

Bright Business Bulletin

2018
November



Of Course!

It's taken lots of hard work but the first couple of online courses are about to go live!!

Note from the editor

Welcome to Bright Business Bulletin the newsletter brought to you by Bevan Financial Management Ltd. The aim of the newsletter is to bring you interesting and relevant content on a monthly basis.

Speaking of (I hope) interesting and relevant content my new book Bright Business Money is now available on Amazon, Kindle and the iBook store. It's all about helping business owners to master their finances so they can achieve the success they deserve.

I now have five MiP handbooks for all you CIMA members who are looking for tips on how to make the most of your businesses.

Pooh quote of the month

Each month we look for inspiration from that great business guru, Winnie the Pooh.



Pooh made his mark in the 100 Acre Wood and achieved world domination through his clever partnering of Disney (although my husband thinks he sold out!).

For the first time Christopher Robin makes an appearance:

"There's the South Pole" Said Christopher Robin, "and I expect there's an East Pole and a West Pole, though people don't like talking about them."

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Last month I wrote about the idea that Alison Williamson helped me to develop of on-line training courses for accountants in practice.

Well, much of October was spent investigating on-line platforms and training tools - along with putting together the first 3 courses (hopefully the first of many).

It's been hard work but a lot of fun!

What I have found exciting is that I have been able to make use of quite a lot of material that was in my back catalogue. Not only have I been able to make use of material I gathered for my books but, in the past, I have had some great opportunities to gather material in other mediums that I can use now.

For example, I have been interviewed by Alan Philpott of Glastonbury FM for their Packed Lunch programme. Alan sent me all the interviews and I have been able to use extracts to liven up my courses.

Similarly, when I ran my first day workshop last September on How to Build a Management Accounting Business for CIMA members in practice, my great friend Angie Cussell videoed it for me. This turns out to have been a great decision. I have been able to use snippets of video in the courses to bring them alive.

As I mentioned last month, Alison got me started on the whole journey but

other people have also helped me to develop the course concept.

David Ringsell put me in touch with Qintil which is the platform the courses will be hosted and Sam Easen got me started using the Easygenerator tool to create the courses.

Several people have been Beta testers and given me feedback on any changes I should make to ensure the courses are as good as I can make them - including hubby Jeff.

Trevor Lever and Andrew Stinchcomb have also helped me to crystallise how the whole venture might be promoted.

So it's been a team effort, for which I am very grateful. In fact most of the best things that have happened in my business have been as a result of the great peeps I have around me - thank you all!!



Introduction

Take a break

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Welcome



Michael's Minutes

Don't forget to move around from time to time when you are working at your desk. It is easy, when you are engrossed in something, to forget to and this can lead to back problems.



Ask Jenny



Jenny is our financial agony aunt and is here to answer your questions.

Mary asks: "It's coming up to the Christmas period and we have always held a Christmas party for all staff and partners. This year, however, money is tight because a key customer has gone out of business. How can I reduce expenditure without demoralising staff."

Jenny says: "Firstly, I am sure your staff are aware of the fact that this customer has gone away. They may not have directly connected this to any future Christmas party but they will know there will be some financial impact, at least in the short term."

If your staff do not know this, I think it is wise to appraise them of the situation. It helps if staff know money is tight because it means they have realistic expectations about expenditure in other areas too (i.e. pay rises).

It is also important to talk to staff about changing circumstances because if you do not give them the facts rumours will only start - and rumours are generally worse than the truth.

With your staff understanding the backdrop you can then plan something more low key or funded differently.

For example, you can arrange a party but only for staff and not their partners. Alternatively, you can organise an evening at your local pub, including partners, where you buy a certain number of rounds of drinks. After that they have to fund their own.

Whatever you decide to do if you keep staff updated they are unlikely to take the change badly."

Dates for your diary

Curious Conversations

Soon to return - watch this space!

Bristol Circle

I thought I would take this opportunity to recommend a group of lovely people I have found very interesting and useful to be a part of. Bristol Circle meets monthly are usually on the 2nd Wednesday of the month- just contact me if you would like to give it a try.

Back issues

If you have missed any prior issues of Bright Business Bulletin and wish to download a copy you can now do so from my website:
www.fionabevanfinancialmanagement.co.uk
Just click on the Bright Business Bulletin button.

Our community

Featured business... Wessex Community Assets

Wessex Community Assets (WCA) is a community interest company whose focus is on helping communities to be more resilient through access to land and finance.

WCA has worked with nearly 40 different Community Land Trusts across Devon, Dorset and Somerset to facilitate the building of affordable housing.



But they housing don't only concentrate on housing. Because their focus is on building resilient communities they also help with the establishment of community assets such as shops and pubs. The Norton Sub Hamdon village shop (pictured) is a case in point - it's launch followed on from the building of 10 affordable homes in the village.

I am very proud to be a director of such a force for good in our community - especially at a time of ever increasing housing costs.

If you want to find out more about the work of WCA you can visit www.wessexca.co.uk

Partner of the month - Mark Chesham

Mark is the VAT expert we all want on our side. His knowledge of UK VAT is second to none. He is able to explain this complicated 'simple' tax in a way which is understandable and not too boring (sorry Mark, but most of us think the ins and outs of VAT is pretty dull!!!). He also offers half day VAT reviews for anyone who wants an expert to give their VAT systems the once over. Mark@cheshamconsultancy.co.uk

A special thanks to... Alan Philpott of Glastonbury FM

I have, again, recently had the opportunity of talking on the radio - this time as part of the Drivetime show hosted by Alan Philpott of Glastonbury FM.

In this show I talked about how to understand business finances - and there was also a lighthearted the Week in Numbers feature.



So, you might be interested to learn that videoe blogger Joe Sugg (currently on Strictly Come Dancing) is worth an estimated £1.6m! He has 8.2 million followers - who new?

I have really enjoyed all the opportunities Alan has given me to chat on the radio- so thank you Alan.

If you are interested in hearing the interview you can go to: <https://soundcloud.com/fionabevanfinancialmanagement/fiona-bevan-understanding-finances>