



89-year-old Ethel Iveson is served by Latimer Hinks' Nick Poole & Heritage Healthcare owner, Glenn Pickersgill.

Latimer Hinks supports entrepreneur's return to care sector

Latimer Hinks has helped care sector entrepreneur Glenn Pickersgill purchase a large domiciliary care business in Redcar & Cleveland.

Mr Pickersgill has acquired Guisborough-based Sure Care Services securing 110 jobs and providing a consistent care service to hundreds of people living in the borough. Re-launched as Heritage Healthcare, the business will now embark on an expansion programme to win new contracts in addition to operating its main agreement for home care services with Redcar & Cleveland Social Services and a number of private clients.

An experienced healthcare specialist, Mr Pickersgill previously owned and operated residential care homes in Darlington, Barnard Castle and Richmond. He also operated a domiciliary

care business servicing council contracts in Durham, Darlington and Loftus before selling both organisations in 2006.

Mr Pickersgill was assisted in the acquisition by Latimer Hinks' Partner, Nick Poole, who worked closely with the vendor's advisors to complete the deal in a relatively short time scale.

Glenn Pickersgill said: "I have been looking to return to the care sector for some time and this business presented the perfect opportunity. It has some excellent people and some prestigious contracts, which I am looking to build upon.

"The expertise and support Latimer Hinks brought to this acquisition ensured it was a very smooth transaction. This has allowed me to get into the business quickly to make sure our clients receive continuity in their care and to a very high standard."

Nick Poole, Partner at Latimer Hinks, said: "I am very pleased to help Glenn get back into the care sector of which he has considerable knowledge and experience. "This was a very good acquisition to work on as we were able to establish an excellent working relationship with the vendor's solicitors and accountants, which allowed for completion in a decent timescale."

For information regarding business acquisitions contact Nick Poole.

free presentation - implementing redundancies

Employers faced with the daunting prospect of implementing redundancies can find out more about the procedures involved at a series of free breakfast presentations by Nick Poole, partner at Latimer Hinks Solicitors.

Nick Poole said: "Now that we are firmly in the grip of recession, a lot of businesses are facing the possibility of having to make staff redundant. These presentations are aimed at spelling out the legal procedures that must be followed by employers who find themselves in this difficult position."

The Bishop Auckland event will also include a talk by Robert Herbert, partner at Allen Sykes, on the tax implications of redundancies from the perspectives of employers and employees.

Each event starts with breakfast at 8.30am, followed by presentations at 9am and a question and answer session.

To book a free place, call Andrea Tobin on 01325 341507 or email at@latimerhinks.co.uk

The 30-minute presentations will be held:

- February 24 - Crabtree Hall Business Centre, Little Holtby, Northallerton
- February 26 - Allen Sykes Chartered Accountants, Bishop Auckland,
- March 3 - Darlington Football Club

tracking down the missing millions

The news that up to £968 million is lying unclaimed in dormant bank, building society and National Savings & Investment Bank (NSIB) accounts, is frustrating for anyone struggling to make ends meet.

Mary Everitt, of Latimer Hinks Solicitors, is calling for people to think hard about any money that they or their family may have lost track of - possibly following the death of a relative or a house move.

Mary said: "A dormant account is defined as one that has been unused for at least 15 years, so it may have been completely forgotten."

Following the launch earlier this year of www.mylostaccount.org.uk, a web based account-tracking service set up in partnership

between NSIB, the British Bankers Association (BBA) and the Building Societies Association (BSA), more than 140,000 people have used it to track down their money. According to the NSIB, they alone have reunited customers with more than £41 million.

"Using the service is certainly the first step to take," added Mary. "There can be cases, however, where a little more detective work is needed. For example, you may believe that someone else has staked an invalid claim to money in an account that you believe is rightfully yours or your family's.

"In such cases, particularly if you believe that there might be some dishonesty involved, it could be sensible to talk to a solicitor or even to alert the police. Such cases are rare, but we would be delighted to talk through your situation if you have any suspicions.

"In the meantime - happy hunting."



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.

free presentation - everyday issues for farmers & their families (including tenancy related matters)

Yes, the title is a bit of mouthful!

January 29th saw Latimer Hinks and GSC Chartered Surveyors holding a presentation at the headquarters of Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Services (UTASS) in Middleton in Teesdale.

There was a great turn-out of UTASS members which proved by attendance figures alone that the subject matter was very much of interest.

Rosanne Green of Latimer Hinks began the presentation by introducing the case study of a fictitious family. This family was used to provide an example of strategic planning for families faced with issues such as:

1. Tenants Fixtures and Improvements
2. End of Tenancy Matters
3. Succession Planning
4. Wills, Trusts and Inheritance Tax Planning, Lasting Powers of Attorney and Long Term Care Planning.

Although the subject matter was quite involved, guests were very happy to remain and address questions to the panel. The smell of home cooked stew and mash also helped!

For information regarding any of the above please contact Rosanne Green



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