

dmc newsletter

SPRING 2003



WELCOME

Judging by the recent spell of beautiful weather, it would seem that summer has come early. With all that's going on in the world at the moment, it's easy to forget how lucky we are and we all hope for a speedy end to the world's troubles.

Coverage of the budget was somewhat overshadowed by these events, so we trust our summary overleaf will be useful to you.

We continue our series of staff profiles - and this time it's Sandra's turn.

Many of you will already know Sandra from her expertise in management accounts and extensive knowledge of Sage software and we are especially pleased that she recently qualified as a Certified Accounting Technician. Sandra is part of our 'Heathfield contingent' and she will have been with DMC five years in July. That would only seem like a year to us though, as Sandra is a real pleasure to work with.

As well as our budget summary overleaf, in this issue we bring you news of other matters worthy of note and enclose your 2003/04 tax card with all the new rates and allowances.

Investments and Savings

It could seem bizarre to be looking at investments when the stock market is so low, but now may be a good time to consider investing while share prices might be at their low point in the economic cycle. There are a number of options to be explored with products around to suit every type of investor - from those who want to minimize taking risks with their capital to those who are prepared to take a bigger chance in the hope of larger returns. Please do give Ian a call to discuss these investment opportunities or any other savings related issues.

Limited Companies still make tax sense

We are continuing to assist many sole trader businesses into forming Limited Companies. There was a rumour that this year's budget would remove the advantages whereby **tax of between £2,000 and £3,000 (or more) can be saved each year.** In fact because of the 1% rise in national insurance from 6th April 2003, trading through a limited company now saves even more tax. On profits of say £25,000 you will save a further £200 of NIC charges. If you haven't already looked at this matter do give us a call.

'Bad News Corner'

There are a couple of matters which we want to draw to your attention.

* **More form filling** - Many of you will have already made your Child Tax Credit claim (remember there is a 3 month time limit so if you haven't made your claim by July you could lose out). If you don't qualify at present but your circumstances change, for example you experience a reduction in income during the year, you can still make a claim - but this will be subject to the 3 month time limit. The way round this is to put in a protective claim now just in case. If you need more details give Sarah or Andy a call.

* **Paying your tax on time** - Those involved in the building trade are finding that the latest Revenue weapon is to refuse to issue CIS cards to anyone who has been late in paying their taxes; it is vital therefore to pay on time.

Diary Date - Finally on a happier note, please don't forget our Summer BBQ, it hardly seems possible that it's three years since our last one. This time we will be celebrating the 20th and 15th Anniversaries (of working at DMC) of the ~~vulnerable~~ venerable Bruce and Peter. The date is Friday 4th July - more details nearer to the time.