

£220m Blackpool development plans put on display

By **Pete Hayman**

Local residents and businesses in Blackpool have been invited to comment on the multi-million pound Talbot Gateway scheme after proposals were put on public display.

Muse Developments, the developer behind a £220m regeneration plan, signed a deal with Blackpool Council in March to transform the 10-hectare (24.7-acre) site around the town's North railway station and Talbot Road.

New hotels, cafés, restaurants and shops have been earmarked for the site in order to complement 85,000sq m (914,932sq ft) of new office



The project aims to revitalise an area near Blackpool North station

and business space, as well as a new pedestrianised square and a supermarket.

An outline planning application for the scheme has been prepared but will be reviewed

following the public consultation event before being submitted to the local authority.

Blackpool Council leader Peter Callow said: "Talbot Gateway is an opportunity to

create a state-of-the-art commercial centre in Blackpool, which will help to attract further investment, improve employment opportunities and offer an attractive, modern focal point where people can meet, do business and spend their leisure time."

Mike Horner, regional director at Muse Developments, added: "If local people support our plans then we would hope to start work in 2011, subject to securing planning permission."

The public consultation, which was held at St John's Church, Cedar Square, between 5-7 November, was supported by the town's regeneration agency, ReBlackpool.

£3.7m boost for Kent heritage theme park project

Future of Britain's oldest surviving rollercoaster secured with government cash

By **Pete Hayman**

The future of one of Britain's oldest surviving rollercoasters, a scenic railway ride in Margate, Kent, has been secured after the Dreamland Trust received £3.7m from the government's Sea Change initiative.

The funding will go towards the restoration of the Grade II-listed rollercoaster, which was constructed in 1920, as well as helping to fund the development of the world's first amusement park exclusively comprising historic rides.



Margate's scenic railway is to be restored to its former glory

The Dreamland Trust's plans for the £12m attraction include the restoration of the Grade II*-listed Dreamland Cinema

and a new exhibition space outlining the project.

Nick Laister, chair of the Dreamland Trust, said: "This proposal has the ability to create an outstanding, 21st-century attraction at Margate."

"The scenic railway rollercoaster has not operated since 2006 and was badly damaged by fire following an arson attack last year. This grant should now secure the future of this remarkable structure and allow work to start on rebuilding it next year, along with all the other rides that we have rescued."

DLL completes revamp scheme

Fitness operator David Lloyd Leisure (DLL) has completed a redevelopment scheme to upgrade 14 of its UK sites.

The final four clubs to receive makeovers were Woking, Surrey; Chigwell, Essex; Hatfield, Hertfordshire and Cambridge.

At Cambridge, the largest site to undergo a revamp, DLL has invested £200,000 in providing 100 new pieces of CV equipment, which were supplied by Life Fitness.

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£10m government funding for cycling

New Peak District cycle trail among projects to receive share of DfT investment

By Pete Hayman

New designated cycle routes and a cycle trail in the Peak District are set to be created as part of a £10m investment package announced by the Department for Transport (DfT).

The funding – which is the remaining allocation of the government's £60m cycling budget for the year – will also be used to help deliver new projects designed to encourage more people to take up cycling.

Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) has secured £1m to help fund the creation of a new £3.785m cycle trail between Matlock and Buxton railway stations in Derbyshire.

The £1m grant will be used to create a section of the trail between Buxton and Bakewell, including reopening four



The Monsal Trail follows disused railway lines in the Peak District

tunnels closed under the Beeching Axe in the 1960s for walkers and cyclists to use as part of the Monsal Trail.

Cycling England has already contributed £1.25m towards the trail, which will link the existing Monsal, High Peak and Tissington Trails. It is hoped the new combined trail will enable

visitors to arrive in the Peak District by train before cycling across the national park.

PDNPA director of operations Richard Campen said: "It will create both a spectacular cycling route and a realistic alternative to the car, enabling more people to make healthy choices for themselves."

Disabled leisure provision comes under scrutiny

By Helen Patenall

The Muscular Dystrophy Campaign is carrying out an undercover investigation of disabled facilities at leisure venues nationwide.

The initiative will involve a group of 150 young campaigners with disabilities visiting randomly chosen facilities to assess the accessibility of the venues to disabled users.

The Trailblazer group will apply a star rating system to each venue according to the ease of accessibility to those with disabilities. Businesses earning the maximum number of four stars will be awarded a badge to testify to their excellence in this area.

The campaign aims to encourage all leisure, hospitality and sport venues to become



Hospitality venues will be among those tested by investigators

fully accessible to disabled users in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act.

Philip Butcher, CEO of the campaign, said: "Many people take for granted the ability to watch a film, visit a museum or support their local football team. This simply is not an option for some disabled people if leisure facilities fail to

conform to the Disability Discrimination Act.

"We'd like the leisure industry to work with our Trailblazers to improve their facilities as much as they possibly can."

The group's recommendations will be published on 3 December – the United Nations (UN) International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Glasgow 2014 costs increase to £454m

Organisers forced to increase Games budget by 22 per cent from initial estimates

By **Pete Hayman**

Uncertainty over the sale of broadcasting rights for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games has led to an £81m increase in the total cost of hosting the event.

Glasgow 2014, the organising committee behind the Games, said the budget had increased to £454m due to a potential deficit facing the event after the BBC failed to commit to the acquisition of domestic broadcasting rights.

The original £373m budget for the Glasgow Games, drawn up in April 2007, had hoped to offset the costs of broadcasting against income from the sale of domestic broadcasting rights.

Following a review of the budget, the core budget has increased from £333m to



Hampden Park will be converted to host track events during 2014

£373m, while the contingency budget now stands at £60m.

The Scottish Government will provide a further £39m along with a £20m reserve fund, while £9m will come from Glasgow City Council. Organisers hope to secure £13m through commercial deals.

Lord Smith, chair of the 2014 Organising Committee, said:

"Everyone in the organising committee also recognises the responsibilities upon us to deliver an efficient and effective Games, minimising the cost to the public purse in these difficult economic times."

Moynihan: 2012 legacy plans "not there yet"

By **Tom Walker**

Lord Moynihan, chair of the British Olympic Association, has called for a change in direction to ensure a lasting sporting legacy from the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Speaking at the National Sports Development Seminar in Sheffield, Moynihan said plans to increase participation at all levels of sports needed re-evaluation so that the chance of tapping into the interest created by the Games is not lost. He said current plans were a "long way" from ensuring



Moynihan believes legacy plans are too "cumbersome"

that participation levels in sport will increase post-2012.

He also warned that there was a danger of the Olympics suffering from "the Wimbledon

factor" with short term interest not being sustained.

"We need a change in policy and to engage national governing bodies, local authorities and sports clubs in order to make sure a legacy is delivered successfully," he said.

"At the moment the structure for delivery is too top heavy, cumbersome and bureaucratic."

He added that while the "box for sporting legacy remains unticked", infrastructure improvements are going well.

"The regeneration of East London is a box we have ticked as far as legacy goes," he said.

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IN BRIEF

Hounslow Council to revamp centres

► The London Borough of Hounslow has awarded construction group Sisk a £15m contract to carry out improvement works to three of its leisure centres. The three centres, managed by Fusion Lifestyle on behalf of the council, are Feltham Airparks, New Chiswick Pool and Isleworth Recreation Centre. Work on all three sites will include new changing facilities, gyms, studios, crèches, cafés and work to the swimming pools.

Teenagers 'defying' sunbed cancer risk

► More than 250,000 young people aged between 11-17 years old are at risk of developing skin cancer by using sunbeds, according to research published by Cancer Research UK. In a letter to the British Medical Journal, the charity said that – in England – an average of six per cent of young people use sunbeds, while half the number of girls aged between 15-17 years old in Liverpool and Sunderland use the machines. The research follows a report published earlier this year by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), declaring a "clear link" between the use of sunbeds and skin cancer.

Mansfield leisure centre reopened

► A leisure complex in Mansfield, which was forced to close after traces of the legionella bacteria were found in the water system supplying showers, reopened on 7 November. The Water Meadows Swimming Complex was closed by Mansfield District Council (MDC) as a precaution in October following the discovery of the bacteria, although no other facilities – including the swimming pools – were affected.

New gym facilities for Bisham Abbey

National Sports Centre to benefit from £2m redevelopment of fitness provision

By **Tom Walker**

Construction work has been completed on a £2m project which has provided new training and rehabilitation facilities at Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre near Marlow, Buckinghamshire.

The new facilities, which aim to provide the English Institute of Sport (EIS) with the best possible equipment to prepare for the London 2012 Olympics, include a new strength and conditioning gym with video analysis equipment.

A training and agility area, including a 30m indoor running track, is also included as part of the project, which has been funded by Sport England and carried out as the result of a partnership between national governing bodies, UK Sport and EIS.

It is hoped that the new facilities will enable elite rowers,



The new facilities will cater for athletes from a number of sports

canoeists and synchronised swimmers as well as hockey players to enhance their preparation ahead of the London Games in 2012.

Sports minister Gerry Sutcliffe said: "Bisham Abbey is a world class facility and will support many of our Olympians and Paralympians' preparations for London 2012. The new training and rehabilitation facilities are at the cutting edge

and embrace the latest sports science techniques.

The difference between finishing on the podium and missing out on a medal is tiny, so we need to ensure our athletes have the best training support possible."

Sport England property director Charles Johnston added: "The improvements to Bisham Abbey will help give top athletes that vital edge."

Abbey Centre revamp begins

A £1.2m revamp of the Abbey Leisure Centre in Selby has been given the green light.

Health and fitness improvements to the facility will include an expanded gym, a new aerobics suite, and a new health suite with a sauna, steamroom and a members' lounge.

A new multipurpose room will also be built for functions, meetings and crèche activities.

The refurbishment is earmarked to begin on 4 January 2010, with completion expected by the end of June.

Revamp for énergie Croydon

By **Tom Walker**

The owners of the énergie Fitness health club in Croydon, Surrey, are to invest £0.5m in upgrading the site.

The franchised club, owned and operated by Matthew Russell and Calum Ross, will undergo a redevelopment which will include replacing the old equipment with a range of new Precor cv stations and resistance kit.

Calum Ross told *Leisure Opportunities*: "The refurbishment at the club will create a completely new look to the entire facility."

"We are bringing the very latest equipment available on the market, that has been



The gym has been completely re-equipped with new kit

designed to maximise the benefits of a regular fitness regime, to our customers."

Privately owned énergie currently has close to 100 operational franchises in the UK, Latvia and Qatar.

Raw Iron Gym to open in Staffordshire

Planning decision on two-storey fitness club expected by end of December

By **Luke Tuchscherer**

An application has been submitted for a two-storey health and fitness centre in Burntwood, Staffordshire.

The new club is to be owned and operated by Raw Iron Gym, which already owns the Muscle Beach fitness centre.

If the plans are approved, the club will be built over two floors and will include a separate women's only gym facility, a dance studio and fitness studios, as well as a full-sized boxing ring.

The owner of Raw Iron Gym, entrepreneur Ian Edwards, said: "Muscle Beach has been going now for almost 21 years and it's getting a bit worn out. We want to expand the



Plans include the creation of a women-only gym within the club

business and open up a better facility for our existing members. We've always been known as a men's body building gym.

"We now want to be able to attract a wider audience so that's why we have introduced

plans to build a separate gym for women."

Edwards added that if Lichfield District Council approves the scheme, then Muscle Beach would close down. A decision is expected before 24 December.

IN BRIEF

£720,000 revamp for Fife gyms

► Seven gyms within council-owned leisure centres in Fife are to be refurbished. Fife Sports and Leisure Trust and Fife Council are investing £720,000 to upgrade the fitness suites at Cowdenbeath Leisure Centre, Cupar Sports Centre, Bowhill Swimming Pool, Levenmouth Swimming Pool and Sports Centre, Dalgety Bay Sports and Leisure Centre, The Beacon Leisure Centre and East Sands Leisure Centre. The refurbishment schedule will run over a three-month period, with all gyms being completed by the end of January. The council will provide £360,000 for refurbishment and redecoration, while the leisure trust will supply the same amount for Technogym equipment.

Doncaster urged to adopt trust model

► Two leisure centres in Doncaster, South Yorkshire, are at risk of closure unless the local authority transfers the operation of local facilities to the trust that currently runs the Dome venue. A report to Doncaster Council's overview and scrutiny management committee has called on councillors to back plans for an expanded Dome Trust to take over the management of all swimming pools and leisure centres in the town. In July 2008, Cheshire-based consultants Neil Allen Associates conducted a study to examine potential options for the management of leisure facilities in Doncaster, which identified an expanded trust model as the preferred way forward rather than the current 'in-house' model. The report said: "If we do not move to a trust model the current pressures on budget for financial year 2010-11 could potentially lead to closure of not less than two leisure centres.

Gymphobics Huddersfield enters administration

By **Tom Walker**

The women-only Gymphobics health and fitness club in Huddersfield has closed after entering administration.

The club's owners, who operated the club on a franchise basis, had experienced severe difficulties in maintaining membership sales.

Vantis Business Recovery Services has been appointed administrator of the business and members have been sent



A Gymphobics work out

letters advising them that they are entitled to transfer part of their membership to another

branch or to a similar, neighbouring gym, énergie Fitness.

David Broadbent, client partner at Vantis, said: "The business has ceased to trade and we are now in the process of realising all assets for the benefit of creditors."

The Gymphobics brand is owned by Richard and Donna Hubbard. There are currently more than 40 franchised clubs operating in the UK, all of which are unaffected by the Huddersfield closure.

Corporate gym launched at Wembley Stadium

The Football Association has opened a corporate health club for its staff at Wembley Stadium, London.

The facility, managed by corporate specialist Bladerunner and equipped by Life Fitness, includes 18 pieces of kit ranging from resistance machines to CV stations.

So far the gym has attracted more than 200 members out of a total FA workforce of 560 at the stadium. David Brame, managing director of Bladerunner, said: "The beauty of this specific project is that many of the employees based at Wembley have a strong interest in sport and fitness."

IN BRIEF

Southend United rejects consortium bid

► Southend United Football Club (SUFC) has confirmed that it has rejected a takeover offer from a consortium of unnamed investors, despite facing the prospect of administration. The Coca-Cola Football League One club revealed that it had received a bid through a local solicitor on 2 November, but the board has decided to focus on other alternatives to securing SUFC's long-term future.

New 3G football pitch for Dorchester

► An artificial turf pitch at the Thomas Hardy Leisure Centre in Dorchester is to be transformed into a 3G facility after the local authority secured funding from the Football Foundation. West Dorset District Council has been handed a £124,400 grant to help fund the scheme, which is designed to help launch a three-year initiative to promote football in the local area. The pitch will boast nets to divide the facility into three smaller pitches and could be used by Dorchester Town Football Club.

European funding for Inverness schemes

► Plans for a multi-use sports facility in Strathdearn and a shinty club in Beaulieu – both near Inverness, Scotland – have received funding as part of a European grants programme. Beaulieu Shinty Club has been awarded more than £10,500 to upgrade its pitch and facilities, while Strathdearn Hall has secured £35,000 towards the cost of the new sports facility through the Highland LEADER scheme. The scheme aims to boost economic development in rural parts of the country. The Highland region has netted nearly £10m for a range of projects up until the end of 2013.

Work underway on Rose Bowl scheme

Two new stands will increase the venue's permanent seating capacity to 15,000

By **Pete Hayman**

Work has started on a £48m redevelopment of the Rose Bowl stadium near Southampton, which aims to transform the venue into a leading international cricket venue.

Two new stands – designed by EPR Architects in conjunction with The Miller Partnership – will be built either side of the pavilion to increase the permanent capacity to 15,000.

Due for completion in April 2010, ahead of the start of the new county cricket season, the new stands will be complemented by semi-permanent seating for major matches to further increase capacity to 25,000.

The £9m stands will include catering and toilet facilities, a



The scheme is due for completion before the 2010 cricket season

retail store for Hampshire County Cricket Club, executive boxes and corporate lounges and seating for Rose Bowl Silver Debenture holders.

Funding for the construction of the stands has been raised through bank debt provided by

Allied Irish Bank and equity, including a contribution from catering partner Compass.

Northern Ireland-based McAleer and Rushe has been appointed to deliver the project, which is being managed by Drivers Jonas.

£5.5m boost for Tayside and Fife sports schemes

By **Pete Hayman**

Plans for the construction of new sports facilities in the Tayside and Fife region, as part of 2014 Commonwealth Games legacy proposals, have received £5.5m from sportscotland.

Three towns and cities across the region are in line to receive funding from the Sports Facilities Fund for the construction of new leisure centres, each boasting a competition-standard swimming pool.



The proposed Kirkcaldy facility

Dundee has received the largest share of the latest sportscotland investment,

which will see £3m used to help fund plans for a complex that will include Scotland's latest 50m swimming pool.

Meanwhile, Kirkcaldy and Glenrothes will receive £1m and £1.5m respectively to fund projects that will each boast a 25m, eight-lane pool.

Kirkcaldy's planned new leisure centre will also include a smaller teaching pool with moveable floor, a 60-station fitness suite, an aerobics studio, a play centre and a sports hall.

McDonald's to help boost grassroots football

Fast food operator McDonald's and the Football Association (FA) have secured a new partnership in a bid to help increase participation and improve standards in English grassroots football.

The four-year scheme aims to provide support to 200,000 coaches and 400,000 volunteers through the FA and McDonald's networks, as well as ensuring that 75 per cent of youth clubs achieve FA Charter Standard by the end of 2014.

It is hoped the partnership will lead to 150 new Charter Standard Leagues, which recognises competitions that incorporate the Respect initiative and encourages more people to play the sport.

Green light for Sheffield United plans

South Stand redevelopment set to increase Bramall Lane's capacity to 44,000

By **Pete Hayman**

Sheffield United Football Club (SUFC) has been given planning permission for the redevelopment of the South Stand at its Bramall Lane stadium by Sheffield City Council (SCC).

The scheme will include an additional tier of seating in the South Stand, which will complement the club's proposed redevelopment of the Kop stand in a bid to increase the venue's capacity to around 44,000 spectators.

New purpose-built exhibition and conference facilities, additional banqueting space and new corporate suites are also proposed as part of the project, which it is hoped will boost the city's bid for host city status at the 2018 World Cup.



The new South Stand will boast exhibition and conference spaces

SUFC executive director Jason Rockett said: "Our focus remains firmly on achieving success on the pitch and the planned stadium developments will contribute to our continued long term strategy to drive off-the-field income for a sustainable business supporting

further investment in the first team squad."

Plans to redevelop the Kop stand which were approved earlier this year, will increase its capacity by more than 3,200 seats and include an under-cover concourse with modern kiosks and toilet facilities.

IN BRIEF

Go ahead for Gateshead stadium plans

► Gateshead International Stadium is set to undergo a multi-million pound revamp under new proposals given the green light by Gateshead Council. The council's cabinet has approved plans to revamp the athletics venue in a bid to ensure its long-term future as a host to major sports events, such as the British Grand Prix athletics event. Under the plans for the redevelopment of the stadium, 4,000 seats in the East Stand will be covered by a canopy for the first time since the venue opened as the Gateshead Youth Stadium in 1955.

Council backs Bristol City stadium plans

► Bristol City Football Club's plans for the development of a multi-million pound stadium at Ashton Vale have been handed a boost by the local authority. Planning officials at Bristol City Council (BCC) have been minded to approve the scheme, which includes the 30,000-seat venue, a hotel and part of a housing scheme on the Alderman Moores allotments site. However, the development proposals could face a £5.5m shortfall after the Southlands housing scheme failed to receive approval from BCC's planning committee.

Queen plants first Olympic Park tree

► The Queen has planted the first of more than 4,000 trees at London's Olympic Park as part of a visit to see the progress being made on the 2012 venues and infrastructure. In addition to helping to launch the Olympic Park's planting scheme, the Queen viewed the stadium from an elevated platform at the height of the highest spectator seating before walking along a section of the 100m track.

New 2018 bid team unveiled

FIFA vice president Geoff Thompson has joined the team leading England's bid to host the 2018 World Cup, following a major overhaul of the executive board.

A number of members, including sports minister Gerry Sutcliffe, stood down as part of efforts to streamline the executive board, which now boasts seven members to provide "focused leadership".

Led by FA chair Lord Triesman, the board comprises Thompson; Premier League chair Dave Richards; London 2012 chief Sebastian Coe; outgoing Football League chair Lord Mawhinney and ex-footballer Paul Elliott, as well as chief executive Andy Anson.

National Volleyball Centre opens



The Kettering facility will boast training and competition facilities

By **Luke Tuchscherer**

The new National Volleyball Centre (NVC) has launched in Kettering, Northamptonshire.

Based at the Kettering Conference Centre, the NVC will be the base for training and competition for the national men's, women's, junior and Great Britain's sitting volleyball teams over the next four years.

East Midlands Development Agency, Kettering Borough

Council and Northampton Enterprise have helped to fund the new centre.

Volleyball England chief executive Lisa Wainwright, said: "We identified within our strategic plan for 2009-13 our aspiration to establish a national centre for training and competition to ensure we can provide top quality facilities and services to our talented athletes and all our educators within the sport."

IN BRIEF

InterContinental hit by 'challenging' conditions

► InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) has warned that trading "remains challenging" after posting a 19 per cent fall in adjusted operating profit for the third quarter. Compared with the same period in 2008, the hotel operator saw a 19 per cent decline in revenue during the three months to 30 September 2009, which has been affected by a 15.2 per cent decrease in global RevPAR. IHG, which operates nearly 4,400 hotels in 100 countries, said that it aims to continue its plans to reduce costs through improved efficiency in a bid to save US\$80m (£48m, €53m) by the end of the year.

Hyatt Hotels listing raises US\$950m

► US-based hotel operator Hyatt Hotels Corporation (HHC) has raised US\$950m (£575m, €639m) following a successful initial public offering on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). The company operates more than 400 hotels in 45 countries across the world under a number of brands, including the Hyatt, Park Hyatt, Andaz and Grand Hyatt chains. HHC's initial public offering is the 18th to be launched on the NYSE this year, with only one other – Banco Santander – surpassing the total amount raised by the hotel operator.

Rezidor reports third quarter losses

► Rezidor Hotel Group has posted losses of €6.1m (£5.35m) for the third quarter of the year and warned that the difficult business climate will continue for the near future. For the nine months to September 2009, revenue decreased by 16.9 per cent, or €100.1m (£89.7m), and the total loss after tax was €27.9m (£24.9m).

D&D London unveils hotel proposals

Restaurant operator to branch into accommodation with luxury hotel in Moorgate

By **Pete Hayman**

Restaurant operator D&D London has unveiled plans to develop its first hotel after securing a deal with property company Frogmore for a new 80-bedroom property in Moorgate, London.

The 72,000sq ft (6,689sq m) boutique property will be designed by architects Allies and Morrison, while Conran and Partners – owned by D&D London's majority shareholder Sir Terence Conran – will design the hotel's interior.

Facilities at the hotel will include a ground floor bar and grill, a seventh floor rooftop restaurant and a bar with an outdoor terrace.

Meeting and events spaces as well as private dining areas



The hotel will be designed by architects Allies and Morrison

are also proposed as part of the hotel development.

Paul White, chief executive officer at Frogmore, said: "This will be just what this location needs and D&D has the

perfect background for both this hotel and the restaurants."

Construction work on the new hotel is scheduled to start in 2010, with the property set to open in 2012.

Legacy reopens Cardiff property

Legacy Hotels and Resorts has confirmed it has taken control of the former Quality Hotel in Cardiff following the collapse of the Real Hotel Company.

The Warwickshire-based company has secured a management contract to run the 95-bedroom hotel, which will now be known as the Legacy Cardiff International Hotel.

The hotel becomes the latest addition to Legacy's portfolio of properties, which includes hotels in Derby, Stratford, Chesterfield and Jersey.

Legacy also announced that the Cardiff's Royal Hotel has been handed over to Bespoke Hotels, following a separate management deal.

Seven new hotels for Travelodge



Travelodge will add a further 575 bedrooms by the end of 2009

By **Pete Hayman**

Budget hotel chain Travelodge has unveiled plans to open seven new sites across the UK by the end of 2009 as part of a £22m investment programme.

A further 575 bedrooms will be added to the company's existing portfolio as part of the scheme, which will see new hotels open at Bournemouth, Dorset; Liverpool; Edinburgh and Newquay, Devon.

Travelodge is also planning to open properties in Farnborough, Hampshire, Macclesfield, Cheshire and Norwich, with the chain aiming to recruit all new staff through its partnership with Job Centre Plus.

Two of the hotels will also contribute towards Travelodge's bid to open 55 new sites in seaside resorts as part of a £150m strategy to regenerate coastal towns in the UK.

Scottish gallery project receives £2m

National Portrait Gallery secures funding towards major £17.6m redevelopment

By **Pete Hayman**

A major two-year scheme, designed to transform the Scottish National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh, has been awarded a £2m funding boost by the Monument Trust.

National Galleries Scotland (NGS) is leading the £17.6m Portrait of the Nation project, which will provide new education facilities – including a multi-purpose teaching suite and a resource and learning centre. The scheme, which is being undertaken by BAM Construction, will also feature new media interpretation facilities throughout the gallery and a visitor hub, incorporating a shop, café and an information point.

It is hoped that the Portrait of the Nation project will enable the Scottish National Portrait Gallery to increase



The refurbished attraction is expected to reopen in autumn 2011

visitor numbers by 50 per cent, as well as doubling the attraction's gallery space.

The Scottish Government has contributed £5.1m towards the revamp of the gallery, which is set to reopen in autumn 2011, while £4.8m has been awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

In addition to the £2m cash injection from the Monument Trust, it means that NGS has

now raised 80 per cent of the total cost of the scheme.

NGS director general John Leighton said: "Following this refurbishment we will at last be able to make effective use of one of the most outstanding buildings in Edinburgh

"The project will enable the wonderful collections to be presented in a coherent and understandable way."

New SAW Alive for Thorpe Park

Merlin Entertainments will add a second SAW-themed attraction to its Thorpe Park theme park next year.

Saw Alive, a year round live action horror maze, will follow SAW - The Ride, which launched at the park to much fanfare in March 2009.

Based on Lionsgate and Twisted Pictures' popular horror film franchise, SAW Alive will be marketed as the "world's most extreme horror attraction". The maze will feature six separate scenes from the six SAW films released to date. The attraction will also incorporate a photo opportunity to capture terrified guests as they're subjected to the horror of the maze.

Discovery Centre for Clumber Park

By **Helen Patenall**

A Grade-II listed brewery at Clumber Park in Worksop, Notts, is to be converted into a new Discovery Centre.

The National Trust (NT)-operated education facility will inform visitors about the history of the park and its 18th century buildings via bat cams, touch screens, film and audio clips, as well as an investigation area and exhibitions.

Beth Dawson, general manager at Clumber Park, said: "The new Discovery Centre will allow visitors to really make the most of the fantastic natural environment that we have here.

"By renovating the Brewhouse we can bring one of the park's original historic buildings back



Work on the centre is due to be completed by March 2011

into use and also offer a much improved learning and exhibition facility for local communities and schools."

Construction is scheduled to begin in 2010, with completion expected by March 2011.

NT has provided £700,000 towards the scheme, which is also set to receive £800,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

IN BRIEF

Devon attraction wins planning battle

► Crealy Great Adventure Park, near Exeter, Devon, has won its bid to prevent the local authority taking enforcement action against it in a planning row over the construction of two rides. The park successfully appealed against an East Devon District Council decision to refuse Lawful Development Certificates for a rollercoaster and a swinging pirate ship ride, constructed in 2000 and 2002 respectively. RPS Planning and Development, which appealed the refusals on the park's behalf, argued the council could not take enforcement action against the rides as they are operational developments and have been in place for four years.

Fort Nelson to undergo £3.5m redevelopment

► Fort Nelson, the military museum in Fareham, Hampshire, is set to undergo a £3.5m refurbishment. The fort – which was built in the 1860s to form part of a chain of fortifications protecting the naval harbour of Portsmouth from the French – is home to the Royal Armouries collection of artillery, boasting more than 350 big guns and cannons. The plans include a new visitor centre, Orienteer gallery and a classroom. The Fort's displays include the Great Turkish Bombard of 1464.

Cuts set to claim two Canterbury museums

► Canterbury City Council's draft budget plans for the 2010-11 financial year could result in the closure of two of the city's museums as part of attempts to reduce expenditure. A public consultation has been launched by the council into the plans, which include shutting the Roman Museum and the West Gate Towers Museum.

IN BRIEF

New Wales theatre programme unveiled

► National Theatre Wales has launched its first programme of English language theatre productions, which will be held at different venues across Wales each month. Part of the One Wales initiative, the company's artistic director John E McGrath announced plans to stage shows that incorporated the best in Welsh writing, performing and directing talent between March 2010 and April 2011.

Three areas enter City of Culture race

► The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has revealed that three new areas – Lancaster, Southend-on-Sea and Swansea Bay – have entered the race to become the UK's first City of Culture. A total of 22 towns and cities across the country have now submitted outline proposals – including the three new areas, although others are still being invited to submit initial bids ahead of an 11 December deadline. Each of the candidates for UK City of Culture status in 2013 have been given feedback to determine whether they want to submit a final bid as part of the DCMS-run contest.

New Tate Britain director appointed

► Dr Penelope Curtis, curator of the Henry Moore Institute and member of the advisory committee for the Government Art Collection, has been named as the new director of Tate Britain. Curtis, who will replace outgoing director Dr Stephen Deuchar, is also a member of the art commission committee for the Imperial War Museum. Deuchar is leaving the position of Tate Britain director in December 2009 after 11 years in the role to take up the position of director of the Art Fund.

'Cloud' landmark proposed for London

New iconic tower structure to contribute towards world's first "digital Olympics"

By **Pete Hayman**

A landmark tower structure – comprising a "cloud" of spheres to display images and information – could be built in London in order to celebrate the hosting of the 2012 Olympics.

Initially earmarked for the Olympic Park, a number of other sites across the city are now being explored for The Cloud, which has been designed by a team of engineers, architects and artists.

The Cloud would boast an observation deck offering views across London, but would also contribute towards the world's first "truly digital Olympics" through a series of LED information feeds. No public funds would be required.



The structure was originally earmarked for London's Olympic Park

Visitors to the Cloud, which the project leaders hope will become a symbol of global ownership, will have the opportunity to ascend the tower on foot or by bicycle.

Project leader Carlo Ratti, head of the Massachusetts

Institute of Technology's SENSEable Cities Laboratory, US, said: "We can build our Cloud with £5m or £50m. The flexibility of the structural system will allow us to tune the size of the Cloud to the level of funding that is reached."

Liverpool art gallery set for waterfront relocation

By **Luke Tuchscherer**

Plans to relocate Liverpool's Open Eye Gallery to Mann Island on the city's waterfront have received a £400,000 boost from the Northwest Regional Development Agency.

Currently located in the Ropewalks area of the city, the gallery is the only specialist public photography gallery in the North West.

The new gallery, which has also received £100,000 Lottery



The new-look Open Eye Gallery

funding from Arts Council England, North West, will form part of the £135m mixed-use

scheme being developed by Countryside Properties and Neptune Developments to the south of Pier Head.

Designed by London-based RCKa architects, the new gallery will double the space available for exhibits. The two main gallery spaces will be on the ground floor, while archive space and offices will occupy a mezzanine level above.

The relaunched Open Eye Gallery at Mann Island is scheduled to open in late 2010.

Art galleries benefiting from government's AIL scheme

Paintings by Titian, Van Dyck and David Hockney were among a number of cultural works saved for the nation last year through the government's Acceptance in Lieu scheme.

Culture minister Margaret Hodge revealed that works, valued at more than £100m, have now passed into public collections over the last

five years under the scheme, which allows taxpayers in the UK to transfer artworks and other objects into public ownership while paying Inheritance Tax.

The taxpayer is given the market value of the item, which is then allocated to a public museum, archive or library.

NT opens UK's largest winter garden

Nearly 700 different plant species have been used to create Dunham attraction

By **Martin Nash**

A new 7-acre (2.8-hectare) Winter Garden, said to be the largest of its kind in the UK, has been opened at the National Trust's (NT) Dunham Massey property in Cheshire.

The area occupied by the garden was originally part of Dunham's deer park, which was fenced off at the turn of the 20th century in order to provide grazing for the resident Stamford family's ponies.

When the NT acquired Dunham Massey in 1976, the paddock had become overgrown, so the area was tidied and re-stocked. However, by 2007, trees and shrubs had once again taken over.

Clearing work started in June 2007 and lasted six months. The original woodland feel of



Emma Hill, the deputy head gardener in the new winter garden

the area was maintained by keeping some of the large oak and beech trees, several species of rhododendron, pieris, bluebells, azaleas and hollies.

The garden's design and its planting schemes were planned with the help of UK plantsman Roy Lancaster, working with Dunham's own garden staff.

The garden contains nearly 700 different plant species and a further 1,600 types of shrub were specifically bred for the Winter Garden. All of the plant species had to feature at least two of a range of specific characteristics including winter bark, flower, fruit, autumn colour or scent and sound.

IN BRIEF

Consultation over Lake District future plans

► The Lake District National Park Authority has launched a consultation to invite members of the public to help identify sites that could be used for future development. As part of the national park's Local Development Framework, the Allocations of Land Development Plan document aims to outline potential areas for housing, employment and other development requirements.

BW launches new moorings consultation

► A three-month public consultation designed to gather comments on plans for the management of mooring space along canals and rivers has been unveiled by British Waterways. The organisation believes a new policy needs to be implemented to help meet sustained growth and popularity in boating, including restrictions on the length of time that boats can moor in areas of high usage. An increase in the number of official residential moorings and a commitment to controlled expansion of long-term moorings also form part of the proposals put to consultation, which closes on 31 January 2010.

NNPA reports increase in pension fund deficit

► Northumberland National Park Authority (NNPA) has released its figures for the 2008-9 financial year. The report shows that the economic downturn has had a dramatic effect on the financial profile of the authority. The impact of the recession and the subsequent collapse in equity values have increased the authority's pension fund deficit from £1.6m to £3.7m, which has resulted in the deficit being higher than NNPA's capital assets and reserves.

New woodland planned for Yorkshire Dales

By **Martin Nash**

At least 80 hectares (198-acres) of new woodland are set to be planted in the Yorkshire Dales National Park as part of efforts to boost visitor numbers.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA), the Forestry Commission and the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust are looking to fund schemes that will make significant improvements to the area in terms of the habitat, landscape and wildlife.

In May, the YDNPA put out a call offering landowners cash to plant more native broadleaved woodland in the National Park, the target being to plant 80 hectares (198 acres) by the end of the 2009-10 planting season, which runs between October and March.



The scheme will create 80 hectares of new woodland in the area

YDNPA's Senior Trees and Woodland Officer, Geoff Garrett, said: "We picked some ancient woodlands within the National Park that were grouped together and made it a priority to plant new areas between them to link them all.

"This strategy aims to combat the long-term effect of climate change by creating a network

of 'corridors' linked to each other and to other habitats like grassland and meadows that provide a natural way for wildlife to move around."

More than 20 landowners have already volunteered for the woodland scheme and planting is now set to get underway on a 80-hectare (198-acre) area of land.

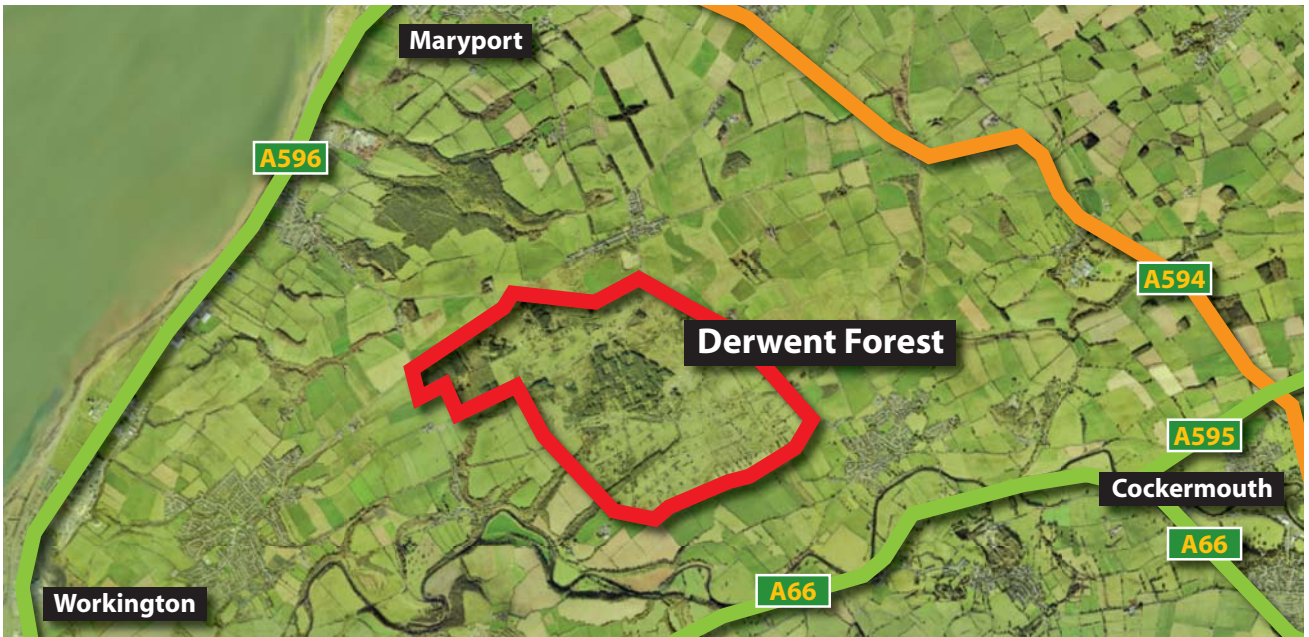


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Interested parties will be able to download from the e-portal a pack containing more detailed information regarding all the council's golf courses and clubhouses and a questionnaire. Applicants should then submit their completed questionnaire which will be used by the council to determine its available options. Applicants may then be invited for discussion to assist in further understanding their responses.

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IN BRIEF

£32m Edgbaston plans under threat

► The £32m plans to expand the Edgbaston cricket ground in Birmingham have come under fire from local residents. The Cannon Hill Neighbourhood Forum has asked local law firm Public Law Solicitors to seek a judicial review over a decision to grant Warwickshire County Cricket Club planning permission. The forum claims the council's planning committee did not study the effects of an enlarged stadium – and its night time test matches – on local residents.

Blaenavon hotel set for new lease of life

► An empty hotel in the centre of Blaenavon, Gwent, is set to be transformed into four-star bed and breakfast accommodation as part of the Heads of the Valleys regeneration scheme. The Lion Hotel, which is due to open ahead of the Ryder Cup in 2010, will include 11 en-suite rooms and a bar and restaurant, as well as a fitness suite. The property is set to become an important tourist facility and has been recognised by Torfaen County Borough Council, which will manage the restoration.

Central London hotel put up for sale

► PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) is selling a partially constructed five-star hotel on the Strand in central London for bids of more than £110m. Architects Foster + Partners designed the existing development to include 173 bedrooms and 79 residential apartments, but the new purchaser would be entitled to amend the proposed scheme, subject to planning approval.

LCCC submits Old Trafford proposals

Major redevelopment scheme forms part of wider regeneration of Trafford area

By **Tom Walker**

Lancashire County Cricket Club (LCCC) has submitted plans for a major £200m redevelopment of the Old Trafford cricket ground in Manchester to the local authority.

Trafford Council will now consider the proposals, which form part of a wider sports-led regeneration project to transform a 50-acre area surrounding the venue.

Construction company Morgan Ashurst has already commenced work on the first stage of the stadium redevelopment, which includes a new £12m conference and events suite – The Point – due for completion in July 2010.

Designs for the second stage of the project, drawn up by Manchester-based architects



The Point – a new £12m conference suite set to open in July 2010

BDP, feature an enhanced pavilion, a hotel, new player and media facilities and an extended indoor cricket school.

Two new grandstands will boost the venue's seating capacity to 15,000, which can be increased to 25,000 with the installation of temporary seating for major events.

The proposals, which also include a Tesco supermarket, are designed to safeguard Old Trafford as an international venue, while also helping to reverse local economic decline.

LCCC is working in partnership with Trafford Council, Tesco and Manchester-based Ask Developments.

Rhyl seafront plans in doubt

An £85m seaside scheme in Rhyl, North Wales, remains on hold while a new buyer is sought to take the Ocean Plaza project forward after the developer behind the scheme – Modus – went into administration in June.

Simon Allport and Tom Jack of Ernst & Young LLP told *Leisure Opportunities*: "The options for the site are being assessed by the administrators and the various stakeholders of the development in order to progress the Ocean Plaza scheme forward."

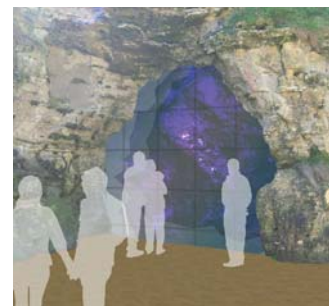
DCMS announces coastal grants

By **Pete Hayman**

Seven coastal towns have been handed grants through the government's Sea Change initiative in order to help fund schemes designed to regenerate resorts across England.

Funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), the three-year scheme is led by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE).

Plans to revitalise a heritage theme park in Margate, Kent, have received £3.7m, while £2m will go towards the revamp of a Grade II*-listed station in Tynemouth, North Tyneside.



£1m will help revitalise Roker

Roker, Sunderland, has been handed £1m to help fund the creation of a trail inspired by the town's heritage and culture, while St Ives in Cornwall is set to receive a grant of £900,000 to revamp the Grade II*-listed Portmeor Studios.

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Ray Algar, Managing Director, Oxygen Consulting. The company provides strategic business insight to organisations connected to the global health and fitness industry and has recently completed assignments for adidas and Unilever.

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A warm welcome to Britain?

The UK has been slammed for its tax policy – and rightly so



KURT JANSON is policy director for Tourism Alliance

While it's nothing unusual for a government policy to be criticised by industry groups, it's well known that countries are very reluctant to publicly state their opposition to the policies of fellow nations. So when the UK is publicly criticised by 100 other countries, as happened at World Travel Market, it is obvious that there must be a significant problem with UK policy and that it's impacting on other countries around the world. That problem is the UK government's decision to increase Air Passenger Duty by up to 112 per cent.

The Tourism Alliance estimates that by the second wave of increases, in November 2010, APD will have reduced the revenue that the UK receives by 5.4 per cent (£880m). At an average of £50,000 for each new tourism-related job, this equates to around 17,600 direct jobs in the UK tourism industry.

The 100 foreign ministers, however, criticised the move from a different perspective. Led by the UNWTO secretary-general, Taleb Rifai, they criticized the tax on the basis that it is seen internationally as both an anti-trade and anti-development measure. They feel that, in the middle of a global recession, the UK government is adopting a "beggar thy neighbour" attitude to tourism, which is thwarting global attempts to support the sector by trying to prevent UK citizens taking holidays overseas.

Furthermore, it also sends out a pretty poor "welcome" message in the lead-up to the 2012 Olympics.

Tourism initiative for NE England

£4.8m campaign set to boost visits to region over the next three years

By Tom Walker

The Northwest European Regional Development Fund Programme has earmarked £2.4m of funding to support marketing activities to boost the region's visitor economy over the next three years.

The campaign aims to increase visitor spend across the Northwest through three focused promotions, with each promotion aiming to make the region attractive to different target visitors.

The three themes are "Industrial Powerhouse" (to attract industrial heritage-based tourism), "Adventure Capital" (promoting outdoor activities) and "Gardens of Distinction" (horticultural heritage).

The total value of the programme is £4.8m, with match funding being provided through the region's tourist boards, museums and attractions. Each theme will focus on a particular sub-region and be led



The Lake District is among the regions hoping to benefit from the scheme

by one of the region's tourist boards; Marketing Manchester will steer the Industrial Powerhouse theme, Cumbria Tourism will lead on Adventure Capital and Visit Chester and Cheshire will coordinate the Gardens of Distinction theme.

Weak pound boosts London's tourism appeal

By Pete Hayman



London is now more affordable for tourists

London has become a more appealing tourist destination to foreign visitors as a "direct result" of the current economic climate, according to Lonely Planet.

The *Lonely Planet Best in Travel 2010* guide claims that the capital is now "much more affordable" and "much more accessible" for overseas tourists.

Iceland, Thailand and Mexico are among locations named as some of the best-value destinations, while Las Vegas, US, has been added due to the impact of the downturn.

Welsh coastal park to open new tourism centre

The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA) will launch its newest visitor centre this winter.

The National Park Visitor Centre in Newport, Pembrokeshire, will open in November and will remain open throughout the winter months until April.

The centre has been recently refurbished and extended, complete with

touch screens, film and audio activities and an interactive talking history project.

PCNPA spokesperson James Parkin said: "We hope local people as well as visitors will make the most of what's on offer here; from finding out what there is to do and see in north Pembrokeshire through to stocking up on Christmas presents or hiring the meeting room."



A visitor at the Natural History Museum's new Darwin Centre

MLA's lifelong learning pledge

Three new museums join campaign for adult learning

By **Tom Walker**

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) has achieved its target of encouraging 3,000 individual museums, libraries and archives to sign the Learning Revolution pledge.

According to the MLA, signing the pledge commits the institutions to do "all they can" to promote lifelong learning and signals their commitment to be at the forefront of providing informal education.

The latest three operators to sign the pledge were the Historic Royal Palaces, The

Charles Dickens Museum in central London and the Ragged School Museum in east London.

John Barnes, conservation and learning director at Historic Royal Palaces said: "Each year around 3 million people visit the palaces we look after – and every one of those visits is a learning opportunity."

Culture minister Margaret Hodge, added: "It's good to see the MLA working so closely with the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills to ensure that the sector shows its support and has signed the pledge in such great numbers."

SkillsActive welcomes Ofsted paper

SkillsActive has welcomed Ofsted's new factsheet on standards for play provisions.

The *Regulating play-based provision* document interprets the needs for play-based provision and outlines the main areas of concern that employers had when preparing for inspection.

The three main areas of concern are: that training based on the Playwork Induction Standard was no

longer accepted for holiday playscheme staffing requirements; that inspectors were criticising facilities for not planning educationally-based activities; and that some felt pressurised into rigorously observing and recording children's activities.

There were also concerns that child-initiated, freely chosen play was not compatible with the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Reward, applaud...and reap the benefits

Recognising the hard work of staff will motivate them to strive for further rewards

We're all used to it now. That word recession. Not so long ago, the mere mention of recession made us feel uneasy – we were in unfamiliar territory. Now, just a few months later, it seems almost old-hat to refer to the "current economic climate". We may not like it, we may not be comfortable with it, but we are all very aware of it and to be honest, we'd like to move on now please.

Sadly, although opinions on when and how the economy will recover vary, it does look as though things are going to be tough for a good while yet. It's head down and onward, for our businesses and our employees.

As the businesses we run and the companies we work for evolve their way through the tough times, there have been the inevitable cuts in staffing, recruitment freezes and demands for increased productivity. Our teams have been put under great pressure, yet these very teams and the individuals within them are the lifeblood of our industry – we stand or fall by the service they deliver, the experience they create, the atmosphere they provide for our customers. Over the last few months we may have asked more of our teams than ever before, so reward and recognition of the efforts our employees make is crucial. The Springboard Awards for Excellence take place every year to reward and recognise the best in the business. This year there were over 150 entries across the 17 categories from companies in the hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism industries. The quality of entries this year demonstrate the incredible amount of good practice going on across the industry and the willingness to celebrate it.

On 25 November at the InterContinental Park Lane, the winners of the Springboard Awards for Excellence will be announced. There will be 550 industry figures present to applaud the successes of their colleagues and peers. Here is proof of the fantastic efforts and achievements that are going on across the industry and is evidence that the best companies out there are keen to applaud and reward their teams and employees for going that extra mile.

For the employer, there's a direct return on this investment of attention – the employees that receive recognition for their efforts will go on to strive for yet more. The message is clear – as the tough times continue, employers that reward and applaud their employees achievements will ultimately reap the benefits.



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SAM COULSTOCK is customer relationship director at **Springboard UK**. *Leisure Opportunities* is the official recruitment magazine for Springboard

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The Sport Market Forecasts are produced in conjunction with Sport England.

To find out more please visit

www.shu.ac.uk/ad/sportandleisure

Or contact

Susie Shaw

Phone 0114 225 5919

Fax 0114 225 4341

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Chronic Respiratory Disease Exercise Instructor Course

BLF bursaries are now available for the January 2010 intake of this innovative distance learning course.

Developed by Loughborough College, the University Hospitals of Leicester and the British Lung Foundation (BLF), with funding and input from Rotherham PCT, the course has been submitted for endorsement at level 4 on the Register of Exercise Professionals. It covers:

- Physiology and pathology of respiratory disease
- Management of chronic respiratory disease
- Responses to exercise and exercise prescription
- Managing breathlessness
- Referral pathways

The BLF bursary, funded by Air Products, is available to exercise professionals who meet the following entry requirements:

- Level 3 equivalent qualification as recognised by REP's
- A current valid first aid certificate
- Endorsement from a local pulmonary rehabilitation team
- 100 hours practical exercise instruction over the past year, with some experience of working with clients with COPD/respiratory disease
- Current CRB disclosure form

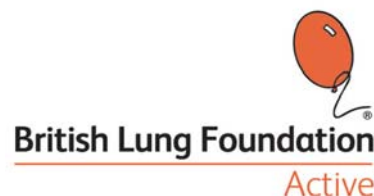
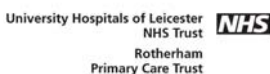
Instructors taking up a bursary will be expected to work with local Breathe Easy support groups to set up exercise classes within the community.

For more details or an application pack please log on to www.lunguk.org/supporting-you/blf_active/ or contact Danielle Smreczak using the details below

e: exercise@blf-uk.org

t: 020 7688 5618

w: www.lunguk.org





Physical Activity Coordinator

£22,221 - £23,708

Ref: 11475

John Dryden House, Northampton

2 year Fixed term contract

You will promote and increase levels of physical activity amongst low and non-participant adults across Northamptonshire. The role involves direct delivery and partnership working with voluntary and statutory agencies, with a key focus of promoting activity within the workplace.

For an informal discussion, please contact Jackie Browne on 01604 236455.

Multi Skills Coach (2 posts)

£19,621 - £21,519

Ref: 26246

John Dryden House, Northampton

Part time - 24 hours per week

(additional hours may be available)

Fixed term until December 2011

Working as part of Coaching Northants, you will be required to plan and deliver high quality multi skills and sport specific coaching across Northamptonshire. You will hold a minimum of one level 2, and a range of level 1, National Governing Body coaching qualifications, and have significant experience of coaching children and young people.

For an informal discussion, please contact Cathy Little on 01604 237857.

Coach Development Officer

£19,621 - £21,519

Ref: 26244

John Dryden House, Northampton

Fixed term until March 2012

(subject to continued funding)

You will coordinate the development and implementation of programmes, and networks, to support sports coaches within Northamptonshire. With a current qualification relevant to sports coaching, you will have previous experience of working in a sports environment including deploying and supporting sports coaches.

For an informal discussion, please contact Cathy Little on 01604 237857.

Coach Administrator

£14,733 - £15,444 pro rata

Ref: 26245

John Dryden House, Northampton

18 hours per week

Fixed term until March 2012

(subject to continued funding)

With a qualification relevant to administration or previous experience of providing administration support, you will provide administrative support to the coach development service of Northamptonshire Sport including data entry, clerical/financial administration support and dealing with enquiries. You will also demonstrate good IT skills.

For an informal discussion, please contact Cathy Little on 01604 237857.

All posts are subject to enhanced CRB clearance.

Closing date for all positions: 12 noon, 07 December 2009.

For additional information about these roles and to apply online, or download an application pack, please go to www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/jobs

For more information about Northamptonshire Sport visit www.northamptonshiresport.org

If you require an information pack in an alternative format, please contact 01604 237666.



Looking for a fresh challenge?

We are searching for two enthusiastic, skilled and entrepreneurial individuals to join our new management team at the Westway Sports Centre in North Kensington. The successful applicants will drive the Centre through its next phase of growth through delivering operational excellence, exceeding customer expectations and maximising sales.

Westway Sports Centre, part of Westway Development Trust, is renowned as London's leading community sports centre with over 500,000 user visits annually. Housing many sports, the Centre has one of the largest indoor climbing centres in the UK, operates a Lawn Tennis Association High Performance Centre and a football programme that is supported by the FA and Football Foundation. The Trust is a social enterprise and the Centre is run as a sustainable business with revenues of over £3 million.

Westway Development Trust benefits the residents of Kensington & Chelsea and adjacent boroughs by providing recreation, sport and leisure facilities, developing the capacity and skills of members of socially disadvantaged communities, and through supporting other local charities and involvement in education and the arts.

Commercial Director

As Commercial Director, you will maximise sales, attract new customers, retain existing ones and maintain a close eye on income. You must have a strong commercial background and be self-motivated, focused and creative in developing new strategies to increase our customer base and to increase the financial growth of the Centre.

In addition, you will be a successful leader who can deliver customer service excellence through the workforce.

Operations Director

As Operations Director, and the Centre's backbone, you will ensure the smooth running of the Centre by reviewing and fine-tuning the existing operational systems.

You will have the ability to manage the growth of facilities within a large Centre or building, and experience of leading and managing a team in delivering the highest standards to customers.

You will have lots of initiative, be environmentally savvy and be able to reduce waste and improve efficiency.

Do you have that extra something to lead Westway to new heights?

The commercial and operational posts outlined above will be key roles in the Centre's management team. However, we are also interested in hearing from individuals who believe they have the capability and experience to combine one of these roles with that of overall Centre Director. Could you lead the management team by directing and overseeing the profitable and efficient running of the whole business as well as ensuring the Centre meets its development objectives? Let us know if you think you can rise to the challenge!

Salary between £35k and £50k for the Commercial and Operations posts, in excess of £50k for the Centre Director post.

Closing date: 30 November 2009

For full details, please visit our website:
www.westway.org/about_us/jobs

RENISHAW HALL
DERBYSHIRE

OPERATIONS MANAGER



The above post exists for a highly professional person to be responsible for promoting and raising the profile of Renishaw Hall & Gardens to enable Renishaw Hall to succeed as one of Derbyshire's premier tourist attractions.

The successful applicant must have the ability to work not only on their own initiative but as part of a team, and must be able to work within set budgets to maximise income through the various enterprises such as Hall Tours, Weddings and Conferences.

We would expect you to possess excellent communication and customer service skills, be IT literate and have experience of running a busy administration office. An awareness of Health & Safety legislation is required.

Please apply in writing, together with CV to: Charlotte Marrison, Shuldhams Calverley, 21 Exchange Street, Retford DN22 6BL.
Tel: 01777 860755 or email: g.mountjoy@shuldhams-calverley.co.uk
Closing Date: 8 December Interview Date: 17 December



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www.northamptonshire.gov.uk

Surrey Sports Park

The UK is on the verge of its most exciting decade of sport ever. The next 10 years will see the world's premier sporting events reach our shores.

Surrey Sports Park will take its part in building a national legacy when it opens in 2010. The multi million pound facility will offer a venue that will see some of the best facilities in the World and attract its own international and national events bringing world class athletes to Surrey.

Surrey Sports Park is looking to employ world class sport and recreation professionals in the following roles:

- **Sports Participation Manager**
- **Duty Managers**
- **Sports Outreach Officer**
- **Team Leaders**
- **Front of House Advisors**
- **Health & Fitness Instructors**
- **Climbing Centre Assistants**
- **Recreation Assistants**

If you would like to be part of the future of Surrey Sports Park, full details of all our current vacancies can be found at www.surrey.ac.uk/jobs where you can apply directly online. Alternatively contact Mel Hamlin on m.hamlin@surrey.ac.uk 01483 683841 to request an application pack.

You can also find out more about these roles at our Recruitment Open Evening which will be held on Thursday, 3 December 2009 between 6pm - 8pm at the Varsity Centre, Edgerton Road, Guildford, Surrey (opposite Tesco's supermarket). Please bring a current CV.

Closing date for applications: Friday, 11 December 2009.

Sport is changing. Keep an eye on it at www.surreysportspark.co.uk



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Sports Development Officer

£24,834 – £29,227 plus benefits • 37 hours per week
Camberley, Surrey

As Sports Development Officer, you will play a pivotal role in creating opportunities for participation in sport and physical activity across the Borough.

Working with organisations such as schools, sports governing bodies, sports clubs and the private and voluntary sectors, you will be a strong team player with proven ability to influence key partners. You will make the case for sport as a tool towards addressing health, crime and social inclusion issues. A sports related degree or equivalent is essential for this role.

Staff benefits include a minimum of 24 days' annual leave; final salary pension scheme; free parking; and private healthcare after relevant qualifying period.

For an application pack apply online at www.surreyheath.gov.uk/council/vacancies or on the Jobs Go Public Website at www.surreyjobs.info quoting Job Ref: DAL015

Please note CVs will only be accepted when accompanied by a completed application form. For further information please contact Kate Newton, Leisure & Recreation Manager on (01276) 707397 for an informal chat.

Closing Date: Monday 7 December 2009 – 12 noon
Interview Date: Monday 14 December 2009

Surrey Heath Borough Council is committed to equality of opportunity in employment and service delivery and welcomes applications from all sectors of the community.



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Duty Manager

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Ref No: 11052

We are looking for a Duty Manager to work at our Bridge Park Community Leisure Centre facility. Reporting to the Operations Manager the successful candidate will be responsible for the smooth day-to-day operation of the centre, ensuring that high standards are maintained and that our customers enjoy their time with us. You will have significant experience in a supervisory position; have good awareness of health and safety legislation and be a team player. You will be part of a team of six Duty Managers and Officers that actively supervise and co-ordinate the operations of all areas of the service. You will be working a shift pattern that covers the operational hours of the centres. The successful candidates will demonstrate an enthusiastic and flexible attitude to work hours and will be required to complete a Criminal Records Disclosure form in line with Section 115 of The Police Act 1997.

Closing date: **Noon, 18 December 2009.**

Interviews: **5 January 2010.**

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You will support our learners in all aspects of their learning as a tutor and will preferably be able to lead a course team.

Suitable candidates should be familiar with the quality assurance processes, so learner assessment meets Awarding Body standards. You should also possess a degree in a related subject and a teaching qualification or be willing to gain one. Fitness Instructor qualifications would also be advantageous.

Ref: 4621

Apply online at www.candi.ac.uk or please leave a message for an application pack on 020 7700 9240.

Closing date: **14 December 2009 (Midday).**

Strictly no agencies

We celebrate diversity and welcome applications from everyone regardless of gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, faith or disability.



RiversMeet

Community Culture Fitness Sport

GENERAL MANAGER

Competitive salary Permanent position

RiversMeet is the new community owned and run Sports and Fitness complex in Gillingham, Dorset. As General Manager, you will be the driving force behind this charitable enterprise. You will have a professional qualification and proven track record in Recreation Management and a detailed understanding of the day to day operation of Sports and Fitness facilities (wet and dry side). You will also have sound financial and business acumen together with a working knowledge of business systems.

You will be responsible for:

- strategy and business development
- management and HR issues for all staff and staff training including policies
- financial performance and sustainability of the business
- day to day operational management
- all aspects of Health and Safety and the promotion of a strong H&S culture
- operational maintenance of buildings and systems

For details of this challenging opportunity please write to: RiversMeet, PO Box 1590, Gillingham SP8 9AE or email riversmeetgillingham@hotmail.co.uk

Closing date for applications is **Saturday 12th December.**

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Principal Policy Officer (Ref: 10/780)

£38,781 - £41,553

You will play a key role in managing region-wide Leisure and Sport programmes as well as leading the Leisure and Sport Service. Working closely with the Council's Area Management Teams, you will lead on corporate strategic planning, policy and development and act as the head of profession for Leisure and Sport promoting the delivery of high quality services managing.

Educated to Degree Level in a Leisure and Sport related discipline, you will have at least five years' experience in Leisure and Sport with two years' working at senior management level. Possession of ISRM/IPSAL Membership is desirable. A customer focussed individual, you will have excellent team leadership and development skills coupled with your high level communication skills. Sound financial, management, planning and implementation skills will be key to your success. A current driving licence is required.

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For further information please contact: Richard Grieveson, Operations Manager – Community Services on tel: 01387 243 566 or email: Richard.Grieveson@dumgal.gov.uk or apply online.

Closing date: 5 December 2009.

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South Downs to become ninth English national park

Government awards 632sq m area stretching from Beachy Head to St Catherine's Hill national park status

By **Pete Hayman**

Environment secretary Hilary Benn has confirmed that the South Downs – stretching across East Sussex and Hampshire – has become the ninth English national park.

The 632sq mile (1,637sq km) South Downs National Park will cover land between Beachy Head, East Sussex in the east and St Catherine's Hill in Winchester, Hampshire, in the west, incorporating two areas of outstanding natural beauty. A new national park authority

for the South Downs, responsible for the conservation of the wildlife and landscape within the park, is set to be created by April 2010 and become fully operational within a year.

Benn said: "This unique and wonderful countryside will now be protected for everyone to enjoy. National Park status will attract new visitors to the South Downs and bring investment into the local area."

Natural England's acting chair, Poul Christensen, added: "The South Downs is a priceless environmental asset."



IMAGE: PETER WAKELY/NATURAL ENGLAND

Ditchling Beacon, located inside the new national park

Council names architects for Aberdeen Art Gallery

By **Pete Hayman**

Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has appointed Glasgow-based Gareth Hoskins Architects (GHA) to draw up plans for a major revamp of Aberdeen Art Gallery ahead of the venue's 125th anniversary in 2010.

GHA will now create a design study for the council. The redevelopment scheme will be financed by the Marguerite McBey Trust, set up in 2001.



IMAGE: MIKE DAVIDSON, POSITIVE IMAGE

The gallery will be modernised

ACC hopes that the refurbishment of the gallery – which is expected to cost around £20m – will modernise the venue and

provide new education and research space, as well as helping to increase the number of visitors.

Martin Greig, ACC's vice convener of the culture and sport committee, said: "Artistic enjoyment is not an optional extra. The state of the gallery is vital for the wellbeing of the city and reflects the kind of life we want for the city and the standards by which we want to be judged by visitors."

Deal reached on Bath Spa

A short statement issued jointly by the three parties involved in the Bath Spa project (Bath & North East Somerset Council, Carillion and Nicholas Grimshaw & Partners) has indicated that the long running litigation has been resolved and net payments will be made to the council by both Carillion and Grimshaw.

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