

Looking Back on 2008

Ellisons

SOLICITORS

www.ellisonslegal.com

This photo of the Ellison & Co staff party in January 1949 made us smile and wonder just how much has the Firm changed in sixty years? Now called Ellisons Solicitors, there are 17 Partners and more than 100 staff in 5 different office locations. If anyone recognises anyone in this photo and can give us an insight into what it was to be part of the Firm in the post war years, we would be happy to hear from you.



ELLISON & Co.

STAFF PARTY

8th JANUARY, 1949

Colchester

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Essex CO1 1NP
Telephone: +44 (0) 1206 764477

Clacton

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Clacton on Sea
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Dovercourt

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Frinton

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Client News

Where would any firm be without clients? This section features a selection of Ellisons' clients and the work it has carried out for them in the last year. This is by no means comprehensive or indeed fully representative as a great deal of the work that Ellisons does is confidential or of such a commercially or personally sensitive nature that it would not be appropriate to refer to it in print.

Private Client: Right Royal Sale

The Sale by Auction of the Collection of the Queen Mother's faithful butler, the late William Tallon, held at the Reeman Dansie auction house in July, proved a great success (with a number of bidding war surprises) and reached a grand total of £444,634

It formed part of the on-going probate of the Tallon estate which is being handled by Private Client partner Alan Holden. Ellisons Partner Stephen Lansley, was a long-term legal adviser and friend of the deceased, and Executor of Tallon's Estate

The phenomenal amount of interest required auctioneers Reeman Dansie to reprint the sale catalogue after only a couple of weeks. Attendance on the day was as expected, with over 400 turning up throughout the 10 ½ hour auction. However, the number of bidders far exceeded those attending with a further 400 registering bids in advance as well as all six telephone lines being fully occupied. Also, a first for this Essex auction house,

there was live bidding via the internet as organised by the-saleroom.com. The organisation registered 194 potential bidders for the sale from all over the world with over 20 from the United States. At any one time during the day there was an average of 90 people online and 117 lots worth in total over £40,000 were sold this way. The biggest surprise of the day was lot 96, a group of handwritten notes written to William by HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, which included the instructions, "I think that I will take two small bottles of Dubonnet and gin with me this morning in case it is needed", which fetched £16,000 when the estimate was a mere £300.

L to R: Stephen Lansley and auctioneer James Grinter



Commercial Property: Inn Time

2008 has been an active year for Ellisons and its clients in the hospitality sector:



The Old Courthouse Inn in Great Bromley, Essex

Ellisons Property Partner Guy Longhurst and Assistant Solicitor Ceri Rogers acted for the purchasers in the acquisition of The Old Courthouse Inn, a charming 18th Century village inn with 4 Star letting accommodation in the village of Great Bromley, near Colchester, Essex. Ellisons also advised on the re-financing of the clients' existing property. Christie & Co were the property agents.



Crown at Stoke by Nayland Expands

Partner Tim Logan acted for WWSS Ltd and Edward Oliver Inns Ltd who own The Crown at Stoke by Nayland. He acted on the initial purchase of the business many years ago but most recently completed the purchase of an additional parcel of land to the rear of The Crown. This was all part of The Crown's expansion plan which in September launched its accommodation wing of eleven bedrooms to complement its already very popular "gastropub".



Greene King

Greene King was an existing client of merged firm PTL. Partner Andrew Tilsley, continued to advise the Suffolk-based brewer and pub operator on a number of property transactions this year.

Legal Market Research – Booked!

There are two established pieces of annual market research on the legal sector – The Legal 500 and Chambers UK, A Client's Guide to the Legal Profession.

Ellisons performed well in both.

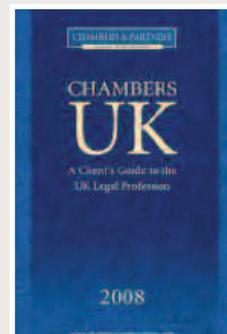
In **The Legal 500**, the Firm was recommended in nine areas:

- **Corporate and commercial:** Essex
- **Commercial litigation:** Essex
- **Employment:** Essex
- **Family:** Essex
- **Personal tax, trusts and probate:** Essex
- **Commercial property:** Essex
- **Property litigation:** South East
- **Personal injury – claimant:** South East
- **Planning:** South East
- **There were personal recommendations for:**
Seamus Clifford, Jeanette Hollington, Guy Longhurst, Jayne Scott and Graeme Wallington



In **Chambers**, the Firm appeared in four categories for East Anglia:

- **Private Client:** We are one of 16 firms listed for the region; one of only two in Colchester
- **Licensing:** We are one of only 4 firms listed in the region; the only one in Colchester
- **Real Estate:** We are one of 19 firms listed for the region; one of only two in Colchester
- **Real Estate Litigation:** We are one of 9 firms listed for the region; one of only two in Colchester
- **Leading Individuals:**
 - Guy Longhurst is the only Real Estate specialist listed from Colchester
 - Lee Pearce is the only Real Estate Litigation specialist listed from Colchester



Mersea Village Gets its Green

West Mersea is home to England's newest village green. The latest addition to the country's 3,650 greens, covering 8,150 acres in all, is the 2.3-acre Youth Field on Barfield Road.

The seven-year battle by West Mersea Town Council against the refusal by Essex County Council to grant permission to designate the Youth Field (to the rear of School Gardens) a "village green", concluded in victory for the people of Mersea.

The application was made after Essex County Council, which owns the land, had stated that the field was "surplus to requirements" and that in an effort to "maximise their assets" they could not promise not to sell it off for development.

West Mersea Town Council sought legal advice from Ellisons to prove that the land has been used as common land by the people of Mersea "as of right" for many years and as the last remaining green space in the middle of the town, it needed to be protected.

Partner Edward Powell who was advising West Mersea Town Council claimed it as "a stunning victory for the people of West Mersea." whilst Dave Tucker, Town Clerk at West Mersea Town Council, said "I am delighted with the result. The councillors have had to make some tough decisions along the way and they have showed great dedication to preserving this open space for everyone to enjoy."

Corporate: Dealwatch 2008

Deals in 2008 include:

COLOURLINK LTD PRINTWRIGHT LTD

Advising the shareholders on the sale of Colourlink Press Limited and Print Wright Limited to TWM Press Limited for an undisclosed amount.

25 March 2008

FLORAMEDIA GROUP BV

Acquisition of sixty per cent of the issued share capital of Garden World Images Limited and the subsequent shareholder arrangements.

8 April 2008



GOLF CENTRE ESSEX

The sale of a Golf Centre in Essex. The entire issued share capital of the company was sold by the shareholders to a local business.

March 2008

COLCHESTER UTD FC

Advising on the Executive and Public Catering arrangements for the Colchester Community Stadium with a National catering company.

April 2008



JACK KAYE HAIR & BEAUTY SUPPLIES LIMITED

Advising the shareholders of Jack Kaye Hair & Beauty Supplies Limited on the sale of the entire issued share capital to Sally Hair and Beauty Supplies Limited.

March 2008

STANLEY BRAGG (HOLDINGS) LTD

Advising on: the re-organisation of the share capital of Stanley Bragg (Holdings) Limited; the reorganisation of the Board; and Chairman Robin Matthews retirement arrangements

August 2008

Ellisons in the Community

Boxing clever – Ellisons first to sign up for new stadium

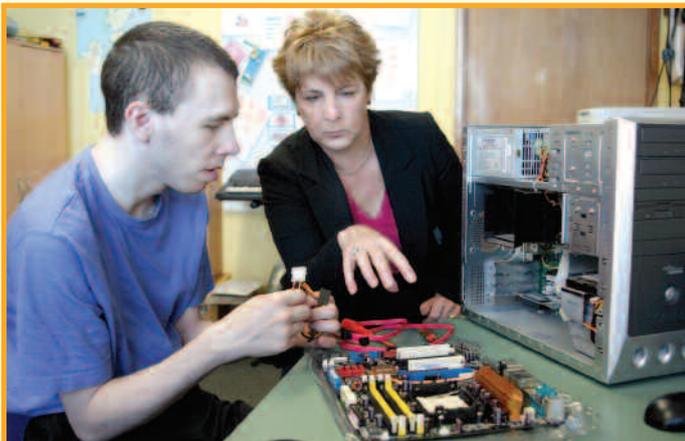


Guy Longhurst and Seamus Clifford shake hands on the deal with former Marketing Manager Jason Berry

Colchester United is now settled into the new stadium but last January, whilst still a building site, the club launched its new corporate membership packages for the 2008/9 season at a reception at Layer Road. The very first to sign up and to secure Box 11 was Ellisons Solicitors:

“Ellisons and Colchester United enjoy a very special relationship. As the Club’s solicitors we were actively involved in the Cuckoo Farm project for many years and are delighted that the club and the town now have a wonderful new stadium. We are proud of the Firm’s long association with the club and felt it was right to demonstrate our confidence in the club and its future at the new stadium by being the first to sign up for an executive suite.”

A piece in the jigsaw for Autism Anglia



Autism Anglia was the nominated charity for Ellisons Solicitors for its financial year 2007/8. When the charity was asked whether there was any particular project which the firm of solicitors could support with a donation, Fundraising Officer Anna Rogers immediately thought of an initiative involving The Jigsaw Study Centre.

The Jigsaw Study Centre is Autism Anglia’s (the new name for The Essex Autistic Society) Day Centre for adults with autism. Situated in Gosbecks Road, Colchester, the centre provides structured activities for 50 adults who attend weekly sessions. Activities include woodcraft, art, PE, life-skills and IT. There is also a sensory room at the centre.

Ellisons Solicitor and Notary, Judith Winward, visited the Jigsaw Centre in July to meet a student who is benefiting from the £500 donation from Ellisons. Richard has a very high computing ability and needs challenging. With the donated £500 Jigsaw has purchased the components needed to construct a computer to their own specification. The components will be used as a long-term project to build a computer that will challenge and focus the higher ability students but which can then be used by other students within the IT suite.

On the trail – Ellisons Angels walk for Oxfam

The team of four sponsored by Ellisons – Lisa Anderson, Ceri Rogers, Marsha Robinson and Megan Rogers – trained for several months for the Oxfam Trailwalker, a fundraising event which was started by Gurkha soldiers in Hong Kong in 1981 as a training exercise to test endurance and encourage teamwork. It is now a global phenomenon with events held in Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Japan as well as in the UK. It is one of the hardest team events in the world – requiring groups of four to cover a 100km course across the beautiful South

Downs in less than 30 hours which means that most will have to walk on through the night. The teams must start together, stick together throughout the course and finish together.

The Ellisons Angels did us proud and raised almost £2500. Three of the team (Ceri, Marsha and Megans) completed the challenge with Lisa Anderson managing a very impressive 90km, just 10 km from the finish. The other three completed the 100km in 22 hours and 55 minutes. The Gurkha team finished in 10 hours 20!



From left to right – Megan Rogers, Ceri Rogers, Marsha Robinson and Lisa Anderson

Underway for Headway

Headway is the nominated charity for Ellisons Solicitors for its financial year 2008/9 and fundraising efforts are already taking place:



JUNE: Ladies Driving Challenge – Bentwaters Park

Kerry Hawthorne, Ami-Jane Murphy, Lisa Anderson and Victoria Barclay took up the challenge, driving an assortment of vehicles to raise money for Headway

NOVEMBER: The Headway Essex Starlight Ball was held at The Fennes, Bocking on Friday 14th November. Two hundred and twenty guests thoroughly enjoyed the black tie evening. An auction raised £6000 and Ellisons' offering of the use of its Colchester United box for a match contributed £700 to the overall sum raised.

NOVEMBER: The Bhara Pokhari Himalayan Challenge

Ellisons sponsored Phoebe Fuller and her team-mate Anthea Sanderson on this amazing trek as they raised money for the charity.

DECEMBER: A Family Affair

With January traditionally being a peak month for matrimonial law enquiries and the Guy Ritchie and Madonna split shining a festive spotlight on divorce, in the week before Christmas, Family lawyers from Ellisons conducted a seasonal mini-survey to see what the people of Colchester think about the current state of marriage and their views on some of the recent high media profile divorces.

The mini survey covered four main issues:

- The impact of Christmas on relationships;
- Is there a touch of sexism in divorce?
- Effects of the economic downturn on divorce; and
- The truth about cohabitation rights.

Lisa Anderson, who conducted the survey commented:

“We appreciate that it was only a snapshot but we were delighted



Graeme Wallington



JULY: Charity Abseil

Graeme Wallington fundraised for Headway at the Mega Charity Abseil at Ipswich Hospital on the afternoon of Saturday 12th July. And above are photos of Graeme to prove it.

that on the whole, the people of Colchester were positive about Christmas albeit with some concerns about the impact of the economic downturn on relationships. There is, as we expected, a subtle confirmation that men and women continue to think differently in terms of what is just in terms of divorce settlements but the most concerning theme must be without doubt, the results of the cohabitation question. There are quite simply too many people, particularly women, who naively continue to cohabit without legal advice in the belief that they have the same rights as a married spouse.”

In recognition and thanks for the time respondents gave to completing the questionnaire, a donation is being made to Headway, Essex.

Round the Island

Ellisons Solicitors proved that it was not just “fair weather friend” to the West Mersea Yacht Club. In spite of last year’s inclement conditions resulting in a last-minute cancellation of the event, the local law firm was once again the proud sponsor for the annual ‘Round the Island’ race.



Ceri Rogers and Louise Bland

Well over a hundred dinghies and small boats of all shapes and sizes circumnavigated the Island in this West Mersea Yacht Club organised race, which took place this year on Wednesday the 20th August, mid-way through Mersea Week.

Various people from Ellisons, including partner Seamus Clifford, lined up among the competitors on the day. “This race has been a part of the local calendar for many years. It is not only a sailing experience, it is an opportunity for the community to celebrate this very special island on which we all live,” he explained. “Many of our Firm, including myself, live on the island, as do a number of our clients and so it seems natural for a local business such as Ellisons to support this focal event. Sailing round, or rather almost all the way round, emphasises our island identity and it is a privilege for Ellisons to have the opportunity to be associated with such an established community event.”

More than 100 helpers are needed to make the Race possible, both on the water providing safety and support cover, and ashore running the racing and assisting at the Strood where traffic is disrupted as boats take precedence over cars. The organisers appreciate the patience of residents and visitors on this one day when you cannot escape acknowledging that Mersea is indeed an island.

Mersea On Sea ...now on land

On Saturday 18th October, Mersea Islanders gathered at Dawes Lane to witness the age old tradition of the ploughing match. The match started at 10.00am and spectators were able to enjoy a selection of food and drink from John Gray Meats, Mersea Brewery and the Company Shed. There was also a Farmer's Market selling local produce and Classic Tractors were on display alongside a number of trade stands.



As well as class sponsors, a number of local businesses donated money. Ellisons Solicitors was more than happy to be one of the key supporters of the event with a donation of £500, as Partner Andrew Tilsley explains:

“Farming is an important sector for our business and it is a privilege for Ellisons to have the opportunity to play its part in keeping alive the traditions of our rural communities.”

The event, which was resurrected in 2006 after a gap of 55 years, will hopefully be held again in two years time. The competition has the support of the NFU and raised funds for the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI).

As a result of the event, a donation of £2,500 was made to RABI and £60 to the local scouts for organising the car park.

Lighting up Clacton for Christmas

Ellisons Solicitors celebrates merger and helps light up Clacton for Christmas

In October, at a reception at the Kingscliff Hotel, some 100 guests – clients and contacts of the Firm from Clacton and the surrounding region – celebrated in style the merger with PTL Solicitors and our new presence in Clacton.

Host, Nicky Coates, who is the partner responsible for managing both the Frinton and Clacton offices, was happy to welcome everyone to the party. Nicky explained “The merger was significant for Ellisons and we now have a strong presence on the Tendring peninsula. I have been based in Frinton now for over four years, and it is clear to me and my partners that for towns such as Clacton and Frinton, it is not just a matter of providing the services required but also to be able to provide those services in the context of being part of the community and appreciating local issues.”



Nicky Coates presenting a cheque for £500 to Ron Stephenson

With this in mind, post merger, Ellisons joined the Clacton Chamber of Trade and Tourism. Employment Partner, Jayne Scott, who is the Firm's key representative for the Chamber commented: “We were delighted that an opportunity for us to demonstrate our commitment to the area has materialised in the form of the Clacton Christmas Lights Appeal which is being spearheaded by the Clacton Gazette, the Chamber's Clacton Community Projects working party and

fellow Chamber member Dream 100. It seems appropriate timing as we celebrate our presence in Clacton with this party, to present our donation to this very worthy cause tonight.”

Nicky Coates was happy to present a cheque for £500 to Ron Stephenson, husband of the Chamber's President, Teresa Stephenson, who thanked the Firm for making such a significant contribution to its £10,000 target.

Senior Partner on football league's board



In June it was announced that Ellisons' Senior Partner, Peter Powell (pictured far right), who is also a director of Colchester United Football Club, had been appointed to the Football League's board of directors as the League One representative. Mr Powell takes up the position previously held by Nottingham Forest's Mark Arthur, who left after the Midlands club moved up

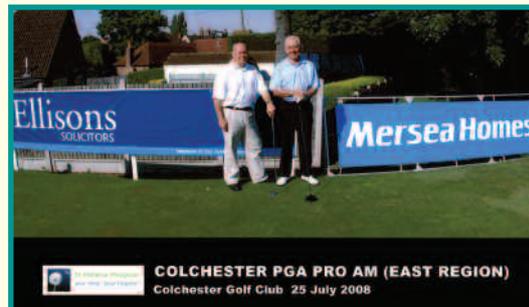
into the Championship. It is not the first time that the U's have held the League One position, with former chairman and now Life President, Peter Heard, having also been the League One representative. Furthermore, it completes a strong East Anglian representation on the board, with representatives from Norwich and Ipswich also amongst its members.

Frinton Summer Theatre



The Frinton Office, just across the road from the theatre, sponsored the Box Office for the season and celebrated by attending a performance of *Educating Rita*.

Colchester Golf Club



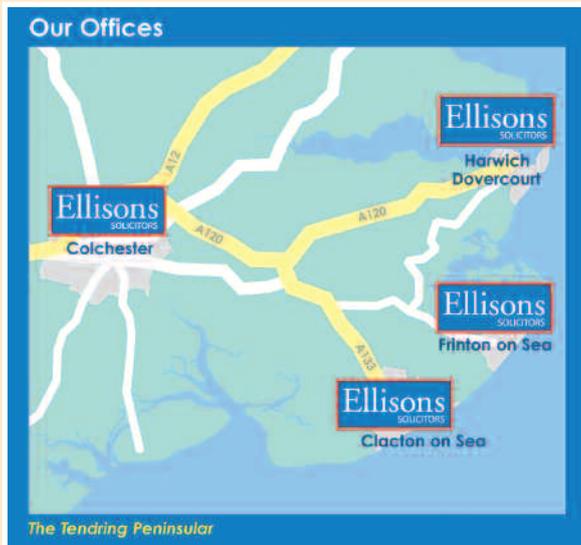
Ellisons was pleased to jointly sponsor, with client Mersea Homes, the Pro Am tournament on 25 July 2008.

Photo: Robert Jones & Trevor Cock

Ellisons Solicitors is involved in and supports a number of other community initiatives: COLBEA, Colchester 2020, Colchester Choral Society, Colchester Rugby Club, Colchester United Premier Partners, Essex University, Essex Wildlife Trust, firstsite, Harwich Sea Festival, Race for Life, The Mercury Theatre, The Tendring Show and more... Individual members of the Firm are even further involved in local charities and community projects on a personal level. However, we hope that the initiatives and events highlighted in these pages give a flavour of how Ellisons take its role in the local community very seriously indeed.

Firm Growth

We've just got stronger – Merger with PTL Solicitors



The merger of PTL Solicitors with Ellisons, which was announced in November 2007, came into effect on the 1st of May 2008. The merged Firm, which operates as Ellisons Solicitors, now has 17 Partners and approximately 40 other lawyers.

Through the merger Ellisons has strengthened its position as one of the most prominent providers of legal services in Essex, adding a further office in Colchester and one in Clacton on Sea to its bases in Colchester, Frinton on Sea and Dovercourt, making it particularly pre-eminent on the Tendring peninsula.

The merger reflects Ellisons' commitment to growth, achieved through a combination of organic development and strategic mergers. It is equally in keeping with the Firm's vision to focus on commercial work, particularly through the Colchester office, but still maintaining a strong private client base across the region.

Ellisons' Senior Partner, Peter Powell, was delighted with the comparative ease of merging the two firms. "Merger negotiations are all about testing out compatibility and identifying synergies. But you really know when a merger is going to be successful in

the run up to D Day when teams from both sides have to work together. The transition of individuals to new ways of working and the networking of offices both physically in terms of IT and emotionally in terms of team building have been so positive. The success of the first 7 months of the newly merged firm confirms our initial instincts that PTL are a natural match for Ellisons and will complement and strengthen our existing practices. In particular, it provides us with a further presence in the Tendring Peninsula in which we are now the biggest firm of Solicitors."

Stepping into Suffolk with Wanham Longhurst Acquisition



Wanham Longhurst & Co, which offers primarily residential conveyancing services with some commercial property and wills and probate, was formally incorporated with Ellisons on the 1st of October 2008.

Tony Longhurst's decision to retire and entrust his clients to Essex-based Ellisons may have caused some surprise because of the perceived geographic focus of Ellisons but in fact it was a very natural choice as Ellisons' partner Guy Longhurst is Tony's son.

"Ellisons was the natural choice for looking after my clients on my retirement," explains Tony. "It means a great deal to me that it will be my son's firm looking after my clients' future legal affairs. Keeping it "in the family", so to speak, has also been warmly received by most of my clients who value the continuity of the personal connection. In addition, there are the obvious benefits in that Ellisons can not only provide my clients with all the same services but very much more."

Key Services

- Commercial Property
- Corporate Commercial
- Employment and HR Support
- Family
- Licensing
- Litigation
- Personal Injury
- Planning
- Private Client
- Residential Property

Ellisons
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