



Andrew Way, Partner at Latimer Hinks

Latimer Hinks embraces new business culture

Latimer Hinks is one of the first legal firms in the Country to embrace business structure reforms which allow law firms to appoint non-solicitors as partners.

The Darlington-based firm has promoted Andrew Way, a Senior Legal Executive and Manager of the Private Client Department, to Partner.

This follows a revision of regulations to allow solicitors to join in partnership with barristers, conveyancers and non-lawyers.

Tim Haggie, Managing Partner at Latimer Hinks, said: "The changes have been introduced to encourage innovation

and more competition in the legal services market through more flexible forms of practice.

"As a go-ahead, progressive law firm, Latimer Hinks was keen to recognise Andrew's enormous contribution over the years. For the future we can look forward to the possibility of partnership with excellent people with a range of disciplines - beneficial for the business, and, in turn, with benefit for our clients."

Andrew has more than 30 years of experience in the legal profession and has been qualified as a Legal Executive for 25 years.

He is a member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners and is an Executive Director and Secretary of Solicitors For The Elderly (a network specialising in legal services for older people).

He specialises in Inheritance Tax and other Tax Planning issues, Wills, Probate, Trusts, Powers of Attorney, Community Care and Long Term Care issues, asset protection, personal affairs and all elderly client issues. Andrew is well known locally and regularly presents talks, workshops and seminars on his specialist areas.

Andrew, who is married with two teenage sons, has lived in Darlington for most of the last 40 years and his hobbies are playing squash, fell walking in the Lakes and following Middlesbrough FC.

For information regarding Private Client issues contact Andrew Way

Anne Elliott takes on historic role

A Partner at Darlington law firm, Latimer Hinks, has been appointed to a prestigious historic role.

Marketing Partner Anne Elliott has been sworn in as the new Under-Sheriff of County Durham.

The position is deputy to the High Sheriff, an office which is about 1,000 years old having its roots in Saxon times.

The High Sheriff and Under-Sheriff were the principal law enforcement officers in the county, but over the centuries most of the responsibilities associated with the appointment have been transferred elsewhere.

The modern day role includes specific initiatives intended to improve and sustain the morale of personnel of voluntary and statutory bodies, particularly those engaged in the maintenance and extension of law and order and the criminal legal system.

Anne Elliott said: "It is a great honour to be appointed to a role with such a long heritage. "It is important that traditions, such as the office of High Sheriff and Under-Sheriff, continue to be upheld. The duties may have changed, but are still very worthwhile, particularly in relation to crime-reduction initiatives. "As Under-Sheriff for County Durham for the coming year, I look forward to supporting the High Sheriff, Alasdair MacConachie."

Anne Elliott joined Latimer Hinks in 1976, became a partner two years later and Marketing Partner in 1998.

Her specialisms are in Private Client Work - wealth preservation and succession planning for families and business, wills, probate, trusts, and tax planning - and agricultural legal issues.

Anne is a member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP), the Agricultural Law Association and Solicitors for the Elderly and is a Recommended Panel Adviser for the Tenant Farmers Association Panel. Anne is also Top Ranked in Chambers UK:

"A specialist in agricultural work and with a deep knowledge of rural matters, this firm is noted for its involvement with the Yorkshire Rural Support Network, in which capacity Anne Elliott has been raising the profile of succession planning within the farming community. Described as "forthright and knowledgeable" and one of the "key experts in the North East," She does a considerable amount of tax planning, trusts, agricultural holdings, and landlord and tenant work."



Anne Elliott, Under Sheriff & Alasdair MacConachie, High Sheriff



Neil Stevenson (left) and John Littlefair at the lucrative mini-windfarm

the answer is blowing in the wind

A farmer who created a mini-windfarm with help and expertise from solicitors Latimer Hinks is so pleased with the result he is considering adding more wind turbines on his land.

John Littlefair, of Home Hill, Hart Village, near Hartlepool, had the 100m tall turbine and a base station erected on arable land at his farm three years ago. It is one of three turbines in the immediate area, with two on neighbouring farms.

Each of the structures, which are owned and run by energy company Eon, is taller than Nelson's Column and between them they produce enough electricity to power 7,500 homes through the national grid.

Mr Littlefair admitted he was apprehensive about the project at first, but he is now convinced it was the right decision. He said: "Initially, I wasn't very keen on the idea, but I was offered a very nice package and decided to go for it both from an environmental and financial perspective.

"The main thing is whether you like them or not and it is very much a commercial decision. There is a lot of upheaval at first but there are monetary gains to be made. At the end of the day you've got to be prepared for that upheaval and criticism from others."

Mr Littlefair said he had been approached to add more wind turbines on his land and discussions were ongoing. He added: "As a landowner I've got no problem with it at

all - it fits in quite nicely with our cropping and the farming enterprise, and the yield per acre is very nice.

"In 25 years time, when the contract runs out, it can be taken away and you've just got a normal arable field. No-one will know it has been there."

Neil Stevenson, of solicitors Latimer Hinks, helped Mr Littlefair with the legal process involved in the deal. He said:

"Windfarms are going to play a vital role in meeting our future energy needs. This is an exciting, dynamic and fast-moving industry, and the terms being offered are improving.

"Our role was to make sure that a very complex arrangement could be documented and made to work in practice and to ensure that the landowner's interests were fully protected.

"My advice to anyone who is considering installing wind turbines would be to seek good professional advice and be patient, because these things do take time to come to fruition and you need to take a long-term view."

For information regarding windfarms, telecommunications masts or any other alternative energy possibilities contact Neil Stevenson.

To view a video of the interview go to: www.latimerhinks.co.uk/news and click on "The Answer is Blowing in the Wind"

Note: Neil specialises in the acquisition and disposal of farms and farmland, including dealing with subsidies, quotas and grant schemes. He is regularly referred work by land agents and has developed an expertise in relation to telecommunication masts.

More recently he became involved in a number of renewable energy projects and is now regularly instructed by farmers to deal with negotiations. Neil has over 30 years experience in the legal profession and is a member of the Agricultural Law Association and the Country Land and Business Association.

help when the shopping habit gets too much

Mark Gardner, Partner at Latimer Hinks is warning that shopping addiction is taking an even bigger financial toll in the recession.

Mark who specialises in debt and insolvency issues, follows a recent national survey which revealed 25 per cent of Britons are addicted to shopping.

The report said that more people are in the red due to shopping than gambling - 24.8 per cent compared to 0.6 per cent.

Mark said: "When the economy was growing and people's employment was secure, some people may have been able to financially accommodate a shopping addiction.

"But with the soaring cost of necessities such as heat and light, pay freezes and redundancies, shopping addiction will take a much bigger toll.

He is advising people not to ignore debt, but to tackle it at an early stage to prevent it from escalating uncontrollably.

"Facing up to problems is not always easy, but people need to be honest with themselves and admit they have a problem and seek the appropriate advice to help them sort out their finances."

Financial experts can guide people through options open to them, give advice on improving cash flow and may be able to help negotiate a payment plan with creditors at a smaller rate over a longer period of time.

Shopping addiction/impulse buying, clinically known as Oniomania, is when someone gets a 'high' from spending money on goods and spends excessively on items that they want rather than need, according to Priory addictions specialist Dr Philip Hopley.

He said: "One of the main implications of shopping addiction is debt. People who are addicted to shopping may spend even when they have no money to spend, which can soon lead to debt problems.

"Debts can often spiral out of control and can soon become unmanageable. Other consequences are denial and desperate acts to cover up the addiction leading to the breakdown of close relationships."

But, according to Mark, help is available not only to overcome the addiction, but to get people financially back on track. Our advice is to seek help at an early stage."

For further information contact Mark Gardner