



The Brief

The Personal Law newsletter of Bennett Griffin Solicitors' Private Client Division | issue 3

Welcome to Bennett Griffin

We are pleased to welcome you to the third issue of our Private Client newsletter, which we hope you will find interesting and informative.



Tania Clapham

You can't take it with you



Ian Macara

This is the title of a recent BBC2 documentary about the importance of making a Will and, more significantly, the benefits of obtaining proper legal advice on the options available when doing so.

The programme tackled many of the difficult considerations involved in making a Will; featuring couples on their second marriage and people who want to leave more to one child than the others. There is often a reluctance to discuss these awkward issues, so perhaps it is not surprising that about 70% of us will die without having made a Will. As commented on the BBC's website, "deciding who gets what in a Will can be one of the toughest choices anyone can have to make. But making no decisions at all and dying without a Will can cause rifts that tear families apart."

Our Private Client team are experts at sensitively guiding you through this process to ensure that your Will is right for you and your family. We have the experience to provide legal advice and practical suggestions that will give you peace of mind that your affairs are in order. We can also advise on other aspects of your affairs, such as Lasting Powers of Attorney, which were not discussed in the BBC2 programme.

Please contact us for more information on Wills and Powers of Attorney, or complete the slip on the reverse of this newsletter and return it to us.

We would be happy to join you at the next meeting of your local interest group or the next coffee morning at your retirement home to talk about any of the issues mentioned in this newsletter. Please contact Ian Macara on 01903 777696 or im@bennett-griffin.co.uk for more details.

BG Wealth Seminars

Following the exciting announcement in the last issue of The Brief that we have joined forces with a team of specialist financial planners to offer our clients expert financial advice, we are now pleased to announce that we are holding a series of free seminars on Inheritance Tax planning, including:-

- How to avoid Inheritance Tax after just two years.
- How you can give your capital away but get it back later.
- Why discounted gift trusts are generally bad for your wealth.
- Why you should update your Will.
- How to avoid the tax even if your home is your main asset.

Do not miss this opportunity to hear John Kelly of our BG Wealth Ltd tell you how to avoid Inheritance Tax using legitimate techniques that will not cause any difficulty with HMRC. You will also receive a free copy of his book on this subject, and have the opportunity to ask any questions you may have about the budget.

If you would like further details about our next seminar, please contact Ian Macara on **01903 777696** or im@bennett-griffin.co.uk. Alternatively, complete the slip on the reverse of this newsletter and return it to us.

Mr Worthing

A rapt audience at the Worthing Business Awards gave a standing ovation to our senior partner Peter Bennett when he recently won the Worthing Lifetime Achievement in Business Award.

The Award recognises an individual who has "made a major contribution to their business and to the business reputation of the town over more years than they would probably care to remember." It was therefore a fitting tribute to a man who has devoted his career and indeed

much of his spare time to actively promoting Worthing as the place in which to live and do business.

At the Worthing Business Awards, we were also highly commended for our exemplary customer care.

Please have a look at our website (www.bennettgriffin.co.uk) for photographs from the Awards ceremony.



Please call one of our specialist Private Client team if you would appreciate seeing how we can help you and your family - **01903 229999**

Community Spirit



Katie Haffenden

At Bennett Griffin we are committed to the community that surrounds us and we would like to create a positive and lasting effect.

Our Private Client team, initially based in Ferring, has grown significantly over the last few years, resulting in some of us moving to our Rustington office. We introduced ourselves by holding coffee mornings to give local residents the opportunity to meet our lawyers and discuss various private client matters, such as Wills, Powers of Attorney and Probate, over a slice of cake. At the first event, cakes made by the staff at Bennett Griffin were sold to raise money for Comic Relief. The coffee mornings were a great success, so keep an eye out for future dates in your local area.

Last year, we were pleased to sponsor the Ferring Village Fair. The Private Client team manned their own stall selling cakes and cookies made by our staff, and all the proceeds were donated to St Barnabas, just one of the local charities supported by Bennett Griffin. We were proud to see the benefits of our fundraising efforts when we were recently invited to look round the new St Barnabas Hospice in Titnore Lane, Worthing.

More recently, we organised the Bennett Griffin Bowling Bonanza to raise funds for Children in Need. Teams from many local businesses joined in and, between us, we received sponsorship of more than £2,000!



Can you help?

Littlehampton ShopMobility has been serving those with disability challenges in the Littlehampton area for over ten years. Their mission statement is "to make sure that the general public with restricted mobility who live in, or visit, Littlehampton are able to play a full part in society: working, shopping, socialising and visiting businesses as easily as everyone else".

To maintain their objectives, they need to expand their Board of Trustees with more general Trustees, a Treasurer, a Secretary and a Fundraiser.

Full details of the roles can be obtained from their Chairman, Mr T Morgan at The Bradbury Centre, 1-5 Martins Lane, Littlehampton, BN17 6BS, or **01903 733004**, or **info@littlehamptonshopmobility.co.uk**.

Resolving to offer you more in 2011

The members of our Family Law team offer a number of dispute resolution options to reflect the fact that our clients are individuals.

Jackie Gifford is an accredited lawyer, trained in Mediation, and contactable on **01903 229903**.

Collaborative Law enables you to take control of the resolution experience, with the help of lawyers. To find out more please contact accredited Collaborative lawyer Jackie Mensah on **01903 229938**.

If the Court process is the best approach for you, we will fight your case expertly and robustly. Resolve to make 2011 your year by calling us now.



Jackie Gifford

"...thank you very much for the work you have done on my behalf and the advice you have given. You certainly took a great load off me, at a time when I most needed such helpful assistance. It has been a pleasure doing business with you"

"Everything I've asked or wanted to know has always been answered and explained in great detail which is what I've needed, great service as far as I'm concerned"

'Have your say'

- What would you like to see in the next issue? • What topics should be covered in our seminars?
- Where would you like us to hold the next coffee morning?

Name: Email:

Address:

Tel: Comments:

Please select area of interest:

- Care Home Funding
- Court of Protection
- Elderly Clients
- Equity Release
- Executorship
- Inheritance Tax
- Powers of Attorney
- Probate
- Trusts and Tax
- Wealth Planning
- Wills

Please return to: **Bennett Griffin | 11 Sea Lane | Ferring | West Sussex | BN12 5DR**