

MONTHLY MATTERS

MARCH 2025



Wealth Matters

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS



Phew, that was a busy one! As we come into the final days of the 2024/5 tax year, we're all looking forward to a well-earned glass of wine once the final i's are dotted and t's are crossed. End of tax year gets busier for us every single year as the

company continues to grow and go from strength to strength – it's tiring, definitely, but a very lovely problem to have!

In this newsletter:

Following up on one of the topics raised in February's webinar, Katherine Pautard has gone into a little detail on Trusts and how they can benefit you. In addition, we've briefly highlighted a few of the benefits of making use of your tax-free allowances early, now that we're almost in a new tax year. We'll also share some news about an exciting new addition to our client meetings.

We'd also like to introduce you to Belinda Lee, one of our new Client Relationship Managers.

It's the last call for anybody interested in getting involved in our 2025 charity bike ride, over in the stunning Moselle Valley. Read on for information about how to get involved, or how to donate if you don't fancy the cycle.

Finally, as ever, we round up with Toby's Tales. He decided to call in reinforcements to help lift the spirits of the Wealth Matters team during the end of tax year.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter.

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Understanding Trusts and how they can benefit you

By Katherine Pautard

We understand that planning for the future can be complex. That is why we aim to keep you informed about financial strategies that can help protect your wealth and ensure it passes on to your loved ones as efficiently as possible.

In our recent webinar, we touched on Trusts as an effective method of protecting your wealth for future generations and mitigating the amount of inheritance tax (IHT) due on your estate; here, we will go into further detail about how they can form an effective tool as part of your estate planning, especially in light of potential changes to IHT rules on pensions.

What is a Trust?

A trust is a legal arrangement where you (the "settlor") transfer your assets (like money, property, or investments) to a Trust and appoint people (the "trustees") to manage the Trust going forward. The trustee manages these assets for the benefit of the people you choose (the "beneficiaries"). Think of it as a way to control how your wealth is used even after you are no longer around.

Why Are Trusts Important?

Trusts can serve many purposes, but the most common reasons people set them up include:

- **Asset Protection:** Keeping assets safe from creditors, divorce settlements, or other potential threats.
- **Control:** Allowing you to decide who gets what, and when, even after you're gone.
- **Tax Benefits:** Potentially reducing IHT liability, which can significantly increase the amount of wealth passed on to your heirs.

Potential changes in Inheritance Tax Rules on Pensions

Pensions are a great way to save for retirement and they currently fall outside of your estate for IHT purposes, but potential legislative changes from April 2027, could change this. This new legislation, may mean that your pensions will form part of your taxable estate, making them

liable to Inheritance tax, which could affect the amount passed on to your loved ones.

How Trusts Can Help

Here's how they might benefit you in light of pension IHT changes:

- **Avoiding future IHT:** If you place assets in a trust, it could protect your beneficiaries from being hit with inheritance tax in future. Trusts can potentially help ensure that the funds pass on in the most tax-efficient way.
- **Flexibility:** Trusts can provide you with greater control over how and when your beneficiaries receive your wealth. You can set up rules for distribution that align with your wishes.
- **Minimising Family Disputes:** Trusts can reduce potential family disputes about how wealth is distributed, ensuring that your intentions are clear and legally binding.

What Should You Do Now?

If you are concerned about the potential impact of future IHT changes or feel that trusts might be suitable for you, we're here to help you navigate these complexities and make sure your wealth is protected for the future.

If you would like to discuss Trusts or any other aspect of your financial planning, please contact your financial planner.

New tax year, new allowances

Now that we are entering a new tax year, you might like to start thinking about how best to utilise your allowances for 2025/26.

Using your allowances early in the year offers several strategic benefits. For example, making early use of pension and ISA allowances can allow more time for your money to grow in a tax-free environment. For higher earners, this approach can also aid with income planning for the year and contribute towards keeping your income as tax-efficient as possible. There are also significant advantages around managing Capital Gains Tax.

These are just a few of the benefits of making early use of your tax-free allowances. Get in touch with your financial planner if you'd like to discuss your specific situation and learn more about the potential benefits.

Exciting news: we're enhancing client meetings with Saturn

At Wealth Matters, we've always been committed to delivering well-structured and highly productive meetings. To further enhance this experience, we're excited to introduce Saturn, a transcribing tool to complement our existing approach.

Saturn enhances our discussions by capturing key points, tracking action items, and summarising insights in real time, which allows your financial planner to focus more on your meeting.

After each meeting, Saturn will generate clear, concise summaries and action plans, making it easier for both you and our team to stay on track with your financial plan.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out—we're happy to discuss with you.



Introducing Belinda Lee

We've welcomed lots of new faces to the Wealth Matters team over the past six months, and we think it's about high time we made some introductions.

Belinda - who more commonly goes by Bel - is one of our newest additions to the Client Relationship Manager team.

She's been in the financial services profession for over seven years now, starting off in a role as Customer Service Representative and working for several providers.

Bel told us, "that's what initially kicked off my passion for helping others and making a difference". Now, she's thrilled to be working directly with the clients she's indirectly served in her career so far.

Here's what else she said by way of introduction:

"What I love about working at Wealth Matters is how helpful and supportive the team is. I also enjoy building strong relationships with our clients."

I spend most of my spare time at the gym, predominantly doing calisthenics (body weight resistance training). I have also recently taken up running and I am slowly making my way towards doing a 10k."

Bel is currently:

Listening to: Grace Beverley's podcast, *Working Hard, Hardly Working*

Reading: *A Court of Thorns & Roses* by Sarah J Maas

Watching: The TV series *Yellowstone*

Looking forward to: Summer!

Please give Bel a warm welcome when you speak to her. We're thrilled to have her on the team!



Charity Bike Ride 2025: last chance to get involved!

18 - 21 SEPTEMBER 2025 • LUXEMBOURG, MOSELLE VALLEY

If you would like to join us on our charity bike ride through the Moselle Valley, now is the time to raise your hand! We will be holding an informal information session on **Monday 31 March**, where any interested parties can find out more and ask any questions they might have.

This session is obligation-free – please let us know if you would like to attend by emailing Christine Daniels at **christine@wealth-matters.co.uk**.

To recap: four members of the Wealth Matters team will cycle a route beginning in Luxembourg City, across the German border to Koblenz, via the breathtaking Moselle Valley. We would be honoured to be joined by any clients who are up for the challenge. The ride is mostly flat and not too strenuous, with some stunning scenery to admire along the way.



As a reminder, our draft itinerary is as follows:

Thursday 18th September

Fly to Luxembourg. Collect hire bikes and begin the route.

Friday 19th - Saturday 20th September

The bulk of the cycle will take place on the middle two days of the trip, with plenty of coffee stops and lunch breaks along the way to break up the journey and drink in the surroundings. A support vehicle will accompany us to carry your luggage between overnight stops.

Sunday 21st September

Finish the ride in Koblenz and drop off the hire bicycles. Get the train back to Luxembourg for the return flight home.

All funds raised will be split evenly between our chosen charities: Oracle Cancer Trust and Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation.



Can I donate but not participate?

Yes, of course! We would be very grateful.

If you would like to donate towards our fundraising target, you can do so by clicking the button below:

CLICK HERE TO DONATE



Dog Tales

We all know that Toby is a true master when it comes to the art of boosting morale, and he takes his role seriously – circulating the office, offering quiet (and not so quiet) companionship during long meetings, and ensuring no lunch break goes unvisited. But when it comes to the end of tax year rush, and the office gets especially busy with last-minute requests and final reconciliations, even a pro like Toby needs backup.

Enter Benji, Toby's much fluffier younger brother. Although he's not yet a seasoned veteran like Toby, Benji is quickly learning the tricks of the trade and is all too happy to lend a helping paw.

The brothers make their rounds, weaving through desks like furry therapists, dispensing tail wags and well-timed distractions. Deadlines still loom, but the atmosphere softens. Smiles appear. Shoulders relax.

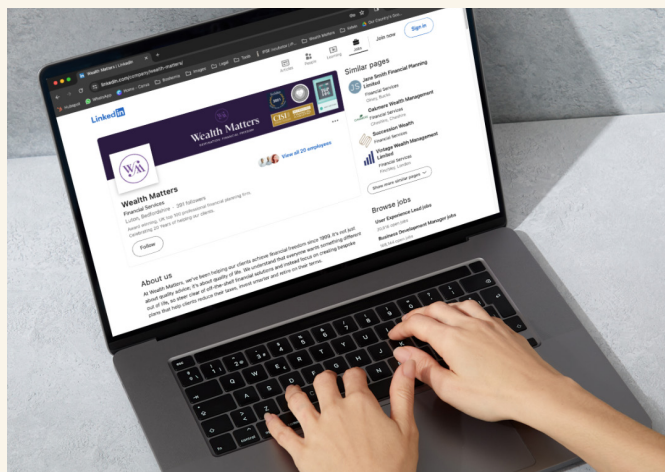
Their presence may not be on the balance sheet, but in a high-pressure environment, their contribution is undeniable. What would we do without them?!



Keep up to date with us on LinkedIn

If you don't already follow us on LinkedIn, then you're missing out! We would love to connect with you over there, so that you can keep up to date with all our latest news, articles, and updates from the team - just click the button below to go straight to our profile.

Click here to connect with us on LinkedIn



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