

Essential

FINANCE

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October already... this year is certainly flying by and the Autumn season brings with it another edition of Essential Finance. These editions seem to come around very quickly!

Despite the speed at which each edition seems to arrive, we seem to have no shortage of topics to write about.

Take a look at our article on page 4 which talks about the popularity of ISAs and on page 10, we look at the choice between taking dividends or bonuses, if you are a company director.

Page 12 goes into detail about the tax treatment of pension death benefits – a very topical subject right now, the discussions around which will no doubt continue over the months to come.

All of these subjects are of course accompanied by a number of other articles that I am sure you will find of interest.

In other news, we took part in the Macmillan Coffee Morning recently – a fun time eating cake (lots of cake, in fact we are still eating it!) was had by all and we managed to raise £250 at the last count. Please see our feature on page 19 for further details.

And we continue our theme of introducing you to the team at EFS... on page 24, you can learn all about David, Hayley, Kayleigh and Michelle who make up our internal team management.

So that's it for another edition ... with best wishes until next time.

Karen

Karen Wynard
Managing Director

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ISAs regain their investment appeal

Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs) are attracting greater attention from investors.

Next April ISAs will reach their 25th anniversary. Over the years their appeal has waxed and waned due to a variety of factors, most significantly the changing tax environment and potential investment returns.

In 2023, ISAs may once again rise in popularity:

- Prolonged freezes to the higher rate tax threshold and personal allowance, reductions to both the dividend allowance and capital gains tax annual exempt amount, and a lower threshold for additional rate tax have all made the UK tax shelter offered by ISAs more attractive.
- Improved stock market conditions and higher yields from fixed interest securities (bonds) are likely to encourage investors to reconsider stocks and shares ISAs.

As the ISA's investor appeal has grown, the government has, at best, demonstrated benign neglect. The main ISA contribution limit has been unchanged at £20,000 per tax year since April 2017. It also remains a contribution limit that has no scope for carry forward, unlike the rules for pension contributions: if you do not contribute to an ISA in a tax year, you cannot double up in the following year.

The government's disinterest in ISAs is driven by tax – in 2022/23 ISA tax advantages (income and capital gains tax) are estimated to have cost £4.3 billion, and the figure will increase substantially for the current tax year because of those higher returns.

If you have existing ISAs, it is important that you review them regularly to maximise the tax benefits and ensure continued suitability of your holdings. If you have cash ISAs, that review includes considering whether switching to a stocks and shares ISA would be appropriate. Even at today's higher interest rates (not always passed on to cash ISA savers), the returns are well below the current inflation rate.

With stocks and shares ISAs, the underlying investment funds are the key consideration. Here, advice is important, not only in fund selection but also in balancing the holdings with other investments owned directly or within your pension.

Investments do not offer the same level of capital security as deposit accounts. The value of your investment, and the income from it, can go down as well as up and you may not get back the full amount you invested.

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

Investing in shares should be regarded as a long-term investment and should fit with your overall attitude to risk and financial circumstances.

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Growing your investment income

If your investment goal is income, your options have broadened in the last two years.

Interest rates 2008 - 2023



Source: Bank of England

Go back two years or more and if you wanted income from your capital, there often seemed little alternative to taking on higher investment risk to achieve your goals. The Bank of England interest rate hovered between 0.1% and 0.75% for over 13 years before finally reaching the dizzy heights of 1% in May 2022.

Since then, it has increased dramatically, leaving the official rate now above 5% for the first time in over 15 years. In theory, if you want income, today you could find it virtually risk free with instant access from a wide range of banks and building societies.

In practice, however, matters are not quite so simple:

- **Inflation** means that if you spend your interest, the buying power of your capital will be eroded. For example, £1,000 in January 2020 was worth only £823 by June 2023, thanks to inflation. Indeed, since 2009 short-term interest rates have rarely been above the inflation rate, so even if you had reinvested all your interest, you would still have less spending power in 2023.
- **Variability** There was a time in the early 2010s when it seemed interest rates were stuck at 0.5%, but in the last two years rates have been anything but static. For now, there is a consensus that in the UK, as in the US and Eurozone, rates are close to their peak. There is less agreement on how quickly rates will fall, but an eventual decline is expected. If that is a correct forecast, relying on short-term interest rates would lead to a corresponding drop in income over time.
- **Tax** Unless you are an additional rate taxpayer, the income tax treatment of your interest benefits from the personal savings allowance (£1,000 for UK basic rate taxpayers and £500 for UK higher rate taxpayers). The allowance has been frozen since its introduction in 2016. Eight years of inflation and nearly two years of rising interest rates have devalued it. Whereas in April 2016 a higher rate taxpayer with a deposit earning the then Bank rate needed over £100,000 before paying 40% tax on their interest; today that figure is less than £9,600.



Investment landscape

The different short-term interest rate picture in 2023 is just part of a broader changed investment landscape. This is most obvious in the fixed interest securities sector, which includes government and other fixed rate bonds.

A good example is provided by one benchmark bond, the 10-year UK government bond (gilt). In July 2021, the prospective annual return for investors who bought that bond and held it through to maturity was a mere 0.57%. It is now almost 4% a year higher. There have been similar changes throughout the bond market, meaning that bonds and bond funds are once more viable long-term income investments.

Dividend payments on UK shares and share-based funds are also generally higher than in 2021, because of both inflation and the recovery from Covid-19. Since July 2021, the average dividend on UK shares has risen by 36%, based on FTSE All-Share data.

If you need to generate income from your capital, the message in 2023 is clear. While higher rates on instant access deposits are welcome, there are other, longer-term investment income opportunities that merit serious consideration.

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Beyond a minimum retirement

A third of people will be unable to afford their retirement, according to fresh research. The report gives a snapshot of the nation's retirement circumstances over ten years after the introduction of automatic enrolment in workplace pensions.

September is an important month in the pension calendar, as the rate of CPI inflation for the month (due to be published in mid-October) is one of the three factors which determine next April's State pension increase. The Bank of England predicts that inflation will fall to just under 7% in Q3 of 2023. Whether the State pension rises by 7% or just over 10%,

as it did in April 2023, in isolation it will provide only the most basic retirement lifestyle at best. This is true even if you are part of a couple, and both receive the full state pension. That difficult fact was underlined by a recent report from one of the UK's major pension providers Scottish Widows. The detailed

research on individuals' existing savings, and projections of future savings and inheritances, estimates the nation's overall readiness for retirement. The income available from each person's estimated retirement funds was compared against the three living standard levels set by the Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association detailed in the table:

If you find yourself thinking that the comfortable standard is where you would like to be:

- Even if you and your partner each have a full state pension of £10,600 a year, there would still be a net income shortfall of over £33,000 once the state pension comes into payment (at age 67 from April 2028).
- The required net income figures exclude rental or mortgage costs, which are increasingly encroaching into retirement. According to the research, 30% expect to be renting in retirement.
- Just over a third of people are on target to reach the comfortable standard, a proportion that falls to about one in five for the self-employed.

More than one third (35%) are facing a bleaker future, predicted to fall short of the minimum standard when they reach retirement. For the self-employed, the corresponding proportion is 48%, with another 25% reaching only the minimum threshold.

Working out which retirement standard – if any – that you are currently on course for is not straightforward. In 2016 the government proposed the creation of a 'pensions dashboard' which would have provided a good starting point. Unfortunately, the dashboard's launch date has been regularly deferred and was recently pushed out again to October 2026.

For now, the simplest way to obtain a snapshot of your future retirement is to talk to us. We can review the financial information you have already supplied, allowing us to identify your potential position and discuss possible strategies.

The value of your investment, and the income from it, can go down as well as up and you may not get back the full amount you invested.

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Occupational pension schemes are regulated by The Pensions Regulator.

Standard	Examples of standard	Required annual net income outside London	
		SINGLE	COUPLE
Minimum	No car. DIY maintenance and decorating. Holidays are one week and a long weekend in the UK every year.	£12,800	£19,900
Moderate	3-year old car replaced every ten years. Some help with maintenance and decorating. Two weeks' holiday in Europe and a long weekend in the UK every year.	£23,300	£34,000
Comfortable	One/two cars, each replaced every five years. Three weeks' holiday in Europe every year. Replace kitchen and bathroom every 10/15 years.	£37,300	£54,500



The dividend or bonus decision

If you are a company owner or director, the choice between bonus and salary has changed.

'Tax laws and rates can change'. Those words, or something similar, appear in many financial advertisements, but if you are a company director, you may feel that 'tax laws and rates always change' is more appropriate.

As the calendar year ends – and with it many companies' financial years – tax changes are moving back into the spotlight. Since December 2022 directors have seen:

- the dividend allowance cut in half (and a similar cut to the capital gains tax annual exempt amount);

- the additional rate (top rate in Scotland) tax threshold fall from £150,000 to £125,140;
- corporation tax rates increase for companies with profits exceeding £50,000 a year;
- the 130% super-deduction for plant and machinery investment replaced with a new, temporary, 100% capital allowance;
- employer and director national insurance contribution rates reduced;
- increases to the pensions annual allowance and the phased abolition of the pensions lifetime allowance.

Year end counts

All those changes, which often interact with each other, mean that the most tax-efficient way to draw profits from a company with a 31 December year end may differ in 2023 from 2022.

	2022		2023	
	DIVIDEND (£)	BONUS (£)	DIVIDEND (£)	BONUS (£)
Marginal Profit	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Employer's NICs	-	(1,269)	-	(1,213)
Bonus	-	8,731	-	8,787
Corporation tax	(1,900)	-	(2,463)	-
Net profit	8,100	-	7,538	-
Dividend	8,100	-	7,538	-
Director's NICs	-	(238)	-	(176)
Income tax	(2,734)	(3,493)	(2,544)	(3,515)
Net income	5,366	5,000	4,994	5,097

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Assumptions:

- Company's gross profits between £60,000 and £250,000, hence the £10,000 of marginal profit is subject to marginal relief, pro-rated for the split tax year.
- Director is a 40% taxpayer (33.75% dividends) with their dividend allowance used elsewhere.
- NIC Employment Allowance not applicable.

The example above is specific to a 31 December year end – if your company's year end is 31 March, then the 2023 net dividend amount would be lower because there would be a higher charge to corporation tax. The bonus figures would not change.

Pension contributions?

In 2023 one option for dealing with profits that looks more attractive than in 2022 is an employer pension contribution. For some, any pension contribution may not have made sense in 2022, because at the time the lifetime allowance rules were still in force. If those rules have prevented you and/or your company from making pension contributions in recent years, this financial year end could be the ideal time to catch up.

While they have to be justified, employer pension contributions can be significant, and would benefit from full corporation tax relief at the new, higher rates. In practice, the complexities of pensions alongside all those other tax changes mean advice is vital before taking any action.

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Managing your pension legacy

The tax treatment of pension death benefits is under the legislative spotlight.

Tax, pensions and death, not necessarily a popular trio, have all been in the news recently, following the release in July of draft legislation and an HMRC consultation paper dealing with how they interact.

The current version of the rules came into force on 6 April 2023. For personal pensions and other money purchase (defined contributions) arrangements:

- As a general rule, all death benefits are free of inheritance tax (IHT), regardless of the age at death. This applies not only on the death of the original pension beneficiary, but also on the death of any subsequent beneficiaries, such as dependents or nominees.
- If the original pension scheme member dies before age 75, any uncrystallised lump sum payment is free of income tax to the extent that it does not exceed the individual's available lifetime allowance (standard LTA £1,073,100 – possibly higher if one of the many transitional protections has been claimed – less the value of any benefits already taken). The excess above the available LTA is taxable as income for the recipient. No such LTA restriction applies on subsequent pre-75 deaths of beneficiaries/nominees.

If income benefits are chosen rather than a lump sum on death, these are normally income tax-free, regardless of their value.

- On death at or after age 75, both lump sums and income benefits are subject to income tax in the hands of the beneficiaries. If a lump sum is paid to a trust, then 45% income tax applies.

These rules are widely regarded as generous, particularly for anyone able to leave their pension fund untouched in retirement. Even if all or part of the death benefits are subject to income tax, there is normally no IHT and the original pension contributions would have been eligible for income tax relief.



Proposed changes

The July proposals, which would take effect from 6 April 2024, maintain the general exemption from IHT and the tax treatment on death on or after age 75. However, if death occurs before age 75:

- The lump sum payment would be subject to income tax for beneficiaries to the extent that it was greater than the pre-April 2024 LTA less any lump sum payments made. This change potentially increases the tax-free lump sum death benefit if retirement benefits have been taken before death.
- On the downside, the consultation paper suggests that any income benefits should be subject to income tax. This proposal, which reverses a change made in 2015, came as a surprise and, curiously, is not reflected in the accompanying draft legislation.

Pension death benefits have become an increasingly important aspect of IHT planning, partly because the IHT nil rate band has been frozen at £325,000 since April 2009 and will remain so until April 2028. Just as writing a will is frequently put off as next week's/month's/year's task, so often is the process of nominating the beneficiaries of your pension death benefits. You need both to be in place, reflective of your current circumstances.

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New term, new terms: funding a university education

Student finance is becoming more complicated.

New students based in England face student loans on revised terms when they begin their courses this autumn. The terms of Plan 5 are:

- The maximum period their student loan can last will be 40 years (from the April after ending the course), whereas for earlier students the maximum repayment was mostly 30 years.
- Repayment will be at the rate of 9% of income above £25,000 (fixed to April 2027, after which inflation-linked increases are planned). The threshold for existing Plan 2 graduates is £27,295.
- The rate of interest matches inflation, measured by the Retail Prices Index (RPI), against RPI+ 3% for the previous generation of loans. However, currently both generations are capped at 7.3% (1 September 2023 to 30 November 2023).

One estimate is that under the new loan scheme just over half of students in England will repay their loan in full, while under the previous structure slightly less than a quarter did so. Each of the devolved nations has its own, similar student loan structure but none has followed the English reforms – yet.

All nations offer means-tested loans for maintenance costs. Maintenance support rates also differ – Scotland's maximum for students living away from home and studying in London is £9,000 whereas for Wales it is £14,635.

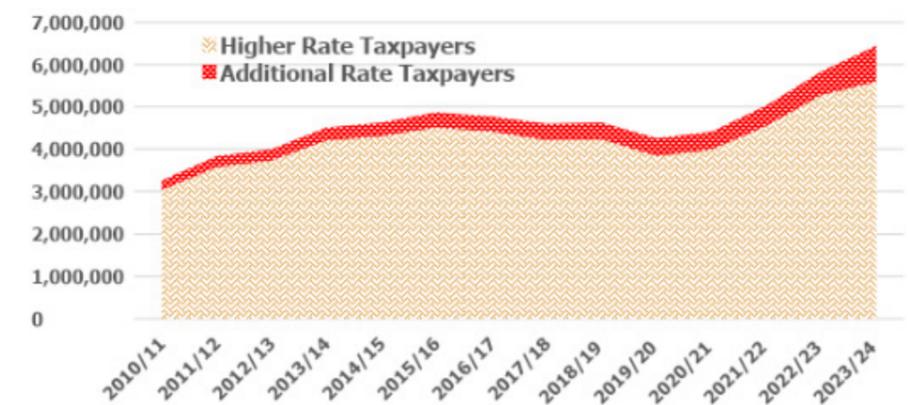
If you have children or grandchildren at, or hoping to go to university, the question of student finance raises some difficult issues. Given that even under England's new rules the odds are almost 50/50 that the loan will never be cleared, it makes little sense not to borrow, at least initially. On the other hand, that 9% repayment rate is akin to an extra tax.

If you wish to help fund a university education for the young adults in your family, talk to us about the options available.



Caught in the higher-rate taxpayers rise?

Are you part of new HMRC statistics showing an increase in higher-rate taxpayers?



Source: HMRC

The latest set of HMRC statistics on income tax gives an insight into how the freezes on the personal allowance and higher rate tax threshold are affecting taxpayers. They also offer initial evidence of what April's near £25,000 cut in the additional rate (top rate in Scotland) threshold means:

- After remaining largely unchanged in the last half of the 2010s, the number of income taxpayers has jumped by over four million in the past three years, because incomes have risen but the personal allowance has not.
- As the taxpaying population has increased, so has the share of taxpayers paying tax at the higher or additional/top rates. HMRC estimates this will be 18.0% in the current tax year, up from 13.9% in 2020/21 and 10.4% in 2010/11.
- Additional/top rate taxpayer numbers are projected to rise by over half in 2023/24.

These impacts are not immediately visible as the numbers that set the income tax framework are unchanged. In effect the Chancellor has delegated the task of raising extra revenue to inflation. And inflation has obliged, all too well.

If you want to limit your income tax bill, talk to us about the options that are available.

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Pensions (Extension of Auto Enrolment) Bill receives Royal Assent

The Pensions (Extension of Auto Enrolment) Bill has successfully made its way through the House of Commons and the House of Lords and has now received Royal Assent. The bill will see the age at which eligible workers must be automatically enrolled into a Workplace Pension scheme lowered from 22 to 18. The lower earnings limit, currently £192 per week or £833 per month will also be removed.

The changes mean that contributions will be based on the first pound of earnings rather

than on a band above £6,240. This means that both employers and employees will see their contributions increase.

With regard to implementation of the changes, the expectation is that the government will consult on a plan imminently. It is thought that this will be carried out over two or three years starting no later than April 2025. However, it is expected that the changes will occur on a phased basis in order to allow employers and employees to get used to increased contributions.

Even though we do not have a start date for the changes as yet, it is worth employers giving some consideration to the matter and starting to plan ahead.

If you would like to discuss the matter in more detail or carry out a review of your Workplace Pension arrangements then we would be happy to assist and would ask you to contact us.



Macmillan coffee morning

Our team were delighted to take part in the Macmillan Coffee morning on 29 September in order to raise money for this worthy cause.

A number of staff brought in either homemade or shop bought goodies and these were enjoyed by the team throughout the day! A number of games

also took place including guessing the number of Colin Caterpillar faces and a Coffee Morning themed quiz.

The event raised £250 and will help support Macmillan's vital work, helping them to fund their Macmillan nurses, answer calls on their support line, give financial support and more.

Please visit Macmillan's website for further information about the charity and the valuable assistance that it provides to those living with cancer and their loved ones.

National Savings Certificates update

It could pay you not to reinvest your maturing savings certificates.

National Savings & Investments (NS&I) Savings Certificates have been unavailable to new investors for many years. However, NS&I have continued to offer them to owners of maturing certificates. The latest NS&I accounts show that there was over £22 billion still held in certificates at the end of March 2023.

Return rates neglected

Perhaps because there are no new investors and many of the reinvestments are automatic, NS&I do not review the returns offered on certificates as regularly as their currently marketed products. For example, the last rate increase to fixed rate certificates was made on 1 February 2023, when the Bank of England Bank Rate was 3.5%.

In July, NS&I amended the terms of new fixed rate and index-linked certificates to remove the option of early encashment, even with an interest penalty. That loss of flexibility leaves the certificates looking even less competitive against other more widely available products.





News in brief

Electric company car benefits

In 2024 the government wants 22% of the new cars sold in the UK to be all electric. That may sound like a tall order, but recent statistics from HMRC show that for 2021/22, 17% of all company cars were electric, up from 7% in the previous tax year. The main reason – worth noting if you still have a petrol or diesel company vehicle – is that the benefit-in-kind tax rules are heavily weighted in favour of battery-powered cars.

Farewell paper tax returns

As the 31 October deadline for filing a 2022/23 paper tax return nears, you might be wondering why you have not received one this year. The answer is that HMRC has not sent any out, nor has it made the main form (SA100) available online. It is all part of HMRC's drive to encourage people to file electronically. If you want a paper return, you will need to call HMRC (0300 200 3610) and request one.

Pensioners, savings and benefits

Many pensioners may be missing out on benefits they are entitled to because they don't believe they are eligible. New research showed that last year nearly a third of people over the age of 65 checked their entitlement to State Benefits. But over 70% of those who had not checked their eligibility believed the value of their home and other assets would disqualify them. However, additional financial support may well be available to those missing out – DWP data found that 33% of those eligible for Pension Credit do not claim.

Getting to know our managers



KAYLEIGH SENIOR
Private Client Project &
Operations Manager

What is a typical day for you?

My role involves a variety of different jobs so no two days are ever the same, however, I do start my work day by checking through emails and my to do list. I'm often running reports and collating different information for meetings or working on projects to make processes more streamlined and to help keep our client records up to date.

How do you usually spend your weekend?

My weekends are spent catching up with jobs around the house, spending time with family/friends, my partner Tim and our cat Woody or batch cooking which makes life so much easier during the week. I really enjoy nature walks and both Tim and I can often be found walking around a nature reserve or an RSPB site.

Are you more of bookworm or a film buff?

I do prefer watching a film over reading a book, although I do like to listen to audio books every now and again. I love a good thriller movie but my all-time favourites are The Goonies & Labyrinth.

Can you describe your perfect holiday?

Anywhere nice and hot or somewhere where there is plenty of sightseeing and lots of good food. I do enjoy relaxing around a pool listening to a podcast, audio book or reading a magazine.

What are your hopes for the months ahead?

Spending more time with loved ones especially my two nephews who are both growing up way too fast.



DAVID CROZIER
Private Client Manager

What is a typical day for you?

Wake up around 6:30am, I can be a bit grumpy in the morning so this allows me time to come to terms with the world before I get to work. I am then fresh and ready to start work at 8:30am.

We are a very busy team so the first 30 minutes of my day is planning and allocating the work for the team. After this, generally I will provide training and support to new or less experienced colleagues, allocating work that comes in through the day and keeping on top of all of my own administration work.

How do you usually spend your weekend?

I am a huge football fan. Every other Friday I will take the long train journey back up to Scotland to visit my family and to watch the famous Glasgow Rangers. I've had a season ticket for almost 40 years and when I left Scotland to live with my partner Tracey, I vowed to attend as many games as possible. After over 10 years living in Huddersfield, I have managed to maintain this. We haven't been

particularly successful over the last couple of years but hopefully this will be our season.

When I'm not attending the football, generally I will spend time with my partner and socialising with friends. I really enjoy eating out and trying different types of restaurants.

Are you more of a bookworm or a film buff?

I'm definitely more film orientated than books. Happy to watch pretty much anything but I really enjoy crime movies and my favourite film is Heat with Al Pacino and Robert De Niro.

Can you describe your perfect holiday?

I'm not a massive fan of sunshine holidays as I get bored easily so my favourite type of holiday is a city break. My favourite destinations are Barcelona and Amsterdam. Each city is filled with history, culture and amazing food so I would definitely recommend!

What are your hopes for the months ahead?

I tend not to think too far ahead of myself, I just hope that my family and friends have good health, happiness and life treats them well. A more peaceful and less costly world would also be nice.



MICHELLE KELSALL

Client Services Manager

What is a typical day for you?

I am up with the larks, beginning the day with a cup of tea followed by a walk with our 12 month old cocker spaniel Barney.

My role at Eastwood's is quite varied ranging from overseeing the client review system, procurement/ supplier liaison, health & safety, premises and security as well as crucially ensuring we never run out of toilet rolls!

At least a couple of evenings a week I enjoy going to Zumba and Pilates classes.

How do you usually spend your weekend?

Mainly socialising with family and friends. I recently became a Grandma which I am thrilled about and this is already keeping me very busy. My husband and I enjoy cooking so we like to entertain at home as well as eating out. I love to see bands live and have particularly enjoyed seeing artists at the Piece

Hall this year which is a tremendous venue. We also support the Halifax Panthers Rugby League team and attend their home games.

Are you more of a bookworm or a film buff?

More a crime drama buff than films, I also enjoy a good crime novel but must admit most of my reading is done whilst on holiday.

Can you describe your perfect holiday?

I love all types whether it be a relaxing beach holiday, city break or a cottage/walking trip in the UK. I went to Madeira earlier this year for some winter sun and hope to visit Cuba next February. I like to make sure I see a different part of the UK every year and have recently returned from Aldeburgh on the Suffolk coast which was beautiful.

What are your hopes for the months ahead?

Like everyone I am hoping the unrest in the Ukraine will soon be resolved.

I am also hopeful that the economy in the UK will become more stable and that the housing market will even out.... It's so difficult for young adults in the UK to get onto the property ladder in the current climate and I'm ever optimistic that my two daughters will eventually be in a position to step onto the bottom rung.



HAYLEY HARTLEY

Corporate Services Manager

What is a typical day for you?

I get up bright and early and am in the office for 8am having got my children ready for school before I leave. My days are varied with a mixture of meetings with providers, helping the rest of the team with their work, responding to client queries and other general behind the scenes work relating to income, forward planning the coming weeks and months' appointments and pension surgeries etc.

Once I get home it is running around after my children before I usually crash on the sofa around 9pm to watch something rubbish on the TV for an hour!

How do you usually spend your weekend?

We are very lucky to have a lovely lodge on the East Coast which we call our 'coastal retreat' and we go there most weekends. It is very peaceful and quiet with direct access to the beach and we spend a lot of time there exploring the lovely towns and villages with our 2 spaniels, Bertie and Woody. It takes us 2 hours to get there therefore it

is close enough to go on a weekend but far enough away to feel like every weekend is a mini-break!

Are you more of bookworm or film buff?

I used to love reading a book but nowadays I don't make the time which I really should do! Instead I subscribe to Good Housekeeping magazine and tend to flick through that in short bursts rather than get stuck in a book. In terms of films, I watch very little and when I do it is usually something my children have picked! I have recently watched the Barbie movie with my daughter Poppy (12) and the Super Mario movie with my son, Oscar (7). My husband and I have very different tastes in films (I confess to having only ever watched one Bond film!) therefore if I am going to watch a film of my choosing it tends to be when he is working a night shift. Despite my age, my all-time favourite films are either Mrs Doubtfire or Matilda!

Can you describe your perfect holiday?

We haven't been abroad since our honeymoon 13 years ago as since the children were born I appear to have developed a fear of flying (and heights)! Prior to purchasing our 'coastal retreat' we have holidayed all over the UK with favourites being Northumberland and Cornwall but now I am happy to discover new places on the East coast with the odd one-night away break with my husband here and there to places like York etc.

What are your hopes for the months ahead?

I hope for my family and friends to be happy, healthy and settled and that we can enjoy lots of happy times together as Covid took so much time away and therefore I want to make up for that. Also, though I welcome advances in technology, I hope that it doesn't take over the personal, human touch - I'm a bit 'old fashioned' on that front and would rather deal with a person than a robot!



Giving you financial freedom

Eastwood Financial Services is committed to offering independent, careful and comprehensive financial planning to both businesses and private clients.

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