



Rosalind
Watchorn
Solicitors

Newsletter

Issue #2 April 2013

"It will be the twentieth anniversary later on this year since I first set up shop"

It will be the twentieth anniversary later on this year since I first set up shop from my home in Victoria Road, seeing clients in the front room at my dining room table. At the time my clients from those days will remember I had 2 little girls and was expecting Harry - now a strapping lad of 19, just about to complete his A levels and who can be found manning the reception desk at various times of the week.

We have come a long way since then. Rebecca, who has been my partner for 11 years joined me in 1997. We now work alongside 4 other solicitors, 3 paralegals and our valued support staff. It is 3 years now since we moved into our comfortable and airy new building in Kenwood Park Road having outgrown our offices in Sharrow Vale Road.

There are many changes happening in the legal world at the moment, but we are sticking to our core values by providing a very personal service to our clients. We don't believe that big businesses providing legal advice remotely through the internet or the phone is the best way to give advice. Invariably people come to see us thinking they know what they want, but sometimes after we have chatted realise that there are other issues to think about. We are still intending to concentrate on what we know best - wills, probate and advice to the



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Rebecca Linsell



Sheffield's Women of Steel who kept the steel works running during the wars

elderly; but our conveyancing department also goes from strength to strength under the stewardship of Stewart Warden. It has been a tough time for many high street solicitors over the last few years and a number have gone out of business or been taken over. We continue to thrive with the help of our clients - most of our work comes from repeat business or word of mouth recommendations to clients' friends and family - something which we believe speaks volumes and which we appreciate hugely.

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We are supporting the Star Walk, which is raising money for a statue to commemorate the city's Women of Steel - read more on page three.

Lasting power of Attorney - Health and Welfare

When we have our health we don't like to think about what may happen in the future, but illness or accidents can intervene without warning. Advances in science mean we are living longer but sadly, this increases our chances of ending our days without our mental faculties.

Many people understand you can appoint attorneys to help with your finances and property with a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) and an existing Enduring Power of Attorney will also do this. However more people are now also making an LPA which deals with health and personal welfare. Confusingly this is a quite separate document from the more usual form of LPA and is not covered at all by the old EPA.

Health and Welfare attorneys are able to make decisions on your behalf about where you live and who you live with; your daily care;

who you have contact with; consenting to or refusing medical treatment; you can even specify that your attorneys make end of life decisions for you if you wish.

"So what happens if you don't have an LPA in place?"

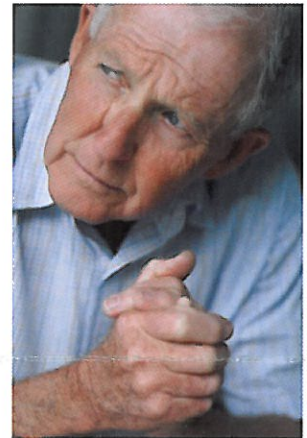
In practice these important health and welfare decisions are left to professionals - doctors, social workers or care staff. Any professional should consult with you (to the extent that you still have some mental understanding) and your carers, and take reasonable steps to reach agreement. They may also consult with family members, but do not have to. However consultation does not necessarily mean that they have to follow the carers' or the family's wishes, and professionals are busy people who will not know you as well as those close to you.

Doing a Health and Welfare LPA means you decide who makes these decisions for you if you can't make them yourself and ensures

your relative or carer has more say on your health and welfare matters. They make decisions based on your best interests and their knowledge of what you would have wished, and there is also the ability for you to enable them to make decisions whether you should receive life sustaining treatment.

Of course you have to completely trust your attorneys will make the right decisions for you, but if you are fortunate with your relatives and carers the Health and Welfare LPA is most probably the right thing to do.

Come in and talk to us if you want to find out more information.



Are you thinking of moving house?



Stewart Warden

We believe that "small is beautiful". In our property department this means our team, headed up by Stewart Warden, will personally handle your transaction and take an interest in you. We believe in good old fashioned quality service, and your property transaction will not be handed over to a huge team of faceless people. We think that this helps to keep the transaction

moving and reduces your stress levels.

Most houses in Sheffield are leasehold and not freehold. All the legislation introduced in recent years means that problems can emerge relating to building and planning regulations not to mention old restrictive covenants and rights of way.

Stewart and his assistant Barbara Vickers between them have over fifty years of experience in smoothing out any problems on a sale or a purchase.

"We think we can demonstrate that you will be in good hands"

We were delighted to be the first firm in Sheffield to be given accreditation with the Law Society. Conveyancing Quality Scheme (CQS).

Subsequently we were awarded LEXEL Accreditation for the quality of our law practice management – we think we can demonstrate that you will be in good hands if you choose us as your conveyancing solicitors.

If you are thinking of moving, why not give us a call for a quote.



Sheffield Star Walk

"One of the most rewarding parts of our work is meeting the older folk of Sheffield"

We are proud to sponsor this year's Star Walk which aims to raise money towards the Women of Steel Memorial.

For those who have not already heard about the Women of Steel campaign - we aim to assist in raising £150,000 for a memorial to be erected in front of City Hall to all those brave and feisty women who worked in our steel works in the First and Second World Wars. It has been designed by Martin Jennings who is famous for the John Betjeman statue at St Pancras.

One of the most rewarding parts of our work is meeting the older folk of Sheffield and listening to your stories and hearing about your contributions to our community over the years. Everyone knows what our fathers and grandfathers did



during the wars, but not so much about what the women were doing. Without the women of Sheffield, there would not have been tanks and fighter planes; and these brave women continued with their vital work throughout bombing raids doing long and exhausting shifts to keep the steel works running.

Unfortunately so many of the Women of Steel have passed

away in the last few years. But we are sure that amongst our clients there will be some who made this vital contribution to the war; and many others who remember their mothers and grandmothers as Women of Steel.

We are hoping that as many of our clients as possible will enter the Star Walk to raise money towards this fund. It is only a one mile walk as some of the surviving Women of Steel now in their 80s and 90s are planning to do this. We hope you will join them. The entry form asks for details of any Women of Steel that you have known so that they can be remembered in The Star.

We hope that most of our staff at Rosalind Watchorn will be in Hillsborough Park on Sunday 28 April and we look forward to meeting you there. To take part you will need to send in your entry form by 22 April.

We look forward to seeing you!

Lasting Power of Attorney - Finances and Affairs.

We persuaded, indeed cajoled, many of the clients who came to do wills with us before 2007 to also make an Enduring Powers of Attorney. They were comparatively simple to set up and provided a good safety net against the possibility that one day in the future it may be necessary for family or friends to take over managing your property and affairs.

Since 2007 it has not been possible to change existing Enduring Powers of Attorney or make new ones. But those which were in place prior to then are still valid.

We are finding that some of our clients with existing EPAs are now coming to us wanting to do an LPA in its place. Why?

Sometimes it is just because of change of circumstances. You wish to change one or more of your attorneys; and you can put in substitute attorneys if the preferred ones can no longer act.

Most importantly, an LPA is more flexible. If an EPA is registered it means that your attorneys have to take over all the property and finances - and for someone still living independently, albeit with mental faculties becoming more frail, it means the inability to even write small cheques. This means that many people delay registration, and

it can end up with an elderly person being more at risk. With an LPA for Property and Finance you can leave the attorney to manage the big things but still leave you to be in charge of your current account and make sure that you can pay the window cleaner and pay for your groceries.

Get in touch with us if you want to find out more.





Help us save a few more trees!

We are hoping to add our clients' email addresses to our database so we can send out further newsletters and updates in the law which may be of interest to our clients by email rather than paper! Let us have your email address by sending it to mail@rwatchorn.co.uk.

If you would rather not receive anything in the future, or if we have printed any of your details incorrectly then please also let us know so that we can put it right.

Tell your family and friends about us!

Many of our new clients come because their family and friends have recommended us.

If you know someone who you think we can help please let them know about us.

Visit our new and improved website!

We will be regularly downloading articles on our new website which will include updates on the law. If you have any subjects you would be interested in us covering, or if you would like to receive regular updates then let us know by emailing us at mail@rwatchorn.co.uk

For those of you on twitter you can follow us – there is a link is on our webpage.

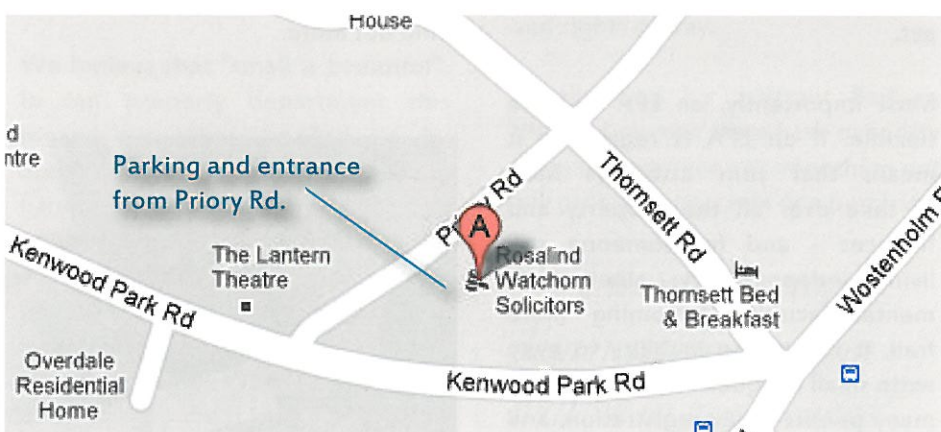


Visit our new and improved website at www.rwatchorn.co.uk



Our offices on Kenwood Park Road

We hope that you have enjoyed reading this newsletter. If you would like to discuss any of the issues that have been raised in the articles, or if you would like a free 20 minute meeting without commitment, please give us a call. We also offer home visits for those who are housebound or have mobility difficulties.



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