



**Bedford and Ampt Hill Notaries**  
Established 1905



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## BEDFORD & AMPHILL NOTARIES

Bedford and Ampt Hill Notaries which is the Notarial Legal Practice run by Anthony Northey and Ian Codrington is a very well established and experienced Notarial Practice. Since 1905 it has and it continues to provide Notarial Services for businesses and individuals in Bedford, Ampt Hill and Cranfield and throughout Bedfordshire and beyond. Whenever you need a Notary, a Notary Public or Commissioner for Oaths, please do not hesitate to contact one of our Notaries. Our Notaries are members of the Notaries Society. Please see our contact details overleaf.

## NOTARIES: THE OLDEST BRANCH OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION

Notaries in England and Wales form the third and oldest branch of the legal profession in the United Kingdom. Their origin can be traced back to the times of the occupation of Britain by the Romans. Just like Notaries in countries with Civil Law jurisdictions, Notaries in England and Wales carry out all kinds of non-contentious legal work. They are effectively Civil Law Lawyers or Notaries practising in a Common Law Jurisdiction and a bridge between the Civil Law Jurisdictions and the Common Law Jurisdiction of England and Wales.

In order to qualify as a Notary one must have a University degree and pass the Postgraduate Diploma in Notarial Practice, Roman Law and International Private Law provided by London University. Once the potential Notary has passed this postgraduate diploma, he or she may petition the Court of Faculties for a "Faculty."

A "Faculty" grants a Notary his/her authority to practice. This is followed by two years supervision under an experienced Notary and only when this is satisfactorily completed is it possible to practice without supervision. Notaries are required to have full professional indemnity and fidelity insurance.

The Faculty Office regulates Notaries. For further information visit their website:

[www.facultyoffice.org.uk](http://www.facultyoffice.org.uk)

## WHAT DOES A NOTARY DO IN ENGLAND AND WALES?

A Notary prepares Notarial Acts, including Authentic Acts, mainly being documents executed in England and Wales for use everywhere in the world. This includes drafting, reviewing and explanation of legal documents for use outside the UK.

There are two basic types of Notarial Act; those in private form and those in Public form, which are Authentic Acts/Instruments.

The private form is when a Notary annexes a Notarial Certificate by way of authentication of a document and its contents thus converting it into a Notarial Act.

The Public Form is an Authentic Act/Instrument drafted by the Notary, which will include verification of identity, legal capacity and understanding of the document and awareness of the contents, confirming authority to enter into the transaction eg. in the case of a corporate body and also authenticating the contents after verifying the same.

Notaries are authorised and empowered to carry out and do carry out all types of legal work carried out by solicitors, other than contentious work. This is a similar situation to that of the Notary in Civil Law jurisdictions. Accordingly Notaries deal with conveyancing, probate and Wills and all other types of non-contentious commercial and private legal work.

## THE ROLE OF NOTARIES IN HELPING BUSINESS AND CITIZENS

Notaries have had their Notarial Acts recognised worldwide for centuries and this, indeed, has permitted citizens and businesses to circulate freely. In this way Notaries facilitate commerce and the life for the ordinary citizen as Notarial Acts enable them to go about their daily lives and business freely at reasonable cost and without undue delay.

## THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE NOTARY

A Notary holds an official seal and Notarial Acts in England and Wales have probative force. Notarial Acts under the signature and seal of a Notary are recognised as evidence of a responsible official legal officer in all countries of the world. The Civil Procedure Rules of the Supreme Court of Judicature of England & Wales – rule 32.20 provide that "A Notarial Act or Instrument may be received in evidence without further proof as duly authenticated in accordance with the requirements of the law unless the contrary is proved"

Notaries Public have been appointed by legal authority in England and Wales since the thirteenth century. The Ecclesiastical Licences Act 1533, created the Court of Faculties of the Archbishop of Canterbury, which is the oldest Court in England. The Court has the power to appoint Notaries Public acting through its president, the Master of the Faculties. The Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 and The Legal Services Act 2007 confirm these powers of the Master. As officers of the law and holders of the Public Office of the Notary Public, the duties of Notaries Public are wide ranging and include the preparation and drawing up of private and public Authentic Acts and Instruments under their signatures and official seals, which are accepted and recognised throughout the world.

The fact that Notaries in England and Wales are public officials is also made absolutely clear by their full titles of Notaries Public or Public Notaries in various Acts of Parliament.



As a result of recent research, we have ascertained that our Notarial Practice has been providing Notarial Services in Bedfordshire for over 100 years. Our Notarial practice can, in fact, be traced all the way back to 1905, when the late Alfred Tresawna Trethewy was granted a Notarial Faculty. The history of our Notarial practice is best illustrated as follows:-

Alfred Tresawna Trethewy  
Faculty issued  
12<sup>th</sup> July 1905  
Date of Death  
28<sup>th</sup> February 1929

William Llewellyn Jones  
Faculty issued  
9<sup>th</sup> August 1929  
Date of Death  
3<sup>rd</sup> March 1955

Leonard John Aylett  
Faculty issued  
5<sup>th</sup> May 1955  
Date of Death  
2<sup>nd</sup> October 1988

William Sydney  
Northey  
Faculty issued  
18<sup>th</sup> January 1966  
President of the  
Notaries Society of  
England and Wales  
1990 - 1992  
Date of Death  
8<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Thomas  
Arthur  
Barden  
Faculty  
issued 25<sup>th</sup>  
January 1980

Stephen  
Hugh  
Cook  
Faculty  
issued  
25<sup>th</sup> July 1985

Fiona Estelle  
Gregory  
Faculty  
issued 30<sup>th</sup>  
October 1995

Our current  
Notaries Public/Notaries

**Ian Charles Codrington**  
Faculty issued  
11<sup>th</sup> July 1974

**Anthony William Northey**  
Faculty issued  
22<sup>nd</sup> January 1978  
President of  
The Notaries Society  
of England and Wales  
2009 - 2011



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## OUR CONTACT DETAILS

Anthony W Northey M.A., LL.M(Cantab) M.B.A., T.E.P.

Ian C Codrington M.A. (Cantab)

Bedford • Ampthill • Cranfield

### Principal Office:

Hassett House  
Hassett Street  
Bedford, MK40 1HA

Whenever you need the assistance of a Notary, please  
telephone or email:-

**Bedford : +44 (0)1234 79 82 44**  
**Ampthill: +44 (0)1525 40 22 44**

### Email Addresses:

Anthony Northey: [AWN@AmpthillNotaries.co.uk](mailto:AWN@AmpthillNotaries.co.uk)  
Ian Codrington: [coddersuk@BedfordNotaries.co.uk](mailto:coddersuk@BedfordNotaries.co.uk)

### Websites:

[www.bedfordnotaries.co.uk](http://www.bedfordnotaries.co.uk)

and

[www.ampthillnotaries.co.uk](http://www.ampthillnotaries.co.uk)

Authorised and Regulated by the Faculty Office and  
Members of the Notaries Society

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Commissioners for Oaths

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Tel: +44 (0)1234 79 82 44