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NATIONAL NEWS

[UK Labour Market – new figures from Office of National Statistics for the quarter Dec 18 – Feb 19](#)

- The UK unemployment rate was estimated to be 76.1%, higher than a year earlier (75.4%) and the joint-highest figure on record
- The UK unemployment rate was estimated at 3.9%; the lowest since November 74 – Jan 75
- The UK economic activity rate was estimated to be 29.7%, lower than a year earlier (21.2%) and the joint-lowest on record.

[Construction Apprenticeships](#)

Housebuilder Redrow's annual report finds that 54% of young adults would now consider taking an apprenticeship - an increase of 15% on the previous year. Many, however, still don't recognise the range of roles available within the sector, believing that construction equals manual labouring. 80 new apprenticeship vacancies have been opened up by Redrow for both trade and office jobs.

<https://apply.redrowcareers.co.uk/vacancies/>

Apprenticeship starts up on previous year

HR reports that apprenticeship start numbers have increased over 2018/19 to 225,800 compared to 206,100 the previous year. Apprenticeships for 25+ have also increased by 34%. Numbers, however, are still lower than before the levy was introduced.

Apprenticeship pay

To correct what may have been unclear in last month's LMI bulletin:

Apprentices are entitled to the minimum wage for their age if they both:

- aged 19 or over
- have completed the first year of their apprenticeship

Personal characteristics of Higher Education Qualifiers

Data on the ethnicity, disability and age of students awarded HE qualifications in the UK has been published by HESA for the first time. There are some interesting statistics, for example, 10% of first degrees were awarded to graduates of 30+ and 14% were awarded to students with disabilities. Tables are available which show who is studying, where they come from, where they study, what they study and progression rates and qualifications.

ELCs return to the High Street

Mothercare's Early Learning Centres which closed last year are to be reignited on the High Streets having been bought by the retailer The Entertainer.

Free Educational Psychologist training

For anyone interested in a career as an Educational Psychologist there is good news with the Department of Education's announcement to provide free training for over 600 education psychologist trainees for children. There will be three new training rounds from 2020.

Demand for Professionals increases by 24%

According to new research by data publisher Vacancysoft the demand for professionals increased by 24% in the year 2017/18. The data highlights the top growth industries as Technology, Media and Telecoms rising by 24%, followed by Financial Services. Barclays Bank had the most roles (3,902) followed by HSBC (3,497). There was a 28% rise in the demand for IT.

How to make T levels a success

How to make T levels a success is a useful document published by Policy Exchange to gain some suggestions on how it might be possible to learn from past mistakes.

Women entrepreneurs – Nat West funding opportunity

Nat West have teamed up with Crowdfunder to help women who want to start their own business get started. They will provide coaching, mentoring and networking opportunities as well as up to 50% of the fundraising target (max. £5,000) in grant funding for some projects. UK residents with new UK projects may apply.

Help for veterans in gaining employment in the Automotive sector

A new initiative has been set up by the Government with some of the bigger businesses in the automotive industry to help service leavers gain a job in the motor sector. Those veterans with specialist skills will be helped by 'Mission Automotive' to find them roles in engineering, manufacturing, infrastructure and logistics.

Nursing Apprenticeships

In December last year the House of Commons Education Committee published a report on its investigations into why so few nursing degree apprenticeships had been created since they were announced at the end of 2016. There were a total of 300 nursing apprenticeship degree starts in 2017/18 and 310 in the first quarter of 2018/19. Alongside this, the committee noted the fall in the number of applicants to nursing degrees – down by 17,000 since 2016 – a probably consequence of the end of the nursing bursary. The [Government's response](#) to the report was published in early March and acknowledges that apprenticeships are not intended to replace the three-year degree route. To see the apprenticeship resources for NHS employers, click [here](#).

Enterprise expansion

Enterprise Rent a Car is set to become one of the UK's largest commercial vehicle rental companies in a buy-out of a business with 16 locations across the UK.

Heathrow Airport Logistics Hubs

Heathrow Airport have shortlisted their plans for the locations of Logistics hubs throughout the UK. In total there is a short list of 18 hubs countrywide including one in the South East (Amalga – Iver Hub) and one in the South West (Tarmac Trading Ltd – Tarmac Westbury Works).

Construction jobs with Kier Construction (no link)

There are about 2000 different occupations within Kier Construction from admin, finance, and design through to project management www.kier.co.uk/careers

Kier offer Intermediate, Advanced and Higher-level apprenticeship programmes, including professional services, construction and technical and trades. They also have a graduate programme.

Email apprenticeships@kier.co.uk or earlycareers@kier.co.uk

Other vacancies are advertised via Hays Recruitment agency www.hays.co.uk

Starbucks offer to pay degree tuition fees for their staff

Starbucks Coffee chain is offering to pay tuition fees for their UK staff who want to gain a degree from a US university. 100 places are initially available as a pilot scheme and this may increase, depending on demand. The courses will be taught online via Arizona State University.

Two new apps on the horizon

Two app developers were both the winners of £150,000 in a government competition. The apps add more ways for prospective students to look at information about graduate outcomes to help them make their choice about the course and institution. The two apps are [ThinkUni](#) and [TheWayUp!](#). One works as a personalised digital assistant to access information, while the other is a game where players can simulate career paths.

The EdTech Strategy

The Department for Education have released a strategy paper 'Realising the potential of technology in education.' The aims of the strategy are to:

- Reduce teachers' workloads
- Boost training opportunities for teachers
- Level the playing field for children and young people with special educational needs & disabilities
- Facilitate flexible working patterns through the use of time-tabling tools

Shortage of TV crews with the right skills

ScreenSkills reports on new research which finds that there are not enough crew with the right skills available for high-end television production in the UK.

Heritage Apprenticeships

Historic England are seeking training providers to help deliver Heritage Apprenticeships. The sector is hoping to attract more people to the range of jobs available within it.

University v the apprenticeship route

A poll, conducted by [Sutton Trust](#) ahead of National Apprenticeship week suggests that parents are still more likely to favour university to the apprenticeship route with some citing a lack of knowledge about apprenticeships as influencing their decision. 4% more parents (31%) said they'd advise university over an apprenticeship (27%),

while another quarter (23%) said they thought the two options were equal. Alongside this, Skills Minister, Anne Milton speaks of several things that need to happen in society to change these ingrained perception issues around apprenticeship schemes. The 'Fire it up' campaign launched in January is designed to open young people's eyes to [apprenticeships](#) with national TV advertising. Click on the [link](#) to read more of Anne Milton's thoughts on apprenticeships.

Club Med recruitment campaign

Club Med are recruiting for the summer season and is currently seeking 700 new employees to work in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

REGIONAL NEWS

Regional labour market information from the Office of National Statistics for the period Dec 18 – Feb 19

- For March 2016, the lowest claimant count was in the South East and South West (1.2%).
- For the 3 months ending February 2016, the lowest economic inactivity rate was in the South East (18.9%).

The largest increase in workforce jobs in the UK, for December 2015, was in the South West, at 30,000

The South West's Tech Sector

According to Tech South West 76% of tech firms in the region think 2019 will be a positive one and 86% are planning to recruit more or the same number of employees as in 2018. The trends which are cited as likely to dominate the sector this year are listed in the report with A1 taking the top spot again.

Businesses in the South West (no link)

South West Business Insider magazine have published a list of the top 100 medium sized businesses and the 75 best companies to work for in the South West. Top spot goes to construction company Wilmott Dixon followed by Red Rock and MPloy.

CORNWALL AND THE ISLES OF SCILLY

[ScaleUps increasing their turnover and job growth](#)

ScaleUp Institute insights reveal that Cornwall and Isles of Scilly have 295 companies in the region who meet the definition of 'scale-up' having increased their annual turnover by 20% annually. The top five scaleups for employment growth in the area are: Goonvean, Seasalt, Fred Champion, WestCountry and MJL Contractors, while the top five for turnover growth are Goonvean, Audiotonix, Seasalt, WestCountry and Teagle.

[More hotels on the Cornish horizon](#)

An interesting report in Cornwall Live looks at the many hotels and other accommodation and tourist attractions planned for Cornwall over the next year or so. Employment within the tourism/hospitality sector looks extremely healthy as does construction during the building phases of these projects. Individual links to the various projects can be accessed from this report.

[New premier inn for Newquay](#)

25 jobs could be created later this year with the opening of a new premier inn and Thyme restaurant in Newquay.

DEVON

[Yelland Power Station site development](#)

Revised plans for a hotel, restaurant and new homes to be built on the Yelland power station site were re-submitted to North Devon Council in January. If successful, the project will create 840 construction jobs.

[Possible new hotel for Torquay](#)

Subject to planning permission, Torquay is to gain a new premier inn and restaurant, creating 30 new jobs.

[The Range creates new jobs](#)

450 jobs are to be created in buying, ecommerce, IT, marketing and Accounts at the new Range head office opening in Plymouth this summer.

Top 15 Retailers

Devon Live report on the analysis of staff reviews to gauge the 15 best retailers to work for of which, many have branches in Devon. These are:

Wren Kitchens (no branch in Devon)	Lush	Dreams
Clarks	M & S	Harrods (no branch in Devon)
Adidas	John Lewis	Ikea
Maplin (online)	Sainsburys	Game
Shop Direct (online)	Superdry	Schuh

Cinema complex on the cards for Newton Abbot

Teignbridge District Council have moved forward with plans for a multiplex cinema and restaurants in Newton Abbot. This complex could be delivered by 2021.

DORSET, BOURNEMOUTH AND POOLE

Travelodge expansion plans for Dorset

Good news for Dorset jobs with Travelodge's plans to create over 3,000 jobs by expanding their Dorset locations.

The regeneration of Weymouth quayside

Weymouth is to be regenerated following a successful application for Coastal Community Funding from the government to revive the seaside town. Part of the money will be used to create new workspaces for marine start-up businesses and a centre of excellence for SMEs on the quayside.

Winter Gardens, Bournemouth development

The planned development of the Winter Gardens in Bournemouth has been given the green light by Bournemouth Council. As well as residential accommodation the development includes new commercial units for restaurants plus a piazza comprising outdoor cafes. New jobs will be created as this development will boost the local economy and attract more visitors to the town.

New restaurants open at Dorset holiday parks

10 new posts have been created with the opening of two new restaurants by a Dorset-based holiday company operating near Weymouth. Waterside Holiday Park and Chesil Vista Holiday Park.

HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT

New Premier Inn for Sandown, IOW

Construction has begun on a new Premier Inn in Sandown. The hotel and restaurant are due to open late 2019 and will create around 65 year-round jobs.

New bar/restaurant on the horizon for Winchester

Winchester is planning a new bar or restaurant as part of the regeneration of the railway station area. The former registry office will be extended to form a bar or restaurant if approved by Hampshire County Council.

New motor repair premises for Snows

Snows motor group, who are headquartered in Southampton and employs over 950 staff have opened a new accident repair centre at Millbrook, Southampton. Twenty-three people work at the site.

Possible new hotel for Southampton

Plans for a new hotel have been submitted to be built in Southampton's Old Town Quarter. If successful, the build will include a cafe and a gym.

New engineering and support staff jobs with Percival Aviation

30 new engineering and support staff jobs will be available over the next five years as Percival Aviation move to new premises in Segensworth. The factory should be available for occupation by the end of 2019.

Online Bank creates Southampton jobs

Starling Bank will create 150 new jobs in Southampton when its office opens in the summer. This will include 50 software engineers and around 100 customer service staff. Starling is a digital bank.

T-Shirt manufacturer creates jobs in Freshwater

100 jobs could be created by Teemill Tech Limited in Freshwater with its expansion.

Regional Express expansion

Logistics company Regional Express is relocating to Nursling and in doing so have created three more jobs. The company hope to take on a further three to five staff in the next few months.

Newcross Healthcare campaign

Newcross Healthcare have launched a recruitment campaign for Andover and Basingstoke areas for experienced Nurses and Healthcare Assistants.

SOMERSET

St Margaret's Hospice provides volunteering opportunities

Gardeners and DIY enthusiasts are being sought to work in Taunton and Yeovil to help with maintenance and decorating as well as gardening tasks around the grounds and buildings to work on a voluntary basis.

Somerset Enterprise Centres

Somerset County Council have appointed Kier to construct two new enterprise centres, i.e. Wells technology and Wivelscombe Enterprise Centres. Both are expected to be operational by March 2020 and will create jobs for the areas.

Watchet Quay gets green light

Watchet's East Quay has been given the funding to regenerate the area and will be open in 2021. Over 200 jobs are expected to be created from the construction to the completion and the build will bring a huge tourism boost for the area.

Work and Pensions Secretary opens new community link centre in Taunton

A new community link centre has opened in Taunton and will work with socially isolated people to help them into work.

New Range store for Yeovil opens in July

Interestingly the new Range which comes to Yeovil next month will have an Iceland store inside it. The store, which opens on July 12th will create 80 full and part-time jobs, from store to department managers and warehouse assistants to retail administrators.

[New Dunhelm store for Yeovil](#)

Dunhelm are to open a branch of its store in the Quedam Centre in Yeovil. Vacancies including roles for sales assistants and curtain fitters.

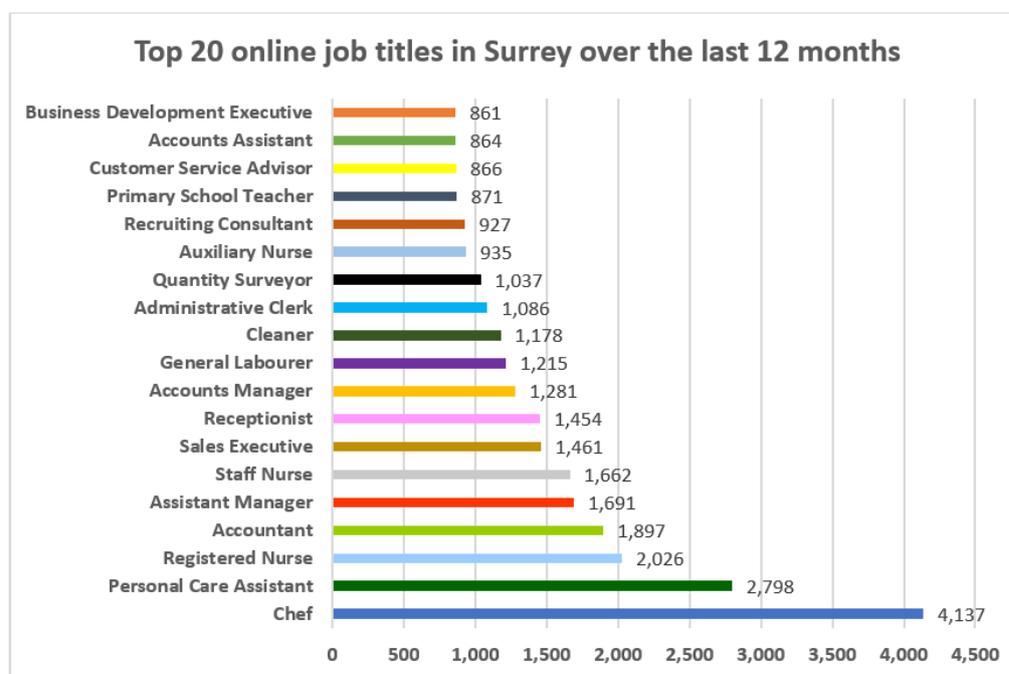
SURREY

[‘Hollywood of Games’](#)

Guildford Games Festival will take place from 27 - 29 June and will be an opportunity to attract skilled and creative talent providing an opportunity to meet employers involved with games development, publishing and technology. Funded by the Enterprise M3 LEP, Guildford Borough Council and the University of Surrey the event is earning Guildford the reputation of being the ‘Hollywood of Games’ due to the cultural and economic benefits of the games industry in the area.

[Top 20 job titles in Surrey \(no link\)](#)

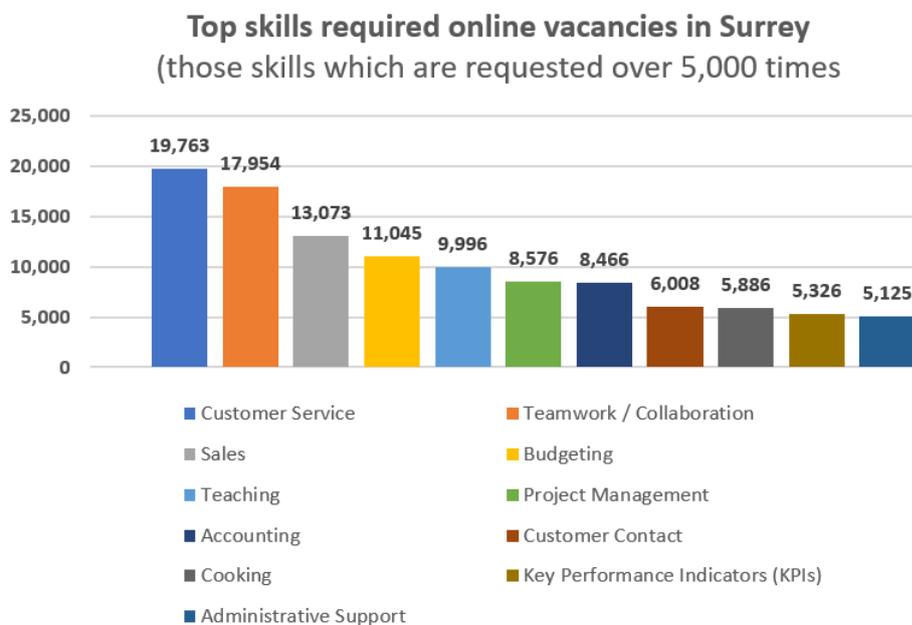
The top 20 job titles advertised online in Surrey over the last 12 months are shown below. Vacancies for Chefs were the highest with 4,147 vacancies



Source: Labour Insight (Burning Glass)

Top skills required in Surrey (no link)

Over the last 12 months some skill requirements have appeared over 5,000 times in online advertisements. Here are the top skills being sought in Surrey. Customer Service skills are the top skill requirement with 19,763 vacancies.



Source: Labour Insight (Burning Glass)

[New hotel planned for Worcester Park](#)

Worcester Park could be getting a new Ibis hotel if plans are passed by Kingston Council.

[Surrey Logistics company merger and expansion](#)

Banstead based TRG Logistics will be renamed Challenge TRG Group as it is to grow into one of the largest providers of HGV drivers and warehouse staff in the UK. The merge with Challenge Group will employ 4,000 temporary workers and 150 permanent workers collectively on the sites in Surrey and Wigan.

WEST SUSSEX, BRIGHTON AND HOVE

[Worthing leisure scheme approved](#)

Adur and Worthing Council have given the go-ahead for a new leisure complex on the Worthing seafront, to include a restaurant and a retail unit.

[New Lidl for Chichester](#)

A new Lidl supermarket will be opening in Chichester in 2020.

[Brighton and Hove 20-year strategy](#)

A report in the Argus states there are 15,840 businesses in Brighton and Hove and that business grew by 20% between 2012 and 2017. The new strategy for the next 20 years will focus on a low carbon economy and there are plans to build on the strength of sectors which are strong in the region such as the digital, 'green technology' sector, life sciences, higher education and tourism.

[New staff recruited at Butlins](#)

55 new staff have been recruited at Butlins following the new 'Splash' swimming pool complex completion. The roles include Lifeguards, Receptionists, Poole Cleaners and a pool Photographer.

LEP NEWS

[Solent](#)

The [Government's deal](#) with the Offshore wind industry is good news to the Solent LEP area. Vestas on the Isle of Wight manufactures the largest offshore wind turbine blades in the world and will therefore benefit from a growth and job creation perspective. According to a report on the Solent LEP site Vestas have created 400 new highly skilled jobs in 2019.

[Cornwall and Isles of Scilly](#)

According to ONS statistics around 71,000 (13% of residents of Cornwall and Isles of Scilly) have never used the internet and it is therefore encouraging news that the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP have won a bid to set up a Local Digital Skills Partnership aimed at increasing digital capability within the area.

[Enterprise M3](#)

Enterprise M3 have announced that two colleges in their area will be delivering the new T level qualifications from September. Farnborough College and Peter Symonds College in Winchester will offer Education and Childcare and Farnborough

will offer a Digital T level to next year's intake. Winchester previously came under the Solent LEP but is now part of the Enterprise M3 LEP area.

USEFUL WEBSITES

- [Amazing Apprenticeships Vacancy Snapshot](#) - This site has a new search facility and filters which make it easier for users to search by employer name, order the profiles alphabetically, or filter against areas of industry. There are over 50 profiles from some of the UK's top apprenticeship employers, with new additions added on a regular basis.



- <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/careers> - useful website explaining the world of work, with advice from people who've found the right path for them.
- Four interactive animations to explore the many roles available within the construction industry - <https://www.goconstruct.org/learn-about-construction/find-the-role-for-you/roles-in-construction/>
- Useful free LMI resource from LMI for All depicting pay, projected workforce changes by occupation, common tasks and related jobs
- Support and finance for women starting their own business in the UK. <https://natwestbackherbusiness.co.uk/>
- Job search site: <https://www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk/>
- New April version of Parents' Pack - <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resources/>

FUTURE EVENTS

- 1st May – Open evening at Brockenhurst College – 5.30 pm – 8.30 pm
<https://www.brock.ac.uk/calendar/may-open-evening/>
- 3rd May – Job Fair, Southampton, Solent Conference Centre, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm - https://www.thejobfairs.co.uk/network/jobseeker/event-guides/southampton?gclid=CjwKCAiAqt7jBRAcEiwAof2uK9AScMga1_0Rh2EqjDYB_Mk84HOgkZPOPMqzXdcChR5PFdXvN6aqChoC4HQQAvD_BwE
- 13th May – Job Fair, Blandford Corn Exchange, 10.30 – 1.00 pm
- 14th May – Southampton Apprenticeship Show – St Mary's Stadium - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/careers-apprenticeship-show-2019-portsmouth-southampton-tickets-51756347629>



- 22nd May – NEScot Open evening – 4.30 pm – 7.30 pm - <https://www.nescot.ac.uk/events/>
- 31st May – Job Fair, Reading Town Hall, 10.00 am – 2.00 pm
<https://www.facebook.com/events/218277275517449/>
- 12th June – Job Fair, Jury's Inn, Brighton, 10.00 am – 2.00 pm
<https://www.facebook.com/events/271010946959298/>
- 14th June – Job Fair, Guildhall, Portsmouth, 10.00 am – 2.00 pm
<https://www.facebook.com/events/290962325020613/>
- 15th June - East Surrey College open event for apprenticeships and higher education 10.00 am - 3.00 pm Register at:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfoj37BFMhU6B6Nn-zQiGVqn-1VPqCHs2t4cCeTUFKaTkh6eQ/viewform>.
- 16th June - Open day at Southampton City College, 9.30 am – 1.00 pm - <https://www.southampton-city.ac.uk/events/open-day/>
- 19th June – Women in Stem event for Careers Advisers at Bournemouth and Poole College, 3.00 pm – 6.00 pm - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bournemouth-poole-college-women-in-stem-cpd-event-2019-tickets-53809331158>
- 25th June – South West Big Bang, West Point Arena, Exeter
- 27th June – Ex-veterans recruitment event, 9.30 am – 1.30 pm at St Mary's Stadium, Southampton
- 27 – 29 June – Guildford Games Festival, at GLive and other locations in Guildford

- 5th July – Job Fair, Guildhall, Plymouth, 10.00 am – 2.00 pm
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1087744458061021/>
- 19th July – Job Fair, Crawley Arora Hotel, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1102608386562493/>
- 23rd August – Job Fair, Reading Town Hall, 10.00 am – 2.00 pm
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1841430832640259/>
- 4th September – Job Fair, Exeter Corn Exchange, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm
<https://www.facebook.com/events/2467957353221701/>
- 6th September – Job Fair, Bournemouth Vitality Stadium, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1911916832444044/>
- 25th September, Job Fair, Southampton Solent Centre, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm
<https://www.facebook.com/events/453180001831528/>
- 11th October, Job Fair, Jury's Inn, Brighton, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm
<https://www.facebook.com/events/229516797759327/>
- 25th October, Job Fair, Portsmouth Guildhall, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm -
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/portsmouth-jobs-fair-tickets-54582667227>
- 25th October, IOW Job Fair, 11.00 am – 3.00 pm at Isle of Wight College,
<https://www.iwcollege.ac.uk/event/your-future-careers-education-jobs-fair/>
- 15th November, Job Fair, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm Town Hall Reading
<https://www.facebook.com/events/2097965973854890/>

Apprenticeship live broadcasts

- 15th May – Greene King – 10.00 am - <https://learnliveuk.com/apprenticeships-live-with-greene-king/>