



## Our Big Move

**WE HAVE MOVED:**

we love our semi-circular windows and the fact that our new offices are remarkably quiet given the amount of traffic passing close by. We are on the corner of Lower Grosvenor Place and Victoria Square; just across the road from Buckingham Palace's back garden wall! And, just outside our front door is a parking bay; excellent for clients who just want to pop in to drop off or collect documents (not that you have to, we operate a corporate-collect service for registered clients).

**Call in, phone or email us for all your notarisatation and legalisation requirements.**

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## Saving money on Currency exchanges

Many of our clients are signing documents for transactions involving the transfer of currencies. Don't forget to ask our advice before instructing your bank to proceed with this. We have several excellent foreign-exchange companies who can



always beat the rate provided by your own bank. One client told us that he had paid for his whole Christmas festivities on the savings he had made as a result of our advice!

## A Question of Brexit

A key question following the Brexit vote, has been the impact this will have on English documents in Europe.

All member states are currently signatories to The Hague Convention 1961 meaning documents only need

notarisatation and an Apostille to be valid across Europe rather than legalisation at relevant consulates. In recent years, certain member states such as France and Sweden have gone further and accepted English documents without the Apostille, a sign of closer relations between



fellow member states. However, this is set to change.

Once we exit the EU we are likely to see a change in the number of countries accepting English documents which have only been notarised; will full legalisation be needed?

We must wait and see but as notaries, we are very confident that, when we do come out of Europe, there will still be a lot of business around for everyone in the coming years. International Trade Secretary Liam Fox emphasised to British businesses that they should seize more export opportunities around

the world and highlighted 50 markets which offer the strongest potential. In Fox's words, "From technology in India to aerospace in the USA, there's no shortage of demand and UK businesses have the knowledge, skills, and expertise to truly add and make the UK a partner of choice."

At Notary.co.uk Ltd, many of our clients already seem to be doing very well with export business and we reckon that is set to continue for some time yet.

# NotaryNEWS

**TOP TIPS: #1** Basil says "Many people prefer not to carry their original passport around with them in case it gets lost. Why not get us to give you a notarised copy of your passport which you can then laminate and carry around with you. This will be just as good as the original and we can do this at the same time as your other notarised documents at no additional cost."

**TOP TIP #2:** Hasib says "Many people now have all their utility bills paid online and "go paperless". It's a good idea to keep at least one utility company sending you original paper bills, because quite often banks, foreign notaries and embassies need to see proof of address by utility bill and don't accept documents printed off the Internet."

**TOP TIP #3:** Peter says "I go to the Foreign Office at least once a day so we can safely say that all

documents received before 2pm can be 'Apostilled' the same day.

## **TOP TIP #4: Documents for Spain**

You may have read in the press that you can't get a power of attorney in Britain unless you go to see a Spanish lawyer based in the UK. This is totally untrue and in fact contravenes the provisions of The Hague Convention 1961. The misunderstanding arose in October 2016 when a decision made by the Directorate General of Registries and Notaries of Spain was misinterpreted by Spanish agents and lawyers alike.

One client was told by her Spanish advisor that she needed a "Notary at Law" and not a Notary Public - of course she was unable to find one as no such thing exists in the UK. Any difficulties – talk to us as we are frequently asked if we can notarise powers of attorney for Spain and we are happy to do so.



## **British Citizen Awards**

**Recognition for individuals doing extraordinary things in the local community**

The British Citizen Awards takes place twice yearly at the House of Lords. The ceremony this January was hosted by Lord Dholakia and the medals presented by Dame Mary Perkins, Founder of Specsavers assisted by Bradley Walsh, the well-known TV presenter. "It's amazing," says co-founder Basil Preuveneers "to see just how much our project has grown.

Many of these medallists have done outstanding charitable work and the publicity their

charity gets from these awards is immense; and they will have put it to good use in raising millions of pounds for their good causes"

If you know of a worthy recipient, or if you think this is something your company may like to be associated with go online at <http://britishcitizenawards.co.uk>.



## **Meet the Front-Line Notary Team**



**Basil**

### **Preuveneers -**

Basil was appointed as a notary public by Royal Authority in 1981, since when

he has notarised thousands of international documents. Basil is an accomplished musician and is frequently to be found playing both the trumpet and the piano (not at the same time!) at charity concerts in London and Surrey where he lives.



**Hasib Heron -**

Hasib read history and law at the University of London, thereafter he

trained and practiced as a solicitor in Canary Wharf. He qualified as a notary public in 2014 and joined the team that same year. Hasib became partner in 2016. He lives in South London.

**Peter & Damien**, our highly-experienced legalisation clerks, are

valuable members of the team; they are on hand to assist our clients from 9.15am to 5.45pm Monday to Friday. They are likely to be your first point of contact and aim to answer the phone within 2 rings.

If required, we can provide a same-day service for both Foreign Office apostille and in-country consular legalisation. Let us know that speed is of the essence and we will pull all the stops out – documents do need to be with us early in the day.

**For a fast and efficient notarial and legalisation service, or to register for our corporate service, contact us by phone 020 7630 1777 or email [info@notary.co.uk](mailto:info@notary.co.uk)**