

Casual Dining wins Best Trade Show award

Casual Dining's organiser Diversified Communications UK is celebrating a big win at the exhibition industry's annual AEO Excellence Awards, just four months after the show first made its debut at the Business Design Centre in London.

Casual Dining – the UK's first dedicated trade event for the multiple and independent pub and restaurant sector – is the first launch show in over five years to triumph in the AEO's hotly contested Best Tradeshow Exhibition under 2000sqm' category.

From 118 exhibiting companies in 2014 to around 170 next year, Casual Dining's rapid expansion mirrors the growing success of the UK's £6.9bn casual dining market. This strong market performance, combined with glowing testimonials from attendees, has seen increasing demand from new companies looking to exhibit in 2015 and has already led to a 45% expansion in exhibition space.

Fond farewell to John Brunton, Hansgrohe's pioneering project manager

After 25 years of service, John Brunton, Hansgrohe's first and longest-serving project consultant, retires from the business handing over to his successor, James Murray.

A pioneer within the Hansgrohe team, John joined the company in 1989 from the Berglen Group, originally importers of Hansgrohe products, prior to the UK subsidiary being established in 1990. Along with founding managing director, Iain McKinlay, John worked to build up the retail market, becoming involved with the occasional project along the way.

Twenty five years later and a dedicated projects team at Hansgrohe UK, headed up by Jay Phillips – and more recently, a global projects team headquartered in Germany – has been set-up to handle contracts where the stakeholders and professionals involved span several countries. John has spent his last months with this new team and is now succeeded by James with the title of Projects Consultant, International Projects.

John's resume reads like a 'who's who' of some of the world's most luxurious properties: hotel chains such as Bulgari, Hyatt, Four Seasons, Mandarin and Hilton, British Airways Lounges world-wide including Terminal 5 at Heathrow airport, Sunseeker Yachts, Cunard's QE2 and QM2 and, most recently, the Shangri La at the Shard in London.

John looks forward to spending more time with his family, including two grandchildren. He is also a keen sailor, plays the guitar and plans on learning the ukele. He has treated himself to a classic red Alfa Romeo Spider, so will be out cruising the streets with his wife and miniature Schnauzer dog, Monty.



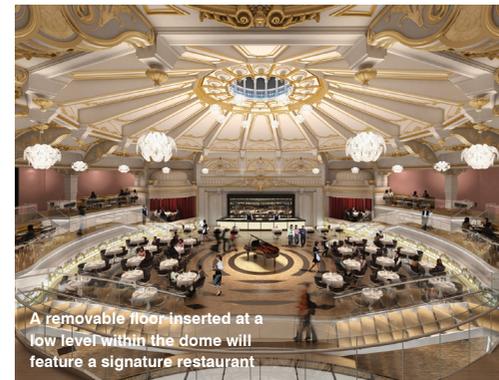
James Murray (left) with John Brunton

£18m Brighton Hippodrome restoration plans approved

Alaska Development Consultants, acting on behalf of Kuig and advised by Indigo Planning, has been given the go ahead by Brighton & Hove City Council for the restoration of the Brighton Hippodrome. Its proposals will bring the Grade II Listed, 'at risk' building back into use and secure its future as part of a wider £18m regeneration project.

Originally constructed as an ice rink in 1897, the building was converted into a 'hippodrome' shortly afterwards. It became a theatre in 1901 – designed by renowned theatre architect Frank Matcham. Over the years it has hosted entertainers from Harry Houdini, Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin to The Beatles and Rolling Stones. Most recently in use as a bingo hall, it closed in 2006 and has since been identified by English Heritage and The Theatres Trust as a building 'at risk'.

The proposals, designed by Russ Drage Architects and supported by English Heritage, include an eight-screen cinema; a new (removable) floor inserted at low level within the dome to create a space for a signature restaurant; a second restaurant in the restored and refurbished Hippodrome House and a new public square just off Middle Street.



A removable floor inserted at a low level within the dome will feature a signature restaurant

In agreement with English Heritage, all important historic fabric will be retained. The entire enclosure to the Hippodrome auditorium as well as its Middle Street elevation and the Hippodrome House facade will be preserved and restored to their former glory.

St Ermin's nominates Hospitality Action as charity of the year

St Ermin's Hotel, which is part of the Autograph Collection, Marriott International's exclusive portfolio of upscale, independent hotels, has nominated industry charity Hospitality Action as its charity of the year for 2014/2015.



In a bid to raise as much money as possible for the charity, the hotel's staff will be organising a number of fundraising activities including cake bake sales, a sponsored abseil, quiz nights, fun runs and raffle draws.

Douglas McHugh, general manager, comments: "At St Ermin's Hotel we are really proud to be able to support the work of Hospitality Action. As our recognised industry charity our employees are very motivated to be helping to raise awareness and funds and we hope to contribute greatly over the next year and make a real difference to those who have fallen on hard times. As a mark of our commitment to the charity, we will be matching funds raised by our colleagues, pound for pound."

Adds Penny Moore, CEO of Hospitality Action, "We're very grateful to St Ermin's Hotel for their help, and all money raised will contribute directly towards providing vital financial support and advice to those who are affected by life-changing illnesses, poverty and domestic violence."

So far this year, Hospitality Action has witnessed an almost 20% increase in applications for assistance, so the money raised by the St Ermin's team will go a long way towards supporting fellow industry members in need." [W hospitalityaction.org.uk](http://www.hospitalityaction.org.uk)



Chelsom Edition 24 launch party attracts 400 guests

Chelsom celebrated the launch of its new collection in style with an Edition 24 party on Thursday 12th June in central London.

Attended by almost 400 specially invited guests from the global interior design, hospitality and marine industries, the launch party took place at One Marylebone.

Chelsom director, Will Chelsom, who organised the event, says: "Arriving at an empty church at 6am and transforming it into one of London's finest lighting showrooms in under 12 hours was a huge challenge for the Chelsom project team but our working lives revolve around deadlines so good planning was crucial and definitely paid off."

"It was the second launch party we have thrown at One

Marylebone and we chose it for its unbeatable location and elegant ambiance and it certainly didn't disappoint with the place packed out by mid-evening.

"Edition 24 has been almost two years in production and we have worked extremely hard to bring the new collection and website to fruition and were delighted that so many of our clients came along to help us celebrate. Everyone who attended recognised the work we had put into moving the Chelsom brand and product range forward with sharper designs and technology innovations at the forefront."

All guests were entered into a prize draw and the winner, Gladys Rico from Anita Rosato Interior Design, will enjoy an overnight stay for two at the Rosewood London.