

- U WELCOME 1
- U ANNUAL TRAINING EVENT.....1
- U WHAT'S ON 2
- U COLLABORATION LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAWYER 3
- U IN THE SPOTLIGHT.... 3 / 4
- U ALL CHANGE 4
- U NEW JOINERS 4

NWLC

News

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE NORTH WEST LEGAL CONSORTIUM

HAPPY NEW YEAR...

Welcome to your New Year Consortium newsletter which brings you up to date with what has been going on and looks forward to what lies ahead for your Consortium in 2012.

2011 was a busy year in which we have seen our membership increase to 34 authorities, we've provided over 1100 CPD hours of free training and have reported on the delivery of circa a £1m of savings to authorities! And that was just for starters- we welcomed over 100 local authority delegates to our autumn Annual Training Event and managed to raise around £13k

for our North West Charity-North West Air Ambulance.

By enhancing and improving what we are doing for you and adding new events and collaborations -of which more later, we hope that 2012 proves to be an even greater success and with your support I'm sure it will be.

Happy New Year to you all!

Jayne Hammond Chair of NW Legal Consortium Management Board



NW LEGAL CONSORTIUM
Authorities Working Together

Annual Training Day

October saw the second NWLC Annual Training Event take place at Leigh Sports Village.

The event was run in conjunction with our four Consortium partners; DLA Piper, Pannone, DAC-Beachcroft and Weightmans, alongside a host of eminent note speakers.

Over **100** delegates attended the event which received great feedback with over **85%** of attendees rating the day as excellent.

The event which started with an opening from Chair of the Consortium Jayne Hammond, was followed by a range of informative and topical seminars.

The seminars featured a range of topics including: law and local government, planning and localism, shared services, litigation and employment.

All of seminars and courses received brilliant feedback, with the majority highlighting that the content was diverse, the speakers were interesting and that the CPD points were a welcome bonus. The slides from all the sessions are available to download from the document area of the website, or free webinars of the sessions are available from localgovernmentlaw.tv

On behalf of the NWLC we would like to thank all those who helped to make the Annual Training Event a success.

If you have any further comments or suggestions for topics and seminars, please contact Beryl Heath:

berylheath217@btinternet.com



Joint Training with SLG

On the 2nd February the NWLC alongside the Northern Branch Solicitors in Local Government Group and South Lakeland District Council are hosting a full day free training session at Kendal Town Hall.

Sessions will be hosted by a range of speakers and our partner firms on topics including; Localism, Judicial Review, Alternative Delivery Structures, Licensing and Environmental Regulatory.

5.5 CPD points are available for the training sessions which run from 9.30 am until 4 pm.

For further information please visit the website courses area.



We're Having a BALL!

The second NWLC Charity Ball will take place in Manchester.

The black-tie event, which will be held on Saturday 21st April, is expected to attract large numbers from the public and private sectors.

A charity auction is due to take place, with a range of great gifts up for grabs. All donations will be going to our Charity the North West Air Ambulance.

Last years' event held at the Midland Hotel in Manchester was a huge success and saw us raise over **£13k** for our charity.

Tickets and further information will be available soon - so keep your eyes on our website for information.

Management Board

JAYNE HAMMOND

JILL COULE

SIMON GOACHER

MATTHEW NEAL

IAN MASON

DAVID WILCOCK

SUPPORTED BY

BRIAN GIBSON

BERYL HEATH

NWLC Courses

The NWLC 2011 / 2012 training programme is well underway, and take-up for places at the events has been good.

With courses offering CPD points and the benefit of all courses being free - why not make the most of what the Consortium has to offer?

It's never too late to send further comments or subjects for training to us - so do send anything further

to Beryl Heath-all gratefully received.

berylheath217@btinternet.com
For further information on up & coming training - please see below or visit the consortium website:



February					
WK	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
1			1	2-Joint Training Day, Kendal	3
2	6	7- Employment, Manchester	8	9	10
3	13	14	15	16	17
4	20	21- Companies, Manchester	22	23	24
5	27	28	29		

January					
WK	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
1		3	4	5	6
2	9	10	11	12	13
3	16	17 - Information Law, Manchester	18	19	20
4	23	24	25	26 - Outsourcing, Liverpool	27
5	30	31			

March					
WK	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
1				1	2
2	5	6 - Litigation, Manchester	7	8	9
3	12	13	14	15 - Equality Impact Assessments, Kendal	16
4	19	20	21	22 - Enforcement, Manchester	23
5	26	27	28	29	30

Local Government Lawyer Training Collaboration

As we welcome in 2012, we wanted to remind you all of the training opportunities we now have available with LGG Ltd and Local Government Lawyer.

www.localgovernmentlaw.tv is offering a training program with a broad range of topics relevant to the public sector solicitor. Each webinar is accredited by the SRA and BSB. The webinars are delivered by leading practitioners from private practice, at the Bar and in-house and cover topics relevant to the changing local authority agenda ranging from the Localism Bill and local authority joint ventures to renegotiating contracts and trafficked children.



As an introductory offer the first course is being offered free of charge. Each module thereafter would typically cost £50 +VAT to view but as part of a partnership with the Consortium we have negotiated a discount of 30%, reducing the usual rate to £35 + VAT per module for staff from member authorities. This discount also applies to packages.

This lower rate is applicable to all webinars purchased from now until the end of March 2012 - so don't miss it! More details are available by logging onto the Consortium website at

www.nwlegalconsortium.com

Additionally, those who attended our recent Consortium Annual Training Event may have seen Derek or Philip from Local Government Lawyer filming the sessions. This has resulted in webinars of the event being available for any colleagues that missed out the first time around - these can be accessed completely free of charge to staff from Consortium Member Authorities.

In the Spotlight



We caught up with Sarah to find out her interests and what makes her tick....

Name: Sarah Bell

Organisation: DLA Piper

Job Title: Partner

Career Highlights: Getting the call from Sir Nigel Knowles telling me I had been made a partner

If you weren't doing what you did now what would be your dream job?

Probably something that involved lots of shopping

Which public figure do you most admire and why? I admire Cherie Blair for being able to stay at the top of her profession and have a family whilst being married to the (former) PM Now that's juggling !

Describe yourself in five words: neat-freak, compassionate, hard-working and clumsy

Favourite past times and hobbies: With a very small child hobbies have gone out of the window so these days a glass of wine in peace and quiet when I can is my current fave pastime.

Which actor / actress would play you in a film? Someone did once say I was like Brigitte Jones (am hoping it was just because of my clumsiness...) so I had better say Rennee Zellweger

What is your favourite holiday destination & why? Has to be the Maldives. Why? Because it is absolute heaven on earth

It's All Change

There have been a few changes over the past few months:

1. India Buildings Chambers Liverpool and St John's Buildings Chambers Manchester successfully concluded their merger on the 1 of October 2011. The merger will make St Johns Buildings the largest barristers Chambers in England and Wales, with more than 200 barristers and 60 support staff.
2. Beachcroft and Davies Arnold Cooper merged on 31 October 2011 to form DAC Beachcroft. DAC Beachcroft will provide a full service claims, commercial, risk, advisory and transactional capability. <http://www.dacbeachcroft.com/>
3. 2-3 Grays Inn Square Chambers has now become Cornerstone Barristers. www.cornerstonebarristers.com



In the Spotlight



We caught up with Matt to find out his interests and what makes him tick....

Name: Matt Gibbons

Organisation: Deans Court Chambers

Job Title: Senior Clerk

Career Highlights: Being appointed Senior Clerk in 2002

If you weren't doing what you did now what would be your dream job? My dream job 20 years ago would probably be playing professional football but I enjoy meeting people and helping clients so my current role is very enjoyable.

Which public figure do you most admire and why? Nelson Mandela – He consistently refused to compromise his political position to obtain his freedom and led the struggle to replace the apartheid regime with a multi-racial democracy.

Describe yourself in five words: Loyal, committed, organised, short and ginger.

Favourite past times and hobbies: Sports, good food and wine, relaxing and socialising with friends

Which actor / actress would play you in a film? Ron Howard (Richie Cunningham from Happy Days), although our Head of Chambers Mark Turner QC has referred to me as the "Red Dwarf".

What is your favourite holiday destination & why? Spain – it's a short flight away and I feel very relaxed whenever I'm there.



We are always keen to hear how we can improve the Consortium, whether it be training, the website or communications.

If you have any comments or suggestions please contact:

Beryl Heath
Contract Development
Manager
Email:
berylheath217@btinternet.com

Or Visit us:

www.nwlegalconsortium.com

New Joiners

We are pleased to announce that Lancashire Police Authority and Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council have joined the Consortium.



Trainee Solicitor Placements Can You help them to help you?

A new collaboration between the Consortium and Camps Solicitors of Merseyside means that trainee solicitors are available for placements of 12 weeks with member local authorities.

The initiative will start with a group of **8** trainees being available for placements that will be **free** to the authorities from February.

The Consortium Management Board supports the collaboration on the basis that the trainees will gain valuable insight into the work of local authorities they will be 'free' to the authority concerned and may well go on to provide the local government talent of the future! Its a win win situation.

The Consortium has developed a standard secondment agreement and for details of the trainees themselves feel free to Contact Beryl Heath or Jill Coule.
(Jill.Coule@sefton.gov.uk)

It bears repeating 2011 was a great year for the Consortium and it looks as though 2012 will follow in the same way.

Recent returns have shown that in the year July 2010 to end June 2011 the Consortium provided over 11,000 CPD hours of training to meet identified training requests, and member authorities spent some £2.6 million pounds through the Consortium saving over £970,000 against fees they would otherwise have paid.

We welcomed **five** new members and raised over **£13k** for charity.

With lots on offer in 2012 it seems as that things are looking onwards and upwards for your Consortium.