

DIARY DATES

THURSDAY, MARCH 13
Budget Seminar in Lincoln

Just one day after the new Chancellor's first Budget, a seminar has been arranged. The director of tax at Wright Vigar Colm McCoy will give an expert analysis of the proposals and how they will affect you and your business.

Wright Vigar office, 15 Newland, Lincoln, 5pm.
☎ Call (01522) 531341.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20
Mock Tribunal

To establish an understanding into how a tribunal approaches a case, the Langleys employment team work through a case study of an ill-health absence dismissal. Langleys, Olympic House, Doddington Road, Lincoln. Lasts three hours.

☎ Call Helen Gillon (01522) 888556.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4
Lincolnshire Chamber Annual Banquet

This is a prestigious fun black tie event with a four-course dinner followed by a live band and disco. The Bentley Hotel, Lincoln, 7pm, members £40, non-members £40.

☎ Call (01522) 523333 ext 223.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24
Directors Training & Performance Management Seminar

The interactive workshop will cover what it means to be a director in practical terms (4pm-6pm).

Chattertons, Lincoln office, Low Moor Road, off Doddington Road.

☎ Call Laura Forsyth on (01636) 673731.

THURSDAY, MAY 22
Topical Issues in Relation to Contracts of Employment

The moment an applicant accepts your offer of a job, an employment relationship comes into existence. This seminar will cover what should be included and the problems that a well drafted contract can avoid.

Olympic House, Doddington Road, Lincoln.

☎ Helen Gillon (01522) 888556.

THURSDAY, JULY 17
TUPE Masterclass

This seminar will be a tour of the extensive TUPE regulations and the impact from the viewpoint of both the transferee and transferor.

Langleys, Olympic House, Doddington Road, Lincoln.

☎ Helen Gillon (01522) 888556.

business matters

FILM INDUSTRY SOUND INVESTMENT



IN FOCUS: Lincoln-based chartered financial planner John Hebblethwaite says investment in films has tax, social and economic benefits.

Let the cameras roll on a great way to beat taxman

IT'S all very well earning a great salary but where should Lincolnshire's managers be putting their savings if they want to avoid a tax hit?

In recent years the British film industry has offered people the chance

to sink money into movies.

And some offer the extra buzz of benefiting from a share in the sale of linked merchandise, such as T-shirts, CDs and other collectibles, as well as profits from DVD, cinema and TV from every country the film sells to.

Bosses have sunk money into titles including, Phantom of the Opera, the Da Vinci Code, Valiant and Fred Claus.

And they admit to a frisson of excitement when they see the film they have backed, especially if it has been shot in Lincolnshire – think Da Vinci

and Pride and Prejudice.

Lincoln-based chartered financial planner John Hebblethwaite said: "Investment in films not only has serious tax benefits over a straight stock market investment, but also carries many social and emotional benefits.

"With the demise of many of the UK tax schemes, investors now need to choose carefully.

"But if you get the right investment it can be very rewarding on many levels.

"The main game in town now is the EIS (Enterprise Investment Scheme) which offers a range of tax benefits, such as 20 per cent income tax relief, capital gains tax deferral and tax free profits."

There are other spin-offs too.

"Many of my clients invested in a film called "Clubbed" which comes out later this year. They were invited to pre-production parties with the cast and crew, days on set, the chance to be extras and gala BAFTA screenings."

Investor in hot new Britflick Clubbed, Paul Coe has trans-

formed his career following his involvement at the coalface of the film industry.

A successful former business manager, he now works full-time in film.

"When I initially invested with Formosa Films I saw Clubbed as an interesting idea," he said.

"I knew that film was risky but the package seemed like the right one, with a mix of a sound management team and a high quality product.

"However, as the film progressed and I took up the option to be an extra I became hooked. How many investments can you say changed your life?"

Producer Martin Carr, one of Mr Hebblethwaite's clients, said: "The EIS scheme is a great way of making movies.

"People who invest in movies are usually savvy business people who like diversity in their portfolios.

"We have a great relationship with our investors and many of them have rolled straight into our new film "Twenty8k" even though Clubbed is not yet released.

"The warmth at the BAFTA screening from all our investors and supporters was goose-pimply."



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Invest only what you can afford

THE Enterprise Investment Scheme offers an innovative and tax-efficient way of taking a stake in film.

Mr Hebblethwaite said it is completely different from other traditional forms of investment.

"If the budget of the

film is pitched at a sensible level and the right team is behind the project, there is a very serious chance of making multiple returns on your money."

But it can be risky too!

"As an investment

into what is in effect a single "product" it must be viewed as high risk," said Mr Hebblethwaite.

His advice? Only invest what you can afford to lose and think seriously about investing across a number of schemes.