

LOOKING BACK ON 2010

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Ellisons

SOLICITORS



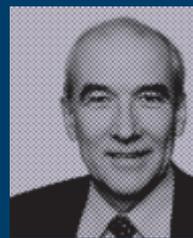
Onside with the "U's"
for win over Norwich

2nd annual conference tests
economic temperature

Sainsbury's biggest
purpose-built store

First sights of first site

People that make a difference...



Colchester

Headgate Court
Head Street, Colchester
Essex CO1 1NP
Telephone: +44 (0)1206 764477

Clacton

63-65 Station Road
Clacton on Sea
Essex CO15 1SD
Telephone: +44 (0)1255 421248

Dovercourt

45 Kingsway
Dovercourt, Harwich
Essex CO12 3JU
Telephone: +44 (0)1255 502428

Frinton

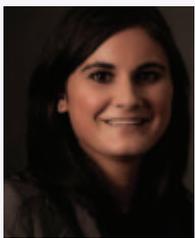
143 Connaught Avenue
Frinton on Sea
Essex CO13 9AB
Telephone: +44 (0)1255 851000

Firm News

Congratulations to our two newly qualified solicitors:



Andrew Parker, who joined Ellisons in 2008, qualified on the 1st October 2010. For the final part of his training period he has specialised in Personal Injury and is now a permanent member of the growing Insurance Litigation team headed up by partner Robert Jones. Before joining Ellisons, Andrew read Classics at the University of Leeds before converting to Law and completing the GDL and LPC at the College of Law, York.



Natalie Simpkins studied Law at the University of East Anglia and then BPP Law School in Manchester before starting a training contract with a firm in Norwich. Natalie joined Ellisons this summer to complete her training contract and qualify as a member of the Insurance Litigation team in September.

And **welcome** to:

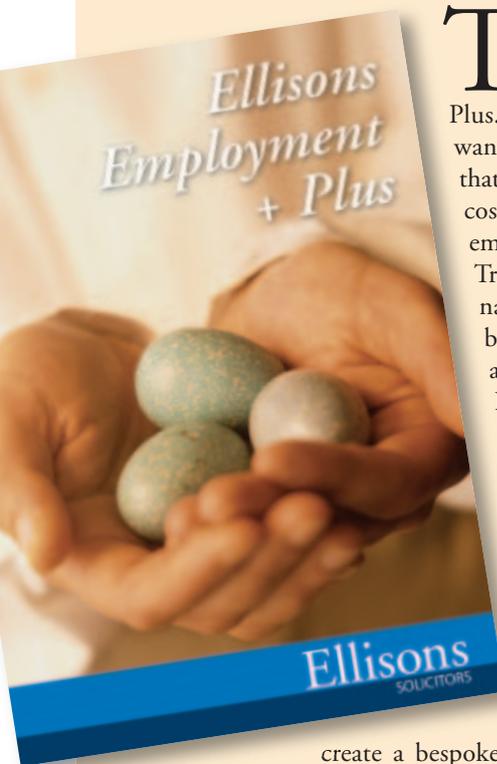


Paul Forsyth joined in September as an Assistant Solicitor in the Corporate Commercial team. Although Paul trained, qualified and worked for two years at a London firm of solicitors, he is no stranger to Colchester having graduated in 2005 with a law degree from the University of Essex. He returns to the town to specialise primarily on mergers and acquisitions; asset and share disposals; joint ventures and commercial agreements.



Harriet Bryce who joined in November as an Assistant Solicitor in the Dispute Resolution team, did her training with another leading regional firm after graduating in 2007 with a law degree from the University of East Anglia. Although Harriet will be part of the wider Dispute Resolution team, it is intended that she gradually specialises in Property Litigation.

Employment package is a **plus plus!**



The employment team has launched a new product - Ellisons Employment + Plus. Aimed at businesses who want the security of knowing that they are insured against the cost of claims brought by employees in the Employment Tribunal, the scheme is aptly named since it also allows businesses to "bolt-on" additional services such as Health and Safety advice or Pay Roll services. The new service was introduced to representatives from the Care Home Sector at a jointly hosted seminar and was well received. As Employment Partner Jayne Scott explains "We wanted to offer our clients the option to

create a bespoke product that suited their individual businesses needs and to fix the costs based upon the number of employees the business has. A leaflet, explaining the scheme's benefits is available on the website or on request.

Ebb and Flow



Once again this year, we have produced pocket-size Tide Tables for the region based on Mersea tides – perfect if you are a keen sailor or just want to know when you can cross the Strood onto Mersea Island. If you haven't received a copy and would like to, please contact any of our offices or email marketing@ellisonslegal.com

Key Services

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

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Sainsbury's Biggest Purpose-Built Store



Left to right: Daniel Watts and Jayne Gee of Tollgate Partnership with Guy Longhurst.

Partner Guy Longhurst continues to advise Tollgate Partnership Limited and the Watts family, in connection with their retail and business park development at Tollgate, Stanway. The highest profile occupier to date, Sainsbury's, opened its 147,000 sq ft new superstore on 1st December. The new Western Approach store, which replaces the one on Tollgate, is the supermarket's biggest purpose-built store. It was opened by around 25 long-serving colleagues who have worked at all three Sainsbury's out-of-town Colchester stores. There were 220 new staff to welcome customers on the opening day. Tollgate Partnership Limited also commenced construction of Tollgate Business Park in 2010, which is a new business park comprising 12 new business units, which are available for rent.

Onside with the "U's" for win over Norwich

Followers of Colchester United may remember that in 2006 the Club took the bold step of instructing Ellisons Solicitors to obtain a High Court injunction to ensure that all parties adhered to the correct protocol in terminating manager Phil Parkinson's contract, which still had almost a year to run. The case was settled when Hull City agreed to pay a sum in the region of £400,000 by way of compensation.

Some four years later, Ellisons Partner Graeme Wallington was once again onside when Norwich City, (having lost 7-1 to Colchester United on the opening day of the season), chose to illegally poach Colchester United's manager Paul Lambert and two members of his team.

The matter was considered by an independent Disciplinary Commission of the Football League and in early June the parties heard that the Disciplinary Commission had ruled in favour of Colchester United – ordering Norwich City to pay Colchester United £425,000 as compensation for their actions in recruiting manager Paul Lambert and his backroom team in August 2009. Norwich City were also fined £200,000 for breaching Regulation 20 which forbids clubs from inducing other club's employees to breach their contracts of employment. An expensive judgment for Norwich and a satisfying outcome for Colchester United!



It's a deal!

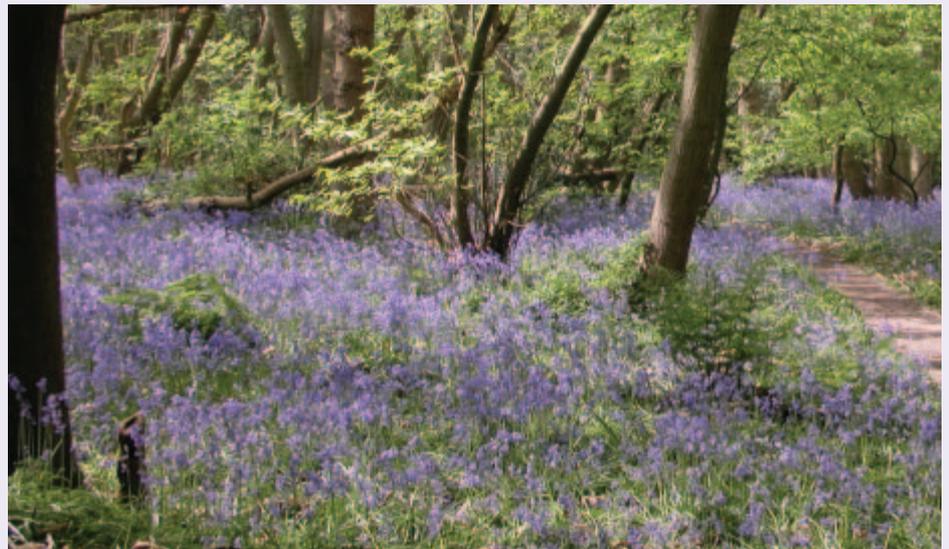
Some of this year's corporate deals include:

- **Devil's Playground Limited** – We acted for the majority investor with regard to an investment into the company for the purposes of completing the film “the Devil's Playground.”
- **Palace Pictures Limited** – We are acting for Palace on the public fundraising of up to £15,000,000 for the expansion and development of the company and its business within the film distribution sector.
- Management buy-out of **Knight Group of Companies**
- **Stanley Bragg group of companies** – Re-structuring of group and “pre-Pack” administration buy-out.
- **Myrtle Enterprises Limited** sale of business and assets – The team acted for Myrtle Enterprises Limited on the sale of its business and assets to Norwich & Peterborough Insurance Brokers Limited for an undisclosed amount.
- **Crowe Livestock Underwriting Limited** (provides specialist and individually tailored insurance solutions for the livestock industry worldwide (office based in Norfolk)). The team acted on behalf of the shareholders of this company on the sale of the entire issued share capital of the company to Amlin Corporate Services Limited, a subsidiary of Amlin PLC, for an undisclosed sum.
- **Winsec Financial Services Limited** (Independent Financial Advisers based in Tiptree) – The team acted on behalf of the shareholders of this company on the sale of the entire issued share capital of the company to Blackstone Moregate Limited for an undisclosed sum.

We're the first on line

Ellisons, along with estate agents Fenn Wright, advised a private Colchester based client in connection with the acquisition of 40/42 East Hill, Colchester in the UK's first online real time auction. The property bought was one of three investment properties in Colchester, Blackpool and Chelmsford. The sale was conducted through London auctioneers, Singer Vielle, in a legally binding interactive online process, and attracted five online bidders. The price achieved substantially exceeded the £195,000 guide price. The Colchester orthodontic surgery was the first of the three properties to be offered, making it the first ever real time online auction lot to be sold in the UK. Lewis Chambers, Commercial Property Partner at Fenn Wright, said: "We approached the sale process with a degree of apprehension as this is a new sales medium. But with the benefit of thorough due diligence and excellent support from Philip Roberts at Ellisons solicitors, the online process proved very user friendly, and offers an interesting alternative to traditional methods of sale".

TILE WOOD – now in safe hands



Essex Wildlife Trust is one of Ellisons' longest standing clients and so it cannot be surprising that we find ourselves, from time to time, sharing in the emotions of the Trust's achievements.

One such glow of pride comes from the recent acquisition of Tile Wood. From a legal perspective it was a pretty straightforward transaction with none of the intricacies or challenges associated with some of the other property transactions completed on behalf of this major landowner. There was not even a crumb of a “pie crust” lease to hold this project up – just the matter of raising sufficient funds to secure the purchase of these ancient 19 acres of woodlands. You may think such natural beauty is priceless but if the purchase was to go through, the Trust was going to have to pay the market value.

We were acquiring the woods from another great landowning body, the Church Commissioners for England. The Trust had taken on the lease and management of Tile Wood in 2004 but to secure its future, the Trust was going for the full acquisition of the freehold. Thanks to all the Trust's supporters and hard-working fundraisers, Tile Wood became part of the Essex Wildlife heritage at the end of January. Ellisons is very proud to have played a small part in securing the future of one of the earliest recorded ancient woodlands.

Ellisons in the Community

Talk on the Wild Side

On Saturday 26 June, wildlife ambassador Chris Packham, hot footed it down from Springwatch to Essex Wildlife Trust's Annual Meeting of nearly 500 members. Ellisons Solicitors along with Epping Forest Burial Park provided the sponsorship to enable Chris to be the guest speaker.



Football *Clad*



After their successful promotion to the Colchester and District A League, Frinton and Walton Youth Football Club Under 12's' new sponsors, Ellisons and local plumbing and heating company Heatec, hope that their new football kit will inspire them to continue their previous season's winning form.

John Muckle, Manager of the Under 12's, appreciates the local support. "It feels very professional playing in kit emblazoned with the logos of successful local businesses. The Club is very appreciative of all its sponsors and so thank you to all involved."

Young Enterprise



Far left: Nick Harvey Young Enterprise Co-ordinator Colchester County High School for Girls Far Right: Lee Pearce, Partner Ellisons Solicitors (Team sponsor). The girls are left to right: Anees Hussain; Rosie Hammond, Shahrzad Horst; Chelcie Harrie; Emily Baxter; Jodie Easter, Vicky Mozden, Laura Johnson; Hayley Turner; Charlotte Swift; Ellen Mears.

Ellisons was delighted to support a team from Colchester County High School for Girls in this year's Young Enterprise Company Programme that sees secondary school pupils across the UK set up and run their own business over the school year. Responding to the level of child obesity in the UK, the team which named themselves "Thirteen" set up a business that developed the 'Vegimat', a place mat or wall

chart for children to encourage the consumption of fruit and vegetables.

"Thirteen" took the national award and the £1,000 prize after winning both the Colchester and Essex heats. But the journey did not end there. Five of the team travelled to Sardinia on 23rd July to take on Europe, securing a very credible second place, beaten only by Switzerland.

Ellisons in the Community

2nd Annual Conference Tests Economic Temperature



Left to right: Guy Longhurst, *Ellisons*; Phil Eckersley, *Bank of England*; Lewis Chambers, *Fenn Wright*; Peter Harrup, *PKF*.

On Thursday 11 March, over 150 delegates with a professional interest in the property sector attended a breakfast seminar at the Weston Homes Community Stadium in Colchester. Jointly organised by a trio of local advisers – Ellisons Solicitors, Fenn Wright Estate Agents and PKF Accountants & Business Advisers – for the second year running, the guest speaker was Phil Eckersley, Agent for the Bank of England in the Bank's South East & East Anglia region who gave a balanced view on the outlook for the UK economy based on the recently published Bank of England Inflation Report. In addition an audience poll suggested that most delegates were starting to see some "Green Shoots" in their business dealings. This result was further supported in the feedback questionnaire in which 71% indicated that they were feeling more positive this year about the property sector than last year and 66% thought that residential values would increase over the next 12 months. Opinion is, however, more divided with regard to commercial property where only 44% expected commercial property values to rise over the next year. A third conference is planned for 2011 and another opportunity to canvass the Property sector as the barometer for testing economic temperature.





Left to right: Guy Longhurst, Stephen Lansley, firstsite's Commercial Director Wayne Warner, Peter Powell, firstsite's Board chairman Chris Paveley outside firstsite.

In September almost 100 business leaders got their first glimpse inside firstsite's new landmark building – which opens to the public in September 2011 – at a business breakfast held in the giant foyer to launch the venue's business booking offer for conferences, events, product promotions and other commercial events. Ellisons, who also acts for firstsite, was delighted to sponsor the breakfast and be first in the queue to make a booking – albeit for the Christmas lunch 2011! As partner Guy Longhurst explained: “We are proud of the Firm’s long association with firstsite and felt it was right to demonstrate our confidence in the project and its future by being the first to sign up to use its business facilities.”

Horsing Around

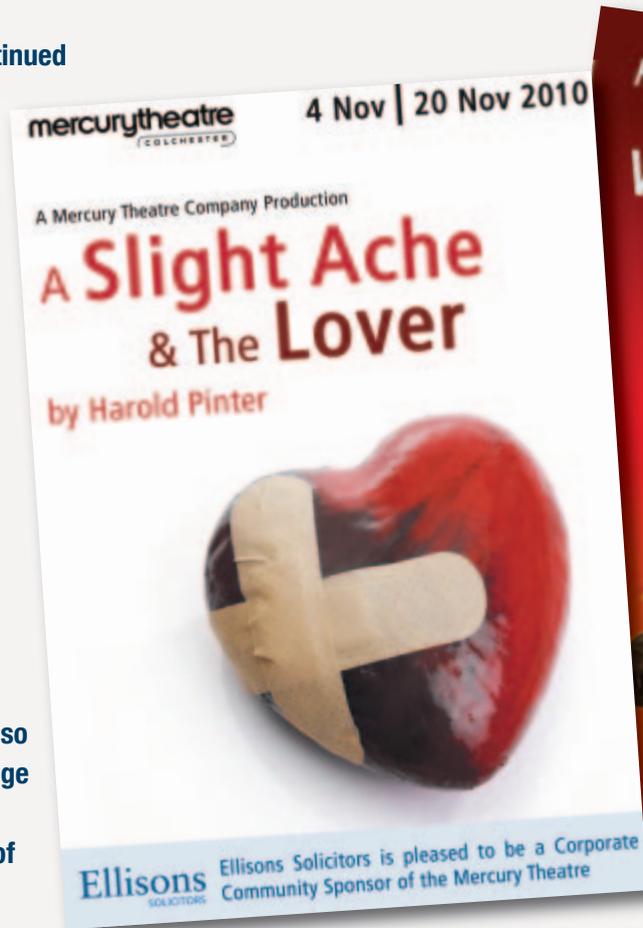
Ellisons Solicitors and its Rural Affairs team were pleased to sponsor races at two of the season’s Point-To-Point meetings:

- The Granta Harriers Hunt at Higham in March when Tom McPhie presented the prize to the owners of Scotland Yard winning horse in “THE LADIES OPEN RACE” for the Chester Challenge Trophy; and
- Essex Farmers & Union at Marks Tey on Monday 5th April 2010 when Philip Roberts presented the prize to Tina Hayward owner of the winning horse in the first race – Mill Five Acre.



We're Behind You!

Ellisons showed its continued support for the Mercury Theatre by handing over its Head Street windows to not only its annual pantomime promotion but the Family team also made the most of a Pinter production to put the spotlight on its introduction of fixed fee divorce. The posters underline the Firm's continued role as a Corporate Community Sponsor. The Frinton office has also done its best to encourage local theatre with its continued sponsorship of the Box Office for the Frinton Summer Theatre.



HAITI

Colchester Rotary Club President Len Nieuwenhuis received cheques from 3 local businesses of £500 each: Ellisons Solicitors, James and Lindsay Insurance Brokers and DCH Construction. Also received were £1,000 collected at the Rugby Club on Saturday 23 January, over £600 collected at the Mayor of Colchester's recent charity events, an anonymous donation of £500, and £450 raised from Rotary Club members personal donations.



Kevin Wilsher (centre) with Len Nieuwenhuis and other donors.

HELP

Rotary ShelterBoxes were being rushed out to Haiti, to provide shelter for thousands affected by the earthquake in January 2010. The ShelterBox project was started by Rotarian Tom Henderson of the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard, Cornwall, and now operates in 8 countries. 2,000 boxes had already gone out, and a further 1800 were sent out on Friday 29 January.

IN BRIEF...

Ellisons renewed its sponsorship of Colchester Rugby Club 1st XV for the 2010/11 season chalking up five years of support. West Mersea Yacht Club's annual 'Round the Island' Race saw the Firm on board as sponsors for the fourth year running. There are two nominated charities for 2010/11: Headway Essex and EACH Tree house Appeal.

Ellisons Solicitors is involved in and supports a number of other community initiatives: COLBEA, Colchester 2020, Colchester Choral Society, Colchester Rugby Club, Essex University, Essex Wildlife Trust, firstsite, Frinton Golf Club, Harwich Sea Festival, Race for Life, St Helena Hospice, 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.