



PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
3rd May 2017

Volunteers sought for stunning charitable coffee house Claudius Gateway

A stunning coffee shop in the heart of Britain's oldest recorded town - **Claudius Gateway** - will be one of Colchester's newest tourist attractions when it opens in May.

The company behind the new venture, Harwich-based global business group **Flying Trade Group Plc**, are now looking for enthusiastic volunteers, with a passion for charitable causes and an eagerness to learn and develop new skills, to help run the project.

All volunteers will be offered full training on the project as well as specialist barista training from coffee experts **Paddy & Scott's**.

Claudius Gateway is built around archaeological ruins considered some of the most important finds in Europe to date, including remnants of a 400 ft long Roman Arcade which led to the Temple of Claudius. Lit up and visible behind a suspended glass floor, the historic ruins form the backdrop of the stylish museum and cafe which is set to be run fully by volunteers, with any proceeds of the operation going towards good causes through Flying Trade Group's charity division **World Food Aid**.

The modern coffee house is set to become an important tourist attraction in the town, selling souvenirs, postcards and providing a hub for tourist activity, while also preserving ancient Roman ruins for the world to see. A perfect blend of modern life and the ancient past, the operational costs of the scheme will be funded by Flying Trade, allowing all revenues collected to be ploughed into charitable causes.

The Gateway was a 120 metre structure which took the form of a series of 28 arches punctured in the middle by a giant gateway which was used as a meeting place to the South of the Temple of Claudius built more than 2,000 years ago.



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Artist's impressions of the impressive coffee house, due to open May 29th 2017, have been released, featuring iconic images of Roman Emperor Claudius.

Suki Dulai, Flying Trade Group CEO, said: "Many archaeological sites have been unearthed in Colchester, however, a lot of developers have simply covered and re-developed the land. When we discovered the historic importance of the Temple of Claudius and its impressive Arcade the decision was made to immortalise the ruins and preserve an important part of UK history."

The spotlight of the world's press was on Colchester in February 2016 as details of the Roman Arcade emerged following Flying Trade's excavation work. A report released by Colchester Archaeological Trust documenting the historic find dominated local headlines with live TV reports on ITV and BBC News, as well as significant coverage across national titles including The Telegraph, The Times and The Daily Mail, as well as BBC Radio Essex. An open day shortly after saw more than 1,000 visitors pass through the door to take a look at the historic site.

Suki added: "We are extremely excited about this venture and looking for volunteers that believe in giving something back to the community so we can raise as much money as possible for good causes.

"We have already secured support of Paddy & Scott's for the lifetime of the project. They will be providing coffee, machinery and ongoing training to the whole team involved in the project - investing tens of thousands of pounds."

Paddy & Scott's founder and chief executive Scott Russell said: "We have been working with Surya Foods across its whole estate over the past few years and are delighted to be working with the team on this project.

"We are a proud British company so to be involved in this project closer to home really resonates with us."

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For further information or images please contact Lyndsey Filby: pr@suryafoods.com



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Flying Trade Notes to Editors

- **Flying Trade Group** operates across several sectors of the UK food and leisure industry - its main subsidiary businesses including **Surya Foods**, one of the largest suppliers of authentic world foods in the UK, and **Surya Hotels Ltd.** Under the directorship of brothers Harry and Suki Dulai, the rapidly expanding, family run, business boasts an annual turnover in excess of £100 million and an employee base of more than 1000, operating in over 30 countries.
- **Flying Trade Leisure** operates a number of highly successful leisure facilities across the UK including pubs, clubs, bars, cafes and restaurants. With many years experience in the sector the group aims is to provide delicious, innovative and outstanding leisure experiences at great value for money in line with FTG core brand values of service, value and quality.
- **Surya Hotels**, Flying Trade's existing and expanding hotel portfolio, currently owns 11 hotels across the UK, including Great Hallingbury Manor and the Kingscliff Hotels in Essex, the Duke's Head in Norfolk and The Mill Hotel in Suffolk.
- Established in the 1980's, **Surya Foods** is a rapidly expanding, family run business. It supplies a variety of high quality, authentic ethnic products ranging from rice, flour, spices and sauces to snacks and savouries. Surya's evolving ranges cater to the South Asian, Korean, Chinese, Thai, West African, Caribbean, African and Polish communities, with Arabic and Mediterranean products added to its world food line up in 2015.
- **Surya Foods** is one of the largest suppliers of authentic world foods to the UK food sector. Its unrivalled, extensive world food ranges have seen it become the biggest supplier of world food lines into supermarket giants Tesco, Asda, Sainsbury's and Morrisons. It also currently runs over 1,500 independent retail accounts across the UK. Its leading rice brand - Laila basmati rice - features in the UK's top ten rice brands (2015 Nielsen data).