

A stylized landscape illustration in shades of blue and teal. The top right features a large sun with rays extending across the sky. The sky is filled with several small birds in flight. In the middle ground, there are rolling hills and a prominent building with a tall chimney. The bottom of the image shows a dark, silhouetted foreground with rounded shapes representing bushes or trees.

THE HAPPY VALLEY OF HUDDERSFIELD

Autumn 2014
Edition 4

sheards
Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors

A teal-colored curved line graphic located below the Sheards logo text.

Welcome



We hope you've all enjoyed the summer sport; there have been lots of excuses to get friends and family together and have a celebration - especially with Le Tour on our doorstep!

Let's take a step back and reflect on how lucky we are to live in such a wonderful part of the world. The rest of the country is waking up to the fact that it's not so grim up north

with Huddersfield being quoted as 'one of the happiest places to live in the UK', TV shows such as Happy Valley being set in the area and Le Tour in Yorkshire putting us under the spotlight.

So what makes Huddersfield a great place to do business? See the inside spread for our view on Happy Huddersfield.

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Welcome to the friendly face of accountancy

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RTI UPDATE

HMRC reported that 86% of those expected to submit RTI during April 2014 filed their final Full Payment Submissions via payroll software fully and on time. HMRC are looking to make contact to all PAYE schemes who are not submitting in real time yet and penalties may be applied, although the date for this has been extended to 6th March 2015 for businesses with under 50 employees. If you haven't made your arrangements get in touch with us and we'll guide you through it.

March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

AUTO ENROLMENT

AUTO ENROLMENT UPDATE

Money Marketing has reported that up to a third of employers who should have set up auto enrolment schemes have failed to do so. SMEs will begin the process in 2015 with full enrolment in place by 2017. However, if you're a new business set up after 2012 then you have longer to go through the process.

32,000 SMEs are due to reach their staging date from April 2014 to April 2015. If this figure includes you and are unsure of how to proceed, call Sheards today to arrange an appointment with one of our pension specialists.

HELPING LOCAL BUSINESS HOWARTHS

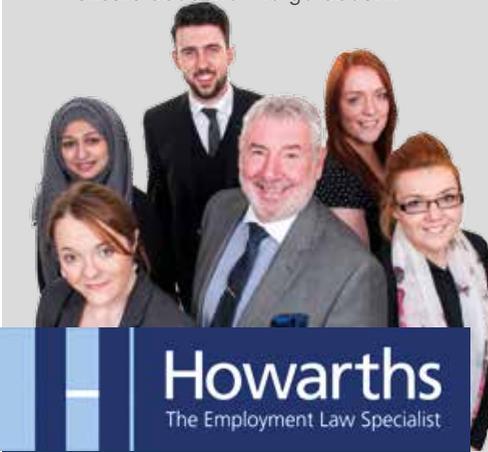
When Howarths People and Safety Management became clients of Sheards in 2012 they were aware of the need for financial planning for the business, but were unsure about how to go about it.

By working closely with the directors at Howarths, Sheards put in place financial reporting tools for the business that enables them to measure performance against targets, and make accurate projections for the future.

Managing director Gavin Howarth has been delighted with the changes put in place:

"Sheards have given us invaluable support to help our business grow. They have listened to our needs and developed a financial reporting system, which suits our goals and objectives, giving us a much better understanding of the current and future performance of the business. This has had enormous benefits for us in making decisions about our future."

We can help you too to understand the current and future performance of your business. Get in touch to arrange a meeting.



WELCOME TO HAPPY HUDDERSFIELD

A survey by Rightmove of over 25,000 homeowners found that Huddersfield was the third happiest place to live in the UK. The survey covered 12 measurements of happiness including safety and neighbourliness and the size and conditions of their properties.

Professor Dave Taylor, Huddersfield University's Dean of International Development commented "I'm not surprised that Huddersfield was number three overall. People in Huddersfield are very friendly and as many of our international students will tell you, it's a lovely place to live and study".

POSITIVE SIGNS ARE EVERYWHERE:

- **House prices on the up** - The average house price in Huddersfield stands at £155,000, up 4% on 2013.
- **Local business thrives here** - You only have to look to Lindley, Holmfirth and Slaithwaite to see that local business in Huddersfield is really thriving with their own mini high streets offering superb restaurants, shops and bars.
- **Big buyouts** - The Business Desk reported that the second quarter of 2014 has seen the highest number of business buyouts in Yorkshire since the beginning of 2008, worth £265m (data supplied from the Centre for Management Buyout Research).
- **Clegg champions the North** - In his speech at the International Festival for Business in July, Nick Clegg championed the economic development of Northern cities. The plans include extending the powers of local leaders, giving them access to a £12bn worth of funding to create jobs, build homes and kick-start economic projects.
- **Rumours that HS2 is coming to town** - Improved infrastructure could make the town more accessible for business, commuters and tourists.
- **Yorkshire folk** - Are known to be friendly and proud, but the huge support for the Tour de France really demonstrated their commitment and loyalty to all things local.

FÉLICITATIONS YORKSHIRE!

The Tour de France stages in Yorkshire have been named the "grandest" opening to the race in its history, according to the race's director Christian Prudhomme, commenting that the turnout of people was "unbelievable, incredible, amazing, astonishing."



So what did this mean for local business?

For those businesses lucky enough to sit on the route it meant they got to enjoy a share of 2.5 million people on their doorstep, and for the region, The Yorkshire Post has reported that the economic impact has passed the £100m mark.

Arif Ahmad, PwC's senior partner in Leeds, when speaking with The Yorkshire Post said: "The Grand Depart will have done this region immeasurable good in terms of confidence. There will be an inevitable boost to tourism and the economy."

HMRC'S BUY TO LET PROPERTY CAMPAIGN

Do you let out property? Are you declaring your letting income to HMRC? If not, you could owe tax. You must make a voluntary disclosure for each property you let, this also applies to letting rooms and holiday lets.

HMRC is targeting tax evasion by residential landlords so if you are unsure of how this affects you or you don't know how to make a voluntary disclosure, Sheards Landlord Tax Service is here to help, prices start from just £150 + VAT.



PUT YOUR GENERAL KNOWLEDGE TO THE TEST FOR THE FORGET ME NOT TRUST

Join us on **Thursday 6 November** at Huddersfield RUFC for the Sheards Forget Me Not Charity Quiz Night. All you need is a team of four and a £50 entry fee per team. It's certain to be a fun night with lots of friendly competition, a delicious hot supper and great prizes to be won. Get in touch and sign up a team today and help us raise lots of cash for the **Forget Me Not Trust**, to support children with life shortening conditions in our region.

A VERY WARM WELCOME

We're delighted to introduce **Jen Moffatt** and **Louise O'Connor** to our Accounts Team, seen here with **Carolyn Atkinson**. Jen and Louise are excited to be looking after accounts for our limited companies and unincorporated business clients.



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SHEARDS – EATON SMITH, BUSINESS OF THE MONTH WINNER!

We're delighted to have recently been awarded the Eaton Smith Business of the Month.

The judges chose Sheards as Business of the Month winner for our proven **track record in the local business community and for our charity work**. They were also impressed by our growth within the business and the range of services we offer. They noted our investment in staff through commitment to staff training, apprenticeships and our volunteer work via the MYCCI Mentor Scheme.

Kevin says "At Sheards we are proud of our long history but are equally passionate about delivering a service that meets the requirements of today's businesses. We are therefore delighted to have been awarded Business of the Month and that our hard work and dedication to our clients, employees and wider community has been recognised".



LET'S GET ORGANISED AND MAKE TAX EFFICIENT CHRISTMAS PLANS

The summer is only just over and yet we're talking about Christmas! But for good reason – you could make tax savings for any Christmas treats you are planning for your employees.

Did you know you can spend £150 per staff member incurring no tax? You can apply the exemption from tax, NICs and reporting if you can meet the following three conditions:

- An annual event, such as a Christmas party or summer barbeque
- The event is open to all of your employees
- The cost per head is less than £150

If you're unsure how to make the most of this benefit, get in touch with one of our friendly team.



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CELEBRATING THE TOUR DE YORKSHIRE WITH KIRKWOOD HOSPICE



TOUGH MUDDERS!

The Sheards team took part in Tough Mudders, a 11 mile obstacle course designed to test all-around strength, stamina, teamwork, and mental grit, raising funds jointly for Help for Heroes and Forget Me Not charities.

Thank you to all those that attended our super hospitality event, held in the prime location of the foot of Holme Moss, for the second day of the Tour de France. With your support and the assistance of Sheards £13,254 was raised for Kirkwood Hospice.



Contact us

Whether you're a new start up, keen to expand or looking to make your internal processes more efficient, **the team at Sheards would be happy to help you.**

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