



November 2016 Newsletter

Not a Word About the Budget Special.

Forthcoming events

The current plan is as follows:

25th January 2017-Pengethly Manor– Phil Brace talking about how to build a business and then sell it. And then live happily ever after.

23rd March- Glewstone Court – Richard Whitby talking about crises and how to handle them. He’s working on a cruise liner scenario at this very moment.

25th May – celebration of Beltane – Dave to bring Druids (or a sensible speaker)

Masterpiece released

<http://chrisduckett.co.uk/>

The weekend saw the release of the long awaited video epic by cult director David (call me Cecil B.) Lloyd. There was a moment of drama at the premier when the studio boss wanted to know why the film was 12 months late and over budget. Cecil B was heard to mutter “Michael Cimino didn’t have this

trouble” before flouncing off to his swimming session.

Some critics considered the car chases, shoot outs and sex scenes to be gratuitous, but Cecil B strongly defended his artistic credibility and stressed the need for realism. After all, we are talking about an accountant’s office. His only regret that (rather like 9 and a half weeks), some of his best work ended up on the cutting room floor. He considered some scenes just too raw for the target audience, particularly those where the word “tax” was used.

Master cinematographer Maria Szabo was singled out for particular praise. Not only did she shoot the whole film on a hand held iphone, she also edited it on the phone lost the phone, lost the file and then found them again.

Praise from the critics:

Camilla Winkleman in the LA Times

I’ve seen some truly beautiful films in my time. This wasn’t one of them.

Vampire Magazine

The special effects were stunning. It’s hard to believe the whole thing was shot at sea.

What Film??

Andrew Haughton in the Winnipeg Chronicle

Clive Haughton’s portrayal of a diamond geezer in a suit from Sarth London was awesome. Guy Ritchie eat your heart out.

Ms Whiplash

When will John Thompson get his hair cut?

If I’ve missed a joke, please do let me know.

Watch it and weep.





Making Tax Digital #3

I'm sure everybody is really bored with this by now. I certainly am. However, somebody in the know at Francis Clark has finally explained the bigger picture. It's not actually about cash flow: the Govt could have introduced quarterly payment without quarterly returns. No, MTD is intended to fix the "problem" with self-assessment, which is that it is far too egalitarian. In other words, it doesn't allow HMRC to pick on the wealthy. I suspect we'll have trouble finding anybody at HMRC to admit that, but the full analysis is very interesting: Click [Here](#)

Whilst not in the Budget as such, there has been a lot of professional speculation about the implications of reducing the Corporation Tax rate as a Brexit defence. We are expecting the headline rate to fall to 17% by 2020 anyway and 15% (maybe even 10%) has been mooted. This gives the Govt a problem with more and more folk trading through corporates and then being very creative in getting their money out of the company. HMRC is already badging this as tax evasion. One solution will be to tax small corporates as partnerships. Or insist that profits are distributed to shareholders. In either case, this will limit investment, which is what the Govt says its trying to promote. Fun and games to come.

As a dead French guy famously said: It's all about plucking the goose to achieve the maximum amount of feathers for the minimum amount of hissing (without killing the goose either).

Banks get all existential

Question: Why do you want a bank account?

Answer (from an un-named, but clearly frustrated, customer):

"Because I have so much spare time and money, I have an overwhelming urge to waste time queuing, holding for call centre operatives, and getting logged out of online systems in order that I can leave my money in the hands of a bunch of untrustworthy bonus junkies who will probably wash their hands of any sense of ethical responsibility when their particular bubble bursts, rendering them incapable of returning my funds."

What a long sentence.

BD team to be inspired (& motivated?)

With the forthcoming changing of the guard, I think the team needs a new motto to reflect its dynamic, thrusting nature.

The Boyscout always operated under his family motto: "Shit or Bust".

Given the ex-banker make-up, there has been a suggestion that we should use the RBS "Never knowingly on target", but that doesn't quite fit.

My Latin is a bit rusty these days (Latrax latrat: Barker barks - doesn't really help), but you can translate anything on Google.

Given Mark's arrival, I think "Semper dormiebat in horam nonam" is appropriate.

Following the response we had to the banking question last month, do the readers have any bright ideas?

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Navajo urban legend

This is a great story I found in the Humans book.

As part of the lead in to the first moon landing, astronauts Armstrong & Aldrin were training in the Arizona desert on Navajo land. At some point the astronauts spoke to the head men of the tribe. The Navajo believe that there are spirits on the moon and they asked the astronauts to take a message to them. To do this they taught the astronauts a sentence in Navajo, but wouldn't tell them what the words meant. However, A&A were intrigued by the concept and eventually found somebody who could translate. They found out that the spoken words meant: "Do not trust a word these people say. They will steal your land." It is not clear that they passed on the message.

Why work for free?

It's a good question: one I ask the Boyscout on a regular basis.

Marketeers Hello have come up with a sensible answer

<http://bit.ly/2gDMVJi>

What keeps the CEO awake at night?

This was a rather disappointing article in November's HBR. So let's start from scratch. Basically we all worry about the same things:

- running out of sales/customers
- product/service failures
- employees
- cash

In other words, just about everything, which isn't particularly helpful. Probably a good starter for an Any Questions session.

Disclaimer

If everybody thinks the same, then nobody's thinking

Tee shirt slogan, as identified by Whiplash:

"I like cooking my family and pets.

Commas save lives."





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