thought would be able to really change things for people and, given the opportunity to make a statement, you can design really well in a really challenging hospital site. If you do it well, people will get a huge benefit from it and will respect it and enjoy it, and it will be there for the future. It will change lives.



FABULOUS SUMMER TEA PARTY



Joanna Lumley

“The fabulous Summer Tea party was launched last year and we are running it again in June this year. We ask people to hold a tea party anywhere they like, it could be in their office or in their garden. It could be tea for two or tea for two hundred. We provide them with a kit to do a bit of fundraising with it. We launched it with Joanna Lumley, and she is very supportive. We hope this year will be even more fabulous.”

Q Cleve West, your first garden designer, couldn't have been more ideal for the role?

When Cleve was first approached, he'd already won several gold medals at the Chelsea Flower Show. What we didn't know was that his best friend, the person who taught him all about gardening, had been a patient here at the Salisbury Spinal Treatment Centre. Cleve consulted closely with patients, relatives and staff through the design phase. We needed flat paths and level ground. If you're newly in a wheelchair it's really hard to push yourself as, not only are you weak because you've been in bed and lost muscle bulk, but also you're more than likely in a basic NHS wheelchair. You need a space where there are no challenges.

Q Was it always your intention to open more gardens in other spinal units, as you have done?

It wasn't initially our intention to develop more gardens, as we were focused on this one. However, we were

approached by *The Times* columnist Melanie Reid. She had a riding accident in 2012 and started writing about the experience from intensive care. She heard about us and asked us about setting up a similar project in Glasgow. It was then we became a national charity.

Q How do the gardens help? We know that if people can adjust psychologically to their accident in the acute phase of the first few months afterwards, in the long term they will have a better outcome from a mental health point of view - so it's very important to have a space to do that in.

The top parameter is that the gardens can improve lives and help with psychological outcomes. That's the biggest challenge here, to help patients get into a psychological state of acceptance, to develop resilience and assist in the adjustments needed to make to your life happen. The relationship between gardens and

wellbeing is irrefutable. Gardens improve the physical, spiritual and psychological health of people in an institution, such as a hospital.

Q Where is the charity now in terms of its development? We have four gardens open and we have just started building our fifth one. The diggers are in at the London Spinal Cord Injury Centre at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in Stanmore. It's been two years in development and fundraising. We are also looking at Cardiff and Belfast at the moment.

Q How can people help? We are always looking for people to support us and help us. You can always make a huge difference through donations, corporate sponsorship, volunteering, and fundraising. We're always up for hearing new ideas. You can find out more details from our website, horatiogarden.org.uk. ■



LIGHTING UP *the city*

At the time of publication, the full programme for the 2020 Salisbury International Arts Festival was about to be revealed – here we give a taste of what’s coming up this year



Salisbury International Arts Festival 2020 will light up the city as it celebrates the beauty, courage and joy of human movement this summer. This year’s Festival is a major part of Salisbury 2020: City on the Move, a city-wide celebration of the 800th anniversary of the founding of modern Salisbury.

Wiltshire Creative Artistic Director Gareth Machin and a team of curators have put together a fantastic 17-day programme that includes classical music, jazz, comedy, theatre, dance, free events, family fiestas, spoken word events and film.

At the opening weekend of the Festival everyone is invited to take part in Move It! A day of free arts, performances and sporting activities involving professional artists and community groups along the route from Old Sarum and the site of the original cathedral through the city to the present Salisbury Cathedral.

The popular City Encounters will return with two days of free outdoor theatre, dance and circus performances in the open spaces of Salisbury over the Festival’s opening weekend.

Salisbury Cathedral will once again resound with music from a major orchestra, to be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

THE FOOD OF LIFE

Renowned violinist Harriet Mackenzie is Associate Artist for the 2020 International Arts Festival and is both programming some of the Festival’s music events and performing in a number of them. Other music at the Festival will range from opera to jazz. As part of their support of Salisbury Festival, Wilsons will sponsor a performance by The Paraorchestra, the world’s only large-scale ensemble for professional disabled musicians, on Saturday 23 May.

There will be a range of visual arts exhibitions as part of the Festival including Makers’ Tale at Salisbury Arts Centre, which will examine craft and making as a highly relevant component of contemporary life.

The Festival will

*There will be something
for everyone in and
around Salisbury to enjoy
at this year's International
Arts Festival*

once again present a production of Shakespeare in the open air, in the bucolic surroundings of Rack Close within Salisbury Cathedral Close, for audiences to enjoy with an evening picnic. Other theatre to be scheduled will range from the contemporary to classic performances.

Dance features strongly in the Festival, celebrating the joy of human movement, with everything from ballet to African dance.

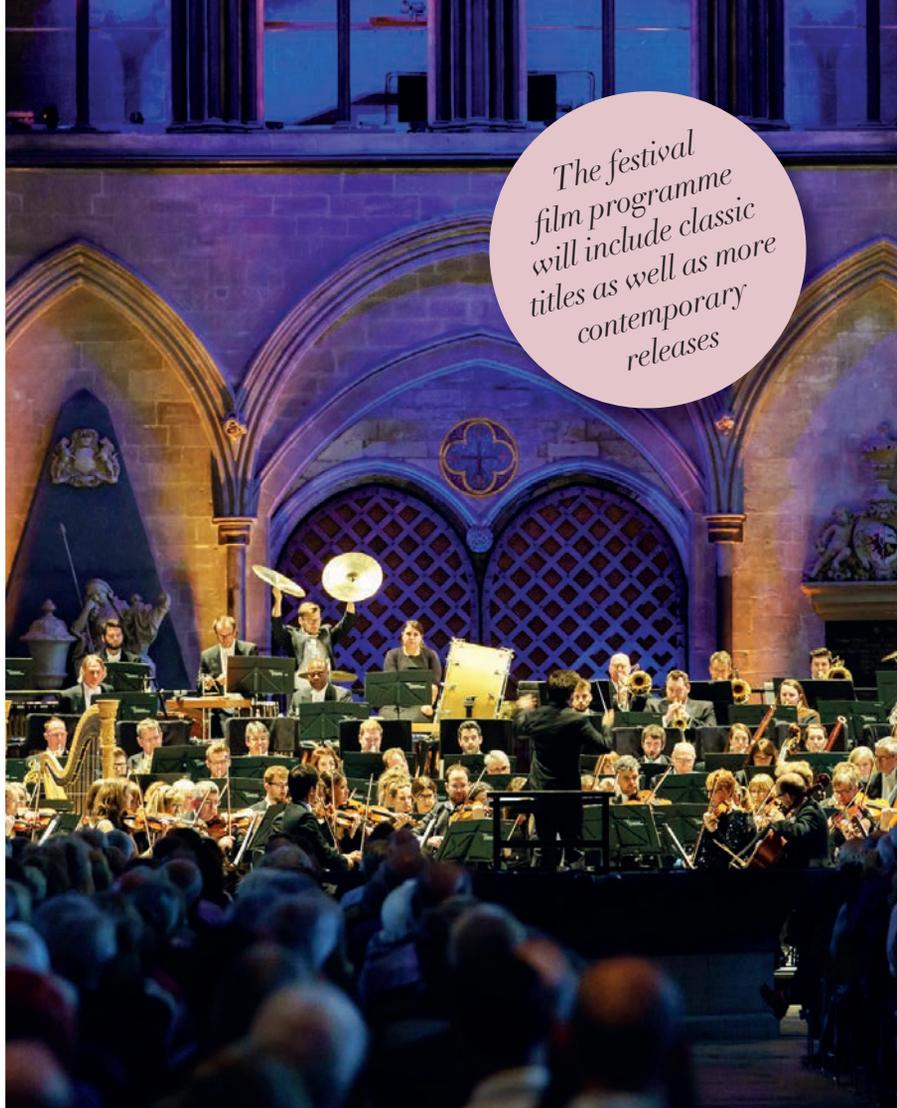
Familiar faces will be part of the spoken word and comedy programmes, with celebrated comedians Seann Walsh (right, centre left) and Mark Steel (opposite) set to appear at Salisbury Arts Centre as part of the Festival.

The Festival of Ideas will return, drawing on the 800th anniversary of the founding of modern Salisbury to consider what shape our cities should be in the future.

The Festival film programme will include classic titles as well as more contemporary releases. There will be a full programme of events for families including the popular Family Fiesta days offering free arts and crafts activities for families to enjoy.

Last year's Festival was enjoyed by more than 42,000 people. Wiltshire Creative Artistic Director Gareth Machin said: "There will be something for absolutely everyone in and around Salisbury to enjoy at this year's International Arts Festival, as we celebrate human movement. We're delighted to be part of Salisbury 2020: City on the Move." ■

Salisbury International Arts Festival runs from 22 May to 7 June 2020. For the full Festival programme please visit www.wiltshirecreative.co.uk



The festival film programme will include classic titles as well as more contemporary releases



OBJECTS OF DESIRE



Salisbury's Woolley & Wallis, the leading regional auctioneer in the UK, made time in their busy schedule to talk to us about 20th-century pottery

Founded in 1884, Woolley & Wallis are market leaders in 20th Century Design, in particular contemporary ceramics, Martinware, Clarice Cliff and Arts & Crafts. Specialist Michael Jeffery took time to answer the questions we put to him.

Q You have achieved a number of notable sells with Martin Brothers' pottery. Could you tell us about the sales?

I held the first standalone auction of Martin Brothers' pottery in 2005, not long after I started at Woolley & Wallis. That really helped to establish our reputation as the leading auction house for their work, and we've been fortunate to have several other standalone sales and significant pieces, culminating at the end of 2019 with both the George Twyman Collection

and the Daryl Fromm Collection, which together achieved £250,000.

Q Could you let us have some background on the Martin Brothers?

It's a tragic tale. They were four brothers, Robert Wallace, Edwin, Walter and Charles, who first started making pottery in 1873. They were ahead of their time and producing quite remarkable pieces over almost



half a century (the kiln closed in 1921 with the death of the last brother, Robert). The tragedy is that they never saw success in their lifetimes. They were never wealthy and they were beset with personal problems that took their toll on the family. Their shop burned down and Charles never recovered - he died in an asylum in 1909, just six years after the brothers had lost their sister to a monkey bite. Walter died in 1911, from a blood clot caused by him knocking his elbow while packing the kiln, then Edwin died of facial cancer in 1915. Robert was the only one who saw the first signs of their legacy when Sotheby's sold one of their pieces for £50 in 1921. Quite what they would make of the prices that their work can achieve today is anybody's guess.

Q Wasn't one of their pieces used as a doorstop?

Yes! That was a spoon warmer, which

we sold in June last year. It was quite an early piece, dating to the first decade of production, but it had had something of a colourful life. The vendor's grandmother had acquired it just after the Second World War when she was given it in exchange for some rationing coupons. It had then passed to one of the lady's daughters who had used it to prop a door open. We only found this out when I queried a chip it had around the base and the vendor said it had probably happened when her aunt used to use it as a doorstop. It went on to sell for £20,000 (including premium).

Q Could you explain the appeal of Burmantofts Faience pottery?

It's really on several levels: first, you have the ceramic collectors who are interested in the pottery produced in the Victorian period, then you have collectors of the Arts and Crafts movement. These collectors will decorate interiors in the floral, often Orientally inspired, style and Burmantofts is perfect for this look. The factory produced some of the finest large-scale utilitarian ware, including jardinières and stands, umbrella stands, garden seats and conservatory heaters in vivid turquoise, yellow or red which add a strong impact to a homely, Arts & Crafts environment.

Q What makes Clarice Cliff so collectable?

Clarice Cliff has a unique place in 20th-century British ceramics. She used a vivid palette of yellows, oranges, blues and greens to decorate domestic ware in the 1930s, and her work is instantly recognisable. Her personal history is also engaging as she came from a poor, working-class household and showed huge determination in working her way up from the pottery floor as a trainee to become one of the pioneer female designers. This rags-to-riches story has always resonated with collectors. She boldly signed her work, titling her range 'Bizarre by Clarice Cliff' and took it around the country to the major department stores of England to advertise her work.

Her bold designs and shapes are now recognised as the epitome of British Art Deco - a movement born in Paris in 1925 - giving her a singular place in British design. The popularity of her

work has led to a specialist auction dedicated to her every year since 1991, something unparalleled for a sole maker or designer. Fashions come and go but, with a strong following, interest in her work has continued to this day and we are holding a specialist auction of her work on 18th March.

Q What entry-level purchases could a 20th Century Design devotee make to start a collection?

That really depends on the depth of your pockets, I suppose! My advice would be to buy things that you like or find interesting, and to buy the best that you can afford. It is a mistake to view any collection as a potential investment, because there is no guarantee that prices will increase over time. Therefore, if you've bought pieces that you like then you've reaped enjoyment from the investment. If you're really not sure what to buy then don't be afraid to go and view auctions, to speak to specialists and dealers and find out more about different designers. Over time you will gradually find the pieces that interest you most.

Q Are there any designers that we should look out for in terms of collectability?

One of the strongest trends in our recent Design auctions is the rise of contemporary potters, with Dame Lucie

Rie leading the field. Her work has risen in price with coloured bowls strongly contested. In 2014 we sold a beautiful blue bowl with bronze rim for £57,000 (including premium) which would have sold for under £10,000 ten years before. Her rise in popularity has sparked an increasing interest in work by living potters including John Ward and John Maltby, who both have a strong and growing following.

Q What should our readers do if they think they have a valuable piece in their possession?

Get a free auction valuation from one of our specialists. The first step I would suggest is to send an image of the object - one image of the piece is a perfect start - and a detail of any factory mark or maker's mark. And images of any damage that might be noticeable will also help the specialist provide an accurate assessment of the piece. This is the most common form of valuation we receive, but we do also hold free, walk-in valuation days held on the first Friday of each month at our Castle Street saleroom. ■

1. A large flaring bowl by Dame Lucie Rie, 24.5cm dia. Sold for £57,000 (incl. premium).
2. A Martin Brothers stoneware spoon warmer by Robert Wallace Martin. Sold for £20,000 (incl. premium).
3. *Circle Tree* - a Clarice Cliff Fantasque Bizarre Stamford teapot and cover. Sold for £4,375 (incl. premium).



3

Classic Architecture

Extensions - Home Alterations - Conversions - Restorations - New Build - Listed Buildings

Tell us what you want from your scheme, large or small, and let us bring your aspirations to life.



“I am thrilled with the house and you have achieved exactly what I wanted so thank you very much”

Classic Architecture

**Winners of Salisbury Civic Society
New Building Awards Scheme 2019**



“Classic Architecture came up
with a masterful design”

VISIONARY *landscapes*

Salisbury Museum is home to an exhibition of watercolour paintings and sketches by the eminent Victorian landscape artist Albert Goodwin

Albert Goodwin was born in Maidstone in Kent. During his lifetime he painted scenes still recognisable today and which remain of historical interest. As a member of the Royal Watercolour Society, Goodwin exhibited extensively, showing nearly 800 works. He was championed by the art critic John Ruskin and trained with the Pre-Raphaelite brotherhood.

His fascinating exhibition at the Salisbury Museum, reflects the artistic influences of luminaries from Turner to Ford Maddox Brown and also includes Goodwin's works featuring Salisbury from the Museum's own collection. We spoke to the Exhibition's Development Officer, Alexandra Gurr, about what visitors could expect.

Q Why is now a good time to have an Albert Goodwin exhibition? This year will see a resurgence in interest in the Pre-Raphaelites with exhibitions all over the country. Albert Goodwin was championed by the art critic John Ruskin as well as training

under Arthur Hughes and Ford Maddox Brown and, through them, met William Morris, Dante Gabriel Rossetti and John Millais.

Q What is Goodwin's association with Salisbury and Wiltshire? Albert Goodwin spent his first decade as an artist working in southern England, painting landscapes and towns between Kent and Devon where he was able to stretch his artistic vision. This includes his wonderful study of Salisbury Cathedral.

Q Whom would you consider to be Albert Goodwin's major influences as an artist? John Ruskin was his largest influence after having promoted the artists who founded the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood and defended Turner's style. It was Ruskin who took Goodwin travelling in his earlier career to widen his horizons. Arthur Hughes, Ford Maddox Brown, William Morris, William Holman-Hunt and, of course, John William Turner influenced Goodwin's

style further. Goodwin himself stated in his personal diary in 1911: "I sometimes wonder if the spirit of Turner makes use of my personality. I often find myself doing the very things that he seemed to do."

Q Was Goodwin a prolific artist? Yes, he was. There are some of his sketchbooks within collections at Maidstone museum and they are full of both complete works as well as rough 'flying sketches' in watercolour, pastel and pencil. He was a very religious, family-oriented man and felt he truly had a God-given duty to create art for the enjoyment of as many people as possible. Over his lifetime Goodwin exhibited 102 oils at the Royal Academy between 1860 and 1920 and 792 works with the Royal Society of Watercolours from 1871 to 1932.

Q Where did Goodwin's travels take him? To start with he kept to the south of England from Kent to Devon, but later he travelled further north,

and to Europe (Switzerland, Italy, Holland), Egypt, India, the West Indies, Australia, New Zealand and America.

Q It seems as though he was the master of a number of different styles. Is this true?

Working through such a long and prolific career, Goodwin experimented with a multitude of media and sizes to suit individual taste or space. He created a merger of styles learned with the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood: form and positive line (from Ruskin) and atmosphere (from Turner).

Q Is it true to say that his works are not only of artistic merit, but can also be regarded as important records of social history?

Goodwin's work rarely shows people in detail, but rather documents the landscapes in which the public lived their lives. With beautiful architecture, coastal and countryside scenes, they convey a strong sense of atmosphere with, in some cases, »

Early work: Goodwin is closely associated with the Pre-Raphaelites



2



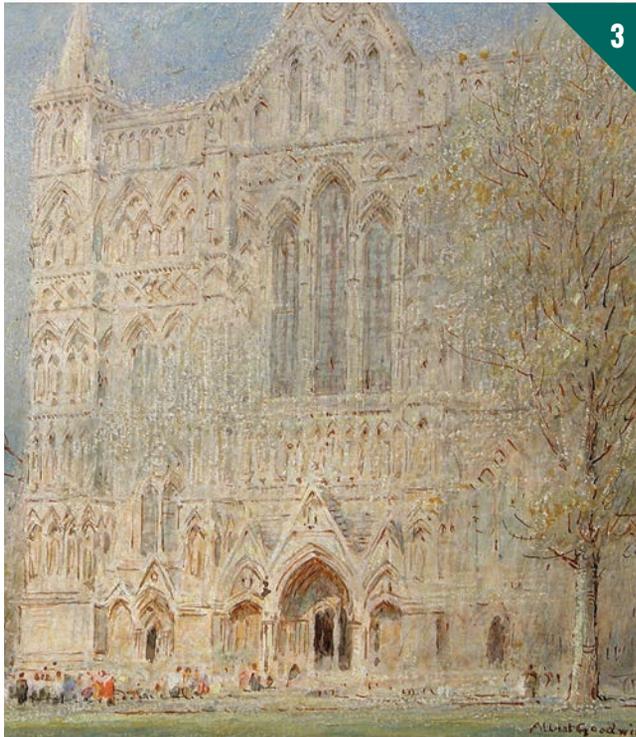
» small, impressionistic figures going about their everyday life.

Q Where does he sit in the line of British Victorian landscape artists? He's often compared with Turner due to similar subject matter and their use of light - which is undoubtedly an impressive comparison.

Q What is Albert Goodwin's enduring legacy?

I think this is best answered by an insight into the motivation and mindset of the man himself, again taken from his personal diary: "One of my principal enjoyments in the continuation of the art which has been a ceaseless cause of pleasure all my life, is in discovering new ways of working: new aspects of old things, and consequently new beauties in things which require new interpretations." ■

3



The exhibition *Albert Goodwin: Visionary Landscapes* is on now at Salisbury Museum until Saturday 18 April 2020. Go to salisburymuseum.org for more information

Albert Goodwin:
Visionary Landscapes

1. *The Conservatory*, Watercolour and bodycolour, 1874, Albert Goodwin
2. *Canterbury Dawn*, Watercolour, bodycolour and pencil, 1922, Albert Goodwin
3. *Salisbury Cathedral*, Albert Goodwin



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DIRECTORY

NEWS, INFORMATION, RESOURCES AND A CHANCE TO MEET THE WILSONS TEAM

LEGAL EXPERTISE

Helping independent schools manage risk

Wilsons welcomed over 40 education professionals to our Conference this year

We were pleased to bring back our annual Independent Schools Conference this year, and more than 40 Heads, Bursars and other education professionals joined us to discuss how they can manage risk in their schools.

Senior Associate Vicky Wilson led the proceedings with a talk on peer-on peer abuse, and other topics affecting the education sector included mental health and wellbeing, guardianship for overseas pupils in the UK, handling data subject access requests with confidence and managing employee departures.

Wilsons staff were joined by a range of guest speakers and the final presentation was given by Angharad Holloway, Head of Talbot Heath School, who explained her vision for the future of education.

The conference was very well received and we had excellent feedback from delegates.

“Wilsons is without doubt the leader in this area, and have given me much to ponder”



CHARITIES

Salisbury Young Professionals

In December Salisbury Young Professionals raised over £1,000 for the Salisbury Trust for the Homeless (STH) at their annual Christmas Quiz at the White Hart Hotel.

The SYP gives young professionals aged 18-35 from local firms the opportunity to meet and network. The money was raised through a charity raffle with additional donations from Smith & Williamson and Wilsons.



Gordon Pardy, head of fundraising for STH, said: ‘We are thrilled to receive support from the SYP and associated firms. Every penny raised will go towards helping homeless people in the local area return to independent living.’

Day in the Community

Each year, every member of the firm is given one day to go off and support a community initiative of their choice.

Last year, Sophia Zand and Natasha Letchford of the Employment team used their day to help out at Naomi House in Winchester, sorting through donations at the warehouse.

OTHER SUCCESSES

We raised £130 for the Stars Appeal on Bring a Pound to World Day in October; over £250 for Macmillan at our Macmillan Coffee Morning; and £100 for Save the Children on Christmas Jumper Day in November.

42

CONFERENCE:
How we help schools manage risk

43

INTERVIEW:
We catch up with Jon Ashbridge

44

TEAM PROFILE:
Meet the Property Estates team

46

FEATURE:
Simon Pert tells us about his double life

48

SERVICES:
A comprehensive list of our teams

COMPETITION WINNER ANNOUNCEMENT



We are pleased to announce that our Competition Winner was Dr Sue Jordan from Wilton! Well done Sue.

In our last issue we asked you to let us know just what you think of the magazine. We were interested in what you enjoy the most, how relevant the legal articles are to your day-to-day concerns and whether you enjoy our lifestyle features. Finally, would you recommend the magazine to a friend? All the responses were entered

into a prize draw and the winner was chosen at random after the closing date. Dr Jordan's prize was a complimentary break at a luxury hotel, courtesy of Hand Picked Hotels and she was delighted.

CONGRATULATIONS

- **Leah Ringwood-Hoare, Solicitor, Probate** | Gained her STEP advanced certificate in advising vulnerable clients. This is an important certificate to gain as it allows the firm to badge her expertise.
- **Henrietta Watson, Solicitor, Tax and Trusts** | Passed her business taxation Association of Taxation Technicians (ATT). This is the toughest ATT exam and Henrietta worked very long hours to pass this. This exam is on the pathway to the Chartered Tax Associate qualification. Taking these exams is part of qualifying for an additional profession in tax over and above being a qualified solicitor. Doing that on top of working full time and playing lacrosse at world level is no mean feat.
- **Emma Litchfield, Solicitor, Probate** | Passed her first STEP exam.
- **Chris Bull, Solicitor, Tax and Trusts** | Completed his final Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP) exam meaning that he is now eligible to be a full STEP member.
- **Caitlin Kelleher, Trainee Licensed Conveyancer, Property** | Passed her final exam to become a Licensed Conveyancer. All that is left now is for her to submit a statement of practical experience and she will be qualified.
- **Jessica Broxup, Associate, Tax and Trusts** | Passed her advanced technical CTA exam in Inheritance Tax, Trusts & Estates. The Chartered Tax Adviser qualification is the gold standard of tax exams and extremely tough. Only 42% of those who took the paper passed.
- **Ben Smith, Solicitor, Tax and Trusts** | Passed his third paper and the final main exam on Inheritance Tax, Trusts & Estates for the ATT level of the Chartered Tax Adviser qualification. He now has his ethics exam to pass and he will be ATT qualified.

TEAM NEWS

NEW JOINERS (L-R)



- Katie Mead, Secretary, Commercial Property
- Jack Homan, Paralegal, Tax and Trusts
- James Eades, Finance Director
- Ben Westhead, IT Support
- Jon Ashbridge, Partner, Commercial Property
- Georgina Spampinato, Marketing Assistant
- Emily Thorp, Solicitor, Litigation
- Martha Swann, Associate, Probate and Trust
- Vanessa Evans, Property Administrator (NOT PICTURED)
- Anna Wagner, Senior Associate, Tax and Trusts
- Charlotte East, Secretary, Private Client Litigation
- Chris Bull, Solicitor, Tax and Trusts
- Graham Coy, Partner, Family
- Leonie Bullough, HR Assistant
- Victoria Harrison, Solicitor, Property

PROMOTIONS



Vicky Wilson has been promoted to Senior Associate. Vicky joined Wilsons in April 2016. She specialises in many aspects of Education Law and is a tireless business developer. Her reputation and high profile have been instrumental in growing our ever developing Schools and Education practice.

Contact us

General enquiries:
enquiries.mag@wilsonslp.com

NEWS

Our people

New partner appointments

Two highly experienced solicitors join the Wilsons team

Wilsons has appointed two new partners with experienced solicitors Jon Ashbridge and Graham Coy joining the firm.

Jon is a highly experienced multi-disciplinary solicitor specialising in, predominantly, high net worth, owner-managed businesses in sectors including corporate, finance and property (commercial and residential). He was previously at Clark Holt for 11 years, a commercial law practice based in Swindon, Jon joins Wilsons as a Partner to develop his practice specialisms from a wider platform

Jon says: "I am excited to be working with Wilsons given their award-winning reputation, ambitions and attitudes to clients and client service. I believe that the firm, with its diverse practice across Private Client and Corporate and Commercial, will open up substantially more opportunities for clients and provide additional services. I am looking forward to enhancing the potential for revenue generation and assisting in the provision of a level and quality of service for which Wilsons is already and rightfully renowned.

"From a personal perspective the move made a great deal of sense, as I live near Marlborough and the majority of my network is based in the South of England from the Cotswolds and Wiltshire over to London. With its Salisbury head office and growing team in London Lincoln's Inn Fields, the ability to deliver for my clients and also have a sensible work-life balance was too good to miss."

Graham joined Wilsons in February 2020 as a Partner in the Family team and is based in our London office. Graham believes every family and every client is different and uses a

fresh and innovative approach to find the best solution for each client and their family in a pragmatic and cost effective manner.

Graham's practice includes advising clients who live together and have not married and clients in same sex relationships. His experience extends to helping clients with challenging cases involving arrangements for children or when one parent wishes to move abroad on a permanent basis. He also advises clients involved in agreeing financial provision for children where their parents have not married. Lastly, Graham has considerable experience in drawing up both pre and post-nuptial agreements.

Graham says: "Becoming a Partner at Wilsons is a fantastic opportunity to join a progressive, dynamic firm which has so much potential and which always places the needs of all of its clients first and foremost. From a personal perspective, it's a pleasure to join the very experienced and talented team of Family lawyers at Wilsons and help develop the Family law practice both in London and in Salisbury."

"Becoming a Partner at Wilsons is a fantastic opportunity to join a progressive, dynamic firm"

Graham Coy

"I am excited to be working with Wilsons given their award-winning reputation"

Jon Ashbridge



Graham Coy



Jon Ashbridge



LONDON OFFICE:
Lincoln's Inn Fields

A PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO FINDING SOLUTIONS

Over his years in practice Partner Jon Ashbridge has been involved in the acquisition and finance of prime residential property



Q How long have you been at Wilsons? And what is it about the firm you like?

A I joined at the beginning of November last year, so I am really just beginning to find my way round. I had known about the firm for some time and was impressed by the breadth of expertise, their reputation, a diverse client base and a specialism which complemented my own work.

Q Which specific areas of law do you work in? And who are your clients?

A I work within the Commercial Property team but my areas of advice cover most sectors of property work and company commercial advice with a particular focus on finance. I work with national and international clients ranging from individuals, borrowers and lenders and their residential property requirements, as well as their mostly property-based investments to, principally, owner-managed businesses and their development, diversification and day-to-day management issues and opportunities.

Q What individual interests and specialisms have you developed over the course of your career?

A Over my years in practice I have developed particular interests and specialisms in the acquisition and finance of prime residential property both in London and the countryside, including amenity assets for clients looking to change or enhance their lifestyle, including hotels, farming land, fisheries or seeking development possibilities.

Additionally I have worked with a wide range of lenders, institutional and private, in the provision of loans to a cross-section of borrowers, domestic and international, in developing their lending products, assisting in the provision of loans and providing continuing advice to their own clients.

Q What is it that particularly draws you to this area of the law?

A I enjoy the diversity. Meeting a wide cross-section of people and businesses and being able to engage with them as part of the team of advisors, in order to realise their goals or add value to their proposals. I would like to think that I work with the clients rather than for them and get to know their needs as individuals and businesses. I have met some hugely interesting and inspiring people who have achieved remarkable things in many parts of their lives.

Q What qualities would you say were particularly important for your role?

A The ability to develop relationships with the client so that I can understand their goals, requirements, difficulties and aspirations. This, together with a pragmatic and commercial approach to finding solutions, means that I particularly enjoy being engaged by long-standing clients as a trusted advisor. At the heart of this is the need for understanding and communication, but also the ability to provide guidance, as well as introductions to other contacts or referrals.

Q How important are people skills in the kind of work that you do?

A People skills are essential to both building those critical relationships with clients and other contacts and advisors as well as being able to work with my colleagues so as to provide the consistent and expected levels of service that are fundamental to the success of the firm.

Those relationships and the understanding of clients that I have developed over my working career has meant that many of my contacts and clients have been with me for many years and I can feel privileged to count many of them as friends.

Q Can you tell us about the sort of clients you deal with on a daily basis?

A Recent instructions include: the acquisition of funding to develop a wedding function business; the establishment of a new business for a farm diversification scheme and property to develop a unique product for the health food industry; the purchase of a commercial fishery for a businessman looking for early retirement and a new challenge; the refinancing of a farming entity producing luxury food products for top-end retailers; and the tax driven reconstruction of a property portfolio for a New Zealand-based developer and investor.

Q How do you stay on top of all the complexities of the work you do?

A There is no better way to learn about an area of law and changes than by actually working in that area. I have also been hugely impressed by the knowledge base available throughout the firm and the facilities provided to all in order to develop and keep up to date. ■

“Wilsons is a practical and quick firm that possesses real knowledge of the dynamics of farms and estates”



Property Estates

Directory

Meet the team

Comprising of a team of highly experienced lawyers, the team is focused on helping estate owners achieve their goals



Sue Russell
 Partner
 T: 01722 427 518
 E: sr.mag@wilsonslp.com

The team provides strategic and commercial advice to estates all over England and Wales involved in all manner of enterprises, as Sue Russell explains.

What is the core activity of your team?

The Property Estates team is client-focused and covers a complete range of property work for Estates and Landowners. Imagine a large block of rural land. Traditionally, you would see a house, cottages, barns, farmland, with the benefit of sporting rights, and woodland. With ever-increasing diversification, barns or outbuildings may be converted to commercial or residential use.

Projects for renewable energy such as solar parks or battery storage require acreage. The traditional block of land may now have solar panels, telecommunications masts, farm buildings converted to commercial or residential use, and an underground oil pipeline, sporting rights (which may or may not be let), agricultural land and farm buildings, but still retain the farmhouse lived in by the landowner.

We advise on both the traditional and the diversified landholding in sales and purchases, and provide advice for landowners who wish to retain their holding but change some aspects of it.

What is your team’s greatest strength?

Our greatest strength is the ability to work as a team to bring together the range of experience and technical knowledge we have between us to cover the range of property work the team encounters on a daily basis. We are a team of 10 lawyers with a mix of backgrounds in agricultural property, commercial property and specialist



CLEAR, THOROUGH AND KNOWLEDGEABLE

From farming and mineral extraction to tourism and sports, we work with over 50 landed estates in England and Wales involved in all manner of enterprises. Calling on specialists when needed from our property, probate, trust administration, employment, litigation and company commercial departments, our multi-disciplinary team can cover any eventuality that might impact your case.

We provide strategic and commercial advice on all areas of wealth management and succession planning. This ranges from wills and trusts to tax matters including inheritance, capital gains, stamp duty land tax and agricultural and business property relief.



planning law. Buying or selling a farm or Estate requires a vast range of property expertise and we work closely together to ensure we can give appropriate advice in every area when required.

Who typically are your clients?

We have a broad range of clients: potential or existing landowners (whether individuals or commercial enterprises), farmers and Landed Estates. An understanding of our clients' goals and their vision for their landholding is critical. A transaction, however small, can impact on a landowners use and enjoyment of the remainder of their land both for them and for future generations. If a landowner lives on a farm and a building on it is converted and used by a third party, or a part of the land is sold to a third party, it is important that the building or land is not used in a manner which would have an adverse affect on the landowner or the remainder of the land. External lighting, signs, opening hours (over and above planning constraints) may seem trivial to some but can affect a particular owner.

How often do the laws change in your area of expertise?

We need to be aware of legislative changes, recent examples being SDLT impacting upon mixed-use properties and multiple dwellings and changes to the requirements for residential lettings which impact upon sales, as we need to ensure the correct paperwork is in place, both when considering lettings and in undertaking a review of papers on a purchase.

Does your work cross over and involve other areas of Wilsons?

We frequently draw on the expertise of other teams within Wilsons. We need to consider the tax implications of what is proposed in terms of ownership structures and tax relief, the status of employees, whether we can secure vacant possession of a property - and that covers the work of at least three other teams!

Working together to successfully conclude transactions which deliver our clients' objectives is what we as a firm aim for in every case. ■

PROPERTY ESTATES

Experts in their field



Tim Olliff-Lee
Senior Associate
T: 01722 427 646
E: tol.mag
@wilsonslp.com



Helen Lello
Senior Associate
T: 01722 427 567
E: hrl.mag
@wilsonslp.com



Sue Pritchett
Senior Conveyancer
T: 01722 427 706
E: scp.mag
@wilsonslp.com



Annie Wills
Solicitor
T: 01722 427 648
E: aew.mag
@wilsonslp.com

Please note: the full team can be seen on the Wilsons website

IT Support

Leading a double life of crime

Not only does Simon Pert work in IT Support at Wilsons, he is also a published author with three compelling crime novels under his belt



A NOVEL APPROACH
Simon is always on the lookout for idea

Writing is something that IT professional Simon Pert is deeply passionate about. He very kindly took time out of his busy schedule to speak to us about his passion, and explain how he finds the time to write novels, while holding down a valuable, full-time role at Wilsons.

Q How long have you been working at Wilsons? And what is your role?
I have been working here now for 25 years, although I'm not quite sure where that time has gone! My role here is in the IT department, where I work on the support desk and also do project work.

Q When during your busy day do you find the time to write?
I'm an early riser so I tend to get a good hour or so of writing completed in the

morning, plus I write in my lunch hour and at weekends. Thankfully, my wife Sam is very understanding when she loses me for a few hours at the weekend as I sit hunched over my laptop. If I can get around 2,000 words a day done, then I'm normally happy.

Q How long have you been writing? And where did you start?

I have been writing since I was around the age of 14, and I've progressed from early tales of horror to where I am now with my current genre of crime, thriller and mystery novels.

Q How many books have you had published so far?

So far to date, I have had three novels published: *Vendetta*, *Playing God* and *Solitary Man*.

Q What was it about the crime thriller genre that attracted you?

I have always enjoyed reading that type of genre. I am a huge fan of crime fiction, and I love the process of getting from the beginning of the story to the end and finding out all the secrets in between.

Q Which crime writers would you count as your greatest influences?

Agatha Christie is perhaps my greatest influence, and I still revisit her work on a regular basis. But I am also a huge fan of other crime writers such as Mark Billingham, Daphne du Maurier, LJ Ross and Peter Robinson.

Q Where did you originally gain the inspiration for your regular protagonist Harry Stone? Was he based on anyone in particular?

Harry Stone came into being more by accident than design - in fact I didn't set out to create a private investigator. In *Vendetta*, the first novel in the series, I was focusing on the relationship between two sisters and how they both choose different paths, one good and one bad. As I wrote, Harry Stone suddenly became the intermediary between them, and I've been writing about him for eight years now. I love inhabiting his world and seeing what life throws at him and, more importantly, how he deals with it.

Q How do you see his character? What type of man is he, deep down?

Well I guess, at his core, he is a nice and decent guy - an old soul in a young body. He has a desire to help people who have no one else to turn to, and he's someone who has had the opportunity to observe many different types of people and their varying natures.

Nothing surprises him much, but he loves to try to understand the human condition in all of its multi-faceted ways. During his life, he has experienced both love and loss in equal measure, and he tends to wear his heart on his sleeve. He is the kind of man you would want at your side if you were in trouble, someone you can rely on to fight your corner.

Q Do you have any tips for aspiring writers out there?

It is a cliché I know, but read a lot and write a lot. Never give up, and never let that nagging voice at your shoulder tell you that it's not worth it. I write a great deal, I have lots of unfinished projects on the go and I keep lots of journals containing ideas for plots and characters.

Nowadays, there is such a vast platform for writers to get their work seen, so keep tapping away at the keyboard or writing on that page... never give up!

Q Have you ever been tempted to set one of your novels in the offices of - oh, I don't know, a successful law firm?!

One of the very first short stories I wrote was called *The Observer* and it was set in the offices of a successful law firm. That, to date, has been my one and only

foray into setting one of my novels in that kind of location. However, I wouldn't totally rule it out in the future...

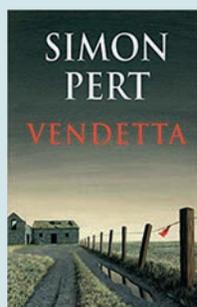
Here at Wilsons, I am surrounded by inspiration for characters and situations and, when you are a writer nothing gets missed - everything gets logged in my internal writer's notebook!

Q What have you got planned for the future - any other writing projects in the pipeline?

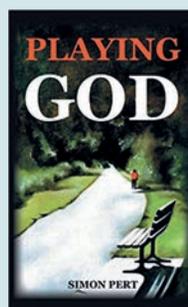
Now that would be telling! But I can exclusively reveal that I am currently working on a new novel which centres around the character of a Detective Inspector, and I am thoroughly enjoying plotting and planning that. ■

“If you want to write, never give up, and never let that nagging voice at your shoulder tell you it's not worth it”

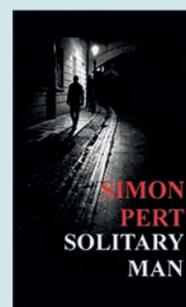
CRIME DOES PAY!



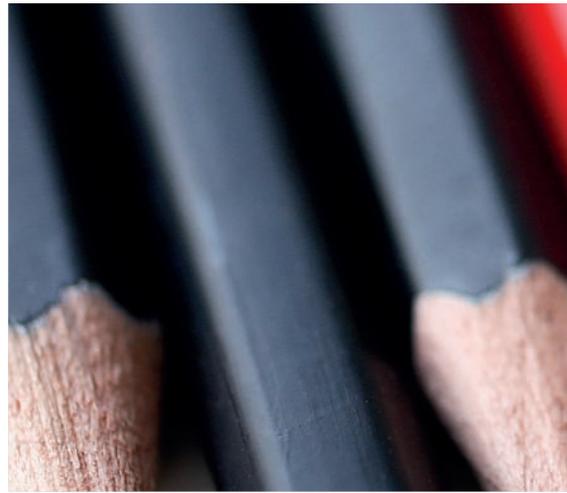
Maggie Dean has one goal: revenge on a family who have betrayed her and a sister who has everything while she has nothing. Private Investigator Harry Stone is hired to find Maggie before she finds her prey, but he doesn't bargain on falling for the daughter of his client.



When Private Investigator Harry Stone is hired to investigate the disappearance of a young woman, he is drawn into the brutal world of businessman Alexander Kost. As he gets closer to the truth, his professional and personal worlds threaten to collide.



“We all pay for the sins of our past” said the note which started it all. Angela Bennett is a woman with a past she would rather forget, but she also wants to atone for her sins before it's too late... Enter Private Investigator Harry Stone who is drawn into a complex game of truth and lies.



What we do

Directory Services

Whether for personal or business services, Wilsons offers high-quality legal advice

PERSONAL LAW

FARMS & ESTATES



Sue Russell
Partner
T: 01722 427 518
E: sr.mag@wilsonslp.com

We manage the sale, purchase or letting of substantial rural properties and businesses. The team guides landowners through the process of realising their development opportunity, whilst attaining maximum potential from their asset. We also specialise in the development of predominantly greenfield sites in the South of England.

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY



Tim Clayden
Partner
T: 01722 427 713
E: tjc.mag@wilsonslp.com

We handle the legal aspects of sales and purchases of properties ranging from three-storey homes in the heart of London, to landed estates in the Wiltshire countryside. The variety of our case-load at any time could be said to mirror and represent the different levels of sophistication, and various requirements, of the clients we look after as a firm.

TAX & TRUSTS



Adam Herbert
Partner
T: 01722 427 543
E: ah.mag@wilsonslp.com

Our team advises on personal affairs and the management and protection of assets. Much work focuses on transferring assets down the generations in a tax-efficient manner. This includes drawing up wills and powers of attorney, forming onshore and offshore trusts or other asset holding structures, and advising on associated capital taxes. See our Team Profile on page 44.

WILLS & TRUSTS DISPUTES



James Aspden
Partner
T: 01722 427 677
E: jaa.mag@wilsonslp.com

We have one of the leading teams of wills and trusts disputes experts in the country. Our breadth of experience and expertise lets us provide a full service whenever difficulties arise in relation to an estate or a trust. We are known for our discreet, pragmatic approach and we regularly act for clients in mediation and other aspects of dispute resolution.

PROBATE & TRUST ADMINISTRATION



Frances Mayne
Partner
T: 01722 427 524
E: fm.mag@wilsonslp.com

Our team manages a broad range of wills, probate and trusts ranging in value from £500,000 to £80m. Many of the wills, probate and trusts we manage hold business, agricultural and heritage assets. We liaise closely with members of Wilsons Will & Trust Disputes and International Tax & Trust teams to provide a seamless service. We also advise on mental capacity issues.

FAMILY



Jacqueline Fitzgerald
Partner
T: 020 7998 0421
E: jaf.mag@wilsonslp.com

We advise on the full spectrum of family-related matters including pre and postnuptial agreements, civil partnership agreements and matrimonial issues, including asset and pension division, trust arrangements, spousal maintenance and maintenance for children. We act for clients based throughout the South of England.



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The Top 3,000 Charities Directory

BUSINESS LAW

COMPANY COMMERCIAL



James Johnson
Partner
T: 01722 427 658
E: jaj.mag@wilsonslip.com

We have a lot of experience helping businesses achieve their purpose, and business owners achieve maximum return, from buying or selling and getting the most from investments to restructuring and general financing issues. Whether advising a corner shop, a substantial privately owned company or an international financial institution, we are well placed to assist.

EDUCATION



Stephen Oxley
Partner
T: 01722 427 743
E: sco.mag@wilsonslip.com

Our dedicated schools team works with head teachers, governors and business managers on a wide variety of legal issues related to education. We specialise in advising maintained schools, academies, free schools, independent schools, local authorities and Church of England Diocesan Boards on all their legal requirements.

EMPLOYMENT



Anthony Edwards
Partner
T: 01722 427 714
E: ame.mag@wilsonslip.com

We offer a proactive and personal HR support service aimed at providing our business clients with effective and commercial solutions to assist them in recruiting and managing their human talent. The area of employment law is as fluid as it has ever been and we keep abreast of all changes in order to be able to best advise our clients.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY



Jane Lonergan
Partner & Notary Public
T: 01722 427 733
E: jml.mag@wilsonslip.com

Our commercial property lawyers act for companies with significant investment landholdings, renowned educational institutions, big charities and leading professional practices. Our advice also provides value for money to entrepreneurs, start-ups and smaller businesses and we deal in lettings, developments, freehold acquisitions and disposal and more.

LITIGATION



Ben Thornton
Partner
T: 01722 427 732
E: bt.mag@wilsonslip.com

We are particularly well known for property disputes and contentious trust and probate work, however this growing team also advises on contractual and commercial disputes, professional negligence, Court of Protection litigation, Judicial Review and injunctions.

CHARITIES



Gillian Fletcher
Director of Charity Law and Governance
T: 020 7998 0422
E: gfle.mag@wilsonslip.com

We act for many charities, advising on law, governance and constitutional matters. We advise on the powers and duties of the trustees, compliance with the charity’s objectives and procedures in the governing documents. We have a solid relationship with the Armed Forces and their charities and our specialist legacy team is the largest outside of London.

Anthony Edwards is a partner in the Employment team, he's well known for his love of sports and the outdoors



WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE...

1 THING ABOUT WORKING AT WILSONS?

It has got to be the work-life balance I can achieve, being part of a nationally recognised and well regarded law firm, undertaking interesting and challenging work with a great client base, whilst living in a beautiful part of the world with its varied and wonderful countryside.

2 ASPECT ABOUT WORKING IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION?

Probably two things; the first is that the legal profession provides the best aspects of working both in a team and as an individual; secondly, having the opportunity to build up some fantastic working relationships with clients, beyond that of being merely client and adviser.

3 THING ABOUT WORKING IN SALISBURY?

Being able to live in such a beautiful part of the New Forest and 'commute' to work 10 miles on my bicycle, both in the Summer and the Winter, is really great. Apart from the benefits of the daily exercise this gives me, avoiding using the car as much as possible enables me to do my bit for the environment and, I firmly believe that I arrive at work and back at home in a much better frame of mind than if I was just another commuter in my car.

It's a great way to start the day and also allows you time at the end of the day to completely switch off from work mode before getting home.

4 BUILDING/PIECE OF LOCAL ARCHITECTURE?

My office (on the third floor) looks out over the back of the Cathedral Close and therefore it has as a great view of the Cathedral, a magnificent building, which possesses a majestic and soothing quality when moments of work get a tad frantic.

5 PUB OR RESTAURANT IN THE AREA?

I'm going to have two choices, if I may. During the day we regularly make use of The Chapter House situated just across the road from the office where the food and service is both very good. For the evenings, the R'ai D'Or Thai restaurant (also in Salisbury), a very informal and relaxed atmosphere in the former 'Sun' pub and great Thai food.

6 NIGHT OUT IN SALISBURY?

Living in the New Forest, nights out in town are not very common, so simply meeting up with friends and enjoying good company over a decent meal is always particularly enjoyable.

7 WAY TO RELAX?

Sport generally. I love cycling, playing squash, and swimming, as well as riding my motorbike and walking my dogs out on the 'Forest', particularly early mornings and late evenings during the Spring and Summer when no-one else is about except the deer and other wildlife. ■



THAI FOOD

Anthony is a regular visitor to the R'ai D'Or Thai restaurant



CYCLING

He gets on his bike on a daily basis to commute to work



NEW FOREST

Anthony lives in a beautiful part of the world

2 Course Spring / Summer Menu



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To find out how we can help you please get in touch.

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