

## BUSINESS



## DASHWOOD



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## Learn to trade - even from your bedroom

GREG Secker has swapped the trading floors of the City for the bedrooms of suburbia. Well, almost. For Prince William's polo teammate is running a bootcamp where he teaches amateurs how to trade from their homes in west London. He has been swamped by middle-aged savers whose pensions and Isas have been under-performing. His pupils, who pay tuition fees of £2,000, are seeing returns of 4pc a month, he says.

"The people who



Greg Secker at the cockpit of his R22 helicopter

make really good traders are like your dad - consistent, cuddly, family values," he told Dashwood on a spin over Canary Wharf in his R22 helicopter

(above). Commission on the trades he made during the flights was donated by his broker, ETX Capital, to Barnados and South African kids' fund Ubuntu.

## An opportunity to borrow some intellectual property

ONE might assume that outright plagiarism of another website would be beyond the pale for employees of the Government's Intellectual Property Office (IPO), yet large sections of its new "Peer to Patent" site bear a remarkable resemblance to an equivalent project in the US.

The UK site calls the initiative a "program" and uses other American spellings such as "mischaracterize" and "humor" and even directs queries to New York. The six-month pilot project allows the science and technology community to "peer review" patent applications with the aim of improving the quality of granted patents by giving the IPO access to a wider body of knowledge. John Mitchell, chairman of the SME Innovation Alliance (SMEIA), asked: "Who is actually controlling this project in the UK? The quality of work at the UKIPO has deteriorated beyond an acceptable level."

The IPO said the scheme was inspired by a New York Law School project. "We have adapted the existing website to meet our requirements and that's why the American spellings remain in some parts," a spokesman said.

QUOTE  
OF THE  
WEEK



"We are trying everything we can to put our house in order"

George Papandreou, prime minister of Greece, on his and his fellow politicians' efforts to stabilise the Greek economy



## Sir Terence adapts to his new habitat

HE MAY be about to celebrate his 80th birthday, but Sir Terence Conran, right, doesn't miss a trick.

Opining on the near-disappearance of his beloved Habitat - the iconic furniture chain which was intended to bring stylish furniture to the masses - the design guru was quick to point out the joys of his latest adventure.

In March, Marks & Spencer announced his Conran & Company design business would be developing a new home collection, due to hit shops from September.

When asked how he felt about the majority of Habitat's shops falling into administration - and the brand and 3 shops being sold to Home Retail Group - he noted: "Why should I look backwards when the future is so exciting?" Habitat's loss is M&S's gain, and all that.

## Chance for bankers to hear apologetic talk



TO THE Square Mile, where today marks the start of the City of London Festival, a seven-week celebration. This year's theme brings a focus on all things from Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific.

One event, to be held at St Ethelburga's on Thursday, is a talk by Australian John Bond, who helped ex-prime minister Kevin Rudd to apologise to the Aboriginal population for past hardships. The title of the talk? "The Power of Public Apology". Certain bankers may be interested to learn tickets are still available.

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