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Summer 2009



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This issue is sponsored by
NewScientist Jobs



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I don't even know his name

Regular readers of this newsletter will know that I steer clear of any topical economic references; assuming that like me, you might welcome a read, devoid of credit crunch references or the latest MPs expenses debacle. Well that I can guarantee in my address for this issue though I venture to say that my story weaves a thread of a similar fabric; a time of shame and loss of real values.

I moved into 'Beaulieu' in Westbourne just before Christmas last year – an unforgettable experience to say the least. It was, to my great fortune, a manor house steeped in history, which was vacant for six months requiring my daughter and I to become the lucky 'house sitters' for the absentee owners.

Westbourne is a true delight, with quaint shops and an eclectic mix of locals. I loved it all, especially the Saturday parade of the ladies with their blue-rinsed perms; the old boys, heads bowed as they nipped into William Hills betting shop for their weekly punt. But there was one in particular who was a genuine ray of sunshine.

I first saw him clutching his stash of magazines outside the M&S store. He held the gait of a man who was broken by a life I could not begin to imagine. He didn't ask me to buy his magazine or even look me in the eye, so when I had finished my shopping I decided to buy my first copy of the Big Issue.

Unbeknownst to me, my daughter had bought a copy while I was in the store, which was a first for her too and it struck me how odd it was that both of us were so taken by this gentleman. When I approached him to buy the magazine, shopping bags in hand, he told me that my daughter had already bought one and at that, he took hold of my shopping and helped me to the car.

What really struck me was his honesty in refusing my money to buy another magazine. He became someone I grew accustomed to seeing and he always greeted me with a genuine smile and a doff of his cap. I moved out of Westbourne in May this year, but on a visit over the weekend, I noticed a large flower display just outside M&S.

I asked a passer by what had happened. 'The big issue gentleman was kicked to death the night before. Three youths were being held in custody, aged 14 to 16'. At that, the lady turned to me and said. 'Did you know he was a war hero'? To my great shame, I thought 'I didn't even know his name'. As if reading my mind, the lady placed a bunch of flowers at his favourite lamppost saying 'Ralph would have liked these'.

Flowers, six feet deep, covered the footpath forcing passers by to walk on the road. Messages read of a man who was born with the heart of a lion and the graces of a king. I will remember him as a man of honour and it is worth remembering that in these times of great fear and panic over our livelihoods; where ruthlessness and deception are commonplace, there are some for whom material gain is nothing compared to truth and honour.

In memory of Ralph Millward who died on 8th May 2009. Aged 41. RIP.



A bad case for market research

In a recent report published by the Institute for Market Research, it was reported that the government spent over £500,000 on a study of punctuality and overcrowding on the trains. The report concluded that commuters wanted trains to run on time. Value for money market research? We think not.

If MPs replaced ad agencies...

This week it emerged that Tory MEP Caroline Jackson paid her husband £22,500 to help her write a 15-page leaflet on waste management. The leaflet consisted of 11 pages of information, an index and a cover which equates to more than £2,000 a page. Mrs Jackson was reported at saying that £10,000 was for 'consultancy fees'. And you thought agencies were expensive.

Lubbly Jubbly

A hospital in Prague is so desperate to employ more nurses, it is offering free breasts to new staff. Nurses and doctors who sign three year contracts to join the Iscare Clinic in the Czech capital can choose from free face-lifts, breast enlargements or tummy-tucks. "Our staff will be real-life models to show exactly what we can achieve" says the manager Jiri Schweitzer in The Sun. There is a chronic nurse shortage in the Czech Republic, where nurses are notoriously poorly paid. Around 6,000 nurses are needed, as many choose to abandon the career in favour of better paying jobs.

Many thanks to Simon Wingate from New Scientist who kindly sponsored this issue.

Attract the best candidates

So you're advertising a job. What about your organisation?

New Scientist Jobs is the dedicated recruitment website for science professionals. We'd like to introduce you to the Enhanced Employer Profile.

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Tel: 020 8652 8302 E: simon.wingate@rbi.co.uk



Renewable Energy company appoints Remo

Hydroplan UK, one of the leading renewable energy consultancies in the UK has just appointed Remo to develop its marketing and recruitment strategies. With bases in the Scottish Highlands and in the South of England, Hydroplan specialises in small to medium hydropower schemes and is eager to increase its market share over the coming years. Kieran Hansom, the managing director says 'the time is right for Hydroplan to enter the next stage of its development. Renewable energy and more specifically Hydropower is seeing unprecedented growth and I am eager to develop Hydroplan to meet these needs'.

Accent Peerless Limited is a leading Surrey-based, Registered Social Landlord (RSL) and is also a member of the National Housing Federation. Accent Peerless is an operational subsidiary of [Accent Group Ltd](#) and we were delighted to be retained to produce the company's resident's annual report.



Top 4 reasons for having an event

Ever thought you can't afford an event for your clients? Well don't be fooled. Remo can put that right with these top four reasons why you should go ahead with a great bash to consolidate with your clients.



1. Brand Value and Awareness

Entertaining can help with representing strong brand awareness for your company.

2. Original Ideas

New and fresh ideas could come from socialising and sharing information with clients.

3. Exclusive Details

People usually feel more relaxed at parties, so are more likely to open up. You might hear something that could help your business.

4. Low Expenditure

There are many supplier and venue bargains out there, make sure you use them to your advantage.

New Outplacement service at Remo.

In the current economic climate, the process of downsizing can be inevitable, Remo's outplacement service offers simple, flexible support tailored to your individual business needs. We count ourselves fortunate to have a team of experienced passionate people always willing to go the extra mile. With excellent telephone support, as well as a range of optional workshops, we work closely to ensure your staff are given assistance at the time they need it most. If you need further info please call Ursula on 023 8023 0940.



Competition!

Last issue's winner was Lucy Culkin from Sequel Solutions who was thrilled with her flight tickets to Dublin. For the chance to win a £50 of M&S token, all you have to do is to email us a caption for the picture above. The highest one on our clapometer, wins the token. Please send your captions to Recruitment@ryanemo.com

Three stars to the following schools for retaining Remo to help with their staff advertising and communications.



TOP OF THE CLASS
HOWARD OF EFFINGHAM SCHOOL
THOMAS KNYVETT COLLEGE

'You know, somebody complimented me on my driving. They left a parking note on my windscreen.'



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