

TAKING ACCOUNT

Welcome



Welcome to the Autumn 2026 edition of the Rustrick Accountants Newsletter!

With the summer behind us and the busier months of the year ahead, autumn can be a good time to look beyond the immediate demands of running your business and consider the bigger picture. Whether your focus is on maintaining steady growth, improving profitability or simply keeping everything running smoothly, having a clear view of your finances can help you make better decisions with confidence.

The economic and business environment continues to evolve, and there is no shortage of changes for business owners to keep up with. From tax and reporting requirements to rising costs and changing customer expectations, keeping informed is increasingly important. It's not always easy to find the time to step back from the day-to-day, but regularly reviewing how your business is performing can highlight both potential challenges and opportunities before they become more difficult to address.

This is also a good point in the year to think about what you want the coming months to look like. Perhaps there are investments you are

Continued overleaf

Renters' Rights Act – Phase 2: Landlord Registration

The Government is introducing **mandatory landlord registration** under Phase 2 of the Renters' Rights Act. If you let residential property, you'll need to register **yourself and each rental property** on the new Register Your Rental Property service.

Who must register?

Most landlords, including anyone with an **Assured Periodic Tenancy** (the tenancy type that replaced ASTs in May 2026).

What you'll need:

- Your landlord details
- A property entry for each let property
- Gas safety, electrical report, EPC and other compliance documents

Cost: £65 per property per year

When to register:

The system opens **15 December 2026** and rolls out **region by region**, each with a **three month window**. For

clients in the **South East**, registration runs **15 March — 14 June 2027**.

Why this matters:

Nonregistration may lead to penalties, so it's worth preparing early.

Our advice:

If you're a landlord, please get in touch so we can confirm your registration window and help ensure your compliance documents are ready.



Tax-Free Perks: Are You Missing Out?

There are several valuable tax-free benefits that owner-managers may be able to take advantage of, while also securing a Corporation Tax deduction for the company. The top perks include:

- Employer pension contributions of up to £60,000 a year
- Interest-free company loans of up to £10,000
- Company-provided mobile phone (including private use)
- Trivial benefits of up to £300 a year for directors of close companies
- Certain commuting costs such as parking, bicycles and EV charging

These benefits can provide significant tax savings, so it's worth checking whether your business is making the most of them.

Planning Ahead for Christmas Spending



For many businesses, the months ahead can bring increased costs, whether through seasonal stock, additional staff, hospitality or Christmas events. It's worth planning these expenses in advance rather than allowing them to put unexpected pressure on your cash flow. If you are considering gifts or entertaining for staff or clients, remember that tax treatment can vary depending on the circumstances. A little forward planning can help you make the most of any available tax relief while avoiding surprises later.

Is Your Cash Flow Telling You the Full Story?

A business can be profitable on paper and still find itself short of cash. With costs continuing to fluctuate, keeping a close eye on when money is coming in and going out is more important than ever. Regularly reviewing your cash flow can help you spot potential gaps early, plan for upcoming bills and make informed decisions about spending or investment. If you haven't looked at your cash flow recently, autumn is a good time to do so and we are more than happy to assist – just get in touch!

Autumn Budget Watch

We'll be keeping a close eye on the Chancellor's announcements in the upcoming Autumn/Winter budget. Keep a look out for our summary of the key takeaways and what they could mean for you and your business.

TAKING ACCOUNT

Continued from overleaf

considering, changes you would like to make to the way your business operates, or financial goals you would like to work towards. The earlier these decisions are discussed and planned for, the more options you are likely to have. As always, we're here to help you understand the numbers, consider the implications and plan ahead.

We know that for many business owners, finding the time to work on the business can be just as challenging as finding the time to work in it. Our aim is to take some of that financial and administrative pressure away, while providing practical advice you can rely on.

We hope you find this edition useful and informative, and as always, please get in touch if there is anything we can help you with or a topic you would like us to explore in a future newsletter.

Sean

Sean Rustrick, Director

Are You Making the Most of Your Business Expenses?

It's surprisingly common for business owners to overlook legitimate expenses when records are being prepared. Small costs can quickly add up over the course of a year, from software subscriptions and professional fees to business mileage, equipment and other day-to-day expenses. Keeping accurate records throughout the year makes it much easier to identify what can be claimed and ensures you are not paying more tax than necessary. If you're unsure whether an expense is allowable, it's always worth asking us before assuming it isn't.

Made a Loss? Don't Miss Out

If your company has made a trading loss, don't assume it's simply a case of carrying it forward. In certain circumstances, a trading loss can be carried back against profits from the previous 12 months, potentially resulting in a Corporation Tax refund. The rules can be complex, including requirements around the company continuing the same trade, so it's worth speaking to us to make sure you're making the most of any available relief.

Mileage Allowance has Increased to 55p Per Mile

For the first time in 15 years, HMRC has increased the approved mileage allowance for employees using their own cars for business journeys.

From 6 April 2026, the tax-free rate for the first 10,000 business miles has increased from 45p to 55p per mile. The rates for additional miles, motorcycles, bicycles and passenger payments remain unchanged for now.

The increase applies retrospectively, meaning it covers eligible business journeys made from 6 April 2026, even though the announcement came later. If you've already reimbursed employees at 45p per mile, you can choose to pay the additional 10p per mile, although you're not required to.

If your business pays less than the approved rate, employees can usually claim tax relief on the difference through HMRC.

The new 55p rate also applies to self-employed individuals who use HMRC's simplified expenses method to calculate business motoring costs.

Now is a good time to review your business mileage policy to ensure it reflects the latest HMRC rates. If you're unsure how the changes affect your business, Rustrick Accountants can help you out! Give us a call on 01622 738165 for a friendly chat today!



Staff spotlight

We are very proud to introduce you to our new apprentice Chloe who has joined us after completion of her A Levels. Chloe will be working towards her AAT qualifications and we are sure you will all get to know her as she settles in to her new role.



Client Spotlight

The General's Store



I'm Tom one of the founders of The General's Store. The Company was formed in 2014 as a 'pop-up' venture in East London, using custom built shipping containers. We offered top quality haircuts and a friendly service, quickly outgrowing our first store. In October 2019, we moved to our current location in Hackney. Our core foundations still remain: outstanding yet friendly surroundings, great haircuts and beard services, complimentary local beers, free use of our arcade machine and our own range of salon-quality products. At The General's Store, we understand the importance of your relationship with your chosen professional and have created an environment for this to blossom. Each of our highly trained and talented staff provide a unique and personal service every time.

Once fully operational as a stand alone business, we needed the expertise and guidance of an accountancy company. Referred to us by a client and good friend, we looked to Rustrick Accountants to help us through all the intricacies of setting up and maintaining a limited company. They have continually supported us over many years and have taken all that stress away allowing us to do what we do best.

To find out more and book an appointment visit: www.thegeneralsstore.co.uk

Stay Alert! Stay Secure!

TOP TIPS

Cyber security starts with simple habits. Never share passwords or confidential information in response to an unexpected email, call or message, and don't feel pressured into acting quickly just because someone says it's urgent. Take a moment to check who you're dealing with, use strong passwords and two-step verification, keep your software up to date and make sure important data is backed up. A few seconds of caution could save your business from a much bigger problem.