

Mid Year Review 2006

WORK

I am enjoying the year and love doing repeat business with clients. It gives me the chance to discuss how they are implementing training from when we last met and gives me the opportunity to fine tune things or send through follow-up information. I have also been working with a few new businesses so this is a great way to stay fresh and consider how ideas might work in totally different business cultures. One new client this year is a specialist in the employment marketing business. I found this young team to be full of energy and enthusiasm, great fun to work with.

Also been doing some one-to-one coaching and careers advise, as well as some of my more regular events on Interviewing, Team building and quite a lot of events incorporating MBTI in one form or another.

Target for next six months – I would like to attend more training for myself and ensure I keep my own skills up to date.

REST

Despite getting dates in the diary to catch up with friends for lunch/drinks there seems to be a lot of dates get changed due to business commitments (mine and theirs). Must make sure I make time to see friends and family, it is all too easy to let another year slip by without actually getting to see them.

I am still involved on the management committee of the Cheshire Women in Management group. I helped front the mini-conference we ran in May helping to set the scene and run a round-up exercise at the end. The event was very well received and is something we are likely to repeat next year. I am going to be presenting one of the events in the latter half of the year – Proving Your Worth. I have some ideas for how to run it but I must get them down on paper and draft some handouts etc.

Museum – still takes up lots of my free time. I even roped in my friend Jill to design the leaflet this year; it's great to have such talented friends. She has also produced a great range of pictures and cards to sell in the shop as well as a great logo we are having produced on tee shirts and mugs.

The museum website has had a new look this year and we are all thrilled with it. IF Consultancy has done a great job working with us on this. See www.enginemuseum.org. The website was short listed for the Cheshire Tourism Website of the Year and we were highly commended. Considering the others on the short list were Chester Zoo and English in Chester, we are absolutely thrilled with this outcome. The site was only finished weeks before the judging so by next year I hope to have lots more to report on the success of its affect on our business.

Having pressed the Trustees to commit to a project plan for the “Rattling Monsters” Exhibition I need to sit them down next month for a review of how we

are doing and see if we are going to hit our target of 30% more visitors. We even set a stretch target of 40% so we will have to draft out some ideas of how we are going to hit this.

The Trustees had entered me for the Inspiring Woman Awards. The first I knew was I received an invitation to attend the presentation lunch in Manchester in May – bit difficult as I was running the second day of a two day event that date. The end result was that I worked with the client in Chester and arranged that I could leave them at lunchtime having drafted a process for the afternoon session. I then rushed over to Manchester and joined the lunch at 13:30. I was interviewed between courses by Trevor Green and at the end of the lunch Michael Portillo presented the winners with the prize (a lovely crystal award, bouquet of flowers and a cheque for £500). I was totally gob smacked to win the “Arts” category and be whisked up onto the stage to receive my prize. See the write up on the museum website but you will have to scroll down to find it <http://www.enginemuseum.org/news.html>.

PLAY

Thanks to our wonderful holiday in South Africa in November I started the year full of vigour. It is a fantastic place and I can strongly recommend it, I will certainly be going back for another holiday in the not too distant future. Despite this I did manage to squeeze in the odd weekend away both at Hoar Cross Hall and then at the Miller Howe in Windermere. I do enjoy pampering weekends.

In the January I had to bid farewell to my friend Janet who is off to Philadelphia for a couple of years on a secondment with AstraZeneca. Although sad to see her go it is a fabulous opportunity and I know she will love it. I must add Philadelphia to the list of places to visit over the next year or two.

My sister and I were off round France, Spain and Guernsey in May on the QE2. We had a great time and met up with a lovely lady from Georgia, Carol Lunde. We spent hours laughing at each others daft stories including the fact she tried to persuade us to join her on her next cruise, also on the QE2. At first she could not understand why Lorraine and I were doubled up in hysterics when she said she was “going on the end of the World Cruise”. (Maybe doesn’t work quite so well written down rather than said.) We then suggested that as she had inside information she should book the penthouse suite on her credit card and promise to pay for it when she got back!

Just to keep my feet on the ground I ended up going to see various specialists in May/June but luckily the little scare proved to be nothing but I feel thoroughly checked out now. Time is catching up with me but I just don’t like to admit it.

But, if you are going to have a mid-life crisis then you should do it properly. I took delivery of a bright red Mazda MX-5. It is beautiful and drives like a dream. I have even had to get a shorter, lived-in style hair cut so I can drive with the top down and still look half presentable when I arrive to see clients.