

Worcestershire-based for 125 years and still going strong

This year is the 125th anniversary of the inception of G Herbert Banks. A firm proud to have maintained their roots in Worcestershire for the entire period.

G Herbert Banks was the great grandfather of Richard Banks, who is one of the current partners. Between these two were Tony Banks, who took over the business in 1946 following his father's death, and Tony's sons David and Andrew. David, Richard's father, was still working for the firm until his death in February 2022.

There haven't in fact been 125 continuous years of the trading name of G Herbert Banks, with significant changes occurring in the 1970s, 80s and 90s.

1972 saw G Herbert Banks merge with Luce & Silvers to create Banks & Silvers. This business grew to have twelve offices across the region, as well as the livestock market at Kidderminster. It was a hugely successful multidisciplinary business with residential sales, property management, commercial property, extensive agricultural services, a livestock and produce market and fine art auctions.



Banks & Silvers grew through the 1970s and 80s, until in 1987 the business was sold to insurance firm General Accident. Shortly after the sale many of the partners left to set up new businesses, some of which continue to trade.

Brothers David and Andrew left and started on their own and soon brought their individually established businesses together, returning to the trading name of G Herbert Banks. Very sadly Andrew died at a young age in 1995.

After the exodus from the General Accident business Robert Parry moved to one of the newly established firms of Halls; a combination of the agricultural departments of Hall, Wateridge & Owen and Banks & Silvers. In doing so he moved out of the offices at Kidderminster, but continued with the market, and later returned to G Herbert Banks in 1995.

Today G Herbert Banks is still very much a business that appreciates and respects its connections to the agricultural sector, having relationships with some families going back generations. Sadly, the livestock market is no longer, but we remain auctioneers conducting property and farm dispersal sales.

We very much plan on remaining a strong independent multidisciplinary business and in doing so continuing to provide a trusted service.

The company has a residential sales department that they are extremely proud of, managed by the highly experienced and respected Tim Gaston. Tim has worked in residential sales within the county since his working life started in the 1980s.

More recently there has been the addition of Nick Jethwa, another whose entire working career has been property related and Worcestershire based. He has been building what is now a significant commercial property department.

Then in April 2023 James McIntyre joined to bolster the agricultural side of the business. He is a keen auctioneer and will be looking to undertake as many auctions as he can get involved with.

Commenting on the future of the business Richard Banks said "We very much plan on remaining a strong independent multidisciplinary business and in doing so continuing to provide a trusted service. The relationships we have with our long standing clients, and the ones we build with new ones, are the most important thing to a service business like ours, and one we take great pride in."

The company's longest standing partner, Robert Parry, joined Banks and Silvers in 1975

"I remember quite clearly my first day of work at the Kidderminster office, my position assistant to Mr Tony Banks, Bob Bayliss and Roger Sadler, which kept me busy and with whom I learnt a lot. I was employed on the basis of a three month trial period which lasted for forty eight years to date.

"My second day was market day at Kidderminster drawing (selecting) lambs on a hot September day. Thankfully that was only for one day. The next week I progressed to booking in the cattle and becoming Tony Banks' clerk.

"Market was good fun and I soon got to know a lot of people who I now regard as long standing clients and friends. I was lucky I managed to establish myself as an auctioneer progressing through the ranks.

"Those days were great with not too much technology about. How things have changed."





New Associate Partner James McIntyre Joins

G Herbert Banks are delighted to announce that James McIntyre BSc MRICS FAAV has joined the team, as an Associate Partner.

Richard Banks says "In our 125th anniversary year we are thrilled with this addition, given we were built on providing services to the agricultural sector, and this is very much James's area of expertise. James is someone we have worked with and respected for many years."

Record Number of Late Spring/Early Summer Instructions

G Herbert Banks are pleased to report a record number of late Spring/ early Summer instructions. Despite the tricky market conditions the level of these are 60% up on this time last year.

We have been privileged to market some beautiful country homes, complimented by a wide array of both village and town properties.

Notable new instructions include the handsome 4 square Old Rectory at Upper Sapey with a guide of £1 million; the wonderful

and fascinating Eardiston Place at £825,000 which is a real historic gem; the gloriously positioned Holly Cottage at Buckeridge on the Shropshire/Worcestershire borders with over 9 acres (guide of £1.15 million); and the splendid Horsehill Farm Barn at Ribbesford just outside Bewdley, with a guide of £775,000 - a house I sold to them about 23 years ago.


The enquiry levels from both national and local buyers is increasing, and nationally there is a gradual increase in the number of mortgage approvals.

Brought up on a large mixed farm in East Yorkshire, James later attended Harper Adams University and then qualified as a Rural Chartered Surveyor in 1997. He has been working within the region since 2002. He is also a Fellow of the Central Association of Agricultural Valuers.


James offers a wide range of services including conducting farm and commercial dispersal auctions, rural property sales, lettings and management, professional valuation work, agricultural law and tenancy matters, planning applications, compensation claims and Basic Payment, Countryside Stewardship and Sustainable Farming Incentive.

"I am delighted to join G Herbert Banks with their small, friendly and very experienced team. I have known and worked alongside some of the team for a great many years and have always had great respect for the company."

James is married to Caroline with a young son, Thomas and lives in South Shropshire where he keeps pedigree Shropshire sheep.



Birtley
£501,000



Tanah Merah
£525,000

Demand Outstrips Supply in Commercial Market

It has been a positive start to 2023 for the Worcestershire commercial property market. In the industrial sector, demand continues to outstrip supply, which has slowed the number of transactions, but increased rental and capital values.

We have been instructed on a 17,460 sq ft manufacturing unit on Hoo Farm Industrial Estate, which is nearing the end of a high specification refurbishment. There has been good early interest and discussion of potential lease terms.

Post-Covid employees have slowly returned to the office and demand for good quality accommodation has been growing in Worcestershire for the last 3 years. Having received an enquiry for global serviced office landlord Regus, G Herbert Banks sourced new premises for their use in Kidderminster, with their purchase completing in March.

If you are considering selling or letting your premises we would be delighted to speak with you and arrange an inspection to provide a market appraisal.

