

Investment Market reaches new heights

UK equity indices generally performed strongly during April, supported by a raft of corporate activity that was particularly concentrated in the FTSE 100 Index. The FTSE 100 Index rose by 6.4% over the month, while the FTSE 250 Index climbed by 4.2%.

Since the beginning of the year, the best-performing FTSE sectors have been automobiles & parts, technology hardware & equipment, and industrial metals & mining. Food & drug retailers also performed well, boosted by a strong performance from Sainsbury's, which announced a surprise merger with rival Asda during April. Software & computer services, tobacco, and household goods were among the worst-performing sectors.

Domestically the UK has seen some major retail chains facing challenges including Homebase, and even Marks and Spencer who have announced a major store closure plan. Banks have also continued their branch closure strategy.

Despite the various pressures the markets have continued to produce strong performance since April with the UK **FTSE 100** Stock Market Index reached an **all time high** of 7877 in May of 2018. Markets have also benefit from a weakening Sterling position.

Other significant influencers include the increasing price of Oil. The oil price continued its climb in April, rising to its highest level since 2014 and driven up by an ongoing reduction in supply and by concerns over geopolitical issues, particularly with regard to the possibility of new sanctions on Iran. The price of a barrel of Brent Crude oil rose above US\$75 during April before heading even higher in May going up to around US \$80 dollars.

Perhaps more than ever political events have loomed large, with the ongoing Brexit debate showing no sign of clarity with increasing frustrations both in the Cabinet and between the UK and European negotiators.

Kingsbridge Estuary Rotary Club's Golf Day

Thursday 24 May saw the Kingsbridge Estuary Rotary Club Charity Golf Day which was hosted on the fabulous course at Thurlestone Golf Club.

This year the event raised over £7,000 for their main charity, Brace, an independent charity committed to defeating Dementia through scientific research. Brace raises funds and awards grants to researchers at universities in the South West, including Plymouth and Exeter.



The course was in fabulous condition and with the weather holding out and a light breeze, by Thurlestone standards, the course was enjoyed by over 120 competitors.

It was a mixed bag for Sabre's two teams, well for one of the teams anyway, but there was some success with Steve Pound getting closest to the pin on the 16th and 17th holes and Rob's team finishing 7th overall and just missing out on the prizes.

A great day was had by all and we look forward to another successful year in 2019.

TOP TAX TIPS

Employed people will have witnessed a fairly sharp rise in their pension contributions into workplace pension schemes as employee contributions increased from 1% to 3% of their qualifying earnings in April of this year. Whilst this may have come as a surprise this will maximise the benefits available on retirement.

What this also does is remind investors of the huge tax benefits of funding pensions. Basic rate taxpayers can receive tax relief of 20% on personal contributions, whilst higher rate tax payers can achieve up to 40% relief on contributions. The underlying pension funds will also accumulate virtually free of tax. There are also opportunities for Directors to consider Company pension contributions which could help reduce taxable profits within a company.

Keep your property safe in the summer

Many of us like to make the most of the warmer weather — including thieves and burglars. According to Aviva Insurance theft claims rise by 10% during the summer, and garden theft usually increases with thieves targeting tools and equipment from your shed, plants, garden furniture and ornaments. Some even use your tools to try to get into your house.

Some suggestions to keep your property safe include:

- Locking away garden equipment and tools when not in use.
- If possible lock your garden gate to stop thieves easily accessing the garden.
- Consider any shrubs or trees near sheds which could be used to hide behind.
- Keep any ladders locked away so they do not become a tool for a burglar to enter your home.
- Always be mindful of any open windows or doors which could be used to access your home.

Ultimately you should ensure that you have a suitable Home Insurance policy to cover your house and its contents in the event of a claim.



Sabre Insurance Services has a team of Insurance Advisers who can deal with all aspects of general insurance with our wealth of experience and knowledge of the industry provides you with the reassurance that someone is here to look after your Insurance needs.

Staff News



A member of staff from Sabre Financial has been recognised for her commitment and dedication to the company. Bunny Rothwell, our Senior Paraplanner has been working for Sabre Financial for 20 years. We would like to congratulate Bunny for her service to the company and to mark the occasion we presented her with a necklace of aquamarine gems set in rose gold.

Bunny was the first employee for Dale and Stuart when they began Sabre Financial Planning back in 1997. Bunny had worked alongside Dale and Stuart in previous employment. We look forward to many more years to come.