

HRI Ltd Newsletter

SUMMER EDITION JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2008

Good day jobseekers. Welcome to the Summer edition of the HRI newsletter, a quarterly publication that seeks to deliver all the latest news about healthcare in the UK plus a different regional focus to showcase the incredible variety of life and surroundings available here, and to remind you all to keep in touch with us and let us know how your plans are coming along. Our aim is to find as many of you as possible a great new job but we understand that there are other things to consider besides work so we try and pack in a bit of lifestyle information as well.

As mentioned, this is the summer newsletter but once again, summer has been something of a disappointment in 2008. One of the things you will notice when you move to Great Britain is how often everyone talks about the weather, generally not in a very complimentary fashion. Summer is a great time to be here however, no matter what the weather and this is reflected in the numbers of people choosing to stay right here in the UK for their holidays this year. There is always a lot to do to suit everyone, whether it be attending music festivals, camping, having picnics, riding donkeys on the beach or any number of other seasonal pastimes.

NHS 60th anniversary

(Continued from last newsletter, see www.hospitalrecruitment.com)

As mentioned in the Spring newsletter, the National Health Service (NHS) was 60 years old in 2008 and there has been much tribute paid throughout the year to this august institution and the people who make it work. That the NHS is still in operation at all in this modern day society of ours is pretty remarkable but things have changed dramatically from the original premise of a service entirely paid for by the taxpayer. Most of the new construction and development that was mentioned in the Spring newsletter is paid for by private equity companies who have entered into partnerships with hospital trusts so that the upgrades can be paid for. This scheme is known as PFI or Private Finance Initiative and the jury is out as to whether or not it is going to have a long-term beneficial effect overall. Hospitals are getting the funds that they so desperately need to upgrade and improve facilities but at what price? Huge repayments that will cripple Trusts as they find themselves in lovely buildings with state-of-the-art facilities but no-one to staff them because recruitment is too expensive? Modern, airy wards full of empty beds that are never opened due to cutbacks?

NHS Trusts may struggle to meet the costs of PFI in future. There have been concerns raised about payment on results, whereby hospitals are paid per patient treated rather than on past results as previously. More than one hospital has found itself technically bankrupt as a result of unsustainable PFI repayments and many others have had to look again at their plans and reconsider or abandon previously agreed works. The scheme may signal the end for some older hospitals that have not yet had the PFI wand waved over them to save money for those that have, and in these uncertain financial times, things could be looking grim.

The Olympics

As you will be aware, the Olympic Games were in full swing in Beijing recently and the UK did extraordinarily well. After China, the USA and Russia came Team GB with a magnificent 47 medals, 19 of which are gold! For much of the competition Team GB was 3rd when measuring the golden haul, only being overtaken by Russia in the last few days, and even ended up winning 5 more golds than the mighty Australia! Such statistics don't come up very often and the UK is still basking in the glow of its athletes' sporting prowess. China was a fantastic host and the UK has a lot to live up to in 2012.

CPD Audits

Don't forget a very important part of your registration now is to maintain and update your CPD (continuing professional development) portfolio because you may be asked to produce it for audit.

If you are a registrant with the HPC, find out more information about this process at: <http://www.hpc-uk.org/registrants/cpd/>

NMC registrants can find out more information by going to: <http://www.nmc-uk.org/aFrameDisplay.aspx?DocumentID=4488>



Oxford & Cambridge

The dreaming spires of Oxford, punting along the Cam river, the boat race, students in long scarves cycling through mediaeval cobbled streets – these are just a few of the images commonly associated with Oxford and Cambridge, ancient towns in their own right but most often thought of as university towns and world centres of academic learning.

Summer is the perfect time to take a trip to Oxford in the heart of leafy Oxfordshire, just on the edge of the West Country. There is plenty to see and do in this picturesque city and it's not just all about academia, although the university does have a fascinating history and is the oldest in the English speaking world, first mentioned in twelfth century records. Over the centuries, there has sometimes been a difficult relationship between 'town and gown' which in 1355 erupted into the St Scholastica day riot in which 93 students and townspeople were killed. This was after an argument about beer, always an important subject in any student's life, which escalated out of control! However, over the last 800 years it has also been a religious centre, housed the court of the beleaguered King Charles 1 during the English Civil War and is now becoming known as a centre for high tech business and industry.

Cambridge is a lovely city and host to the 2nd oldest university in the UK.

Interestingly, the university was formed in 1209 after a group of students fled from the hostile townspeople of Oxford and founded a new university there.

There has been a healthy rivalry between the two groups of students ever since which culminates every year in the famous boat race on the Thames river in London, first held in 1829. This sporting event is now a British national institution, watched by a quarter of a million people from the river banks and bridges and televised to 7-9 million more in the UK and unknown quantities throughout the world. Statistically, Cambridge is in the lead having won 79 of the 154 races so far. One of these, the race in 1877 was declared a dead heat and both crews have been known to sink over the years although Cambridge has to take the biggest bow for managing to sink the boat before the race had even begun in 1984!

Both towns are centres for biomedical research and home to large and well respected teaching hospitals. These hospitals like all the rest in the UK must meet government targets to treat patients within 18 weeks of seeing their GP so their need for experienced nurses and allied health professionals to achieve this is ongoing. In other words, they need you so get yourself registered and get over here!

Next featured area: Liverpool in the Autumn issue.

Check out our website at: www.hospitalrecruitment.com

