

Contents

- Foreword
- About the author
- Introduction
- Dedication
- Acknowledgements
- Chapter 1: Mindset
- Chapter 2: Investing
- Chapter 3: Investments
- Chapter 4: Retirement planning
- Chapter 5: Budgeting
- Chapter 6: Debt management
- Chapter 7: Lifestyle planning
- Chapter 8: Estate planning
- Chapter 9: Protecting your assets
- Chapter 10: Understanding investment risk
- Chapter 11: Business ownership vs employment
- Chapter 12: Tax planning
- Chapter 13: Active vs Passive investment strategies
- Chapter 14: Using an asset allocation strategy
- Chapter 15: Advice or self-investment?
- Chapter 16: Investment fund charges
- Chapter 17: Fees vs commissions and adviser charges
- Chapter 18: Financial planning
- Epilogue
- Appendix
- Glossary of personal finance terms

Foreword

My wife and I spent our working lives as classroom teachers in Bedfordshire state schools. We realised that the financial security of our family would depend on our own efforts. We would never have high salaries and there would not be any large inheritances. What we did have was a regular income so we could plan our future. By the age of 30 and with two daughters we took the conscious decision to make monthly investments to achieve capital growth. We also decided that we would not buy any major item until we could avoid going into debt. The one exception was the mortgage for the house but we chose the house as a place to live and not as an investment. It was about this time that I met Tony and over the years we worked together to meet the changing circumstances. At no point did investment cease even though the markets fluctuated. By the age of 56, with both daughters established as homeowners and in secure jobs, we were able to retire to rural Northumberland.

For the last 15 years of my employment I was the Head of a Sixth Form with over 400 students. The majority went on to university and needed an understanding of finance to budget and to avoid the debts associated with higher education. It was very clear that most parents were not informed about making sensible decisions in such matters. With Tony's help a financial programme was introduced into the curriculum and evening meetings set up for parents to provide information and advice.

Tony's book is a most welcome guide because it follows the principles which I believe in – start young, be informed, be flexible, have the courage to stay invested and, most of all, take responsibility for your own future security.

Richard Postlethwaite MBE