

GIBBONS

— SOLICITORS —

Howard and his mother Brenda in New York

Hello dear Readers and a Happy New Year to you all. For me whilst many exciting things happened in 2015 there were also a number of very difficult times.

I am pleased to say that following her back operation my dachshund Tilly has gone from strength to strength and enjoys playing with her "sisters"



Mitzi and Heidi. Towards the end of November, my mother and I flew to New York to have a couple of days and then to board Queen Mary 2 to sail back to Southampton, a journey that I have enjoyed on many occasions. The picture shows my mother Brenda and I at the top of Number One World Trade Centre. This is a fantastic skyscraper built within the World Trade Centre following the terrible destruction of the "twin towers" in 2001. As I have mentioned before, I had been to Windows on the World at the top of one of the towers before they were lost. The One World Observatory on floors 100/102 of the new building gave fantastic views over New York. At 1776 feet, the Freedom Tower, as it is also known, is the sixth tallest skyscraper in the world. It was a wonderful visit.

Whilst in New York, we made use of Uber which is a car service operated from one's smart 'phone. As my chauffeur did not travel with us this was an invaluable arrangement. Just input your destination, where you want to go and the type of car that you require (in our case naturally this was a limo). Within minutes a car arrived. The drivers were polite and the price was reasonable. No wonder that the London black cabs feel under threat from the same service. We once again enjoyed The Rockettes' Christmas Show at Radio City – it can only be described as fantastic. Sadly before we could join the ship my mother fractured her hip and had to have an operation in New York. The ship sailed without us and we were delayed in New York. We were insured with NFU which sub-contracted its travel insurance to an outfit in France and my dealings with them can best be described as traumatic. If you are taking travel insurance do check who actually administers any claim.

In October 2015, I celebrated thirty years of qualification as a Solicitor. I have been privileged to have dealt with very many interesting matters in that time. Please continue to take the benefit of my experience which is on your doorstep. There are so many factors that clients do not take into account when negotiating a sale and purchase. Do discuss with us your property needs throughout 2016. We are a commodity that is becoming rare – someone that you can talk to face to face.

Howard Gibbons

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