

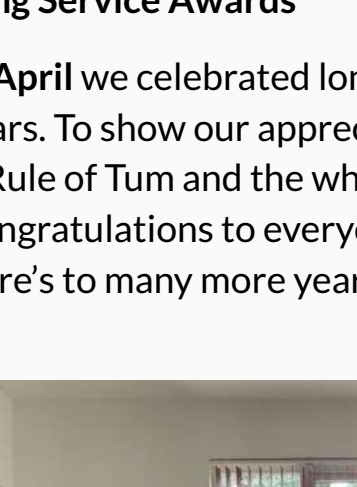
# Newsletter May 2023

## Meet Callum Hutchison

Callum joined the Management Accounts team in November 2022 and is currently working through his CIMA qualifications.

He grew up in Gloucester and became a world record holder, whilst at school, as part of a group that achieved the record for the highest number of skips within a certain time. He said that the biggest benefit was time off lessons.

Outside of work, Callum enjoys travelling and has recently returned from Japan, where he fell in love with the culture and food. One of his ambitions is to complete a parachute jump.



Lights, camera, ACTION!

We enjoyed making our Ducketts film so much, we've made another one! Mark and Chris interviewed Mike Pegg who has acted as a mentor to several of the Ducketts team. We've managed to capture Mike's thoughts and views on a wide range of business, management and leadership topics. We are currently editing these in to bite sized chunks of magic and these will be available on our website soon. Watch this space.

## Long Service Awards

In April we celebrated long service anniversaries for several of our staff, ranging from 5 to 20 years. To show our appreciation, everyone recognised received a £100 voucher for a meal at A Rule of Tum and the whole office enjoyed coffee and cake from The Munitions. Congratulations to everyone receiving an award and thank you for your hard work. Here's to many more years to come.



## Other Team News

**Rachael** has returned from Maternity Leave – welcome back.

**Lauren** has started her keeping in touch days, as part of her maternity leave and will be returning in June.

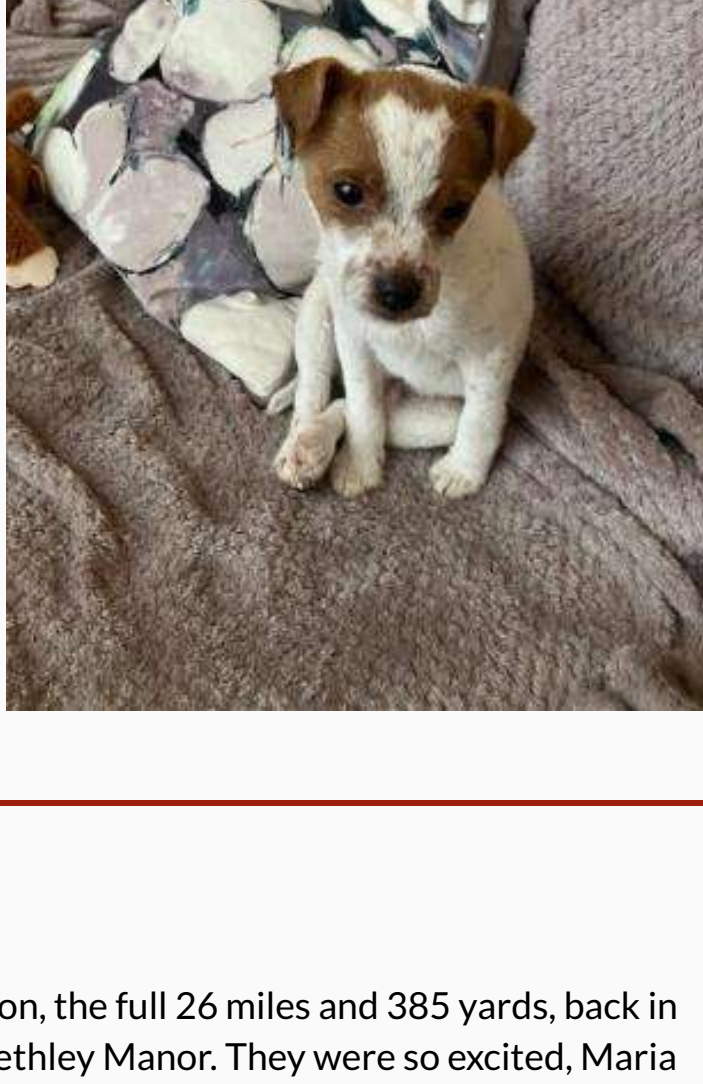
**Caleb** has left to help his parents at their farm with lambing and then he is travelling the world. Why would you do that when you could be preparing accounts? Anyway good luck Caleb and enjoy your adventure.

## Meet the latest addition to the Ducketts team

So where to begin? - Chris went on holiday skiing down the slopes in Norway, so Sara decides that the best time to get a new puppy is when he isn't in the country and collected the new addition the day after Chris had left.

Anyway, meet little Wilf, a pure jack Russell terrier.

So is the moral of the story, don't go on holiday without your wife? Or two dogs are definitely enough? Or both?



## Marathon Runners and Walkers

**Runners** - Caleb and Maria completed a marathon, the full 26 miles and 385 yards, back in January 2023 which started and finished at Pengethley Manor. They were so excited, Maria even started an afternoon running club just to make sure they were able get enough miles in to their legs beforehand. Thank you Mark and Chris for your support. They ran 12 laps of 2.2 miles on the A49 in foggy and cold weather but nothing could have stopped them. Here is a before and after picture. They both finished with a great time.

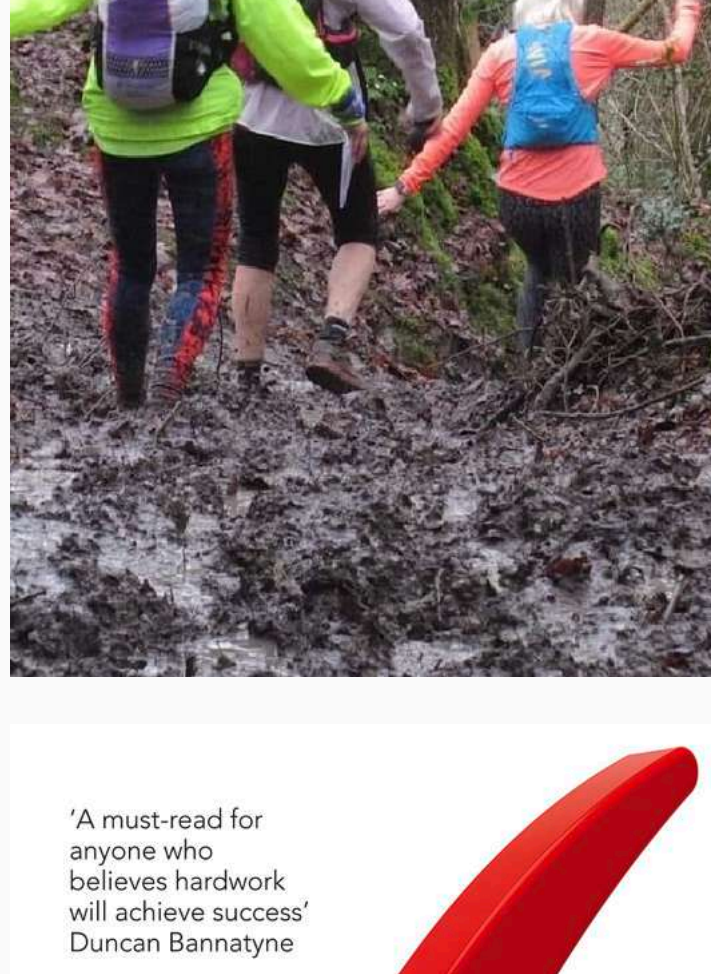


**Walker** - Phil from the BD Team walked the Mammoth, a full distance trail marathon, as part of the Shropshire Hills Walking Festival on 1<sup>st</sup> April. Here's what Phil had to say about it:

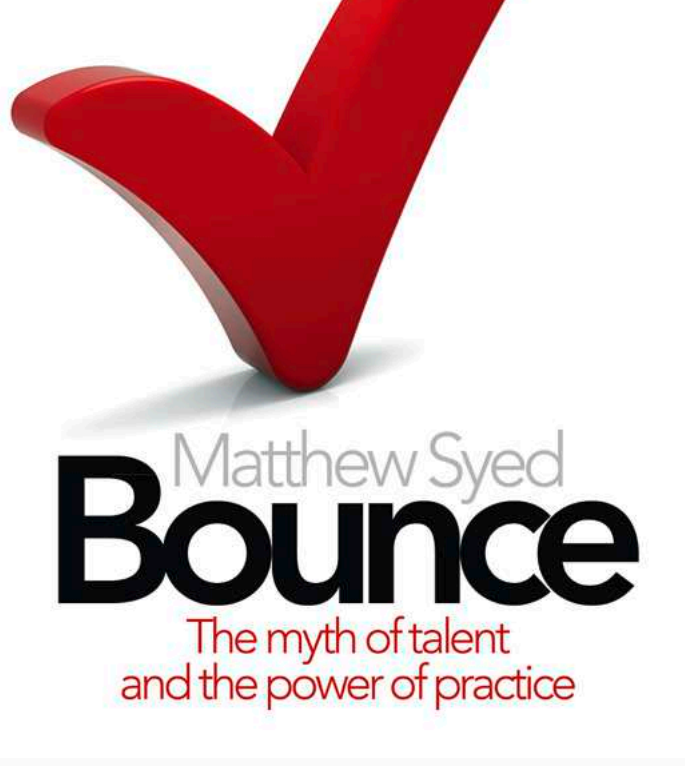
"There were 400 participants walking and running the Mammoth. Following a very wet March, a lot of the route was a walk in the mud! and with 4,100 feet of ascent it was a tough event. I completed it in 8 hours 36 minutes, within the 12 hour maximum allowed for the walk.

I love walking in the hills, and it's great that a number of the team here at Ducketts are runners, climbers and walkers. Although it's always good to get out and train in the hills, the Ducketts corporate gym membership definitely helps with strength and conditioning training.

My next event is the [Clun Valley Challenge Walk](#) - 26 miles, 4,300 feet of ascent, in mid May - so I'm trying to keep the training going ahead of that."



'A must-read for anyone who believes hardwork will achieve success'  
Duncan Bannatyne



Matthew Syed  
**Bounce**  
The myth of talent and the power of practice

## Book of the month – "Bounce" by Matthew Syed

For reading on the beach? If you consider Gibbon's "The rise and fall of international accounting standards" a little too racy, then "Bounce" by Matthew Syed really hits the spot. You may remember that I got quite excited by Malcolm Gladwell's book, which outlined the idea that to get really good at something you need to do it for 10 years.

Matthew Syed takes this idea and runs with it. Talent is not born in people: it is the result of working at the particular skill over a prolonged period of time. There really is no substitute for (intelligent) application and motivation. Which also explains why you should check the CV of a prospective surgeon before you let him loose.

## Events you missed

Back in January, we held our now annual Cocktail Party at the Green Dragon, despite it being the height of Tax Return season.

As always, our tax department team were excellent managing and keeping on top of the chaos.



## Next up was Brinsop Court – Q&A in March.

Our panellists were -

- Zoe Ferriday – Director of HFT Forklifts Limited
- Victoria Knight – Director of Russell & Co Solicitors
- Alastair Gibbs – Director of TPG DisableAids
- Mark Vickress – no introduction required (was that a Phil Collins album?)

The food, wine, venue and company were all great.

## Upcoming Events

29th June 2023 - Cider Mill Tour & Tasting - Nothing educational, except learning how cider is made the history of a great Herefordshire family business, followed by good food and cider tasting.

20th September 2023 - Golf Day. Raising money for [The Living Room](#).

October 2023 – Cyber security event - Details TBA

16th November 2023 - Posh Dinner at the Bookshop - No ulterior objective – just dinner with people you know and like at a great venue.

See all our events [HERE](#)

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# Tax tips 2023

Want to know which rates have gone up, which have come down and why you should always claim child benefit?

The answers to all this and more can be found in our updated Tax Tips for 2023.

Those who read right to the end will be treated to a joke from Sara.

**Disclaimer-** Show me the man and I'll show you the crime.

Apparently attributed to Lavrentiy Beria, Stalin's head of Secret Police.

Equally applicable to today's politicians, of all persuasions.