



here to help

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Chris (left) is congratulated by Managing Director Diana Packwood, Senior Partner Jeremy Taylor and Director Keir Hirst.

Chris strengthens team of directors

One of our specialist litigation partners has just been promoted to the position of director.

Chris Detheridge steps up to the position after eight years with the firm.

A member of the Professional Negligence Lawyers Association and a qualified mediator, Chris has more than two decades' experience in the law.

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“I am delighted to be made a director at such a respected law firm – this is a great honour for

me as Wace Morgan is such a well-recognised name in the county and beyond,” said Chris, who specialises in contractual disagreements, including disputes between partners and shareholders, professional negligence and probate issues.

He originally attended law school in Chester after graduating from Cardiff University and is an accredited civil and commercial mediator, having completed extensive training.

Chris is married to Zoe Detheridge, associate solicitor in our commercial department, and they have two children.



Supreme Court ruling 'a landmark'

Our employment law specialist Keir Hirst has highlighted a ruling against employment tribunal costs, saying it is of fundamental significance.

The Supreme Court recently handed down its long awaited judgment on fees for those bringing employment tribunal claims – ruling them as unlawful.

Keir, who heads our employment department, says that the step follows a four-year legal battle which challenged the government over the legality of its introduction of the fees in 2013.

"In this landmark decision, the highest court in the UK has ruled that the government acted unlawfully and unconstitutionally when it introduced fees for bringing an employment tribunal claim," said Keir, who has specialised in employment law for 17 years and has represented clients at tribunals all over the country.

"This decision is of fundamental significance for the employment tribunal system and for the employees and employers who use it."

The judgment also means that anyone who has paid such a fee may be entitled to a refund, meaning the government could have to repay up to £32m to claimants.

Personal injury partner appears on national TV

Our senior partner who specialises in personal injury claims has been featured on national television this summer.



Jeremy Taylor appeared on the Channel 5 programme 'Where there's blame, there's a claim', aired in July.

In the second episode of the series, the ground-breaking case of young army recruit Connie Shutt, from Tamworth, was highlighted. She had to give up her military career because of an avoidable pelvic stress injury, suffered during her army training.

She and three colleagues were represented in their successful compensation case, which took five years to conclude, by Jeremy Taylor, who was interviewed on the show.

He commented: "The television series highlighted that nobody chooses to be a genuine victim.

Accidents can happen to anyone causing lifetime injuries or in Connie's case the loss of her military career which was devastating for her.

"Whether the injury is due to a careless motorist, employer or hospital no one should have to put up with being injured and losing out due to someone else's neglect, without fair compensation."

The programme also highlighted the importance of getting expert legal help at an early stage. Connie Shutt was one of a number of young female trainees who suffered avoidable pelvic stress injuries and, as a result, were denied fulfilling careers.

Mr Taylor said these were groundbreaking claims: "The forces lost out on extremely promising recruits who would much rather be serving their country."

Wace Morgan Solicitors, as founder members of the national Forces Law organisation, have well recognised expertise in assisting servicemen and women and veterans in a range of cases and are members of the Armed Forces Covenant.

"It is important to us to ensure that servicemen and women receive the help and advice that they are entitled to"

Mr Taylor added: "It is important to us to ensure that servicemen and women receive the help and advice that they are entitled to in return for the commitment they have shown and sacrifices they have made.

"I was delighted to have this opportunity to take part in the programme. Innocent people who have been injured can obtain a just outcome whatever the level of injury."

Legal letter ‘best way to chase debt’

Using a legal firm when chasing unpaid invoices is the best way to ensure quick payment, according to new research.



Newly-published figures show that two thirds of letters sent by a firm of solicitors result in invoices being paid within seven days, in contrast to two thirds of overdue invoices remaining unpaid after one month if no letter is sent.

Glenda Hammond, debt and credit controller at Wace Morgan, endorsed the research, saying that an appropriately-worded letter was an extremely effective method of clearing debt.

“I have been in debt recovery for over 40 years and know that when businesses, large or small, have outstanding invoices it has an extremely detrimental effect on their operation and can impact on their ability to stay afloat,” says Glenda, who is a former court manager.

“Correspondence from a firm of reputable solicitors shows that you are serious and expect to be paid on time.

“We can often obtain settlement or can encourage the person who owes the money to set out any difficulties or disputes they have about the debt, which often leads to the matter being resolved quickly – thereby keeping legal charges relatively low.

“I ensure that letters are informative and straight to the point but polite and not overbearing. It is crucial to keep the balance right. A solicitor’s letter can open up a dialogue with the person who owes the money as they often feel easier discussing it with a third person.”

“Not all outstanding debts are cleared. There may be extreme circumstances such as personal bankruptcy or serious illness which can affect matters. However, I am always prepared to listen and this is a very important part of the role of a debt recovery officer,” she added.

The research figures were taken from a survey of 30,000 customers throughout the country. The survey also showed that, on average, invoices sent by businesses with a turnover of less than £5m a year take 72 days to be paid.

In the last financial year Glenda recovered a considerable amount of debt on behalf of Wace Morgan’s clients.



Lizzie appointed to Children’s Panel

Solicitor Lizzie Hughes of our family department has been appointed to the Law Society Children’s Panel.

Lizzie is one of only a few legal professionals in the region to be accredited by the panel, meaning that she can now represent children in care proceedings.

“I was accredited in July after a lengthy written application and interview by the panel at the Law Society in London,” said Lizzie, who is also vice president of Shropshire Law Society.

The appointment is designed for law practitioners who are able to demonstrate awareness, knowledge and expertise in child law proceedings and the representation of children.

“It provides a recognised quality standard and enables professionals such as guardians to identify suitably qualified practitioners when representation of a child is required.

“It is an achievement I am very proud of and one that I have been aiming for since qualifying as a solicitor,” Lizzie added.

She is now able to accept instructions directly in respect of children through The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service guardians and will continue to represent parents and extended family members.

Lizzie specialises in cases including intervention by social services, adoption and custody disputes and appears regularly on the West Midland, Shropshire and mid Wales court circuit before all levels of judges from magistrates to circuit judges.

Barb takes part in European finals



Legal assistant Barb Somers proudly wore the Wace Morgan branding when she took part in a gruelling international athletic event.

Barb, who is 64, qualified for the European Triathlon Championships, held in Dusseldorf in June.

She has been competing in sprint triathlons, which involve a 750m swim, a 20k bike ride and 5k run, for around 10 years and is a member of the SY Tri Shrewsbury Triathlon Club.

The German event saw her up against 18 other competitors in the 60 to 64 age group.

"Unfortunately I had an injury setback just before the championships so did not perform to my best but it was fantastic to

qualify and to represent England and Shrewsbury and I am very grateful to Wace Morgan for their sponsorship," said Barb, who lives in Cressage and works in the commercial department.

She has a successful record in national and international events and has previously taken part in the GB Age Group Team, finishing 15th in the world triathlon championships.

Wace Morgan provided her with a new tri suit which she wore at the championships.

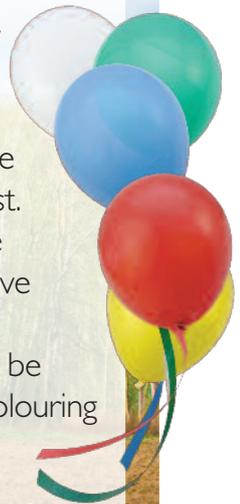
She is also now a British Triathlon Federation official/referee which takes her all over the county officiating in events.

COME AND SEE US AT THE TWO SHOWS

Wace Morgan will be out and about at two popular agricultural events later this summer.

The firm will have a marquee at the **Minsterley Show** on 19th August. Come along to meet us there – we will have promotional goodies to give away and staff will be on hand to answer questions. Also on offer will be refreshments, a quiz and children's colouring competition with prizes.

In addition we will be attending **Cruckton Ploughing Match** on 23rd September. We have a gazebo where some of our partners will be on hand to chat to visitors. And there is usually lots of cake to be eaten!



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