

# Southern Region Newsletter



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## March 2018

**AGM and National Rally**  
**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018**  
*Hosted by South West Region*



**Leigh Park Country House Hotel & Vineyard. Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire. Please book asap.**

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## The Co-op Retail Group

The Co-op retail group has confirmed plans to invest more than £160m in new store construction and refurbishment during this year.



The Co-op are looking to open 100 new food stores across the UK in 2018 and give 150 existing stores a major makeover. More than 20 new stores are set to open in London, and

up to 18 stores are planned for Scotland including stores in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Forres (Highlands) and Kilmacolm (Renfrewshire). Wales will benefit from 10 new stores, starting in Rhayader (Powys) and Bryncoch (Neath). New stores are also lined up for Blackpool, Bristol, Chesterfield, Crewe, Leicester, Manchester, Nottingham, Plymouth, Southampton and York, among other towns and cities.

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## University of Sussex



Mace have been selected by The University of Sussex as its preferred partner for the construction of a £60m life sciences facility at its Falmer campus near Brighton. University of Sussex's planned life sciences building.

The five-storey building designed by Hawkins Brown Architects will be built of glass, concrete and brick, remaining true to the vision of the university's founding architect, Sir Basil Spence.

The project will be built in the southeast of the campus, sited near the medical school and other science buildings. Having a footprint of more than 17,000 square metres, it will be the university's second-largest building after the library.

The new life sciences building will include a hub for growing bio-medical businesses, in a bid to strengthen the university's ties with industry.



Kent



House-builder Berkeley Group is planning to build modular housing components in a factory in Kent. Berkeley prototypes at Kidbrooke Village.

Berkeley Group has submitted a planning application for a 160,000 square foot facility in Gravesham in Kent. It bought the site from the Homes & Communities Agency.

“We have assembled a team of specialists who are working with the group’s construction teams to design the factory space with the first components undergoing testing,” said Berkeley chief executive Rob Perrins.

Berkeley has already put a toe in the water with 22 prototype modular homes at its Kidbrooke Village housing development in southeast London.

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Dorset

Dorset Steel Firm helps with Caribbean rebuild following the devastation of hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Dorset-based Reidsteel has been brought in to build disaster-proof steel structures in the Caribbean.

Many buildings were just a tangled mess, found Chappell (right, pictured with Hesketh Newton of Newton Construction, Reidsteel’s local agent)

Reidsteel has designed, manufactured and



supplied hundreds of buildings in the Caribbean and Central America over the past century, including churches, granaries, schools, industrial units, aircraft hangars and bridges.

Sales manager Mike Chappell has recently returned from a fact-finding trip to the British Virgin Islands and Antigua where he saw the devastation first hand. He met business and community leaders as well as government ministers.

His visit came after virtually all of Reidsteel’s structures – including warehouses, supermarkets and chandleries and banks – survived hurricanes Harvey and Irma, which hit at speeds of more than 200 mph. Only one of its many buildings had suffered minor structural damage as a consequence of the hurricanes.

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