

RICHARD LEIGH (1839-1879)

Richard Leigh was born in 1839, first son of Ralph Leigh, Attorney at Law, living and practising in Standishgate.

Around 1866, Richard and Thomas Ellis, later to become Sir Thomas Ratcliffe Ellis, formed a Solicitors practice, Leigh & Ellis based at 26, King St.

In 1868 an agreement was reached with Manchester & County Bank, formed in 1862, to share 26, King Street premises and the bank opened for business on 9th March 1868.

Both businesses flourished and discussions and negotiations took place to build The Arcade on adjacent land in King Street, later to be known as Grimes Arcade.

The bank and the solicitor practice opened for business in the Arcade building on 1st March 1872

Richard made, 26 King Street, available to the organising committee responsible for the forthcoming opening of the Wigan Infirmary and subsequently the visit of the Prince of Wales.

In the spring of 1874, Richard married Frances Annie Hardinge a resident of St. Leonards, Hastings and shortly after the marriage Richard moved to Hastings.

By 1875, the partnership between Leigh & Ellis had been dissolved and Ratcliffe Ellis went into partnership with Edward Scott, brother of Sir John Scott, and formed Scott and Ellis located again at the Arcade Buildings.

Unfortunately, Richard's new life in Hastings was short lived as he died in March 1879, aged 40 years.

His funeral at St. Leonards, was attended by Thomas Ratcliffe Ellis and Leigh Clare.