Welcome to our Summer Newsletter

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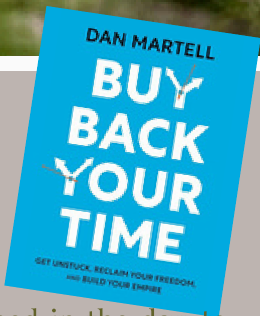
This quarterly newsletter is designed to keep you up to date with important tax, accounting and business developments that may affect you and your business.
While staying on top of legislative changes and deadlines is important, we know that running a successful business is about far more than compliance and paperwork. Many of the conversations we have with clients are about growth, leadership, productivity and the day-to-day challenges of running a business.
As business owners ourselves, and through working with many businesses over the years , we've gained valuable experience and insights that go far beyond the numbers. That's why you'll find a growing collection of blogs and articles on our website covering topics such as leadership, business development, wellbeing, team building and long-term success.

We hope this newsletter helps you stay informed, but if you're looking for ideas, guidance or simply a fresh perspective on growing your business, I would encourage you to explore our website resources as well.

Of course, nothing beats a conversation. If there's anything in this newsletter that raises a question, or if you'd like to discuss a challenge or opportunity within your business, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Michelle Buzzard

Book of the Quarter



Buy Back Your Time

By Dan Martell

Many business owners become trapped in the day-to-day running of their business, leaving little time to focus on growth. In Buy Back Your Time, entrepreneur Dan Martell argues that your most valuable resource isn't money - it's time.

The book shares practical strategies for identifying low-value tasks, delegating effectively, automating repetitive processes and focusing on the activities that create the greatest impact. Martell explains how to avoid becoming the bottleneck in your own business by building a trusted team and creating systems that allow the business to run more efficiently.

Packed with practical advice and real-world examples, this is an excellent read for anyone looking to reduce overwhelm, improve productivity and create more time for growth, strategy and the things they enjoy most.

Quarterly Quiz

Win a copy of our book of the quarter!

You're packing for a beach day.

In your bag are:
2 towels
3 books
1 bottle of sunscreen
4 apples

Without looking, you reach in and take out items one at a time.
What is the minimum number of items you must take out to guarantee you have two of the same kind?

Email: info@jamestoddandco.co.uk to enter!

The answer to last quarters quiz was a Cloud! Congratulations to our winner; Amber

Tax Deadlines Are Approaching – Could Spreading the Cost Help?

As we approach the end of July, many individuals and businesses are facing some of the largest tax payments of the year:

- Self-Assessment Tax Payments – Due by 31 July
- Corporation Tax for companies with a 31 October year end – Due by 1 August
- VAT Payments for the April to June quarter – Due by 7 August

For many taxpayers, these liabilities arrive at a time when cash is already committed to wages, suppliers, investment plans and day-to-day business costs.

Tax Bills Continue to Put Pressure on Cashflow

Recent research highlights the challenges facing UK businesses and taxpayers:

- 52% of SMEs say they struggle to pay tax bills.
- 37% of those experiencing difficulties faced tax liabilities of more than £50,000.
- 71% would consider spreading the cost of a tax bill for a small fee.

While many business owners have the funds available to pay their tax bills, they often prefer to preserve cash for growth opportunities, recruitment, stock purchases, equipment investment or simply maintaining healthy working capital.

An Alternative to a Large One-Off Payment

Rather than making a significant payment in one go, some taxpayers choose to spread the cost over manageable monthly instalments.

This can help to:

✅ Protect cashflow and working capital
✅ Keep funds available for investment and growth
✅ Reduce pressure on business finances
✅ Make budgeting more predictable
✅ Avoid the need to use overdrafts or other short-term borrowing

How James Todd & Co Can Help

At James Todd & Co, we understand that tax liabilities can place pressure on personal and business finances. That's why we can introduce clients to specialist finance solutions that may allow tax payments to be spread over affordable monthly repayments.

Whether you're facing a Self-Assessment liability, Corporation Tax bill or VAT payment, it may be worth exploring whether financing your tax bill is the right option for you.

The key is to consider your options before the payment becomes due, giving you time to choose the most suitable solution for your circumstances.

Let's Talk

If you have an upcoming tax payment and would like to discuss the impact on your cashflow, please get in touch with us.

We'll be happy to talk through the options available and help you make an informed decision about managing your tax liabilities while keeping your finances on track.

Don't let a tax bill disrupt your cashflow when a planned solution may be available.

What Have The Team Been Up To?

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Celebrating 15 Years with Kirsty Roberts

This year, we are delighted to celebrate Kirsty Roberts' 15-year anniversary with James Todd.

Kirsty joined the practice straight from university and has grown alongside the business ever since. After qualifying as an ACA Chartered Accountant while at James Todd, she went on to build an impressive career, working across almost every department in the firm and developing a deep understanding of the practice and our clients.

Her dedication, expertise, and leadership led to her promotion to Director, where she continues to play a key role in the growth and success of the business. Over the years, Kirsty has helped shape the practice, improve processes, and support both clients and colleagues alike.

Known for her exceptional organisation and willingness to help, Kirsty is often the person ensuring everything runs smoothly behind the scenes. From managing workflows and organising planners to offering guidance and support to the wider team, her contribution to the day-to-day running of the practice is invaluable.

Kirsty's impact extends far beyond her role. Her commitment, professionalism, and positive approach have made her a highly respected member of the James Todd team and an important part of our journey over the last 15 years.

Congratulations, Kirsty, on this fantastic milestone, and thank you for everything you have contributed to James Todd. We look forward to many more successful years ahead.

Team Takes Part in St Wilfrid's Moonlight Walk

On 13th June, a few members of our team took part in the 5-mile St Wilfrid's Moonlight Walk in support of St Wilfrid's Hospice.

St Wilfrid's Hospice
Making a difference to local lives

We had a great evening walking together, enjoying the atmosphere, and supporting a cause that means a lot to many people in the local community. It was wonderful to see so many people taking part and helping to raise funds for the hospice.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us so far. Your donations and encouragement are greatly appreciated.

There is still time to donate if you would like to support the amazing work carried out by St Wilfrid's Hospice.

Every contribution, no matter the size, helps make a difference. There is still time to donate:
www.justgiving.com/page/jamestodd-moonlightwalk

Supporting a Fantastic Cause at Sage House

We recently had the pleasure of taking part in two fantastic fundraising events organised by the team at Sage House.

The first was the annual Corporate Quiz, which we were delighted to attend for the second year running. It was a brilliant evening of friendly competition, plenty of laughs, and a great opportunity to support an important local cause.

We also joined the Spinathon to celebrate Sage House's 8th birthday, where supporters from across the community came together to raise funds and awareness for Dementia Support. It was inspiring to see so many people getting involved.

A huge thank you to everyone at Sage House for organising such enjoyable and meaningful events. We're proud to support their fundraising efforts and look forward to taking part again in the future.

We were proud to sponsor this year's Charity Clay Shoot in aid of Sage House and support another successful community fundraising event.

The day brought together local businesses for some friendly competition while raising an impressive £40,297 for Sage House and Dementia Support.

Thanks to the generosity of sponsors, participants and volunteers, all proceeds will go directly towards supporting people living with dementia and their families.

A big thank you to the organisers for putting together such a successful event.

We're proud to have been involved and look forward to supporting it again next year.

We were delighted to take part in the Glanvilles World Cup Quiz in aid of Sage House. It was a fantastic evening, with each quiz round paired with delicious food inspired by a different country.

The event was a great success, raising an impressive £2,140 for Sage House. We were pleased to support such a worthwhile cause and enjoyed being part of a brilliant evening.

Celebrating Rhys's Achievement

Congratulations to Rhys Fretter on passing his final ACCA exam.

This is an incredible milestone and a testament to Rhys's hard work, dedication, and perseverance throughout his studies. Passing the final exam and we couldn't be prouder of this fantastic achievement.

Well done, Rhys!

Welcome Back, Dolly and Charlotte!

We are delighted to welcome back Dolly Coppard and Charlotte Southam-Gisby following their maternity leave.

We hope they have enjoyed this special time with their families and are pleased to have them back with the team. We wish them both a smooth return and look forward to working with them again.

Congratulations, Michael Ackerman!

Congratulations to Michael Ackerman on the purchase of his first home with his partner. This exciting milestone and we are wishing him many happy years and wonderful memories in his new home.

Stay Ahead: Finance & Coaching Series

Running a business can be exciting and challenging, and having the right guidance can make all the difference.

Our Business Coaching Blog Series and Financial Friday Focus series provide practical tips, technical guidance, and insights to help you make smarter decisions and grow your business.

Each month, we cover topics from financial planning and cashflow management to leadership and productivity, with concise guidance you can apply straight away. You can read the latest posts, catch up on past articles, and explore Financial Friday Focus on our website.

Your business journey is unique, but you don't have to navigate it alone. Explore our blogs, catch up on past Financial Friday Focus posts, and start turning insights into results.

Nothing beats a conversation, so contact our team to discuss how we can support your strategic goals.

Stay Connected with Us on Social Media!

In the fast-paced world of finance and accounting, staying informed is key. That's why we invite you to connect with us on LinkedIn, Instagram, and Facebook!

Follow us for expert tips on tax planning, financial management, business insights, and the latest industry updates. Whether you're a small business owner, an individual taxpayer, or just curious about how smart accounting can help you succeed, our social media pages are your go-to resource.

Join the conversation, ask questions, and get valuable advice from our team of professionals - all in real time.

Companies: changes to keep on top of

Under the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023 (ECCTA), company directors, people with significant control (PSCs), and certain others will be required to verify their identity with Companies House. For directors and PSCs, this will be phased in over the 12 months from 18 November 2025. Companies will not be able to file a confirmation statement until all directors have verified their identity, and failure to comply could result in offences for both individuals and companies.

Verification can be completed via GOV.UK One Login or an Authorised Corporate Service Provider, after which a personal Companies House code will be issued and should be kept secure.

Planned ECCTA reforms requiring all accounts to be filed via commercial software from April 2027, along with new filing requirements for small companies and micro-entities and the removal of abridged accounts, have been delayed. A final decision is expected shortly, with at least 21 months' notice before any changes take effect.

Meanwhile, penalties for late Corporation Tax returns due from 1 April 2026 have doubled. The standard late-filing penalty has increased from £100 to £200, and the penalty for returns over three months late has risen from £200 to £400.

With further changes under consultation, company administration requirements continue to evolve. Contact us for advice.

Your divorce and your pension

Pensions are often one of the most valuable assets people own, yet many do not realise they can form part of a divorce settlement. When a marriage or civil partnership ends, pensions should be considered alongside other assets, particularly as women may have lower pension savings due to the gender pay gap.

There are several ways pensions can be divided, including pension sharing, offsetting against other assets, or pension attachment arrangements. Specialist advice is important, as assessing a pension's true value involves more than its cash transfer value and should consider future retirement income and tax benefits.

If you need guidance on pension-related matters during divorce or separation, please contact us. We can put you in touch with a specialist financial adviser who will be able to help you understand your options and obtain the advice you need.

New VAT treatment for business donations to charity

Got surplus stock gathering dust? From 1 April 2026, donating eligible goods to registered charities will become even more attractive, as businesses will no longer have to account for VAT on many charitable donations.

The change is designed to encourage businesses to pass on unwanted goods to causes such as foodbanks, shelters and community organisations, rather than sending them to landfill. It's a welcome move that could save businesses money while helping charities support more people.

Before you start clearing out your storeroom, there are a few rules to keep in mind:

✅ Donations must be made to an eligible registered charity.
✅ The goods must be used for an approved charitable purpose.
✅ Businesses must keep the right paperwork and evidence to support the relief.
✅ Value limits apply: generally £100 per item, rising to £200 for certain household goods, furniture and electronic devices.

Not everything qualifies. Goods such as alcohol, tobacco and vaping products are excluded, and the relief does not extend to organisations such as CICs or some smaller unregistered charities.

The message is simple: if your business regularly donates surplus goods, this new VAT relief could make giving back easier and more cost-effective - but it's important to get the details and documentation right.

Need advice on the new rules? Our VAT team is here to help.

State Pension age: what employers should be doing now

The State Pension age is gradually increasing from 66 to 67, starting on 6 April 2026. The change affects men and women born between 6 April 1960 and 5 March 1961, who will reach State Pension age at 66 plus a number of additional months. Employees can check their individual State Pension age using the GOV.UK calculator.

Key actions for employers:

- Update payroll records: Employees stop paying National Insurance once they reach State Pension age. Ensure their NI category is changed to ‘C’ from their first pay date after reaching State Pension age to prevent incorrect deductions.
- Check documentation: Keep proof of age on file, such as a passport, birth certificate or existing Certificate of Age Exception (CA4140).
- Support employees: Staff who begin claiming their State Pension may receive a new tax code, as State Pension income is taxable but not taxed at source. A brief explanation can help reduce confusion and payroll queries.

With the changes started 6th April 2026, now is a good time to review payroll processes and identify employees who may be affected.

Low value exports to the EU: new rules

From 1 July 2026, low-value parcels entering the EU will no longer benefit from the current duty-free exemption for goods worth under €150.

To tackle concerns over unfair competition, customs fraud, and the splitting of shipments into smaller parcels, the EU is introducing an interim customs duty of €3 per item category on consignments under €150 sold through the Import One-Stop Shop (IOSS) scheme. Where parcels contain multiple product categories, the charge will apply to each category.

For example, a parcel containing silk and wool blouses would attract €6 in customs duty, as the items fall under different tariff classifications.

The temporary system will run from July 2026 to July 2028, with a possible handling fee also being considered from November 2026. Once the EU's new customs data hub launches in 2028, the flat-rate charge is expected to be replaced by standard customs tariffs.

Tax relief for employees

From 6 April 2026, new tax exemptions will make it easier for employers to support staff without creating tax liabilities. Employers can now reimburse employees for work-related accommodation, homeworking equipment, flu vaccinations, eye tests, and corrective appliances tax-free.

However, there's a catch. The current option for employees to claim tax relief directly from HMRC for unreimbursed homeworking expenses is being scrapped. This means that if your employer chooses not to reimburse these costs, you'll no longer be able to claim relief yourself.

What does this mean? Employers can still reimburse homeworking expenses tax-free, but responsibility is shifting away from employees claiming relief and towards employers providing support.

Employee benefits rules remain complex, so if you'd like advice on creating a tax-efficient benefits package that helps attract and retain talent, we're here to help.

New SSP Rules: What Employers Need to Know

Big changes to Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) arrived on 6 April 2026 under the Employment Rights Act 2025, and they're set to affect employers across the UK.

What's changed?

- More employees qualify: Around 1.3 million lower-paid workers are now eligible for SSP.
- No earnings threshold: The Lower Earnings Limit has been removed.
- Paid from day one: SSP is now payable from the first full day of absence, with no waiting period.
- New payment rate: Employees receive the lower of 80% of their average weekly earnings or the new SSP flat rate of £123.25 per week.

What hasn't changed? Eligibility rules still apply, meaning workers must have an employment contract and meet the qualifying conditions. Agency, part-time, temporary and casual workers may still qualify.

Action points for employers Make sure payroll systems, contracts, handbooks and sickness absence policies reflect the new rules. Staff training and clear absence reporting processes are also important.

Budget for higher costs The changes are estimated to cost employers around £15 per employee, so financial planning may be required.

Increased enforcement The new **Fair Work Agency (FWA)** is now overseeing key employment rights and will eventually take responsibility for SSP enforcement. With powers to investigate breaches and issue penalties, employers should review their compliance processes now to avoid future issues.

Planning Ahead: Why "After the Year End" Is Often Too Late

Many tax planning opportunities only work before transactions happen — not afterwards.

Common examples include:

- timing asset disposals to use tax allowances
- structuring business sales to qualify for reliefs
- managing income levels to stay within tax bands
- using spouses' allowances effectively

Once a transaction has taken place, options are often limited. A short conversation in advance can frequently save significant time, stress, and tax later on.

Record Keeping Matters More Than Ever

HMRC's ongoing digitalisation programme means good record keeping is no longer optional.

With:

- Making Tax Digital for Income Tax launching from April 2026
- Reduced allowances for CGT and dividends
- Greater HMRC data matching and compliance activity

keeping clear, complete records is essential.

Missing paperwork, unclear explanations, or late submissions can quickly lead to penalties or enquiries. Whether you are employed, self employed, a landlord, or a company director, now is a good time to review how records are stored and shared.

Check Your Tax Code – It Could Be Costing You Money

Millions of UK taxpayers are paying the wrong amount of tax without realising it. In fact, 5.6 million PAYE taxpayers overpaid HMRC last year, with total overpayments reaching £3.5 billion.

A common cause is an incorrect tax code. And once HMRC has your money, refunds don't always happen automatically – more than 730,000 tax refunds went unclaimed last year, with the average refund worth £855.

That's why it's important to check your tax code regularly. Remember, it's your responsibility – not your employer's or HMRC's – to ensure it's correct. For 2026/27, HMRC is removing some employment expense claims and Gift Aid higher-rate relief from tax codes where they may no longer apply, so many taxpayers could see changes.

Think you're due a refund? HMRC now usually asks taxpayers to claim refunds themselves. The fastest way is through the HMRC app, where a green "Claim your refund" button will appear if money is owed to you.

A quick tax code check could put hundreds of pounds back in your pocket.

Mileage Allowance Boost – What the Changes Mean for You

In a welcome development for employees and business owners alike, HMRC has recently announced a significant increase to the Approved Mileage Allowance Payment rates.

This is the first change in over 15 years, and it reflects rising fuel and vehicle running costs.

What has changed?

From 6 April 2026 (2026/27 tax year onwards), the main mileage rate for cars and vans has increased as follows:

- 55p per mile for the first 10,000 business miles
- 25p per mile thereafter (unchanged)

Previously, the rate had remained at 45p per mile for over a decade, meaning the increase represents a 10p per mile uplift.

The following remain unchanged:

- Motorcycles: 24p per mile
- Bicycles: 20p per mile
- Passenger payments: 5p per mile per passenger

Why the change matters

The mileage allowance is designed to cover all the costs of running a personal vehicle for business use, including fuel, servicing, insurance and depreciation.

With motoring costs rising significantly over recent years, the previous rate had been widely criticised for being outdated. This increase aims to bring tax free reimbursements more in line with real world costs.

Our Business is helping *your* business succeed...

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more than just accountants

Important Dates to Remember:

22 July:
- Class 1A NICs due on benefits in kind for 2025/26 (electronic payments)
- Electronic PAYE and NIC payment deadline for the month ended 5 July 2026

31 July:
- Second Self Assessment payment on account due for 2025/26
- PAYE Settlement Agreement (PSA) payment due

1 August:
- Corporation Tax due for accounting periods ending 31 October 2025

7 August:
- VAT returns and payments due for VAT quarters ended 30 June 2026

19 August:
- PAYE, NIC and CIS deductions due for the month ended 5 August 2026 (if paying by post)

22 August:
- Electronic PAYE, NIC and CIS payment deadline for the month ended 5 August 2026

1 September:
- Corporation Tax due for accounting periods ending 30 November 2025

7 September:
- VAT returns and payments due for VAT quarters ended 31 July 2026

PREMIUM CREDIT

This facility allows you to spread your accountancy fees by monthly direct debit to help you manage cashflows. If you would like to setup a direct debit then please contact us for more information.

Spread the Cost of Your Tax Bills

We are pleased to be able to introduce clients to our specialist external finance advisors, who can arrange funding solutions to help spread the cost of a range of tax liabilities, including:

- Self Assessment tax payments
- VAT liabilities
- Corporation Tax liabilities
- Other business funding requirements

Rather than making a large lump-sum payment, finance can allow you to spread the cost over manageable monthly repayments, helping to preserve working capital and maintain cash flow.

Don't Leave It Until the Last Minute

Our aim is always to help clients plan ahead and avoid unnecessary financial pressure. A quick conversation now could provide peace of mind before your next tax deadline. Contact us now for a no-obligation indication of the funding options available.

Important Rates:

Bank Base Rate: 3.75%

EUR to GBP = 0.85 | USD to GBP = 0.75

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