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This week's IWMS

#newsin30seconds

A bit of a change for our first #newsin30seconds of 2018, as we look at our "Top 7 Travel Story Leads" for the year ahead...

Roll-up, roll-up, it's the 250th anniversary of the modern circus

2018 will mark one of The Economist's "Top 10 Trends" for the coming year – the 250th anniversary of the modern circus. Six locations in the UK have been named Cities of Circus, including Newcastle-under-Lyme in Staffordshire, the birthplace of the inventor of the modern circus, Philip Astley. <http://www.philipastley.org.uk>

French Ardennes at the forefront of the end of WWI centenary commemorations

For France, it is The French Ardennes that will provide the full stop, at the end of the final sentence, in the last chapter of the history of the conflict. Because this was where the last French victim of the Great War, Augustin Joseph Trebuchon, fell – less than fifteen minutes before the cease-fire at 11am on November 11th, 1918. <http://bit.ly/2zZN17V>

Hampshire ready for take-off as UK marks 100th anniversary of RAF

Hampshire can stake a strong claim to have been at the very forefront of the formation of the RAF in 1918. While much of the story can be found at the Farnborough Air Science Trust, 2018 is also the year when the Farnborough Airshow will take place from July 16 to 22. <http://bit.ly/2BnrV3W>

The centenary of the RAF will also be marked in Staffordshire

Staffordshire will have the opportunity to take part in some of the many commemorative events being staged across Britain during the year. Home to the National Memorial Arboretum, near Lichfield, Staffordshire also offers itself as a perfect base for visiting RAF Cosford, which is located just over the county boundary, in Shropshire. <http://bit.ly/2gLV9Vi>

50 years of the Isle of Wight Festival

To mark their 50th anniversary, the Isle of Wight Festival has announced a huge run of headliners and more of their line-up for 2018. Celebrating 50 years since the start of the legendary event, the Isle of Wight Festival will be held from June 21-24. <http://bit.ly/2CLtLOe>

Developments at Old Spode Works is shape of things to come for Stoke-on-Trent

It's been five years in the making, but a collection of former factory buildings on the Old Spode Works, in Stoke-on-Trent, has almost reached the point where visitors can eat, drink, meet, be entertained, and stay in style. The 26 room Hotel@Potbank, set to open this Spring is just one of the headline events for a city which was one of just eight awarded Heritage Action Zone status in 2017. <http://bit.ly/2CvdEXn>

It's "business as usual" now, in Hull

For Hull, 2017 was all about being The UK City of Culture - a title actually awarded to its host-city for FOUR years, rather than just one; and it looks like the juggernaut that was set rolling in last year is certain to keep powering along for many years to come. Now firmly established as a cultural destination in its own right, with world class museums, galleries, theatres and venues, it will be "business as usual" in 2018, and beyond. <http://bit.ly/2BiVOqf>

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