

VILLAGER FINANCE

Making the most of the 2008/09 tax year and beyond

By Dawn O'Leary

Davis Burton Sellek Chartered Accountants, Sunningdale



With bank lending at an all time low, miserable savings rates and rising unemployment, these are testing times for us all:

Make the most of your Capital Gains allowance

Remember your current CGT exemption (which is currently £9,600) will expire on Sunday, April 5. Additionally, for those of you lucky enough to have realised any gains in 2008/09 you also have until Sunday to realise any capital losses, thereby reducing your tax bill.

Don't waste your 2008/09 ISA

Are you a 'last minute' investor? You have until Sunday, April 5 to invest £7,200 in a 2008/09 ISA of which £3,600 can be cash.

Save money on motoring

Ask your accountant if you are better off paying staff for business miles in their own vehicles at the statutory mileage rates instead of providing company cars. You can even claim 20p per mile for using your bicycle!

Do you have unused business premises?

For small properties with a rateable value of under £15,000, empty property business rate relief is extended to 2009/10.

■ Small companies can breathe a sigh of relief. The planned increase in small companies' corporation tax from 21 to 22% has been deferred until 1 April 2010.

■ Fraud is a potential threat to any sized business in today's climate but it can be managed. Your accountant should be able to advise you on the internal controls that work best for your business.

If you think any of the above applies to you then discuss the matter with your accountant.

Tell us what's important to you right now – go to www.davisburtonsellek.com/blog, contact Dawn O'Leary on 01344 620495 or dawn.oleary@dbsellek.co.uk

Taking the mystery out of council contracts

DOING business with the council was top of the agenda at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce.

The Royal Borough and Maidenhead Chamber of Commerce joined forces at a meeting on Tuesday, March 17, to

BY LAUREN EVERITT

demystify the process of tendering for council contracts.

Over 70 representatives from local businesses filled the council chamber to find out how they can tender for council

contracts and the aim was to equip potential suppliers with the information they need to submit a tender.

Cllr David Hilton, lead member for finance, said: "It is crucial that the council does all it can to help local businesses in

the current economic climate and we are committed to making the tendering process as straightforward as possible. "This event showed local businesses how to put themselves in a stronger position to tender for council contracts."

People at the meeting listened to presentations from Ian Trenholm, chief executive, and members of the council's procurement team, with the evening finishing with a "speed-dating" session with council officers to give business representatives the opportunity to talk to them directly.

Cllr Trenholm also underlined the Royal Borough's commitment to placing as much of its business as possible with local businesses.

Cllr Hilton, who also represents Ascot, said: "There are many challenges ahead – for the council and businesses alike and we firmly believe local businesses are better placed to take us forward."

"We were very pleased with the attendance and positive reaction from local suppliers and we look forward to the opportunity to continue to engage with our local businesses in the future."

See www.businessportal.southeastiep.gov.uk

Charters girls are up to the mark

A NETBALL team has tackled becoming South East Berkshire District Champions.

The under-13 girls team from Charters School on Charters Road, Sunningdale, brought home the trophy after winning their group and scoring a total of 30 goals, and conceding only two.

The tournament took place on Monday, March 16, at St George's School, Ascot, with 22 teams entering and each playing four matches.

Kirstie Hartwell, Subject Leader of Girls' PE at the school, said: "The under-13 girls' netball team played brilliantly to win this tournament." The team



● ON THE BALL: Back row, left, Sasha Mahal, Ceri Davies, Katie Brunnock (captain), Ella Collins, Holly Gibbs. Front row, left, Charlotte Maxfield, Charlotte Everest, Annabel Lindsay (all the girls are in Year 8).

beat St Marys, Ascot, in the quarter finals, The Marist, Sunninghill, in the semi-

finals, and Leighton Park, Reading, in the finals with a 8-3 win.

DAS KÜCHEN STUDIO

DESIGNER KITCHEN SPECIALISTS

Visit our showroom at 80 High Street, Egham, Surrey TW20 9HE

"We love our new kitchen! The beautiful units and the service exceeded our expectations by far." Janet & Chris, Windsor



TEL: 01784 438 557



- Practical Beauty – German Made
- Specialists in Contemporary Kitchen Design
- Complete Design and Installation Service
- Expert Friendly Service

Miele

www.das-kuechen-studio.co.uk