

# GIBBONS

## — SOLICITORS —



### Howard hits New York

Hi readers: I have had a great time in New York. I was collected from Heathrow by Martin of Voyager Travel Hadleigh in his posh Ford Galaxy. I have used Martin on many occasions and he is dependable and reliable. If you need transport then give him a call Tel. 01473 828102. I do enjoy travelling and over the years I have been lucky enough to visit New York a number of times for business and pleasure. The picture shows the New York skyline behind me. You will see One World Trade Centre which is the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere at 1,766 feet and will be officially opened shortly. There are public observation decks on Floors 100/102. Before 9/11 I went to Windows on the World, a restaurant at Floors 106/107 of the North Tower of the World Trade Centre. As those towers came down I couldn't imagine how terrible it must have been for the people who were up there. Ground Zero is no more and the area is to be known as The World Trade Centre. On this visit my mother and I marvelled as the sun set when we were 70 floors up at the Rockefeller Centre. Whilst I was at The Cathedral at Bury St Edmunds at Midnight on Christmas Eve, I recently had a run over to Ely Cathedral traversing a scenic route through the Fens to get there. It was a grey wintry January day, however, I took a convertible car and it was exhilarating to have some frosty air blowing around. It was quite incredible how the mighty Ely Cathedral was constructed in 1300 or thereabouts. It costs £6,000 per day to keep the Cathedral going so I suppose that justifies the entrance fee of £8. To ascend the Towers is more expensive.

Property prices in London particularly seem to be soaring. Gazumping is back. Sellers agree a price and shortly after think that they can get more and change to another Buyer. There is no obligation on either party until an exchange of contracts. An insurance has been launched to protect against abortive costs in a property transaction. I believe that the premium is £58 for £1,500 of cover for legal fees and surveyors' fees. We can assist you should that be a matter of interest.

It is irritating that large conveyancing factories seem to be prevalent. As Solicitors, in dealing with these places one is kept waiting on the 'phone often for 10 minutes and even then you cannot speak to the person doing the job. What a client experiences I dread to think. The service that one receives from a firm such as mine is a million miles away. You are able to speak to someone with immense experience immediately and to obtain all-round advice. Service sets us apart.

*Howard Gibbons*

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