

Diary



STRIKE A LIGHT

The Argent-led redevelopment of King's Cross Central, N1, is really lighting up. Rumours and hype surrounding lettings at speculative office developments One and Two Pancras Square are rife, and PRS for Music is to move its HQ there. What better way to sum up the excitement than this spectacular image King's Cross Central Partnership stumbled across last week. This shot of a lightning strike, captured in the early hours of 23 July, came from a timelapse camera, which has been recording the reconstruction of the iconic Gasholder number eight at King's Cross over the past five months.

NUMBERS ADD UP FOR LANDAID

A whopping £50,000 (confirmed so far) was raised by the property industry last Thursday for LandAid. How did we do it? Let's take a look... 3,000 people from 48 companies and 119 offices across the UK got involved in 20 cake sales, 167 #LAD2013 tweets, 98 abseils, one Batman, one Catwoman, one ballroom dancer, 26 treasure hunt teams sending out 130 spies, Sherlocks, sleuths, plus Scooby Doo, Shaggy, Velma, Daphne and Fred. Well done to all!

● Our five-page LandAid Day report starts on page 253.

HIS WORD'S AS GOOD AS HIS BOND

The name's Duguid. Bill Duguid. Yes, the recently appointed managing partner of Ryden (and ex military man), bears more than a passing resemblance to fellow Scot – and, arguably the greatest James Bond ever – Sir Sean Connery. But it's not just his physical resemblance that means he often gets mistaken for the acting legend. Duguid is not only a lookalike but a sound-alike too. He remains shaken and not stirred, saying: "It's something I've had all my life. I often get mistaken for him, even if people just hear my voice." Well, if things ever go pear-shaped at Ryden, there's always a lucrative career in radio or lookalike public appearances to fall back on. After all, *You Only Live Twice*, or so it seems...

BUYING FROM BEHIND BARS

A lesson in sourcing property deals by Thor Equities boss Joe Sitts was delivered at this week's IMN European Real Estate Opportunity & Private Fund Investing Forum. Diary thought that *EG* readers

might like a bit of business insight for free. Ready? OK. Lesson one: It's not about buying off-market, it's about "buying off-road and in dark alleys". Lesson two: These assets are not institutionally owned, but often held by interesting characters – Sitts calls them the "ripped-jeans meetings". And lesson three: Owners will not always be locally domiciled. According to Sitts, in two recent transactions the sellers were in prison in some other part of the world "as a result of, let's just say, instability going on in lots of interesting places".

TOP DRAWS AND NO DRAWERS

The launch of Candy & Candy's GPS report and autumn magazine at the Saatchi Gallery this week lived up to any and all expectations – and then some. A hoard of paparazzi loitering outside the entrance to the event? Check. Stylish Grey Goose vodka cocktails in frosted glass flutes? Check. Delicious, calorie-laden canapés that half the guests looked at longingly but refused to eat? Check. A crudités bar for a nibble on a

radish dipped in celery salt to cater for the aforementioned carb-dodgers? Check. [Just one radish, mind]. Celebrity guests including Sinitta, Vernon Kay and Jimmy Carr? Check, check, check. A constant cluster of people following Nick Candy around all night? Check. But then there was the guest who could probably have done with a bit more of a check before leaving the house. A short dress is one thing, but one short enough to display one's underwear – or lack thereof – is quite another.



Getting his Spurs Kleinman snapped again



Mark Kleinman, director of James Andrew International, is no stranger to the Diary page. He is frequently papped with sports stars, including England international footballer Paul Merson. But kudos to Kleinman for securing a snap with Tottenham Hotspur legend Glenn Hoddle, who recently accepted a position on the Football Association taskforce to help improve the national team's fortunes. The pair were spotted at a charity lunch last week at the Montcalm Hotel, W1.