

Dear Reader,

We've had a very busy month with the second of our two new branches opening in Fiveways last week. As a resident of the area myself, I am very much looking forward to increasing our involvement with the community.

If the rather grey days and post-Christmas lull have left you with the January blues, now could be the time to start thinking about summer holidays. We've been looking at home exchanges as a great way of getting away without the cost of hotels.

Regards,

David Maslen M.N.A.E.A.
Director



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Swap your semi for a sea-view!

Home exchange is an increasingly popular and flexible way of cost-effectively securing suitable holiday accommodation that might otherwise have been prohibitively expensive to rent. Using one of several reputable home exchange websites, you can offer your home to people anywhere in the world who are also interested in swapping their home for a break in the UK.

For example, someone in California might be interested in swapping with your home in Brighton for a couple of weeks in the summer – at no cost, other than air fares of course. Many people even include their car in the swap, subject to insurances, and some even their pets, which certainly saves kennelling fees!

The obvious question is one of security, but according to www.HomeExchange.com, in fourteen years and tens of thousands of exchanges, they have never had a single report of a theft or vandalism.

There is also the chance to get to know the people you will be swapping with which should allay any fears about having strangers in your house, and ensure you are completely comfortable with the exchange. Think of home exchange as internet dating for your home. Before you would actually go on a date with someone you met on the internet, you would exchange some emails, talk on the phone a few times, and swap recent photos. By the time you agreed to meet, it wouldn't be with a "stranger". You wouldn't go on a date if you didn't feel a connection, and the same goes for a home exchange.

Whilst the cost saving is attractive, many swappers say that the greatest benefits include the value of experiencing an area like a local rather than a tourist and having the comfort of being in a home rather than a cramped hotel room or sparsely furnished rental property. *"You stay in my house while I stay in yours."*



NEWS – Fiveways: the latest addition to Maslen Estate Agents

Maslen Estate Agents has just opened its newest office in the Fiveways area. With the Hove office opening earlier this month, Maslen Estate Agents now has four branches selling property throughout the City of Brighton & Hove.

Located at 290 Ditchling Road, the new branch is ideally situated to serve the surrounding area, renowned for its family-friendliness and quality schools. It will be run by experienced agent Paul Wilkinson, supported by a team of friendly and knowledgeable staff.



Maslen Estate Agents have just opened their new Fiveways branch

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **3rd February 2008 – Seedy Sunday** – Seed-swapping, stalls with over 100 seed potato varieties to buy, and exhibitions and talks on seeds. From 10:00am at Hove Town Hall
- **3rd February 2008 – Pavilion Annual Free Day** – The Royal Pavilion waives its admission charges one day a year. Experience the breathtaking architecture and interior design first hand. From 10:00am.
- **10th February 2008 - Patch Nestbox Making** – Friends of William Clarke Park host a nest box and bat box building day to put up around the Patch. From 10:00am.

N.B. Please check dates, times and venues before setting off

seedy
sunday



GET IN TOUCH

At Maslen Estate Agents we want to make moving home as stress-free and enjoyable as possible. As one of Brighton's leading independent estate agencies, our reputation is built on an ethos of honesty and integrity and always putting the customer first.

Whether you are buying or selling, our professionalism and unrivalled knowledge of the local property market makes us a refreshing estate agent to deal with.

Contact us by emailing, popping in to one of our offices or call us on 01273 677001.

For the latest Brighton properties or to get a market appraisal get in touch

Click here or call us on 01273 677001