

Changes in **FAMILY LAW & MEDIATION**



Our Family Department is made up of three experienced solicitors – Lesley Bartlett, Lucy Webley and Laura Williams. All three members offer comprehensive advice on the whole range of legal issues arising from a relationship breakdown of any sort and all are members of Resolution – the national association of family lawyers who are all committed to finding a non-confrontational and constructive approach to resolving issues on family or relationship breakdown. Indeed our department prides itself on this approach.

From 6 April 2011 new Family Proceedings Rules have introduced a requirement that parties should consider mediation prior to embarking on a court application.

“We all endorse mediation, where appropriate, as an alternative remedy rather than immediately resorting to court proceedings” commented Lesley Bartlett, the head of department and who is also a trained mediator.

However it is always advisable to obtain your own independent legal advice on any agreement reached via mediation. This can be done at any time during the mediation process. It is also important to translate any agreement reached into a legally binding document to save further difficulties later on. It is also important to achieve this prior to remarrying as you are not always able to do so afterwards.

It is hoped that the new mediation rules will result in fewer court applications and costly proceedings. Mediation can be a great help to parties who want to reduce or avoid conflict and are committed to finding a resolution without recourse to the courts if possible.

We at HallmarkHulme are committed to helping parties resolve disputes in an amicable way wherever possible and would be pleased to discuss your particular concerns and requirements with our free half hour scheme.

Please contact us for confidential, specialist and sympathetic advice.

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Information and Guidance for **INDIVIDUALS FACING RETIREMENT**

The countdown is on for individuals aged over 55 years that are approaching or already in retirement as they can find out all they need to know about this important life stage at a free event ‘55+ and Retirement Roadshow’.

The Roadshow opens its doors to the public at the Guildhall on 25 June 2011.

The event, which is free of charge to members of the public, is organised by The National Careline and sponsored by city-based solicitors HallmarkHulme. Open from 9.30am until 4.30pm, exhibitors at the event will be providing information, advice and guidance for those near, at, or already in retirement; those who care for others and those who are in receipt of care themselves.

Over 500 visitors are expected to attend the event which will also feature a number of keynote speakers including, amongst others; Paul Hays from the Pension Advisory Service, Paddy Millard from TaxHelp for Older People and Justin Lewis from Dignity Funeral Plans.

Event sponsor and exhibitor HallmarkHulme will be on hand throughout the event to offer information on: care home planning, wealth management, inheritance tax planning and making a Will.

Richard Wilkes, Partner at HallmarkHulme said: “For some people retirement is a daunting prospect, particularly if this significant life stage hasn’t been prepared for properly. There are many important



decisions to be made, not least those that involve an individual’s personal finances or future care. The team from HallmarkHulme is experienced at dealing with these issues and can guide the individual through all of the different stages, ensuring all of the legalities are explained and fully informed decisions are made” explained Mr Wilkes.

For further information or to register your attendance at the 55+ and Retirement Roadshow visit www.retirementroadshow.co.uk or contact Barbara Davies at The National Careline on 01886 880770.

For further information on HallmarkHulme contact Richard Wilkes, partner, on 01905 726600 or email richard.wilkes@hallmarkhulme.co.uk



HallmarkHulme Solicitors

integrity, leadership, excellence

Based in Worcester city centre, we are a dynamic yet experienced legal practice, focused on providing excellent service to both business and private clients.

We pride ourselves on the accessibility of our team's Partners, on our experienced support staff and on the use of the latest technology to provide the very best and most cost effective legal service.

- Commercial Property
- Agricultural Law
- Residential Property
- Probate, Trusts and Wills
- Family Law
- Commercial and Business
- Civil Disputes
- Employment Law
- Charities
- Criminal Litigation

www.hallmarkhulme.co.uk

EVENTS DIARY 2011

Friday June 17 - Monday 27, 2011

WORCESTER LITERATURE FESTIVAL

('A Bard for Worcester' sponsored by HallmarkHulme)

The programme for the festival is complete for the first ever Worcestershire Literary Festival.

www.worcslitfest.com

Saturday June 25, 2011 from 9.30 pm - 4.30 pm

55+ AND RETIREMENT SHOW, GUILDHALL WORCESTER

The countdown is on for individuals aged over 55 years that are approaching or already in retirement as they can find out all they need to know about this important life stage at a free event '55+ and Retirement Roadshow'.

www.retirementroadshow.co.uk

Thursday August 11 - Saturday 13, 2011

WORCESTER BEER FESTIVAL, WORCESTER RACECOURSE

(sponsored by HallmarkHulme)

The Worcester Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale will hold its Twelfth Beer, Cider and Perry Festival on Worcester Racecourse.

www.worcesterbeerfest.org.uk

Saturday November 19, 2011

ST RICHARDS HOSPICE SNOWDROP BALL, WORCESTER

Warriors Sixways Stadium

(sponsored by HallmarkHulme)

A full night of glamour and glitz...

Bring your party to our party, a perfect night for family and friends or corporate entertaining.

www.strichards.org.uk

NEW APPOINTMENT



James Leyland –

Property and Agriculture Solicitor.

James has been appointed to further consolidate the HallmarkHulme team. James undertakes a variety of property work, including: advising upon the sale and purchase of agricultural and other rural property, Agricultural Holdings Act and Farm Business Tenancy matters (including preparation of agreements, succession, retirement

and other arbitrational matters), succession planning, contract farming, share farming and grazing agreements, profits of pasturage and sporting rights.

james.leyland@hallmarkhulme.co.uk

The hills are alive with the SOUND OF WALKERS

More than 450 walkers strode out on the St Richard's Hospice annual Malvern Hills Walk on Saturday, 21st May, 2011. The walkers included a group of 25 employees and family from HallmarkHulme Solicitors lead by **Laura Williams**. We are keen supporters of St Richard's and will also sponsor this year's Snowdrop Ball in November.

Over £1,000 was raised by the HallmarkHulme team, all of whom completed the full 11 miles of the Malvern Hills from end-to-end.

St Richard's Hospice Community Fundraiser Phillippa Jones, said: "It's great news that the team from HallmarkHulme signed up to take part. We hope everyone had a day to remember and the money raised makes such a big difference to helping us continue with our work locally."

She added, "The Malvern Hills are spectacular and give such panoramic views over the surrounding countryside."

For more information please visit www.strichards.org.uk



KEEP ON RUNNING!

HallmarkHulme LLP entered two teams to take part in the SIS Lightning 12 Hour Race, a 10km challenge held in the stunning grounds of Eastnor Castle Deer Park on the 20th March 2011. The race, which is held annually, is an off road running event open to solo runners and teams.

On the day, the competitors started their first lap at 6 am and were lucky with the weather throughout the day. The challenging route weaved its way up and down the hills and through dense woodland of the deer park.

Richard Wilkes ran with Matt Bailey and Will Jones ran with Stephen Foster in the other team. The team members took it in turns to complete 10km laps over the 12 hour period. Both teams were able to complete a total of 11 laps, which meant that the runners were able to break their personal target of each completing 50km.

The two teams were able to raise sponsorship of £175 for the local branch of the RSPCA.



L-R: Stephen Foster, Will Jones, Richard Wilkes and Matt Bailey