

# News story: The Mersey Beatles headline Astana Expo

The tribute band recreated the magic of the Fab Four as part of a British showcase promoting trade and culture in the region. The 2 performances drew full crowds. Their sets covered some of the most iconic tracks in pop history, including 'Can't Buy Me Love' and 'Hey Jude'.

The performances are part of a wider UK showcase in the closing weeks of Astana Expo 2017, to promote British culture, technology and innovation. UK participation at Astana Expo ends on 10 September.

UK Deputy Commissioner Sara Everett said:

The UK at Astana Expo has delivered a strong cultural and business programme, in this fast-growing economy.

The popularity of this concert highlights the UK's immense creative and cultural contribution to the world, making the creative industries one of our strongest and most vital sectors and leading the Confederation of British Industry to forecast the UK as the world's leading creative hub by 2025.

## **Mersey Beatles**

The Mersey Beatles are childhood friends who grew up in Liverpool. They had a record collection in common. The Beatles were at the top of their collections as they are to this day.

The friends have been recreating the sound of the Beatles since 1999. They were resident at The Cavern Club in Liverpool for 10 years and have since toured the world.

Steven Howard, Mark Bloor and Brian Ambrose attended secondary school together in Liverpool. David Howard and Steven Howard are cousins. Tony Cook, another friend from Liverpool, is the fifth Mersey Beatle. His keyboard skills make the hits of the later years come to life. The Mersey Beatles love of the Beatles music shines through in every performance.

## **British showcase at Astana Expo**

The Mersey Beatles were part of a British showcase across the Expo site and on the UK Pavilion that included:

- 22 August: Engineering Day in association with the [British Chamber of Commerce](#)
- 25 August: Arrival of the [British Bloodhound](#) at Expo, the fastest car in

the world

- 26 August: Jane Austen Day in association with the Astana Book Club

## **UK Pavilion at Astana Expo**

The UK is promoting the UK as a business partner of choice at Astana Expo 2017 through a Pavilion designed by UK architect Asif Khan with a team of British and international creative talent, and a British cultural programme.

### **The International Business Festival**

The Mersey Beatles Live at Expo was sponsored by The International Business Festival – the world's biggest business event. Hosted every 2 years in its home city of Liverpool, the festival captures the dynamism and diversity of the global marketplace.

Held across 3 weeks in June 2018, the third edition of the International Business Festival is set to be the biggest and boldest yet, with a programme focused on 9 key industry sectors including manufacturing, life sciences and culture, media and sport.

### **British Engineering Day at the UK Pavilion at Astana Expo**

[British Engineering Day](#), held in the UK Pavilion on 22 August, showcased British capabilities and excellence in manufacturing and engineering technologies. It provided a networking opportunity for British and Kazakhstani companies to build contacts and meet with potential partners and distributors to sell their services and goods.

### **Jane Austin Day**

Jane Austen Day, held on 26 August, celebrated the 200th anniversary of the renowned and internationally loved novelist. It was held in collaboration with PRObooks, a club consisting of over 900 active participants in Astana.

### **British Bloodhound**

[Bloodhound](#) was at the National Day Stage at Astana Expo until 5 Sept.

Bloodhound is an international education initiative based around a 1,000mph jet and rocket powered car. The primary aim of the programme is to inspire the next generation by showcasing science technology, engineering and maths subjects in the most exciting way possible, by setting a world land speed record and sharing the adventure along the journey.

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# Statement to Parliament: Update on draft Airports National Policy Statement process

In my [statement](#) on 13 July this year, I said I would set out the next steps of the [draft Airports National Policy Statement](#) (NPS) process following the summer recess.

The government [consulted on a draft Airports NPS](#) between 2 February and 25 May this year.

We received over 70,000 responses, and work to analyse them is ongoing. I would like to thank everyone who took the time to feed in their views.

In the consultation document, my department was clear that further work was underway to update the evidence base, including revised aviation demand forecasts and the government's final air quality plan. It was intended these documents would be presented for consideration during the initial consultation, but the timing of the general election meant this was not possible.

I am therefore confirming that there is a need to conduct a short period of further consultation to allow this updated evidence to be taken into account. This further consultation will focus mainly on the specific elements of the NPS affected, and is expected to begin later this year.

I appointed the former Senior President of Tribunals, Sir Jeremy Sullivan, to provide independent oversight of the consultation process. I am very grateful to him for his hard work in helping to ensure that the consultation was as open, fair and transparent as possible. Today (7 September 2017) I am publishing his [report on the initial consultation](#), and can announce that he has agreed to oversee the period of further consultation.

In my statement in July I said that the timing of the election – in particular the need to re-start the [Select Committee process](#) – meant we now expect to lay any final NPS in the first half of 2018 for a vote in the House of Commons. This government remains committed to realising the benefits that airport expansion could bring, and I can confirm that we do not expect this additional period of consultation to impact on the timetable for parliamentary scrutiny of the NPS.

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# News story: Government backs innovative technology to slash shipping emissions to zero

The government has committed to help fund innovative technologies and fuels to reduce maritime emissions, ultimately helping create a zero-emissions sector.

The government, in partnership with industry, has committed to spending over £6 million on funding trials of innovative energy saving devices, such as:

- state of the art propellers
- on board waste heat recovery
- rotor sails that use wind power to cut fuel consumption

In addition to funding trials, we are also now providing technical backing and expertise through the Maritime and Coastguard Agency for the following projects:

- work in Scotland to prove the use of hydrogen fuel cells for ferries in the UK
- Caledonian MacBrayne Ferries ongoing work to deliver innovative vessels such as hybrids, and their longer term efforts to prove the use of innovative propulsion and fuels for the next generation of ferries

The UK is playing a leading role in implementing binding energy efficiency targets for shipping, which we helped secure global agreement on in 2011. By 2025, the majority of new ships will be expected to be 30% more efficient than current designs.

Maritime transport emits around 1,000 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually worldwide, and is responsible for about 2.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions. If emissions from international shipping are not addressed, studies suggest they will account for almost a fifth (17%) of global emissions by 2050, highlighting the need for urgent action.

Speaking in the run up to London International Shipping Week 2017, Maritime Minister John Hayes said:

The UK is home to a wealth of expertise in maritime technology, but more needs to be done to move this sector towards a zero emissions world.

That's why this government is committed to backing vital technology to meet this goal, and we are looking to deepen our technical expertise to further support industry.

I will relay this message during London International Shipping Week

2017, where we will showcase the UK's exciting future as a powerhouse of maritime innovation.

The government has also been working closely with industry to develop international regulations to support liquid natural gas and other alternative fuels. Vessels fuelled with liquid natural gas are regularly refuelling in the UK at ports including Teesport, Southampton and Immingham.

The UK already has several hybrid ships operating in its waters. These systems offer local air quality benefits, can be quieter for port communities and provide opportunities for further energy efficiency on board a vessel.

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## **Notice: Hi-Rel Lids Limited: application made to abstract water**

The Environment Agency consult the public on certain applications for the abstraction and impoundment of water.

These notices explain:

- what the application is about
- which Environment Agency offices you can visit to see the application documents on the public register
- when you need to comment by

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## **Notice: Warren Hill Farms: application made to abstract water**

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