



staff and directors of HFT Gough & Co Solicitors, at their new office on New Oxford Street, Workington

HFT Gough & Co

38-42 Lowther Street, Whitehaven. 15 New Oxford Street, Workington

FACT FILE

Business:
HFT Gough & Co solicitors

Business Type:
Solicitors

Owners/Directors:
Simon Ward, Elizabeth Sandelands, Ryan Reed, Michael Sandelands

Established: 1950s

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EIGHT decades after it was formed by solicitor and coroner Hubert Gough, West Cumbrian law firm HFT Gough & Co Solicitors is expanding its business. The Whitehaven-based firm opened a second office on New Oxford Street, Workington, in October. Prompted by the closure of Whitehaven's magistrates' court, the move has provided added convenience for staff and clients alike. Solicitors now have a base to work from in the town, while customers from Workington and the surrounding area can access the firm's services with less travelling. Michael Sandelands, one of four directors, says: "We had an existing client base in Workington which we wanted to serve better with an office through here to offer a more convenient service but also expand the client base and offer some of the services more fully to Workington clients. "It's raised the profile of the business and generated new work, particularly in family law and conveyancing. "We are focused on giving good quality advice locally so people don't have to travel." The company's desire to better serve its clients is driven in part by its sense of social responsibility. Last year, it donated £2,000 to

Workington RNLI to mark the launch of its new office and also gave £2,000 each to Cockermouth Mountain Rescue Team and Hospice at Home West Cumbria. On top of that, staff have entered a variety of sponsored events, including the Jennings Rivers Ride, to raise money

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- Michael Sandelands

for local charities. Mr Sandelands says: "As a firm we try to encourage our staff to be active in the community. We feel very much that we are part of the local community and that we should contribute to it. "It assists us with our community

links but as a business we feel we have a social conscience and social responsibility that we do put something back." Because of its expansion, the company has been able to recruit two trainee solicitors - David Tew and Rebecca Harrison - to work in its Whitehaven office. Administrative apprentices have also been taken on. Melissa Smith works in the Whitehaven office while Becca Armstrong is based in Workington. Mr Sandelands says: "It's about maintaining and growing our market share but most of all maintaining quality face-to-face legal advice." HFT Gough & Co now has 30 staff, including directors Michael and Liz Sandelands, Ryan Reed and Simon Ward, who are all solicitors, and four other solicitors. Mr Ward is also assistant coroner for north and West Cumbria, maintaining a link the company has had since its launch, as Mr Gough was coroner and, since his day, the local coroner has, until recently, been based within the Whitehaven office. The firm offers a full range of legal services covering everything from criminal and civil litigation to conveyancing, family law and business services.

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S O L I C I T O R S

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