

The Alliance

bulletin

Issue 157: March 2014

www.itwalliance.com

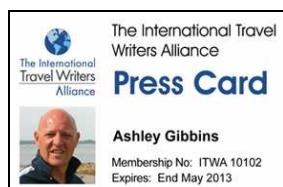
Providing key information on a no-frills format for professional who travel to write, edit, broadcast or create images. Editor : Ashley Gibbins : Ashley@itwalliance.com

Registering with the Alliance

To register with the Alliance visit : www.itwalliance.com, and register as a :

- **Member** : travel writers, broadcasters and photographers
- **Editor** : commissioning editors
- **Partner** : travel and tourism industry organisations, or
- **Agency** : agency representatives with travel or tourism clients

The Alliance press card



The International Travel Writers Alliance Press Card now provides Alliance journalists with formal recognition of their status and standing – and a roving ambassador’s role - in the profession.

See Appendix one for the directory of opportunities for press card holders.

Join and follow



http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=2978414&trk=hb_side_g



@writersalliance

The Alliance bulletin

Working with the Alliance

The following travel industry partners and agencies have registered with the Alliance and are keen to work with Alliance travel writers, editors, broadcasters and photographers.

Other Alliance partners and agencies can be found at www.itwalliance.com.

Partners

The Global Hotel Alliance

The Global Hotel Alliance (GHA) is the world's largest alliance of independent hotel brands and currently includes brands such as :

Art Series, Doyle Collection	Anantara	QT
First	Marco Polo	Rixos
Kempinski	Mokara	Rydges
Individual Collection	Omni	Shaza
Leela	Pan Pacific	Tangram, and
Lungarno Collection	PARKROYAL	Tivoli

The Alliance encompasses over 345 upscale and luxury hotels with over 85,000 rooms in 61 different countries.

Visit : www.gha.com. Contact : Charlotte Rous at charlotte@grifcopr.com.

Children in the Wilderness

Children in the Wilderness (CITW) is an environmental and life skills educational programme.

It focuses on the next generation of rural decision makers, developing environmental leaders who are inspired to care for their natural heritage and become the custodians of these areas in the future.

CITW was set up after a visit by the actor Paul Newman to Botswana in 2001.

His organisation, the Association of Hole in the Wall Gang Camps, is dedicated to offering educational and recreational camps for children with life-threatening conditions in America and Europe.

Inspired and assisted by this organisation, the programme began in Botswana in December 2001 and has since been successfully implemented in the other southern African countries including : Malawi, South Africa, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Seychelles.

Visit : www.childreninthewilderness.com. Contact : info@childreninthewilderness.com.

Associated Luxury Hotels International

Associated Luxury Hotels International has launched an iPad app for meeting and convention professionals, incentive specialists, association executives, and business executives involved with planning and procuring meetings.

The app is 100% native, meaning that once downloaded it functions even without internet connectivity, also while in-flight or on the road.

In doing so, it provides quick and easy access to ALHI's portfolio of 160+ Four- and Five-Diamond quality Member hotels and resorts worldwide that specifically serve the meetings and incentive marketplace.

Visit : www.alhi.com. Contact : Karen Lamonica at klamonica@chisano.com.

The Outdoor Writers Association of America

The Outdoor Writers Association of America is the oldest and largest association of professional outdoor communicators in the United States.

It was organized in 1927 by members of the Izaak Walton League of America and includes professional communicators dedicated to sharing the outdoor experience.

OWAA's professionals include writers, photographers, outdoors radio- and television-show hosts, book authors, videographers, lecturers and artists.

The association is headquartered in Missoula, Mont.

Visit : www.owaa.org. Contact : info@owaa.org; www.owaa.org.

The Finger Lakes Region

The Finger Lakes Region of New York State is the perfect getaway with more than 100 wineries, 11 lakes, charming bed and breakfasts and romantic hotels. Visitors to the area enjoy the scenic views, extensive culinary scene and the abundance of outdoor recreation offered in and around the lakes.

Visit : www.visitfingerlakes.com, Contact : AJ Shear at aj@visitfingerlakes.com.

Job shop

Here are some of the professional opportunities available on [The International Travel Writers Alliance Job Shop](#).

The **Job Shop** has been created to enable the Alliance's partners to place - and journalists to receive - information on in-house jobs, special assignments or one-off projects.

The Alliance's travel journalists can also :

- set up **Job Alerts** so as to be notified if a job is posted that matches the journalists skills or interests
- create an anonymous job seeker profile or upload a CV for potential employers to search through, and
- access job searching tools and tips

Although in its infancy, we hope the **Job Shop** will become a valuable addition to the range of services offered by the [International Travel Writers Alliance](#).

Managing Editor

The Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC)

Journal Managing Editor

The Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC)

Editor, BackStory

Charlottesville, Virginia
Virginia Foundation for the Humanities

Managing Editor

Detroit, Michigan
Lowe Campbell Ewald

The site also features UK and international job opportunities.

Visit : www.jobtarget.com/home/home.cfm?site_id=14773

News

The 2014 Hudson's Heritage Awards HeritageH, UK

The Hudson's Heritage Awards, which were established in 2011, are an independently judged annual national awards scheme open to historic houses, gardens, museums and heritage sites and celebrate the very best heritage experiences.

The 11 categories reward a range of visitor experiences and recognise the best heritage attractions in the UK.

Winners and Highly Commended, respectively, in each category are as follows :

Best Family Day Out

- Holkham Hall & Estate in Norfolk, England, and
- Eastnor Castle in Herefordshire, England.

Best Wedding Venue

- Montalto Estate in County Down, Northern Ireland, and
- Mount Stuart on the Isle of Bute, Scotland

Best Eating Out

- Mount Stuart, and
- Berkeley Castle in Gloucestershire, England.

Best Accommodation

- Leeds Castle in Kent, England and
- Peckover House in Cambridgeshire, England and Hadlow Tower in Kent, England.

Best New Discovery

- Dunvegan Castle on the Isle of Skye, Scotland, and
- Pentillie Castle in Cornwall, England.

Hidden Gem

- The Judges Lodgings, Presteigne in Powys.

Best Event

- Houghton Revisited, Houghton Hall, Norfolk, England,
- Woburn Abbey Garden Show, Woburn Abbey Gardens in Bedfordshire, England.

Best Commercial Innovation

- Huntsham Court in Devon, England.

Best Shopping

- Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire, England
- Hatfield House in Hertfordshire, England.

Best Heritage Picnic Spot

- Chatsworth House in Derbyshire, England

Hudson's is publisher of market leading guide, Hudson's Historic Houses & Gardens.

Visit : www.hudsons-awards.co.uk. Contact : Tanya Aspinwall at tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk.

Aviemore, Scotland

The Strathspey Railway and Classic Tours Highlands have joined forces to create a vintage tour of the Scottish Highlands.

This joint venture offers visitors First Class 1950s travel on board a vintage steam engine, followed by a bespoke tour of the Scottish Highlands in a classic car.

On route there is the chance to visit some of the country's most famous distilleries, an authentic woollen mill or a dining experience at the UK's highest restaurant at the Cairngorms Mountain.

Visit www.strathspeyrailway.co.uk. Contact : Deborah Quinn at deborah.quinn@strathspeyrailway.co.uk.

Visit Napa Valley

Visit Napa Valley has launched its mobile app for iOS, iPad and Android, offering visitors to the area a direct line into local recommendations of what to do in the wine region.

Downloadable for free, the Visit Napa Valley app offers tips and special offers on local events, wine tastings, hotel booking options, dining recommendations, spa and outdoor activities. GPS-enabled maps filter what to do in the immediate area, and a Favorites feature for trip planning helps home in on the perfect, customized experience within the 35-mile long Napa Valley.

In addition to planning tools, there are currently over 30 seasonal and exclusive-to-the-app special offers available to book at a number of Napa Valley visitor-serving businesses.

Visit : www.visitnapavalley.com. Contact : Margaux Lushing at Margaux@visitnapavalley.com.

Pullman Saigon Centre

The new Pullman Saigon Centre has opened in the heart of the Ho Chi Minh City, in Vietnam's economic heart.

The 306-bedroom hotel is located close to Ben Thanh Market in the heart of Saigon in southern Vietnam.

Visit : www.pullmanhotels.com. Contact : Romain Folliot at romain.folliot@accor.com.

Apartum

Apartum.com has added 25,000 new destinations, and now compares more than 500,000 apartments in 50 markets

The comparison site for holiday apartments is now available in eight languages and has launched a new platform that is adapted to mobiles and tablets.

After launching in markets including Spain, France, Italy and the U.S, Apartum now also covers new markets, including Germany, the Netherlands, Brazil and Russia.

Visit : www.apartum.com. Contact : Lorenzo Ritella at lorenzo@apartum.com.

The Society of London Theatre

The Society of London Theatre's 2013 Box Office figures show record ticket revenue and attendances.

Overall attendances increased 4% to 14,587,276 and gross sales of £585,506,455 were up 11% compared to 2012.

Sales were boosted by several London theatres welcoming major new musicals in 2013 such as The Book of Mormon at Prince of Wales Theatre, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory at Theatre Royal Drury Lane, The Commitments at Palace Theatre and Once at Phoenix Theatre.

Visit : www.solt.co.uk. Contact : Natalie Browne at natalie@made2010.com.

ScotRail alcohol ban

A campaign to combat anti social behaviour by banning alcohol on Scotland's railway has been hailed a success by British Transport Police with only four incidents related to alcohol throughout 2013.

While passenger numbers have risen to over 83 million, crime on Scotland's railway is down for the ninth consecutive year.

Visit : www.firstgroup.com. Contact : Laura Cummings at Laura.Cummings@FirstGroup.com.

Aquatica Orlando

Ihu's Breakaway Falls, the world's longest drop tower multi-slide ride and the tallest and steepest in the southern United States will open in May at Aquatica Orlando.

Riders step into one of three clear 'breakaway boxes' at the top of the ride where they face each other - not knowing who will drop first - before the floor disappears and they plunge down at a rate of 20 – 24 feet per second.

Those who are looking for a slightly tamer experience can choose the fourth slide which allows them to control when they go.

Aquatica is a waterpark from SeaWorld.

Visit : www.seaworldparks.co.uk. Contact Lucy Dalton at lucy@cubo.com.

Scottish Islands

The Islands Visitor Survey 2012-2013, has found that over 425,000 people visited the Outer Hebrides, Shetland and Orkney between 2012 and 2013, with around three quarters saying they would be very likely or fairly likely to return in the next 5 years for a holiday or short break.

One noticeable area of change from the previous surveys is that around 40% of visitors now share their experiences online during and after their trip with almost a third uploading photos of their visit on social media sites

Overall visitor satisfaction levels to these islands were very high, with around 80% of visitors stating they were "very satisfied" with their visit.

The main influences on visitors deciding to come to Orkney, Shetland and the Outer Hebrides were the scenery and landscape, as well as an interest in the archaeology and history of islands.

Visit : www.visitscotland.org/research_and_statistics/visitor_research/all_markets/islands_visitor_survey.aspx.

Contact :

- Nigel Scott at nscott@cne-siar.gov.uk
- Rebecca McAuliffe at rebecca.mcauliffe@orkney.gov.uk
- Carol Anderson at carol.anderson@shetland.gov.uk, and
- Louise Purves at Louise.purves@visitscotland.com.

The MICHELIN Guide Hong Kong & Macau

The MICHELIN Guide Hong Kong & Macau 2014 lists 74 establishments in Macau, including 18 hotels and 56 restaurants.

The inclusion of ten new restaurants and two new hotels in Macau - an increase of 23 establishments on the previous year highlights Macau's diverse food scene and reinforces its reputation as one of Asia's food destinations.

Visit : www.macautourism.gov.mo. Contact : Lucy Mayes : lucy@humewhitehead.co.uk.

Dubai Corporation for Tourism and Commerce Marketing

Dubai has set up the Dubai Corporation for Tourism and Commerce Marketing, a new tourism body which will establish offices in key cities around the world to market 'Brand Dubai' and further boost inbound travel and trade.

Visit : www.dubaitourism.ae. Contact : Alia Bin Hendi at a.binhendi@dubaitourism.ae.

Leads

Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire UK

Blenheim Palace is home to the 11th Duke and Duchess of Marlborough and the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill.

Surrounded by over 2,000 acres of 'Capability' Brown landscaped parkland and the Great Lake, the Palace was created a World Heritage Site in 1987.

Conceived in 1705 by Sir John Vanbrugh, Blenheim Palace is a masterpiece of English Baroque architecture steeped in inspirational history.

There's the chance to visit the room where Sir Winston Churchill was born before taking a guided tour of the gilded State Rooms graced with priceless portraits, exquisite porcelain and the magnificent tapestries.

A permanent interactive visitor experience 'Blenheim Palace: The Untold Story' is open inside the Palace, bringing to life enticing tales of the last 300 years seen through the eyes of the household staff.

Themed tours run on selected dates across the year that look at some of the personalities, periods and significant developments in more detail.

Exhibitions are also part of Blenheim Palace's offering, which include permanent showcases such as Sir Winston Churchill, but also new exhibitions each year and has in the past included John Piper, 'Lights, Camera, Action!' and Gladys Deacon.

The Palace is surrounded by award winning formal gardens, including the tranquil Secret Garden, the majestic Water Terraces and fragrant Rose Garden.

The extensive Parkland that was designed by 'Capability' Brown to appear as natural landscaping was in fact 'nature contrived' and features some historical monuments that includes The Column of Victory, Cascades and Vanbrugh Bridge over the Grand Lake.

The Pleasure Gardens can be reached by a miniature train, which includes the Marlborough Maze, the Butterfly House and Adventure Playground, making it a great area for the family.

Each year Blenheim Palace hosts a range of special events for all to enjoy, including seasonal themed events, Jousting Tournament, The Blenheim Palace Flower Show, charity events and the Blenheim Palace International Horse Trials.

Blenheim Palace was awarded the title of 'Best Shopping' experience at the 2014 Hudson's Heritage Awards.

Visit : www.blenheimpalace.com. Contact : Stephanie Hendley at shendley@blenheimpalace.com.

Lodge-based Grand Canyon hiking

In addition to its river trips on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon, O.A.R.S. has introduced a Grand Canyon Hiking trip that includes a hike from the South Rim to Phantom Ranch on the Colorado River and back.

The trip comprises four days of guided hiking and three nights of comfortable lodging.

Expert guides share their knowledge of the area's natural and human history.

Visit : www.oars.com/grandcanyon/hiking/grand-canyon-hiking.html. Contact: Steve Markle at steve@oars.com.

One Ocean Expeditions

One Ocean Expeditions is offering an opportunity to travel through Canada's Northwest Passage on a special cruise to mark the 70th anniversary of the first ever single season transit of the route.

Travelling on board the ice-strengthened Akademik Ioffe between Cambridge Bay and Iqaluit, the 12-night voyage departs 25 August 2014 to retrace the deep-sea route followed by the RCMP St Roch in 1944 under the command of Staff Sergeant Henry Larsen.

The first ever transit of Canada's Northwest Passage was between 1903-1906 under the command of the great Roald Amundsen of Norway.

The feat was not repeated until 1940-42 when the RCMP St Roch completed a West to East transit of the passage.

In 1944, Larsen undertook an East to West transit in the same season, marking the first ever single season crossing of the Northwest Passage and making the St Roch the first vessel to complete the route in both directions.

Visit : www.oneoceanexpeditions.com. Contact : Debra Taylor at debra@toucanmoon.com.

The 'Eastern & Oriental Express' and Save Wild Tigers

The Eastern & Oriental Express hosts a special fund raising journey in aid of Save Wild Tigers from 2 – 6th October 2014.

The journey travels through the tiger's historic habitat from Singapore, through Malaysia and Thailand and highlights include a Gala dinner at the Majestic Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, to be attended by distinguished members of the Malaysian Royal Family, international celebrities and VIPs.

This five day adventure includes one night at Raffles, Singapore, two nights on the Eastern & Oriental Express and one night at the Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok.

About Save Wild Tigers

Save Wild Tigers is a global charity that works in conjunction with leading conservation charities such as the Born Free Foundation, the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) and MYCAT in Malaysia to end the illegal trade in tiger parts and protect wild tigers in their natural habitat.

Tiger numbers have declined dramatically and have now reached a critical stage with only 3,500 left in the wild.

Visit : www.easternandorientalexpress.com/tiger and www.savewildtigers.org. Contact : Emma Wylde at emma.wylde@orient-express.com.

The Space Shuttle Endeavour at the California Science Center, Los Angeles

There is the chance to see the Space Shuttle Endeavour up close at its permanent home at the California Science Center's Samuel Oschin Pavilion, in Los Angeles.

The Pavilion also features images and video featuring Endeavour past missions and the diverse crews who flew them.

The California Science Center also has an IMAX Theater on-site featuring a 7-story screen that brings to life worlds as small as an atom and as vast as the universe.

Visit www.californiasciencecenter.org. Contact : jenhahaha@gmail.com.

Humpback and Minke whales in the Antarctic Peninsula

Dr Ari Friedlaender, One Ocean Expeditions' Marine And Conservation Expert, will be onboard the Akademik Sergey Vavilov for its 16 March 2014 voyage to discover how the humpback and minke Whales behave in the icy waters of Antarctica

Guests will also be able to locate and document the behaviour of whales previously fitted with satellite tracking devices.

Humpback whales use nearly the entire Antarctic Peninsula to feed and often move between the Gerlache Strait south to Marguerite Bay and north into the Bransfield Strait.

Visit : www.oneoceanexpeditions.com. Contact : Debra Taylor at debra@toucanmoon.com.

The Luxembourg Card

The Luxembourg Card offers free access to more than 60 sights and attractions and the chance to travel on bus and train for free.

Visit : www.visitluxembourg.com. Contact : Brigitte Goergen at brigitte.goergen@ont.lu.

Sea Kayak Adventures

Sea Kayak Adventures is launching a series of new kayak tours in British Columbia, Canada, one of the most sought-out destinations for adventurers and whale-watching enthusiasts.

Visit www.seakayadventures.com. Contact : Amber at : amber@seakayadventures.com.

Charleston, South Carolina

South Carolina's highest court has thrown out a lawsuit seeking to block plans for a new cruise terminal in Charleston.

A number of pressure groups including the Preservation Society of Charleston had filed a lawsuit saying that cruise traffic would add to congestion and pollution in the densely population Charleston historic district.

The State Ports Authority will now move ahead with plans to build a new \$35 million terminal.

Visit : www.port-of-charleston.com. Contact : Contact: Erin Pabst at EPabst@scspa.com.

The Metropole in Llandrindod Wells, Wales

The four-star Metropole in Llandrindod Wells, has teamed up with Hawksdrift Falconry to offer couples the opportunity to have their wedding rings delivered by falcon or barn owl.

Hawksdrift Falconry is based in mid Wales and is run by Layla Bennett, who made a successful bid for investment to the well-known TV series Dragons' Den.

Hawksdrift offers delivery of the rings by hawks, Hope and Jasper, or owls, Olivia and Ben. There is plenty of opportunity for guests to handle the birds and to have pictures taken with them after the ceremony.

The Metropole, situated in the town of Llandrindod Wells, is run by Justin Baird-Murray and his sister, Sarah.

The couple are the fifth generation of their family to be running this venerable Mid Wales establishment.

Visit : www.metropole.co.uk. Contact : Nerys Lloyd-Pierce at nerys@lloyd-pierec.co.uk.

Paul Menta's Legal Rum Distillery, Key West

Paul Menta's Legal Rum Distillery has opened in Key West at a former Coca-Cola bottling plant and pre-prohibition era bar.

Despite its colourful past, the Keys never had a legitimate rum distiller, and world record-holding kiteboarder and Key West chef Menta plans to create a new chapter in the island chain's history with his Legal Rum brand.

The distillery, formerly known as Jack's Saloon gives visitors the chance to tour the plant and enjoy free rum samplings.

While state law prohibits distillers from selling alcoholic beverages, visitors can enjoy complimentary rum and coke drinks if they purchase one of the cola brand's classic glass bottles.

Legal Rum flagship bottles bear police mug shots of former local residents guilty of alcohol contraband offences to match the distillery's interiors, which are covered in old newspapers and additional jail mug shots.

Visit : www.keywestlegalrum.com and www.fla-keys.co.uk. Contact : Jo Thomas at jo.thomas@kbc-pr.com.

Adventures Cross-Country

Adventures Cross-Country is offering 20 opportunities for ages 13 to 19 to roll up their sleeves this summer to assist domestic and international communities while travelling.

Projects span the globe, from constructing water filters in Cambodia to rhino tracking and conservation in Uganda to serving the impoverished in San Francisco.

From teaching primary school English and building water purification projects in Africa to running white water rapids in Costa Rica to enhancing fluency in Spanish or Mandarin in Spain or China, ARCC looks to bring youth face to face with the challenges, realities and beauties of nature and our global community.

Visit : www.adventurescrosscountry.com. Contact : Sara Widness at sara@witnesspr.com.

Just West Virginia

Complete North America has launched *Just West Virginia*, a 14-day fly-drive itinerary around the state.

The itinerary includes two days in Washington DC and a tour of West Virginia, one hour away.

Being over 70 percent forest and enclosed within the Appalachian Mountains, the state offers a fine backdrop for driving and natural resources for outdoor adventure.

Its diverse culture provides civil war history in Harpers Ferry, quaint towns such as Shepherdstown and Lewisburg, historic spas in Berkeley Springs and log cabins and hiking in Blackwater Falls State Park and the state's capital Charleston.

Visit : www.wvtourism.com and www.completenorthamerica.com. Contact : Jane Wilson at jane@attachecomunications.co.uk.

Daypack treks from Cusco to Machu Picchu, Peru

Peruvian eco-tourism experts, Machete Tours offers daypack only walking and camping tours along the Inca Way, from Cusco to Machu Picchu.

Participants in these four day/three night treks carry just a light rucksack for their personal gear, everything else is taken from campsite to campsite.

Visit : www.machetetours.com. Contact : Ronald Rengifo at ronald@machetetours.com.

G Adventures

G Adventures is an adventure-travel company offering affordable small-group tours, safaris and expeditions to more than 100 countries on all seven continents.

The authentic and sustainable approach to small-group travel introduces travellers to the highlights of a destination while offering the freedom to explore it on their own.

Visit : www.gadventures.com. Contact: Casey Mead at caseym@gadventures.com.

The Glasgow 2014 Cultural Programme, Scotland

The Glasgow 2014 Cultural Programme, running alongside Scotland's hosting of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, has been boosted by a further 42 projects.

These include Commonwealth-themed strands running throughout Aye Write! Glasgow's Book Festival between 4 – 12 April 2014.

Performers from countries including India, Pakistan, Cyprus and Sri Lanka will also join the multi-cultural festival Glasgow Mela on 7 and 8 June 2014.

Other projects include :

- family photographic portraits exploring Scotland's links to the Commonwealth countries
- a celebration of the National Birds that represent the Commonwealth nations and territories, and
- a series of audio installations are also among the new work being created for projects led by 20 individual artists in '20 for 14', inspired by the cultural, social, political and historical contexts of the Commonwealth and Glasgow's hosting of the Commonwealth Games.

There are two strands to the Glasgow 2014 Cultural Programme: a Scotland-wide programme called Culture 2014; and a Games-time celebration in Glasgow running alongside the sporting action called Festival 2014 from 19 July to 3 August 2014.

Visit : www.glasgow2014/culture. Contact : pressandpr@visitbritain.com.

What's on in 2014

Antwerp's at War, The Flanders House Series, Flanders House, London

12 March 2014

When Germany invaded Belgium on 4 August 1914, Antwerp acted as a safe haven and a beacon of hope for many civilians on the run.

The city was considered the ultimate stronghold of the nation.

Along with King Albert I, most top Belgian politicians moved to Antwerp.

When the battle front turned towards Antwerp, the city became a key point of activity: several pontoon bridges over the River Schelde saved the lives of thousands of soldiers, the British Expeditionary Force among them.

In 2014, the port city of Antwe will recount the life experienced by its civilians and artists during the Great War.

Ann Govaert, the project coordinator for the World War I Centenary in Antwerp, will be visiting London to provide an introduction to the Centenary Events of Antwerp.

Touching on military history, she will also focus her talk about the civilian side of war and the need for peace.

Visit : www.vredescentrum.be. Contact : rsvp@flandershouse.co.uk.

Ferry Fortnight 2014, UK

15 to 29 March 2014

Britain's annual National Ferry Fortnight highlights the extensive ferry network from the UK to mainland Europe.

Visit : www.discoverferries.com. Contact : Julie Girauld at discoverferries@fourcommunications.com.

Keukenhof Gardens, the Netherlands

20 March to 18 May 2014

The theme for Keukenhof 2014 will be Holland and see more than seven million tulips, daffodils and hyacinths over 32 hectares of parkland.

Keukenhof gardens can be easily explored by bike with rented available for rent in the gardens.

Visit : www.keukenhof.com. Contact : Simone Sagi at sSagi@holland.com.

Bond in Motion

London Film Museum

From 21 March 2014

The London Film Museum and EON Productions will stage *Bond in Motion*, an exhibition of the largest official collection of original James Bond vehicles, from 21 March.

The exhibition will transform the London Film Museum space in Covent Garden and will allow Bond fans and members of the public to see the most up to date collection, including for the first time in the UK, the 1/3 scale model of Agusta Westland's AW101 helicopter used whilst filming 2012's *Skyfall*.

Bond in Motion will also feature a wide range of vehicles, miniature models, action sequence boards, vehicle concept art and props from all of the James Bond films.

Visit : www.londonfilmmuseum.com. Contact: Sam Fane sam.fane@freuds.com

The Yorkshire Festival 2014, UK

27 March to 6 July 2014

The *Grand Départ* of the Tour de France will take place in Yorkshire, and the English county is celebrating with a 100 day festival of arts and culture, from 27 March to 6 July 2014.

The Yorkshire Festival 2014 is the first arts festival to precede a *Tour de France*, the world's biggest annual sporting event.

Visit : www.yorkshirefestival.co.uk. Contact : Charlotte Bayley at charlotte@thecornershoppr.com.

The 38th Olivier Awards, London

13 April 2014

This years 38th Olivier Awards with MasterCard takes place on Sunday 13 April 2014 at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden with an ITV stage in Covent Garden piazza, free for the public.

The ITV Stage in the Covent Garden Piazza will show a relay of the awards' ceremony on big screens as well as live performances from top West End shows.

Visit : www.olivierawards.com. Contact : Natalie Browne at natalie@made2010.com.

European music festivals

Time Warp, Mannheim, Germany

5 April 2014

The electronic music Time Warp Mannheim, celebrates it's 20th birthday this year.

Visit : www.time-warp.de.

EXIT

10 to 14 July 2014

Exit is a summer music festival held at the Petrovaradin Fortress in the city of Novi Sad, Vojvodina, Serbia.

It was named 'Best Major European festival' at the EU Festival Awards which saw 620,000 people voting for 360 festivals from 34 countries.

Visit : www.exitfest.org.

MELT, Ferropolis, Gräfenhainichen, Germany.

18 - 20 July 2014

The Melt! Festival is a music festival in Germany. The music that is played is described by the organizers as Electronic meets Rock.

A principal attraction of the festival is the location, an openair museum of huge machines from the 20th Century.

B'ESTFEST, Bucharest, Romania

30 July to 2 August 2014

Just a stone's throw from the city of Bucharest is Romania's B'estfest Summer Camp.

The venue is a park on the shores of the Pasarea lake with three stages performances of rock, indie and electronic

Visit : www.bestfest.ro.

KAZANTIP REPUBLIC

July 31 - August 14 2014

Kazantip is an electronic dance music festival held every year on the Crimean peninsula in Ukraine. There is a cult of orange coloured fashion and yellow suitcases associated with the festival.

Visit : www.kazantip.com.

OFF FESTIVAL, Katowice, Poland

2 to 4 August 2014

Poland's OFF Festival in Katowice highlights alternative artists.

Visit : www.off-festival.pl

Contact : Nikki at nikki@globalpublicity.co.uk.

The HandBikes @ Dawn Challenge, Snowdonia, Wales UK

26 and 27 April 2014

A weekend of cycling activities is being planned around this year's HandBikes @ Dawn Challenge, which involves six disabled hand-cyclists attempting complete the Pont Scethin Loop, a classic mountain bike route in Southern Snowdonia, using specially designed bikes.

The bikes, which are pedalled by hand rather than by foot, have especially low gears, which are essential on the steep and rocky upper slopes of the ridge-line, which must be scaled twice to complete the loop.

The challenge is co-ordinated by 'Challenge your Boundaries', an adaptive MTB project based at the Coed y Brenin Trail centre near Dolgellau.

Visit : www.discoverdolgellau.com. Contact : Jacky O'Hanlon at info@snowbikers.com.

Saint Lucia Jazz and Arts Festival

30 April to 11 May 2014

The 23rd Annual Saint Lucia Jazz and Arts Festival features more than 65 musical performances and art showcases stretching across Saint Lucia.

Locations span from Vieux Fort in the South, rustic village settings like Rudy John Beach Park in the southwest village of Laborie, to Saint Lucia's Pigeon Island National Park, where main stage events will unfold.

About Saint Lucia

One of the Windward Islands of the West Indies' Lesser Antilles, Saint Lucia is known for its natural beauty and diverse attractions, including the signature Piton Mountains - a UNESCO World Heritage Site - a tropical rainforest and one of the world's few drive-in volcanoes.

Culturally rich offerings include the bustling marketplace in the capital of Castries and quaint fishing villages along the coastline.

The island is continually recognized as one of the Leading Wedding and Honeymoon destinations worldwide.

Visit : www.stluciajazz.org and www.stlucianow.com. Contact Shannon Overholser at overholser@redpointpr.com.

Events in Luxembourg

Nelson Mandela - From Prisoner to President, Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg

29 April to 28 September 2014

The National Museum of the Resistance Esch-sur-Alzette in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is hosting the international exhibition "Nelson Mandela, From Prisoner to President", organised and curated by the Apartheid Museum from Johannesburg.

An exhibition in the streets of Luxembourg's second biggest city and in the museum itself retraces Mandela's life.

Visit : www.visitluxembourg.com. Contact : Brigitte Goergen at brigitte.goergen@ont.lu.

The ING Night Marathon, Luxembourg

31 May 2014

Up to 10.000 runners will take part the 9th edition of the ING Night Marathon

Visit : www.ing-night-marathon.lu/en. Contact : Brigitte Goergen at brigitte.goergen@ont.lu.

The 62nd Festival de Wiltz, Luxembourg

27 June to 26 July 2014

This international festival brings conductors, orchestras, soloists and actors for the open-air festival in Wiltz.

With the castle as a backdrop, the programme includes the operas "La Traviata", "Tosca", the ballet "Don Quixote", the musical "Porgy and Bess", the concert "Glenn Miller Tribute" and the "Night of the operetta".

Visit : www.festivalwiltz.lu. Contact : Brigitte Goergen at brigitte.goergen@ont.lu.

BOZAR, Brussels

Zurbarán. Master of Spain's Golden Age

To 25 May 2014

Zurbarán was one of the most important Spanish painters, known primarily for his religious paintings depicting monks, nuns, and martyrs, and for his still-lives.

Zurbarán gained the nickname Spanish Caravaggio, owing to the forceful, realistic use of chiaroscuro in which he excelled.

For the first time there is a chronological overview of his work presented in Belgium.

Michaël Borremans. As sweet as it gets, Bozar, Brussels To 3 August 2014

Michaël Borremans made an international breakthrough in the 1990's with a variety of work in the fields of painting, drawing and films.

This exhibition contains a hundred works from the last 14 years providing an insight on this artist.

Sensation and Sensuality - Rubens and His Legacy

25 September 2014 to 4 January 2015

Presented by the BOZAR and the Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp , this major new exhibition explores Rubens and his influences on the themes of violence, power, lust, religion, elegance, and poetry over time.

Among other works, the exhibition includes paintings by Van Dyck, Gainsborough, and Delacroix, as well as etchings by Rembrandt and Picasso, who was often dubbed "the Rubens of the 20th century".

A total of 150 major works of art will be loaned for the exhibition , which will then move to London's Royal Academy from 23rd January – 10 April 2015.

Visit : www.bozar.be. Contact : Anita at anita@visitflanders.co.uk.

The 42nd Istanbul Music Festival, Turkey

31 May to 27 June 2014

The Istanbul Music Festival organised by the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (IKSV) will have 800 local and foreign artists performing in 26 concerts including orchestral concerts, chamber music, vocal concerts, and recitals.

Visit : www.efa-aef.eu/en/festivals. Contact : medya@iksv.org.

Hampton Court Festival, UK

11 to 25 June 2014

The Historic Royal Palaces stages the annual Hampton Court with performances in in Henry VIII's open air courtyard.

Acts already lined up include George Benson, The Beach Boys, Dionne Warwick, Jamie Cullum, Rick Astley & Jason Donovan, Jools Holland and the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra.

Artists perform in the historic main courtyard of the Tudor Palace for an audience of 3,000, with visitors able to enjoy picnics on the Palace Garden lawn or underneath a luxury waterside gazebo before the show.

Visit : www.hamptoncourtpalacefestival.com. Contact : Anna Hope at anna@akhcommunications.com.

The Centara World Masters Golf Championship 2014, Hua Hin, Thailand

15 to 21 June 2014

The Centara World Masters Golf Championship will be held at the Centara Grand Beach Resort & Villas Hua Hin. The event, which will attract 600 golfers from 20 countries, and will be Asia's biggest week of amateur golf.

Visit : www.thailandworldmasters.com and www.avenuesales.co.uk. Contact : Sharan Berry at sharanb@avenuesales.co.uk.

Splendour, Wollaton Park, Nottingham

July 2014

The Splendour Festival, which is held in a 500 acre deer park and home to the Elizabethan mansion Wollaton Hall, has grown to become Nottingham's largest outdoor music event, attracting over 20,000 people of all ages.

Internationally-renowned artists share the stages with local talent for this one-day, family-friendly festival.

Visit : www.splendourfestival.com. Contact : lizb@redbrickcommunications.com

Queenstown Winter festival, New Zealand

20 to 29 June 2014

American Express has renewed its title sponsorship of The American Express Queenstown Winter festival for another three year term.

In 2014 American Express will mark 25 years of support for Destination Queenstown and the Festival, the last six as title sponsor, and is excited to continue their involvement.

First established as an 1860's gold mining camp, Queenstown today has a compact and sophisticated downtown situated on a picturesque bay on the shores of Lake Wakatipu and dwarfed by the surrounding mountains.

The festival is New Zealand's - and perhaps the southern Hemisphere's - biggest celebration of winter.

It is a ten day extravaganza of Queenstown's unique culture and community with street parties, fireworks, international and local acts, comedy, family entertainment and and 'Mountain Mayhem'.

Visit : www.winterfestival.co.nz. Contact : Simone Flight at media@winterfestival.co.nz.

Byron Festival, Hucknall, Nottinghamshire UK

28 June to 6 July 2014

Every year the International Byron Festival takes place in Hucknall at places associated with the romantic poet and celebrates the life and works in the town that he was buried.

Visit : www.ashfield-dc.gov.uk. Contact : Linda Parker at linda.parker@experiencenottinghamshire.com.

The Hampshire Food Festival, Hampshire UK

Annually July

The Hampshire Food Festival takes place throughout the month of July and involves more than 80 events held at various locations across the county.

Vineyards tours, cookery classes, produce markets, brewery tours, buffalo herding and teddy bear picnics are just some of the events open to locals and visitors to the county.

Visit : www.hampshirefare.co.uk. Contact : Rishika Sharma at Rishika.Sharma@visitengland.org.

Barrakud Festival, Pag, Croatia

9 to 16 August 2014

The Barrakud 2014 music festival takes place on the Croatian island of Pag and beach raves and boat parties.

Visit : www.barrakud.com. Contact : Clare Dover at clare@globalpublicity.co.uk.

The Sziget Festival, Óbudai Island, the River Danube, Budapest

11 to 18 August 2014

Winner of the 'Best European Major Festival' award in 2011, the Festival is one of the biggest multicultural events of Europe, attracting almost 400,000 fans from over 70 countries.

Staged on Óbudai island - the Island of Freedom - in the heart of Budapest, it is a number of festivals in one, with 50 venues and around 200 programs daily.

Performing bands range from the biggest names in pop/rock and stars of world and electronic music, along with metal, folk, jazz, blues, alternative and classical concerts.

Sziget also offers theatre, circus, a gay and lesbian venue and exhibitions along with a beach section where fans can enjoy the summer and the Danube.

Visit : www.szigetfestival.com. Contact : Nikki McNeill at nikki@globalpublicity.co.uk.

World Equestrian Games, Caen, Normandy

23 August to 7 September 2014

The horse equivalent of the Olympics and only held every four years, the World Equestrian Games is the largest equestrian event in the world.

The event will bring together over 60 nations and nearly 1,000 athletes, competing in eight official disciplines: jumping, dressage, eventing, driving, reining, vaulting, endurance and para-dressage.

In addition, 500,000 visitors are expected, who will be able to watch the events and have a go at various riding activities, meet the horses and enjoy artistic and musical displays.

Visit : www.normandy2014.com. Contact: media.operations@normandie2014.com.

Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, New South Wales; Hobart, Tasmania

Annually December

Beginning on Boxing Day (26 December) each year, the Sydney to Hobart yacht race is an Australian summertime tradition.

Maxi yachts to weekend racers take part in this event, which starts from Nielsen Park in Sydney Harbour and takes the international fleet more than 1100 kilometres to the finish line in Hobart, Tasmania.

The race finishes just in time for the New Year's Eve celebrations in the city.

The start of the colourful spectacle can be seen from many vantage points around Sydney Harbour.

Visit : www.rolexsydneyhobart.com and www.sydney.com. Contact : Kim Moore at kmoore@tourism.australia.com.

Painting and sketching Africa

Cox & Kings has partnered with Art Safari in Africa to offer a collection of small-group holidays aimed at those inspired to paint and sketch the wildlife and landscapes of Botswana, Kenya, Malawi and Zambia.

Visit : www.coxandkings.co.uk/art-safaris. Contact : Katie Parsons at katie.parsons@coxandkings.co.uk.

Reasons to write about

The Vikings in England

Vikings: life and legend, British Museum

6 March – 22 June 2014

The Viking Age (800 AD – 1050 AD) was a period of major change across Europe.

The Vikings expanded from their Scandinavian homelands to create an international network across four continents, where artistic, religious and political ideas met.

The Vikings' skill in shipbuilding and seafaring were central to their culture and success, and at the heart of this British Museum exhibition will be a 37-metre-long warship, which is the longest Viking ship ever discovered.

Several new discoveries, including part of a mass grave of Viking warriors, will be on display for the first time as well as personal objects, including jewellery, amulets and idols.

Visit www.britishmuseum.org.

The JORVIK Viking Centre, York

The Jorvik Viking Centre, which also celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2014, brings Viking England to life using sights, smells, sounds, heat, cold and damp.

Visit : www.jorvik-viking-centre.co.uk.

The Silverdale Hoard: The Story So Far, Museum of Lancashire

15 February 2014

A collection of Viking treasure is to go on permanent display at the Museum of Lancashire from 15 February 2014.

Known as the Silverdale Hoard, the collection is made up of more than 200 items believed to date from around 900 AD.

This makes it the third largest Viking silver hoard that has been found in the country so far. With coins, spectacular arm-rings, ingots (metal bars) and lots of fragments – known as 'hacksilver' – the Silverdale Hoard provides a fascinating glimpse into the history of the Vikings in Lancashire.

The hoard had been buried in a lead pouch discovered under a field in Silverdale by a local metal detector enthusiast in September 2011.

Visit : www.lancashire.gov.uk/museums.

Hike The Viking Way

The Viking Way is a long distance footpath which starts on the banks of the Humber in North Lincolnshire and winds its way through Lincolnshire to finish on the shores of Rutland Water, a total of 147 miles (235km).

The route passes through the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), the market town of Horncastle, the Lincolnshire Limewoods and the City of Lincoln, before entering Leicestershire and Rutland.

Established in 1976, the name of the route was suggested by the Ramblers Association to reflect the influence of the Vikings in England's eastern counties, where Danelaw held sway.

The route is way-marked throughout its length with distinctive Viking helmet symbols to keep you on track. Click [here](#), to download The Viking Way guidebook, providing detailed directions, maps and information on local points of interest.

Visit : www.visitengland.com. Contact : Mark McCulloch at Mark.McCulloch@visitengland.org.

What's new for 2014 in France?

Camille Claudel Museum, Nogent-sur-Seine, France

One of France's finest female sculptors and former muse to Rodin, Camille Claudel, is to have her own museum in her childhood town of Nogent-sur-Seine.

Scheduled to open at the end of 2014, the museum will be housed in Claudel's former home and newly constructed additional buildings next to it.

From a collection of around 1,000 works, 280 will be on permanent display, including sculptures by Claudel and other artists.

There will also be space for educational programmes, a shop, a library and an auditorium.

Visit : www.musee-nogent-sur-seine.fr. Contact : Frances Amissah at Frances.Amissah@fourbgb.com.

Museum of the Battle of Fromelles, France

The Museum of the Battle of Fromelles, which opens on 18 July 2014, commemorates one of the First World War's bloodiest battles.

On 19 and 20 July 1916, more than 8,500 British, Australian and German soldiers died or were injured in the Battle of Fromelles.

Among the exhibits are reconstructions using military equipment found in the trenches, and the chance to meet 'unknown soldiers'.

Visit : www.ccweppes.fr. Contact : Frances Amissah at Frances.Amissah@fourbgb.com.

Aeroscopia Museum, Toulouse, France

The Aeroscopia Museum, which opens in early 2014 by Toulouse-Blagnac airport, and supported by Airbus, aims to display and preserve heritage aircraft.

Visitors will be able to board milestone aeroplanes including a flight test Concorde supersonic jet, an open Super Guppy transporter and an A300, the world's first twin-engine wide-body.

Visit : www.aeroscopia-blagnac.fr. Contact : Frances Amissah at Frances.Amissah@fourbgb.com.

Jardin du Luxembourg, Paris, France

Contemporary British photographer Mike Sheil is launching a major exhibition entitled 'Fields of Battle – Lands of Peace in Paris' Jardin du Luxembourg in April 2014.

Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I, the exhibition features a series of 60 photographs of Great War battlefields as they are today, accompanied by stories of some of the men who experienced them.

The aim of the exhibition is to create a path between the today's landscapes and the battlefields of the past, and it will tour other major cities in France and the UK.

Visit : www.fieldsofbattle1418.org. Contact : Frances Amissah at Frances.Amissah@fourbgb.com.

New centenary Remembrance Trails, Nord-Pas de Calais, France

In time for the 100th anniversary of World War I, Nord-Pas de Calais tourist board has put together a website of suggested Remembrance Trails that enable visitors to more easily follow in the footsteps of history and take in 90 different war sites across the area.

There are four different themed routes, each one exploring a separate aspect of the Great War:

- The Front
- The war of movement and the first German occupation
- The Allies' logistics base on the Channel coast
- Post war reconstruction

Visit : www.remembrancetrails-northernfrance.com.

Combined kayaking, hang-gliding and wine tasting tours in Virginia

With over 230 wineries and vineyards throughout Virginia, the state is one of the top wine destinations in the United States.

The wineries are surrounded by countryside, quaint towns and historic sights, and visitors frequently explore the region by following one of the two dozen wine trails.

While many visitors drive the wine trails, there are also water options for touring.

SouthEast Expeditions offers visitors the chance to "Paddle Your Glass Off" on a kayak wine tour to Chatham Vineyards on Virginia's Eastern Shore.

Originally built in 1818 as a working farm, it is now the location of a twenty plus acre French Vinifera vineyard.

River and Travel Outfitters has teamed up with Tarara Winery, named "Best Winery in Loudoun County" for 14 consecutive years, to create the Paddle and Wine Tour and the Paddle, Wine and Concert Tour.

The excursion starts with a guided 4.5-to-7 mile kayaking or canoeing tour down the gently flowing Potomac River, known for its wide variety of wildlife and water birds including Blue Herons, wild ducks, and the occasional Bald Eagle.

Those visitors on the Paddle and Wine Tour will then arrive at the Tarara Winery, near Leesburg, and enjoy a wine tasting, highlighting the area's best produce.

Those visitors on the Paddle, Wine & Concert Tour can relax by the concert stage enjoying a food and wine during a festive concert.

Visit : www.southeastexpeditions.com, www.rivertrail.com and www.virginia.org/wine. Contact : Jo Thomas at jo.thomas@kbc-pr.com.

Outdoor activities in Lanarkshire, Scotland

Strathclyde Country Park, which is located within reach of Glasgow and Edinburgh, as well as the Scottish Borders, offers visitors the chance to run, cycle and swim.

Lanarkshire's country parks and historic estates offer a range of walking routes, which criss-cross the area and includes two UNESCO World Heritage Sites at New Lanark and the Antonine Wall, along with the 13th century Bothwell Castle.

Walkers can also follow the 37-mile Clyde Walkway, which takes in a range of sights, including Stoneybyre Falls, the RSPB's Baron's Haugh Reserve and Blantyre's David Livingston Centre.

Lanarkshire also offers a selection of cycle routes. Mountain bikers are also well served with a variety of more challenging routes, including 50 miles of new biking tracks at Whitelee Wind Farm and Cathkin Braes Mountain Bike Trails, which is another Proud Host Venue for this year's Commonwealth Games.

Strathclyde Country Park's water sports centre offers a range of activities, including canoeing, windsurfing and rowing.

In East Kilbride, James Hamilton Heritage Park features a 16-acre loch, which provides a tranquil backdrop for different water-based clubs and events.

Coatbridge's Time Capsule, Scotland's water park, features a range of watery attractions including Splashdown Island and Riptide River.

Visit : www.visitlanarkshire.com. Contact : Holly Russell at holly.russell@porternovelli.co.uk.

Flanders beer festivals

Leuven Beer Weekend, Leuven, Flanders

2014 - 25 – 27 April 2014

During the last weekend of April Leuven hosts a celebration of beer with tastings, workshops, brewery visits and beer-based cuisine.

Visit : www.leuven.be/en/beercapital.

Zythos Beer Festival, Leuven, Flanders

26 – 27 April 2014

The Zythos Beer Festival will have 100 breweries who will offer at least 500 different beers to sample for festival goers.

Visit : www.zbf.be.

Beer Passion Weekend, Antwerp

27-29 June 2014

Antwerp's beer festival has 40 different breweries serving over 200 speciality beers accompanied by live Brass Band concerts and live Dixieland Jazz bands.

Visit : www.bierpassieweekend.be.

Belgian Beer Weekend, Brussels, Grand-Place

5 to 7 September 2014

Lagers, white, amber and fruit beers of every style are displayed at a hop parade at this popular festival at the Grand-Place.

Visit : www.belgianbeerweekend.be.

Beer and Hop festival, Poperinge

19 to 21 September 2014

The town of Poperinge is probably best known for its Great War connections but the region is also prime hop growing terrain.

Visit : www.hoppefeesten.be.

Contact : Anita at anita@visitflanders.co.uk.

UK heritage railways and World War One.

In connection with the Commemoration of World War One (WW1) a number of heritage railways will be staging events, during 2014, to mark the connection between railways and WW1.

Main line railways transported large numbers of troops and also conveyed huge quantities of supplies, ammunitions and coal for the battle fleet.

In addition there was a large network of narrow gauge railways which were laid down in France and Belgium in order to keep the front line trenches supplied with ammunition and other essentials.

Unfortunately they often returned conveying the wounded en route to field hospitals.

Small locomotives were specially manufactured for these railways – a few of which have survived into the preservation era.

Some of the events being held include:

- WW1 encampment at Alresford with other events along the line, Mid Hants Railway. Alresford, Hampshire.
14 and 15 June 2014
- WW1 Commemorative Event, South Tynedale Railway, Alston, Cumbria.
25 to 27 July 2014.

Apedale Railway, Near Newcastle-under-Lyne, Staffordshire.

12 to 14 September 2014

This railway has made a special study of the narrow gauge railways of WW1 and will be staging a major event entitled “Tracks to the Trenches” over the three days.

A remarkable survivor is ex Great Western locomotive No 5322 a 2-6-0 type , which was built at Swindon in 1917.

Currently in the care of the Great Western Society at their Steam Centre at Didcot in Oxfordshire.

This was one of a batch of locomotives sent to France in order to haul supply and hospital trains returning to England in 1919 where it saw service with the Great Western and British Railways until 1964 when it was rescued for preservation.

Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway on the Kent South Coast, is staging a special exhibition to commemorate Captain J.E.P. Howey who was a serving Officer in WW1.

After the war Captain Howey was able to realise his dream to build and operate this unique narrow gauge line which also played a small part in World War Two. Being in a strategic area it was taken over by the Army who patrolled the line with a specially adapted armoured train.

Visit : www.heritagerrailways.com. Contact : David Woodhouse at david.woodhouse@hra.gb.com.

A place to stay

Dorsett Shepherds Bush, London

Dorsett Shepherds Bush, which opens in spring 2014, will be the newest addition to the Dorsett Hospitality International portfolio, and the company's first hotel in Europe.

The company currently has 18 hotels in China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia.

Dorsett Shepherds Bush will be set within a Grade II listed building, originally known as The Shepherds Bush Pavilion, formerly a cinema, built in 1923.

Dorsett Shepherds Bush retains the buildings historic façade with added contemporary elegance within. The group will open eleven more hotels within the next two years in China, Hong Kong and United Kingdom.

Visit : www.dorsett.com. Contact : Nicole Lovett at Nicole@grifcopr.com.

INNSIDE by Meliá, Madrid, Spain

INNSIDE by Meliá, has opened its third property in Madrid.

INNSIDE Suecia is centrally located in the Cortes district next to the Circulo de Bellas Artes and close to the Calle Alcalá, Gran Vía and Plaza Cibeles.

The hotel, which has 120 rooms and seven suites, and has undergone a full renovation, was built in the 50's and was once Ernest Hemmingway's home in the city.

The brand has plans to open a further eight hotels in the next two years, with its first UK property in Manchester, Autumn 2014.

Visit: www.innside.com. Contact: Mary-Clare Gribbon at mc.gribbon@luchfordapm.com.

Park Hyatt Vienna, Austria

The Park Hyatt Vienna opens in the Austrian capital on 1 June 2014 - the first Hyatt hotel in the country.

Located in Vienna's new pedestrian Goldenes Quartier and on the Am Hof square, the Park Hyatt Vienna will occupy a 100-year-old building that formerly served as the headquarters of an Austrian Hungarian Monarchy Bank.

It also forms part of Vienna's First District, which is listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

The hotel is also a short walk from the city's most important sights, including St. Stephan Cathedral, the Hofburg Palace and other historic monuments and museums.

Visit : www.vienna.park.hyatt.com/en. Contact : Charlotte Rous at charlotte@grifcopr.com.

Villa Hotel Torre Palombara, Umbria

Villa Hotel Torre Palombara is an historic hotel located in the medieval hilltop town of Narni in the Italian province of Umbria.

The 15th-century stone "Dove Tower" has been restored and transformed into a villa with seven guest rooms and suites.

The breakfast room and swimming pool look out on classic Umbrian landscapes. Rome is one hour away by car or train.

Visit : www.torrepalombara.com. Contact : Martha Morano at Martha@moranopr.com.

Sandals Beaches Resort, Antigua, the Caribbean

Sandals Resorts is to build a new Beaches Resort in Antigua on the site of the its existing Grand Pineapple Resort in Long Bay.

The new resort will one to four bedroom rooms and suites, up to 12 restaurants, conferencing facilities and a wide range of other features including a water park, a cinema, an Xbox Play Lounge and a BMX track.

Visit : www.beachesresorts.co.uk and www.visitantiguabarbuda.com. Contact : Anna Wolstenholme at anna@firstpr.co.uk.

Centara Ceysands Resort & Spa Sri Lanka

Centara Hotels & Resorts of Thailand will soft open its second resort in Sri Lanka in spring of this year.

The Centara Ceysands Resort & Spa Sri Lanka is set on the Bentota Peninsula, at the south of the island, with the Bentota River on one side and the Indian Ocean on the other.

The resort's arrival lounge is situated at Aluthgama, on the inland side of the river, with guests travelling across the water by barge, a journey that takes five minutes.

Centara's first property in Sri Lanka, Centara Passikudah Resort & Spa, is located on the east coast of the island and opened early in 2013.

Visit : www.centarahotelsresorts.com/centara/ccs. Contact : Sharan Bearman at sharanb@avenuesales.co.uk.

Hotels in Flanders

Hotel blabla - Bruges

The Hotel Imperial, Bruges has been renovated and renamed Hotel blabla. It is located in the historic Bruges city centre.

Visit : www.hotelblabla.com/eng.

TRYP by the Wyndham, Antwerp

Tryp is a new three- star hotel in the centre of Antwerp, located between the central station and the city's orbital motorway. It is also the Fashion museum, MoMu and Rubens House.

Visit : www.trypantwerp.com/en.

Hotel Messeyne, Kortrijk

The city of Kortrijk is located half way between Lille and Ypres and is home to a range of upmarket boutique style hotels. Hotel Messeyne is close to the town's main square.

Visit : www.hotelmesseyne.be/en.

Hotel Ondenbergen, Ghent

Hotel Ondenbergen is a new boutique hotel in the centre of Ghent, about 500m from the St Bavo's Cathedral. It is situated in an 18th Century building, which has been renovated with modern furnishings and decor.

Visit : www.hotelonderbergen.be.

Contact : Anita at anita@visitflanders.co.uk.

The Oxford Thames Four Pillars Hotel, Oxfordshire UK

The Oxford Thames Four Pillars Hotel has been awarded the Gold Award for Green Tourism through the Green Tourism Business Scheme in recognition of its commitment to local sustainability.

It is the only hotel in Oxford to have achieved this outstanding accolade.

The Green Tourism Business Scheme (GTBS) is the national sustainable tourism certification scheme for the UK and is the only national scheme to be independently validated by the International Centre for Responsibility (ICRT) on behalf of Visit England, Visit Wales and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and endorsed by Visit Scotland and Fáilte Ireland.

Visit : www.four-pillars.co.uk. Contact : Lucy Mayes at lucy@humewhitehead.co.uk.

Anacaona Boutique Hotel, Anguilla

The Anacaona Boutique Hotel is a small, value-oriented hideaway a few paces from one of Anguilla's most ravishing beaches.

It has 27 air-conditioned rooms and suites, two swimming pools, a boutique, a massage center, free Wi-Fi and Internet, garden-poolside restaurant and bar, drinks and lunch service on the beach.

Anacaona also has an unofficial role as the cultural entertainment center of the island, presenting local music and dancing and dinner theatre.

Anguilla is a British overseas territory in the Caribbean and one of the most northerly of the Leeward Islands in the Lesser Antilles, lying east of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands and directly north of Saint Martin.

The territory consists of the main island of Anguilla itself, approximately 16 miles (26 km) long by 3 miles (5 km) wide at its widest point, together with a number of much smaller islands and cays with no permanent population.

Visit : www.anacaonahotel.com. Contact : Ian Keown at iankeown@gmail.com.

Grand Hotel Tremezzo, Lake Como, Italy

Dating back to 1910 and Art Nouveau in style and decoration, the family owned Grand Hotel Tremezzo has one of the most enchanting positions on Lake Como with spectacular panoramic views of both the town of Bellagio, the Riviera delle Azalee and the stunning Grigne Mountains.

The historic hotel has 92 rooms and suites, all of which offer guests views of the lake or the hotel's century-old 20,000 sq.m park and gardens.

Visit : www.grandhoteltremezzo.com. Contact : Katie O'Lone at katie@masonrose.com.

Fairmont Baku, Flame Towers, Azerbaijan

The newly opened Fairmont Baku, Flame Towers is located on the highest part of the city of Baku, Azerbaijan's capital city.

The 36-storey Fairmont Baku, Flame Towers features 318 rooms suites and apartments and enjoys views over Baku, the Caspian Sea and the UNESCO World Heritage site of the ancient Inner City.

Visit : www.fairmont.com/baku. Contact : Panzer, Eva-Maria at Eva-Maria.Panzer@frhi.com.

The Break, Narragansett, RI

Lark Hotels, a collection of designer boutique properties located in iconic coastal New England hot spots, will open The Break in Narragansett, Rhode Island in June 2014.

Situated just one block from the ocean and a short walk to the beach, the property will feature a retro chic surf vibe and will be the first hotel of its kind in a seaside town, which boasts some of the best surf breaks in New England.

Lark Hotels are located in :

- Kennebunkport and Portland, ME
- Nantucket, MA
- Portsmouth, NH, and
- Newport and Narragansett, RI.

Visit : www.thebreakhotel.com. Contact : Rebecca Widness at rebecca@widness-co-pr.com.

Africa Albida Tourism

Africa Albida Tourism offers properties at :

- Victoria Falls Safari Lodge, Victoria Falls Safari Club & Victoria Falls Safari Suites, Zimbabwe, and
- Ngoma Safari Lodge - Chobe, Botswana

Visit : www.africaalbidatourism.com. Contact : Charlotte Rous at Charlotte@grifcopr.com.

The Lodge at Torrey Pines, San Diego, California

The Lodge at Torrey Pines has captured one of the travel industry's most coveted designations: the 2014 AAA Five Diamond award.

Since its opening in 2002, The Lodge has maintained its Five Diamond designation annually.

Overlooking the Torrey Pines Golf Course, the property has 170 guest rooms and suites.

Being recognized as a "Worlds Best Hotel" by Sunset Magazine The Lodge is located in San Diego's La Jolla neighbourhood.

Visit : www.lodgetorreypr.com.

Ritz Carlton, Kyoto, Japan

The Ritz Carlton, Kyoto luxury-urban resort has opened on the Kamogawa River, Nijho Ohashi, close to Kyoto's downtown areas including Gion and Kawaramachi-dori, the city's retail and entertainment district.

The hotel's guest rooms offer views of the river and the Higashiyama Mountains.

Visit : www.kyoto.travel. Contact Jessica Meins at jessicameins@mcccluskey.co.uk.

The Setai, Miami Beach, Florida

The Setai, Miami Beach, voted in November 2013 as "Best Hotel in Miami" by readers of Condé Nast Traveler, will unveil its Ocean Suites at The Setai, Miami Beach in April 2014.

Comprised of one-, two- and three-bedroom suites, starting at 900 square feet, all Ocean Suites feature balconies with views of the Atlantic Ocean.

Located at Collins Avenue and 20th Street, directly on Miami Beach, The Ocean Suites are situated among the luxury shopping, fine dining, cultural events and nightlife of Miami Beach.

Visit : www.thesetaihotel.com. Contact : Claire Mans at claire@masonrose.com.

Travel guides

The following travel publishers will provide review copies to Alliance members.

AA Travel Guides

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Anova Books

www.anovabooks.com. Helen Ponting at hponting@anovabooks.co

Berlitz

www.berlitzpublishing.com.

Bradt Travel

www.bradtguides.com. Rachel Fielding at rachel.fielding@bradtguides.com

Brit's Guide

www.foulsham.com. Margaret Lashbrook at margaret.lashbrook@lineone.net or Sue Wilkins at wilkins@foulsham.com.

Cicerone

www.cicerone.co.uk. Contact : Sarah Spencer at sarah@cicerone.co.uk

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www.travelbooks.co.uk. Barnaby Rogerson at barnaby@travelbooks.co.uk.

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www.innhousepublishing.com. Kathryn McWhirter at kathrynmcwhirter@btopenworld.com.

Insight

www.insightguides.com. Julia Spence at julia.spence@ukonline.co.uk.

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www.inyourpocket.com. Craig Turp at editor@inyourpocket.com.

Jane's Smart Art Guides

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