

BusinessMail

Behind-the-scenes look at £2,000-a-week lodges



LIFE OF LUXURY
... Hosesasons managing director **Simon Altham** and **Tom Hartley**, the owner of **Ashby Woulds Luxury Lodges** complex at the official opening of the site.

by **Rob Smyth**
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THE paint was dry, the beds made and the expensive cutlery had been buffed to a shine ready for use as the Ashby Woulds 'luxury lodge' complex celebrated its official opening.

These pictures give a first behind-the-scenes glimpse of where the discerning tourist can holiday in log cabin luxury in South Derbyshire.

Businessman Tom Hartley was on hand to do the honours at the site in Spring Cottage Road,

Overseal.

Guests will have pay up to £2,000 for a week's stay at the development dubbed 'the only luxury leisure park in the UK to be awarded a five-star rating for accommodation by the National Tourist Board'. The development cost £4 million

to build.

Mr Hartley said: "This will offer people a unique five-star holiday experience in the middle of South Derbyshire."

Further information is available by visiting www.ashbywouldslodges.co.uk/



Solar power company launches recruitment drive

A SOLAR panel company is celebrating its success in one of the fastest-growing sectors in the UK with the creation of 65 jobs.

Applications for positions to man a new call centre, as well as other areas, are now open and Solar SunPower UK, based in Appleby Magna, is looking for 'positive, outgoing and friendly' workers to take on one of the new roles.

Adrian Bull, the company's marketing manager, said: "There is a

fantastic scope for career progression.

"The majority of jobs will be based in Appleby Magna, while others will cover the Midlands."

The family-run company has been up and running for two years and started with three staff. Now it has 36 employees, and it is about to double that again.

Mr Bull said: "Solar power energy is one of the fastest-growing sectors in the UK, apart from pound shops. This is due to the

rise in energy prices, and wages are not increasing efficiently enough to keep up with the cost of inflation.

"Those who have solar panels will have reduced energy bills and can take advantage of the Government's feeding and export tariff, which provides a tax-free income and where 50 per cent of what the new system generates is fed back into the grid and takes the emphasis off power stations. "It is good for people, good for

energy and good for growth."

He added that positions would also include market stalls, and in the future the company was hoping to branch out to the south of the country and open a call centre in Northampton.

Anyone who would like to apply should get in touch with the company by calling 01530 515579, choosing option five and leaving a message.

The applications deadline is the end of July.

MONEY MATTERS

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Q. I am 54, I have moved jobs a few times in my life and have a variety of pension plans and ideally I need advice on what to do with them as I haven't a clue where to start.

A. Many people have worked for a number of different employers over their lifetimes, joining a new pension scheme each time we move jobs. You may also have private or personal pensions separate from your employers.

Bringing together all of your pension funds in one place can be a good idea and in a lot of circumstances a pension transfer would be said to be good advice. However this needs expert guidance to make sure you are doing the right thing.

Q. I have had a drawdown pension for 10 years, I will be 75 next February – does this mean I will have to buy an Annuity then?

A. This used to be the case, but now there is no longer an obligation to purchasing an Annuity at age 75. Under the new guidelines, pensions can continue in drawdown indefinitely.

Before the age of 75, formal review of maximum income levels must be carried out every 3 years, but post 75 these must be done annually which means the pension income is likely to fluctuate more, also due to the added reviews administration costs may increase. As Annuity rates should increase with age it would make sense to compare these also, particularly if your health or lifestyle circumstances have changed. You may be entitled to enhanced annuity rates if this is the case.

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