

HRI Ltd Newsletter

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Hello jobseekers! Summer is here in the UK, the days are long and (mostly) sunny, there has even been a heatwave alert, though the temperatures would make those of you from hotter climates smile, holidays are just round the corner and everyone is in a good mood. Although temperatures can be erratic and there is always a vague threat of drought or flood, the UK is a lovely place to spend Summer. There is no shortage of concerts, festivals, exhibitions and shows to suit everyone's taste along with sporting events aplenty, and local and national festivities celebrating anything and everything.

Newsflash: Junior nurses off the Healthcare Shortage Professions list

The government is making headlines again regarding more short-term solutions to the current financial crisis in the NHS. There has been widespread press coverage of the news that thousands of newly qualified nurses cannot find jobs in hospitals. The government have decided, in their wisdom, that the solution to this situation is to ban foreign nurses from being hired for jobs in the two lowest nursing grades unless there is no UK or EEA trained nurse qualified for the job. Junior overseas nurses will now find it even harder to get a foot in the door to career progression in the NHS and the Government is being accused of sacrificing overseas nurses' careers to help solve the latest NHS financial crisis. It is true that there has been a large amount of investment in nursing in recent years and the numbers are healthier than they have been in a long time. However it is equally true that huge numbers of experienced older nurses are due to retire in the next few years and that it is likely that the NHS will be staggering into another nursing shortage sooner rather than later when it is realised the extent to which the NHS has been supported by nurses from overseas in the past and present. So, if you are a foreign nurse reading this and wondering whether it's time to change career, don't. Your time will come; the NHS needs you though it may be unaware of it right now.

Some good news to focus on

It's not all bad. Primary Care and NHS Trusts are currently working together to ensure that another government target due to be met at the end of 2008 is on track and this could be good news for people who want to come and work in the UK. It is an ambitious target and promises that patients will wait no more than 18 weeks from the time they see their General Practitioner to receiving their treatment in hospital, whatever treatment that may be. In order to have any hope of achieving this, it will be necessary to have all departments operating at full capacity and this means more AHPs and nurses will be required to ensure maximum efficiency. It is not something that can be left to the last minute however so things should start to improve again towards the end of the year.

The World Cup

I couldn't really send out this newsletter without mentioning the World Cup as the 31 days that finished last Saturday have been all about

football, all over the world. First of all, congratulations to Italy, the well-deserved new champions. Commiserations to all the rest but no-one could have taken it harder than England, and the English. The country went into mourning after the ill-fated penalty shoot-out that signalled the dashing of a nation's hopes, again. Every 4 years the St George flags come out, the football songs are released, 1966 is mentioned (a lot!) and football fans up and down the country are filled with a sense of tentative optimism that maybe, just maybe, this time it will be different. This year the defeat was particularly poignant as it would have been the 40 year anniversary of the glorious victory that was England's win over Germany in 1966, the last time that the birthplace of football managed to wrestle that golden trophy away from those Johnny-come-lately upstarts from elsewhere. Roll on 2010!

Hampshire

Hampshire is the perfect summer county. It's got it all – great weather, camping, speed boat racing, ice cream, swimming, lovely marinas, historic sites, cycling, walking. It is also the location for Cowes week, the world's premier sailing regatta off the Isle of Wight starting at the end of this month. Attended by 8000 amateur and professional sailors, 1000 boats will be competing in hundreds of races with hordes of enthusiastic land lubbers looking on in envy.

The celebrated author Jane Austen found her inspiration for writing *Pride & Prejudice*, *Emma* and *Sense & Sensibility* in the beautiful surroundings of Hampshire. She lived outside Hampshire for a total of only 6 years and was much relieved to return to Southampton after a stint in Bath. Southampton is the home of the British Navy and all things seafaring and in Austen's day was a charming, mediaeval town, home to shipbuilding and one of the UK's historic seaports. Jane and her close circle of friends and family would often take boat trips up the River Beaulieu to the New Forest, famous for its wild ponies and superb scenery and which has been designated the UK's newest National Park, recognising its importance as an area of outstanding natural beauty.

Jane tragically succumbed to a rare disease at the young age of 41 and was buried at Winchester Cathedral, in the ancient capital of England, another place in Hampshire that is definitely worth a visit if only to view King Arthur's mysterious Round Table on display in the Great Hall of the ruined Winchester castle.

Workwise, with a population of 1.6 million, there is no shortage of job opportunities and being only around an hour or so outside London it is a convenient and charming location to base oneself whilst in the UK.

Next featured area: The Channel Islands in the Autumn issue

Check out our website at: www.hospitalrecruitment.com

