



Meet Netty - our Head of the Farming World

Netty joined Ducketts back in December 2021 as head of non-corporate accounts and she has turned out to be an absolute gem for the team. She has a wealth of knowledge in farming due to her previous job role dealing with farmers and estates - it also helps that she comes from a farming family!

It appears we have another keen traveller in the team - Netty enjoyed 3 weeks in Australia at the beginning of the year (post tax return season, of course).

Outside of work, Netty enjoys playing Netball, reading, and helping her parents on the farm. Look out for future newsletter features from Netty in our upcoming farming corner.



Other Team News.....

We have welcomed **Claire** into our Management Accounting team.

Lauren has returned from Maternity Leave and we are delighted to have her back.

Exciting news for **Jo** as she tied the knot in August and went on her honeymoon in September.

All our best wishes for **Maria** on maternity leave after welcoming baby number 2 in October.

We also have another new starter in **Alex** who joined the Ducketts team in September as a trainee accountant.

Exam Success

Big congratulations to **Jake and Callum**, who recently passed their latest accounting exams. Jake is flying through his apprenticeship, recently completing his Drafting and Interpreting Financial Statements exam - well done **Jake**, keep up the good work!

And **Callum** has just passed his end of level exam - leaving only two more levels to go! Well done **Callum**!



Hanging around at the Ducketts away day

Back in July, we had the annual Ducketts Away Day - but this time, we dropped the canoes and took to the trees at Go Ape in the Forest of Dean.



We started the day at The Shell Store with updates on the world of Ducketts, accompanied by a great breakfast from The Coffee Cart Co.

Then, in the afternoon some of the team (reluctantly) made their way to The Forest of Dean to take on the Treetop Challenge at Go Ape!

Everyone had a great time, possibly with the exception of Spudge. We then met up with the more sensible members of the team for dinner at The Harewood End to finish off the day.

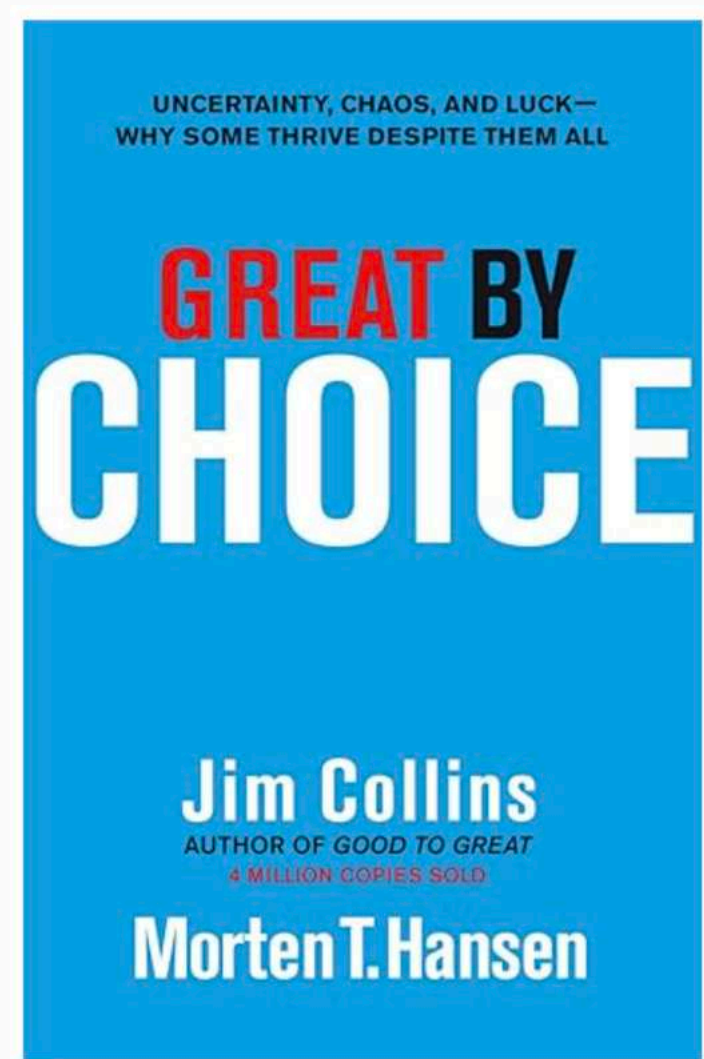


Callum's 5 top Excel tip

To earn his stripes in the Ducketts team, Callum of the Management Accounts team recently completed a Microsoft Excel course and is now apparently 'the expert'.

Here are his 5 top tips:

- Double clicking the 'Format Painter' Option will allow the user to format multiple different cells without having to click on the option each time.
- Pressing 'Control + =' while highlighting a cell containing a formula will display where the formula is being calculated from.
- Insert a clickable file link to the spreadsheet - Navigate through 'Insert' > 'Object' > 'Create From File' > 'Browse' to find the file within the documents > Click 'Link to file' > 'Ok'.
- =ABS(CELL) will always display the number in the selected cell as a positive.
- An Alternative to 'Merge & Centre' - Highlight cells to be centred > Right Click > Format Cells > 'Alignment' tab > Click on the dropdown box under 'Horizontal' > Click 'Centre across selection' > ok. This method allows the user to click on individual columns without Excel automatically selecting all columns merged.



Book of the month - "Great by Choice" by Jim Collins & Morten Hansen.

Good to Great was published 20 years ago and has become something of an MBA classic. It should be no great surprise that the next book is pretty much more of the same without any exciting new concepts. After all, there are no new ideas, just old ones that have been reframed.

The methodology is as before: the research identifies a series of companies that outperform the (US) stock market by at least 10-fold between 1972 and 2002 and then looks at comparison companies in the same industry that don't perform this well.

The most interesting comparison is Microsoft v Apple. Up to 2002, Microsoft won by a mile. Then Steve Jobs came back, and Apple was transformed. Be careful what you learn from this, but it is (absolutely) all down to management. <http://www.jimcollins.com/books.html>

What we've been up to

28th June 2023 - Cider Mill Tour & Tasting
- At the end of June, we took a tour of Westons Cider Mill.



We had a great evening learning all about Westons' history and the cider making process, tasting their delicious cider and to top it all off, a wonderful meal in The Scrumpy House Restaurant.



Whitfield Shoot

In September, we supported the Whitfield Clay Shoot for the Hereford Cathedral Perpetual Trust



It is not in our style to embarrass the individual who didn't have his eye in on the day, but his son Will Gough was fantastic and more than made up for his father.

It was great to see one of our team captains Alastair Gibbs jumping to the opportunity to endorse the Ducketts brand.

Upcoming Events

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

Cocktail Party
18th January 2024 at The Green Dragon Hotel - As accountants, we should be doing tax returns in January? Although we have a few rebels, as a whole our clients are well behaved and provide their information in good time. If you don't receive an invite, this might be because you are on the naughty list.

See all our events [HERE](#)



The Annual Ducketts Charity Golf Day - In Support of The Living Room

Wednesday 24th April 2024

As you may know, our Charity Golf Day was scheduled to take place in September as usual, but due to the unfortunate weather forecast we made the decision to postpone. The new date is 24th April 2024.

Second time lucky?

We will still continue with our 2024 Golf Day in September, so if you missed out on this one, get a team in for September!



LATEST ON THE BLOG

I never thought I'd see the day when Clive Houghton and Mark Vickress became catwalk models... [READ MORE](#)

Disclaimer- "Infamy, infamy, they've all got it infamy."

I think it was a Carry On joke and never particularly funny.

But sums up the state of play with R&D claims.

