

Armstrong Wat's On Leeds

Armstrong Watson's newsletter - Autumn edition

Welcome



Following on from our first newsletter thanks to all our clients and business partners who have told me how much they valued getting to know more about what the Armstrong Watson team do when they are not in the office. I do hope you enjoy our second newsletter.

In the last 3 months we have been very active - John Booth has cycled the length of the UK, Andrew Kilby has helped raise £50,000 at the Prince's Trust Fashion Dinner, the team had a very successful seminar at the Yorkshire Mafia Festival of Business event, co hosted the reenergised "The Lunch" event with York Place Company Services and exhibited at the very well attended Brand Yorkshire Event in Harrogate.

There does appear to be growing confidence within the Leeds City Region and it is even more evident that Armstrong Watson are increasingly involved in the Leeds business community and I'd like to think we can contribute to the overall prosperity of this great city.

Please get in touch with me if I can in any way assist you in working with Armstrong Watson.

Simon

Simon Palmer, Partner

£50,000 Fashion Dinner Fundraiser

Armstrong Watson helped raise £50,000 for the Prince's Trust, find out about this glamorous event inside...

Lands end to John O'Groats

John Booth cycled 977 miles in 9 days and raised over £3,500 for charity. Hear about his challenge!

Suits and Vinyl - the lowdown

Get the lowdown on this quirky networking event in Leeds

Workplace Pensions
- Important stuff
you need to know!

Under the spotlight



Steven Holmes

Tax Consultant

Steven Holmes has worked for Armstrong Watson since October 2005, qualifying as a Chartered Tax Adviser exactly three years later.

He specialises in claiming Research and Development relief for clients and is really passionate about this, as it involves working with some really interesting companies and people.

He is also excited about the new patent box tax relief as this will mean even more tax savings for some fantastic companies!

One of Steven's goals is to visit every state in the USA. So far he has visited 13 states and on his most recent visit he proposed to Danielle Vaughan, another Armstrong Watson employee, in Central Park in New York – eliciting cheers from American bystanders. (She said yes, in case you were wondering!). His favourite states so far are the Southern states, such as Alabama and Louisiana, as the people are so friendly and fun and the food is phenomenal.

Something you may not know about Steven is that he used to be a fishmonger in his gap year! He absolutely loved it – because of both the great colleagues he worked with and the banter with the regulars. A massive downside however was the smell meaning he had to spend half his wages on soap!

Interviewed by:

Emily Duffy,
Assistant Tax Consultant



Helen Tansley

Client telephone advisor
and mortgage advisor

Helen joined Armstrong Watson in May 2011 as a client telephone advisor for the financial planning arm of the business. Since September 2012 Helen has extended her role to include supplying mortgage advice for our clients.

On 30 September 2012 Helen took part in the Armstrong Watson "Walking The Wall" team. Together with her husband and niece she completed the 11 miles in the pouring rain to raise money for Tynedale Hospice at Home. Colleagues, clients, friends and family walked the whole length of Hadrian's Wall in one day. Those taking up the challenge took an 8-12 mile stretch of the wall to walk, with teams setting off from various starting points along the wall, enabling the entire wall to be walked in just one day.

At the moment Helen is studying for a Diploma in Financial Planning. This combined with looking after her two children (Emily and Jack) keeps Helen busy but she likes to enjoy herself by going out with friends, planning parties and going to the gym. Although she has admitted to losing her boxing gloves and skipping rope so hasn't been for a while!

Interviewed by:

Helen Booth,
Corporate Manager



Andrew Byram

Business Services Manager

Andrew Byram has been part of the Leeds office of Armstrong Watson for nearly fifteen years. In 2005 Andrew started running as a means to keep fit. Seven years later, he has completed 9 marathons including Dublin, Edinburgh, London, Belfast, Liverpool, and New York (with a personal best of 3.14).

If that wasn't enough, Andrew has also completed the Great North Run seven times, with a personal best this year of 1:29, together with numerous 10k's. When not running and in his spare time, Andrew's passion is Rugby League. He is Secretary/Treasurer for Thornhill Trojans and is also a big Dewsbury Rams fan, following them home and away since the mid 1980's. In recent seasons he also travelled with the team to games and provided match analysis for the coaching staff in the form of statistics – a true Accountant! Andrew is also a member of Englandfans and was in Poland for the World Cup Qualifier. Andrew can also list being a member of CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) as one of his many hobbies and looks forward to his annual trips to Dublin to sample the Guinness... which he will no doubt need after all the above!

Interviewed by:

Lucy Sutcliffe,
Corporate Recovery and
Insolvency Manager

Armstrong Watson sponsor Prince's Trust Fashion Dinner

Raising over £50,000

By Dave Clarkson, Commercial Director

Armstrong Watson Financial Planning and Wealth Management were proud sponsors of the Prince's Trust Fashion Dinner on Thursday 11th October at Aspire in Leeds raising over £50,000 for their programmes across Yorkshire & Humber to support deprived young people into work, education or training.

Internationally renowned fashion designer Zandra Rhodes and Harvey Nichols Leeds teamed up to preview their latest collections at the glittering evening. Zandra Rhodes vintage pieces have long been collected by Tom Ford and Anna Sui and worn by Ashley Olsen, Kate Moss and Naomi Campbell. Harvey Nichols Leeds displayed clothing from its latest menswear ranges and Ultimo displayed their latest lingerie collection.

This prestigious sold out event started with an exclusive Laurent Perrier champagne reception, followed by a three-course dinner and a stunning catwalk show.

Andrew Kilby, Managing Director of Armstrong Watson Financial Planning & Wealth Management, said: "The Fashion Dinner is one of the highlights of The Trust's fundraising calendar. We are delighted to have teamed up with them to support what was a truly once in a lifetime experience and raise money to help change the lives of young people in Yorkshire and The Humber."



Lands end to John O'Groats

By John Booth, Partner

I am delighted to say that I succeeded in cycling the 977 miles from Lands End to John O'Groats in 9 Days – it wasn't a race and I certainly took in as much scenery as I could but I'm also pleased to report that I did finish in a credible 126 place out of about 600.

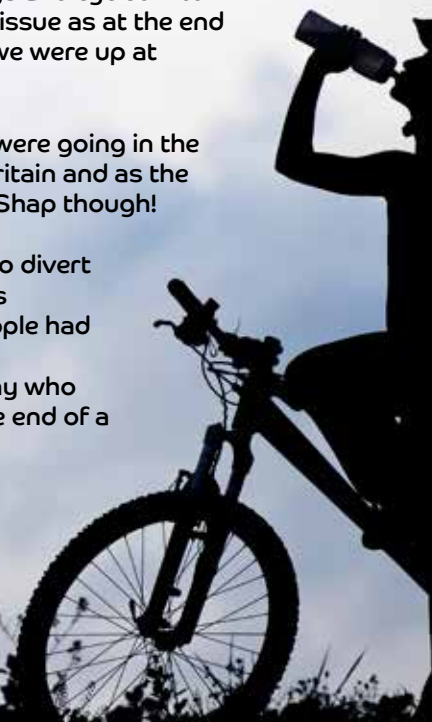
I'm also delighted to say that at the moment (including gift aid) I have raised £3,592 for The National Deaf Children's Society and the money is still coming in. A heart felt thanks for your sponsorship which really kept me going through the tough moments – I was genuinely touched by all of the support from everyone.

So what were the highs and lows. We started at Lands End and the first 2 days were particularly tough. Cheddar Gorge is a memorable place for me – last time I went up it was on a family holiday and I heard Sir Geoff Boycott score the run that took him to his hundredth hundred in test cricket!! That day we were joined by Lewis Moody and Danny Grewcock and we had showered and changed by the time I cheered them in. We got soaked on a couple of days and cycled into a really strong head wind on a couple which was particularly tough. Camping wasn't an issue as at the end of most days I would have slept standing up – my earliest to bed was 7.30pm but then we were up at 5.00am each day.

I also have the claim to fame of cycling past Mark Cavendish and Bradley Wiggins – we were going in the opposite direction though. We arrived in Kendal about half an hour before the Tour of Britain and as the streets were lined with people got a tremendous welcome – we then had to climb up to Shap though!

The longest day was meant to be 127 miles but due to a land slide on the route we had to divert and it became 135. Over all it was a really memorable experience and looking back it was enjoyable – many lessons learnt and it was certainly a challenge . Some of the bikes people had cost more than my car but as my mate Simon who I was doing it with kept saying – "Its not about the bike John" – no it's the man on the bike. Threshold Sport the company who organised it have a slogan which is "More is in You" and we certainly drew on that at the end of a hard day in the saddle . (By the way I can recommend Chamois cream to cycle with and Sudacreme for post cycling.)

Thanks once again for the support and I look forward to boring you with more stories and possibly pictures over a beer or two!





Suits and Vinyl Event

By Amit Champaneri
Campaign Manager

The second Suits & Vinyl event took place on Friday 28th September attracting over 60 business professionals to Mook Bar in Leeds City Centre.

The brainchild of Simon Palmer, Partner at Armstrong Watson's Leeds office and David Jones, Partner at Reward Capital, the unique format of Suits & Vinyl is simple – anyone who is into music, networking, wears a suit and likes a few drinks can bring their vinyl and have it played at the event by a DJ straight after work. Some of the vinyl that were played on the night included classic tracks by Joy Division, Queen, Thin Lizzy, Prince, Bad Company and Devine.

For more information on future events and to get involved in the discussion, join the Suits and Vinyl group on LinkedIn. The next event will be taking place in the new year at a venue in Leeds so come join us and don't forget your vinyl!



Workplace Pensions - Important Changes

By Andy Kilby, Managing Director Armstrong Watson Financial Planning Ltd.

New legislation which came into effect on 1st October 2012 has introduced mandatory auto enrolment into a workplace pension by employers on behalf of their employees, virtually without exception.

Employers are not able to escape this legislation, which is the first step towards the Government's aim of passing more of the burden of providing pension benefits from the State and onto the workplace.

Mandatory contribution levels have been set for both employers and employees, however, the legislation does allow for a gradual phasing of contributions.

It is estimated that more than 750,000 businesses in the UK do not currently meet the requirements of the new legislation, including many employers who already operate what they consider to be generous retirement benefit schemes.

It is probable that most employers will need help, support and guidance with regard to the changes in order to consider:

- 1- The basis of contribution to employee's pensions.
- 2- Whether any existing schemes are adequate to meet the new requirements.
- 3- If a new scheme is required, whether the default National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) or an alternative scheme is most suitable for both the business and their employees.

It is therefore important that businesses start to review their individual situation to allow time to reach the most suitable solution to meet the minimum requirements of the new legislation, along with individual requirements for both the business and employees.

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