

**DUCKETTS**

TRUSTED ADVISORS

Chartered Accountants and Business Growth Specialists

# Ducketts Newsletter

Issue 1 2024

## **P**hil's Trek for Charity

At the end of October, Phil successfully completed the Trek Petra challenge in Jordan!

Phil completed the challenge with his good friend Ian Pottle and described it as a fantastic experience of a lifetime.

In Phil's words:

*"It was a tough 5 day, 90k mountainous trek along the Jordan trail, with numerous climbs, in temperatures around the mid 30's. Basic camping in the desert and mountains, with no facilities, added to the challenge.*

*As well as the challenge of the trek we were able to spend time with local Bedouin guides, gaining an insight into their culture and cooking and their focus on sharing and simplicity."*

Phil and Ian are enormously grateful to all those who donated an amazing total of £3,600 for Care for Veterans in support of their challenge. Well done Phil.



### Other Team News.....

Claire James joined the Management Accounts team back in July. Claire has proved to be a big hit with our clients, with one even asking whether they could employ her! Thankfully, the January transfer window is now closed.

Claire will feature in our Meet the Team segment, in our next newsletter.

[Click here to donate to Care for Veterans](#)



## What we've been up to

### Quizzes

We entered teams in quizzes held by Lloyds Bank and HCR Solicitors, both raising money for St. Michael's Hospice.

Whilst we didn't trouble the leader board in either quiz, everyone had a great time and we were delighted to be able to help raise money for a great local charity.



## Ducketts Dinner at The Bookshop

In November, we held the latest 'Ducketts Dinner' at [The Bookshop](#), a great venue in the centre of Hereford.

We would like to thank everyone who came along, on what was a very wet autumnal evening, the company and conversation was wonderful.

A big thank you, also to Ed, Dorian, Rupert and the team at The Bookshop for having us. The food and service, as always, was brilliant.



## Christmas



We made the most of the festive season at the end of the year.

First up was our Christmas Lunch at The Green Man in Fownhope, which also doubled up as our Christmas Jumper Day. The monies raised were donated to Care for Veterans.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the lunch, and most people enjoyed their Secret Santa gifts. Even the two resident scrooges who didn't join in – but we're sure they will be enjoying their humbugs and sprouts!

This was quickly followed by the Ducketts ladies making Christmas wreaths at the Shell Store. Everyone had great fun and proved that accountants can be creative.

Finally, the Ducketts gentlemen had an evening playing padel, a cross between tennis and squash. The most surprising part of the evening was the gazelle like athletic ability of Messrs Wright & Taylor (their words not ours).



For fans of 'It'll be Alright on the Night' and similar programmes, video footage of these prime athletes is available! The evening was rounded off with a very healthy steak and ale pie and chips and important re-hydration.



## Cocktail Party at The Green Dragon Hotel

Just to show how relaxed and on top of things we are as a practice, we were joined by clients and fellow professionals at our annual Cocktail Party.

Big thanks to Julian and his team for a very warm welcome, great cocktails and delicious canapes.



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## Upcoming Events

### Core Connections, with HCR Solicitors

We will be visiting Shooting Reels, finding out how they make the magic happen and possibly the opportunity to perform!

### 2023 Charity Golf Day in support of The Living Room

This is our postponed event from September, now taking place on 24th April. We have made an interim payment to The Living Room of £2,500 to support the fantastic work that they do within Herefordshire and we hope to be paying over another sizeable donation in late April/early May.

### Business Development Club event

This will be held in May, full details to follow.

### 2024 Charity Golf Day in support of Farming Minds

Burghill Valley Golf Club has been booked. The date is **Wednesday 11th September**. We are delighted to be supporting [Farming Minds](#), not just because they are a fantastic charity supporting Herefordshire's agricultural community, but because their treasurer, is our very own Netty.

Invitations will be sent out with full details over the course of the next few weeks, but if you would like to register your interest in entering a team of 4, please email Rachel at [rachelmason@duckettsgrowth.co.uk](mailto:rachelmason@duckettsgrowth.co.uk).

See all our events [HERE](#)

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### 'Book' of the month -

In an attempt to move with the times, we're suggesting a podcast this month.

**Sliced Bread** is a Radio 4 podcast (available on BBC Sounds) and looks at various products to see if they are the best thing since sliced bread.

They also have a spin off - Sliced Bread 'Toast', which tracks the failure of previously successful businesses, including the likes of Sunny Delight, Club 18-30,



Commodore Computers and Jamie's Italian.

# The Perfect Time for Reflection

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## LATEST ON THE BLOG

Whilst it is still relatively early in the New Year, it is the perfect time to reflect on a few strategic questions for your business: [READ MORE](#)

### Tax

With the budget due in early March and the likelihood of a second one before the General Election, we'll keep you abreast of the changes.....



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