



Ducketts Newsletter

Issue 1 2025

Congratulations Jake!
 Jake has successfully completed both the AAT Level 4 Diploma in Professional Accounting and the Professional Accounting/Taxation Technician Level 4 apprenticeship.

Jake's development, both professionally and personally, since he joined Ducketts in September 2020 has been a joy to see. Jake has been a fully integrated member of the team for some time and adds value to clients and colleagues alike.

This recent client feedback shows what a great job he does.

"In all my years of having bookkeeping staff on the premises, (and I'm going back to the 1900's to now), I have NEVER had someone as talented, accurate, with great attention to detail and who never stops working, in a finance role. He never stops working every minute he is on site, and he is an amazing credit to himself and to Ducketts as a firm.

We love having him around as he's also got a great sense of humour and always smiles. So, you can read him the above, as he is going to make a fab Senior Accountant one day. But for now, we want to keep him as much as we can'.

That is a fantastic testimonial – so very well done Jake! We look forward to seeing you develop your career still further.



Other Team News.....

We are so excited to welcome Maria back from her maternity leave!

We've truly missed her energy and expertise.

Meet Gabriella: the numbers wizard who can make spreadsheets sing!

By day, she's an accountant with a knack for turning chaos into order, but when the workday ends, she swaps calculators for cameras, capturing the world one stunning photo at a time.

If she wasn't an accountant? Then she'd trade her desk for a rocket ship and swap balancing budgets for floating in zero gravity. If NASA ever needs someone to crunch numbers in space, Gabriella's their gal!

Find out more about Gabriella [HERE](#)



What we've been up to

What an incredible day we had during the first week of September!

The Ducketts team came together for a team-building day on the 4th of September. Our morning began at the Shell Store, where we kicked off with breakfast. Chris then gave an engaging talk on World War II strategies – and how we can still learn from many of them today.

Afterwards, Mark led us in a "therapy session" which, thankfully, didn't result in any tears!

Find out all the details from the day [HERE](#)



Core Connections - Yoga

Back in July, the Core Connections events returned with a yoga and wellness class. It was a great evening.

Thank you to the lovely Carmel for hosting such a relaxing class!



Hereford Indie Food Festival - 2024

August bank holiday means one thing... Hereford Indie Food!

We're very proud of our clients. A Rule of Tum for always putting on such a great festival with great music and delicious food!



Golf Day 2024

This year's golf day was in support of a fantastic local charity – We Are Farming Minds. Thank you to everyone who took part and supported the day.

We were able to raise an amazing £3774.32 for the charity to go towards funding their fantastic work in the county.

Congratulations to the Broadfix team for winning first prize!



Core Connections tour at Little Princess Trust

At the end of September, Core Connections had the privilege of visiting The Little Princess Trust. It was amazing to have a tour of the Hannah Tarplee Building and see just how incredible this Hereford-based charity is. We even had the chance to knot some wigs ourselves!

A big thank you to everyone at The Little Princess Trust for having us!



Whitfield Shoot

We had three teams representing Ducketts at The Whitfield Clay Shoot, which raises money for Hereford Cathedral Perpetual Trust. And this time, one of them walked away with the grand prize!

A huge congratulations to our winning team: Don Powell, Ricky Reno, Ben Savidge, and the sharpshooter himself, Jack Ballard.

Chris couldn't wait to share the news that we'd won, on the following Monday morning. Maria asked Chris if he'd joined in the action? Chris' response was "I took part in the group pictures."



Luctonians 13 - 6 Bournville

Despite all the flooding over the weekend on 23rd November, the rugby at Luctonians remained on!

As well as enjoying the hard fought win over Bournville, as always the hospitality was excellent.

Our table included a special guest "Uncle Geoff" who is not only Mark's uncle, but also the man on the microphone commenting on the game!

A special mention is also needed to Mr Cash for his superb carving skills – He did a great job in making sure he had the most on his plate.



Christmas at the Kilpeck Inn

We also took the chance to celebrate some incredible work anniversaries and show our appreciation for a few of our amazing team members. Flowers and vouchers were just a small way to say thank you—because we couldn't do what we do without each and every one of you!

This year we celebrated:
 Phil and Gabriella – 5 years
 Rachael and Txell – 10 years
 John and Dasha – 15 years
 Chris and Sue – 25 years

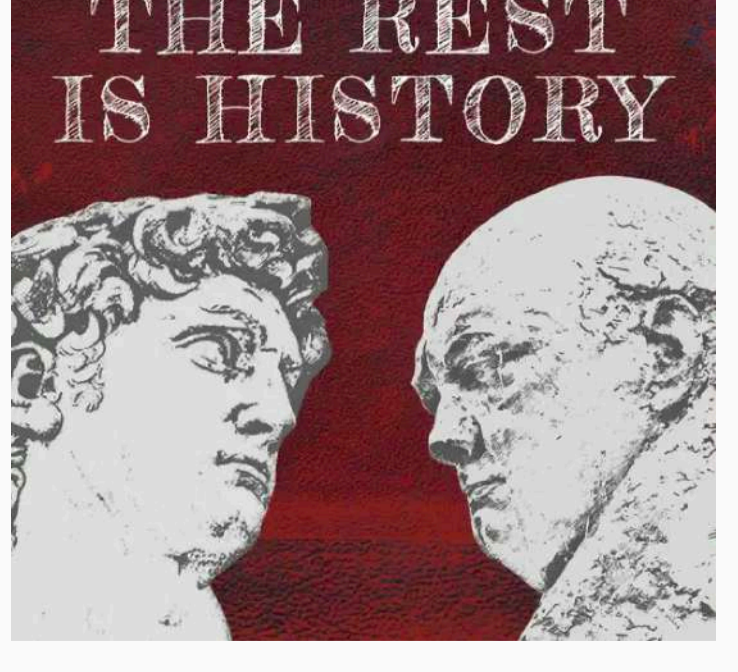
And a special shoutout to Sue, as this year also marks her 10-year retirement anniversary! And she is still going strong.

A huge congratulations and thank you to everyone for your hard work, dedication, and team spirit.

Here's to many more years together and even more reasons to celebrate!



Chris has written a newsletter on some of his favourite podcasts – here's one of them below



Podcast of the month - The Rest is History

Tom Holland and Dominic Sandbrook go into detail about various aspects of world history.

The 8 hours of talking about Custer's Last Stand inspired me to beat the Talent Academy with the highlights. Very well researched and not really Woke, with easy humour between the 2 of them.

Very professional: very smooth.

I recommend Ep 136: The birth of Modernity – 1922. Lots of strange things happened that year (in the shadow of the First World War) with consequences for the following 100 years.

To read more, see the full newsletter here [HERE](#)

