

A New Name in the City

Two of the most widely respected firms of solicitors in Worcester have joined forces to offer an unrivalled resource, dedicated to providing the highest quality of advice and service. From the 1st January 2009, Worcester based Hallmarks Solicitors and the long-established Hulme & Co. have combined to form an exciting new presence in the city – HallmarkHulme.

Hallmarks have a highly professional team specialising in all areas of legal services, including those related to property and conveyancing, wills and probate, family law, commercial and business law, criminal and civil litigation and charity law.

Their new partners, Hulme & Co, are a widely respected, long-established Worcester-based firm and prominent members of Worcester's business community. Formed well over 100 years ago, the firm has deep roots in Worcestershire and particularly strong links with the local agricultural community.

Tim Sherwood of Hulme & Co. enthuses about the new alliance: "We soon realised in our initial discussions that both firms share the same focus on providing the best possible service to our clients. HallmarkHulme will build on this approach. With the personnel and expertise available to the new company, we will be able to provide a really excellent and comprehensive legal service."

Martin Thomas of Hallmarks is equally excited: "This is a very positive development for both companies and their clients. HallmarkHulme will have a very experienced group



of specialists with excellent resources who will be able to provide a complete legal service to new and existing clients from our premises in Sansome Place."

The union of these two well-respected firms promises the foundation of an enthusiastic, service-orientated law firm offering the highest levels of friendly, professional advice.

HallmarkHulme -
integrity, leadership,
excellence

Charity Climb



Martin Thomas and seven friends tackled the highest peak in Africa, Mount Kilimanjaro, and raised thousands for charity. Thanks to donations from family, friends, clients and contacts the fantastic sum of over £15,000 has been raised for St Richard's Hospice, St Paul's Hostel and two local Tanzanian charities.

He joined friends Nick Dee, David Tomlin, Guy Jenkins, Mark Lofthouse, Mike Raybone, Tim Davies and Tim Lapish for the climb. Mount Kilimanjaro stands at 5895 metres (19340 feet) and is the world's highest free standing mountain and the highest peak in Africa .

Martin said, "We saw it as our combined mid-life crisis! The most difficult part was definitely the last day. We started at midnight, climbing up 1000 metres to the crater rim in time for sunrise at 6.00am. It then took another hour and a half to get to the summit where it was minus 15 degrees in a blizzard!"

He added, "The most memorable part was the relief of knowing that all eight of us had reached the summit, particularly given the risk of altitude sickness."

"As solicitor to St Richard's, I'm glad I've been able to contribute towards the £4.2 million it costs a year to provide all the services to its patients and families."

HallmarkHulme

Sale of Herefordshire Country Estate

We have recently acted on the sale of a Country Estate in Herefordshire for an undisclosed sum. The Estate comprised some 780 acres including a Grade I Listed Manor House, three cottages, farm buildings, mature woodland and extensive farmland.

David Hallmark led the team assisted by assistant solicitor, Jason Hodnett. The project included a wide variety of commercial and agricultural issues associated with the sale and purchase such as:

- Single farm payments
- Capital allowances
- Tenancy issues
- Employment law issues
- Sporting rights
- Holdover
- Early access rights
- Farm sale
- Land registration
- Environmental issues

Jason Hodnett commented, "The sale proved an exhilarating challenge and covered many dimensions. Our brief required the contracts to be exchanged within three weeks of receipt of heads of terms and it was satisfying to reach the client goal. This project was a real team effort and I would wish to thank not only Knight Frank for their contribution but also, the buyer's solicitors (Farrer & Co) for their assistance and co-operation. Finally I must mention that the sale would not have been possible without the huge contribution from our client's wife in providing and processing information regarding the Estate."

HallmarkHulme commercial and property team offers a full service to clients advising on all business and agricultural matters and advises several generations of farmers and landowners throughout the local area and further afield.

Our team includes experts in sales and purchases and property issues relating to rural and agricultural property; planning and development; commercial issues and agribusiness matters. We are also members of the rural professional associations such as ALA, NFU and CLA.

Welcome



Roger Morris

After nearly 40 years at Pierpoint Street it naturally seems strange to be working in a new environment. We are however settling in well at Sansome Place and have been made very welcome. We have been most grateful for all the efforts to make the merger run as smoothly as possible. On a personal level I am very much looking forward to the new challenge of stepping back from running a practice and concentrating my efforts in the area of Wills and Probate. I feel sure that HallmarkHulme will grow from strength to strength and will be around for

many years to come to provide an excellent professional and personal service to all clients.



Richard Herriman

Iam very pleased that Hulme & Co have merged with Hallmarks. Both firms are household names in the area and I am sure we will be able to provide an even better service to clients, old and new, as a result of the merger. These are challenging times but HallmarkHulme is an exciting development for everyone associated with it, both staff and clients.