

# AT Arnold · Thomson

## the field leader

2022-2023 EDITION

**In Every  
Ending**  
There is a New  
Beginning

**Energy  
Efficiency  
Standard**  
Commercial Properties

**Trust  
Registration**  
Your Responsibilities  
as a Trustee

## AT Arnold · Thomson

- The information in this newsletter is not intended to be exhaustive of the topics covered. Specific advice should be sought on the application of the law in any particular case.
- If we do not have your correct details please also inform us of any changes so that we may update our records.

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# Director's Welcome

A warm welcome to this edition of the Field Leader. I hope that you find it informative and insightful. Some of the articles touch upon changes to certain areas of the legal landscape, and others provide an insight to the firm – an acknowledgment to the significant contributions of our colleagues who have retired from full time practice in recent years, and an introduction to those who have joined us too.

We have all faced unprecedented challenges over the last couple of years, with the pandemic and the effects of world conflicts - all of which have significantly impacted the economy. Also, the revolving door at Number Ten has certainly not provided us with the stable political environment needed to deal with these challenges in a measured and positive way. We can only hope that we now see a period of stability and leadership that inspires the confidence and growth in the economy that we experienced before these turbulent periods.

A great deal of our clients have certainly been “taking stock” in recent times, and what has been clear to us, as your advisors and fellow professionals, is that there has been a concerted focus on making sure that one's affairs are in order. I reviewed our last edition of the Field Leader, and the articles regarding Wills and Partnership Agreements, to take two examples, certainly

reflect the many instructions we have had from clients with regards to succession planning and laying some solid and reassuring foundations for the future. I have no doubt that this will continue to be the case, as there seems no better time than the present to see to such matters.

On a brighter note, it was great to see such a good attendance at this year's Blakesley Show. It was lovely to catch up with so many of you and also for us to see our fellow professionals in person. What was clear from various discussions with our clients (and fellow advisors), is the relief and satisfaction gained from chatting through any concerns and enquiries that you have. Our doors are very much open to you all – both in Towcester and Market Harborough – and my colleagues and I remain very much committed to providing you with the best service possible to address your

needs and legal requirements in a challenging and constantly changing landscape for us all.

I hope you enjoy this edition, and as ever, my colleagues and I are always here to help guide and steer you through your matters, so please do not hesitate to contact us if you require our assistance.

Finally, let us all hope for a more positive and stable time ahead.



**Matt Hawkins** – Director  
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# In Every Ending, There is a New Beginning...

“Preparation and planning are vital to our continued existence and success in whatever we do”

If like me, you are a fan of the fantasy TV series, *A Discovery of Witches*, the title of this article will already hold some meaning for you. Meaning which, for each of us, as with almost everything, is subject to interpretation, and our individual circumstances. Speaking of the aforementioned TV series, my children would argue that a ‘fan’ is far too mild a term for a woman (i.e. me, I imagine they would mean), who has watched each episode at least a time or 8. The word obsession has been casually brandished, but I couldn’t tell you what they could possibly mean by it.

We are, none of us, immortal. This has been proven time and time again. And yet, it came to most of us as the most shocking news of all when Queen Elizabeth II departed this realm on the 9th of September 2022. At the age of 96, it really should not have been a surprise. Yet, many of us were shocked to learn of her demise. I remember that I was on the phone to a friend, who stopped abruptly midsentence, and declared with a gasp that “the Queen is dead!” The heaviness of the sorrow that settled in my heart at the news took me completely by surprise. You see, I had never met the Queen, but like countless others, both here at home and abroad, I was terribly saddened by her passing.

On the 19th of September, time stood still for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II’s State Funeral, and the celebration of her life in such wondrously glorious and magnificently vibrant colours. The perfectly executed traditions, the outpouring of love, and overwhelming show of respect, were some of the most incredible things I had ever seen. I felt very privileged to have witnessed it all, even if it was only from the comfort of my corner sofa. The soulful tunes from the bagpipes, the angelic voices of the choir, the sermon from the Archbishop of Canterbury – spellbindingly profound in its simplicity. It was as if the heavens had specific instructions to cloak the day in perfection, down to



the minutest detail. The Queen was thoroughly and deservedly honoured. In a most poignant moment at the end, the crown, orb and spectre were removed from her coffin, the wand of office broken in half by Lord Chamberlain, signalling the end of her spectacular reign with deafening finality. King Charles III looked on forlornly, barely able to contain his emotions. It was the end of his beloved mother’s reign, the beginning of his.

Without an iota of doubt, the Queen’s proverbial royal shoes are most difficult, if not impossible, to fill. Yet, daunting as the task may seem, and uneasy as the head may lie under the heavy weight of the crown, it is important to remember that the Queen had several decades in which rigorous training, meticulous planning, and careful preparations were judiciously put

into place to get her son, King Charles III, ready for all the ways in which duty, tradition, family, and countless commitments will one day demand his full attention all at once. All the duteous planning will no doubt prove invaluable in making his ascension as seamless as possible. Preparation and planning therefore, are vital to our continued existence and success in whatever we do. They are, by far, two of the most important factors in preparing for the future, laying the foundations for what we hope for and aspire to, for posterity - not only for ourselves, but for those who will one day continue to build upon the solid foundation we have laboured to lay.

This is why my colleagues and I are most passionate about succession planning, about guiding and helping our clients

to put measures and structures in place in preparation for tomorrow, for their loved ones, be it in anticipation of retirement or other eventualities. This could be in the form of a Partnership Agreement, a Trust, a gift, efficient tax planning, or any other arrangement with which you can ensure that your wishes continue to be observed. It is why we encourage our clients to let us know what they wish to achieve, so that we in turn can put together a bespoke plan with which your desires and best interests can be protected.

The preparation for tomorrow must therefore begin today, so that you too can attest to the fact that at every ending, there is always a new beginning.



**Remi Stumpenhusen** – Director  
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# Energy Efficiency Standard

## Legal Requirements for Commercial Properties

With energy consumption at the forefront of our minds at present, many people may not be aware that measures are in place to ensure that commercial properties in the UK meet the legislative energy efficiency standards.

It is estimated that commercial buildings are responsible for a significant proportion of the UK energy consumption and carbon emissions. Understanding how to reduce and manage energy consumption is therefore important in terms of achieving carbon reduction targets, as well as reducing the running costs on commercial buildings. With ever increasingly ageing building stock, this can be a costly exercise for a landlord.

Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) were introduced in England and Wales back in 2007 and remain a legal requirement when marketing a commercial property for sale or rent. The aim is to promote the improvement of the energy performance and the identification of ways in which energy efficiency can be improved in



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“if you are considering granting a new lease or selling your commercial property, it is essential that you ensure that the property meets the current energy efficiency requirements”

commercial buildings. An EPC gives a property an energy rating from A (most efficient) to G (least efficient).

The Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England and Wales) Regulations 2015 require that both residential and commercial properties must meet a minimum energy efficiency standard (MEES regulations) in order to be suitable for sale or rent. Since 1 April 2018, subject to certain exemptions, the MEES regulations prohibit landlords of commercial properties with an energy rating of F or G (otherwise known as a substandard property) from granting leases to new tenants.

Further MEES regulations are expected to come into effect from 1 April 2023. Similarly, subject to certain exemptions, a landlord of a commercial property cannot continue to let a commercial property if it is classed as substandard (i.e. has an energy rating below E). For instance, any lease granted before or after 1 April 2018, which remains in existence after 1 April 2023 will be caught by the regulations, and this may have costly consequences for a landlord who may be required to improve the property's energy efficiency level.

There may also be practical implications arising under the terms of the lease, especially an older lease granted some years ago, as to whether a landlord is entitled to enter the premises occupied by the tenant, to carry out the necessary works. The key question for all



landlords continuing to let their commercial properties on or after the 1st of April 2023, is therefore whether these regulations apply to their properties, and if so, whether they are obliged to carry out the necessary improvement to ensure that the property is no longer classed as sub-standard.

For any of our Commercial Property clients who may be uncertain as to the current requirements, and/or the potential implications of the anticipated regulations due to come into effect in April 2023 on their currently leased properties, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us for further clarification. Likewise, if you are considering granting a new lease or selling your commercial property, it is essential that you ensure that the property meets the current energy efficiency requirements. Here at Arnold Thomson, we have a highly experienced team specialising in all aspects of commercial transactions and leasehold arrangements, and we are here to assist with your legal needs or any enquiries you may have.



# Trust Registration

## What is it and How Does it Affect Me?



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You may have heard about recent changes to trust registration, under the Trust Registration Scheme (TRS). There is a new legal requirement under the scheme, for most trusts to be registered with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) by September 2022. Many people may assume that this requirement does not affect them. In actual fact, it may well do. This is because a Trust can arise in a number of circumstances – not all of which are easily identifiable on the face of it. Some examples are examined below.

### Partnerships

Where land is held on the balance sheet for the benefit of the partnership as a whole, there may be a trust in existence. If the person named on the legal title at HM Land Registry (or the person named on the title deeds, if the land is unregistered) is different from those who can benefit from the land, then a Trust is in existence.

### Case Study

Mr Samuel Smith and Mrs Jane Smith farm in partnership with their son, John Smith. Samuel Smith is the sole owner of the 350 acres farmed by the partnership. In order to ensure that on his death, the land can benefit from the Inheritance Tax reliefs of Agricultural Property Relief and Business Property Relief, Samuel adds the land to the balance sheet of the partnership.

On the partnership accounts, land and buildings are shown as assets. This creates a Trust registerable with HMRC. Even where the value of the land and buildings may only be credited to Samuel Smith's capital account, a trust has nonetheless been created. Under the Trust registration requirements, which came into effect in September 2022, this trust will need to be registered with HMRC's Trust registration service and updated as and when any changes occur within the partnership or in the ownership of the land.

### Other

#### Circumstances

Trusts can also arise in many other circumstances, including where a parent may have contributed to the purchase of a home for their child and there is an underlying declaration regarding the ownership percentages.

#### How to Establish if a Trust Has Been Created

1. Consider if you are named on the title to land, or are the account holder for a bank account/investment ('the asset') but are not the only person who will benefit from it.
2. Is there a document which states that you are a Trustee? If so, you are likely to need to register a Trust.
3. Where someone other than the legal owner can benefit from an asset, then a trust is in existence and it is likely that it will need to be registered.

### What can I do?

Under the TRS, HMRC has the power to levy penalties when trusts which ought to be registered are left unregistered. It has however confirmed the adoption of a light approach for the moment, while it allows for the necessary steps to be taken by Trustees. The most important thing to do, if you are aware that there is a Trust in place, is to ensure that you now take steps to register it. There is also a requirement on professional advisors, such as accountants and solicitors, to notify HMRC if they are aware of an unregistered trust and those responsible, having been made aware of the need for the trust to be registered, have also declined to do so.

The responsibility for registering a Trust rests with the Trustees. If you think you may be a Trustee, and you have any query about the Trust Registration Scheme and whether it affects you, or you require assistance with the registration of a Trust, our Private Client Team will happily provide you with expert legal guidance and the information you need.



# Overage Agreements

## Key Points to Consider



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Quite often, the particulars on the sale of property and/or land refer to the sale as being subject to “overage”, “uplift” or “clawback” terms. For the purpose of this article these terms are referred to as overage. Overage agreements are becoming increasingly popular in land sales, and therefore constitute an important feature for both Buyers and Sellers to carefully consider.

The term “overage” is generally used to describe the situation where it is agreed that a Seller may share in any increase in value realised on the future sale of the property.

The purpose of imposing overage terms from a Seller’s point of view is to maximise potential financial return from receipt of the sale price and, in addition, a share of any increase in value due to planning permission being obtained and/or the property being subsequently developed. This is usually only put in place when there is a reasonable expectation that the property will be developed in the future. However, we are increasingly seeing overage terms imposed on land which may not have any expectation of development in the next few years, yet the overage term is for 30 or 40 years, for example, to consider that there may well be changes to planning policies within the stipulated period.

From a Buyer’s perspective, entering into an overage agreement could, on one hand, serve as a prevention from purchasing the land at a higher price based on its potential development value, which may never come to fruition. On the other hand however, overage agreements can be rather complex, which can be costly and may potentially

prolong a transaction. For Buyers, consideration may need to be given to whether it would be more beneficial to purchase the land at a higher initial cost.

There are many terms to negotiate and determine before entering into an overage agreement. It is therefore advisable for the parties to agree all key terms before instructing a lawyer to proceed with the sale or purchase. This will enable the lawyer to draft the terms of the overage agreement in a time and cost-effective manner, reducing the need for prolonged negotiations.

Some key points to consider at the outset include:

- **Tenure of the overage:** This is typically in terms of years. We would usually advise against terms agreed for the lifetime of a Seller, as this can be difficult to deal with in the future. For example, if the Seller moves abroad, it may prove difficult to trace them and whether they are still living.
- **What will trigger a payment under the overage** – i.e. is it to be on implementation of a planning permission and/or on the sale of the property with the benefit of planning permission? Grant of a planning permission can also be a trigger. However, this is becoming less popular. Buyers are opposed to agreeing such a term because they would need to pay an overage payment even if they do not carry out, and/or have the benefit of the development granted under the planning permission. Also, a planning permission could be applied for by a third party.
- **Calculation of the payment due under the overage:** The important points to note here are the percentage of the increase in value the Seller will receive and whether any deductions

can be made from the payment for the cost of obtaining the planning permission.

- **Will every development trigger an overage payment?** Not necessarily. Often on the sale of agricultural land, any development for agriculture will be excluded from the overage terms. Another point to consider, especially where there is a house on the property, is the fact that it is often agreed that any extension to the house will not qualify as a trigger for payment due.
- **Successors in Title:** It is usual for the terms of the overage to be binding on future owners.

We would recommend that these key points are thoroughly considered by both parties when negotiating a sale which would be subject to an overage. The particulars of each sale, as well as the circumstances of each client are different, and as such, it is more than likely that there will be other terms unique to each transaction. There is rarely a “one size fits all” overage. However, if the key terms are agreed at the outset, it facilitates the process, such that the overage agreement prepared by the Seller’s lawyer should not require any extensive re-drafting upon receipt and review by the Buyer’s lawyer.

Our Agricultural and Commercial Property Teams are made up of legal experts, who regularly deal with transactions for Buyers and Sellers with a variety of overage terms. If you are considering entering into a new overage agreement or varying the terms of an existing one, please do not hesitate to contact us for more information and skilful guidance aimed at protecting your best interests.



# Sold

## Residential Conveyancing Through The Pandemic

The world of conveyancing is an ever-changing process that advances over time, to stay relevant to the constantly evolving needs and demands of a modern society. It would be safe to say therefore, that the conveyancing world or property market is forever adapting to the times. Or vice versa.

“A year after it ended in October 2021, the stamp duty holiday continues to have a lasting effect on residential conveyancing”



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Like the rest of the world, the property market was hit hard at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. With so much uncertainty and no clear path in sight, key employees were furloughed and working from home became the norm. We saw a marked reduction in the number of instructions at the initial stages of the pandemic. The market went rather quiet. This was not the case for long.

As part of the many initiatives introduced by the Government in an attempt to keep the economy alive, despite the harsh effects of the pandemic, the Stamp Duty holiday came into effect from 8th July 2020 and implemented a temporary nil rate band of £500,000 on stamp duty. This triggered a significant boom, almost of unprecedented proportions, in the property market. Many firms were unprepared for the avalanche of instructions from clients and the demand for their services.

Key personnel were hurriedly brought back from furlough to help deal with the exponential increase in workload. As a Firm, we were most fortunate to have, over time, put in place measures, systems and procedures which meant that despite all the upheaval, we remained fully committed to looking after our clients' best interests, and attending to their matters in a robust and proactive manner.

A year after it ended in October 2021, the Stamp Duty holiday continues to have a lasting effect on residential conveyancing. For instance, HM Land Registry are still dealing with a heavy back log of applications, which means that the completion time for standard registration applications is significantly longer, typically taking as long as 3 to 4 months as opposed to a standard 2 to 4 weeks pre-pandemic time scale. First

registration applications are taking even longer – in some cases, 18 months to 2 years.

The latest Government announcements regarding stamp duty changes and the effects the mini budget has had on the economy and mortgage rates has caused yet another wave of uncertainty, and some may be understandably worried about what comes next.

Our Residential Property Team is here to help with your questions and enquiries. We have always been committed to providing our clients with excellent client care tailored specifically to their individual needs. Whether you are a first time buyer or already hold a property portfolio, we will be happy to provide you with the legal guidance and assistance you need in a constantly changing property market.



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# Renewable Energy Wind and Solar Farms

It has become a rare occurrence for one to drive around the countryside and not see a solar farm or two. Opinion is divided as to whether solar farms are attractive additions to the countryside, although it is fair to say that most will agree that ground mounted solar farms are here to stay.

For obvious reasons, solar energy is becoming more popular with greater support as a source of power, given that solar power is free and entirely renewable. It is argued that the visual and noise impact of a solar farm is less than other renewable energy projects, plus solar farms produce zero carbon.

Awareness of the impact of global warming and climate change, which has been identified as one of the greatest threats to the environment and our world as a whole, has increased significantly in the last few decades. Affirming its commitment to drastically reduce net emissions to zero by 2050, the UK Government brought the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 into force in June 2019. This would place the country as one of the world leaders in its contribution to positive climate change. Wind and solar farms, with the promise of renewable energy and the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions, have therefore become rather popular.

In addition, solar projects are also attractive to developers, because they are quick and relatively easy to build. They are also regarded as low risk projects with high returns. Over the last decade, solar energy has gone from being a relative unknown to a rapidly expanding industry. The technology is proven, and as we continue to find ever changing advances in technology, solar panels are also becoming increasingly more efficient.

As a result, solar projects are becoming ever more attractive to landowners as a way of diversifying. Depending on the size and nature of the proposed solar farm development, a project will usually involve a variety of key documents, as well as land and planning documents. Negotiating terms for a solar farm project would typically involve working closely with our clients and surveyors.

If you have been approached by a developer, or if you are giving consideration to diversifying into

wind and solar farms, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us for further information. Our Commercial Property Team is made up of highly experienced people, whose specialities include renewable energy. We are here to assist with your legal needs or any enquiries you may have.



“Over the last decade, solar energy has gone from being a relative unknown to a rapidly expanding industry.”

# How Time Flies

It must be an age thing. I remember a friend saying to me some years ago that when you are 5, a year is a fifth of your life and time seems to go slowly. When you are 50, a year is one fiftieth of your life and time seems to go incredibly fast.

In March 2002, I joined Arnold Thomson, a small, dedicated team of unique individuals committed to their work and clients. The organisational culture is unique, brilliant, and encompassing; like an extended family, and at the same time, we are able to maintain a truly professional environment where the work ethic is strong, and our core values are held dear. Within this time, some of us have reached work milestones, with Matt Hawkins, our Senior Director, Mark Everitt, our Accounts Manager and myself all celebrating over 20 years since we joined the Firm.

It doesn't feel like 20 years, perhaps because we continue to enjoy what we do, deriving the sometimes elusive job satisfaction, or because we have found our "work family." As the saying goes however, nothing lasts forever. And in the last few years, we have had to bid farewell to some of our longest standing colleagues, some of those who laid the foundations of Arnold Thomson. It was with mixed feelings that we sent them off on their thoroughly deserved retirement, and well-earned life of leisure, even though they would be sorely missed.

As many of us may recall, Mike Fursey, one of the most prominent solicitors at the Firm, retired in April 2018. Mike joined Arnold Thomson from inception, in May 1990. He remained an integral part of the Firm until he retired.

Mike Thomson, the Firm's founding Director (together with James Arnold), hung up his hat (although only partially) in the spring of 2020, after several decades in the legal profession. The

solid foundation which Mike laid, and the values he ensured that the Firm stands for, remain the very tenets upon which we all continue to build. For many of us who were privileged to work with Mike for many years, we saw him as a role model, an exemplary leader, and a vastly experienced solicitor, whose wealth of knowledge and wisdom we all benefited from. Mike is still very much a part of Arnold Thomson, as our Agricultural Property Consultant. According to the Legal 500, he is an 'Elder Statesman', and we couldn't agree more.

Shortly after Mike's retirement, Jackie Balfe, our longest serving member of staff also retired (albeit very reluctantly) after 47 years of dedicated service. Jackie first joined Howes Percival & Budge in 1974. The office was taken over by Shoosmiths and Harrison, where Jackie then worked with Mike Thomson and James Arnold. When they left Shoosmiths and jointly founded Arnold Thomson in 1990, Jackie remained with the Firm, until her retirement in 2021. Her historical knowledge and experience were therefore invaluable, much of which she imparted to many of us over the years. It was an absolute pleasure working with Jackie.

Earlier this year, a most valuable member of the Arnold Thomson family, Christine Simkins, embarked on her retirement on the 1st of April 2022, after 31 years of working, first with Mike Thomson at Shoosmiths from 1981, and at Arnold Thomson since our doors were opened in 1990.



**Reminiscing on her long and illustrious career, Chris recalls as follows:**

"I only did development work and renewables when I joined AT. I backed up Mike Thomson and James Arnold generally. My clients have been so loyal over the years, and we have grown old and turned grey together.

I started working on Renewables in 2009 – my first scheme was a Wind farm adjoining the M1. I acted for a Consortium of 4 landowners which completed in 2013. By then my name had got around as being an expert in the field which I find very funny. It was just I made the effort to do my research and worked with some good agents. I was able, in those days, to get a cash security fund to cover damage caused during construction which made me popular with clients but not the developers!

The rest is history. I consider myself very lucky to have worked at Arnold Thomson for so long. I think that is testament to the Firm - seeking throughout its existence to provide good client care and look after its staff. Something which I valued greatly. People come to us because we care, we are good value, and we deliver. I will always remember my colleagues and all of my longstanding clients with affection ... what a lucky girl I have been!"

Chris too remains very much a part of Arnold Thomson, in her new and exciting capacity as our Commercial Property Consultant.

**We wish Mike Fursey, Mike Thomson, Chris, and Jackie a long and happy retirement full of wonderful adventures. Like them, I also feel very privileged to be part of the Firm, and I believe that I speak for my colleagues as well. Our unique organisational culture, strong values and dedication to the needs of our clients, are some of the major factors that stand us apart as leaders in our field, and I hope that this is evident to you, our clients, in our dedication and commitment to looking after your best interests always.**



**Paula Annetts** – Office Manager  
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# Hello

## BRIEF Introductions

As Remi says in her article on page 4 "In every ending, there is a new beginning".

Since our last edition of the Field Leader, we have been joined by a number of amazing and likeminded colleagues, who are equally committed to providing our clients with the best service possible.

It is our pleasure to introduce them to you:



**Angela Guess**  
Solicitor & Head of Commercial Property  
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Joined Arnold Thomson 6 June 2022

**Areas of expertise and what you love most about your job** Commercial Property – I love the fact that every day is different.

**Career highlight to date**  
Joining Arnold Thomson!

**Who did you want to be when you grew up?**  
Marti Pellow's girlfriend!!

**Dog, horse or cat?** Cat – definitely

**What's the most exciting part of your job?**

Getting to grips with complex issues and being able to resolve them for clients

**What do you most enjoy doing on the weekends?**

Not having to get up early for the school run!

**Your favourite holiday?**

Being in Cyprus (feels like going home) with great food (and drink) and wonderful company

**Are you an introvert or an extrovert?**

I'd say somewhere in between – never one to be as expected.

**If you could meet any historical figure, who would you choose to meet?**

Vincent Van Gogh

**You're stranded on a deserted island and have three wishes. What would they be?**

(1) it's a tropical warm island (definitely don't like the cold) plenty of lovely fresh food and water;  
(2) to have my favourite books with me and (3) to know that the rescue plane/boat is coming to get me after 3 or 4 days.



**Karen Ward**  
Private Client Lawyer  
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Joined Arnold Thomson 4 November 2019

**Areas of expertise and what you love most about your job** Private Client – Wills, Estate Administration, LPAs, Court of Protection. I really enjoy meeting and helping people through difficult times in their life such as the loss of a close relative.

**Career highlight to date**

Advancing my career and working my way up from a receptionist/pa to receiving training to become a fee earner and excelling in the area I practice.

**Who did you want to be when you grew up?**

I wanted to be an Air Hostess!

**Dog, horse or cat?** Horse. I have an Arabian horse named Shiraaz. He is 6 years old and very much a Prince!!!

**What's the most exciting part of your job?**

Being a Team member and meeting new people.

**What do you most enjoy doing on the weekends?**

Riding my horse and spending quality with my husband and family.

**Your favourite holiday?** Mexico!

**Are you an introvert or an extrovert?**

Somewhere in between...

**If you could meet any historical figure, who would you choose to meet?** Cleopatra.

**You're stranded on a deserted island and have three wishes. What would they be?**

To have my family with me, have my horse with me, and provisions to survive.

# Hello

continued...



**Rosamund (Roz) Bennett**

Private Client Solicitor

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Joined Arnold Thomson 25 April 2022

**Areas of expertise and what you love most about your job** Private Client. I enjoy being able to help people when they need it, to give them the peace of mind of knowing that their affairs are in order.

**Career highlight to date**

Qualifying as a solicitor and knowing that the years of hard work had paid off.

**Who did you want to be when you grew up?**

Marie Curie. My favourite subjects at school were science (Chemistry especially) and Maths and I was sure I would end up in that field.

**Dog, horse or cat?** Until recently I'd have said dog, but last year we adopted two cats who make me smile on a daily basis.

**What do you most enjoy doing on the weekends?**

I love a weekend of pottering around; a wander round the town or local countryside with my husband, maybe lunch with a friend, a couple of hours curled up with a book, and maybe a little bit of baking.

**Your favourite holiday?**

A few years ago I spent a few days travelling from Las Vegas to San Francisco by campervan. The scenery, the vastness, and the remoteness were all things unlike I'd seen before and quite an experience.

**Are you an introvert or an extrovert?**

I think I'm somewhere in between. I enjoy being out and meeting people but need a certain amount of alone time to recharge.

**If you could meet any historical figure, who would you choose to meet?**

I'm not sure she's really a historical figure but I'd love to have met Audrey Hepburn.

**You're stranded on a deserted island and have three wishes. What would they be?**

To get off the island so I'm no longer stranded!



**Rhianna Gurney**

Private Client Paralegal

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Joined Arnold Thomson 2 August 2021

**Areas of expertise and what you love most about your job** Private Client. People often come to us under difficult circumstances and doing my best to make this time as stress free and easy as possible for those clients is what I love the most about my job.

**Career highlight to date**

I would say finding my passion for Private Client Law. I am also proud to be studying for the Solicitors Qualifying Examination whilst working full time and managing my own case load.

**Who did you want to be when you grew up?**

Rebecca Adlington – I loved to swim growing up and remember watching her win gold in the 2008 Olympics and being totally inspired.

**Dog, horse or cat?** I grew up in a pet free home but I am looking forward to getting my first cat sometime soon!

**What's the most exciting part of your job?**

Meeting with clients! It is always exciting to meet new clients and build new working relationships - no day is the same!

**What do you most enjoy doing on the weekends?**

I enjoy a long walk up Ivinghoe Beacon and catching up with friends and family over the weekends. In particular, my eight month old nephew who has stolen my heart. I love being on auntie duties.

**Your favourite holiday?** I would have to say the Philippines – great people, beautiful scenery, incredible beaches and lagoons, full of culture and things to explore – what more could you want!

**If you could meet any historical figure, who would you choose to meet?**

Van Gogh – I have always had an interest in art and having recently visited the Van Gogh museum in Amsterdam I certainly feel as though he was a very interesting man!

**You're stranded on a deserted island and have three wishes. What would they be?**

Firstly, I would wish to have a week's worth of delicious food and drink. Secondly, I would wish for somewhere safe and comfy to sleep. After making the most of a peaceful week's holiday on the deserted island I would, finally, wish to return home.

