

# Bulletin

May  
2013

## The St George's Day Lunch 2013—Sponsored by Clydesdale Bank At Sopwell House hotel on Friday 19th April 2013



President Peter Goodman with David Clarke, Clydesdale Bank



Matt Adams with Terry Waite CBE



Bob Stephen, Paul Rosenthal & Spike Brown

View all the photos taken by Spike Brown on his designated Public Community Facebook Page "Spike Snaps"



Kathryn Rayden, Kuldip Chohan & Lisa Bates



Cllr. Geoff Harrison., Lawrence Levy & John McGowan



Alastair Woodgate

# We are Moving...



...to brand new offices on Holywell Hill, St Albans

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- **Speed Networking Evening**  
*Tuesday 21st May 6pm*  
*Venue : The Bistro, Westminster Lodge*  
**Hosted by : June Cory, My Mustard**  
**£20.00**  
**BOOK NOW ONLINE**
- **Business Breakfast with iOD**  
*Wednesday 12th June 7.30am*  
*Venue : St Michael's Manor Hotel*  
**£21 + VAT all attendees**  
**BOOK NOW ONLINE**
- **Business Breakfast**  
*Wednesday 10th July 7.30am*  
*Venue : Brasserie Blanc*  
**£21 Members £26 Non Member**  
**BOOK NOW ONLINE**



# Company Cars and how they affect your tax position

Employees pay tax on company benefits like cars, accommodation and loans. The amount of tax due depends on the value of the benefits that you get.

Employees will always pay tax on benefits from their employer if they are a company director or earn £8,500 a year or more (including the value of the benefits).

A company car benefit arises if a car is made available to an employee (or their family/ household) for private use. If fuel is provided for the company car, a company car fuel benefit is also incurred. The employee is then taxed on the benefits calculated and the employer pays National Insurance on them.

## How are Company Car Benefits calculated?

A company car benefit is based on a car's list price for tax purposes (generally list price plus accessories, less capital contribution) and its official CO2 emission figure.

Using a table provided by HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC), the official CO2 figure for the car is converted to an appropriate percentage and applied to the list price for tax purposes to determine the company car taxable benefit charge for the year.

Private fuel benefit is calculated in a similar manner to the company car benefit. A car fuel benefit charge multiplier (set by the Government) is multiplied by the same percentage used to calculate the company car taxable benefit.

How much personal tax has to be paid on the benefits depends on the income tax bracket the employee/ director falls into.

## Company car benefits in 2013/14

Below are the current rates applicable to company cars during the 2013/14 tax year:

The lowest appropriate percentages are 0% and 5%. However, 10% now applies to cars with CO2 emissions of 76g/km to 94g/km. Previously in 2012/13, this band extended to 95g/km

Thereafter, the appropriate percentages will increase by 1% in 5g/km increments for all cars with CO2 emissions between 95g/km to 215g/km, up to the normal maximum of 35g/km

The car fuel benefit charge multiplier increases from £20,200 to £21,100

## Help is at hand

Mike Melling and the TaxAssist Accountants team can talk you through the various tax implications of your next vehicle purchase, from income tax, to capital allowances, to VAT, which will ensure you make an informed decision. We can also look at the implications of you making personal contributions towards the provision of your company car, the vehicle's availability and the possibility of 'sharing' the vehicle with colleagues or your family members.

There are also tax planning opportunities with regards to how your motor running expenditure is structured and paid for, which the TaxAssist Accountants team will explore and discuss with you.

They will evaluate your circumstances such as the type of vehicle you require, level of mileage and type of usage (private or business). Ultimately, TaxAssist will ensure that your company car fits your needs and make sure your tax position is as efficient as possible. For a free consultation call 01582 760154 or email [harpenden@taxassist.co.uk](mailto:harpenden@taxassist.co.uk)

**Best regards,**

***Mike Melling***  
***Principal***



Anne Main MP pictured left and David Barker CEO Crohn's and Colitis UK both speaking at the Chamber Business Breakfast on May 8th at OA's

Pictures: Blue Feather Photography

**St Albans' based charity, Crohn's and Colitis UK are delighted to welcome onboard new Champion for 2013, Rylan Clark.**

TV personality Rylan, is fronting the charity's media push to raise awareness during May, Crohn's and Colitis month, and is being interviewed by TV and radio – to talk about the work of the charity.

His personal experience of living IBD comes from his mum, who is a Crohn's sufferer – and as a result he is keen to use his growing public profile to help the charity reach out to those who may not be aware of the help and information that is offered.

Suzi Clark, Director of Marketing and Fundraising at the charity says “Rylan has already played a key role in engaging his young teenage fans through social media. This is the age-group we are particularly keen to target with our information and support, along with the professionals who work with them. We are very grateful that Rylan has so generously offered to use his growing public profile to help promote our work. Often, it is the family member/carer/supporter of the person living with IBD who may have a very real understanding of the devastation that living with these inflammatory bowel conditions can cause to family life, individual education and career prospects, and the self confidence of someone they care about. Giving them a voice will help us to bring these hidden conditions to the attention of the wider public, so that with better understanding, people with IBD can lead better lives.”

The charity has a new microsite MeandIBD.org – where young people can draw down resources, share their stories, and support one another.

Director of Marketing and Fundraising  
Crohn's and Colitis UK  
Telephone: 01727 734485  
[suzi.clark@crohnsandcolitis.org.uk](mailto:suzi.clark@crohnsandcolitis.org.uk)



**Follow us on twitter!**

**@stalbanschamber**



St Albans • Harpenden • London Colney



## **Business Breakfast Meeting**

Wednesday 12th June 2013

7.30am – 9.30am

St Michael's Manor Hotel

Fishpool Street

St Albans

Herts AL3 4RY

### **Surviving the Triple Dip (that didn't happen!)**

Come and join two great organisations for this business breakfast at a superb St Albans venue, St Michael's Manor Hotel. The St Albans District Chamber of Commerce and The IoD Hertfordshire are working together to host an event for all members to widen their networks!

The topic for the morning will be debating our current economic position, growth in the economy, cutting out red tape that appears to be holding back SME's. How can we be more commercial in such difficult times?

In the current economic position, how can we as business leaders promote much needed growth in our economy?

There will be a panel of several key people from both organisations leading debate and questions:

Mr Mel Hilbrow - Chamber Director & Executive Director STANTA

Mr Paul Marsden - Chamber Director & CEO, Harpenden Building Society

Mr Edwin Whittingham - Committee Member IoD Herts

Our events do sell out quickly so please book early to avoid disappointment as places are limited!

**£21 (plus VAT) for all attendees**

**Book now on-line** [www.stalbans-chamber.co.uk/buy-online/events/](http://www.stalbans-chamber.co.uk/buy-online/events/)

**Or email your booking to us**  
[office@stalbands-chamber.co.uk](mailto:office@stalbands-chamber.co.uk) **and we will invoice you directly**

## Volunteer Ginny is recognised for lifetime of community work

SERIAL volunteer Ginny Cooper has received a special award for her services to the community over the past 23 years. Ginny received the award of merit from the Town Mayor of Harpenden, Cllr Nicola Linacre after being nominated by former Mayor, Cllr Michael Weaver.



She has fundraised with Harpenden Circle and the 12th Harpenden Scouts and Explorers for many years. In the past five years she has sat on the Christmas Carnival committee and is on the rota at St John's Church taking the elderly to church, serving coffee and reading with them. Ginny said she had been described as a 'serial volunteer' but helping others was normal for her.

"I love living in Harpenden and am pleased to put time in to helping The Community that Love"

# You are invited to attend a CHARITY FASHION SHOW

*St Michael's Manor Hotel  
in The Orangery  
Fishpool Street  
St Albans  
Herts AL3 4RY*

*Monday  
24th June 2013  
From 7.00pm*

## IN SUPPORT OF CHARITIES DEMAND AND THE PEACE HOSPICE

This glamorous event will feature a catwalk style fashion show showcasing a wide range of ladies clothing from major high street stores. All clothing will be for sale after the fashion show at reduced prices. All event proceeds to:

**DEMAND** a charity that transforms the lives of people living with disability.

**The Peace Hospice** cares for people living with a life limiting illness and supports their families.

**Tickets are £8.00** each (with a glass of wine or soft drink) or £10.00 including two raffle tickets. To purchase please contact:

**Denise Gillies**  
DEMAND  
01923 681 800

**Debbie Diggle**  
The Athena Network  
07733 076 775

**Rachel Fowler**  
The Peace Hospice  
01923 335 348

**Paula Fagan**  
Online Success Specialist  
01442 215 024



Registered Charity number: 1002878

With thanks to  
**ST MICHAEL'S MANOR HOTEL**  
\*\*\*\*\*



Registered Charity number: 1008128

## ***Don't Just Join.....Join in !!!!***

### New Members

We welcome the following  
companies to the Chamber:

#### Brasserie Blanc

*Restaurant/Bar*

1-3 Verulam Road

St Albans

Herts

AL3 4DA

Tel: 01727 890410

Web: <http://www.brasserieblanc.com>

Contact: Robert Leader

Position: General Manager

Email : [stalbans@brasserieblanc.com](mailto:stalbans@brasserieblanc.com)

#### Bidwells

*Property Consultancy*

49 High Street

Kings Langley

Herts

WD4 9HU

Tel: 01923 272800

Contact: Toby Lambert

Position: Head of Residential Development

Email: [toby.lambert@bidwells.co.uk](mailto:toby.lambert@bidwells.co.uk)

#### White Tiger Cleaning Ltd

*Cleaning Services, Commercial & Industrial*

Censeo House

6 St Peters Street

St Albans

Herts

AL1 3LF

Tel: 01727 568185/6

Web: <http://www.whitetigercleaning.co.uk>

Contact: Jade Joel

Position: Director

Email: [jadejoel@whitetigercleaning.co.uk](mailto:jadejoel@whitetigercleaning.co.uk)

#### Keech Childrens Hospice

*Children's Hospice for Hertfordshire*

Great Bramlington Lane

Streatley

Luton

Beds

LU3 3NT

Tel: 01582 504085

Web: <http://www.keech.org.uk>

Contact: Alli Harmer

Position: Major Donor Manager

Email: [aharmer@keech.org.uk](mailto:aharmer@keech.org.uk)

#### Pro-Actions

*Business Improvement*

27 Pickford Hill

Harpenden

Herts

AL5 5HE

Tel: 07940 728031

Web: <http://www.pro-actions.com>

Contact: Olivier Carion

Position: Consultant

Email: [olivier.carion@pro-actions.com](mailto:olivier.carion@pro-actions.com)

#### Work Place Live

*Managed hosted solutions*

HCS House

2-6 London Road

Caterham

Surrey

CR3 5PQ

Tel: 01883 333156

Web: <http://www.workplacelive.com>

Contact: Jennifer Hart

Position: Sales & Marketing Support

Email: [Jennifer.hart@workplacelive.com](mailto:Jennifer.hart@workplacelive.com)