

Hugo Kirby

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Portfolio

Personal Profile

After earning my Classics degree at Cambridge University, I spent six years as a Corporate Tax adviser for mid-tier accountancy firm Blick Rothenberg, rising to Manager. I gained a reputation for my technical expertise, broad internal network and willingness to help colleagues. I completed my Chartered Accountant and Chartered Tax Advisor qualifications, achieving the highest result in the UK in both tax exams.

After six successful years in tax, and a three-month travel break in East Asia, I am now excited to be transitioning to a software career, which promises to deliver a similar blend of the deep technical rigour and teamwork that I enjoyed in my previous job. I have recently completed a software development bootcamp with Just IT Training, where I have built a solid foundation in HTML, CSS, JavaScript and Python.

I am looking forward to applying my organisational and teamwork skills in a software role, where I can thrive in an innovative environment that challenges me and supports my career development.

Education and IT Training

July – October 2024

Just IT Training Ltd, London

Software Development Bootcamp

A 12-week intensive bootcamp covering the fundamentals of Web and Software development

2019 - 2021

Chartered Institute of Taxation (CIOT)

Chartered Tax Adviser (CTA) qualification

Prizes for the highest mark of any advanced technical paper in November 2019 and November 2020 sittings

2017 - 2020

Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales (ICAEW)

Associate Chartered Accountant (ACA) qualification

14 exams all passed on first attempt

2014 - 2017

University of Cambridge

Classics, Part I: First Class, Part II: Upper Second Class

Core Modules:

The Languages of pre-Roman Italy, Greek Lyric Poetry, Ovid's Metamorphoses, Ancient Sparta

Final Year Project:

"Mithridates as diplomat and strategist: a study of the inflated reputation of King Mithridates VI of Pontus" - a 10,000-word thesis addressing and moderating the overblown genius of the Roman Empire's adversary in its wars with Pontus in 88-63 BC.

2007 - 2014

Loughborough Grammar School, Leicestershire

A Level:

Maths (A*) Latin (A*) Ancient Greek (A*) History (A*)

GCSE:

9 A* grades in subjects including Maths and English

IT Skills

Core Programming Languages: HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Python, SQL

Projects:

Memory Game – a straightforward pair-matching game written in HTML, CSS and JavaScript. After initially selecting the number of tiles to play with, users click on pairs of tiles to reveal the letters behind them, with the aim of clicking on two tiles containing matching letters. The game contains a timer and high scores (both in terms of fewest moves and fastest time) for each difficulty are retained in local storage and displayed.

Calculator – a user-friendly calculator built with HTML, CSS and JavaScript. It includes the main arithmetic functions, as well as invert and answer buttons. The calculator can be operated via both mouse and keyboard.

Wordle Game – an imitation of the popular Wordle game written in Python. The game generates a random 5-letter word, which users then guess with inputs in the terminal. With each guess, the game displays correctly-guessed letters as well as the remaining unguessed letters.

Country Clicker Game – a challenging game in which users must click on a given country on a map of South America. Clicking on the wrong country causes the game to end. For additional difficulty, the game can be played in “Night mode” where country borders are hidden.

Squad builder – a useful tool for constructing the line-up for an 11-a-side game. The user can select a preset formation, then add or remove names from specific positions or the subs bench.

Employment History

2018 - 2024

**Blick Rothenberg Ltd, London
Manager (Corporate Tax)**

- Promoted to Assistant Manager in January 2022 and Manager in July 2022.
- Managed a diverse portfolio of clients, liaising both internally (with the appointed partner) and externally (with the client) to agree deadlines, control expectations and deliver promised work.
- Supervised junior team members as they undertook initial analysis and preparation tasks.
- Reviewed project reports and corporation tax computations prepared by junior team members, providing feedback and instruction to improve future work.
- Oversaw the company’s employment related securities reporting cycle, working across all departments and the entire client list to satisfy compliance requirements. Acted as the first point of contact within the business for any employment related securities questions.
- Ran training sessions for peers and junior team members on various technical areas.
- Assisted with company marketing, drafting insight articles for the firm’s website.

Interests

Field hockey – I have been playing hockey since the age of 11 and have been a member of East London Hockey Club since I moved to London in late 2017. On top of weekly training and matches, I also attend a variety of the club’s social events.

Scottish reeling – in 2023 I began reeling (a form of dance) and have attended monthly sessions since. I enjoy both the dancing and the opportunity it affords to meet a variety of new people.

Board Games – before the Covid pandemic I attended a weekly board games meet up, and have since formed a few groups of friends with whom I play. I particularly enjoy in-depth, long-form strategy games, at the extreme end of which was a recently-completed run-through of Pandemic Legacy that was started in early 2022.

Cooking – I enjoy the creative opportunities afforded by cooking and baking, and am always happy to experiment with new dishes. While at my previous job, I won a Christmas competition for building a gingerbread structure, in which I accurately recreated my office workspace.

References available upon request