

Our new
Teddington
office opens in
December

LOOP IN THE

STONE
ROWE
BREWER
NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2013

A master class in how not to behave as a parent...

If there was ever a clear illustration of how not to behave as a parent, the film adaptation of Henry James' novel, 'What Maisie Saw', demonstrates it perfectly.



Directed by Scott McGhee and David Sigel, the 2013 release tells the story of a little girl's struggle for grace in the midst of her parents' bitter custody battle. Told through the eyes of the title's heroine, Maisie navigates this ever-widening turmoil with a six-year-old's innocence. It has also been described as "a monster movie – even if the monsters in question leave emotional scars rather than physical ones."

If the theme of 'appropriate shared parenting' affects you, Lisa Broddle, SRB's Family and Collaborative Lawyer, recommends some pointers from Sylvia Duncan's recent talk to Thameside Collaborative Lawyers and Mediators.

- *The importance of both parents to a child in a meaningful relationship.*
- *Children will do best when they feel safe, loved and supported by both parents.*
- *Shared Parenting... is not about what is 'fair' for the adult, it's about what is right for the child.*

• *Children should be reassured that any fears, worries or concerns that they may have will be addressed and that everyone will be working together in their best interests.*

• *Appropriate adult behaviour, communicating as best they can and seeking assistance from professionals as to how this outcome can be achieved.*

SRB are producing a free leaflet for parents, which will cover topics in this important area. Details regarding availability will be posted on www.srb.co.uk in the next few weeks.

To request a leaflet, or to speak to Lisa Broddle at SRB, please call her on 020 8891 6141.

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The myth of 'Common Law Marriage'

Twickenham Literature Festival prize



In a recent survey of MPs, undertaken by Resolution.org.uk, 69% of those surveyed agreed that many of their constituents mistakenly believed that there was such a concept as 'common

law marriage'. The Liberal Democrats also debated the issue of cohabitation rights at their annual conference.

This trend is increasing, with 5.9m people cohabiting in 2012, double the number in 1996. Many couples believe that they have the same rights as married couples and it is not until the relationship breaks down that they realise that cohabitants have few legal rights. This can often lead to undue hardship and stress.

For specific advice on your circumstances, please contact the Stone Rowe Brewer Family Law team on 020 8891 6141.



SRB are sponsoring this year's Twickenham Poetry Competition and hope that every young person who takes part enjoys; writing about, living in, or coming from, our special town on the bank of the Thames.

The competition, which is part of the Richmond Literature Festival that runs during November, allows 4-16-year-olds to express their creativity and

imagination using the written word, and, as a company, Stone Rowe Brewer is proud to support and encourage talented, young, local writers.

To find out more about the Richmond Literature Festival and to download the 2013 brochure outlining all event dates, visit www.richmondliterature.com

Child Maintenance – new 'Gross Income Scheme'

From 29th July 2013, the new "gross income" regime for calculating child maintenance was extended to families with two or more children. Previously the "gross income" scheme had only been open to families with four or more children.

New applications to the Child Maintenance Service (CMS), previously the Child Support Agency (CSA) will be assessed under this new regime, where the paying parent's gross income, rather than their net income, is used to calculate the child maintenance to be paid.

It is anticipated that the Government will introduce charges for making an application to, and for using, the CMS to administer the collection and payment of child maintenance. Parents will still be able to enter into agreements between themselves regarding child maintenance and so avoid using the CMS. For more information contact Child Maintenance Options at www.cmoptions.org or telephone 0208 988 0988.

For specific advice on your particular circumstances, please contact our Family Law Team on 020 8891 6141.

New SRB office in Teddington

We are delighted to announce that the Stone Rowe Brewer office at 72 High Street Teddington (next door to Starbucks) will re-open in December.

Richard Steer & Co., (who were at 72 High Street Teddington for 30 years) joined Stone Rowe Brewer in October last year. Since then, the Teddington office has been closed for major refurbishment. The new office is on the Ground Floor, which makes for easy access.

Richard Steer will be returning to Teddington with his assistant Mrs. Gerry Heal and Solicitor, Jackie Nash.

Richard, Jackie and Gerry look forward to seeing you in the new office. Further details, along with launch event plans, will be published on our website in due course, or by calling 020 8977 8621.

Local property prices rise by 7.1% in 2013

According to Land Registry data, property prices in Richmond upon Thames have increased by an average of 7.1% this year.

House prices have been rising at the highest rate in years and mortgage approvals have increased some 40% to the highest level since February 2008.

Here at SRB, it has certainly been a busy year in the Conveyancing department. It seems that growing consumer confidence in the economy, coupled with increased

'Managing Your Life' seminar

SRB hosted the first of a series of seminars last month, which focussed on advising start-up and small businesses how best to structure their companies, on employment law issues and protecting intellectual property. This very well attended event also provided a perfect networking opportunity for like-minded local entrepreneurs. Chris Durkin, from Hounslow Chamber of Commerce, e-mailed to say; "it was a great night – many thanks to all concerned."

Managing Your Life – for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer: Thursday January 30th sees the seminar focus switch, with an evening of talks designed for those who are unsure of their relationship options, family law or domestic disputes – as well as financial considerations that are central when facing one of life's landmarks.

If you would like to reserve a place at the event, which will take place in the function room at The Crown pub in St. Margarets between 6:30-9:00pm, please e-mail marketing@srb.co.uk or call 0780 361 1867.



mortgage availability, stable and record low level interest rates, have stimulated the borough's housing market.

If you are considering moving and would like a no obligation conveyancing estimate, please contact our Conveyancing team on 020 8891 6141.



Richmond Ice Rink returns to Twickenham this winter

Stone Rowe Brewer are delighted to be one of the partner companies involved in bringing an exciting new addition to Twickenham this winter – an ice rink in the grounds of York House. The temporary rink will operate for six weeks between November 30th, 2013 and January 12th, 2014.

With a maximum capacity of 100 skaters per 45 minute session; there will be 10 sessions a day between 10:00 and 19:45, seven days a week, except for Christmas Day.

Visitors will also be given a free booklet, which has been specially produced by SRB to celebrate the memory of the world-famous Richmond Ice Rink that sat proudly on the bank of the Thames at East Twickenham.

Personal recollections and photographs from skaters who used the much-missed 'Sportsdrome' have been used ahead of a bigger book of memories, which will be published during 2014.

Copies of the booklet will also be available from Stone Rowe Brewer's reception areas, in both our Twickenham and Teddington offices, between the rink's opening dates.

For more information on the Ice Rink visit www.twickenhamalive.com, or to book tickets, visit www.richmondrink.com.