

28th February 2007

ASHTON BURKINSHAW COMES TO HAYWARDS HEATH

Evo Wine Bar and Restaurant in Haywards Heath Broadway provided the venue for last Wednesday's official launch of Ashton Burkinshaw's newest franchised branch in the South East. The new branch, which opened in Haywards Heath in February, provides a specialist residential letting and property management service in the town and the surrounding areas. The branch is being run by franchisee Geoff Rawlinson, an ex- county hockey player, who has lived in the Haywards Heath area for the last 30 years.

Ashton Burkinshaw, a leading ARLA (The Association of Residential Letting Agents) residential property letting and management company, has been in the letting business for over 30 years and has a high profile in the South East. With thirteen branches across Kent and Sussex, their directors and 70 staff have more knowledge and experience in lettings than many of the larger corporates.

During the evening event Ashton Burkinshaw ran an informative "property investment seminar" for landlords and potential landlords, as well as members of the public who had an interest in letting. Attendees enjoyed an evening of refreshments and presentations made by representatives of Ashton Burkinshaw who were able to advise on every aspect of residential letting and answer all landlords' questions on current issues.

Frances Burkinshaw, Director of Ashton Burkinshaw, gave information on the forthcoming legislation on Tenancy Deposits. The new Tenancy Deposit Scheme will be one of only a few ways of meeting government requirements on the holding of deposits and it offers the facility of an independent resolution service for deposit disputes.

She also gave the audience a whistle stop tour of the major legal issues of the moment such as the licensing of landlords in relation to Houses in Multiple Occupation, the implications of the current Disability Discrimination Act, tenancy agreements, professional indemnity, tenants' rights, landlords' responsibilities, gas safety and electrical Part P regulations.

Legislation affects every landlord and ignorance is certainly not bliss! And the importance of working with a reputable agent to ensure that your property is let securely and possession is regained at the end of the tenancy was strongly stressed.

Ashton Burkinshaw's Chief Executive, Graham Harrison, covered the new FSA regulations (since January 2005 anyone selling insurance products must be authorised by the FSA) and the insurance protection plans currently available. He also spoke about the importance of obtaining references for tenants to ensure they are able to meet their commitments, thus protecting landlords.

Since the beginning of the year, Geoff has already been servicing the needs of tenants and landlords in Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill from his newly refurbished office at 141 South Road. He and his letting manager have a growing file of new instructions and an increasing database of potential tenants.

"This is a very exciting and important time for us as we grow the company through franchising," says Graham Harrison. "We are delighted to have our fourth Ashton Burkinshaw franchise up and running in Haywards Heath and are confident this branch will be very successful."

"We soon realised that there was huge potential for a solely residential letting agent in the area and we were keen to fill this niche," continues Graham Harrison. "With Geoff's enthusiasm and business knowledge, together with the vast experience and unrivalled service we at Ashton

Burkinshaw endeavour to provide to all our clientele, we hope that we can offer landlords in Haywards Heath and the surrounding areas a thorough and professional letting service.”

Geoff Rawlinson is equally enthusiastic about the new branch. “I am extremely excited to be given the opportunity to run my own lettings business with the knowledge that I have the back up of a large organisation with a well known brand name and reputation”, he says. “I have been fully supported from day one with the acquisition of an office, IT resources and marketing.”

Photo 1: Geoff Rawlinson, franchisee of Ashton Burkinshaw’s new Haywards Heath branch with Ashton Burkinshaw’s directors (from left to right, Graham Harrison, Chief Executive, Frances Burkinshaw, Director, Geoff Rawlinson and Lindsay Ostervig, Operations Director)



Photo 2: Graham Harrison, Chief Executive, addresses landlords at the recent “landlords’ event” at Evo, Haywards Heath

