NEWS DIGEST
January 2012 - Annie Panton

2012 has arrived and we look forward to an element of excitement for celebratory reasons on the one hand - and worry about financial concerns that have spread across Europe and the rest of the world on the other.

Will the latter affect our industry? – Almost certainly but I am sure there will be the usual determination by everyone to keep things on track and to continue to serve our clients in the best way possible. Do read Dominic’s article in this edition of Point2Point where he covers the issues in more detail.

On the celebratory front, our Olympic Events and the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations should help to focus our attention on something we can all be proud of!

Just on the matter of Europe – all the political goings on at present make for a very confused situation but in defence of our industry and our business relationships, I think we stand as a fine example to our political leaders as to how to conduct ourselves. We’ve all helped to create excellent relationships with partners throughout Europe and beyond – they could learn a lot from us!

In one of my favourite business magazines this month, they’ve even included what they call a crash course in ‘working abroad’ – and can you believe it, the word ‘relocation’ or ‘assignment’ does not feature anywhere in the article! However, two points I draw your attention to – one that it does mention repatriation and suggests that employees take this carefully into consideration before accepting a job – something we’ve been saying for a long time.

I was amused with one quote in the article from the Chartered Management Institute ‘Personal characteristics play a part in suitability and these include flexibility, willingness to learn and lack of prejudice – alongside self-reliance, language skills and qualifications.’ And then the funny bit ‘There is a need to be aware of and avoid stereotypical British superiority, insularity and aloofness and to be able to cope with unfamiliar people in unfamiliar surroundings.’

The latest piece of news within the industry - that happened in December - was the Brookfield and Pricoa merger, which you might be interested to read from their website but in summary this is their header:

‘The clear No.2 player in global relocation, U.S-based Brookfield Global Relocation Services, moves nearly 85,000 families in and out of over 125 countries around the world each year Offices in nine countries (U.S., Canada, Brazil, U.K., France, India, Singapore, China and Australia)’

It was also interesting to read the 2011 list of most admired companies (the largest public companies in 25 sectors, evaluated by their peers) and sponsored by Management Today in conjunction with Birmingham Business School. The list is set out below and some of you will be very familiar with the names – but we should be pleased that for the first time property has not only come top of the list - Berkeley Group (residential), but another came fifth - Derwent London (offices) and a third came 10th - Shaftesbury who specialise in retail property in Central London!

1. Berkeley Group
2. Diageo
3. Rotork
4. Aggreko
5. Derwent London
6. Paddy Power
7. Royal Dutch Shell
8. Unilever
9. Rolls-Royce
9. Shaftesbury