



NEWSLETTER #11 JULY 2018

**Jennifer
Margrave
Solicitors LLP**

The Old Post Office, 130 Epsom Road,
Guildford, Surrey GU1 2PX

www.jennifermargrave.co.uk

enquiries@jennifermargrave.co.uk

Welcome

Our entry to this year's Guildford in Bloom is in and judging is due to start this month – probably as this newsletter goes to print. Despite the heatwave the pruning and preening is continuing and our hanging baskets are looking magnificent



(also creating a fine view whilst we have our sandwiches at lunchtime!)

IN THIS ISSUE

News from the other side	Page 2
Shocking statistics	Page 3
Nosey lawyers!	Pages 3 & 4

News from the other side: retirement joys

When I first started working, employees only had two weeks' holiday a year, and five bank holidays; Christmas and Boxing Day, Easter Friday and Monday and Whitsun (late May holiday) and the August bank holiday. In addition, the usual hours were 9am to 5.30pm and more if the work wasn't completed.

Over the years, statutory holidays have stretched to over 20 days; to me that's four weeks, but also bank holidays have been extended, with the May Day and New Year's Day. Some firms give staff six weeks' holiday!

But for 'my generation' to have time to spend on leisure was a luxury and after working for over fifty years (I started young, with an early morning paper round) I was afraid that I wouldn't know what to do when I woke up at six and didn't have to go to work – every day, all day, from now on.

So it has come as a revelation that, after the first month, I look back to find that I haven't had time to read the novels I intended to read; that I'm still chasing my tail and there are still old friends to catch up with.

How has that happened? For a start, all those who knew me as a professional, know that I'm not a clock watcher, but also I've always had varied interests and activities. In addition, I'm a great planner and administrator with ideas buzzing all the time.

Yes, I thought about what I was going to do and organised accordingly. So now I have a structured exercise plan, involving Tai Chi, Yoga, and walking everywhere I can within a three mile radius.



Time has been spent in booking online for art exhibitions, lectures and cinema visits, and making arrangements to see friends during the day as well as the evenings. The garden is being given extra attention.

So, my advice for those about to retire is to prepare a wish list before retiring and spend the first few weeks in working out how to satisfy that list.

Jennifer

Surrey hospital staff in..... pyjamas?

An initiative by Surrey doctors, nurses and staff was recently highlighted by BBC News and shared also on the Get Surrey website. By dressing in their pyjamas for almost a week they hoped that their patients would be encouraged to dress in their own clothes which will have the positive effect of speeding up their recovery.

The hospital trust has said that 'the average patient in their 70s spent about 43 minutes out of bed each day'. The result of this, the NHS say, is that elderly patients 'can age by 10 years in 10 days in hospital'.

The Royal College of Nursing backed the campaign and said that often staying in bed in pyjamas promotes a feeling of weakness and vulnerability. So, patients dressing in their own clothes, promoting positive feelings, may, directly reduce the amount of time older patients spend in hospital.

Julie

Source: BBC News website

Shocking statistics uncovered by Solicitors for the Elderly

We are members of an organisation called SFE (Solicitors for the Elderly) who recently, together with an independent think tank, Centre for Future Studies, revealed the UK is leaving medical and care preferences to chance. The report looks at the ever-increasing number of people living with dementia which, combined with the failure to plan ahead for mental incapacity, exposes a looming crisis and uncovered the following statistics relating specifically to the south east of England:

- **97% of people leave important health and welfare decisions to chance;**
- **71% would like a family member to make medical and care decisions on their behalf, in the event of mental incapacity;**
- **75% of people are worried about dementia and losing the ability to make decisions for themselves;**
- **80% haven't discussed end of life medical and care wishes;**
- **36% admit to having made no provisions at all, such as a will, LPA, pension or funeral plan.**

The study found 97% of people in the south east have not made necessary provisions, should they lose capacity from conditions like dementia. A further 36% admit to having made no provisions at all for later life, including a will, pension, funeral plan or LPA.

The research found that 75% of people in the south east are worried about dementia and losing the ability to make decisions for themselves, but 80% have not spoken about, or even considered, personal medical and care end of life decisions.

A staggering 68% of people incorrectly believe that their next of kin can specify what they would have wanted if they are no longer able to and 71% of the public would like a family member to make medical and care decisions on their behalf.

64% of people incorrectly believe that their spouse has the power to do so.

75% of those in the south east are worried about becoming mentally incapacitated and losing the ability to make decisions for themselves

66% believe that being on the NHS organ donor register ensures that organs are donated following death, however this is not the case.

Only 3% of Britons surveyed in the South East by SFE have a health and welfare LPA in place.

Source: The incapacity crisis: a nation unprepared was produced by SFE in June 2018 from information received from 277 of 1,799 respondents (aged 18+)

If you require any information about LPAs, wills or other matters take a look at our website or please telephone us to make an appointment to see how we can help.

Nosey lawyers!



Why, when you visit your lawyer to make a will do they ask all sorts of questions about your family and your assets? Are they just being noseey? It may seem like an imposition to reveal the family secrets or reveal your collection of vintage vehicles but there is a reason why we ask, and hope that you complete our aide memoire regarding such matters before you come to see us to make a will.

One reason for our aide memoire to be completed is that it makes a client think; what do they have to give away? And how are they going to do it – by a specific cash sum or by allowing the executors to decide whether a beneficiary gets a specific item or asset or leave the balance to be shared out?

I had one client who was very determined to give a quarter of his estate (which he had calculated very carefully) to each of his three beneficiaries and when I asked what he wanted to do with the quarter that was left, he cheerfully informed me that he was going to keep that for himself! I had to explain to him firstly that, although he was convinced of the value of his estate (he had specified the actual amounts to go to each beneficiary) he could never be quite sure. After all, he might win the lottery, acquire more savings, or lose the lot; what would happen if he had to spend his estate on nursing home fees? Once he understood that his estate was a 'moveable feast', he then still wanted to keep a quarter for himself, until I explained the principle of how impossible it was to 'enter the gates of heaven' with a sack load of cash.

The second reason for the requested information is to talk about inheritance tax and making possible lifetime gifts.

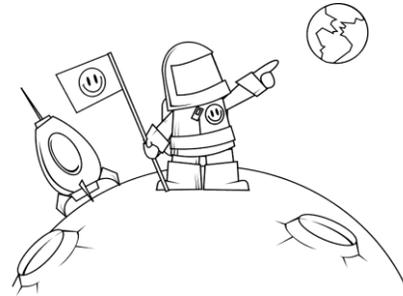
But there is a third reason, which is that some assets may be held in a particular way which may affect the terms of the will. I think that most people know that, if they hold their house or other property in joint names, usually with their spouse, but not necessarily so, then that property does not pass under the will. Even if you specify that it should pass to someone else, because it is joint names, it will pass by 'survivorship' to the other named owners of the property. Some insurance policies do not pass under the will either, so, knowing about these assets gives us an opportunity to ensure that, when writing the will, we know exactly what assets we can include in the terms of the will.

So, when we send you our aide memoire, please complete it; we're not just being 'nosey'!

Jennifer



An interesting case from 'across the pond'



It is reported by BBC News that 'US astronaut Buzz Aldrin is suing two of his children and his former business manager alleging they stole money from him and are slandering his legacy.

The lawsuit, which also claims they are stopping him from getting married, was filed after his children petitioned to take control of his finances.

They asked a judge to name them as his legal guardians because he is suffering from memory loss and confusion.

Mr Aldrin's lawsuit claims that his son and Ms Korp had improperly taken control of his finances - including millions of dollars' worth of "space memorabilia" and "space artifacts".

It adds that they did so "for their own self-dealing and enrichment".

The legal action also claims the pair had been slandering him for years by claiming he suffers from dementia and has Alzheimer's disease.'

A very sad story for all parties involved.