

## Parties go head-to-head over new alcohol proposals

By **Pete Hayman**

Both the Labour and the Conservative parties have set out their respective plans for dealing with alcohol abuse and anti-social behaviour.

Home secretary Alan Johnson set out five mandatory conditions, which will apply to all alcohol retailers to ensure "consistent good practice", including the prohibition of all-you-can-drink promotions.

Other conditions will include the banning of 'dentist's chairs', where drink is poured directly into the mouth of customers, as well as the provision of free tap water and making sure smaller measures of drinks are available.



**BBPA has raised concerns that pubs already suffer from red tape**

Johnson said: "Any premises that breach the code or any secondary conditions that have been imposed will face a range of possible sanctions, including losing their licence."

The mandatory code will be introduced in two stages, with the first three conditions being implemented from 6 April. The remaining measures will come into effect from 1 October.

Meanwhile, shadow home secretary Chris Grayling has outlined plans to give local authorities and police forces stronger powers over licensing if the Conservatives win the next election. Grayling also proposes a tax hike on super-strength beers and alcopops.

In response, British Beer and Pub Association CEO Brigid Simmonds said: "Pubs are struggling and the country is in recession. This is not the time to be burying business in yet more unnecessary red tape."

"All the powers needed to deal with problem premises already exist. The trouble is poor enforcement of the current laws. Adding to that pile is unhelpful."

## Design competition launched for Scotland's V&A

Architects sought for ambitious £47m museum project on Dundee's waterfront

By **Tom Walker**

An international architectural competition is being launched to deliver a new landmark building for The V&A at Dundee, a centre of 21st century design for Scotland.

The structure will occupy a site at the centre of Dundee's redeveloped waterfront area to the south of Craig Harbour on a site to be created projecting out into the River Tay.

Mike Galloway, Dundee City Council's (DCC) director of city development, said: "A two-



**The V&A at Dundee will act as a satellite to the London site**

stage architectural competition is about to be launched and we expect to have interest in this project from prominent

architects and designers from around the world."

The site is being made available through the Dundee Central Waterfront Partnership, a joint venture between DCC and Scottish Enterprise, which is revitalising the prime area of land linking the city centre with the River Tay.

The £47m V&A at Dundee is being delivered by a partnership between the Victoria and Albert Museum, the University of Dundee, the University of Abertay Dundee, Dundee City Council and Scottish Enterprise.

## Nairn to launch new restaurant

Scottish celebrity chef Nick Nairn will open a new restaurant at the recently refurbished Doubletree by Hilton Dunblane Hydro hotel in Dunblane, Scotland.

Called the Kailyard by Nick Nairn, the 220-cover property will be the chef's first new site since the the eponymous Nairn's in Glasgow closed in 2003.

Set to open on 28 January, Kailyard by Nick Nairn aims to showcase a range of Scottish cuisine.

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## Historic parks receive Lottery funding

Heritage Lottery Fund confirms grants for restoration schemes at three UK parks

By **Pete Hayman**

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Big Lottery Fund (BIG) have announced that three historic parks are set to receive a share of more than £9m through the Parks for People programme.

Lloyd and Aveling Park in Walthamstow, London, has been awarded nearly £3.5m to help restore historic features, rejuvenate the landscape and enhance wildlife habitats at the 12-hectare (30-acre) park. A gallery and community space and a café are also planned.

Walsall Arboretum in the West Midlands will receive a £4.57m grant to help fund restoration work on the park's Grade II-listed boathouse, the clock tower and a bandstand, as well as two lakes.



**Hillworth Park is among the recipients of Heritage Lottery funding**

A Grade II\*-listed Garden Pavilion and children's play areas will undergo work at Hillworth Park in Devizes, Wiltshire, after it secured £1.2m from the HLF and BIG, while a new volunteer ranger scheme will also be introduced.

HLF chief executive Carole Souter said: "People often look

to their local public park as a place to get fit, spend more time with family and friends or just take time out for reflection.

"HLF and BIG continue to invest in parks because we know that people really benefit from all these sorts of activities and from having green open spaces to enjoy."

## Construction underway on Glasgow 2014 sites

By **Pete Hayman**

Construction work has started on the new National Indoor Sports Arena (NISA) and Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome venues in Glasgow, which will be used to stage events at the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Located on a 10.5-hectare (25.9-acre) site to the east of Glasgow, the new venues are being delivered by Hertfordshire-based construction firm Sir Robert McAlpine and will provide the main sports facility for the 2014 Games.

The NISA, which will host badminton events during the Games, will feature seating for 5,000 spectators, a 200m athletics track with hydraulic bends and field event facilities and three sports halls to be used as warm-up spaces and as



**The NISA is set to host the badminton events in 2014**

training and events spaces in their own right.

Facilities at the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome will include a permanent seating capacity of 2,000 and standing capacity of 500 – increased to 4,000 for track cycling events during the Games, a Ralph Schuermann-designed 250m cycling track

and a roller sport park within the main track.

Elite athlete facilities comprising a conditioning suite, physiotherapy areas, medical rooms and seminar spaces will also form part of the scheme, along with a new headquarters for sportscotland and the Culture and Sport Glasgow sports development team.

Archie Graham, Glasgow City Council's executive member for the Commonwealth Games, said: "The arena and velodrome will be seen around the world when the badminton and indoor cycling events of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games are held here."

The construction process is scheduled to be completed by early 2012, while the Velodrome track is set to be installed in spring 2012.



## New Kids In Museums manifesto unveiled

Document outlines a range of actions for attractions to do more to indulge children

By **Tom Walker**

Families want less technology and more simple hands-on experiences in museums, according to the new 2010 Kids In Museums manifesto.

The manifesto, launched by charity Kids In Museums, has been compiled from families' comments and wishes collected during museum visits in 2009.

The document highlights 20 actions that the charity wants all UK museums to adopt when entertaining families and their children, including calls for museums to introduce flexible family tickets, rather than only offering the standard two adults and two children.

Other actions include to be more height aware and display objects and labels so that a child can see them, to provide



**Kids In Museums was launched to promote childrens' needs**

big open spaces for children to let off steam and to be more hands on with their displays.

The manifesto says: "Be interactive not only with computer screens and fancy gadgets. Dressing up and getting messy are as important as buttons to push."

Kids in Museums director Dea Birkett said: "Of the thousands of visitors' suggestions we received for the 2010 Manifesto, hardly any mentioned technology and gadgets. "Museums need to listen and provide sensual experiences, not clean and clinical ones."

## Fire-hit Afan Lido facing 'extensive demolition'

By **Pete Hayman**

An independent structural assessment of the Afan Lido complex in Port Talbot, which was severely damaged in a fire in December, has recommended the majority of the facility should be demolished.

More than 100 firefighters were called to battle the blaze at the 45-year-old complex on 16 December, which started around 5pm in the swimming pool area before spreading to other parts of the building.

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council chief execu-



**Afan Lido's pool complex was destroyed by December's blaze**

tive Steve Phillips revealed that although the sports hall will not require demolition, the pool complex, reception, gym and ballroom areas will.

Phillips said: "The report advises that extensive demolition is necessary and officers will be recommending a way forward to the council once financial and technical appraisals for demolition have been completed.

"Air tests carried out on the night of the fire, and subsequently, show normal air quality readings, confirming that asbestos disturbed as a result of the fire is confined inside the building."

The council has also confirmed a nearby Bowls Hall is set to reopen in the near future.

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## IN BRIEF

### Rhyl Leisure centre gets new gym

► Denbighshire County Council (DCC) has opened a new fitness suite at the Rhyl Leisure Centre. DCC invested more than £300,000 in the new facility, which includes a range of CV and resistance stations supplied by Technogym, including the supplier's Kinesis range

### Leicestershire golf club opens new gym

► Greetham Valley Hotel, Golf and Conference Centre near Oakham, Rutland, has opened a new health club. Supplied by Cybex, the 180sq m (1,938sq ft) club has been created in a space previously occupied by part of the hotel's golf shop. The club has invested more than £40,000 in the creation of the gym, which offers 15 stations of Cybex cv and resistance equipment. The gym has been specifically designed as part of efforts to boost member loyalty, increase visits and generate additional revenue at the golf club.

### DW Fitness agrees Primary Authority deal

► DW Sports Fitness, the health club chain owned by former JJB founder Dave Whelan, has formed a Primary Authority partnership with Wigan Council. The deal will allow DW Sports Fitness to use Wigan Council as its single point of contact when working across the country on all of its health and safety issues. The Primary Authority scheme, launched by the Local Better Regulation Office in April 2009, gives companies the right to form a statutory partnership with a single local authority, designed to provide robust and reliable advice for other councils to take into account when carrying out inspections or dealing with non-compliance.

## REPs to restructure and clarify role

Framework to be updated to make it more understandable to sector employees

By **Tom Walker**

The Register of Exercise Professionals (REPs) has announced plans to restructure as part of efforts to make its operations "more realistic" and "easier to understand".

Established in 2002, the organisation is owned by SkillsActive, the Sector Skills Council for Active Leisure, Learning and Wellbeing.

Registrar Jean-Ann Marnoch said that the organisation's framework will be updated to make it more understandable to people working within the health and fitness industry.

Marnoch said: "The previous framework was a good starting point for both REPs and SkillsActive but desperately needs updating to reflect current working practices as well as offering much-needed simplicity to those both within and outside the industry."



According to Marnoch, REPs' restructuring will provide simplicity

"We hope the new structure will be much more realistic and easy to understand."

According to a statement, the new structure is a revised set of National Occupational Standards developed by industry experts to reflect the needs of the industry.

The awarding bodies are currently writing qualifications to meet these new standards and the training providers will

then write the courses to meet the qualifications.

"All of this means new courses reflecting the new structure will not be available until after April 2010", the statement says.

The current 44 categories of accreditations will be cut to 24. Changes include an additional category at Level 2 – Physical Activity for Children. The Level 3 advanced fitness instructor has also been dropped.

### Revamped gym opens in Ealing

A new fitness suite has opened at Ealing Squash and Fitness Club in London, following the completion of a £450,000 scheme to expand the site's existing gym facility.

The fitness suite has doubled in size from 1,800sq ft (167.2sq m) to 3,600 sq ft (334.4sq m) after three squash courts were converted to create a new two-level facility.

Life Fitness has installed 65 stations of cv equipment in a bid to help members to boost squash performance, as well as further 50 pieces of strength equipment.

## Work underway at Selby centre

By **Pete Hayman**

Selby District Council has announced the start of work on a £1.1m renovation of the North Yorkshire town's Abbey Leisure Centre, which is set to take six months to complete.

Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust, which was appointed to operate Abbey Leisure Centre in September 2009, will oversee the improvements on behalf of the council – including the construction of a new health suite featuring a sauna and a steamroom.

Abbey Leisure Centre's fitness suite is set to be expanded to 180sq m (1,938sq ft) as part of the work, which will incorporate a 70sq m (753sq ft) dance



The new-look fitness suite will be equipped by Technogym

studio and a 50sq m (538sq ft) spinning studio. The gym will house 68 pieces of equipment supplied by Technogym.

The refurbishment project also includes the creation of a new multi-purpose room, which will be used for functions, meetings and crèche activities, as well as a café.



# PCC approves Life Centre contractor

Council appoints London-based Balfour Beatty to deliver £46.5m leisure complex

By **Luke Tuchscherer**

Plymouth City Council (PCC) has approved construction firm Balfour Beatty as the main contractor for the city's £46.5m Life Centre project.

The green light was awarded following a detailed evaluation of five bids and workers are now expected to move on to the Central Park site at the beginning of February.

PCC leader Vivien Pengelly said: "Awarding this contract will mark the last crucial milestone in laying the groundwork for the Life Centre and we are really excited to be at this stage in the project."

Facilities at the complex will include a family leisure pool with flumes, beach entry and a



The new leisure complex is scheduled to open in September 2011

bubble pool, a climbing zone with a 15m (49.2ft) wall and aerial assault course, an eight-lane bowls centre and a 12-court multi-use sports hall.

A 150-station fitness suite, a 10-lane, 50m swimming pool with moveable floors and

submersible boom, a diving pool, a dryside training facility for elite divers, multi-purpose areas for dance and martial arts and a youth gym, also form part of the development, as well as a sauna, a steamroom and changing facilities.

## £21m leisure centre unveiled in Buckinghamshire

By **Pete Hayman**

Bletchley Leisure Centre – a new £21m health and leisure complex near Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire – has opened its doors to the public.

Bedford-based contractor SDC Builders started construction work on the Holder Mathias Architects-designed centre in April 2008 as part of a wider multi-million pound scheme to improve Bletchley led by Milton Keynes Council.



Bletchley's new leisure complex

Bletchley Leisure Centre will replace the town's former centre and includes a 780sq m

(8,396sq ft) fitness suite with 100 machines supplied by Matrix Fitness Systems.

An eight-lane, 25m swimming pool; a sauna and steamroom; a six-court sports hall; four squash courts and a seven-rink bowls facility also form part of the site, along with a gymnastics hall, a multi-purpose hall and a café.

Work has also been carried out to create a plaza between Elizabeth Square and the building's entrance.

### IN BRIEF

#### Pools set to close in council savings drive

► Swimming pools at Shelton and Tunstall in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, are facing closure as part of efforts to help the local authority reduce expenditure over the next three years. Stoke-on-Trent City Council is also proposing that classes currently run at the Gymnastic Centre are moved to Dimensions Leisure Centre in a bid to base leisure provision on "quality rather than quantity".

#### Revamped Stevenage fitness suite reopens

► The Fitness @ The Leisure Centre facility at Stevenage Arts and Leisure Centre, Hertfordshire, has reopened following a £250,000 revamp. The Stevenage Borough Council-funded project includes an expanded gym, including 47 pieces of G7 strength range equipment by Matrix Fitness Systems, to meet the increased number of GP referrals. A new entrance to allow easy access for wheelchair users and new changing facilities have also been built.

#### SIV secures Lake District centre contract

► Sheffield International Venues (SIV) has taken over the management of the Lakeland Initiative in Fitness, Excellence and Wellbeing (LIFE) Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre at Troutbeck, Windermere. SIV, through its subsidiary company SIV Enterprises Limited, will also help LIFE develop a masterplan for a proposed Leisure Hub in Troutbeck Bridge, via the year-long contract. The proposed Leisure Hub will include an 80-station fitness suite, three separate aerobics studios, 25m, eight-lane swimming pool with a floating floor and spectator seating for regional galas plus an indoor climbing wall.

### Fitness4Less announces plans to expand portfolio

Budget health club operator Fitness4Less has appointed leisure property specialists Christie + Co to oversee a major acquisition and development programme across the UK.

Bristol-based Fitness4Less launched its first fitness facility in September 2007 and is currently preparing to open two more sites.

Fitness4Less has tasked Christie + Co to find suitable locations on medium-term leases to meet its growth targets.

According to a spokesperson, the company is hoping to open new health clubs in a number of major cities across the UK, including Birmingham, Brighton and Cardiff.

## IN BRIEF

### Former Blue Chip casinos sold

► Two casinos formerly operated by the failed Blue Chip Casinos company have been sold by the group's administrators. The two sites, Castle Hill in Dudley and The Rubicon in Wolverhampton, were sold for an undisclosed sum. Lawyers Davenport Lyons acted on behalf of Administrators UHY Hacker Young on the deal. Blue Chip Casinos were part of US-based Isle of Capri Casinos. Jonathan Lass, corporate partner at Davenport Lyons, said: "The transaction was completed in two weeks in order to safeguard jobs and the goodwill of the operating businesses."

### Profits warning from Luminar

► Nightclub operator Luminar expects profits for the year to 25 February 2010 to be below expectations due to a combination of the recent bad weather and economic conditions, particularly the increase in youth unemployment. The company said it was "very encouraged" by much better sales on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve and by average sales per customer, which were up 1.5 per cent in December when compared with last year. Same outlet sales for the month, however, were 13.8 per cent down on last year.

### NFL set for Wembley Stadium return

► The National Football League (NFL) has confirmed that a regular-season fixture will be played at London's Wembley Stadium on 31 October for the fourth consecutive year. San Francisco 49ers, the five-time Super Bowl champions, and two-time champions Denver Broncos will contest the fixture, which could be one of two regular-season matches played in the UK during 2010.

## Salford racecourse scheme scuppered

Government rejects Peel's proposals for major Salford Forest Park development

By **Pete Hayman**

Communities secretary John Denham has rejected Peel Holdings' multi-million pound plans for a new racecourse and nature reserve near Salford, Greater Manchester.

A public inquiry into the project was launched in April 2009 after Peel Holdings appealed to the government to intervene in the planning process after Wigan Council and Salford City Council (SCC) failed to decide whether to back the Salford Forest Park plans.

The development proposals included a new international standard horse racing course, boasting a 6,000-seat grandstand, an eventing course and an equestrian centre at the centre of the 1,690-acre (684-hectare) site, as well as an 18-hole golf course.

An 80-bedroom hotel with a gym, a restaurant and a



Peel proposed the development of a new racecourse and a hotel

swimming pool, a forest park visitor centre and an eco-village, as well as 11 miles (18km) of cycle trails and 20 miles (32km) of footpaths were also earmarked for the site.

SCC lead member for planning Derek Antrobus said: "While the council's planning panel always recognised that Peel's proposals offered some economic and social benefits to Salford, it also recognised that

the location of the scheme, lying in the green belt, posed some particular difficulties.

"The inspector and secretary of state clearly shared these concerns and have found that harm outweighs any benefits in this case and have accordingly dismissed the appeal."

SCC had raised opposition to the scheme due to the impact the development would have on green belt land.

### HMV secures MAMA takeover

Music retailer HMV has acquired live music group MAMA in a deal worth around £46m.

In a statement, HMV said it had agreed a deal that will see the group pay 5.4p for each MAMA share and aims to build on a joint venture between the two groups unveiled last January.

HMV believes it will be able to increase growth of the live venues and the festivals business and will also be able to drive further cost and "revenue synergies" out of operating them alongside HMV's existing businesses.

## Racing undeterred by downturn

By **Pete Hayman**

Attendance levels at racecourses across the UK remained stable during 2009 despite the challenging economic climate, according to new figures published by the Racecourse Association (RCA).

The total number of people attending horse racing events during the 12-month period increased by 2,000 to 5,718,729 when compared with 5,716,656 for the previous year, although the average daily attendance decreased by 0.22 per cent to 4,008.

Stephen Atkin, chief executive of the RCA said: "The figures would have been even better but for December



Race-goers continued to visit courses despite the recession

suffering abandonments during the cold snap, which has continued to make January a very testing time for courses.

"However, the all-weather tracks have done a magnificent job to keep the show on the road and hopefully things will be back to normal soon to build on last year's success."

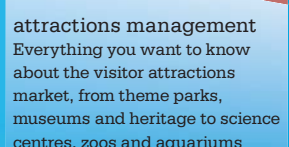


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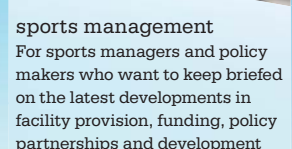
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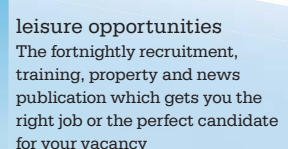


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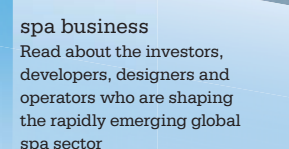
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## IN BRIEF

### Council approves Parc Eirias proposals

► A new Centre of Excellence for sport, leisure and culture is set to be established at Parc Eirias in Colwyn Bay, North Wales, after plans were given the green light by the local authority. Conwy County Borough Council has given the go-ahead for the facility, which will boast a rugby training pitch, a 2,000-seat grandstand, team changing facilities, a weights room and floodlights. Parc Eirias will also provide a home for the new Rygbi Gogledd Cymru (North Wales Rugby) regional team.

### Portsmouth FC fails in High Court application

► Portsmouth Football Club has failed in its attempts to get the High Court to dismiss a winding up petition brought against the club by HM Revenue and Customs. Despite rejecting the Premier League club's bid to 'strike out' the petition, Mr Justice Newey granted the club permission to lodge an appeal against the decision. PFC is hoping to avoid a final hearing of the winding up order on 10 February. The ruling comes a week after the club was told by the Premier League that its £7m share of television revenue was being diverted to football creditors.

### Sport England appoints new C00

► Law Society group finance director Rona Chester has been appointed to the newly-created role of chief operations officer (C00) at Sport England. Chester, who will take up her position on 1 March, will be responsible for finance, business planning and grants management, while also supporting Sport England's chair and chief executive in the organisation's bid to create a "world-leading community sport system" for England.

## Gold and Sullivan seal West Ham deal

Former Birmingham City Football Club owners secure 50 per cent stake in club

By **Pete Hayman**

West Ham United Football Club (WHUFC) has confirmed that former Birmingham City Football Club (BCFC) owners David Gold and David Sullivan have acquired a 50 per cent stake in the club.

The deal, which values the club at £105m, was concluded on 18 January and will result in the pair taking over operational and commercial control from former owner, asset management company CB Holding.

Sullivan and Gold, who left BCFC last September after the Midlands club was the subject of a successful takeover by businessman Carsten Yeung, will be joined at WHUFC by former colleague Karren Brady.



**West Ham United could be set for a move to the Olympic Stadium**

As well as looking to reduce the club's £100m debt through external investment, Sullivan has also outlined plans to move to London's Olympic Stadium.

Sullivan said: "Our long-term aim will be to put the club on a stronger financial footing.

"I believe with our new board we have the expertise and experience to do just that.

"We have got to look at all sorts of ways of bringing in revenue. We will be looking at everything, from saving money to bringing money in."

## Everton FC confirms 'positive' stadium discussions

By **Pete Hayman**

Everton Football Club (EFC) has confirmed that it has held "positive" discussions with Liverpool City Council (LCC) over potential sites for the future development of a new stadium.

The Premier League club is now looking at options within the city boundary after plans for a 50,000-seat venue at Kirkby as part of a joint scheme with Tesco were rejected by the government in November.



**EFC's plans to move to Kirkby were rejected in November**

Improvements to the town centre, new leisure facilities, a new Tesco Extra store and a

housing development were also included as part of the Destination Kirkby scheme, which was rejected by communities secretary John Denham despite the approval of Knowsley Council.

In a joint statement, EFC and LCC said: "A positive meeting took place between Everton FC and Liverpool City Council about future stadium options within the city boundary, and more discussions have been scheduled for the near future."

## Work starts on North Tyneside indoor tennis centre

Construction work has started on a new indoor tennis complex at Churchill Community College in Wallsend, North Tyneside, to create an all-weather facility for students, residents and tennis clubs.

The four-court centre, consisting of a steel-framed waterproof fabric structure, is set to be built over the school's existing tennis courts, which will also undergo improvements as part of the scheme and will link with other indoor sports areas.

The Lawn Tennis Association has invested nearly £550,000 as part of British Tennis' Places to Play strategy, while the Department for Children, Schools and Families has also contributed.



# Grass roots football hub for Hackney

£5.7m development to boast community and spectator facilities from late 2010

By **Tom Walker**

The Hackney Marshes will be transformed to house a new grass roots football hub as part of the London Borough of Hackney Council's redevelopment plan for the area.

Ireland-based John Sisk & Sons has been appointed to deliver the £5.7m facility, to be called Marsh Community Hub when it opens in late 2010.

The project includes improvement works on the existing pitches, a new, full-size artificial turf pitch, a new footbridge over the River Lea to connect the East and South Marshes and a large, multi-use pavilion and clubhouse.

The new building will include community and spectator facilities on the first floor, with



The new community football facility is set to open later this year

changing rooms located at ground-floor level with provision for disabled players.

Designed by Stanton Williams Architects, the scheme will also include features to help it fit into the landscape, such as a 'living wall' with plants growing up the building.

Mayor of Hackney Jules Pipe said: "This is a key part of our investment programme which is using the London 2012 Games as an opportunity to give our residents world-class sports facilities alongside the new venues being built at the Olympic Park."

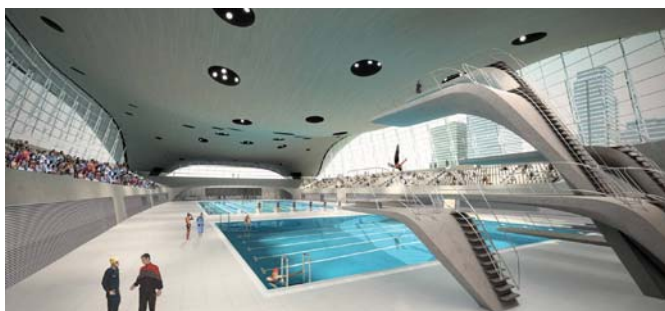
## UW plans new sports centre

The University of Worcester (UW) has unveiled plans for a new indoor sports and multi-purpose arena, set to be developed on the site of a derelict former fruit and vegetable market.

Planning permission is now being sought by the university to transform the Hylton Road site on the outskirts of the city into a dual-use facility to be used by both students and the local community.

UW has also confirmed that it is nearing the acquisition of land adjacent to the market site, which formerly housed a car showroom and car park and will be redeveloped to include teaching facilities and extra car parking space.

## Newham outlines 'aquatic aims'



The 2012 aquatic centre is at the heart of Newham's legacy plans

By **Pete Hayman**

A new partnership has been launched to ensure residents across the London Borough of Newham are handed the best swimming opportunities after the 2012 Olympics.

Newham Aquatics has been unveiled by Newham Council, which will work alongside Newham Swimming Club, the University of East London, London Swimming and the

council's leisure operator Greenwich Leisure.

Newham Aquatics will act on the behalf of residents to secure access to the best swimming facilities, including the 2012 Aquatics Centre.

The Olympic Park Legacy Company, which will manage the Aquatics Centre after the 2012 Games, has backed the formation of the new partnership as part of efforts to increase participation.

## IN BRIEF

### Canoe centre's launch date confirmed

► The Cardiff International White Water centre will open to the public in April. Cardiff Council leader Rodney Berman confirmed the opening date during a test run of the £13.3m centre's turbine pumps on 11 January. The centre, based adjacent to Cardiff International Pool at Cardiff International Sports Village, will provide the UK with its first Olympic-standard pumped water canoe slalom course, offering canoeing and white water rafting facilities.

### Work starts on Antrim cricket facilities

► Northern Irish sports minister Nelson McCausland has attended a turf cutting ceremony to mark the start of construction work on new cricket facilities at Muckamore Cricket and Lawn Tennis Club, County Antrim. The Northern Ireland Executive has contributed £124,000 towards the scheme through the Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure and Sport Northern Ireland, which will include six new turf cricket pitches and one new artificial cricket pitch. Two full-size covered training bays and new drainage at the second ground to allow for the creation of a football pitch also form part of the development at the venue.

### Manchester Airkix centre opens

► A £4.4m indoor skydiving centre has opened at the Trafford Quays Leisure Village in Manchester. Owned and operated by Airkix – which runs another centre in Milton Keynes – the new facility will boast a tunnel with a 14ft diameter and a 35ft-high flight chamber, making it the largest in the UK. The centre was partly funded by The Royal Bank of Scotland, which provided £2.5m.

## IN BRIEF

### Historic Surrey estate closes to public

► A historic estate formerly owned by press baron Lord Beaverbrook will not be open to visitors this year after its owner, The Beaverbrook Foundation, announced that it was no longer financially viable. Two consecutive wet summers and the economic downturn have been blamed for the decision to close Cherkley Court and Gardens near Leatherhead, Surrey, which is set in 400 acres (162 hectares) of park and woodlands.

### Maritime museum planned for Derry

► A maritime museum is being planned for the former British Army barracks at Ebrington, Derry, Northern Ireland. According to the *Derry Journal*, the project is the brainchild of urban regeneration company Ilex, in partnership with Derry City Council. A spokesperson for the council said: "We are currently seeking applications for the supply of a feasibility study and economic appraisal into the establishment of a maritime museum development at Ebrington in Derry."

### Paultons handed ride planning reprieve

► Paultons Park near Southampton, Hampshire, has been told that it can keep its Cobra ride after being granted retrospective planning consent by the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA). In October 2009, park bosses were told that they would have to remove both the Cobra and the Edge roller coasters, which were opened without having secured the necessary permission. However, planning officials at NFNPA have now decided to allow the park to retain the Cobra ride, as well as a control building, catering kiosk and a photograph booth.

## Makeover for Royal Fusiliers Museum

Historic London attraction set for major refurbishment after securing HLF grant

By **Pete Hayman**

Plans for the refurbishment of a museum dedicated to the history of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers at the Tower of London have been handed a £300,000 boost by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

Housed in the Grade I-listed Officers Mess building dating back to 1845, the Royal Fusiliers Museum opened to the public in 1962 and boasts a range of exhibits from the regiment's 400-year history.

The scheme will see the museum expanded to allow more items to be put on show, including a new medals gallery.

An education programme for local Tower Hamlets schools and community volunteering opportunities are also planned.

New live interactive displays will be created at the attraction by 2011 to coincide with the



The museum is housed in the Grade I-listed former Officers Mess

Tower of London's year of celebration dedicated to the theme of Menagerie, including a Victorian soldier outlining the role of animals in warfare.

Sue Bowers, head of the HLF London, said: "The newly developed museum will add to the attractions that bring more than two million visitors to the Tower of London each year while providing the chance for

local people, from a range of backgrounds, to engage with their local army regiment."

Colin Bowes-Crick of the Royal Fusiliers Museum Trust added: "The finished product will significantly enhance the visitor experience – especially for local residents who will benefit not only from visiting the museum but also from our proposed outreach programme."

## Museum unveils new restaurant

By **Tom Walker**

The Natural History Museum (NHM) in London has launched a new 270-seat restaurant.

Designed by a partnership involving architects RWCA and interior designers Path Design, the 6,500sq ft (604sq m) restaurant is the third of the museum's visitor catering zones to be revamped in the space of 12 months.

The museum had to obtain a listed building consent to create the eatery, as the plans included breaking through the original building fabric to an adjacent gallery to open up extra space, which was used to bring the kitchens front-of-house – an unusual feature for a museum restaurant.



The NHM restaurant is part of a larger, £3m redevelopment

The restaurant is part of a £3m refit and facilities revamp programme for the attraction, and completes a strategic remodelling of the eating and refreshment facilities.

The three-phase overhaul has been project-managed by Cultural Innovations, which has been responsible for co-ordinating the consultant team.

## 'Psychoaster' set for Alton Towers

Alton Towers in Staffordshire is set to launch a new £15m rollercoaster in March, which is being touted as a terror-thrill ride, or "psychoaster".

An Alton Towers spokesperson said the new Thirteen attraction will be "based on the discovery of an unearthed ancient burial site in an area of unexplored woodland known as the Dark Forest".

Only visitors aged between 16 and 55 years old will be allowed to ride the new rollercoaster, which has been built on the site of Alton Towers' former Corkscrew ride dismantled in late 2008.

The new Thirteen rollercoaster is scheduled to open to the public on 20 March.



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## IN BRIEF

### Arts Council England grant for The Hub

► Arts Council England has awarded The Hub National Centre for Craft & Design in Sleaford, Lincolnshire, a £64,000 grant to develop a programme of touring exhibitions. The funding will run until early 2013 and will allow The Hub to create touring exhibitions for key galleries that it curates. Melanie Kidd, head of exhibitions, said: "Our ambition, which is fuelled by the under representation of craft and design practice in the wider visual arts sector, is to see that these art forms are valued and celebrated to the same degree."

### £93,000 Lottery award for disability arts

► Nottinghamshire-based Salamander Tandem has received a £93,000 Lottery grant from Arts Council England to develop disability arts across the East Midlands. The funding, which will cover the next two years, will allow Salamander to continue its Project 20 scheme, which runs arts training and mentoring schemes for a wide section of people with disabilities throughout the region. As part of the project, Salamander will offer an training course, called Arts Work with People, and other development opportunities for arts, healthcare and education professionals

### Tough completes new ACE executive board

► Scottish Arts Council chief executive, Jim Tough, has been appointed to fill the one remaining vacant position on Arts Council England's (ACE) new executive board. Tough has been confirmed as the new area executive director, north as part of a streamlined national leadership team that will be responsible for leading a restructured ACE from April.

## Kent horse sculpture plans submitted

'Angel of the South' proposals submitted to Gravesham Borough Council planners

By **Pete Hayman**

Plans for the construction of a new 50m (164ft)-high sculpture of a white horse in Kent as part of the Ebbsfleet Landmark Project (ELP) have been submitted to Gravesham Borough Council (GBC).

Former Turner Prize-winning artist Mark Wallinger was selected in January 2009 following a design competition to come up with a major public artwork to be built at Springhead Park, overlooking Ebbsfleet Valley and Ebbsfleet International Station.

ELP was launched in January 2008 as the result of a partnership between Eurostar, Land Securities and London and Continental Railways, the



The sculpture will welcome visitors travelling from France by train

operator of the High Speed One rail link.

Stephen Jordan, ELP board chair, said: "This is an important step on the journey for this project. We are all pleased to have made so much progress over the past few months."

GBC leader Mike Snelling added: "While I cannot pre-judge the results of a planning application to our independent regulatory board, this is an exciting project which has the potential to put Ebbsfleet on the map."

## Council unveils Worthing's Splash Point proposals

By **Tom Walker**

Final designs for Splash Point in Worthing, West Sussex have been revealed by Worthing Borough Council (WBC).

Construction work on the £500,000 open-air leisure and events venue, which has been designed by London-based landscape architects Craft:Pegg, is set to start in April and due to be completed by September.

The space will be used for putting on live cultural events



The site will open in September

and art exhibitions as well as acting as a public park. WBC cabinet member for regenera-

tion, John Rogers said: "This project will breathe life into an area of Worthing that was under-used and without focus."

The investment follows the council's Regeneration Programme Team's successful bid for funding from the second wave of the government's Sea Change initiative.

Worthing was one of nine councils chosen to receive the grant, which is managed by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment.

## Cardiff set for new centre for the creative industries

A new centre for the creative industries, which will boast a BBC drama production complex, is set to be developed in Cardiff under plans due to be submitted next month.

Welsh deputy first minister Ieuan Wyn Jones has confirmed the Welsh Assembly Government is working in partnership with Cardiff

Council and the BBC to build a new Digital Media Centre on a 27-acre (11-hectare) site at Roath Basin in Cardiff Bay.

The scheme, which will form the second stage of the wider Media Capital project, aims to provide a media hub for a range of independent production companies.





Sport Industry  
Research Centre



# SPORT AND LEISURE STATISTICS

## FORECASTS FOR THE SPORT AND LEISURE INDUSTRIES

The Sport Industry Research Centre publishes two annual reports, Leisure Forecasts and Sport Market Forecasts. These reports provide valuable insight into future market trends.

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### Leisure Forecasts

This publication identifies the way in which economic trends, new technologies and new consumer priorities will shape the leisure industry over the next five years. It is divided into two sectors, leisure in the home and leisure away from home, providing analysis for 24 distinct leisure markets.

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**Sheffield  
Hallam University**



**SPORT  
ENGLAND**

## IN BRIEF

### The Restaurant Group acquires historic pub

► Brunning & Price, The Restaurant Group's pub arm, has acquired the The Nevill Crest & Gun near Tunbridge Wells from Whitbread. The Grade II-listed pub is believed to date back more than 500 years and until recently was operated under the Brewers Fayre brand. The property includes a main bar with two seating areas, an 84-cover restaurant, a 90-cover beer garden, and a large car park. The site also includes a flat, bedsit, and attic rooms, plus manager's four-bedroom accommodation within a detached converted barn.

### UCL to open 15 pubs over next two years

► Pub operator Urban & Country Leisure (UCL) will open fifteen new pubs over the next two years. The expansion is part of a £10m investment programme for the company, which currently operates 12 pubs in the UK. The roll out will be funded by a group of private investors which includes Birmingham-based Bridgehouse Capital. UCL markets its properties as affordable gastro pubs

### Michelin awards record number of stars

► This year's *Michelin Guide to Great Britain and Ireland* includes one new three-star restaurant – Alain Ducasse at The Dorchester – and one new two-star – The Ledbury – both in London. Included in the list of 18 new one-stars is The Harwood Arms, Fulham, the first pub in London to achieve the accolade. Bray-on-Thames, Berkshire – home to The Fat Duck – has gained another star with the addition of The Royal Oak, a traditional village pub in nearby Paley Street owned by broadcaster Michael Parkinson.

## Whitbread to expand 'green portfolio'

Hospitality giant to launch second environmentally-friendly budget hotel in London

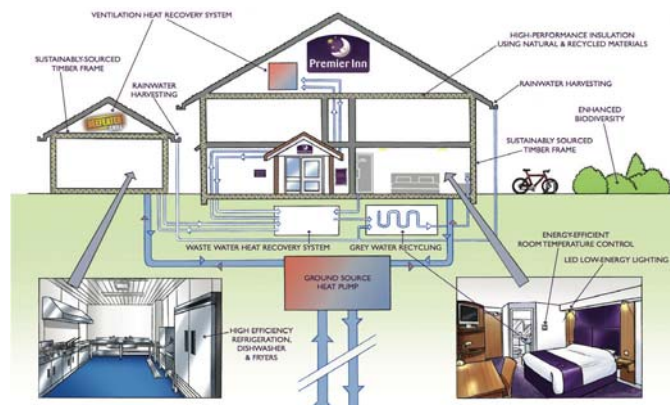
By Tom Walker

Hotel and restaurant group Whitbread has revealed plans to open its second green Premier Inn hotel and its first low-carbon restaurant.

The launches are part of its Good Together sustainability programme, which aims to cut carbon emissions by a quarter (26 per cent) by 2020.

Whitbread will build a environmentally-friendly, 60-bedroom Premier Inn hotel in Burgess Hill, West Sussex. Scheduled to open in Autumn 2010, the hotel is designed to deliver 70 per cent carbon and 60 per cent water savings.

It is the second 'green' Premier Inn in the UK – the first opened in Tamworth in 2008 – and features a Beefeater



The hotel will include a number of carbon-reducing measures

restaurant adjacent to the property, which will share the hotel's carbon-saving solutions, including ground-source heat pumps, rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling.

Both the Premier Inn hotel and Beefeater restaurant at Burgess Hill will be built using

timber frame construction methods from sustainably sourced wood. Timber frame has the lowest carbon content of any commercially-available building material and its flexible design allows for high levels of insulation to achieve maximum energy efficiency.

### Prezzo acquires Stortford hotel

Prezzo, the casual Italian-style restaurant operator, has acquired the 26-bedroom George Hotel in Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire from Punch.

Prezzo, which owns 140 restaurants across the UK, will occupy the ground floor and basement and is now exploring options for the rest of the property, which could include selling off the upper parts.

Brandon Elmon, director of agency and acquisitions at Davis Coffey Lyons, who handled the deal, said: "Acquiring this type of property is a new source of opportunity for Prezzo and is something that we will be actively seeking countrywide in 2010."

## Hospitality values decline in 2009



The value of hotel properties in the UK fell by a third during 2009

By Tom Walker

The property values of hotels, restaurants and pubs all suffered heavy falls during 2009, while the emergence of new budget health club chains gave the fitness industry a much-needed lift.

According to the *Business Outlook* report, published by leisure property specialist Christie + Co, the average hotel value declined by 34 per

cent in 2009, while the value of restaurants fell by 30 per cent and pubs by 29 per cent.

Christie + Co head of hotels Jeremy Hill said most completed property deals in the hotel sector involved companies that were in administration or had to offload property to bump up cash flow.

"Distressed cases made up the majority of transactional activity that took place during the year", he said.





The ballroom's coffered ceiling will be raised as part of the work

## £20m revamp for Glasgow hotel

Grand Central Hotel poised for September reopening

By **Pete Hayman**

Glasgow's Grand Central Hotel, which was acquired by operator Principal Hayley in spring 2009, is set to reopen in September, following the completion of a £20m revamp.

The 350,000sq ft (32,516sq m) property will boast 240 bedrooms, a Champagne bar overlooking the city's Central Station, a deli, a restaurant and a bar, as well as 21 meeting rooms and the revamped Grand Ballroom of Glasgow.

A number of the 127-year-old hotel's original features will be

reinstated as part of the work – such as the ballroom's coffered ceiling, which will be raised by 3m (9.8ft) to uncover a second set of windows hidden for 30 years.

Architect Charles Leon is behind the designs for the new-look hotel, which aims to establish itself as one of the city's leading conference venues.

Principal Hayley chief executive Tony Troy said: "The acquisition of the Grand Central Hotel is in keeping with our strategy of offering dedicated conference hotels in key city centre locations around the UK."

## December boost for restaurants

UK pub and restaurant companies have been boosted by a 2.9 per cent increase in like-for-like sales during December 2009, according to figures published by the latest monthly Coffey Peach Business Tracker.

Compared with the same period in 2008, the tracker – run in partnership between the Coffey Group, KPMG and UBS – showed a 4.7 per cent increase in total sales, with

consumers continuing to spend despite the recession.

The increase in like-for-like sales for December was the ninth consecutive month of growth for the 15 pub and restaurant operators that contribute towards the data including Pizza Hut, Punch Taverns and pub group Mitchells and Butler.

Month-on-month sales were up nearly a quarter compared with November.

## Not all doom and gloom for hospitality sector

Growth in domestic market and weak pound could continue to benefit operators in 2010

There is little doubt that 2009 was a tough year for many, and the hospitality industry was affected as much as other sectors. Nevertheless, there were many examples of success despite the grim forecasts at the beginning of 2009.

The UK hotel sector has been under severe pressure, with room yield in the first three quarters of 2009 in both London and the province experiencing declines. At the same time, there was strong growth in the domestic market during a year when people decided to remain in the UK for their holidays, preferring to take shorter breaks. Given the continuing cost pressures on airlines, and the consequent increase in fares, this trend is likely to continue through 2010.

At the same time, the global economic challenges remain, with some predicting that we are far from being out of the recession. In this scenario, the weak pound will continue to attract visitors to the UK, with many now seeing it as a more affordable destination. This is certainly the view of many of the leading international brands such as Accor, Starwood and Corinthia, each of whom is making sizeable investments in the UK over the next two years.

And we must not forget the 2012 Olympics. Despite the downturn, the clock has not stopped ticking. Whether we like it or not, the world will descend on London and other parts of the UK for a brief but hectic period in 2012. It is not a question of 'will we be ready' but a matter of 'we have to be ready'.

A key element to our successful hosting of the Games will be our ability to provide excellent hospitality and outstanding customer service. We now have very little time left to get ourselves into shape, but what better spur to activity than this, arguably the greatest show on earth.

So, despite the general air of despondency there is much about which to be positive. Moreover, there is a great future awaiting the industry as we move slowly out of recession. Will it be hard work? Of course it will, but the rewards will be worth the effort for those who maintain their focus on skills development and improving their customer service standards, both aspects which lie at the heart of what the Institute of Hospitality is about.

To paraphrase a well-known military axiom: 'When the going gets tough, the tough (and well trained) get going'!



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## IN BRIEF

### New strategy to improve Welsh waters

► Environment Agency Wales and the Welsh Assembly Government have launched a new set of measures, which have been drawn up to further improve the quality of Welsh waters by 2015. The River Basin Management Plans form part of efforts to improve and protect the water environment across England and Wales in order to meet new European Union targets and will bring together water companies, farming groups, industry and local authorities. Welsh rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastline and groundwaters are set to benefit as a result of the new measures.

### New plans for Scottish water environment

► New plans drawn up by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, designed to improve the environmental quality of rivers, lochs and seas, have been approved by Scottish ministers. The River Basin Management plans will provide improved benefits for wildlife and tourism sectors in Scotland by introducing measures to help cope with the impact of climate change. More than 100 stakeholders were consulted regarding the proposals.

### Tree planting scheme for North Hampshire

► The Forestry Commission has started work on an extensive winter conservation project to plant more than 50,000 new trees at the Crowthorne and Bramshill Forests in north Hampshire. The work will form part of a wider scheme across South East England to plant more than 250,000 trees in a bid to improve sustainable forestry. Plans include 10,000 Scots Pine trees for Crowthorne Forest and a further 40,000 earmarked for Bramshill Forest.

## Nature reserve status for WWII base

Skipwith Common regarded as one of the UK's "best examples" of lowland heath

By **Pete Hayman**

Natural England (NE) has confirmed that Skipwith Common, Yorkshire, which is home to a former Second World War bomber base, has been designated as a National Nature Reserve.

The 274-hectare (677-acre) site, which is situated within the Escrick Park Estate, is already recognised as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Area of Conservation.

Part of the site, which boasts dry and wet heathland and rare plants, dragonflies and other invertebrates habitats, was used during the Second World War as an airfield to train Halifax bomber crews.

The site's designation also helps to mark the 60th anniversary of the 1949



The site is home to a number of rare plant and wildlife habitats

National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act – the legislation which led to the creation of National Nature Reserves and National Parks.

NE chair Poul Christensen said: "An immense amount of work has gone towards ensuring that this much-loved landscape remains both a

haven for wildlife, and a place that everyone can enjoy.

"Skipwith Common is one of the best examples of lowland heath in the north of England and this declaration is a fitting way to mark the 60th anniversary of the Act that first brought National Nature Reserves into being."

## Conservatives pledge to preserve national parks

By **Luke Tuchscherer**

The Conservative Party has announced that it will "strongly" support National Parks across the UK if it wins this year's general election.

Speaking on a live web chat on the *Guardian's* website, shadow environment secretary Nick Herbert said that the party was "committed" to the parks, which include the Lake District, the Brecon Beacons, the Pembrokeshire Coast and the New Forest.

In response to a question from one "cwestney", who asked what the Conservative Party's policy on funding for the UK's National Parks was, Herbert replied: "National parks protect our most precious landscapes. They're vitally important areas and we need



The Tories said parks were the UK's "most precious landscapes"

to continue to give the parks our strong backing.

"I recently signed a [House of] Commons motion marking the 60th anniversary of the creation of National Parks and pointing to the challenges and opportunities they face, including tackling and adapting to climate change, helping provide affordable

housing for local people, and supporting a diverse and successful rural economy that sustains these landscapes.

"You probably won't be surprised to hear that in the current economic climate I can't make any pledges about funding in any Defra area, but I hope this makes our commitment to the parks clear."





**COLERAINE  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**INVITATION FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST  
FOR SELECT TENDER LIST**

**COMMUNITY STADIUM AND LEISURE  
FACILITIES, COLERAINE  
PRELIMINARY TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Expressions of interest are invited from suitably experienced and qualified companies or partnerships of companies, under the contractual leadership of one company. The Council wishes to carry out a preliminary technical feasibility study for a potential new community stadium together with leisure facilities in Coleraine, Northern Ireland. The leisure facilities may include athletics track, swimming pools, sports halls and fitness gyms.

The preliminary technical feasibility study to be undertaken is to assess the technical and capital finance parameters for a comprehensive community stadium and sports and recreation scheme on Coleraine Borough Council's Rugby Avenue playing field site. The facilities anticipated would be of regional significance.

Companies must be able to demonstrate knowledge and experience of creating such facilities and have successfully completed studies of a similar nature. They must also be able to demonstrate adequate managerial, technical and financial skills. It is anticipated that the study will be completed by March 2010.

**A pre-qualification questionnaire, obtainable from the address below, should be completed and returned in a plain sealed envelope clearly marked "Community Stadium & Leisure Facilities Study" to: R. Wilson, Town Clerk and Chief Executive, Coleraine Borough Council, Cloonavin, 66 Portstewart Road, Coleraine, BT52 1EY**

**The pre-qualification questionnaire should arrive no later than 12 Noon on 12 February 2009.**

Pre-qualification questionnaires sent by post should be registered or sent by recorded delivery. Faxed or e-mailed PQs will not be accepted. An official receipt should be obtained for a PQ delivered by hand.

At the Tender Stage Coleraine Borough Council will not be bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

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**LPF: Cinema –  
the digital revolution**



**An early evening LPF seminar and demonstration to be held at:**

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**CONTENT:**

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Come and witness the digital cinema revolution for yourself and see this presentation of film clips in the latest Sony 4K digital technology in 2D and 3D formats.

**SPEAKERS:**

**Rob Arthur**, Managing Director, Apollo Cinemas. Rob oversees an estate of 13 cinemas and 77 screens. He has worked in the UK and International Cinema sector for the past 18 years for companies such as Vue Entertainment, SBC International Cinemas, Warner Village, Warner Bros and UCI.

**Dave Cowlshaw**, Business Development Manager - Digital Cinema, Sony Professional Solutions Europe

**Neil Richmond** of Neil Richmond & Co is a recognised specialist in the cinema property sector counting Apollo, Cineworld, City Screen and Vue amongst his many leisure clients.

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- 6.15pm** Seminar registration
- 6.30pm** Introduction
- 6.45pm** Speaker presentation and film clips
- 7.45pm** Panel Discussion with Q&As
- 8.00pm** Refreshments and networking
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# leisure property news

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## IN BRIEF

### Six firms make Stoke street revamp shortlist

► Stoke-on-Trent City Council has announced that six design teams have been shortlisted to lead plans for a multi-million pound refurbishment of the city's public squares and streets. Aecom; BDP; Camlin Lonsdale Landscape Architects; Gillespies; Nicholas de Jong Associates and Planit are the firms to be selected to draw up detailed plans as part of a wider £1.5bn transformation of the area.

### Green light for £50m Liverpool library plans

► Plans for the major £50m refurbishment of Liverpool's Central Library – which is one of the UK's largest library developments – have been given the go-ahead by planners at Liverpool City Council. A temporary library will be established in Liverpool city centre while the two-and-a-half year Central Library scheme is carried out by Inspire Partnership, a joint venture including York-based Shepherd Construction and London-based Amber Infrastructure.

### Council seeks Maidenhead views

► Residents are being invited to comment on a new masterplan for the future regeneration of Maidenhead town centre drawn up by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. A four-week consultation into the draft Area Action Plan is set to launch on 18 January to gather views on a range of proposals for the Berkshire town, which could include a new concert or conference venue and new waterside walks.

## Liverpool set for £200m development

Framework for major leisure and retail scheme approved by city council planners

By Tom Walker

Liverpool's Edge Lane Central area is set to undergo a major £200m transformation under new plans drawn up by landowner Derwent Holdings, Liverpool City Council (LCC) and Liverpool Vision.

A development framework for the 28-hectare (69.2-acre) site, which includes plans for a 600,000sq ft (55,742sq m) leisure and retail space, was put before LCC's executive board on 15 January for approval.

The Edge Lane Retail Park, the former Ian Skelly Car Showroom site and Rathbone Road Recreation Ground are among the sites incorporated in the proposals, which include a new community park.

Local businesses, residents and community groups will be



A new community park is among the Edge Lane Central proposals

consulted on the plans once the development framework is approved by LCC, which will also see improved pedestrian links as part of a phased programme of work

LCC leader Warren Bradley said: "What we are looking at is a comprehensive redevelopment and now we can embark

on a new future – and not just for people passing through the area. We will have a much improved retail offer which will act as a catalyst for regeneration in this area.

"And there will be much improved leisure facilities and green spaces for the benefit of the local community."

### HNG expands leisure team

Chartered surveyor Hargreaves Newberry Gynge (HNG) has expanded its operations by merging with London-based leisure specialist, Intrinsic Property.

The directors and staff of Intrinsic Property have joined HNG at the head office in Wigmore Street to build upon HNG's existing leisure team.

The larger leisure team will provide a range of services, including rating and valuations across the hospitality and health and fitness sectors.

## Battersea plans receive backing

By Pete Hayman

Developers behind the latest plans for a £5.5bn mixed-use redevelopment of Battersea Power Station in London have reported an increase in local support for the scheme.

Real Estate Opportunities and Treasury Holdings UK said that more than 80 per cent of visitors to a third public exhibition held in December supported architect Rafael Viñoly's masterplan for the site.

The proposals, which have already been submitted to Wandsworth Council, boast 700,000sq ft (65,032sq m) of restaurant and retail space, a



Public support for the £5.5bn proposals has increased

hotel, community facilities and a conference centre.

A riverside park, an extension to the Riverside Walk through to Battersea Park and public access to restored historic areas of the power station are also proposed.



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## Time to ask for smart presents

The government will listen – if it likes what it's hearing



**KURT JANSON** is policy director at *Tourism Alliance*

We are fast approaching the countdown for the election with every trade association and Government-funded agency worth its salt busily preparing a manifesto for what it wants the oncoming government to do for its organisation.

It's a bit like writing a Christmas letter to an unfriendly Santa – you explain how good you've been all year (for the economy/employment/social policy outcomes) and present a wish list of initiatives that you'd like Santa to reward you with. In the back of your mind, however, there's the nagging thought that Santa is as likely to nick your toys as he is to deliver new ones.

This time that worry is heightened by the knowledge that there will be very few presents for Santa to distribute. Therefore our sector needs to play smart. Only by presenting initiatives that make savings will we be listened to.

Here's an example of an initiative that provides tourism benefits while saving the government money. In overseas markets such as India and China the UK Border Agency (UKBA) has outsourced the new biometric visa processing centres. The use of these facilities could be shared with other European countries who also have biometric visas. This would reduce UKBA costs while the tourism sector would benefit as visitors to Europe would only need to present themselves once to get both a Schengen and a UK visa. If such a move only produced a 5 per cent increase in visitors, that's £150m extra in foreign revenue for the UK!

## 2009 boom for Scottish tourism

ONS figures show an increase in Scotland's share of UK visitor numbers

By **Pete Hayman**

New figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) have shown that Scotland outperformed the rest of the UK by increasing its share of overseas visitors between July and September 2009.

Compared with the same period in 2008, Scotland reported a 25 per cent increase in visitors from North America and a 43 per cent increase in visitors from countries outside Europe and North America.

As a whole, the UK posted a 6 per cent increase in visitors from North America and a 1 per cent increase from countries outside Europe and North America during the three-month period.

Scottish tourism minister Jim Mather said: "These figures underline the success of Homecoming 2009, which proved to be an exceptional year with events being heavily promoted throughout the world."



**Scottish tourism enjoyed a successful year**

"This Government and our tourism industries will continue to do all we can to attract many more visitors to Scotland throughout 2010. We and the industry are forward planning for the years ahead and looking at every opportunity to further improve our tourism product."

## New five-year plan for Liverpool city centre

By **Pete Hayman**



**Liverpool is looking to attract more visitors**

Liverpool City Council has unveiled a new five-year strategy designed to make the city centre a vibrant and desirable place to live, work and visit, while also boosting the cultural, leisure and retail offer.

The City Centre Management Strategy 2009-14 outlines three key objectives, including the creation of an infrastructure to attract inward investment, to encourage more visitors to the city centre and to develop a unique sense of identity and experience for Liverpool.

## Britons shun winter breaks for summer holidays

One in five Britons has cancelled plans for a winter holiday and are instead saving for a summer getaway.

Research by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) claims the recession has caused a shift in booking patterns and a decline in the people taking winter holidays.

From more than 2,000 people polled, a fifth more this year (2009-10 when

compared to 2008-09) are forgoing their usual winter break.

PwC leisure director David Trunkfield, said: "Skiing is perceived as a niche and luxury holiday and decision making will be affected by euro and swiss franc exchange rates."

"These winter breaks which act as a second holiday remain under pressure."





The training will be made available for hospitality companies

## Service training for London firms

People 1st launches new fully-funded training courses

By **Tom Walker**

The sector skills council, People 1st, is offering hospitality, leisure, and tourism businesses in London the opportunity to benefit from free customer service training for their staff.

Businesses within the M25 are eligible to apply for the fully-funded courses, which will run until March 2010.

The two courses – a Level 2 award for frontline staff, and a Level 3 award for line managers – will enable participants to gain a nationally recognised qualification on completion.

Chris Jefferies, People 1st's sector compact manager, said: "People 1st's research found that hospitality, leisure, and tourism businesses view customer service as one of the main skills shortage areas for their staff.

"This is a great opportunity for London businesses to provide their employees with quality training in this area at no cost to them.

"These are the only approved customer service qualifications for the hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism sector, and they have been specifically developed for these industries."

## New DC Leisure training initiative

DC Leisure has rolled out a new training element aimed at improving customer service among its fitness staff.

Working in partnership with training provider Lifetime, all members of staff completing the NVQ Level 2 in Fitness, now undertake a NVQ Level 2 in Customer Service before progressing to the Fitness NVQ Level 3.

DC Leisure's group fitness manager, Sarah Leonie, said:

"We feel that it is important for those finishing the Fitness Level 2 qualification to have the opportunity to consolidate their learning, put their new knowledge into practice and gain some experience before moving on.

"The new Customer Service element allows participants to continue learning during this time, as well as helping to develop confidence and delivery skills."

## Time to sharpen focus on skills development

Work experience placements can help the sector to 'grow' its high-quality employees

**W**ith the focus on sustainability and the environment these days, we are being encouraged to shop locally to support our local farmers and reduce air miles, grow our own vegetables and think more deeply about how we use our resources. When it comes to the workplace in this industry, growing our own is just as important! It's time to step up the focus on developing our own high quality professionals in the UK.

As a country, we have developed young people for years through our education system, but some sectors are more successful in attracting fresh home grown talent than others. One of the key factors is work experience.

Research shows that a huge number of hospitality students do not enter the sector they study for as a direct result of a negative work placement experience. This is shocking – what a waste! Many of these keen students turned up for their work placement to find employers had done no preparation or were not even expecting them. Even once some work had been arranged for them they were often left unsupported and without guidance.

Understandably, students who received this welcome from the hospitality industry were not inspired to return for more. However, there are many employers who do offer fantastic work experience programmes. They reap the rewards in terms of developing and recruiting motivated home grown talent into their business, but often these employers do not showcase their excellence as work experience providers and could attract still more talented individuals if they did so.

At Springboard, we appreciate the value of work experience that's worth doing – both for the employer and the student. That's why we developed INSPIRE as the quality standard for work experience. INSPIRE gives employers the industry standard in form of guidelines taking them through practical ways of delivering a high quality work experience. It also gives employers the INSPIRE kite mark to show that they are meeting the standards which are checked by Springboard.

INSPIRE really does work and it's here to help you as employers offer quality work experience, showcase your excellence and attract and recruit the best home grown talent – so you really can enjoy the benefits of growing your own!



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

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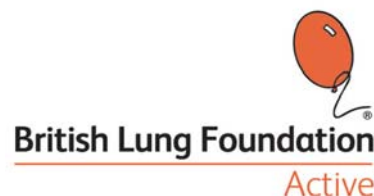
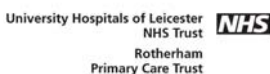
Instructors taking up a bursary will be expected to work with local Breathe Easy support groups to set up exercise classes within the community.

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Situated in the London Borough of Lewisham this centre is one of four of the prime sport and leisure facilities within the area. Ladywell is a large facility with recent substantial investment providing additional up-to-date services for local communities.

The successful candidates will take overall responsibility for the effective management and operation of their centre, particularly ensuring that high standards are set and maintained. These positions will allow you to develop your skills and reputation whilst enhancing safe and enjoyable usage of the facilities and increasing profitability, which will include responsibility for your own financial forecasts and budgets.

We believe it is essential that you possess excellent communication and client liaison skills. You will be allowed the freedom to manage and develop your staff effectively to meet the customer and operational requirements. We want you to have your own developed, dynamic and responsive team that you can be proud of. It goes without saying that flexibility and a customer service approach is a necessity. It is probable that you will hold a degree or equivalent qualification.

Health and Safety is the number one priority for Parkwood Leisure and as such previous expertise in this area would be an advantage. These sites have wet and dryside facilities and therefore relevant technical knowledge and ability would be required.

**If you believe you have the knowledge and competencies required for these positions, please apply on-line now!**

**Alternatively send a letter of application and full CV to: Sarah Moseley, Human Resources Administrator, Little Bowbrook, Walton Road, Hartlebury, Worcestershire, DY10 4JA. E-mail: [recruit@parkwood-leisure.co.uk](mailto:recruit@parkwood-leisure.co.uk)**

**Applications by: 12th February 2010**

These Centres are managed in Partnership with your Local Authority. All positions require a CRB disclosure. Parkwood Leisure is an equal opportunities employer

*Striving for Excellence*



## Recreation Development Officer

**£24,646 - £27,849**

**Ref No: MM2693**

We require an experienced Recreation Development professional to work towards projects aimed at promoting healthy active lifestyles in a range of sustainable, accessible and effective public recreation and sports facilities, activities and events.

You will have an HND/Degree (or equivalent) in a sports/recreation related subject and experience of developing facilities and services. Delivery of exercise referrals, organising physical activities and events and coordinating partnerships will be key elements of the role. Knowledge of current sport and physical activity initiatives locally, regionally and nationally will also be required.

**For an informal discussion about this post please contact Jan Hill on 01202 261346 or e-mail [jan.hill@poole.gov.uk](mailto:jan.hill@poole.gov.uk)**

**Previous applicants need not apply.**

**Closing date: 4 February 2010  
Interview date: 17 February 2010**

**For more information or to apply:  
e: [jobs@boroughofpoole.com](mailto:jobs@boroughofpoole.com)  
t: 24hr JobLine on 01202 633474/633482**

**[www.boroughofpoole.com/jobs](http://www.boroughofpoole.com/jobs)**

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Hertsmere Leisure is a 'not for profit' charitable trust, delivering leisure services in partnership with Local Councils in Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire and is seeking suitably qualified and experienced people to apply for the following positions.

## Operations / Fitness Manager

### Bletchley Leisure Centre in Milton Keynes

Responsible for the day to day management of the Operations team and Beaumonts Health Club. This key role will include amongst other things taking responsibility for health and safety, fitness and operational staff, customer retention, and equipment maintenance. A fitness instructor qualification and some previous supervisory/management experience are essential.

## Duty Managers

### William Penn Leisure Centre in Rickmansworth

### Bushey Grove Leisure Centre in Bushey

### Bletchley Leisure Centre in Milton Keynes

### Furze Field Leisure Centre in Potters Bar (Part time, job share)

As an integral part of the management team the successful applicant will be responsible for the day to day management of the building in line with our operational procedures and in compliance with Health and Safety legislation.

A RLSS NPLQ and a current First Aid at Work and Pool Plant Operators qualification are essential or the ability to gain these qualifications within six months. Previous supervisory/management experience within a leisure environment would be an advantage.

## Marketing Coordinator (16 hours per week)

### Bletchley Leisure Centre in Milton Keynes

You will be responsible for devising, delivering and developing the Centres marketing plans to ensure that both the budget and strategic objectives are achieved. You will use all types of media to promote the facilities and work in partnership with other marketing personnel throughout Hertsmere Leisure to ensure that marketing activity is effective. The ideal applicant will be imaginative and thorough, with an understanding of marketing and sales techniques. Formal qualifications in marketing are desirable. Marketing experience including the ability to proof-read and communicate in a clear and precise manner are essential.

## Contract Manager

### Bletchley Leisure Centre in Milton Keynes

Responsible for the new contract in Milton Keynes including the new £21m Bletchley Leisure Centre, five community centres and three sports pavilions. The successful candidate will be highly motivated achiever with significant experience in multi centre management, with a proven record in financial management. You will be responsible for all elements of contract management, service delivery and implementation of a strategy to enhance overall participation in an active lifestyle in Bletchley.

## Leisure Assistants

### William Penn Leisure Centre in Rickmansworth

### Bushey Grove Leisure Centre in Bushey

### Furze Field Leisure Centre in Potters Bar

Working on a rota basis, including weekends and evenings you will be involved in the setting up and taking down of equipment, lifeguarding and general cleaning duties.

National Pool Lifeguard Qualification would be an advantage however if you have the ability to swim at least 100m, full training will be given.

## Swimming Teachers

### Bushey Grove Leisure Centre in Bushey

### William Penn Leisure Centre in Rickmansworth

Working evenings and Saturdays you must hold an A.S.A Level 2 Teacher's Certificate, be flexible and able to teach all abilities from babies to adults. Hours are flexible and the start date is negotiable.

**For an application pack for any of these positions please visit our website**  
**[www.hertsmereleisure.co.uk](http://www.hertsmereleisure.co.uk),**  
**telephone Hertsmere Leisure**  
**on 01727 744 250 or email us at**  
**[recruitment@hertsmereleisure.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@hertsmereleisure.co.uk)**

**Closing Date: 16 February 2010**



Successful applicants will receive notification of an interview within 3 weeks of the closing date.

These posts are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and will be conditional upon a satisfactory disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau

Hertsmere Leisure promotes a positive attitude towards attendance at work.

Registered Charity No.: 1093653.



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1

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With an ABC audited circulation of **23,035**, Leisure Opportunities is the proven industry market leader for recruitment, meaning your job will be seen by more of the right candidates than in any other publication.



2

## Web advertising

A full listing on the Leisure Opportunities job board - [www.leisureopportunities.co.uk](http://www.leisureopportunities.co.uk) along with an email link to deliver cvs direct to your mailbox.

With more than **360,000** unique users each month, the Leisure Opportunities job board is the leisure jobseekers' favourite place to search for vacancies.

PLUS, we have relaunched [www.leisureopportunities.co.uk](http://www.leisureopportunities.co.uk) with a new look and lots of extra functionality to make it even easier for candidates to get in touch with you.



3

## E-zine advertising

Your jobs are listed on the Leisure Opportunities e-zine, which is sent out to more than **66,000** subscribers who are actively seeking employment.



4

## Bonus web and e-zine

Leisure Opportunities works across 27 different leisure markets and is linked to more than 20 industry associations and organisations. As a result, we have launched a range of market-specific job and news e-zines and we're offering all Leisure Opportunities customers the chance to select an additional e-zine listing for each vacancy.



5

## Instant jobs email

Leisure Opportunities' instant jobs service sends details of your vacancy straight to the mailbox of job seekers across the leisure industry.

6

## Leisure Opportunities' digital magazine

Visit [www.leisureopportunities.co.uk/digital](http://www.leisureopportunities.co.uk/digital) to view Leisure Opportunities in digital format. This new service has been designed to put your advertising in front of an even larger audience at no extra charge to you.

**TO ADVERTISE CALL THE LEISURE OPPORTUNITIES SALES TEAM ON**

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**[www.leisureopportunities.co.uk](http://www.leisureopportunities.co.uk)**



## Principal Physical Activity Development Officer

**£27,849 - £30,011 pa** **Ref: 3696**  
**Closing date: 5th February 2010, 12noon.**

Appointment is subject to a satisfactory enhanced disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau.

[www.bury.gov.uk/jobsandcareers](http://www.bury.gov.uk/jobsandcareers)



## Bridgend County Borough Council

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

[www.bridgend.gov.uk](http://www.bridgend.gov.uk)



### Sport & Physical Activity

## Temporary Operations Manager

(Initially for 18 months)

**£31,754 - £37,206 (Subject to Job Evaluation)**

**Ref: E/03189/BW**

The Sport and Physical Activity Service is looking for a suitably qualified and experienced person to work as an Operations Manager to manage, develop and modernise the infrastructure of the service within the context of the 'Better Health Successful Sport' Strategic Plan.

The postholder will have a relevant management degree or have significant experience in managing budgets, marketing, health and safety and IT within a large service area. They will have a proven track record of business transformation and will have a wide knowledge of issues surrounding sport and physical activity services.

This is an exiting opportunity to lead on the promotion of partnerships and joint working agenda and manage a large and diverse workforce which incorporates leisure, sports development, play and physical activity services, providing a cohesive framework to make the service sustainable for the future.

**To download an application form and job pack for the above post, or to view a list of our vacancies, please visit [www.bridgend.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.bridgend.gov.uk/jobs). Alternatively please telephone the Recruitment Team on 01656 643205 (24 hour recruitment line) quoting the appropriate reference number.**

**Closing Date: Friday 12th February 2010**

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[www.leisureopportunities.co.uk](http://www.leisureopportunities.co.uk)

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## POWER LEAGUE

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## GENERAL & ASSISTANT MANAGERS London

Powerleague is the biggest player in the five-a-side football game, with 44 sites and more than 470 pitches across the UK. As we step up our exciting branch expansion programme, we're looking for talented, commercially aware managers. The job's a mixture of pro-active selling, people management and keeping an eye on that all-important bottom line. You'll be an all-rounder with a flair for customer care in a soccer environment. Management experience within the sports/leisure sector is desirable but not essential – you'll need a positive attitude and a love for the beautiful game!

Naturally, salaries (and a performance-based bonus scheme) are competitive – relocation packages may also be available. If you think you have what it takes to join our team, post your CV to Brian Mail, Director of Operations, Powerleague, Anchor Grounds, Blackhall Street, Paisley, PA1 1TD or email it to [brian.mail@powerleague.co.uk](mailto:brian.mail@powerleague.co.uk)

**CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2010**

We're always on the look-out for ambitious managers throughout Britain, specifically in Leeds and the Midlands, and on the South Coast. Interested? Email [brian.mail@powerleague.co.uk](mailto:brian.mail@powerleague.co.uk)

[www.powerleague.co.uk](http://www.powerleague.co.uk)

## North Yorkshire Sport



### NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIPS

#### SENIOR COMPETITION MANAGER (SELBY/NORTH YORKSHIRE)

Salary: £33,661 to £36,313 Fixed term contract until 31st March 2011

We require a dynamic and committed PE/Sport professional to plan and implement a programme of inter schools competition for Ten School Sport Partnerships, using the national competition framework for young people. You will also manage four competition managers hosted across the county.

The successful candidate will have excellent communication and management skills, ability to work independently and as part of a team. By facilitating links with key strategic partners, you will ensure that the competition programme is linked to other strands of PESSYP and other relevant programmes.

**Application form and further details from Barlby High School, York Road, Barlby, Selby, North Yorkshire, YO8 5JP.**

**For an informal discussion call Andy Clay (Partnership Development Manager) 07875004573 [andy.clay@barlbyhigh.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:andy.clay@barlbyhigh.n-yorks.sch.uk)**

**Closing date: 18th February 2010**

**Interviews will be held: w/c 1st March 2010**

#### COMPETITION MANAGER (HARROGATE & CRAVEN)

Salary: £26,276 to £28,636 Fixed term contract until 31st March 2011

We are looking for a dynamic and committed PE/Sports Professional to work within the Harrogate & Craven School Sport Partnership's to develop, influence and deliver inter-school competition in line with the National Competition Framework.

The successful candidate will have a good understanding and practical knowledge of working within schools, school sport partnerships and/or community sport settings. With experience of partnership working and the ability to instigate change to improve the number and quality of competitive opportunities within school sport with links to community sport.

**Application form and further details from Harrogate High School, Ainsty Road, Harrogate, HG1 4AP. 01423 554088. For an informal discussion call Damien Smith (Partnership Development Manager) 07794390199 / [dsmith@harrogatehigh.co.uk](mailto:dsmith@harrogatehigh.co.uk)**

**Closing date: 18th February 2010**

**Interviews will be held: w/c 1st March 2010**





Our recession busting monthly fee means we are rapidly expanding The Gym across the country and we now have job opportunities for **Managers** and **Assistant Managers** in Birmingham, Brighton, City Road - London, Nottingham and Romford.

The Gym concept is completely different to any other health club offering in the UK. Providing access to health and fitness facilities, in quality surroundings 24 hours for only £14.99 a month! With no contract to sign and total online joining, we are swiftly becoming the most talked about Gym in the industry!

So if you have a good knowledge of the industry along with great interpersonal skills, are level 2/3 REPS qualified or equivalent and want to become part of this exciting expanding team then get in touch.

Check out our website [www.thegymgroup.com](http://www.thegymgroup.com) and email your application to: Kerry Kuster at [kerry@thegymgroup.com](mailto:kerry@thegymgroup.com)



[www.thegymgroup.com](http://www.thegymgroup.com)



## Training and Education Manager (iCaptain)

**Salary:** 24,000- 30,000

**Company:** European Institute of Fitness

**Location:** UK and Spain

**ROLE:** Amazing opportunity for the right person to lead the Training Team at the European Institute of Fitness into the next decade. The European Institute of Fitness offers a school of excellence for students to qualify in fitness launching successful careers as personal trainers around the world. The Training and Education manager will need to manage the delivery of training at both the residential campus in Javea (Spain) as well as at their current UK base located at Lilleshall National Sports Centre. With expanding growth into the UK the role will involve managing and supporting the continual growth of other Coaches (trainers/tutors) as well as an expanding curriculum and presence throughout the UK. Great opportunity and exciting development for the right person

**PRE-REQUISITS: Essential:** Substantial PT experience and degree in Sports Science or similar as well as a positive mindset ready and willing to go the extra mile to drive our brand, the impact of PT across the industry and the careers of our wonderful graduates forward.

**Desirable:** Teaching experience or established skills in the delivery of training, a mature professional approach to their work and a fun outgoing personality.

**APPLICATIONS:** In the first instance interested applicants should email their CV and request for our formal information pack to [imanager@eifitness.co.uk](mailto:imanager@eifitness.co.uk)

You will then be sent our information pack about the role, our brand and application form to formally apply for this position. Preliminary interviews are planned for February. **CLOSING DATE: 14 Feb 2010**



Created in April 2003, we are a non-profit organisation that delivers a diverse range of leisure and cultural services on behalf of Wigan Council. Investing in the future, our growing team manages the area's libraries, art galleries, leisure facilities and visitor attractions such as Haigh Country Park.

## Community Activity Officer (Healthy Weight programme 0-5 years)

£17,331 - £21,732 per annum, pro rata

18.5 hours per week, temporary until March 2011

Various sites across the Borough

The post involves developing and delivering physical activity sessions for children aged 0 - 5 years to include specific events, talks and tasters, education workshops and also working closely with partner agencies such as other start service providers.

The post also involves working closely with other Health and Community Professionals in the area of child development and health.

You should have a recognised Fitness qualification (NVQ level 2 or equivalent) in at least two disciplines and a specialised Exercise Related qualification in at least one discipline e.g. circuits, children's physical activity qualifications, or nutrition. **Ref No: 2010/TSHL009.**

You should have demonstrable experience of taking a wide variety of exercise classes on a regular basis and working with children and people of different ages, backgrounds, varied and complex health needs and experience of setting up exercise classes within communities.

This post is subject to satisfactory enhanced level disclosure check.

You can obtain an application form and further details online at [www.wlct.org/jobs](http://www.wlct.org/jobs) or by phone on 01942 828514 (24 hour answerphone).

Completed application forms can be submitted online or by post to HRD Unit, Wigan Leisure & Culture Trust, Indoor Sports Complex, Loire Drive, Robin Park, Wigan WN5 0UL.

Closing date: 12th February 2010 - 5pm.

Proposed Interview date: 22nd February 2010.



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## Mansfield District Council

*Creating a District where People can Succeed*

### Operations

## Health Development Officer Ref. 7197

£24,646 - £26,276 per annum (pro rata)

(subject to job evaluation) plus casual user car allowance

22.5 hours per week plus additional hours required subject to funding.

Mansfield District Council is looking to recruit a suitably qualified and committed professional who will provide a strategic lead in promoting health improvements across the district and within the council itself.

Working within Leisure and Cultural Services, the post holder will lead the council's contribution to improving community health, reducing health inequalities and addressing the growing issues of childhood and adult obesity.

Specifically, you will manage the GP Referral Scheme and the MEND programme and as such must have a GP Referral certificate and an NVQ level 3 in health/fitness/exercise.

You are required to work an additional 7.5 hours to deliver elements of the GP Referral Scheme and additional hours for the MEND programme.

This is an exciting and challenging opportunity for someone to build on the success of the health development section and take the team on to the next level.

CRB clearance is required and the post is also subject to the vetting and barring scheme

To apply online visit [www.mansfield.gov.uk](http://www.mansfield.gov.uk) or to order an application pack call 01623 463005 (24 hour answerphone). Please quote the reference number.

Closing date: 15 February 2010.

Interviews to be held week commencing 1 March 2010.

We value the diversity of our workforce and welcome applications from all sections of the community.







**Saving wetlands  
for wildlife & people**

**Centre manager  
Castle Espie, County Down  
37.5 Hours per week  
£31,796 - £33,469 pa**

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) is the largest international wetland conservation charity in the UK. Our mission is to promote, protect and develop wetlands and their wildlife. WWT operates nine visitor centres in the UK aimed at bringing people closer to wetland wildlife.

WWT is looking to make the key appointment of centre manager at Castle Espie. We are looking for an enthusiastic and committed individual to ensure its effective operation and growth in line with the Trust's policies, procedures and financial targets.

This demanding role involves a wide range of activities including the overall day to day management of the centre, selection and training of all staff, achievement of annual performance objectives and the promotion of the centre's activities.

Experience of being involved with the running and management of a commercial operation is essential and experience of working within a visitor attraction would be a distinct benefit. The ability to communicate, motivate and use IT effectively is essential, as is the need to have an empathy with our conservation work.

**A job description and application pack is available from [www.wwt.org.uk](http://www.wwt.org.uk). Alternatively you can email [recruitment@wwt.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@wwt.org.uk) or write to HR Department, WWT Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, GL2 7BT**

Closing date for applications is 8th February 2010.

First interviews will be held at Castle Espie on 16th February 2010 with second interviews taking place on 26th.

Saving wetlands for wildlife and people  
Registered Charity Number England & Wales,  
no 1030884 and Scotland, no SC039410

## Director of Marketing and Communications



*The World of Beatrix Potter Attraction is a well established award winning tourist attraction in Bowness-on-Windermere.*

We are looking for a well motivated individual who can work equally well on their own initiative or combine skills with the management team to develop and deliver efficient and effective marketing strategies for the Attraction and its associated developments including the on site shop, café and internet sales.

You will have gained experience working within tourism or an arts environment and understand the very wide ranging demands of this post, which also includes marketing an annual theatre festival.

For a full job description and application form please email: [hr@hop-skip-jump.com](mailto:hr@hop-skip-jump.com) or phone Amanda Brown on 015394 88444

Closing date 5th Feb 2010 with interviews to be held at Bowness-on-Windermere on the 18th/19th Feb 2010



## CASTLE MANAGER



**Applications are invited for the appointment of a Manager to be responsible for the opening of Glamis Castle to the general public**

The Castle Manager is responsible for all aspects of an important Scottish visitor attraction with its attendant Functions business. A proven track record in the tourism industry with a knowledge of marketing, catering, and management accounts is essential along with good communication and personal management skills.

Salary by negotiation.

**Application Form and Job Description available from The Factor, Estates Office, Glamis, Angus DD8 1RJ  
Tel. 01307 840242 or download from [www.glamis-castle.co.uk](http://www.glamis-castle.co.uk)**

Deadline for Applications – Monday 1st February 2010



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The National Trust has far more to offer than just great days out. We offer some really special holidays in our holiday cottages, all presented to the highest standards in outstanding locations. In fact, we're one of the largest holiday cottage operators in Europe with more than 360 cottages and growing fast. So, not only do people have a great time on holiday, but they can relax safe in the knowledge that they're helping us to continue our vital work.

We're now looking for two experienced managers to lead their teams and bring our over-riding vision to life: to make sure everyone who comes into contact with us has an unforgettable experience – visitors, volunteers, holidaymakers, school children, everyone.

**Head of Holidays** | c. £55k + excellent benefits  
Melksham, Wiltshire | Ref: NT10/04587

**Territory Manager – Holiday Cottages** | c. £32k + excellent benefits  
Covers Midlands and Northern England | Ref: NT09/04341

This is a genuinely exciting time to be joining us. To find out more about these unique roles, and to apply online, please visit our website. Closing date for both roles: 14 February 2010.

**[www.nationaltrustjobs.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrustjobs.org.uk)**

Committed to equal opportunities | Registered charity number 205846.

# news & jobs at [www.leisureopportunities.co.uk](http://www.leisureopportunities.co.uk)

## New £30m community sports hub for Warrington

One of the UK's first sustainable schemes of its kind will boast a sports hall and a health and fitness facility

By **Tom Walker**

Warrington Borough Council has given final planning permission for the £30m Orford Park Project.

Billed as one of the UK's first sustainable community sports hubs, the centre will be located in a Super Output Area already regarded as an example of best practice in joint service delivery, health and wellbeing.

The centre will provide a variety of community, health and education facilities including a community sports

village complete with pools, a sports hall, a health and fitness suite, football pitches, a library, a health centre, and a £3.9m 14-19 Diploma Centre.

Orford Park will be funded by the Northwest Regional Development Agency, Sport England North West Region, the Football Foundation, the Big Lottery Fund and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) through BSF. Funding for the Diploma Centre has also been allocated by DCSF through its Exemplar Diploma Initiative.



The centre will provide a variety of community sports amenities

## Historian launches Staffordshire Hoard campaign

By **Pete Hayman**

A campaign has been launched by historian Dr David Starkey to help raise £3.3m to keep the Staffordshire Hoard – the largest amount of Anglo-Saxon gold ever found in the UK – in the West Midlands.

The fundraising appeal has been launched with an initial grant of £300,000 from the Art Fund, while Birmingham City Council and Stoke-on-Trent City



The hoard was found last July

Council have both already agreed to contribute £100,000 to take the sum already raised to £500,000.

Discovered in July 2009 by metal detectorist Terry Herbert, the Staffordshire Hoard is a collection of more than 1,500 Anglo-Saxon artefacts dating back to the 7th century.

However, the Art Fund-led campaign has until 17 April to raise the £3.3m needed to save the hoard, which will be put on display at the Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery and the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery in Stoke-on-Trent.

## Lundy awarded MCZ status

The waters around Lundy Island – off the coast of Devon – have become England's first Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) under the new Marine and Coastal Access Act.

The new network of MCZs is designed to protect England's marine species and habitats, from the common to the rare and threatened.

## CONTACTS BOOK

**Arts & Business** +44 (0)20 7378 8143  
[www.aandb.org.uk](http://www.aandb.org.uk)

**ALVA** +44 (0)20 7222 1728  
[www.alva.org.uk](http://www.alva.org.uk)

**Arts Council** +44 (0)20 7333 0100  
[www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

**ASVA** +44 (0)1786 475152  
[www.asva.co.uk](http://www.asva.co.uk)

**BALPPA** +44 (0)20 7403 4455  
[www.balppa.org](http://www.balppa.org)

**BHA** +44 (0)845 880 7744  
[www.bha-online.org.uk](http://www.bha-online.org.uk)

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[www.bisl.org](http://www.bisl.org)

**CCPR** +44 (0)20 7976 3900  
[www.ccpr.org.uk](http://www.ccpr.org.uk)

**CMAE** +44 (0)1334 460 850  
[www.cmaeurope.org](http://www.cmaeurope.org)

**Countryside Agency** +44 (0)1242 521381  
[www.countryside.gov.uk](http://www.countryside.gov.uk)

**CPRE** +44 (0)20 7981 2800  
[www.cpre.org.uk](http://www.cpre.org.uk)

**English Heritage** +44 (0)870 333 1181  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

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[www.playing-fields.com](http://www.playing-fields.com)

**People 1st** +44 (0)870 060 2550  
[www.people1st.co.uk](http://www.people1st.co.uk)

**REPs** +44 (0)20 8686 6464  
[www.exerciseregister.org](http://www.exerciseregister.org)

**SAPCA** +44 (0)24 7641 6316  
[www.sapca.org.uk](http://www.sapca.org.uk)

**Sports Aid** +44 (0)20 7273 1975  
[www.sportsaid.org.uk](http://www.sportsaid.org.uk)

**Sport England** +44 (0)8458 508 508  
[www.sportengland.org](http://www.sportengland.org)

**Springboard** +44 (0)20 7497 8654  
[www.springboarduk.org.uk](http://www.springboarduk.org.uk)

**SkillsActive** +44 (0)20 7632 2000  
[www.skillsactive.com](http://www.skillsactive.com)

**Tourism Management Institute**  
+44 (0)1926 641506  
[www.tmi.org.uk](http://www.tmi.org.uk)

**Tourism Society** +44 (0)20 8661 4636  
[www.tourismsociety.org](http://www.tourismsociety.org)

**VisitBritain** +44 (0)20 8563 3000  
[www.visitbritain.com](http://www.visitbritain.com)

**World Leisure** +1 250 497 6578  
[www.worldleisure.org](http://www.worldleisure.org)