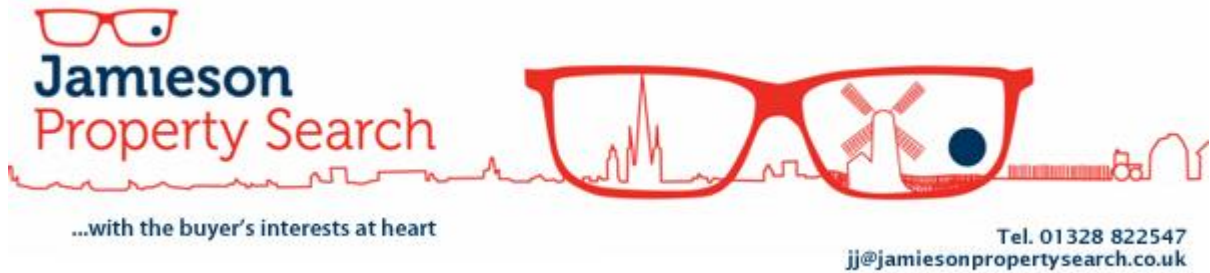


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NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2015

"A gun is no more dangerous than a cricket bat in the hands of a madman", the Duke of Edinburgh once said. I thought of this quote the other weekend when I was playing cricket, as I tried to stride confidently on to the pitch (as the eleventh man!), feeling nervous for myself due to a distinct lack of practice, and nervous for those spectators around the pitch. Not that I might thwack the ball so hard it might be dangerous to those watching, but that they might split their sides laughing at my performance! The game in question was at the home of someone I had sold the house to earlier this year. My brief had been to find a comfortable, family home not too far from Norwich with enough acres to accommodate a cricket pitch. The wife was more concerned with the size of the kitchen and how many bathrooms, none of which mattered to the husband – he would have been happy with 1970's kitchenette and one avocado plastic en-suite, as long as there would be space for the pitch. No expense was spared on converting the old paddocks to fulfil the dream and a seemingly never-ending supply of top soil and top quality turf was imported, laid and rolled to achieve a ground worthy of W G Grace. I also remembered a quote from the famous player as I took my place by the wicket "Every cricketer knows that in the early stages of a batsman's innings, before he gets his eye in, luck plays an important part". I think at that stage 'luck' wasn't the issue, more that I really should have practiced, or had some tutoring, before I shook out my old school cricket jumper that had not seen the light of day for some years. I had been told about the son of a friend of ours, Albert Lindsell, who is a cricket coach



(albert.lindsell@gmail.com) and I wish I had contacted him, or at least had a few glasses of Pimms for Dutch courage before padding up. At the end of the day, the match was enormous fun and I managed to grasp a couple of runs, but I think I may give young Albert a call..."

Jamie Jamieson
Jamie Jamieson

MARKET UPDATE

POST ELECTION MOVEMENT?

I wanted to share with you an article from Turnbull Property's latest monthly bulletin. Johnny Turnbull is a friend of mine and heads up Turnbull Property, one of the most respected buying advisors in prime central London:

"WILL WE SEE A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN SALES ACTIVITY?" -Turnbull Market Bulletin, May 2015
As we reported in our April bulletin, in the run up to the election transaction levels across prime central London remained subdued. While the number of homes sold in April was 10% higher than the monthly average for the first quarter, it remained 24% below the figure last April and 28% below the five-year average for the month. The total value of homes sold across prime central London in the first four months of 2015 was 32% lower than the same period last year. Those who have bought properties in the last three months paid an average of 29% less than in the same period last year and 35% less than at the peak of the market in Q2 2014. In an election year, history tells us that transactions do pick up post-election. However, to equal the number of sales per annum over the last five years the number of homes changing hands in prime central London between May and December 2015 would have to increase by 34% compared with the same period last year."

In step with the London marketplace, prime property in Norfolk has been very subdued for the first quarter of this year and although there is more confidence there seems to be little change in the amount of property coming to the market. But it's all about that word, 'confidence'. With properties languishing in the paper week after week, being re-advertised with different agents, it's little surprise that people are less than enthusiastic about the prospect of selling their own property. However, now that the Mansion Tax threat has subdued I think things will change; certainly London buyers who were hanging on the election result are now putting pen to paper.



PROPERTY WATCH

This issue we look at two special properties that are currently on the market.










Brisley Hall is on the market with **Jackson Stops and Staff**. It is a fine Grade II Elizabethan hall with moated gardens.

-  4 reception rooms.
-  8 bedrooms.
-  4 bathrooms (2 ensuite).
-  Heated swimming pool.
-  70 foot barn/party room with kitchen and WC.
-  Modern barn and 4 stables.
-  All weather manege.
-  Gardens, paddocks and woodland, about 7 acres.



Shelton Hall is on the market with **Strutt and Parker**. An attractive and important listed country house which has been comprehensively and sympathetically renovated.



-  4 reception rooms.
-  8 bedrooms.
-  4 bathrooms (3 ensuite).
-  Studio.
-  Outbuildings.
-  Moat.
-  Secluded island.
-  Mature gardens and grounds with paddock.
-  Land in all about 6.4 acres, further land may be available by separate negotiation.

AND FINALLY...

What do you think of when summer arrives on the horizon? Tennis? Cricket? Strawberries? All three probably, but when it comes to one of our favourite fruits of the sunny season, I was surprised to see that due to climate change and our warmer weather (most of the time!), prices are coming down...

In fact, strawberry prices in the UK declined by 43% month-on-month due to ample seasonal supply as of last December. Higher planting area for the 2014 crop and favourable weather conditions led to improved yields and an increase in production of 60,710 tonnes, up 8%. The season started in March, seven weeks earlier than the year before, and continued into December - more than two thirds of the year.

When it comes to finding something to wash those strawberries down with, both Champagne and sparkling wines saw increases in volume and value in 2014. But it was sparkling wines that have achieved the most growth in the UK. Sales of sparkling wine rose 83.1% and 15% by volume to 6.7 million hectolitres, ahead of Champagne which saw volumes increase by 4.9% and 19.5% by value to £395.2m.

Clearly we still have a thirst for the bubbles and if you feel like treating yourself, why not purchase a bottle of Goût de Diamants' Taste of Diamonds for a cool £1.2 million?! Released in 2013 by 29-year-old Shammi Shinh, founder of Knightsbridge-based Prodiguer Brands, it's made from 100% Grand Cru grapes and is produced at the eight hectare, family-owned, Champagne Chapuy in Oger. Each bottle of Goût de Diamants is adorned with a cut Swarovski crystal in the centre of a diamond-shaped pewter design resembling the Superman logo. A limited edition bottle designed by Alexander Amosu carried a value of £1.2m making it the most expensive single bottle of Champagne in the world.



About Jamieson Property Search

as a leading independent property search consultant, Jamieson Property Search sets the standards for the acquisition of exceptional property in Norfolk. Combining Jamie Jamieson's expert knowledge of the market with his unrivalled personal contact book, Jamieson Property Search is able to offer a discreet and very personal property finding service.

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