

Summer Newsletter



We are pleased to announce some exciting developments within our company.

Two new advisers have joined us, each bringing their own particular areas of expertise, and two new services are being launched to the market.

Shirley Skeels



A graduate in French and Spanish, Shirley started her financial services career with the Yorkshire Bank and then moved to Royal Life as a consultant. She set up her own IFA business in 1998 specialising in lifestyle financial planning for ladies. She joined Sense Financial Solutions in January 2009 and is currently studying for advanced pensions qualifications with a view to specialising in Pensions and Divorce work.

Shirley lives on the north-east outskirts of Nottingham with her partner, two children, aged 13 & 16, and three dogs. Her hobbies include riding, walking and socialising.

Steve Buttercase

Steve has recently joined Sense and, having been an IFA since 1998, is a strong believer in Financial Planning as the basis for financial success measured by Lifetime Cash Flow Management. He specializes in Investments and Pensions and is qualified to AFPC level CII Diploma. He is currently studying for Chartered Status.

Steve lives in Needingworth, Cambridgeshire, and is married to Amanda with four children, Joanna, Jack, Samantha and Charlotte. He is a regular contributor to



Money Marketing, New Model Adviser and Money Management and frequently makes appearances on TV and Radio as a student of Financial History – Booms, Crashes and Economic Roller coasters! His claim to fame; a moderately successful musician in the eighties and still playing today!

Steve has joined Sense because “the company has traditional, client-centred values of inclusion, fairness and service and represents and embraces everything good about Financial Planning in the twenty-first century.”

Our New Services

The Sense Financial Plan

At Sense Financial Solutions we are now able to offer a fully comprehensive, tailored advice service which takes a holistic approach to your finances, evaluating every aspect of your money and financial products. This type of financial planning is usually undertaken on a fixed fee basis. Our lifestyle financial planning service offers a full financial review including an assessment of your net worth, protection plans, pensions, savings and investments, mortgages, and estate planning and inheritance tax position. After careful analysis we summarise these in terms of appropriateness, cost-effectiveness and efficiency and provide advice on wealth management, pension and retirement planning, investment portfolio management and estate preservation and inheritance tax planning. We will help you to set targets and objectives in order to build an integrated financial strategy and plan for the future.

[Click here](#) for more details

The Sense Pension Audit Service

From our experience we have found that many clients who have invested their hard earned money into pension plans are frustrated by not knowing whether their plans will generate the funds they need for retirement. They are often concerned by year to year performance and yet don't really understand in what they are invested. They rarely review their pension investments and don't give enough attention to pension performance. If your pension arrangements are managed poorly, they are unlikely to achieve the level of performance which will give you freedom and financial security in your retirement. It is important to take charge of your pension plan sooner rather than later before it is too late. Acting now could make a huge difference. We will show you what you can do to improve your pension arrangements, enhance their performance and achieve your retirement goal.

[Click here](#) for more details

The 2009 Budget

We thought it would be helpful, now that the dust has settled on the recent elections, to remind you of some of the main points of the Chancellor's March budget that may have some impact for our individual clients.

Unmarried Couples

UK tax legislation relating to capital gains tax (CGT) and inheritance tax (IHT) is biased in favour of marriage or Civil Partnership. The recent Budget has done nothing to change this. If you are committed to a long term life partnership with another individual, and you are not married or in Civil Partnership, the opportunities to mitigate CGT and or IHT are limited.

High Earning Taxpayers

From the 2010-11 tax year, earnings over £150,000 will be subject to a new income tax rate of 50%. This replaces the measures announced in the Pre-Budget Report which would have been 45% applying from the 2011-12 tax year. Additionally higher earners personal tax allowances will taper down by £1 for every £2 earned above £100,000.

Tax on Trusts

As from 2010-2011 tax year the income tax rate applicable to most trusts will increase to 50% and at the same time the rate applying to trustee dividend income will increase to 42.5%.

Stamp Duty

The stamp duty "holiday" for homes up to £175,000 is to be extended to the end of 2009.

State Pensions

The Chancellor has confirmed that he is committed to increasing state pension by 2.5% next year, whatever happens to the RPI.

ISAs

The annual limit is increased to £10,200, half of which can be in cash. Over 50s will benefit this tax year from 6 October and everyone else will see the increase from 6 April 2010.

"You know it makes sense"