



Congratulations to Carrie, for successfully completing NMITE's Leadership and Professional Development programme, Springboard. Carrie's key learnings from the programme included understanding the characteristics of different personality types and how they complement each other within the wider team, the importance of staying positive and managing your mental wellbeing.



Other Team News.....
 Jake has recently passed his latest exam (AAT Level 4 Professional Diploma). Well done Jake, just one more to go now!

Claire joined the Ducketts Team at the end of July last year as a Management Accountant and has quickly become an essential part of the team.

Get to know Claire:
What's your job title?
 Management Accountant.
What's the best thing about being part of the Ducketts Team?
 Everyone is helpful and supportive.
Describe your job in 3 words.
 Rewarding, Challenging, Evolving.



What was your previous role and how does it help you in your day-to-day job now?
 I worked for 19 years at the same company in various finance roles, beginning as Finance Assistant and ending as Finance Operations Manager. I believe it's given me a great understanding of some of the challenges clients may face and how to support them.

What's your favourite film?
 Depends on what mood I'm in, either The Holiday or Die Hard. It's been pointed out to me that these may or may not be Christmas films - I'll leave that up to others to debate.

Who would you most like to swap places with for the day?
 Whilst there are plenty of key historical figures I should probably be choosing from, I think being honest, I'd choose to be one of my cats.

When you were young, what did you want to be when you were older?
 A dancer or interior designer, I always liked maths but didn't know what I could use it for.

What we've been up to

2023 Golf Day supporting The Living Room

We were finally able to hold our 2023 Charity Golf Day in April, after having to be postponed in September due to the terrible weather. However, the sun made an appearance for us this time around and a great day was had by all.

Most importantly, we were able to raise over £4,400 for The Living Room - an amazing charity based in Hereford that helps people access support for housing advice and money matters. It also serves as a café, community larder and safe space for anyone, to name just a few of the things they do.

Please visit their website and social media pages to find out more:
<https://www.thelivingroomhereford.co.uk/>



Core Connections

Back in March, we held the first Core Connections event of the year at Shooting Reels. It was great to go behind the scenes of their business and to see how the magic happens.

We also got to star in our own game show - Camera in a Box, which will be available to watch shortly!



Sue's Walk for St Michael's Hospice

Sue and her son James completed a 100 mile walk around Herefordshire, in just 5 days.

"Woko's Walk" was in memory of Sue's other son Andrew, husband Charlie and Mum, who were all cared for at St. Michael's Hospice. Sue and James were joined by friends, family and of course, Sue's dog Freddie.

Together, they have raised over £4,500 for St. Michael's Hospice!

Well done to Sue and James on a fantastic achievement.



Emotional Intelligence at Dewsall Court

In June, we enjoyed a fabulous evening at Dewsall Court, where Mel Nash gave us a fascinating insight into emotional intelligence and how important it is in business (and life generally).

We rounded the evening off with a terrific two-course dinner.



Upcoming events

The course has been booked for this year's **Golf Day** and will be held on Wednesday 11th September 2024 at Burghill Valley Golf Club.

We are supporting **We Are Farming Minds**, a fabulous Herefordshire charity, raising mental health awareness and supporting the Herefordshire agricultural community.

Please email rachelmason@duckettsgrowth.co.uk to put in a team - spaces are already filling up, so be quick!

Ducketts Dining Club - We'll be having dinner at the Bookshop in the Autumn. This always proves to be a very popular evening.

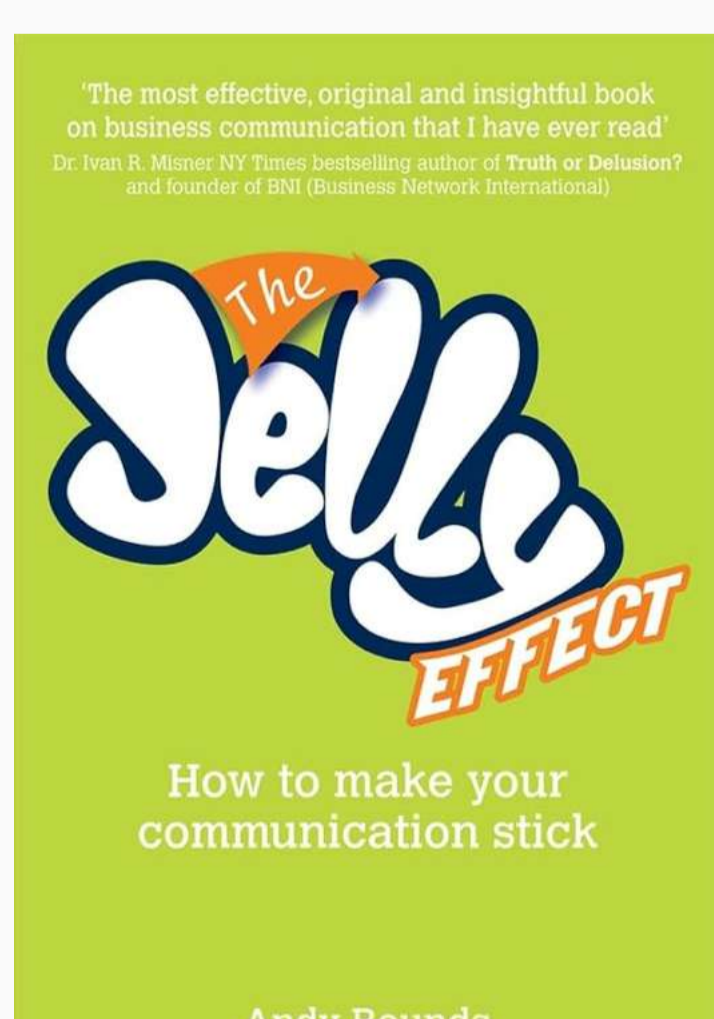
We'll send out invites via the usual channels nearer the time (and once we've agreed a date!)

See all our events [HERE](#)

New Government

Following the change of Government earlier this month, we can "look forward" to Rachel Reeves' first budget as Chancellor in the Autumn.

A full analysis will follow shortly after.



Book of the month
 The Jelly Effect: How to make your communication stick by Andy Bounds. This book was first published in 2007. Andy puts his communication skills down to his childhood when he learned to describe or explain things to his blind mother with clarity, by focusing on what is important and "removing the jelly".
 The book covers topics including networking (the best book that I have seen regarding this), presentations and improving sales. Customers want to know the afters (i.e. what they will have after they have bought from you), rather than a potted history of the company.

If you don't want to commit to the book, you can receive weekly top tips by subscribing at <https://andybounds.com>

Other stuff that we do

The Business Growth team often get involved in non-accountancy pieces of work for our clients and we thought that it might be helpful to outline some of the other areas in which we can help.

So first up in this edition is **Grants**.

During the last few years, we have been successful in helping several clients applying for grants including grants to help with the introduction of new manufacturing processes and two successful grant applications under the **Marches Building Investment Grant**, whereby both clients **received grants of £150,000** to assist with new build commercial premises.

Navigating the processes, particularly when dealing with EU/Government grant monies isn't easy, but the team are able to communicate effectively with the grant awarding bodies and manage the process between them and the client, as well as helping with the usual financial forecasts etc.

Contact us to discuss your growth plans [HERE](#).

