



## **NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2016**

Welcome to the latest CRELA Newsletter.

We do hope that you find the information contained in this newsletter informative and would welcome any feedback.

### **Membership Renewal**

You will have received your request for renewal of the annual subscription for CRELA. This remains unchanged at £25.00 per member which is the rate it has been for the last four years and reflects the policy that CRELA should be accessible to all individuals. Please, if you have not done so already, can you pay your renewal subscription either personally or arrange for your firm to pay it on your behalf and in conjunction with other colleagues if applicable.

Please log on to the website and complete the form or contact Tim Power of TPS at [booking@tpsnorfolk.co.uk](mailto:booking@tpsnorfolk.co.uk).



### **Website**

If you haven't done so for a while, click here at [www.crela.org.uk](http://www.crela.org.uk) to access the CRELA website which includes notes about all past events.

Details of new events will appear as they are confirmed.



### **Update and Committee**

Thank you to all members and guests who have attended CRELA events over the recent months. It would appear that the mixture of industry speakers discussing topical issues coupled with legal training seminars works well and meets the demands of our members. Going forward, CRELA intends to continue this format with a similar series of events which will promote CRELA either through joint events with the Property Litigation Association and the Chancery Bar Association or on its own.

Many of the events have taken place in the central London area although it is hoped that regional presence will continue to expand. A second Thames Valley regional event was held earlier this year and was well attended so a specific thanks to Tim Read and Melissa Baxter of Clifton Ingram LLP who managed to ensure the event's success. It is hoped that this will be one of many such events not just in the Thames Valley Region but across the whole of the United Kingdom. If you are keen to be involved, please contact any of the Committee Members

who are shown on the website. In the meantime however, those Committee Members with regional responsibility are as follows:

Manchester/Liverpool – Jim Garton (Hill Dickinson LLP), Sarah Pass (Forsters LLP)

Thames Valley – Tim Read (Clifton Ingram LLP)

We have formally welcomed Christine Palser of Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP as honorary secretary in place of Claire Timmings who has stepped down from honorary secretary after a period of five years' service. The Committee formally thanks Claire for all her hard work over the last five years which has made a substantial contribution to CRELA itself. Claire remains a member of the Committee.



## **Events**

### **Thames Valley Events**

The CRELA Thames Valley group held a successful meeting in March at Shoosmiths' office in Reading. About 20 members attended, drawn from 12 different law firms. Approximately half of the attendees were new CRELA members who joined the Association because of this event.

There were two speakers. First James Brown from Shrimplin Brown spoke about how planning is now at the centre of the political agenda, in the context of the Thames Valley. James covered the major projects in the area (drive to build new homes by 2020, Crossrail, HS2 etc), which authorities are on top of the growth agenda, who is lagging behind, challenges and opportunities, and what the Government is doing to encourage growth.

James was followed by Peter Williams, a real estate professional support lawyer at Shoosmiths (and a CRELA Committee Member). Peter spoke about the new mandatory international standards for measuring office buildings; forthcoming changes to accounting rules for leases and the importance of replying honestly to enquiries before contract. In his half-hour slot, Peter was also just able to squeeze in a brief explanation of the awkward High Court case of EMI Group Ltd v O&H Q1 Ltd, decided the previous day, as well as the considerable changes to Stamp Duty Land Tax on commercial properties, also announced on the previous day by the Chancellor in his budget speech (Stop Press: the appeal in the EMI Group Case is to be heard in May 2017).

After the talk, there was an opportunity to network over drinks.

The Committee wish to specifically thank Tim Read and Melissa Baxter of Clifton Ingram and Andrew Farmery of Shoosmiths for arranging another excellent evening.

Further Thames Valley regional events will be planned and the next one is from the Crown Estate on 18 May 2017. Paul Sedgwick, Deputy Ranger for the Windsor Crown Estate has been lined up to cover the business of Windsor Park and how the Estate is run. He will touch on the legal issues arising from the vast experience he has in estate matters. Booking forms will be circulated in the New Year for this event which has limited spaces available.

*(If any CRELA member would like to organise a local event, please contact Chair Robert Highmore or Deputy Chair Katherine Watts (whose details are on the website [www.crela.org.uk](http://www.crela.org.uk)). The Committee is keen to support regional initiatives and will be in a position to discuss assisting with arrangements and funding, including identifying speakers for training events.)*

## The Law Commission's Consultation - Regional Road Show

The Law Commission has published a wide-ranging consultation paper on the Land Registration Act 2002. A series of joint events with the Property Litigation Association (PLA) was staged throughout June and early July to advertise and explain the proposed changes. The series began in London and then continued at a further 6 venues in the regions.

Professor Nick Hopkins and Sarah Dawe from the Law Commission outlined the key issues raised by this technical and important subject for practitioners, which included an explanation of the Commission's proposals relating to the registration of easements, the protection of other third party rights on the register (including the procedure for the entry of notices), priority rules, adverse possession, and the Land Registry's indemnity scheme.

The consultation period officially closed on 30 June, and the Law Commission's report is awaited.



## Other Events

We are also working on some other events based on member feedback that we have received. If you have a request for an event/speaker/topic then please pass that to members of the committee. Topics which we are planning are:

"Connectivity" – This will be presented by Tom Redmayne of WiredScore who will explain the benefits of wired certification; Oliver Radley-Gardner of Falcon Chambers who will be talking about the new Electronic Communications Code and Alison Hardy of Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP who will be talking about her part on the working group for a new City of London standard form of Wayleave. We are currently sourcing a venue and expect this to take place in February or March 2017. Details will be circulated and posted on the website once finalised.

Tax Presentation – This will be provided by Michael Thomas of Gray's Inn Tax Chambers and will be run first in Manchester and then in London in Spring 2017 and is likely to involve case studies of CGT, VAT and Capital Allowances. Again, details will be posted on the website and circulated. We are in the course of sourcing the correct venue for Manchester, and so if any members are able to provide their offices for a Manchester Regional function please could they contact Sarah Pass at Forsters.

Another joint event with the Property Litigation Association is planned for the spring of 2017 and more details will follow.

## CRELA Newsstand – CRELA Lexology

### Newsstand

For those CRELA members who have not already signed up, we are delighted to invite you to trial CRELA Newsstand, a collaborative initiative that delivers a tailored newsfeed to CRELA members. CRELA Newsstand is powered by innovative newsfeed service Lexology, which uses its global legal knowledge base to deliver essential know-how and market intelligence in concise digestible form to keep you informed across legal issues in your area.

You can receive CRELA Newsstand as a benefit of being a Commercial Real Estate Legal Association member. Please activate your account by clicking on the box below to start receiving these updates, which will initially include UK property - residential and commercial content only.

You can change your settings (for example to receive the newsfeed daily instead of weekly) or cancel your subscription at any time. Your personal details will remain confidential at all times.



## Communication

You should be receiving emails from Tim Power of TPS which provide detailed updates and information in relation to the events on an event-specific basis. Hopefully this is a prompt for you to revisit the website for updates. It has been brought to the Committee's attention that some emails have not been getting through to members, and therefore you might receive a further from Tim asking you to check your junk email to make sure that it hasn't been marked as spam and, if it has, to mark as safe so that you do not miss out on future emails and newsletters. Please therefore reply to that email to allow us to keep an accurate note of our membership.

## Sponsors

Willis



We are pleased to mention that we continue to enjoy sponsorship from Willis who along with our other sponsor, PLC, are keen to continue to support us.

## Practical Law

CRELA members enjoy complimentary access to the complete Practical Law Corporate and Real Estate Global Guide which is published by Thomson Reuters. These guides provide practical information on topical issues and country specific questions and answers relating to corporate real estate and practice. The global guides are written by leading local law firms working together with Practical Law's experienced editorial team and an international editorial board of expert practitioners. That ensures that the guide addresses the key issues facing any international business in an unfamiliar jurisdiction today. More information on this is shown on the CRELA website and we would encourage all our members to use the Practical Law Website. [www.crela.org.uk/our-sponsors/](http://www.crela.org.uk/our-sponsors/)

## CRELA Committee's Work

The Committee wants to hear from you to make sure we represent your needs and wishes. It continues to work hard and is focused on expanding membership numbers and at the same time is striving to improve the variety and content of seminars and promoting the Association beyond London. Much effort is being expended upon trying to increase regional involvement so if you consider you could assist please contact the Committee. We continue to welcome suggestions, queries, recommendations or requests from all members to fill the diary for 2017. Please direct any suggestions to those listed on the website who will be delighted to do what they can to assist.

Thanks for your continuing support.

CRELA Committee

December 2016

