

Merlin fined £5m for ‘catastrophic’ Smiler failure

Merlin Entertainments has been fined £5m (US\$6.5m, €5.7m) after last year’s horrific Smiler crash at Alton Towers, an accident which left five visitors with life-changing injuries including two leg amputations.

Delivering his verdict in front of Vicky Balch and Leah Washington – who each lost a leg in the crash – and Joe Pugh, Daniel Thorpe and Chandaben Chauhan, who were all seriously injured, judge Michael Chambers said the crash was a “catastrophic failure” of safety by Merlin, ruling that the accident was not caused by human error, but by absence of safe systems.



Smiler victims Joe Pugh and Leah Washington outside the court

“No financial penalty can put the clock back, and should not be seen as putting a value on the victims’ injuries,” said the judge.

“It was a needless and avoidable accident in which those injured were fortunate not to die,” he added, also saying

that the case was aggravated by the lack of access to those injured, that left them hanging in the air for significant amount of time following the crash.

Chambers said that the crash was “foreseeable” and that Merlin had fallen “far short of required standards” in terms of safety protocol and that the system of training for its engineers was “woefully inadequate”.

Speaking outside court after sentencing, Paul Paxton, the lawyer representing eight of the victims, said his clients had been “shocked and disappointed by the catalogue of errors” that led to the crash.

Continued on back cover

Peter Jackson wants to use AR to tell Maori island story



Jackson has recently cast his eye on attractions

Sir Peter Jackson continues to contribute to visitor experiences in his home country, with the New Zealand native now planning a digital project utilising augmented reality to teach visitors about the Maori inhabitants of Matiu-Somes Island.

The island – located within Wellington Harbour – would aim to create an experience where visitors could potentially explore the island using AR glasses, with digital overlays and images appearing as they learned what life was like for its Maori inhabitants.

“We are in the early stages of this journey together, but the idea potentially involves using various media, including digital

storytelling and the latest in virtual and augmented reality technology, to tell stories about the Maori history of Wellington,” said Dominic Sheehan, general manager of Jackson’s Wingnut Films Productions, speaking to the *New Zealand Herald*.

“We’re looking forward to chatting to the trust and talking about how we can best work together,” he added.

The island is accessible from several public locations, including downtown Wellington, Petone, Days Bay and Seatoun. As a visitor destination it is growing in popularity, welcoming more than 15,000 people last year.

More: http://lei.sr?a=Z9U7p_A

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Buzz Aldrin experiences the power of Microsoft's Hololens in *Destination: Mars*

Hololens gets first public outing

Legendary astronaut Buzz Aldrin was among the first to try out Microsoft's Hololens technology for the first time in a visitor attraction, with a new exhibition at Florida's Kennedy Space Center allowing visitors to virtually explore the surface of Mars.

Open until the end of the year, *Destination: Mars* has been developed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL)

in collaboration with Hololens. Using the augmented reality headset, visitors can explore Mars as observed by NASA's Curiosity rover.

Using JPL's OnSight technology, which allows NASA's researchers to participate in a shared AR experience, a holographic version of Aldrin and Curiosity rover driver Erisa Hines, explain the work NASA is doing on Mars today.

More: http://lei.sr?a=x3N7Q_A

Japan designating 88 anime 'sacred spots' in effort to boost tourism

Japan's government wants the nation's popular anime and manga franchises to boost tourism in the country, with plans to designate 88 "animation spots" nationwide in places where popular characters are presented.

The heritage plan will identify train stations, school campuses, shrines and other Japanese landmarks depicted in manga or anime as "seichi" – translated into "sacred spots".

"It is impressive that the presence of Japan's pop culture in the world has grown into something that can be on par with Hollywood," said Tsugihiko Kadokawa, vice president of the Anime Tourism Association and the chair of publisher Kadokawa Corp, which is backing the scheme. "Animation can change the times."



Animes such as *Your Name* will be used to promote Japan

In addition to Kadokawa Corp, travel agency JTB Corp., Narita International Airport Corp and Japan Airlines Co are backing the effort, which will include package holidays built around visits to the locations.

More: http://lei.sr?a=M6x6HL_A

Study says rollercoasters could cure kidney stones

New research has found an unconventional solution to clearing painful kidney stones – riding Disney World's rollercoaster Big Thunder Mountain Railroad.

The study, published in the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association*, found that a ride on the rollercoaster at the Florida theme park had astounding results for those suffering with kidney stones, with multiple accounts of the ride curing them of their ailment.

Kidney stones – hard masses of minerals that form in the kidneys and range in size from a grain of sand to a golf ball – can be passed in less extreme cases through the bladder, though the process is a painful one.

The study, published 26 September, said that several patients had reported passing kidney stones after riding Thunder Mountain, with one man noted as having passed a stone after three consecutive rides.

The researchers tested the strange phenomenon by creating a 3D model of a kidney, which included three real kidney stones varying in size from small to large and some urine. They then took the model



Several patients had reported passing kidney stones after riding Thunder Mountain

kidney on the ride 20 consecutive times, experimenting with the position of the different-sized stones in different parts of the kidney model.

Seating turned out to be a crucial part of the study, with stones passing 64 per cent

of the time regardless of size or location in the kidney when at the back of the train.

This figure was significantly higher than the front of the rollercoaster, where the stones only passed 17 per cent of the time.

More: http://lei.sr?a=n6w8N_A

Saddam Hussein's former palace in Basra opens as antiquities museum

The palace of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein has been given a new purpose, with Iraq's government turning the former stronghold into the country's first first new major museum since its occupation in 2003.

Funded through UK charity Friends of Basra Museum (FoBM) and oil company donations, the former home of Hussein in Basra has now become the home of Iraq's national antiquities museum, with ancient pottery, coins and other artefacts now on display.

The project was initially allocated US\$3.5m (£3.1m, £2.7m), but those funds failed to materialise. FoBM raised the lion's share of the US\$750,000 (€668,000, £577,000) used to open one hall, which is showcasing a collection of antiquities dating back to 400 BC.



The museum showcases artefacts dating back to 400 BC

The institution says it hopes to unveil three more sections as originally planned. These would be developed in the coming years and would focus on the Sumerian, Babylonian and Assyrian periods, with projected costs of US\$585,000 (€521,000, £450,000).

More: http://lei.sr?a=h9D2y_A



IAAPA made the announcement at EAS

IAAPA relocating global headquarters to Orlando

IAAPA has announced plans to relocate its offices from Washington to Orlando.

According to the organisation, relocating to central Florida will make it easier for its members worldwide to connect with each other and engage with the organisation when they travel to the region to meet with industry suppliers, many of whom are based in the region.

As IAAPA's staffing needs grow in the future, the association says the move will also facilitate its ability to recruit local candidates with industry experience.

More: http://lei.sr?a=s4m2g_A

Dementia scheme to be rolled out across Britain

A pilot programme by National Museums Liverpool (NML) created to improve dementia care will soon be rolled out across the UK after great success during its trial run.

NML's Train the Trainer scheme, the first of its kind, is designed for carers of people living with dementia, using a series of documentary-style films and discussions to guide participants through issues surrounding dementia care.

According to an independent evaluation, the museum-led scheme resulted in 97 per cent of participants agreeing that they understood the principles of person-centred care and 100 per cent of participants agreeing that they understood what living well with dementia meant.

The training scheme was built on the success of NML's House of Memories programme, which has trained more than 10,000 family or professional carers in person-centred dementia since its creation in 2012.

"We see museums as experts in looking after memories, so we have used our own sector knowledge to develop the House of Memories



The scheme was built on the success of NML's House of Memories programme

training and resources to help to support people living with dementia and their carers," said Lucy Cattell, NML communications manager.

"Our approach has given health and social care professionals a unique perspective on

how to engage, support and communicate with people living with dementia, which is why Train the Trainer has proved to be so valuable in terms of the insight it provides."

More: http://lei.sr?a=k2s7y_A



The workshop was open to state parties

Unesco workshop protects South American heritage

Unesco has held a training workshop in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to address implementation of cultural and natural heritage protection across South America and some parts of Africa.

Organised into seven thematic classes, participants were tasked with disseminating key concepts and methodologies related to the timely implementation of the World Heritage Convention, while also identifying main themes to be developed by the CBP.

More: <http://lei.sr?a=r4xuA>

China's Luneng Group to develop C¥10bn BBC theme park in Wenchang

BBC Worldwide is teaming up with real estate developer Luneng Group to develop an amusement and leisure park on the island of Wenchang in the South China Sea at a cost of C¥10bn (US\$1.5bn, €1.34bn, £1.15bn).

Luneng Group – an offshoot of the State Grid Corporation of China – will use the BBC's Top Gear and BBC Earth IPs for the new venture, which is expected to attract five million visitors a year when it opens in 2019.

Covering 400,000sq m (4.3 million sq ft), details are sparse on what will be included in the giant park, but Luneng has confirmed the venture will feature a traditional theme park and a C¥1bn (US\$15m, (€13.4m, £11.5m) waterpark by Proslide.



Luneng Group will use the BBC's Top Gear and Earth IPs

"I think nothing in the world would be similar to our Top Gear and Earth concepts," said Stephen Davies, BBC Worldwide's director of live entertainment. "It's something which brings all areas of the world into one place, so you experience the whole earth in one day."

More: http://lei.sr?a=F9k8Q_A

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Southampton aquarium to tell city's maritime story

Plans are in the works to develop a multi-million pound aquarium project in Southampton, combining undersea creatures with a showcase of the region's strengths and its links to the high seas.

Combining an aquarium setting with a maritime center exploring Southampton's position at the centre of a global story, the development promotes itself as championing "Storylines of Science, Technology and Life: Voyages of Discovery." The site will also include a conference centre.

Dubbed 'Southampton Living Waters', the project is the brainchild of Dr Clive Bennett – retired head of Zoology and visiting fellow of the University of Southampton – who was inspired following a trip to California in 2014.

"Our steering group met at a brainstorming session and it was well understood that you can't just run an aquarium these days – they don't stand alone," said Bennett, speaking to *AM2*. "That's why we want to create an integrated, regionally-related attraction – something with some special stories in it. We got the idea of 'Voyages of Discovery' to tell the



The aquarium project would also promote Southampton's maritime history

story of Southampton. You would have a major 'wow factor' aquarium built into something highly educational and inspirational."

The Solent Council had been seeking projects beneficial to the entire region of Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of

Wight, which was why the steering group decided to publicly unveil its plans.

"The timing has been good," said Bradley.

"The project is able to provide a focus for an attraction and act as a magnet for businesses."

More: http://lei.sr?a=g4y9a_A



The masterclass was held in Barcelona

Waterpark experts give masterclass to operators

A Waterparks Masterclass was held in Barcelona last month, with a selection of industry speakers giving advice and lessons across an array of topics, including facility maintenance, hiring and recruitment, cleanliness and park design.

Organised by WhiteWater West, the event included a speech from the company's own Scott Heke, who gave a seminar on maintenance essentials, underlining the importance of daily, weekly and annual upkeep tasks in order to ensure the highest levels of ride safety.

More: http://lei.sr?a=m7B3k_A

Carnegie Science Center plans US\$21m pavilion to host travelling exhibitions

Pittsburgh's Carnegie Science Center has detailed plans for its US\$21m (€18.7m, £16.1m) Science Pavilion to include 14,000sq ft (1,300sq m) of new exhibition space.

Designed by Indovina Associates Architects, the three-storey building will be built around the existing Omnimax Theater with the pavilion facing out over the Ohio River. In addition to temporary exhibition space, the extension will feature nine STEM learning labs and a top-floor space capable of hosting corporate events and social gatherings.

"With this new traveling exhibition space, we'll be



The center will be built around the existing Omnimax Theater

able to bring to Pittsburgh the kind of blockbuster traveling exhibitions that are all over North America now, that come to Philadelphia and Chicago and Washington D.C., but

bypass Pittsburgh because there isn't adequate space," said the science centre's co-director, Ann Metzger, speaking during a planning briefing.

More: http://lei.sr?a=f7r9C_A



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DIARY DATES

6 OCTOBER 2016

The Annual National Conference of Visitor Attractions

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London, UK

The Annual National Conference of Visitor Attractions (VAC) is the pre-eminent event for all types of visitor attractions in the UK. VAC is run by the industry, for the industry and is firmly established as the key place to meet and network with contemporaries. The event also features a thought-provoking programme of conference sessions to keep you up to date and help you find new directions for your business.

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www.vacevents.com

11-14 OCTOBER 2016

World Waterpark Association Symposium & Trade Show

New Orleans, Louisiana, US

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Tel: +44 (0) 20 8748 8868

www.wwashow.org

15 OCTOBER 2016

Halloween at Leolandia

Leolandia Park, Capriate San Gervasio, Italy

The Themed Entertainment Association (TEA) is inviting its members to experience Halloween at Italy's largest theme park dedicated to families with young children. The full day event includes a TEA presentation, lunch, guided tour to the Halloween show at the Palco Cowboy, Mediterranean tour and guided tour of Peppa Pig World. Event also includes a free visit of the park.

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<http://lei.sr?a=k6y00>



C3PO actor Anthony Daniels spoke at last year's SATE conference

13-14 OCTOBER 2016

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7-9 NOVEMBER 2016

World Travel Market London 2016

ExCeL London, UK

World Travel Market (WTM) London, the leading global event for the travel industry, is a three-day business-to-business exhibition for the worldwide travel and tourism sector. Almost 50,000 senior travel industry professionals, government ministers and international press attend the event to network, negotiate and discover the latest industry opinion and trends. The event is expected to generate around £2.5bn of travel industry contracts over the three days.

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14-15 NOVEMBER 2016

MuseumNext NYC

Tribeca Performing Arts Center, New York, US

MuseumNext is a global conference on the future of museums. Since 2009 it has acted as a platform for showcasing best practice today to shine a light on the museum of tomorrow. MuseumNext NYC will take place in November 2016

with two days of curated presentations on the theme of 'Transformation'.

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14-18 NOVEMBER 2016

IAAPA Attractions Expo 2016

Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, Florida, US

With more than 30,000 industry professionals expected to attend this year's IAAPA conference, including 20,000 buyers coming from more than 100 countries, the event will explore the theme of 'Every Experience Matters'. The trade show floor will cover over 550,000sq ft (51,000sq m), with more than 1,000 companies set to exhibit their latest projects and cutting-edge innovations from 125 categories. Industry leaders, decision-makers, and trendsetters from across multiple sectors, including manufacturers and suppliers, and the owners and operators of theme and amusement parks, waterparks, FECs, zoos, aquariums, science centres, museums, resorts, and more, will be on-hand at the event.

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English heritage worth estimated £21.7bn to UK

England's heritage sector has been valued at £21.7bn (US\$28.2m, €25.2m), generating £18.4bn (US\$23.9bn, €21.3bn) in tourism expenditure annually for the UK.

Heritage and the Economy 2016 – an annual study by Historic England – collates data from a number of studies on heritage and economic activity. The study also introduces the Heritage Economic Impact Indicator Workbook (HEII) – an Excel-based interactive workbook that estimates national and regional economic impact of the heritage sector.

According to the study, in 2013, heritage directly generated £10bn (US\$13bn, €11.6bn) in gross value added (GVA) in England. Using the HEII, estimated heritage contribution to GVA increases to £21.7bn.

London is the most valuable region in terms of heritage GVA, with the capital valued at £5.45bn (US\$7bn, €6.3bn). Southern regions are significantly more valuable than the north, with the South East, South West and East of England worth £3.18bn (US\$4.13bn, €3.68bn),



Domestic and international heritage-related visits generate £18.4bn in expenditure in England

£2.68bn (US\$3.48bn, €3.1bn) and £2.64bn (US\$3.43bn, €3bn) respectively. By contrast in the north, the North East of England is valued at £1bn (US\$1.3bn, €1.15bn), the

North West £1.99bn (US\$2.58bn, €2.3bn) and the Yorkshire and Humber Region £1.64bn (US\$2.13bn, €1.89bn).

More: http://lei.sr?a=q9E7t_A



Bollywood Parks opens on 15 November

Dubai Parks and Resorts to stagger 2016 launch

Dubai Parks and Resorts has undergone a company rebranding, with the multi-billion dollar venture's owners also announcing plans for a staggered opening rather than the initially planned full opening on 31 October.

Now known as DXB Entertainments, the opening of Legoland Dubai and Riverland Dubai will go ahead as scheduled, with Bollywood Parks and Legoland's waterpark opening on 15 November, and then Motiongate Dubai on 16 December.

More: http://lei.sr?a=w4x2f_A

Tokyo's Sunshine Aquarium introduces horror nights for the month of October

Tokyo's Sunshine Aquarium is taking the unique approach of combining its tropical fish and relaxing scenes with extreme terror, as the usually family-friendly visitor attraction will at night become a hair-raising fright fest for the month of Halloween.

Through October, the aquarium will from 6:30pm onwards be the location of *Noroi no Mizugushi* (curse of the water comb), an exhibition designed to give visitors a fright as they explore the darkened aquarium.

The aquarium is pulling out all the stops for the exhibition, bringing in celebrated Japanese horror house producer Hirofumi Gomi to



Hirofumi Gomi has produced the horror experience

write the original story. Gomi, who in his career has created more than 35 horror houses around Japan, is the author of several books investigating fear and why we crave it from a psychological perspective.

"The aquarium is a space of beautiful healing," said the aquarium's website. "That is until 'the curse of the water comb' affects the space surrounding it."

More: http://lei.sr?a=B2b8A_A

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The virtual reality ride is not for the faint-hearted



Dynamic Attractions will manufacture the ride in Canada

Simworx teams up with Derren Brown for Thorpe Park ride

UK-based dynamic ride maker Simworx worked with illusionist Derren Brown on a record-breaking new ride that opened at Thorpe Park this season.

Merlin Entertainments approached Simworx to oversee the provision of the ride systems and various ride elements. The company worked with Severn Lamb, Figment and HTC on the project, delivering

three, 58-seat motion-based passenger train carriages and 110 metres of train track. Each train carriage is fitted with 58 HTC Vive headsets, an array of special effects and a vibrating floor. In the pre-ride area of the attraction, Simworx supplied effects like smoke, sound, AV projection, and a groundbreaking motion base capable of a 35-ton lift.

Dynamic Attractions building US\$21m ride for Asian park

Ride maker Dynamic Attractions has secured a high-value contract for a new media-based ride.

The US\$21m (€19m, £16m) deal, with an undisclosed theme park in Asia, reflects the company's push to further increase its presence in the East. The new attraction will be designed and manufactured at the company's Vancouver facility and installed around 2019.

"Our increased focus on media-based attractions is paying off with greater market penetration in repeat order ride sales," said Guy Nelson, president of Dynamic Attractions. "Contracts like this, along with sales of our proprietary ride system product line and our Orlando-based Unlimited Attractions services, form the backbone of our strategy."



Eicher has 17 years of commercial and marketing experience



A view of part of the play area below the cinema seating

Deborah Eicher joins Scruffy Dog as commercial director

Birmingham-based design firm Scruffy Dog has named Deborah Eicher as its new commercial director.

An IAAPA Foundation board member, Eicher has more than 17 years of commercial and marketing experience across the leisure and entertainment sectors. She most recently held positions as business development director for HB Leisure

and as president of global industry relations and business development for Picsolve.

Scruffy Dog – which also operates in the areas of film and set design – has a number of bluechip clients including Merlin's Legoland Windsor, Chessington and Madame Tussauds. The company has recently worked on Galactica at Alton Towers.

DP Architects redefines movie-going experience

An attraction-cinema hybrid in Indonesia combines the physical and mental stimulation of the FEC with the timeless appeal of the movies.

Recently completed in Tangerang, Indonesia, the 750sqm (8,100sq ft) play area and movie theatre are fully integrated, blending the experience of visual and physical entertainment.

The idea for the hybrid came about simply from the observation that children don't enjoy being confined to a single seat for a prolonged period of time. Cinemaxx Junior is a custom-designed space for children aged three to 10 and their families and the 106-seat space is available in three-hour slots, allowing 60 minutes of pure play before the film starts.

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Borough of Poole is inviting proposals that seek to modernise and develop the miniature railway concession, supplying a service and facilities that supplement activity provision within the park.

Situated in Poole Park with an estimated 0.5 million visitors every year. Other attractions include two cafes – one with indoor ice rink and soft play area, boating lake, tennis courts, putting-green and a series of outdoor gym facilities. The Park is well visited by local people and has a significant foot-fall especially in the summer months and at school holiday time.

The Council welcomes proposals from suitably experienced and competent providers that integrate a value-for-money outcome for Borough of Poole in terms of investment and revenue, in addition to applying a willingness to develop the services for the potential local and day visitor markets.

We encourage engagement from appropriate parties that consider how the concession can be managed to maximise usage whilst sympathetically improving the site. The Council is seeking to evaluate the market's capacity and capability to deliver this service and appetite of the market to compete for these options.

To receive a market sounding information pack, please contact the **Recreation Development Team** on **01202 261333** or recreation.development@poole.gov.uk



We wish to engage with specialist attraction operators to operate and develop Pickie Funpark, Bangor, County Down, Northern Ireland.



We are seeking views on how we can optimise the tourism and development potential of the park and its facilities with the ultimate objective of entering into a new arrangement with a specialist attraction operator/developer probably underpinned by a lease of the site from March 2017.



We are exploring opportunities to help us to understand what may be possible and how best to structure a future procurement process to maximise our, and the markets, ability to deliver our objectives.

If you believe your organisation has the capabilities to help us to achieve our objectives and would wish to inform the potential procurement process, please contact us on market.engagement@v4services.com for a copy of our Business Opportunity Prospectus and questionnaire focused on the issues that we would like to explore with you. You will then be contacted to facilitate an initial telephone-based discussion.

Please note: Deadline for responses to this early market engagement is Wednesday 26 Oct, by 12 noon.

N.B. Whilst this early market engagement exercise is intended to help inform a potential procurement process, it is not part of a formal procurement process. We do not guarantee to undertake a procurement process or to invite any particular contractor to participate in subsequent procurement.

For more details on the following
jobs visit www.am2.jobs or
to advertise call Sarah on
+44 (0)1462 471908



■ **Head of Human Resources**

Merlin Entertainments Group

Salary: Competitive

Job location: Based in New York
- North America, United States

■ **Marketing and Development Manager**

Parkwood Leisure

Salary: £25,000

Job location: Maidstone,
United Kingdom

■ **Commercial Development Project Manager**

Zoological Society of London

Salary: £33,743 Inclusive of
London Weighting

Job location: London,
United Kingdom

■ **WZ Lead Presenter - Zoo Live Team**

Zoological Society
of London

Salary: £28,778 (Inclusive of
Weekend Enhancement)

Job location: Dunstable,
United Kingdom

■ **Visitor Attractions Account Director**

Engie

Salary: Competitive

Job location: London,
United Kingdom

■ **Assistant Manager - Customer Services**

Derby City Council

Salary: £24,717- £27,394 a year

Job location: Derby Arena,
United Kingdom

■ **General Manager**

William's Den

Salary: £30,000 basic + benefits,
OTE £36k against agreed targets

Job location: East Riding Of
Yorkshire, United Kingdom

■ **Commercial Director**

Parkwood Leisure

Salary: £60,000

Job location: Central London,
United Kingdom

■ **Guest Experience Supervisor**

Chester Zoo

Salary: £21,866 + benefits

Job location: Chester,
United Kingdom

■ **Customer Service Manager**

Quest NBS

Salary: £18k pa

Job location: Hemel Hempstead

■ **Head of Group Resourcing**

Merlin Entertainments Group

Salary: Competitive

Job location: Poole, Dorset,
United Kingdom

■ **Commercial Team Leader**

Legoland Discovery Centre

Salary: Competitive

Job location: Boston,
United States

■ **Group Sales Coordinator**

Legoland Discovery Centre

Salary: Competitive

Job location: Kansas City,
United States

■ **Master Model Builder**
Legoland Discovery Centre

Salary: Competitive

Job location: New York,
United States

■ **Duty Manager**

Legoland Discovery Centre

Salary: Competitive

Job location: Toronto, Canada

■ **Regional General Manager**

Merlin Entertainments Group

Salary: Competitive

Job location: South East,
United States

■ **Duty Manager - Eye Admissions**

The Eye Brand

Salary: Competitive

Job location: Orlando,
United States

■ **Trade Sales Coordinator**

Legoland Discovery Centre

Salary: Competitive

Job location: Kansas City,
United States

■ **Signage Artworker Assistant**

Legoland Discovery Centre

Salary: Competitive

Job location: Windsor,
United Kingdom

Alton Towers Smiler accident happened “with force of a 90mph car crash”

Continued from front cover

In a packed Stafford Crown Court, the Smiler crash, which injured 16, was likened to having the same impact as a 1.5-tonne family car crashing at 90mph (144.8kmph), and that those on front row of the Smiler train could see what was going to happen moments before the crash.

The Smiler ride itself, the prosecution said, was “well-designed” as were the computer and “sophisticated” control systems, while the actual operator of the ride had also followed the set-out “safe working practices”.

It concluded that Merlin had fallen “far short” in regards to a need for engineers



The Smiler itself was ‘well-designed’, said the prosecution

from the park’s technical service’s department to fix faults on the ride, adding that there was “absolutely no evidence of a task analysis-based approach for engineering work”.

The Smiler reopened in March. During its closure, the ride was equipped with 30 new safety features, including technical improvements.

More: http://lei.sr?a=N3e4D_A

Officials blasted after concreting over partial section of China’s Great Wall

Chinese heritage officials have come under scrutiny after repairs to a five-mile (8km) stretch of the Great Wall of China left the ancient structure resembling a smoothed concrete path.

The Liaoning Provincial Antiquities Bureau says it approved the concrete in order to repair and protect the wall, claiming that the “ugly repair job” was essential to protect the Unesco World Heritage site from the elements.

The work on the 635-year-old section of the Great Wall in Hebei province was carried out in 2014, according to the Bureau, but had only come to light after going viral on Chinese social media platform Weibo.



Social media posts on Weibo drew attention to the work

In January, the government announced a five-year plan to protect and preserve the wall, with many parts entering a state of disrepair, having been used by nearby villagers as a source of stones to rebuild

houses and roads, while much of the wall has been lost to tourists illegally taking pieces as souvenirs. Parts have also been demolished to make way for construction works.

More: http://lei.sr?a=x4w3j_A

American Association of Museums (AAM)

T: +1 202 289 1818 W: www.aam-us.org

Association of American Zoos & Aquariums

T: +1 301 562 0777 W: www.aza.org

Association of Art Museum Directors

T: +1 212 754 8084 W: www.aamd.org

Association of Independent Museums (AIM)

T: +44 (0)1584 878 151 W: www.aim-museums.co.uk

Association of Leading Visitor Attractions (ALVA)

T: +44 (0)20 7222 1728 W: www.alva.org.uk

Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC)

T: +1 202 783 7200 W: www.astc.org

Association of Scottish Visitor Attractions (ASVA)

T: +44 (0)141 229 0923 W: www.asva.co.uk

Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)

T: +1 301 562 0777 W: www.aza.org

Australian Amusement Leisure & Recreation Association (AALARA)

T: +61 7 3807 35 08 W: www.aalara.com.au

European Association of Amusement Suppliers Industry (EAASI)

T: +39 0522 554 176 W: www.eaasi.org

European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA)

T: +31 20 520 07 50 W: www.eaza.net

European Network of Science Centres and Museums (Ecsite)

T: +32 2 649 73 83 W: www.ecsite.eu

Giant Screen Cinema Association (GSCA)

T: +1 919 346 1123 W: www.giantscreencinema.com

Historic Houses Association (HHA)

T: +44 (0)20 7259 5688 W: www.hha.org.uk

Indian Association of Amusement Parks & Industries (IAAPI)

T: +91 22 6523 1643 W: www.iaapi.org

International Association of Amusement Parks & Attractions (IAAPA)

T: +1 703 836 4800 W: www.iaapa.org

International Planetarium Society

T: +1 808 969 9735 W: www.ips-planetarium.org

Irish Science Centres Awareness Network (ISCAN)

T: +353 (0)51 302 865 W: www.iscan.ie

Museums Australia

T: +61 2 6230 0346 W: www.museumsaustralia.org.au

National Farm Attractions Network (NFAN)

T: +44 (0)1536 513 397 W: www.farmattractions.net

NAVET

T: +46 (0)33 41 00 09 W: www.navet.com

Outdoor Amusement Business Association (OABA)

T: +1 407 681 9444 W: www.oaba.org

The Aquarium & Zoo Facilities Association (AZFA)

E: rif@tnaqua.org W: www.azfa.org

The Canadian Museums Association

T: +1 613 567 0099 W: www.museums.ca

The Canadian Association of Science Centres (CASC)

T: +613 566 4247 W: www.canadiansciencecentres.ca

Themed Entertainment Association (TEA)

T: +1 818 843 8497 W: www.teaconnect.org

World Waterpark Association (WWA)

T: +1 913 599 0300 W: www.waterparks.org

Zoo & Aquarium Association

T: +61 2 9978 4797 W: www.zooaquarium.org.au