

**Welcome to the January 2009 edition of Achieving Financial Success a regular e-mail designed to help you make the most of your money!**

For many last year was a difficult year and with continued uncertainty, making the most of your money remains the number 1 priority.

**With this very much in mind I am starting this edition with an article entitled “Accelerating your debt repayment” which is a tried and tested plan to help you pay off your debt quicker than you would ever have imagined possible.**

### *Financial Planning Tip*

#### **Accelerate Your Debt Repayment**

Most people with credit card and loan debts will be advised to pay off the highest interest rate credit card or loan first which seems like sensible advice.

**Wrong – in most cases this is the worst thing you can do!**

Most advisers will tell you to save an amount equivalent to at least 3 months living expenses before you embark on a process of debt repayment.

**Wrong – it will take most people longer to save this amount than the term of their loan!**

Most people think that in order to repay their debts early and become debt free they will have to forego many of the nice things in life and be miserable in the process.

**Wrong – in most cases it is possible to massively accelerate your debt repayment within your current income and expenditure!**

**We have developed a very simple, yet highly effective way, to help you repay your debt quickly and become debt free in an amazingly short period of time.**

**Contact me on 01752 603232 for more information.**

### *Money Saving Tip*

#### **Lower Your Gas & Electricity Bills**

**With winter very much upon us our spending on gas and electricity will be at its highest.**

Most people pay their bills by monthly direct debit and are often lulled into a false sense that costs are relatively low.

**But we have all had the spring bill telling us that we have to increase our direct debit – and it's only ever upwards!**

**Now is the time to compare prices and to make sure you are getting the best deal by using UK Energy's free energy price comparison and switching service.**

Start to think about what you can do with the money you will save when you switch.

Whether you use it to pay off debts (see above), put it towards your daily outgoings, or to treat yourself or your family - you can save money by taking just five minutes to switch your energy supplier. It is free, secure and easy - the savings can be surprising!

**Start saving now: <http://www.ukpower.co.uk/?referer=112>**

### *Motivational Quote Of The Day*

***"Satisfaction lies in the effort, not in the attainment. Full effort is full victory."***

**— Mohandas Gandhi**

### *Suggested Reading*

**Awaken the Giant Within: How to Take Immediate Control of Your Mental, Physical and Emotional Self - Anthony Robbins**

#### **Synopsis**

Shows readers how to clarify their personal values, resolve internal conflicts, master emotions, and overcome debilitating habits.

#### **Reviews**

'I am passionately attached to self-improvement books, and this year I have found the guru of gurus in this department...Anthony Robbins' MARY KENNY, EXPRESS

'AWAKEN THE GIANT WITHIN is a fascinating, intriguing presentation of cutting edge findings and insights across a broad spectrum of issues, including the growing consciousness that true success is anchored in enduring values and service to others' STEPHEN R. COVEY, author of bestselling THE 7 HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PEOPLE

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**Jim's Comment - An essential addition to your success bookshelf!**

### *Useful Websites*

Visit our online store for all your purchases! <http://astore.amazon.co.uk/lfpassetmanag-21>

For that special gift! Visit <http://www.lingerieonlinedirect.com>

Satnav and other GPS goods at low prices <http://gpsgoods.co.uk>

For the bikers amongst you visit <http://www.bits4motorbikes.co.uk>

Compare & switch gas and electricity prices <http://www.ukpower.co.uk/?referer=112>

For the cheapest petrol prices in your area <http://www.petrolprices.com/>

Check your benefits entitlement <http://www.entitled.co.uk>

Recycle and get paid for your old mobile <http://envirofone.com>

## **10 Reasons To Use An Independent Financial Adviser**

### **No 1: To Protect Your Family**

There are a lot of people trying to sell you insurance of one type or another but we can tell you which one is actually worth buying! We will assess your position and guide you through the best options to protect yourself and your family - regardless of whether you are single, married, have children or they have long left home. Whatever your needs, we can help ensure personal tragedy does not turn into financial crisis.

### **No 2: To Help Plan Your Spending – And Saving**

To secure your long-term future, you need to build some assets, initially to get you through the rainy days and then to pay for holidays and luxuries. Step one is to plan your spending so that you begin to save – and step two is to plan that saving so that you can build your wealth as efficiently as possible. Regardless of whether you currently have £10 or £10,000, we will look at your situation and find the best starting point for you.

### **No 3: To Help You Plan For Retirement**

Once you have sorted out your short-term saving needs, you can then start thinking about the long-term – and most people these days realise they cannot rely on the State for more

than the absolute basics. However, planning for retirement is a complex business and there are many different options available. Pensions have come a long way in terms of flexibility and transparency in recent years and now offer a wide range of investment options. We will not only help sift through the many rules and product options but also help construct a portfolio to maximise your long term prospects.

#### **No 4: To Secure Your House**

The mortgage market was complicated enough already, with its discounts and variables, AERs and caps, indemnities and early redemption fees. Then the credit crunch hit and things have got even worse. However, buying a house is still one of the most expensive decisions we make, and the vast majority of us need a mortgage. We can save you thousands, particularly at times like this. Not only do we seek out the best rates, we can help you assess sensible levels of borrowing, make the most of your deposit and also find lenders who would otherwise not be available to you.

#### **No 5. To Help Meet Your Investment Goals**

As you progress through life, you begin to build your assets and your income begins to increase. You then start considering how you can enhance your position rather than simply consolidate it. This could mean anything from looking to retire early through to paying school fees for private schools or investing in overseas property. However your dreams evolve, we can help assess what is realistically possible – and put the best plan in place to help you achieve it.

#### **No 6. To Find The Right Combination Of Assets**

Investment is as much about protecting the potential downsides as it is about targeting maximum growth. High returns are often associated with high risk – and not everyone is happy if their investment falls by a third or more overnight.

We will make a detailed assessment of your attitude to risk before making any recommendations. We will also ensure you don't put all your eggs in one basket by helping you diversify not only across asset classes but also across accounts, individual funds and product providers.

#### **No 7. To Obtain An Objective Assessment**

Every new product or investment opportunity is accompanied by hype, proclaiming it is the best ever – but that does not mean it is right for you. Investors the world over have been and will continue to be caught out by market bubbles or high charges because they don't take a step back. We know how products and assets work in different markets and can outline the downsides for you as well as the benefits. With our help you can then make a more informed decision about what hype you can believe – and what products you really need to avoid.

#### **No 8. To Save Money**

Once your risk and investment assessments are complete, the next step is to look at tax and even the most basic overview of your position could help. It may simply mean using ISAs or a pension plan to benefit from Government incentives or it could mean choosing

growth assets over income to use capital gains allowances rather than pay income tax. Alternatively, for more complicated arrangements, it might mean moving assets to your spouse or children to make full use of their personal allowances.

We will always have your tax position in mind when making recommendations and can help point you in the right direction even in complicated situations.

### **No 9. To Keep You On Track**

Even when you have every product you need taken care of and your investments are set up and running to plan, someone needs to keep an eye on them in case changes in markets or abnormal events push them off course. You can ask us to do this monitoring work for you. We can assess the performance of individual investments against their peers, ensure that your asset allocation does not get distorted as markets move and also help you consolidate gains as the dates of your ultimate goals approach.

### **No 10. For Peace Of Mind**

Money is a complicated subject and there are many things you need to think about to both protect it and make the most of it. Markets are volatile and the media is prone to exaggeration of both the risks and the rewards. We can take the emphasis away from you and move it into the hands of an expert. Whether you need general, practical advice or a specialist with dedicated expertise, the money you invest in taking advice could be paid back many times over in the long term.

**If you are not currently using our full range of services, or if you would like any further information contact us on 01752 603232.**

***TIP: JP Morgan Asset Management have produced an excellent booklet entitled “Essentials For Better Financial Well Being” which you may find of interest, You can download your free copy here [Essentials For Better Financial Well Being](#)***

**If you know anyone who you think may benefit from talking to us please let us know and if you supply us with their e-mail address we will send them their own copy of Achieving Financial Success!**

I do hope that you enjoyed this edition of Achieving Financial Success and if you would like to discuss any of the issues raised, or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.