

MANY HAPPY RETURNS LTD

Spring 2008

SPRING FEVER

Like hayfever, it is better if you prepare to cope with it. This year we seem to be running a little late with the 1st April letters and everything else to go out on the day. However, this is partly due to better preparation for your Tax Returns and I hope to get a lot more out early in the year once the software is available

STAFF CHANGES

Kate has left us and may be back in September but we are otherwise the same. To remind you of our schedules, Belinda is in daily from 9am – 1pm, Arthur is in Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9am – 4pm and Helen is in on Monday and Friday from 9.30am to 2pm. All of these are likely to shift about a bit as we operate as flexible a work pattern as we can. Ruth is here every day except Tuesday and is available from 10am – 5pm. Mike is here except when he is not.

Telephone Numbers

Always worth a quick reminder:

Telephone 01625 431731

Fax 01625 511417

Email MANYHAPPYRETURNS@BTCONNECT.COM

MANYHAPPYRETURNSTAX@HOTMAIL.COM

OFFICE HOURS ARE, OF COURSE, 9 AM TO 5 PM ONLY.

ABBEY TAX PROTECTION

If you have a complex personal Return or income from property, I suggest that you take up the insurance option at £45 per Return. Our own fees remain at £65 +VAT per hour for investigation work and you will be charged at this rate, whether you are covered or not. We do not get many investigations, but they are pretty unpleasant when they arrive.

I think fee-insurance for all self-employed clients whether sole, partners or Companies is well worthwhile.

Contact us if you want to join. It will cost you £45 for your Personal Tax Return and/or £120 for your Business Tax Return (Corporate or Unincorporated). You need to pay the higher fee if you have a self employment supplement on your Return, no matter how small the turnover.

I am enclosing basic leaflets and *if you have already paid up or received an invoice, please ignore the ones enclosed, as we do not want you to pay twice.*

ADVERTISING FEATURE

James Rooney, who is doing quite well helping both Many Happy Returns clients and independent computer users in need.

Mention him to your friends. He may not be this available for ever.

Records

Our filing room is full before we even start on next year's accounts. If your records are still here (and obviously there are a few in this category) please collect them as soon as you can.

WE ARE ALWAYS SORRY TO LOSE CLIENTS BUT IF YOU DECIDE YOU NO LONGER NEED OUR HELP, PLEASE LET US KNOW SO THAT WE CAN WISH YOU WELL AND NOT WASTE OUR TIME AND YOURS ON NEEDLESS REMINDERS.

ABBAY TAX PROTECTION CONTINUED

If you get "the letter" from HMIT notifying an investigation, please ring us immediately so that we can inform Abbey Tax, if you are insured. We shall also discuss the likely course of the queries whether you are covered by Abbey or not. By the time you get that letter, it is too late to apply for insurance if you have not already done so.

It usually takes over an hour just to start reviewing HMIT's questions, so if you have cover, you reap the rewards immediately. I also feel happier if I know that our fees are being paid. Unfortunately, if you don't want to pay the hourly rate, I cannot afford to defend you against the Revenue, which assumes you guilty until you prove you are innocent, as this can take many hours of work.

I urge you to get in touch to effect cover. Please note that you are not covered until you have paid, even if you ring us and ask for the insurance.

FEES

I am continuing to seek payment by monthly standing order. If you are not already paying by this method, I may ask

TECHNICAL STUFF

Major changes in Capital Gains Tax. If you have anything coming up, you need to speak with Helen who knows what is going on. The rest of us just smile and try and look intelligent.

Subcontractors – Building Trade

This is proving to be not as bad as we thought but requires those involved in a monthly report to us which we then send in electronically. If you miss the deadline, the penalties are draconian. Please note that we are now no longer giving reminders for this – it is up to you to send us the information by the due date. We

you to complete a standing order when I send this year's Return.

If you are paying on an hourly basis, the fees from 1st April 2008 remain as follows:

Ruth, Helen and Belinda - routine work @ £45+VAT per hour

Other Staff - routine work @ £35+VAT per hour

More Complex work @ £65+VAT per hour

Investigation work @ £65+VAT per hour.

POSTAL SERVICES

We shall charge you if we receive underfranked mail so check before you post. By the same token, you must let us know if we get it wrong and we shall reimburse you.

We are all finding it difficult to adapt to the new system and the GPO is making millions out of people who over-stamp their letters. If you are sending out a lot of letters, a set of scales is probably worthwhile. Otherwise, if your letter is anything other than small and light it is best taken to a Post Office (if you can find one)

Our post now arrives between mid morning and mid afternoon except on Saturday, when it comes at 7.55. As always, we ask you please to avoid sending Registered, Recorded or Special delivery mail to arrive early on Saturday morning as we slumber.

make no extra charge for this but if you want reminders we shall charge you at £35+VAT per hour for time spent. This is with immediate effect.

Changes to our deadlines

January 2008 was a particularly loathsome month for us. Due to personal circumstances we went into the month in arrears with the work already on hand and it took a considerable effort in increasingly difficult times to try and get on top. We also had staff sickness. This really showed up the problems which arise when we get a lot of work coming in during January, some of which did not arrive until the last week. Consequently, we sent in many more estimated Returns than in past years, although we did meet all reasonable deadlines. However, we took stock and cannot continue to work at that level in January for clients who have had 9 months or more to provide us with the information we need.

Doubling the fee from 1st December does not seem to work and in any case, double the fee is not appropriate or enough. We have done a lot of preparatory work this year to ensure that Returns which can be finished earlier in the year are done. We are trying to get the bulk of your accounts year ends to be other than 31st March or 5th April, which will give us more time in 2009 although there will be no immediate effect for 2008. However, as from December 2008, for accounts year ends at those dates, or personal Returns with information needed up to 5th April 2008, we shall now refuse to prepare your Return if you bring us the information after 1st December 2008. There just isn't enough time to plan the work and remain sane. If you are not a habitual deadliner and have a good excuse (the best we have ever had is a trip up Kilimanjaro causing brain damage due to oxygen deprivation), we are always happy to reconsider but it is not fair on anyone in the office to expect so much to be done in January. We are human and are far more likely to make mistakes in January than if you give us your records in September. I get touchy in January and do not take well to being told that the records have been left so late because you have been busy. Join the club! I am looking forward to an easier start to 2009.

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOUR LIMITED COMPANY ACCOUNTS NOW NEED TO BE WITH COMPANIES HOUSE 9 MONTHS AFTER THE YEAR END - USED TO BE 10 MONTHS. THIS MAKES IT EVEN MORE IMPERATIVE THAT WE GET YOUR COMPANY RECORDS PROMPTLY

The Told-You-So Stories

Listen to me, oh Best Beloved, and I shall tell you the story of the Chancellor who had no money. (He had sold off half of the Bungle's gold reserves cheaply a few years ago, but spent it on his friends' expenses claims.) In the elder days the Brown One wished to rule the Bungle but was content to bide his time and await the opening when the Blairolope cantered away into the Plains to seek green pastures. As the dust of the Blairolope disappeared into the distance, the Brown One took his rightful position as King of the Bungle and a new era of austerity began. He had at last the power to rule the trees and the ground and all things which lived on, in and above it and to squeeze them all until the pips squeaked.

Now, the Brown One had now to find his own Chancellor so chose his Darling to take on the role. Like the leopard, the position of Chancellor does not change its spots and things carried on much as before. Once a year the Chancellor was obliged to appear to all of the Bungle Folk and present his Budge-it. This ensured that anything that rested too long with any of the Bungle Folk would be budgeted out of their hands as quickly as possible and moved on so that the Brown One could continue to redistribute it to other Folk of the Bungle. They even collected from visitors from beyond the Great River "Limp Oh-Poo!" who were not really a part of the Bungle but they kept this anyway. One of the main reasons for this redistribution was to show people many miles away from them how important the Bungle was. Historically, one of the best ways of doing this was by attacking them and this took a lot of redistribution.

Year followed on year and the Brown One and his Darling were replaced by the Macaroon and his Dandy and then others with equally interesting names but the same effect on the Bungle Folk.

And the Blairolope continued to play in the rich and grassy Banks outside the Bungle and prospered.

There is no moral to this story, oh Best Beloved.

Deadlines

Some or all of the comments may not apply to you. Please do not be offended – just ignore the irrelevant bits

Calendar of Events

1st March - 5% penalty imposed by HMRC for 2006/07 income tax still not paid

6th April - Tax Returns and my April letter issued

11th April - last date for employers paying PAYE before interest starts to run

19th May - deadline for employers to get PAYE details to the Inland Revenue, after which penalties are charged.

30th May - your employer's deadline for getting your P60 to you

7th July - your employer's deadline for getting your P11d to you

31st July - second payment on account for 2007/08. £100 penalty (another) for 2005/06 Tax Returns still not sent in.

1st August - further 5% penalty by HMRC for 2006/07 tax still not paid.

30th September - Revenue deadline for getting your underpayment of less than £2000 in next year's PAYE code number; this does not apply to the self employed.

31st October - Paper Tax Return deadline (new in 2008), although we send all of ours electronically.

1st November - MHR Ltd charges an extra 25% over your agreed fee for records sent in on or after this date.

1st December - MHR Ltd may decline to prepare your Accounts or Return if your records come in after this date. This applies to personal records and Accounts with a year end 31st March or 5th April

31st January - Will cost you £100 if the Revenue has not received your Tax Return on or by this day. The website collapsed last year with the volume of Tax Returns being submitted at the last minute. Interest runs on unpaid tax from 1st February. If you have not paid by now it is too late to avoid interest, as the Revenue no longer accepts payments in its offices. Your quickest method of payment is by cheque in the prepaid first class envelope provided by the Revenue. Or you can pay via your Bank (3 day clearance) or the GPO (10 day clearance).

1st February - writer collapses in cool place with cold glass of milk and takes no phone calls.

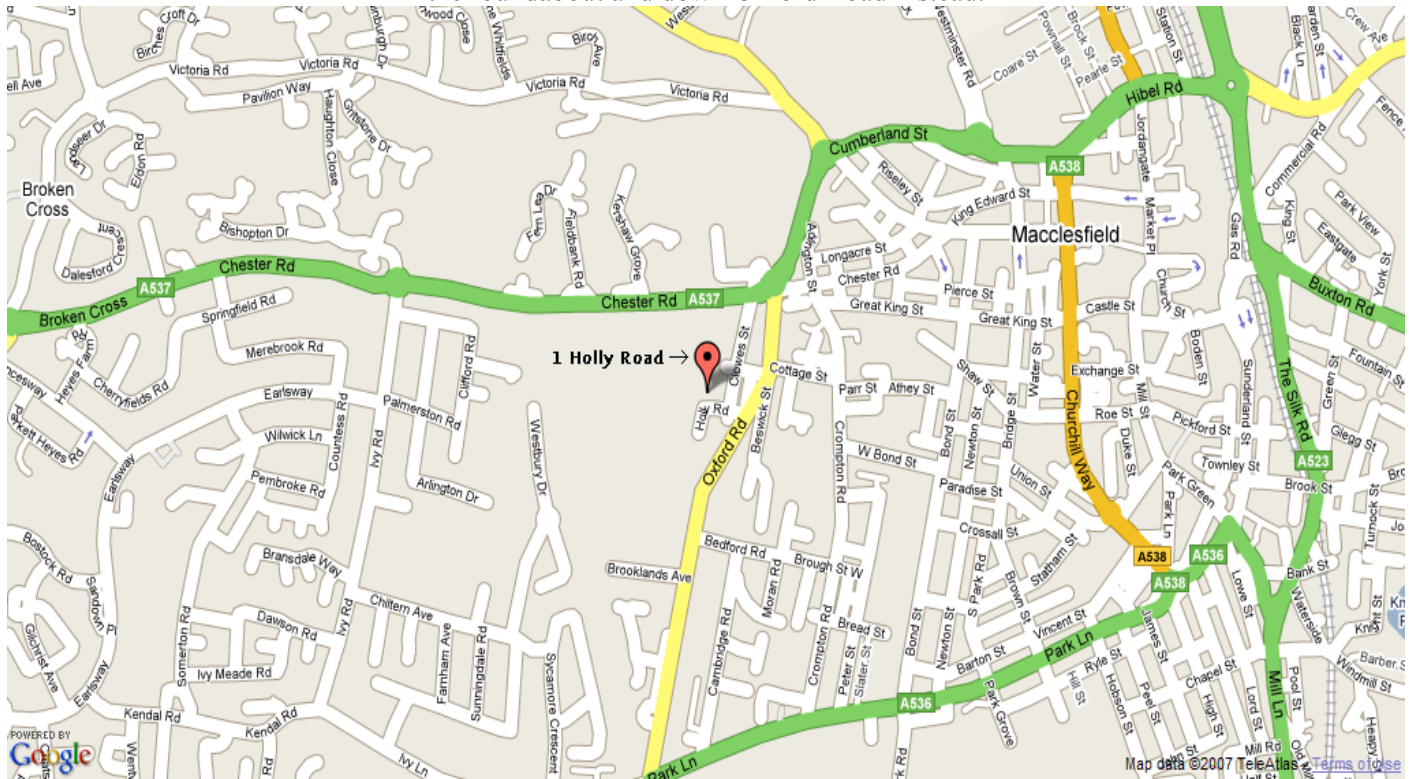
For Limited Companies, MHR Ltd asks that your records be with us within 4 months after the company's year end. There is currently no extra charge but we do not guarantee to meet the relevant deadlines if records come in later than this. We shall not in that case meet any penalties imposed by Companies House or the Inland Revenue for late submission of accounts.

If you do everything well within time, that is fabulous and we love you. The above timetable is not directed at you or meant to get at you in any way. You can skip over it smugly knowing that it does not apply to you. This is a Newsletter and will be sent to everyone, be you perfect or with room for improvement!

Location, Location

Turn off Oxford Road opposite the Ox-fford pub. Go at right angles to the main road up some cobbles. After 30 metres the road narrows and changes from cobbles to a new tarmac surface. We are the former bungalow on the right with a laurel hedge - come to the white door.

Clowes street is not a continuous road and so it is not possible to get directly from Chester Road to Holly Road. Go to the roundabout and down Oxford Road instead.



When you enter 1 Holly Road, you will of course be greeted politely by ourselves, but rather more rapturously by Sasha. Ignore her if you are able - we are (still) training her to ignore you (but bite burglars) and she is learning but there is an initial frolic. Guard your possessions with your life if you sit down for a cup of tea with us before we confine the dog to her filing room. Please also use the post box in the porch. Sasha is no longer shredding papers (as much) but we cannot guarantee she won't slide back into her old ways.