

DAILY Mirror JOBS

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with our brilliant careers week **FISH4JOBS**

DON'TS FOR OFFICE DO...

The festive season is in full swing and chances are you have a work Christmas party. Make sure you have a good time, while avoiding jeopardising your job with these party survival tips from Fish4Jobs.

DRINK The Christmas do is a chance to eat, drink and be merry. But it's easy to overdo it on the booze. This is still a professional environment and good behaviour is expected - so pace yourself.

MINGLE While it's tempting to spend the night with your team, this is a rare chance to get to know people in other departments.

SHOP TALK Avoid endless biz talk. Sure, you're all there because you have work in common, but colleagues will be far more eager to talk about their interests than your firm's social media campaign.

DRESS Depending on the location and type of event - casual drinks, a classy sit-down dinner or a party in the office - you need an appropriate outfit. Look the part.

DON'T BAIL Talking to people you don't know, worrying you've had one too many sherreries, work parties can be stressful.

Attendance shows management you appreciate their efforts and gives you the opportunity to turn work mates into real mates.

SAV THANKS The party has probably taken weeks to organise so thank the organisers and your boss who paid for it.

DON'T FLIRT A few drinks and you might end up saying - or doing - something that embarrasses you and your office crush. The professional etiquette never includes a snog on the dancefloor. **DON'T BE LATE** A hangover isn't an excuse to miss the next day's work. Eat breakfast, drink water, turn up and power through.

Mark made right

Life clickety-clicks in his bingo career

HOUSE that! Very few people find a job that is the perfect fit for them - but Mark Lees has managed it.

He has spent the past 33 years as a bingo caller in his native Birkenhead on Merseyside.

With up to 1,400 people listening intently to his every word day after day, Mark, 59, holds them all in the palm of his hands.

Do you spend your entire shifts calling out numbers?

No. At Mecca we are now officially called bingo hosts. The main part of the job is still hosting the sessions, calling and controlling the games in play. But in between games, I am chatting to members, having a laugh and helping people new to the game to get to grips with it.

How did you end up at Mecca's door?

From when I left school at 16, I was a cinema projectionist opposite where I work now. My Dad was a projectionist too and films were in the blood.

It was my dream world. I worked there right up until it closed in 1986, and then I walked across the road to the bingo hall.

Is it still Legs 11 and two fat ladies 88?

Not any more - it's not PC to use those these days. But I still love two little ducks, 22, which gets everyone shouting out quack quack.

I still use a lot of banter, but it's more about our Sally in Corrie being in prison



TICKETTY BOO Mark loves life as bingo caller

or I'm a Celebrity. Back in the day I used to pull out individual balls, but now it is electronic and the numbers come up on a vast screen.

The game has changed so much. You still get the experts with six books which they might play upside down for a challenge, but more and more use the max boards which can even fill in the numbers automatically if you want.

What skills do you need for the job?

It's all about timing and ensuring customers enjoy themselves and a have fun, entertaining and memorable experience. Confidence is key, also a good set of ears. A sense of humour is crucial too.

After 30 years you must know some of regulars

A lot of the members have become like an extended family, and some of the friends I've made are now even bringing their children along to play. The very

first member who said hello to me when I started was a lady called Edna. She is still playing at 88 and I've named her Dame Edna. One member is 97 and has been playing forever.

She still gets the bus in. I always keep an eye out for regulars. We celebrate birthdays and, if they haven't been in for a while, we get in touch.

Do you "do" Christmas?

You bet. The hall looks like Santa's grotto and we have our annual Christmas lunch looming. Needless to say we keep playing bingo throughout.

Any sidelines?

Because of my love of cinema, every six weeks I do a late-night slot on BBC Radio Merseyside. Myself and a couple of other presenters talk about movies, cinema days gone by and anything to do with the entertainment business.

I was terrified the first time I did it but once we went on air the nerves left and I just got on with it.

Greene King 250 apprenticeships

Pub group behind Chef and Brewer, Loch Fyne and Flaming Grill is on hunt for newcomers to kickstart their careers in hospitality by joining schemes for chef or bar and waiting apprentices. Both 12-month schemes and a chance to earn and learn. greeneking.co.uk/work-with-us/join-our-apprenticeship-programme/

Fish4Jobs 18,699 jobs

National Express needs trainee drivers. Holiday Inn Express is recruiting for guest services roles in Birmingham and RAC Motoring Services is looking for sales advisors in Bristol.

Sirius Minerals 50 apprenticeships

Yorkshire based mining business is inviting applications for its four-year Advanced Engineering Technician programme, a multi-skilled course studying for a qualification while earning. Must be 16 with at least five GCSEs at grade 4 or above, good communication and problem-solving skills. <https://siriusminerals.com/work-with-us/apprenticeships>

JOBS BOARD

Looking for work? Look no further as our Get Britain Working campaign finds 52,379 opportunities up for grabs this week. We scour the UK to find out who has vacancies and where to help you head in the right direction for work.

We've teamed up with our brilliant website Fish4Jobs to create a one-stop jobs shop on our website.

Visit mirror.co.uk/jobs for lots more guidance and work.

DPD 300+ jobs

Parcel delivery giant needs drivers across the UK, both owner-drivers looking to be their own boss and LGV and C+E drivers working as part of its Linehaul team. Plus vacancies for depot operatives, mechanical engineers and customer service advisors. <https://careers.dpd.co.uk/>

Hospitality 30,320 jobs

See above for vacancies nationwide

CONTACTS

■ Hospitality Guild: hospo.org.uk
 ■ Springboard: careercentre.org.uk
 ■ Mecca Bingo: meccabingo.com

Costa Coffee 260 jobs

Openings at all levels. Also vacancies for field service engineers, helpline advisors at its centre in Loudwater, Bucks, and on its marketing graduate scheme, based at Dunstable, Bedfordshire. costacareers.co.uk

2,550 jobs

Vacancies for field service engineers, helpline advisors at its centre in Loudwater, Bucks, and on its marketing graduate scheme, based at Dunstable, Bedfordshire. costacareers.co.uk