

Hello!

Autumn is upon us, with the leaves falling and the nights drawing in, and whilst the shops are filling with Christmas goods, our thoughts are, somewhat bizarrely, turning to the potential contents of the Pre-Budget Report and the usual madness that January will bring.

It is essential to remember that this year the filing deadlines are moving again, so if you are still to send us information, please forward it urgently to give us time to prepare your returns and accounts with due care and consideration and to ensure that you are in the best possible position.

I hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter; there is certainly an awful lot to tell you about! If you have any comments, suggestions or questions, please do not hesitate to let me know.



'Creativitea' is a star-spangled success!

re:CREATE 'Re:create', behind Berkhamsted Town Hall, is a community interest company, bringing arts and crafts to everyone, not just those that can afford it, by offering a wide range of classes to people of all ages. 'Creativitea', a champagne afternoon tea, was the final event of an Open Studio exhibition recently, and raised over £5,000 for a new reception, kitchen area, toilets and other facilities.

Special guests Imelda Staunton and her actor husband, Jim Carter, good friends of Re:create's Rose Scarborough and her husband Adrian, spent the afternoon supporting the fundraising efforts by conducting an auction and judging items made that day. Later, Imelda encouraged everyone to come to the centre and enjoy the classes and courses available.



For more details about classes, Rose's plans for the continued growth of the not for profit organisation or to offer your support, please call 01442 879602 or visit the website at www.recreateberko.co.uk.

If you have an achievement or an event that you would like to share with the rest of our clients and contacts do let us know - we are always pleased to promote your successes!

Meeting venue...

When you trade from home, or perhaps a busy office, it can be difficult to find a meeting venue that is convenient, quiet and cost effective. The last thing you may want is prospective clients in your home or to have others overhearing discussions.



Don't forget that we have a bright and spacious conference room, and are always very happy for clients to book it for their own use, for much less than the cost of a serviced meeting room.

Call Nicky now for details and availability.

Office for rent!

Our dual aspect, 500sqft self contained second floor is still available to let at newly reduced rates, with separate access, independent alarm, its own brand new kitchen, door entry system, great views over the rooftops of Berkhamsted and fantastic landlords!

If you know anyone who may be interested, or who may want more details, please let Liz know, or contact Philip Walker, the agent, on 01442 263033.



Don't forget...

HMRC will NEVER email taxpayers for personal details. If you receive an email request for details, delete it immediately; it will not be genuine.



New HMRC Penalty Regime

The biggest penalties under the new regime, which could be up to 100% of the undeclared tax as well as interest charges, will go to taxpayers who HMRC deem have not taken 'reasonable care' with their submissions.

There is currently no clear definition of what exactly defines 'reasonable care', but there is a host of further information about the new regime at www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/new-compliance-checks.htm. We will of course be contacting clients whom we feel may be vulnerable because of the new requirements to make suggestions to improve their position.

Remember that we offer free bookkeeping software to all clients to make life easier in the future. No obligation demonstrations are always available!

Postal Chaos

While the current postal chaos continues, we will send as much as possible to clients by email, to reduce delays and ensure receipt.

If you would prefer to use our Secure Document Exchange, or, if you have previously supplied an email address that you do not think is sufficiently secure, please let us know as soon as possible.



4 Claridge Court,
Lower Kings Road,
Berkhamsted,
Herts, HP4 2AF
Tel: 01442 873236
info@rickaby.co.uk

Are you interested in seeing the impact to your business of changes you may make in the future? If so, you need to see our **Business Modelling software** in action! Visit our website for more details or call now for a free demonstration.

VAT Online - Advanced warning

From April 2010, all VAT returns for businesses with turnover in excess of £100,00 per year must be filed online. Businesses which register for VAT from 1st April 2010 or later will have to file online regardless of their size.

This is relatively straight forward **IF** you are able to put your hand on your original VAT registration certificate, but otherwise may take rather longer, as you will need to request a duplicate from the HMRC VAT National Advice Centre. We would strongly advise clients check the whereabouts of their certificate now, so that any request for a duplicate can be made now rather than when everyone else is in the run up to the deadline!

To register to file VAT returns online you will need to be registered with the Government Gateway, which you can access from the HMRC Homepage (www.hmrc.gov.uk), and then follow the process outlined there.

Once registered, it is possible to set up a direct debit which will automatically claim the due amount from your nominated bank account three working days after the return is filed, giving a slight cash flow advantage.

If you would like more information about how to register, visit our website or call Nicky for a copy of our helpsheet.



Rent Rules are changing!

1 Furnished Holiday lets will cease at the end of this tax year, so now is the time to take advantage of the special rules that apply and bring forward any refurbishment plans, and make sure that any overall losses are maximised.

2 Where a property is let furnished, you must choose how to handle the cost of replacing items from the outset; you must take a consistent approach.

3 For all properties when they are renovated, repairs and maintenance are allowed as a cost against income, whilst any improvements are only taken into account when the property is sold.

4 Relief can be claimed for interest to buy rental properties, but becomes particularly complex if remortgaging, or you have lived in the property.

5 Costs for preparing rental accounts can be deducted from the rent!

Call Sally for more details or specific advice.



It's a numbers game...

425

The number of tax returns we will have completed by the final filing deadline of 31st January 2010, for individuals, Trusts, LLPs and partnerships.

296

The number of businesses we act for, from sole traders to large limited companies, each one with unique challenges, needs and goals.

101

The number of years of Practice experience within our team.

14

The number of weeks until all tax returns and accounts for companies with a 31st March year end must be filed; send us your records if you haven't already!

0

Our charge for our software, new business pack, telephone support and initial meetings.



The Circle of Life

As we announced in the last edition of our newsletter, we have launched a new service, in association with Caliber Financial Management, to make it as easy as possible to ensure that all aspects of your finances are arranged as effectively as possible and are working together to ensure you are in the best position to deal with any sudden changes in circumstances, or can just have the confidence that you are prepared for the future.

It can be difficult to know what to deal with first when there are so many things to consider, so if you are lacking in any of the areas shown, call us now to find out how we can help.

We are going greener!

Several clients have questioned our green credentials recently, and asked us not to bind their copy accounts and tax returns, so we are taking the feedback on board and will no longer do so unless specifically asked. Not only does this mean that we will use less paper, it reduces the size of the envelopes we need to use, reducing the chance of them being damaged by Royal Mail's machinery, and increasing the chance that they will fit through a standard letter box!

If you would particularly like to receive a bound copy of any documents, do let us know and we will be happy to oblige.



Debtor Issues?

If debtors are an issue, call Nicky and ask for a copy of our 11 point action plan to protect your business and ensure that late payers don't drag you down.

If you would prefer to receive future editions by email, please tell us via our website: www.rickaby.co.uk

Important: The purpose of this newsletter is to give an overview of some current issues. No decision should be made in reliance on the contents of this publication as it is not intended to replace the need to seek expert advice.