

Chartam

THE MAGAZINE FOR ICAEW CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS THAMES VALLEY

*The ACA in 2021
and beyond*

*Mental health guide
through lockdown*

*Coping with
redundancy*



Welcome

... from your President



In the last edition I was looking forward to meeting a number of fellow members and guess what? COVID-19 came back with a vengeance and we have not even arranged any events that are face-to-face in the true sense so far this year.

However, we have held a number of Zoom meetings that I either attended or chaired so perhaps I have been meeting a fair number of you all one way or another.

Now we are into 2021 we have moved on from Brexit straight into tax filing during January for many of my practising members. As we head towards a March Budget, we are all expecting to get our inoculations as soon as possible so we can start getting our lives in order and, before long, all companies being back and open for business. Some of you may be hedging your bets that you will get a holiday this year, but will it have to be in the UK or will we be flying off anywhere? Others I am sure will be just willing the schools to reopen and to return the responsibility of being a teacher back to where it belongs.

Do you work or live in Thames Valley? If you do, we want to represent you at

ICAEW, if you would let us. Please check your profile to make sure that you are receiving information about what is going on in Thames Valley. In the future ICAEW will have a new piece of software that is going to allow all members to be able to tick a box to get information on more than one district society as we all do have different programmes depending on the mix of members in each district. Thames Valley is pretty equally split between practice and commerce as well as having a higher-than-average number of female members. We will be championing more female-only events in 2021 and our last president, Fiona, will be introducing some very interesting subjects this year.

As I intimated in the last issue, we are all represented by our three Council members who are your elected representatives for Thames Valley on ICAEW Council. I liken them to our local MP so if you have a gripe with ICAEW then it's one of them who you need to make your case to.

I am hoping that within this issue you will find a way to feed back to me and your committee members anything and everything as a member you want

from being associated with your local Thames Valley District Society.

I could say 'Ask not what you can do for the Thames Valley' but instead 'what can the Thames Valley do for you?' but that may be an old quote that would turn you off taking advantage of what is on offer. Since I am on an ICAEW committee for the next three months discussing the future of district societies, I would really like to hear from as many members as possible as to, are we relevant in the current climate?

Do you really want social events with like-minded members? Would you prefer to attend sporting events both nationally and locally? Do you want to get involved with other golfers, tennis players, or darts, bridge clubs, clay pigeon shooting, go carting, boat trips down the Thames, theatre groups etc?

Do you want to network with other members from both industry and commerce and even other professionals who could be useful to your future in the profession?

Do you need CPE or would like a few more interesting visits to businesses that would stimulate some real thought?

Anyway, please do send me your thoughts in an email or complete the survey in this magazine and get them back to me and my committee as soon as possible.

I am hoping that this year's AGM will be a proper AGM. By that I mean one you can attend in person so it may be a little later in the year. The reason for this is exactly because we need to learn and lead the future of the Thames Valley using business experiences from people that work and trade among us.

If we can, you will be invited for some insider knowledge at the Tesla showrooms in Slough this year. So watch for the next issue of *Chartam* after this or visit our website.

PAUL WAGSTAFF FCA, FBIM

Thames Valley President

president.thamesvalley@icaew.com

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Welcome

Hello and welcome to the latest edition of *Chartam*

Welcome to the *Chartam* you know, as we continue on the journey of digitalisation started by John Stout, who I would like to thank for his time as Editor and the support he continues to give. I would also like to recognise the editorial committee's efforts.

I am keen to promote the brand of ICAEW and the value we bring to the wider community and not be shy in publishing content to promote business for our members in practice and industry. I strongly believe we are a best kept secret and that *Chartam* is well placed as a magazine and brand to push this message. To that end, I and the editorial committee are looking to keep *Chartam* as a magazine and as a brand behind which we publish articles directly to the ICAEW website and to social media. The vision is to create a searchable library of articles in magazine format that readers can dip in and out of. This spring 2021 issue is being published as a digital magazine and as a series of articles as part of this transformation.

As well as selling the brand, mental health and wellbeing will take a central place within *Chartam* alongside our existing contributions from our twinned society in Normandy, retired members, students, technical updates and



articles on current topics like COVID-19 (hopefully soon to be a past topic).

As always, your thoughts and suggestions are welcome.

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PRACTICE SUPPORT GROUP CHAIRS

If you are a sole practitioner and wish to underpin your practice with a strong support group then contact your local chair.

Henley: Sarah Timbrell
 +44 (0)7780 781 936
henleydistrictpsg@outlook.com

Oxford and Banbury: Chris Dean
 +44 (0)1295 788 104
oxforddistrictpsg@outlook.com

A short history

When I was growing up it felt that the world was too big, the lands and the seas too vast for human action to adversely affect it. There were, though, the beginnings of concerns about environmental degradation. Looking back I see Joni Mitchel's song 'Big Yellow Taxi' was written in 1970. Among others it contains the lines:

*'Give me spots on my apples
But leave me the birds and the bees'*

Surprisingly, warnings about warming go back to the 19th century when a Swedish scientist called Arrhenius published the first calculations of global warming from human emissions of CO₂. Yet in the 1970s my impression is that the focus was more on overpopulation and other threats from human action on the natural environment.

Possibly the first crisis was damage caused by certain manmade gases (CFCs) on the ozone layer. Thinning of the ozone layer was of particular concern in the southern hemisphere where the damage was particularly bad. In 1987 the Montreal Protocol imposed international restrictions on the emission of ozone-destroying gases. Ozone levels stabilised in the 1990s and began to recover in the 2000s.

By 1988 warnings about global warming from scientists became more

insistent and in September that year, PM Margaret Thatcher became the first global leader to describe warming as a key issue. That was 30 years ago and it seems that progress on global warming, the environment and bio diversity has been disputed and too slow.

Now, the science of climate change is generally, although not universally, accepted. Following Trump's exit, Biden has now re-signed the Paris Agreement and the UK is hosting the postponed UN Climate Change Conference this November. Environmental, social and corporate governance is gaining ever more importance. ESG investment funds under management have reached a new high of \$US1trn.

As chartered accountants we have an important role to play. Sustainability is a topic as vast and complex as the planet we live on. For example, environmental impacts need to be measured, analysed, reported and monitored. Our training and skills are ideal for ensuring that this is done accurately and presented transparently in easily comparable formats. We are embedded in business and our influence is significant. We can help save the planet and simultaneously save money.

ICAEW has a [Sustainability Community](#) which is free to join. Thames Valley District Society is also planning to organise an event for members interested in this topic. If you have any suggestions please email emily.russell@icaew.com

FIONA MCKENZIE



2021 Trends

We asked the members of the *Chartam* ICAEW Thames Valley committees what trends they could see in 2021. Here are some of their responses:

Trends which are likely to continue are



all around the awareness that life is changing, and will continue to change, at a faster pace than before and that the old 'normal' will not return. There is now more informality, more use of technology, more online activity and transactions for purchasing and research, more requirement for sustainability, diversity and inclusiveness, wellbeing, mindfulness, with more working from home and the need for a different design of accommodation and housing.

BRIAN BUSH

- Less traffic.
- More demand for office accommodation at home, in the main structure or outbuildings.
- More difficult to train students with remote working. Reduced numbers.
- More difficult to run some businesses.
- More broadband demand.
- Very difficult to get everyone back to the office.

- I am still hoping for much of the old normal after the surge of partying when this is over ... and it will be over.
- Zoom etc may only be used as a backup in future whereas it's essential now.
- International/airline travel might be more expensive and difficult.

JEFFREY SMITH

The enforced lockdown of offices around the world has shown just how efficient staff can be using the existing audio-visual systems for meetings and discussions.

More and more clients are welcoming the fact that their advisers 'see' them much more often, for shorter periods, to keep them updated or advised on key issues. There is no need for the client or adviser to travel to see one another and no need, because of the travel time involved, to try to cram as much as possible into each (potentially expensive) meeting.

So, I contend that the office is not obsolete, but its purpose has morphed. It will still be there, still needed, but much altered, and thus probably much smaller on average per company, than pre-COVID-19.

That said, my crystal ball prognostications have been known to be way off the mark in the past!

Eyes on the future

It will be over at some time. We may not eradicate the virus but, like the flu, we will learn to both live with it and overcome it. People will develop immunity. This is not just blind hope, it is the way our history over centuries has unfolded.

Therefore, as well as ensuring we have a bright torch to light up darkened paths, we desperately need to look further ahead and put in place measures for long-term business resilience.

Look beyond the pandemic, to what McKinsey rightly calls the 'next norm'. Take time to breath that air, and to ensure your teams are looking forward with hope and not still going forward, eyes cast downwards in doubt.

GRAEME GORDON

Let us know what you think will be the latest trends for 2021 by emailing Emily: emily.russell@icaew.com

News landed from Normandy!

Hello dear neighbours. We have carefully followed the news, here in France, about England. We hope that the situation will improve for you. Over here, we were confined from 30 October 2020 to 15 December. Despite a particular context, we were lucky enough to celebrate joyfully the end of 2020.

However, many industries still can not reopen their doors to the general public. Unfortunately, our restaurants and whole cultural structures are also still closed. In order to help our small shopkeepers, the region of Normandy has set up a 'Normandie Prêts Participatifs'. This initiative is a package which allows small businesses to reduce their loan level while they consolidate their equity.

We are the first region to create such a system, and our profession accompanies these organisations. Moreover, 'The

general assembly of Normandy accountants' met in October in Deauville. It was a great opportunity to meet our colleagues and to talk face to face with them. It was also the occasion for the new accountants to take their oath.

More than ever, we are happy to have the possibility to keep working. Also, everything is going well in our office and we keep developing our activity. The fiscal period is coming soon and like every year, we have to organise ourselves to be able to satisfy the expectations of our many clients.

One last thing, we have recently recruited new collaborators: indeed, more than 40,000 bees have joined our garden! We can't wait to collect their honey.

Best regards,
TEAM B





Digital evolution: the ACA in 2021 and beyond

Some exciting developments are coming to the ACA qualification in 2021.

'It's about keeping things moving and doing the right thing for people's careers,' says Shaun Robertson, Director, Education and Qualifications at ICAEW. 'The key thing is being reflective of what's happening in the workplace, society and technology.'

From March onwards, data analytics software will be integrated into exams so students can demonstrate skills by manipulating, interrogating and analysing company data. Many ACA students will already be using similar packages at work, and practice software has been

made available to enable them to become comfortable and confident using it.

In addition to the new software for Professional and Advanced Level exams, we are the first accountancy body to introduce digital learning materials and a digital bookshelf. All of our learning materials are now in a digital format with a wide range of tools such as annotating, highlighting and filtering search terms. Students will also be able to change readability functions such as font size and background colour. The ICAEW Bookshelf stores the permitted texts and digital learning materials and it will be available in any of the open book exams. These changes reflect the way many students now access

information and support ICAEW's commitment to carbon neutrality.

We have also redeveloped the Ethics Learning Programme, elevating the importance of ethics and professional scepticism from the very start of someone's career. Ethics is integrated throughout our qualifications, and the new programme will give students a range of ethical scenarios to bring practical relevance to the subject of ethics.

If you require any further information on these changes or how we can support a student through the ACA qualification in any sector, then please do get in touch. lea.watson@icaew.com or visit [icaew.com/answerisACA](https://www.icaew.com/answerisACA)



Eacotts student Dane explains his experience of learning and taking exams digitally

I was never a fan of travelling to and from the study centre - often a journey of an hour or so each way. The transition to digital learning has eliminated this tedious element from my life and for that, I am truly grateful! Digital learning also offers a greater degree of flexibility. Having access to a library of pre-recorded lectures is wonderful and enables me to adopt a more targeted approach to learning by focusing on the areas I need to. Of course, I miss the social element of classroom-based study but overall I have found that the benefits of digital learning outweigh the disadvantages. Having said that, I have heard quite a few horror stories about digital examinations and distractions caused by technical/connection issues. Unfortunately, some environmental factors are beyond the control of the examinee and this is where ICAEW's 'special consideration policy' comes into play.

DANE EKANAYAKE

Basingstoke Foodbank

Since the start of the coronavirus outbreak, Basingstoke's Foodbank has fed up to four times more clients than before the pandemic. The foodbank is now operating five days a week and because of social distancing, has completely changed its method of operation to one of home delivery.

'Our amazing volunteers have proved adept at facing the current challenges and adapted in a way that ensures even more people who cannot afford food receive their three-day pack of food and toiletries' says Chair of Trustees Phil Thomas.

Thanks to the amazing response from the people and businesses of the town, donations of food and finance are buoyant, so the foodbank can buy the extra food needed to meet the needs of its growing clientele.

Since May 2020, the foodbank has relocated to new warehouse premises, initially provided rent-free by Vivid Housing, to enable the operation to work more efficiently and keep volunteers safe. Personnel from RAF Odiham gave their time to facilitate the move to the new premises. Another example of how the military is helping our local community.

A national hotline has been set up to enable those in crisis to obtain an 'e-voucher' which will enable them to access food from the foodbank without the need to leave home. The foodbank is now feeding many people who have never needed its services before.

'We realise for many this is a difficult situation and they feel awkward asking for 'charity', but our message is that if anyone has hit crisis point and is struggling for money to buy food for themselves or their family, then contact any of our 90 agencies who can assess your situation, offer help and refer you to the foodbank to receive free food parcels, delivered to your door' said Phil.

PHIL THOMAS

Chair of Trustees of
Basingstoke Foodbank



A mental health expert's guide to getting through lockdown



As we enter a fresh period of lockdown, many of us are finding our frustration and anxiety are peaking. Having spent several months looking forward to the end of 2020, we've arrived at 2021 only to find that, within days, we're in no better position than we were before. For many of us, it might in fact feel worse.

Troubling as the next few months may seem though, there are steps that we can take to weather this storm of unpredictability and ensure that we come out the other side with our mental wellbeing intact.

ACCEPT THE SITUATION

The first step towards getting through any challenging experience is to accept it. When things get difficult, we tend to resist or deny them, because it's natural to not want to be in pain. The problem here is that this resistance uses a huge amount of energy, leaving little with which to actually confront the problem. That said, acceptance doesn't necessarily mean being happy about where we are. You might feel sad; angry, even. And that's OK. You don't need to have it all worked out. What you do need is to acknowledge the situation at hand, so that you can take control and ask what you want the story of the next few months to be for you.

REFLECT ON LAST TIME

You might very well be thinking that you can't cope with another lockdown. Try not to think in these terms - you can cope. Depending on how you were affected by the tiers, you've done it at least once already and come out the other side. Instead, prepare yourself for the weeks ahead by reflecting on those previous experiences. What helped you get through last time? Likewise, what ultimately proved to be detrimental? Allow yourself time for this process. Give yourself space, privacy, and try to focus on what would genuinely help you, as an individual, instead of getting hooked on everybody else's narratives.

GET BACK INTO YOUR ROUTINE

During the first lockdown, one of the most widely offered pieces of advice was to establish a routine. Something that gave you a sense of order or purpose when we couldn't leave the house. This need for structure will be just essential this time around, but for many of us, is likely to have slipped over Christmas. Try to rediscover the routine that kept you going before, and you're bound to find this new lockdown a little easier.

MANAGE YOUR EXPOSURE

One of the ways in which we try to take control of stressful situations is gathering data. The problem, however, with an area as broad and as intimidating as COVID-19, is that by plugging into the never-ending stream of news coverage and social media, we can easily become overwhelmed. Of course, it's important to be informed, but there's a balance to be found - admittedly a delicate one - between keeping yourself up to date and exposing yourself to so much that you risk stress and anxiety. Consider watching the news just once in the morning or evening, and then putting barriers in place for the rest of the day.

TAKE COMFORT FROM THE LITTLE THINGS

With many people now being vaccinated, many of us are taking comfort in the knowledge that there is an end in sight. While this is certainly no bad thing, it's not enough to take all of our joy from the bigger picture. After all, it's likely to be months - if not even another year - before we are all vaccinated. To maintain our mental wellbeing, we need also to zoom in on what little victories we can achieve on a daily basis. We need to be flexible, and take hope from the here and now, just as much as from the future.

BE KIND TO YOURSELF

Self-compassion is incredibly important. Far too often, we see parents, carers and healthcare workers neglecting their own needs in order to prioritise others. While this is admirable, it isn't sustainable to be kind to others long term if you aren't kind to yourself. This isn't always easy; self-care can actually be incredibly courageous. It's about looking at your experience - your failures just as much as your successes - and asking what you can do

next. It's about meeting your experience, whatever it might entail, with kindness.

RECOGNISE THAT YOU ARE DOING ENOUGH

This is especially important for parents who are trying to oversee home learning while also remotely holding down a full-time job. For many children, the novelty of not being in school has well and truly worn off, and they are probably upset - possibly even angry - to be housebound again. Parents shouldn't dismiss these concerns. Talk to your children about how they're feeling and keep them in a routine, but, ultimately, recognise that you can only do so much. It won't go to plan every day. If, at the end of the day your children are warm, fed and loved, you are getting it right.

We've heard a lot over the coming weeks about resilience. It's certainly important that we be resilient during this new lockdown, but we have to understand that no matter how many courses and guides we see advertised, it isn't something that can be prescribed from one person to another. Resilience is an individual toolbox. Some of the suggestions above will work for you, while others won't. What's crucial is that we don't get hung up on other people's stories. Reflect on what works for you and run with it. That's how you'll help to maintain your mental wellbeing during lockdown.

BY KIRSTY LILLEY

mental health specialist at CABA, the wellbeing charity



Help and support within the Thames Valley

The following organisations are offering help and support within the Thames Valley area if you need it.

TALKING THERAPIES

If you need mental health support, please contact our Talking

Therapies service or our Common Point of Entry (CPE) team.

Phone: 0300 365 2000

Please visit the [Talking Therapies Berkshire website](#).

THE BRACKNELL FOREST COMMUNITY NETWORK

The Bracknell Forest Community Network (BFCN) was formed in 2017 and sits across both Bracknell Forest Community Mental Health Teams (adults and older adults) providing local secondary mental health step-down and day provision. The network supports individuals and carers living with a variety of conditions including psychosis, personality disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, eating disorders, dementia, anxiety and depression. If you would like any more information about the network please contact:

Email: network@berkshire.nhs.uk

Phone: 01344 823300

More information on this service can be found [here](#).

FRIENDS IN NEED

Friends in need is a friendly peer support group who want to help you to manage your depression and anxiety by inviting you to try uplifting, fun and free of charge activities.

Come and feel supported while having a chat and a cuppa with others who understand how you might be feeling.

Please visit their [website](#).

MIND

Mind provides advice and support to empower anyone experiencing a mental health problem. Please visit their [website](#).

FOODBANKS

[West Berkshire Foodbank](#).

[Reading Foodbank](#).

[Maidenhead Foodbank](#) (foodshare).

Five tips for coping with redundancy

Redundancy can be a stressful and upsetting time for everyone. Even if you've seen it coming, it's often a shock. You may feel anger, disbelief, embarrassment, anxiety, guilt, or that you've been unfairly treated.

It's important not to deny these feelings, as they are perfectly normal. They can manifest themselves in different ways such as tension, lethargy, irritability, anxiety and a change in eating habits.

If you've recently lost your job, or are worried about being made redundant, here are five top tips to help you prepare yourself for your next chapter.

1. Talk about your situation

For many of us, work is more than just an income. It offers status, a daily routine and a sense of purpose, together with an interesting and challenging activity. For some, their social life can also revolve around work colleagues. This is a lot to lose.

If you're stressed or in despair, it's so important to **talk about how you feel** with other people, such as your colleagues, family and friends. Sharing your thoughts and feeling with others will allow you to process your emotions and come to terms with what's happened. As research professor Dr Brené Brown says, shame cannot survive empathy. So, by leaning on the support from those around you, and allowing them to be there for you, you're bound to feel a sense of release.

2. Establish a new routine

People who've been made redundant say they find it helpful to establish a regular daily routine. This often means getting up as if you're going to work, getting dressed and focusing on finding new paid employment. Having some structure to your day will help keep you positive and enable you to keep track of what you've done today and what you need to do tomorrow.

For some ideas on how to bring some structure to your day, check out our **copied with redundancy guide** which contains some handy tips.

3. Don't take it personally

Redundancies are rarely, if ever, personal. But sometimes it's hard not to take it that way. As someone who's being made redundant, you might feel undervalued and overlooked, which can affect the way you view yourself as a professional. A diminished sense of self-worth can have a big

impact on how you tackle the next stage, as you may feel like you're not good or skilled enough to apply for positions at a similar or higher level.

This is why it's so important to **practise self-compassion** as this will help you to re-build your confidence. Reminding yourself of all you've achieved so far and remembering that you've got plenty of moves left to play. Don't leave it too long before you start looking at what's next - whether that's applying for your next job, or, if finances allow, taking some time out to think about how you might use this as an opportunity to realign yourself with your life goals.

4. Reinvent yourself

When we're young and still in school, we sometimes feel as if the whole world is open to us and that we can pursue any profession. This feeling of possibility tends to lessen the older we get as the number of financial and personal obligations we have grows. However, don't forget that it's never too late to reinvent yourself.

No matter what age you are, redundancy can actually be an opportunity for you to take a positive step forwards in your career, whether this means applying for a similar role but for a company that better aligns with your values, or going down a completely different path and exploring another sector completely.

If you're wondering what your next move is, we offer **career and personal and professional coaching services** as well as **personal and professional development courses**.

5. Tend to your financial wellbeing

Losing a job can do terrible things to our financial wellbeing. You might be worried about how you're going to pay your bills this month or if you'll have enough money to look after your family. These feelings often weigh heavily on us, making us feel caged in and like we are running out of options.

Much of this is down to feeling like you don't have any ownership of your future. Remember, financial wellbeing is about control - control over your day-to-day decisions and long-term goals. While you may feel like you're at a loss of what to do when you've been made redundant, there are ways of regaining a sense of agency.

The first thing to do is to take stock of your finances and **create a budget**. Once you've got a better idea of what you've got coming in and out of your accounts, it's easier to make rational decisions that will positively impact your situation.

You should also look into what help is out there for you, as there are many support services in place for people who are experiencing financial difficulties. CABA offers a range of financial services to its members and their families, including financial assistance, debt management advice and benefits counsel.

The importance of perspective
Staying hopeful is all about perspective. It may seem devastating and scary right now, but it will pass and things will get better.

And remember, you don't have to struggle alone. **Contact CABA today.**





2021 SESCOA CPD courses

With so much changing so rapidly, there's no better way to keep your training up to date than with our live online CPD programme!

While restrictions remain in place, we are staying wholly online until 1 May 2021. If meeting face to face is not possible in May we will remain online at the course times and dates already advertised. Any bookings will be transferred automatically onto the online course. Online courses will continue to form part of the 2021 programme even after we are able to return to face-to-face training.

NEW SESCOA COURSES FOR 2021

2021 Budget Update

Join tax expert Bob Trunchion for an indispensable update on the 2021 Budget, live online on Friday 12 March at 09:30-12:30. While initially seen as a possible transformative Budget, the latest coronavirus strain has meant the Chancellor has had to bring forward additional measures to cope with the financial

impact of the crisis. Notwithstanding that, this Budget will still be a landmark one: the first Budget delivered in over 40 years by a British Chancellor to a UK now outside the EU. Bob will guide you through all the changes you need to be aware of.

The Accountant on the Farm - A Comprehensive Review

The Accountant on the Farm - A Comprehensive Review will be held live online on Thursday 6 May 09:30-12:30. Bob Trunchion and David Missen will present an intensive half-day course exploring the challenges and issues faced by farming and rural communities and the solutions and opportunities available. The course is aimed at accountants already acting for this type of client, who are looking for a technical update and refresher. Email courses@sesca.co.uk to book your place today.

If you would like more information on any of our courses or the Flexiticket scheme etc., visit the SESCOA Ltd website sesca.co.uk, email courses@sesca.co.uk, or call +44 (0)1737 223 999 and speak to Amelia, Mick or Sally.

THAMES VALLEY CPD COURSES PROGRAMME

(see bottom of page 13 for key and top of page 12 for the booking form)

Date	Course	Speaker	Venue	Time	B/P	Code
Recorded - watch anytime						
2021	Why power query is the most important Excel development ever - even if you don't work with data!	Simon Hurst	W	ANY	B/P	EX01A1
2021	Good spreadsheet practice: Excel fundamentals	Simon Hurst	W	ANY	B/P	EX02A1
2021	Using the latest versions of Excel to revolutionise your spreadsheets	Simon Hurst	W	ANY	B/P	EX03A1
2021	50 advanced techniques for creating inspirational spreadsheets	Simon Hurst	W	ANY	B/P	EX04A1
2021	More power to your pivot: Practical uses for Excel pivot tables	Simon Hurst	W	ANY	B/P	EX05A1
April						
20	Accounting update for accountants in business	Guy Loveday	O	AM	B	AP20C1
20	Taxation update for accountants in business	Martyn Ingles	O	PM	B	AP20D1
21	Annual IFRS update	Guy Loveday	O	AM	B/P	AP21C1
21	Complete guide to IR35	Ros Martin	O	PM	P	AP21B1
28	Pensions - what the accountant needs to know	Bob Trunchion	O	AM	P	AP28A1
29	HMRC's investigatory powers: topical issues	Andrew Gotch	O	AM	B/P	AP29A1
29	The essential guide to importing and exporting	Malcolm Greenbaum	O	PM	B/P	AP29B1
May						
6	The accountant on the farm - a comprehensive review	Bob Trunchion & David Missen	O	AM	P	MY06A1
13	Businesses in trouble - helping your client in times of crisis	Cathya Djanogly	O	AM	B/P	MY13A1
17	Taxation update	Giles Mooney	O	AM	P	MY17A1
17	Audit and accounting update	Guy Loveday	O	PM	P	MY17B1
17	Accounting and financial reporting update	Guy Loveday	O	AM	P	MY17C1

THAMES VALLEY CPD COURSES BOOKING FORM

Contact (please give delegate names, if known, below or on separate sheet)

Title Initials Surname Firm/company
 Address
 Telephone Email

	Fee	VAT	Fee+VAT	No	Total
4 place Flexiticket (pre 31/01/20)	£300	£60	£360		
4 place Flexiticket	£320	£64	£384		
12 place Flexiticket (pre 31/01/20)	£700	£140	£840		
12 place Flexiticket	£740	£148	£888		
25 place Flexiticket (pre 31/01/20)	£1,300	£260	£1,560		
25 place Flexiticket	£1,470	£294	£1,764		
Individual course 2020 (half day)	£110	£22	£132		

Flexitickets purchased and paid for by 31/01/20 will expire on 31/12/20. All bookings must be accompanied by payment. A VAT invoice will be issued with your Flexipack. Please make cheques payable to: **SESCA Enterprises Ltd**. Details for BACS payment: a/c 10771791 Sort code: 20-23-97 Please quote company name when paying by BACS.

Cheque enclosed: £

Signed:

Date:

Delegate details (if known). If booking on existing ticket tick 'flexi'

Title	Forename	Surname	Flexi	Course code

Return address:

SESCA Enterprises Ltd, 2b Chart House,
 Effingham Road, Reigate, Surrey RH2
 7JN UK Tel: +44 (0)1737 223 999 Email:
courses@sesca.co.uk

***Booking conditions:** The course fee covers all documentation, which will be provided on registration, and refreshments. We regret no refunds can be made on course fees other than in exceptional circumstances. Flexitickets are only valid on events which fall within the validation period of the ticket. All places are subject to availability and receipt of notification of attendance at least six days before the course. We cannot guarantee places on any course. Notice of cancellation must be received and acknowledged by email two clear working days before the course to enable the place to be used again within the validity period of the ticket. We reserve the right to make changes, including cancellation to any South East, Southern or Thames Valley courses event. No responsibility for loss occasioned to any person acting or refraining from acting as a result of any of the information in the material can be accepted by the speakers, SESCO Enterprises Ltd, ICAEW Chartered Accountants Thames Valley, ICAEW Chartered Accountants Southern or ICAEW Chartered Accountants South East. We cannot be held responsible for any personal belongings left at any course venue.
Return address: SESCO Enterprises Ltd, 2b Chart House, Effingham Road, Reigate, Surrey RH2 7JN UK Tel: +44 (0)1737 223 999 Email: courses@sesca.co.uk

The following 2021 courses are part of the Southern Flexiticket Programme (available to all Flexiticket holders) and are being held at the Basingstoke Country Hotel (B)

Date	Course	Speaker	Venue	Time	B/P	Code
May						
5	Complete Guide to VAT and Property Transactions	Neil Owen	B	AM	B/P	MY05A1
5	Practical Problems in UK GAAP	Peter Herbert	B	PM	B/P	MY05B1
June						
8	Anti-Money Laundering and Fraud Refresher and Update	Peter Herbert	B	AM	P	JN08A1
8	Construction Industry Refresher	Tim Palmer	B	PM	B/P	JN08B1

Key

Venues: **O** = Live online using Zoom **W** = Recorded online, available via the website **CB** = Coppid Beech Hotel, John Nike Way, Binfield, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 8TF **SC** = Sindlesham Court, Mole Road, Sindlesham, Wokingham, Berkshire RG41 5EA **B** = Basingstoke Country Hotel, Scures Hill, Nalely Scures, near Hook, RG27 9JS

Time: **AM:** Registration 09:00, start 09:30, coffee 11:00, end 12:30 **PM:** Registration 13:00, start 13:30, coffee 15:00, end 16:30 **ANY:** Watch anytime.

B/P: **B** = of interest to accountants in business **P** = of interest to accountants in practice

The Flexiticket discount scheme: flexibility and value for money

While all our courses can be booked individually, most members take advantage of our highly flexible Flexiticket discount scheme which can bring this cost down by almost 50%. Unlike most other discount schemes, the Flexiticket allows cancellation and the opportunity to carry forward places for use on another course within the validity period of the ticket. The FAQs below explain how the scheme works.

What will it cost?

£320+VAT for 4 places or £740+VAT for 12 places ie, as little as £61.67+VAT per place. A 25 place Maxiticket is also available to high volume users for £1,470+VAT in 2021.

How long is my Flexiticket valid for?

Up to 13 months. So if the first course place booked takes place in March 2021 your ticket will start on 1 March 2021 and will expire on 31 March 2022. Places must be used on courses which take place within the validity period of the ticket.

Which courses is the ticket valid on?

All half-day courses in the Thames Valley Flexiticket programme.

It can also be used on:

- any Southern or South East Flexiticket half-day courses, subject to availability
- any live online or recorded online half-day courses

When should I buy my ticket?

You can book your ticket and reserve places at any time. We will not invoice you until the 1st of the month in which the first course you wish to attend takes place. Thus, you can ensure your places

on popular courses well in advance.

Do I have to use the Flexiticket on 4, 12 or 25 different courses?

No. The ticket can be used by any number of individuals on any number of courses totalling either 4,12 or 25.

Do I have to be a Thames Valley member to be eligible for the scheme?

No. Our courses are designed to be of interest to other professionals and members of the wider business community as well as Chartered Accountants. Members may find some topics of interest to clients.

Do I have to book specific courses when I apply for a Flexiticket?

No. Just let us know before the course you wish to attend that you will be coming, by phone or email. However, early booking on certain courses including the audit, accounting and tax updates is strongly advised as these are very popular.

What if I am unable to, or fail to attend a course on which I have booked?

A face-to-face course place must be cancelled by email and acknowledged by Sesca Ltd, at least two clear working days before the course date to enable you to use the place on another course within the validity period of your ticket. (ie, if the course is on the morning of Thursday 19 November, notice must be received by midnight on Monday 16 November). Alternatively, you may request the documentation. If you choose to be sent the documentation this will constitute use of one place on your ticket. If no prior

notice of cancellation is received and you do not attend, you will be sent the course notes using one place on your ticket. No refunds are made on places not used.

What if I lose track of the number of places used on my ticket?

Just give us a call and we will let you know how many you have left. We can also provide you with a printed record of your attendances. A CPD report is automatically sent to all delegates in January if they have attended any courses in the preceding 12 months.

How do I apply for a Flexiticket?

Simply complete the form on page 12 and send it to SESCA Ltd., 2b, Chart House, Effingham Road, Reigate, Surrey RH2 7JN. You can book by email to courses@sesca.co.uk or phone on +44 (0)1737 223 999. You will receive an email confirming your bookings with your Flexiticket bookings report and a VAT invoice attached.

Will I receive delegate information on the courses I wish to attend?

All the delegate information you will require for courses including venue information and course timings is provided in your Flexiticket report. You will not receive separate joining instructions for individual face-to-face courses. For online courses, delegates will be emailed the Zoom link and a pdf of the notes two days before the course date.

Any further questions?

Email courses@sesca.co.uk or give us a call on +44 (0)1737 223 999

Brexit - more regulation and documentation

The Brexit deal was finally struck on December 2020 which eased the concerns of trading under WTO rules with all the tariff implications that incurred. However, it did not return the UK to seamless trade with Europe and we still have to face a world with increased regulation and documentation.

To import goods from Europe:

- The exporter must have an EU EORI (Economic Operator's Registration and Identification Number)
- the importer must have a GB EORI number
- The supplier must have REX (Registered Exporter) status to verify the origin of goods to determine the % duty payable as per the TCA agreement
- The supplier must have obtained the relevant licenses or certification
- The supplier must complete the export declaration in the country of export

To export goods into Europe from the UK, you must have:

- a commercial invoice to include an originating statement
- the seller's UK EORI number
- the buyer's EU EORI number
- comprehensive and accurate HS (Harmonised System) coding for duty rates
- a statement regarding Regime 42-00, Article 138 EU VAT directive
- correct use of Incoterms 2020 DAP (Delivered at Place)/DDP (Delivered Duties Paid) depending on the destination country within the EU
- a detailed description of the goods
- a packing list
- goods to be packed on an ISPM15 standard pallet
- goods to be labelled to GB standards

If goods are departing by road from Dover or the EuroTunnel, the driver, whether they are from the UK or EU, will require a KAP (Kent Access Permit).

All goods leaving the UK are mandated to have made an export declaration via HMRC's Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight (CHIEF) system before the goods can be exported. If it is attempted to export without declaration the shipment will cause the delays and disruption so often discussed.

SUE BUSH AMIEX
Export Specialist



NHS responders

We do live in strange times. For vaccination purposes I am over 70 (although I was born in 1961) and I live alone (even though I am married with a family). The reasons for both is that I am clinically extremely vulnerable and if I had the misfortune to catch COVID-19 and ended up in hospital the chances are that I would not come out again (at least vertically).

I joined NHS Responders for something to do. It is very easy to find on Google 'GoodSAM: NHS Volunteer Responders' and, depending on your circumstances, allows you to help people in different ways.

For people like me who are not allowed out you can phone somebody for a chat.

Once signed up the App will contact you with a request for help. This is by way of an impressive sounding siren and which has caused some comment when it goes off in a Zoom meeting. You are given the choice of accepting or rejecting the call. If you accept, you are given a name and number of someone who is in isolation. If

you reject the call for any reason then the request is passed onto the next volunteer.

I admit to some trepidation when making a call. If the phone is answered I introduce myself and say that I am calling from NHS Responders. The next question is to ask the person how they are doing? You get very good at listening and it is striking how often you have something in common with the person you are talking to.

Being clinically vulnerable I often swap stories of hospital visits and of coping with often quite serious diseases. I love sport and had the good luck to phone a Paralympian gold medallist. That call went on for about an hour as we discussed Olympic history. Another gentleman missed walking his dog and used to stop and chat to people on his walks. I suggested that he might like to join the Responders team as he would get calls every day to talk to people and I hope that he gave it a go. Perhaps the most rewarding call was with a lady in Liverpool who could no longer go to church which was very important for her.

We managed to talk about the good things in life and found that there was a lot to look forward to. As I am writing this the first snowdrops are appearing in my garden and the daffodils are starting to emerge - spring is on its way.

After a while it becomes clear that whoever you are talking to is feeling better than they were and that is a good time to bring the conversation to a close. It is best to end on a high.

Not surprisingly, the volume of calls increased over Christmas but I still get a few every week. Although when I call back, quite often I get voicemail. In that situation you try three times and then pass the call onto another volunteer to try later.

Would I do it again? Unquestionably, yes. It has taught me the value of human contact and the diversity of the people who live in our country. I am very glad to be British and looking after one another is what we British do quite well.

IAN BLELLOCH



A quick word with ... Louise Herrington



What attracted you to accounting?

Nothing really, I wanted to be a musician but my father told me that 'music was not a career, get yourself a career'. So, he was a managerial stock controller dealing with numbers, my brother went off and studied accounting (and is an FCA), so I thought - well I can do that. Whatever my brother can do, I can do. Well, he can play cricket, football and golf and I can't. There again, I can sing a top C and he can't - but I digress.

What was one of your most defining moments at work?

I think realising I had a passion for process re-engineering and breaking

accounting systems, and I could have a good contracting career doing this. OK - until 2009 then the pants fell out of the contractor market.

What inspires you?

The relief on people's faces (or now in their voices) that they can tackle the world of tax, it is not scary, and following simple rules really does help people's mental health and bank balance. Well - until April 2023 when all hell is going to break loose, but that is another stile to step over. Actually, I am quite looking forward to that. I do like a challenge and education is going to be such a key thing.

What was your dream job growing up?

Hum - I had one at 16, but I am not going to tell you what that was! So, I will stick with being a musician and starring on the West End stage, Covent Garden, Sydney Opera House and Radio City.

What is your personal motto or mantra?

Sh*t happens and just F*ing do it. I guess you can't print that.

Why do you like being a member of ICAEW Thames Valley?

I do like the quarterly meetings Henley has, and the support you can get from it. And the fact that they let me in, put up with my stupid questions, and saying what I think. There needs to be a shake up and think about the small practitioners out there that don't have

any idea where to get help from, and definitive guidance, and to a certain extent more practical help. I'd love to know what I am really supposed to do with this agent services account, why can't I see my VAT clients, and do I really have to do the IT agent authorisation on that now and not the old version. Or maybe it is just me and everybody else is OK.

Can you tell us a bit about your company?

Well, the official title is Herrington Accounting Services as I could not think of anything better at the time when I set up. But the branding is Performance Accountancy. I am a one-man-band working from home since 2012 - so the stay-at-home stuff at the moment is not really bothering me except for the lack of McDonald's breakfasts. I set up to help musicians, singers, actors, and others in the arts, media and entertainment sector - which seems to have very little focus from ICAEW yet it's a major sector of the economy. I try to specialise on classical musicians, singers and musical theatre performers as, having trained as an opera singer with the ENO one-year course after qualifying as an ACA in the 1990s, I know their struggles, and when I put on my artistic and diva head, I know what they go through.

LOUISE HERRINGTON

Performance Accountancy

