



# NEWS



## SPENCER & LEIGH OPEN SECOND OFFICE

Spencer & Leigh, long-established sales and lettings specialists in Brighton, have now opened a second office, in Portslade Old Village.

This branch will cover all areas of Hove, and specifically Portslade and Mile Oak, which has a thriving residential community. Experienced estate agent James Morris (pictured), who has been with the company for many years, is the Branch Manager, and is ably assisted by Alex Baker, Becky Hawkes and Leanne Hart. Spencer Turner and Leigh Brand, who have built a very successful office in Patcham village, said, "We're thrilled to be opening a new office after years of looking for the most appropriate

location to expand. This lovely area is thriving, with young couples and families, in particular, who choose this area to buy their first and second homes". **Spencer & Leigh, 10 South Street Portslade. 01273 421777. [www.spencerandleigh.co.uk](http://www.spencerandleigh.co.uk)**

## BELVOIR LETTINGS UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Nathan Crombie and Wai Lam have taken over the Belvoir branch, based in Hove. Both have extensive experience in retail management, customer service, and in property rental as landlords. They plan to use their own personal experience to ensure they deliver the service they would want to receive.

Both local boys, brought up and educated locally, Nathan and Wai have extensive local knowledge and will use this, along with a focus on outstanding customer service, to deliver a reliable and consistent service that puts customers at the forefront and gives the best advice to landlords and tenants.

**Belvoir Brighton and Hove. 01273 311077.  
[www.belvoirlettings.com](http://www.belvoirlettings.com)**

## ONTHEMARKET.COM PASSES 5,000 OFFICES MILESTONE

OnTheMarket.com – the major new property website – has announced its membership has grown to more than 5,000 estate and letting agent offices. OnTheMarket.com launched on January 26th to rival Rightmove and Zoopla and features hundreds of thousands of properties for sale and to rent at all price points across the UK.

More and more of its member agents are already advertising their new-to-market properties exclusively at OnTheMarket.com at least 48 hours in advance of displaying them on any other property portal. After just six weeks from its launch, OnTheMarket.com had already had over two million unique visitors to the website.

OnTheMarket.com is a mutual organisation. As such it is focused solely on providing an outstanding service for property searchers, estate and letting agents and their vendor and landlord clients. **[www.onthemarket.com](http://www.onthemarket.com)**

## PORTFOLIO OPINION

Although we could all potentially benefit from the taxes raised by Labour's proposed Mansion Tax, more money could be raised by updating the Council tax bands and ensuring that the wealthiest in the more expensive properties pay more. This would be a more graduated and equitable solution to achieving a fairer society – at least as far as housing is concerned. Potentially billions of pounds could also be raised for numerous other cash-strapped departments of local government, including local health services. Don't forget to vote on the 7th May.

## COUNTRYWIDE LAUNCHES AGENT APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME

Countrywide has launched a new apprenticeship scheme for young people who want a career in the property industry. It gives apprentices training and development over two years to the standard of a Level 3 estate agency qualification. The qualification has been developed by Countrywide and is awarded by City & Guilds. Once the apprentice has completed the training they gain free membership of the National Association of Estate Agents.

Recruitment is being advertised now, with the first recruits entering the scheme in the summer. The scheme is being trialled for six months in four regions with 20 apprenticeships, increasing to 100 apprentices per year.

**Read more about this and other stories at [www.estateagenttoday.co.uk](http://www.estateagenttoday.co.uk)**



## RACING AT BRIGHTON RACECOURSE IS BACK FOR 2015!

Following the winter break in flat horse racing over the turf at Brighton's exclusive track, this year's racing is now back with 21st April hosting the season-opening race evening. Set high on the Sussex Downs with stunning views of Brighton and Hove and the English Channel, Brighton Racecourse boasts one of the most unique racecourse settings in the country and hosts 21 flat racing fixtures between April and October.

Diary dates for the 2015 season include: Gentlemen's Day on 29th May, the three-day Festival of Racing on 5th and 7th August, Frost's Ladies Day on 6th August and The Family Fun Raceday on Sunday, 23rd August. Other May race days are May 5th and 6th. **[www.brighton-racecourse.co.uk](http://www.brighton-racecourse.co.uk)**