

Financial training For non financial staff



The financial training specialists

Summer holidays (budgeting)

2009 has been a difficult year for most businesses. As it draws to an end we hope that 2010 will prove better. Few businesses have escaped unscathed, small or large, and Attainment Training has been no exception.

My wife and I decided that we could not afford to go away for a summer holiday, but badly needed a break. Although we live in gorgeous countryside, she is the vicar, so just staying at home doesn't really work.

Financial needs dictated a "staycation", but beforehand we wrote a list of all the places we wanted to visit. In the end we had a fortnight's holiday, and went somewhere different every day, with a lovely picnic. It was one of the nicest holidays we have had for a long time, and (aside from the picnic) few days out cost more than £10 each.

What's the relevance to budgets? We spend money to achieve the objectives of the department. Last week, with the shopping list, we looked at how we could do the same activity more efficiently.

But how about achieving the same objective in a totally different way? The objective of the training department is to run training courses (that's what we've done for the last 20 years after all!). But is it? Or is the aim to help employees learn? How else could that be achieved apart from running courses? Would the end result be as good? What's the impact on the budget?