

Client Case Study

Carol Critchley & her family

About our client

Carol Critchley's long relationship with her accountancy team has encompassed the sale of two businesses, family succession planning, personal taxation and family accounting.

Alongside technical accountancy services, has been unerring support and loyalty from the team at CBSL Accountants that has helped Carol and her family through both their changing business world and unpredictable personal circumstances.

Carol and her husband, Ian, began farming back in 1971 and between them established a very successful strawberry growing business in Gnosall, Staffordshire. Ian's sharp eye for business and an ability to look ahead to innovation and farming diversification saw the couple being one of the first fruit growing businesses to introduce table-top strawberry production. This negates pickers having to bend down to harvest fruit which increases productivity and quality. Later, Ian and Carol became early pioneers of Bio-energy when they built an anaerobic digester on their farmland which was fed by food waste to create energy to power local homes and businesses.

Early entry into the commercial anaerobic digestion sector gave the Company a competitive advantage by enabling them to secure long-term food waste contracts with local authorities, retail and food manufacturers.

In 2008, Carol and Ian took the pragmatic decision to look ahead and plan the succession of their businesses. Working with CBSL and a third-party consultant, they put in place a carefully-planned and phased sale of their fruit empire to a high-performing and trusted employee.

A tragic turn of events in 2013, when Ian passed away very suddenly, meant that support from Carol's team at CBSL Accountants became even more important. This included reappraisal of the family's succession planning and later, the sale of the Anaerobic Digestion Business.



What CBSL Accountants do Carol Critchley & her family

- Personal and business taxation
- Family succession planning
- Business sales
- Family accounting

What the client says about our services

Carol Critchley::

“Adrian Barker’s support has been incredible and I have relied upon him for advice, support and back-up. I can’t praise him enough. When I lost my husband, I placed a great deal of trust in Adrian and the team at CBSL, including Steve Hall, who I have worked with for 25 years, Louise Osselton and Sandra Lowers and I always have every confidence in them.

I would not have been able to achieve the sale of my businesses without Adrian’s support, knowledge and expertise. The practice offers so much more than accountancy advice.”

If you would like to discuss any of the aspects mentioned here in more detail, then please do get in touch with one of our team.

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