

the number

a quarterly newsletter from CBSL Accountants | **Winter 2017**



Welcome to the Winter edition of our Newsletter.

In this edition, as we head towards Christmas, we share pictures of our 'Evening of Art' which we held recently. After the festive period, personal tax return season bites with a vengeance!... We profile our head of personal tax, Sandra Lowers, and give some thoughts on current tax issues. We also look at how we can help you with succession planning to safeguard your business for the future. From all at CBSL Accountants, have a Happy Christmas and a great 2018.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian Barker'.

Adrian Barker Managing Director

An evening of Art

We were delighted to welcome clients, local professionals and business friends to pre-Christmas drinks reception held at our office. We hosted two local artists – Simon Barford, a local artist who takes bespoke commissions and Shaughn O'Brien, a sculptor, who exhibited a range of his stone carvings and bronzes. We were also joined by Ross Callaghan from The Art Vaults, who offer a framing service and who displayed a number of striking pieces.



More photos of the event inside this newsletter

Taking the hassle out of your company's statutory obligations

At CBSL Accountants we are pleased to offer a wide range of professional services, but at the heart of our business is our team delivering statutory accounts for filing with Companies House and HMRC requirements.

Our core service is the backbone to what we at CBSL Accountants do, but not the focus of what we do. We prepare your company's accounts and corporation tax returns to the high standard you expect from any firm of Chartered Accountants. We understand the technical issues that can arise in preparing the accounts to meet the requirements of the latest accounting standards. It goes without saying that we prepare and review your tax computations to ensure all relevant allowances and claims have been taken.

What makes us different from other firms? You are central to our service, not the accounts or tax returns. We strive to make the process as simple as possible for you. We interpret the figures we prepare in the statutory accounts to make them more easily understandable and highlight the matters that are critical to you and your business. You want plain speaking to-the-point advice.

It is important to us and to you to have continuity of staff working on your accounts each year; in fact we have a good number of jobs which team members have worked on for over 40 years – this experience and knowledge is essential to knowing your business from the inside out and being able to advise you clearly and accurately.

If you need any further information on our accounts and corporate tax teams please contact us on 01743 249 992 or send an email to enquiries@cbslgroup.com and we will be happy to assist.

Introduction to our team – Sandra Lowers

I stumbled into tax purely by chance and have enjoyed every minute of it since. My children had flown the nest to embark on their university courses and dared me to do the same - so I did!



I spent a year at a Wolverhampton accountancy practice as part of my accounting and finance degree where I assisted the tax manager who had been a HMRC Tax Inspector for most of her working life. I quickly gained a thorough all-round grounding in taxation issues which prepared me for my private client and compliance role at a national practice in Telford after graduation. When that firm relocated to Birmingham I joined CBSL with some of my prior colleagues and have been privileged to continue the long-term partnership with clients that I have built over the years.

I totally share the passion and family values of CBSL. I work closely with our diverse client base to discuss their tax affairs to meet their personal requirements. Responsibilities for clients are often split up at larger firms but here at CBSL we believe in carrying the job through to completion – I am responsible for all the private clients and know them well, whether it may be a 5-minute conversation to run through some HMRC correspondence you have received, an email reminder on tax to pay or more detailed planning for the tax year ahead. I try to make the whole experience as friendly as possible for you by explaining the issues in a clear and practical manner.

I work primarily from our office on the Shrewsbury Business Park, which given the good road links and plenty of parking, makes it very convenient for our clients and contacts to pop in and have a chat, or simply drop records off. No two days are the same so my role is certainly very stimulating and interesting.

Reporting for the 2016/17 tax year is in the final stages of completion as the submission deadline is 31 January. It has been a busy year – with changes to dividend and savings income propelling an additional burden on the tax payer. Further changes took effect from April 2017 for those with mortgaged rental properties, as the tax benefit on loan interest has been restricted and needs planning for now.

Tax is ever evolving and compliance issues need to be addressed constantly. We are trained to interpret and translate HMRC for you so if we can be of any assistance just give us a call. **J**

All I want for Christmas is...

With the Christmas party season approaching we look at the potential tax implications of gifts and events for your team. It isn't many years since the Christmas bonus meant a turkey for each staff member – many companies make the most of the festive period to reward staff for their efforts and boost morale with an office party or event.

A company can spend up to £150 over the year per staff member without any tax implications on the employee. If the cost to the company works out at over £150 per person, the whole amount becomes a taxable benefit for the employee and would be included on their P11d with NIC and tax payable on the benefit. The cost is allowable for corporation tax purposes.

Vouchers – Providing your staff with a high street voucher represents a taxable benefit to an employee and the value is based on the cost to the employer of the voucher. An arrangement can be agreed with HMRC so that the company pays the tax implications of such a gift on behalf of the employee. The vouchers and resulting tax are allowable for corporation tax purposes.

The costs of providing any hospitality to customers is disallowable. Any gifts to customers are also disallowed for tax purposes unless they are less than £50 in value, bear the business name or logo or are clearly advertising and are not food or drink.

If you need any further information on benefits for employees or whether particular event costs are allowable, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The deadline for filing your self assessment tax return and paying your 16/17 tax liability is rapidly approaching. Our personal tax team work tirelessly over the coming weeks to file your returns. Please ensure that any outstanding information is sent to us as soon as possible.

If you have any queries on your return, the liability to be paid or any other matter regarding your personal income, our team will be happy to assist.

An evening of Art

Here are some more photos of the event



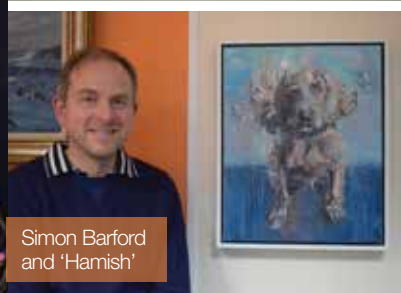
Marcus Moore and Adrian Barker



Ryan Connolly, Bernard Seymour, Caroline Oakes and Ian Oakes



'Dutch Holland' by Simon Barford



Simon Barford and 'Hamish'



Nic Round, Mike Gardner & partner and Russell Kershaw



Mark Wade, Sarah Prince & partner and Steve Hall



Sculpture by Shaughn O'Brien



Some of the art created by the children of CBSL's staff!



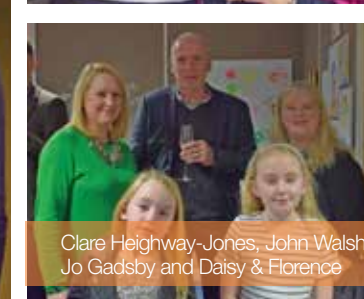
Steve Frazer, Mark North and Robert Osborne



Saffron Barker, Adrian Barker, Steve Simmons & partner



John Harmer and Janet Hall



Clare Heighway-Jones, John Walsh, Jo Gadsby and Daisy & Florence



Janet Jobson, Tim Jobson and Sandra Lowers



Sandy Edwards, Zoe Lloyd, Francesca Walton and Kate Boffey-Rawlings



Matthew Bowering and Louise Osselton

Thanks to all that attended and donated to our raffle on the night, for our two chosen charities: the Heads Together campaign tackling the stigma surrounding mental health and to improve mental health services; and Perry RDA, who are raising funds for the building of their new riding facilities, The Cavalier Centre near Much Wenlock.

Succession Planning

All business owners need to consider their succession planning for the future when they may decide that they want to stop working. Options may include leaving the management to run it and keep the shares, but ultimately at some stage ownership will need to change and it is surprising how few businesses have a plan in place. Despite the fact that over 50% of businesses will change ownership in the next decade there are some rather startling statistics: -

- Over 60% have no ownership succession plan;
- Over 75% have no management succession plan;
- Over 70% have not identified the next leader;
- Over 50% have no long term strategic business plan; and,
- Only 30% successfully transition from first generation to the second owner, and 15% to the third owner.

The final item on this list is a direct consequence of the previous four: if you do not plan the succession, then there is a significant risk of the business being unsuccessful once you have transferred or sold it to a new owner. Whilst succession planning can be done relatively quickly, it's much better to plan well in advance in order to achieve a smooth transition; perhaps lock in key members of your team; give you more choice of when and how; maximise the value you receive; and, minimise the amount of tax you pay. We recommend starting 2-3 years in advance of when you want to exit. This may seem like a long time, but this timescale maximises the tax efficiency as well as allowing for things going wrong, such as a key member of your team, or customer leaving, or even a deterioration in your health. It gives you choice: you don't have to exit but you can if you choose to as the business is in the right shape.

If this all strikes a chord with you, and you would like a confidential initial discussion, or would like to know what your business is worth, please get in touch with us.



Updates and Reminders

PAYE

PAYE for the November payroll is due by Friday 22nd December

Corporation Tax

1st January 2018 – deadline for payment if you have a 31st March year end

Personal Tax

30 December 2017 – submission for 16/17 tax return online where tax due is less than £3000 and to be collected via PAYE tax code

31 January 2018 – deadline for filing online 16/17 self-assessment returns

Christmas opening hours

– our offices will be closed from 5pm on Friday 22nd December and will reopen Tuesday 2nd January. We will send reminders closer to the time, but please ensure that your payroll information is sent to us as early as possible so that we can get all the information you need before the Christmas shut down.

What would you like to see from us?

If you would like to discuss further any of the features in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to get in contact with our team. Alternatively, if there is a query or topic that you would like us to cover in future editions, do let us know.

Further factsheets are available on key issues and interesting topics such as R&D – please email on enquiries@cbslgroup.com and we will be happy to send you a copy.