

# LATEST PRESS

## Albert Rises - The Broker Back from the Dead

*The Times - Martin Waller*

It being the season for revival and renewal, I am delighted to bring news of the rebirth of what was once our foremost regional stockbroker, Albert E Sharp. The firm used to have 26 offices around the country, headquartered in Birmingham, but it has died the death in recent years.

Giles Sharp, grandson of the eponymous founder, has brought the name off the slush pile and he now has a staff of 14, an HQ in Stratford-upon-Avon - a wonderful place to have an office, he tells me - and a small office in London.

Sharp was subsumed into Old Mutual and then ended up with Barclays. I've been wanting for some time to buy back the old, famous name. Of course, first it was taken over by Old Mutual in 1995 and they passed it over about three years later to Barclays bank, says Giles.

Sharp was founded in 1911, but under the Barclays the name became dormant. We did have to pay something for it, Giles adds. It's obviously a different company than it was when sold it. We're not talking about an enormous figure. The revived Sharp will focus on traditional investment management and personal service.




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## GRANDSON OF ALBERT E SHARP REVIVES HISTORICAL NAME VIA QUOTIDIAN INVESTMENTS *Birmingham Post*

Albert E Sharp - one of the best know historical names in West Midlands stock broking - has been given a new lease of life after a ten-year absence thanks to the original founder's grandson.

Giles Sharp, the youngest grandson of Albert E Sharp who founded the firm in 1911, has been given permission to use the Albert E Sharp name. Quotidian Investments, the Stratford-upon-Avon based firm, will take on the historic moniker.

The original Albert E Sharp firm was bought by the South African group Old Mutual in 1998, which subsequently sold it on to Barclays Wealth and the name Albert E Sharp disappeared ten years ago. Now Giles will transfer the family name to the new independent investment management business, of which he is chairman, which also employs chief investment officer Bill Roden, managing director Philip Richards and partners Alan Henderson and Rupert Neal.

Mr Roden said reclaiming the historic name as very important to the firm.

Albert E Sharp had a great name in traditional investment services using simple portfolio structures. We're trying to offer a traditional, personal service but put a modern approach on top of that using modern investment techniques and skills to pick stocks and manage portfolios. We're keen to bring back that traditional service. Albert E Sharp started in 1911 as a stockbroker for local families in the Midlands, growing considerably until Albert's son, Kenneth H Sharp, joined the firm and added a corporate finance and research department.

By the late 1950s, Albert E Sharp began to be recognised throughout the country for professionalism and trust. In the mid-1970s, Simon Sharp, Kenneth's eldest son became the senior partner. Under his leadership, the business continued to flourish until it was acquired in 1998.