

Press release – 14th May 2012

Annual conference for independent estate agents this month

- Thursday 24th May 2012, St Mellion International Resort

The biggest event on the calendar for independent estate agents in the South West takes place this month. Up to 200 delegates are expected to attend the sixth annual Spring Conference hosted by the Westcountry Property Sharing Experts at St Mellion International Resort on Thursday 24th May 2012.

The organisation has over 100 member offices, all working together to sell property for clients and benefitting from the extensive support the organisation provides, which allows each member to concentrate on their core role of selling homes. With an invitation to non-member independent estate agents as well as members across the region, the conference promises to be the biggest and best yet, providing unrivalled networking and experience sharing opportunities, trade stands for information from some of the best local and industry suppliers and top speakers for inspiration, education and entertainment .

Sponsored by Zoopla, along with South West Communications Group, Gill Akaster Solicitors and Ashfords Solicitors LLP, the conference will take place in the St Mellion Suite at the International Resort, overlooking the 18th hole of the Nicklaus Signature Golf Course. The conference starts at 12:30pm with a buffet lunch and is absolutely free to attend.

The compere for the conference is award-winning trainer, Gayle Partridge of IRYS, whose delivery is bold and punchy. Gayle will introduce speaker Mark Hayward, chairman of NFOPP (the National Federation of Property Professionals) and president elect of the NAEA (National Association of Estate Agents) as well as auctioneer, Richard Worrall, who will deliver a speech on the recent partnership between the Westcountry Property Sharing Experts and The Auction Agents - proving a successful combination for those buying and selling property at auction.

Ashfords, Gill Akaster, Zoopla and South West Communications will also take to the podium and renowned inspirational speaker, Matthew Fleming will deliver the keynote speech. Matt has been

chief executive of Aylesworth Fleming Ltd - one of the UK's leading property marketing and advertising agencies - since 1985 and in 2007 became a founding director and shareholder of the £30m Emerge Group.

Steve Moir, chairman of the Westcountry Property Sharing Experts, is looking forward to the event. He said: "Our conference is the biggest date in the South West independent estate agency diary. The organisation exists to support its members and does so with training and a whole raft of services and benefits, each extremely valuable to us and as a whole, allowing us to focus on getting homes sold. The conference gets all the agents together, providing them with the opportunity to catch up with old friends, meet new colleagues and exchange news and views as well as furnishing them with useful and practical information on the latest technologies and services, industry updates and opinions and advice from leading industry figures. One lucky delegate will even take home an iPad as the winner of the free prize draw. We're very much looking forward to the conference and welcoming Gayle, Matt, Mark, Richard and the other speakers as well as up to 200 estate agent delegates."

Zoopla is the UK's most comprehensive and fastest growing property website, which attracts over 10 million visits per month and has been awarded numerous accolades. The Exeter-based award-winning South West Communications Group employs more than 120 people and provides the latest telephone systems, video conferencing equipment, data centre services and networks. Plymouth-based law practice Gill Akaster Solicitors is one of the largest law firms in Plymouth and the South West having been established over 200 years. Conveyancing Quality Scheme accredited and on all major mortgage lending panels, its conveyancing department is led by David Wallis, a long standing supporter of the members of the Westcountry Property Sharing Experts, with a large team of dedicated professional offering top-flight legal advice with a down to earth approach. The origins of Ashfords Solicitors LLP can be traced back to Exeter in the 18th Century. A recent merger has created a law firm with nearly 500 staff, part of an international network of legal firms covering more than 80 countries worldwide, reinforcing its position as one of the leading full service law firms in the UK serving both business and private clients.

For further information or to book a place at the conference free of charge and without obligation, independent estate agents in the region should contact Jo Marshall on 01392 463800 or email jo@westcountryteam.com.

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