

Essential

FINANCE

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Dear reader

I hope this edition of Essential Finance finds you well and enjoying the long awaited Summer.

As I write this, we are currently in the midst of a (happily) prolonged dry spell of sunshine and good weather... long may it continue!

If you are preparing for your Summer holidays then do take a look at our article on page 10 regarding 'holiday booking' frauds and financial scams in general. Our article on page 6 discusses how much income you may need to have in order to meet your desired standard of living in retirement and on page 5, we talk about saving for a rainy-day. These are just a few selected articles from a range covered by this edition.

We are also taking the opportunity to introduce you to one of our sister companies, Eastwood Private Clients (EPC). Whether it's a collection of fine art or wine that you are looking to insure or possibly a classic car or racehorse, EPC can offer bespoke solutions to assist you.

Finally, we tell you all about some more of our team members and also our latest fund raising efforts, this time for Cancer Research UK, by taking part in their Race for Life programme.

We hope you enjoy this latest edition and until next time, enjoy the rest of the Summer.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen".

Karen Wynard
Managing Director

This newsletter is for general information only and is not intended to be advice to any specific person. You are recommended to seek competent professional advice before taking or refraining from taking any action on the basis of the contents of this publication. The Financial Conduct Authority does not regulate tax advice, so it is outside the investment protection rules of the Financial Services and Markets Act and the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. The newsletter represents our understanding of law and HM Revenue & Customs practice.

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Managing something in reserve?

It pays to expect the unexpected, particularly when it comes to your finances. Building and maintaining a rainy-day savings fund can make all the difference.

With so many calls on your income, it can be difficult to set more money aside, but a reserve fund offers long-term benefit in a range of circumstances, from a sudden drop in income, perhaps due to redundancy or ill-health, to out-of-the-blue expenses – a leaking roof, your car breaking down or, at worst, medical bills. The link between financial well-being and mental health underlines the importance of building this kind of resilience into your planning.

A financial cushion lets you manage budget shortfalls without having to borrow or raid other investments or, if relevant, pension funds. Private pensions can be accessed from the age of 55, but withdrawing funds early and at short notice can have drawbacks. You might have to sell investments in a market downturn, while withdrawals can also trigger a tax charge, depending on the amount taken. These withdrawals may also restrict how much you can save into pensions in future. Having back-up savings in place means that pensions and investments can stay invested for the longer term, maximising growth opportunities.

Easy access

By their nature, rainy-day savings should be kept in an 'easy' or instant access account that can be accessed in an emergency. Using a cash ISA can ensure that all interest earned is tax free.

On ordinary savings accounts, basic-rate taxpayers can earn £1,000 in interest a year tax free, with higher-rate taxpayers' tax-free interest set at £500. Interest earned above this will be taxed at the saver's marginal rate.

With higher interest rates in recent years, more savers will be faced with paying tax on their savings interest, making cash ISAs a more attractive prospect. The ISA allowance is £20,000 a year, but this is split across all ISA types.

How much you should set aside in a reserve will depend on your lifestyle and circumstances, but as a rule of thumb you should try to build up funds through regular saving that would cover your usual expenses for three months.

Investments do not offer the same level of capital security as deposit accounts.

The Financial Conduct Authority does not regulate tax advice. Tax treatment varies according to individual circumstances and is subject to change.

How well will you be able to retire?

You may need to review your retirement planning after updated figures show some increases of over 25% for retirement income needs.



Source: Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association, February 2024

How much income do you need in retirement?

If you find yourself struggling to answer, you are not alone. It is never easy to calculate as each of us has our own ideas about what we want from retirement. A study by the Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association (PLSA) has shown that 77% of savers did not know how much they would need, while only 16% could provide a figure.

Since 2019, research by Loughborough University for the PLSA has regularly addressed the 'how-much' question. The academics' assessment begins by considering three different retirement living standards, defined as:

- **Minimum:** Covers all your needs, with some left over for fun.
- **Moderate:** More financial security and flexibility.
- **Comfortable:** More financial freedom and some luxuries.



These categories are used to review spending across six broad areas, ranging from housing to helping others. They are costed separately for single people and couples and for London residents and those living elsewhere in the UK. For example, under the heading of holidays and leisure, the three standards currently assume:

- **Minimum:** One week-long UK holiday.
- **Moderate:** A fortnight 3* all-inclusive holiday in the Med and one long-weekend break in the UK.
- **Comfortable:** A fortnight 4* holiday in the Med with spending money and three long-weekend breaks in the UK.

The PLSA and the university annually update the yearly income requirements for each standard: the latest results are shown in the chart above. The income figures are net, which means at the higher levels, tax is a significant factor. For instance, the £45,000 of net income required to provide a comfortable retirement for a single person living in London equates to a pre-tax pension income of over £54,000.

Going up

This year's update revealed a 26.8% increase in the income needed for a couple based outside London to enjoy a moderate living standard. For a single person, the rise was even greater – 34.3%. The PLSA attributes the jump to two main factors.

- Firstly, higher food, household energy and motoring costs added disproportionately to the overall cost. That is a reminder that inflation is not evenly spread: in 2023 food inflation was double the overall rate of inflation.

- Secondly, there was what the PLSA described as “changes in the expectations of what should be included”. One example that the research interviews found was those in the moderate category, who felt they should budget for £1,000 a year to help family members as well as £100 a month to take family members out for a meal.

The current State pension of £11,502 is not even enough to cover the minimum retirement standard for a single person, although if a couple both have a full entitlement, it will just be sufficient – outside London. And, as has been the source of many complaints from the Women Against State Pension Inequality or WASPI group affected, the State pension does not now start until age 66, (67 from April 2028).

If you aspire to the fortnight in the Med rather than seven days of UK weather and/or hope to finish work before your State pension arrives, you need to accumulate sufficient personal retirement funds. Typically, that begins by assessing what you have already built up from current and previous employments and then working out how much extra is required by the time you retire. Like the difficult question about retirement income, it is a set of calculations best left to experts.

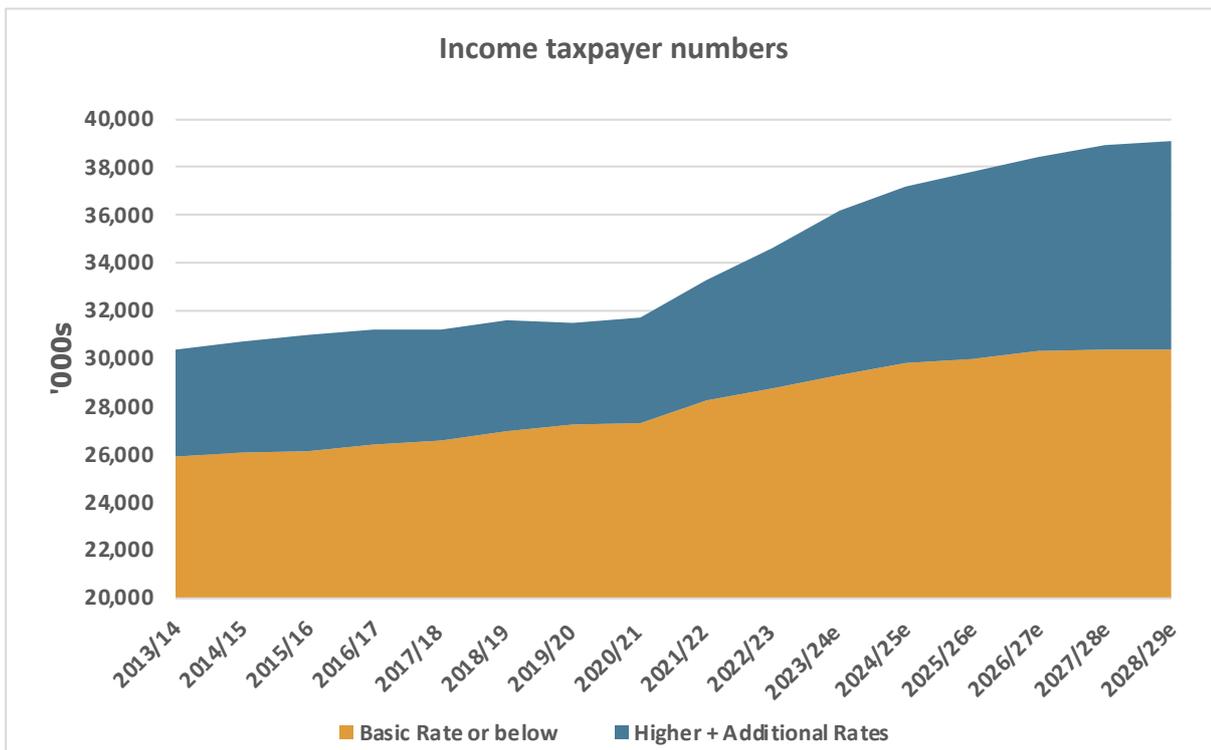
The value of your investment, and the income from it, can go down as well as up and you may not get back the full amount you invested.

Occupational pension schemes are regulated by The Pensions Regulator.

The Financial Conduct Authority does not regulate tax advice. Tax treatment varies according to individual circumstances and is subject to change.

Time to check in with HMRC?

Freezes and cuts to tax allowances mean that you may have something to report to HMRC.



Source: HMRC, OBR

A recent report from the National Audit Office (NAO) was highly critical of HMRC, noting that in 2022/23 its 'customers' (that's you) spent the equivalent of 798 years on hold, waiting for an HMRC adviser to answer their call. As bad, only 53% of calls were eventually answered by an adviser.

In its report, the NAO notes two reasons for HMRC experiencing an increased workflow:

1. Between 2019/20 and 2022/23, the number of income taxpayers increased by 10% and the number of higher rate taxpayers increased by 38%.
2. These band changes are partly responsible for individuals' tax affairs becoming more complex.

Unfortunately for HMRC's and its 'customers', matters are likely to worsen due to a combination of:

- the continued freeze in the personal allowance and higher rate tax threshold (both unchanged since April 2021);
- the two consecutive reductions in the dividend allowance and capital gains tax annual exempt amount; and
- higher interest rates: a personal savings allowance frozen since April 2016 leaves more savers having to pay tax on their interest.



If you are already within the self-assessment regime, then the extra tax liability will normally be dealt with via your tax return. However, if you (or your accountant) do not file a self-assessment return, things become more complicated.

No sleeping dogs

What you cannot do is ignore the situation and assume that if HMRC does not contact you, then you have nothing to worry about. If you have a tax liability, the law says you must pay it. Remember that HMRC automatically receives records of interest paid to you (from onshore accounts and, in nearly all cases, offshore accounts, too) as well as your earnings if you are an employee.

Stay silent and you may eventually receive a probing letter from HMRC. The end result could be that interest and penalties are added to overdue tax... and HMRC makes you a five-star customer, worthy of close attention.

Know your allowances band

This is the time to check whether you have a liability for last tax year (2023/24) as by now you should have received all the interest certificates and dividend vouchers that you are due. The personal savings allowance for last year (and this), covers £1,000 of interest for basic-rate taxpayers and £500 for higher-rate taxpayers. There is no allowance for those that pay the additional rate (which started at £125,140 of income in 2023/24, down from the £150,000 of previous years). The dividend allowance was £1,000 for 2023/24 and is just £500 for this tax year.

HMRC says you can report your investment income either via your HMRC Personal Tax Account, if you have one, or (bad news) by calling them. If you made capital gains above the annual exempt amount (£6,000 in 2023/24 and half that for this tax year) you must file a self-assessment return.

As for reducing the tax you pay in the future, why not give us a call? We promise not to leave you hanging.

The Financial Conduct Authority does not regulate tax advice. HMRC practice and the law relating to taxation are complex and subject to individual circumstances and changes which cannot be foreseen.

Don't fall for scams this summer

Make sure your finances don't get burnt this summer, as fraudsters set their sights on unwary holidaymakers. Action Fraud, which aims to prevent scams and cyber crime, says sun-seekers lost £12.3m last year from targeted frauds, with the average loss being £1,851.

People don't need to leave their home to fall victim to these scams. Many are 'holiday-booking' frauds, where scammers advertise fake accommodation or package deals, often at a bargain price. Booking via ATOL- or ABTA-registered companies can offer protection, with both organisations running websites that list registered travel agents and tour operators.

Spreading the net

It isn't just holidaymakers who need to be on their guard. Financial scams are rife, with fraudsters targeting bank accounts as well as pensions and savings. Phishing scams are among the most prevalent — where emails or texts are sent out, purportedly from a trusted company, typically encouraging people to disclose personal or financial details, or to visit a website which can download a virus onto their device to harvest further data.

Related to this are 'trusted organisation scams' or 'refund scams' where fraudsters contact people in the guise of a third party, such as HMRC or a utility company, claiming they owe money or are due a refund. These are used to persuade people to pay money to the scammers or trick them into disclosing passwords and bank details.

Investment scams are also unfortunately common. Here, fraudsters convince people to transfer pensions or other savings into schemes promising enticing returns, which they might claim are 'guaranteed'. Of course, these too-good-to-be-true investments turn out to be just that. At best, they are high-risk unregulated investments where there's a strong chance that savers will lose money. At worst, they are pyramid schemes where the money is never invested in the underlying assets but used to line the bank accounts of the criminals targeting unwary investors.

Hundreds of people fall victim to financial scams every year. Last year over 800 people contacted a dedicated helpline set up by the Money and Pensions Service (MaPS), with losses totalling £13.6m, an average of £16,297 per caller.

Protective action

Financial fraud is increasingly sophisticated, but there are steps you can take to help protect yourself. Before putting money into any investment or pension product run the details through ScamSmart investment checker. This alerts people to potential problems and offers a 'warning list' of unauthorised companies, including 'clone' companies that are impersonating regulated firms.

MaPS can also help. It offers free pension guidance through its MoneyHelper service and says nearly three-quarters of those using this service felt more confident about spotting a potential financial scam.

Think it through

Outside of this there are a few golden rules to bear in mind. Never be rushed into making a financial decision: a genuine opportunity will still be there next week. Similarly, be extremely wary of any third party contacting you and never disclose personal or financial details. If they claim to be from a company you deal with, ring back on the advertised customer helpline number — not any telephone number they give you. And finally, don't forget that if a deal looks too good to be true, it's probably a scam.



The cost of long-term sickness

If you are or become ill, state support remains minimal.

The previous Prime Minister attacked the UK's "sick note culture" in a speech on welfare in April. He proposed that sick notes (strictly now called "fitness to work notes") should be replaced with fit notes, issued not by doctors, but by health and work specialists. Mr Sunak lamented that a record 2.8 million people were out of work in February 2024, a figure which related to the number experiencing long-term sickness – another 206,000 were suffering temporary sickness. That is over three million potential benefit claims.

In the run up to the pandemic, the long-term sick population was fairly stable at two million, so there has been a significant jump in the last five years. That has added to government expenditure, one of the factors that concerned Mr Sunak. However, as many people discovered at the time of Covid-19, sickness benefits are far from generous:

- If you are an employee, statutory sick pay (SSP) is £116.75 a week, payable from day four of sickness for the first 28 weeks off work. Your employer may also provide sick pay but there is no legal requirement for them to do so.
- If you are self-employed, you do not qualify for SSP but must claim Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), which is also available to employees once their SSP payments cease. For a couple, the basic rate is generally £142.25 a week, to which there may be various additions. For a single person, the corresponding figure is £90.50.
- If either of these payments is insufficient to cover your living expenses, then the next port of call is Universal Credit (UC). However, this is unavailable if you (along with your partner) have savings of more than £16,000. Pass that hurdle and the assessment still takes account of your partner's income.

During the pandemic the government made some temporary enhancements to SSP and UC because of the financial difficulties their low level was causing, but these have now disappeared. An investigation earlier this year by the House of Commons Work and Pensions Committee was told SSP is set at "one of the lowest rates in Europe, if not the world".

Were you to become unable to work through illness, would you and your family be able cope on what the State provides? If the answer is no, or not for long, then talk to us about your income protection options now, so you can put safeguards in place.

Basis year now means tax year

Are you aware of the changes to the way your profits are taxed if you are self-employed or in a partnership?

An old trick of Chancellors who cannot raise tax rates but need more revenue is to accelerate the payment of tax. The latest example was announced in October 2021 with the claimed objective of creating “a simpler, fairer and more transparent set of rules for the allocation of trading income to tax years”. As usual, such a promise should be treated with caution.

April to April tax year

The change, which has now come into effect, means that for 2024/25, if you are self-employed (or a member of a partnership), you will generally be taxed on the profits made between 6 April 2024 and 5 April 2025. If your business's accounting year is different and its year end is not between 31 March and 4 April (all treated as 5 April), then generally:

- For 2024/25 you (or your accountant) will need to apportion two accounting periods to arrive at profit based on the tax year.
- For 2023/24 you will be taxed on:
 - the profit for your accounting period ending in that tax year; plus
 - the profits you make from the end of that period to 5 April 2024, calculated by apportionment.

The acceleration in 2023/24 is subject to two special treatments for the apportioned profits:

- They can be reduced by any overlap relief you have from earlier years.
- The apportioned profits less the overlap relief can be spread over a period of up to five tax years, with a 20% minimum applying for 2023/24.

Managing a higher tax bill

The extra taxable income could drag you into a higher tax band, or mean that your personal allowance becomes subject to tapering. However, you may be able to gain more tax relief by making pension contributions that offset some or all of the additional profit. For more advice on this and other planning opportunities created by the reform, please contact us.

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New tool for missing NICs

The government has launched a new web tool that allows people to check if there are gaps in their national insurance record, and ‘buy back’ missing years, to ensure they qualify for the full State pension.

The Check your State Pension tool is available via gov.uk or on HMRC’s app. Normally people can only make voluntary payments for the previous six years, but until April next year there is the opportunity to buy back years as far back as April 2006.

Under the new flat-rate State pension, introduced in 2016, people need to have paid NI payments for at least 35 years to get the full amount, currently worth £221.20 a week. The exact number of years depends on age, but this new tool shows people how many years they’ve paid to date, how many years they have missed, and what effect buying back additional years will have on their future pension entitlement.

Eastwood Private Clients

Our group sister company is an Insurance Broker providing bespoke personal insurance services to high net worth individuals and families.

A passionate and dedicated team, they strive to provide a professional and discreet service to their clients, sourcing and managing bespoke insurance portfolios to suit individual requirements.

Household cover

They shelter what is most important to you, offering enhanced levels of cover from standard insurance markets and with ability to include second and additional homes under the same umbrella.

Are you a collector? From fine arts, antiques and jewellery to fine wines and more niche collections the Eastwood Private Clients team are able to provide your luxury items with the protection they deserve.

The importance of understanding each client's unique lifestyle and insurance requirements is vital; home visits to discuss these matters are a crucial and valued part of the service offered, extending to include in-person support during complimentary insurer appraisals.

Motor Cover

Offering benefits not often available in standard motor insurance markets, their wide-ranging cover options provide comprehensive protection for your loved ones. The process of securing the right solution does not have to be complex and time-consuming; why not enjoy a single family fleet policy that goes the extra mile and can include benefits such as:

- No blame bonus
- European breakdown
- Choice of own repairer
- Any authorised driver
- Comprehensive 'driving other cars' extension
- Agreed value
- Excess waiver

Aside from household and motor insurance they also offer solutions for less familiar policy needs including your marine, aviation and bloodstock requirements.

When it comes to claims you will receive first class support with their claims concierge service which includes attendance at any visit from a Loss Adjuster and ongoing assistance with insurer negotiations in order to achieve the best possible solution for you.

Get in touch

W eastwoodprivateclients.co.uk

E enquiries@eastwoodprivateclients.co.uk

T 01484 820022

 EASTWOOD PRIVATE CLIENTS
INSURANCE  BROKERS



News round up

Annuities regain popularity

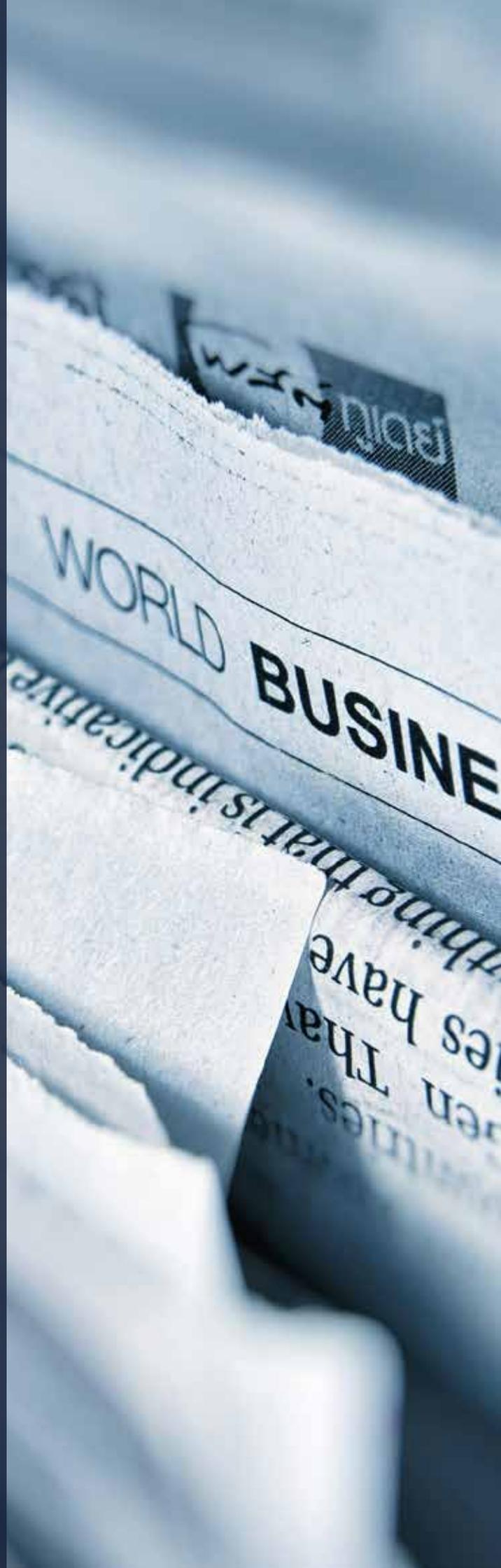
Data from the Association of British Insurers shows that in 2023, pension annuity sales jumped by 46%, taking them back to the level of 2014, before pension flexibility began. Annuities' new popularity reflects the more attractive rates on offer, thanks to the rise in long-term interest rates.

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.

Interest rate cut hopes recede

At the start of 2024, the expectation was that the Bank of England would cut rates six times (to 3.75%) by the end of the year. By May, the experts were pencilling in two cuts by December, although the IMF thinks there could be three. The changed outlook reflects continued inflation risks, even with the CPI inflation yardstick hitting 2% in May. One worrying factor for the Bank of England is earnings growth, still at around 6%.





Race For Life

At Eastwood Financial Services we regularly support national and local charities, in particular, the Overgate Hospice and Yorkshire Air Ambulance and we have also recently supported Elsa's Arc and Macmillan Cancer Support.

This year four of our colleagues volunteered to join Race for Life to help raise funds for Cancer Research UK.

Bev Stevens, Daniella Powell, Elyn Hanlon and Faisal Razzaq ran, walked and danced the Leeds 10K at Temple Newsam on 12 May 2024.

They started their fundraising by holding a bake sale. Bev provided the baked goods, charged her colleagues to indulge and managed to raise £80. Daniella, Elyn and Faisal also held a savoury bake sale

providing pizza rolls, sausage rolls, pastry twists as well as a few sweet treats and raised a further £160.

With additional sponsorship and donations the team raised a total of £1,299 for Cancer Research UK and we are all proud of their achievement.

Getting to know the people behind the business

In previous editions, we have introduced you to our directors, adviser team and more recently our team leaders. In the next few editions, we will introduce you to our hard working internal team who beaver away behind the scenes! We are very proud of our colleagues who all work collectively to make it all come together and it's a delight to help you learn more about the people behind our business.



ELLYN HANLON

Private Client Administrator

What is a typical day for you?

I come to the office for 9am, and my day usually starts with asking everyone how they are and if they've had a nice weekend then, the real work begins.

First job is to check what I have on and what I can get done in a day, some days are far busier which bring its challenges. When the clock strikes 5, I usually head to the gym or the nearest park and to do a run then, home for tea. I'm rather lucky, my partner is a chef!

How do you spend your weekend?

A few of us in the office recently signed up to run 10K in aid of Cancer Research, in the build up to the big day, I took training rather seriously but found a joy for running and have since taken this up as a hobby, I go to my local Park Run on Saturday mornings. After that, I like to spend time seeing family and friends. Sundays are 'anything can happen days', it can be all or nothing.

Are you more of a bookworm or a film buff?

Film buff, without a doubt, but I do love a good book. My top 10 films are a mixed bag of genres, just absolutely no horror films! I love the Lord of The Rings, but also love Disney's Beauty and the Beast. The last book I read was called The Fire of Joy by Clive James, it's a selection of poems, a very gentle read.

Can you describe your perfect holiday?

I'm happy with anything! I love to sit in the sun for 16 hours a day by the beach, Factor 50 always applied, or a busy city break with a few coffees and cake stops! I'm rather fortunate to be jet setting around this year. City break to Frankfurt, a girl's holiday to Benalmadena followed by a lovely 2 weeks away to South Africa with friends, I can't wait!

What are your hopes for the months ahead?

Within work, I hope to be settled in my new role as part of the Annual Review team, creating valuation reports for all clients. Outside of work, I signed up to the Manchester Marathon so I hope I can complete that!



KELLY NOAKES

Independent Financial Adviser

What is a typical day for you?

I get up around 6.30am, get my youngest son ready for school, then take him to breakfast club before heading into the office at 8am. My days can be varied with a mixture of client meetings, annual reviews, a variety of training and networking.

After work, I like to go home cook dinner and spend some time with my children, then in the evening I like to watch something on tv with my husband and a glass of wine.

How do you spend your weekend?

At the weekend I enjoy socialising with my family and friends. I also catch up with housework and washing.

Are you more of a bookworm or a film buff?

If I had to choose it would be film buff, but I'm not really bothered about either, apart from snuggling up with my kids and watching a film of their choice.

Can you describe your perfect holiday?

Anywhere that has nice weather and caters for all ages. Last year me and my family went to San Antonio Bay in Ibiza, it was brilliant, the perfect holiday for all the family. I do also like to go camping within this country for a few nights away with the kids.

What are your hopes for the months ahead?

Spend more time with family and friends. To see more stability in the financial markets. And lastly health, wealth and happiness for all clients, family, and friends.



PAUL OWEN
Employee Benefits Specialist

What is a typical day for you?

I get an early start as my adjusted hours have me beginning my working day at 8am. My routine is still one of getting up and out of the house as I work out of my Mam's spare bedroom, so I still have some structure to my mornings. When it comes to jobs, the first thing I do is comb through emails that have arrived since the end of the previous day and dealing with them accordingly and then tackling all the tasks scheduled for the day. These can span all Group Risk products and any aspects of their administration coming from either the client, provider or internally from colleagues.

How do you spend your weekend?

Weekends tend to be split in two as my partner, Stuart, only ever gets Sunday off from work so we try and keep that day for us. We often look to have the day out somewhere or get lunch or potter around the garden weather permitting. On Saturdays I try and get any jobs around the house done or get any shopping in we need although, recently, I have had to take a step back due to a health issue with rest and recuperation having to be my main focus which is a problem as I'm not great at sitting and doing nothing.

Are you more of a bookworm or a film buff?

I am both. I am never without four or five books on the go which more often than not are historical fact. I do have too many books but can't resist picking up a new one whenever I find myself in a bookshop having a mooch around. This interest crosses over to films although I do enjoy a good sci-fi and scary horror also piques my interest! When it comes to favourites, I think 'Once Upon A Time in America' and 'Cinema Paradiso' top my list as I'm a bit of a romantic and they both have sublime soundtracks.

Can you describe your perfect holiday?

Holidays, well, as soon as we are back from one, I am planning the next one or the one after that! I can't wait to get away. A favourite is Portugal – so affordable and interesting and the people are so friendly, welcoming and generous. Our last trip in March this year was to Madeira which was exceptional and somewhere I would definitely return to. Before the end of this year, we are off to Croatia and Malta with Rome scheduled in for March 2025 – we can't wait.

We're not for sitting still when away and lazing beside a pool or on a beach holds no interest at all. I'm too interested in 'living like a local' and seeking out interesting places to see and visit. We always make sure we find out about where we are going, to understand the destination and know where we want to go and what we want to see.

What are your hopes for the months ahead?

I'm hoping to continue to recover from a recent operation and heart attack at the very end of 2023. This year has therefore, to date, not been great as we also lost our rescue cat, Toffee in May. At the time of writing, it is rest and recuperation that are my priorities and perhaps a reduced working week could be on the cards, but who knows.

Generally, it would be a better world if we could see the end of the conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza and the West Bank.



DANIELLA POWELL
Trainee Employee Benefits
Consultant

What is a typical day for you?

At the moment I am transitioning from paraplanning to corporate services, so my daily activities are quite diverse. My days consist of writing reports, developing our use of dynamic planner and training for my new role as an employee benefits consultant. I am currently studying for my diploma in financial advice so I often have my head in my RO1 book whenever I can. After work I am often out with friends or family as I am a people person and a foodie so I will take any opportunity to chat and have a nice meal. I luckily also love the gym, so I often find myself there.

How do you spend your weekend?

I live on my own, so a lot of my weekend is filled with housework sadly and caring for my little bunny Rupert. However, in between that I love to have fun with friends going on day trips, we recently did a day in Lincolnshire which was lovely. My grandparents are currently renovating a property so I help them out in any way I can, my grandad recently enlisted me to dig a trench for a pipe which was not much fun in the summer heat. Me and my colleagues have recently completed the 10k and 5k race for life races, so I am now regularly running to improve my pace. I try to keep up a balanced lifestyle and always make time for a good laugh and chat with those around me.

Are you more of a bookworm or a film buff?

I love a good comedy film like Weekend at Bernie's or a film that makes you think such as Vanilla Sky or Inception. I don't get much time for reading books unfortunately but when I do I enjoy a good dystopian novel or history book as I am curious to learn about events such as WW2 and the cold war.

Can you describe your perfect holiday?

Anywhere with a pool, some good food and good company. Preferably Greece for a nice Gyros, Kos has been my favourite so far. I am going on a ski holiday in December for the first time ever so hopefully that is as much fun as sipping cocktails on the beach!

What are your hopes for the months ahead?

I hope to see the cost-of-living crisis eased so everyone can start to live a happier more financially free life full of happiness and good health.



Giving you financial freedom

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

www.eastwoodfinancial.co.uk

Pennine House, Lowfields Close, Lowfields Business Park, Elland HX5 9DA

Tel 01422 377 737 Email office@eastwoodfinancial.co.uk

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