Q Tell us about your career journey to become principal of Shipleys.
A I started my career at the ripe old age of 18 at Deloitte (which was then known as Touche Ross) at its Cambridge office in a team specialising in owner-managed businesses. I initially sat the AAT exams and then passed the ACCA exams in 1999. I subsequently moved to London and worked for Haines Watts before joining Shipleys in late 2002. I was then promoted to principal in 2007.

Q Describe a typical client.
A My clients are typically owner-managed, AIM-listed, have an overseas connection or are part of a complex group; but they all require corporate finance advice of one form or another.

Q One of your clients was a diamond mine in Sierra Leone, could that have been perhaps the most unconventional business you have had to audit to date?
A Every client has their own particular set of circumstances which makes them unique and unconventional!

The diamond mine in Sierra Leone was certainly a journey into the unknown for the first visit, but, if you ignore the surroundings, the finance department was like any other and it even used Pegasus for the accounts package.

Q What has been your greatest achievement so far?
A I was recently told by a director of a struggling family owned business that my input had been key in securing the company’s future. In the current economic climate, I’m proud of that.

FIRM FACTS
Aim: To help entrepreneurs do the deal which moves their business to the next stage