



Jennifer Margrave Solicitors LLP

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

www.jennifermargrave.co.uk

enquiries@jennifermargrave.co.uk

NEWSLETTER #12 OCTOBER 2018

Welcome

Well after a very long and extremely hot summer who can believe autumn is now upon us.

We were very proud to have won yet another gold award at the Guildford in Bloom 2018 for our wildlife garden.



After a night of fun and frivolities at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre Jennifer and Tony Margrave represented the firm to collect our award that now proudly adorns the wall in the office.

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Dancing forever....?

I am always delighted when I see older people being inspirational and 'bucking the trend'.

What age are dancers 'past it?' Margot Fonteyn was still dancing, aged 60, on the international stage but it is generally accepted that she was phenomenal. Or was she?

I recently attended a dance evening performed by a group, based in this area, called Quicksilver Dance Company; all of whom are over fifty and some are over eighty. The programme was varied with extremely energetic choreography and lasted at least two hours with most of the dancers on stage all the time, with a twenty minute break. The whole stage was utilised, there were high leaps, leg kicks above the head, and pirouettes. Modern dance, cha-cha, ballet and tap. All the dances had an air of joy and humour, and the costumes were superb.

I discovered that the group was formed in 2014 and are pleased to have Celia Imrie as their patron. All the dancers trained professionally when younger but their varied biographies show that some of them pursued other careers and have only returned to dance recently.

The company's aim is to 'celebrate life through dance', to entertain and to encourage dance for all ages. But they also want to highlight the great benefits of dancing in later life: (and I am quoting from their programme notes): 'improved health and strength, personal expression, sociability and fun.'

They run workshops for people who want to dance either for the first time, or to return.

Look out for them or follow their website on www.quicksilverdance.co.uk.

Jennifer



Divorcee wins £13k from a dating agency

A divorced mother-of-three has won damages after the exclusive dating website she signed up to failed to find her a man. The website boasted more than 7,000 members however, only 100 of those members were men actively looking for love. She was also awarded £500 for 'disappointment and sadness' she had suffered.



Unusual celebrity wills and requests

We try to accommodate all requests from clients when preparing their wills but here are some unusual celebrity ones which made us chuckle:

Dusty Springfield requested that her cat be fed baby food imported from Britain to the US, live in an indoor tree house and be serenaded to sleep each night by her music.

Harry Houdini's Last Wish: That his wife hold an annual seance so he could reveal himself to her.

Gene Roddenberry, creator of Star Trek, wanted to 'boldly go where no man had gone before' and in his last will and testament he requested that his ashes be scattered into space.

We haven't yet had any similar requests but who knows.....

Julie

News from nowhere: Don't judge a book by its cover

The beauty of retirement is that there is leisure to watch day time television and whilst I'm not a fan of soaps, one theme that was featured in a programme that I 'caught', just after the news, interested me. It involved the storyline of a doctor meeting an elderly lady on a park bench. The doctor had been alerted by the fact that the lady wore bright pink bedroom slippers and her face was made up like a clown's with bright red eyes and white lips, very crudely done. She had various carrier bags around her and the natural assumption was that the person was what some people describe as a 'bag lady' i.e. a homeless tramp. Or someone lost, suffering from dementia.

Concerned, the doctor sat beside the woman and asked if she was all right.

'Just taking a breather, dearie, before I climb the hill, but I'll have to go soon as my girl is coming home for her lunch, and I'm the only one who can get it.'

Even more concerned, the doctor volunteered to help her home with her shopping, and her companion gratefully accepted.

As they walked along, the older lady explained that she had been late getting up and it had been a struggle getting 'her girl' to school.

The doctor noticed her hair was messy, not brushed. When they arrived home, the old lady pulled a key out of the letterbox on a piece of string, explaining that this was in case 'her girl' forgot her key.

When inside, she said she'd make tea. The doctor looked around, and, indeed, there was a picture of a young girl, with a little bunch of flowers in front of it.

Aah, now she understood. The old lady had never got over her grief at losing her daughter and, with her memory fading, she lived in a fantasy world.

But, as she sat down, there was a strangled cry from the older lady, and the doctor rushed into the hall to see her running out of the bathroom, rubbing her face with cream to remove her makeup.

'Why didn't you tell me? No wonder you thought...oh, never mind, let me make the tea and I'll explain.'

Returning with a tray, immaculately laid, with doyleys, home-made cake and even a lace cap over the milk, the old lady explained, as she sat down opposite the picture. She pointed. 'That's my grand-daughter, Tracy, and I'm her sole carer. Her parents died in a road accident. I told you it was a struggle to get her to school. I woke up to find her playing with my make-up but I never realised...and we rushed out of the house, with me not even having time to comb my hair.'

As she explained, there was a rattle at the front door and a young voice called, Hi, Gran, what's for lunch?' The old lady grinned, 'See, I was telling the truth.'

The doctor was embarrassed; the old lady knew what she had been thinking.

'Never mind, have some of my home-made cake, as I'd like to thank you for helping me home with the shopping.'

Moral: never judge an old lady (or indeed anyone) by their looks or demeanour!

With thanks to BBC *Doctors*
(The above is a shorthand version of the episode, but it still has the same message).

Jennifer

Writing on the wall for signatures?

A new study published in the Daily Telegraph found that more than half of adults 'rarely' use their signature and 15% of people aged 24 and under cannot remember the last time they signed a piece of paper.

Contractual agreements at the press of a button – are people getting themselves into obligations without actually knowing what they are doing?

Julie

Millennials are reliant on inheriting to buy property

It is a sad but true state of affairs, particularly in the South East, highlighted by a recent report.

It is speculated that Millennials are likely to inherit £1.2 trillion from their parents during the next 30 years; that's potentially just over 11 million people.

But, on a negative side it is a concern to some that those who believe they will inherit are making no personal savings themselves.

34% of 25-45 year olds have said that they would use an inheritance to buy a property, second only to savings and investing such a windfall.

However, more shocking is that almost 24% said that they would be relying on any inheritance they may receive to pay off their debts. Particularly relevant when we consider the amount of student debt that most graduates leave with these days.

Figures produced by Legal & General also show up the discrepancy in money passed from parent to children across the UK. Resulting from the major difference in house prices it appears that parents are giving their children an average of £10,800 whilst in London this figure increases to £30,600.

Julie

Wills written at 47

A survey by Which? Has found that the average age at which people write their will is 47.

Worryingly 61% of those who responded said that they had no will in place, some of these saying that they had nothing worth inheriting.

20% of this group said they had not even thought about preparing a will whilst another 15% said they had too busy.

If any clients would like to consider preparation of a will or indeed reviewing an existing one then please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

And finally some very random facts....

In 1948 there were around 5 million people in the UK aged 65-plus, today there are nearly 12 million

MPs are not allowed to wear armour in Parliament

All beached whales and sturgeons must be offered to the Reigning Monarch

The number of Centenarians in 2016 was 14,450

The longest eyelash was recorded in 2016 when a Chinese lady had an eyelash of 4.8 inches long



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