

# Your local legal team

ADVERTISING FEATURE



It's not so much 'rolling with the punches' but 'throwing one's hat into the ring' for the solicitor who has been quietly building a law firm in Haywards Heath since 2019.

Jonathan Lea moved from London to Bolnore Village eight years ago, from where he initially practiced as a freelance solicitor from his spare room (but working in association with a London based law firm), before eventually finding a small office in Haywards Heath, employing people and starting his own regulated firm the 'Jonathan Lea Network'.

His firm has steadily expanded over the last few years and has recently secured more office space at 21 Perrymount Road so that it can double the size of it's employed team from 25 (currently) to 50 over the next two to three years.

Before settling in Mid Sussex, Jonathan's legal career previously involved working in large London law firms, a stint in Dubai, a couple of years in Cornwall and a small firm that mostly advised Russian and Ukrainian clients in the superyacht industry.

The initial concept for his business was to build a network of experienced consultant solicitors (effectively freelance legal professionals) who work remotely but trade through the same firm, as he had been doing. While his firm has successfully done this, most of it's growth (and currently about 70% of it's revenue) relates to employees who largely work from the firm's Haywards Heath headquarters.

"My aim," Jonathan explains, "was always to start small, self-fund and see where it goes." The firm started from a tiny office in the roof of 141 South Road next to Nizam, then moved to serviced offices at Basepoint for

a couple of years, before taking the plunge in November 2021 and securing it's own lease for the ground floor at 21 Perrymount Road.

"Those early days were exciting as we began to attract more work and offer employment opportunities. I enjoyed being small, but I soon learned that we had to keep growing in order to both keep more clients happy and also help retain existing employees. Each stage of our growth involves additional risk and investment, but as time goes on I become more confident in the team we've built and our ability to rise to the challenge" Jonathan states as he stands in the freshly JLN-branded additional floor of their building, that for now is mostly empty, after just signing a new lease with their landlord.

The firm is known for it's focus on business clients, but as it grows now also offers services to individuals, such as residential conveyancing, wills and probate, immigration and employment. The main commercial practice areas are corporate and commercial, litigation, commercial property and intellectual property.

And what of the stereotype of US hit drama Suits – does Jonathan recognise that here in Mid Sussex? "Well, it isn't quite like that at the Jonathan Lea Network," he says, wearing a Scaynes Hill Cricket Club hoodie – which the firm sponsor. "We tend to be less formal in the office, although we did enjoy our Suits themed photoshoot recently, proving we can look the part when needed as well as do the work!"

**If you have a legal matter you'd like to discuss with the team, email [wewillhelp@jonathanlea.net](mailto:wewillhelp@jonathanlea.net) or call 01444 708640 to arrange a FREE 20 minute introductory video call.**

