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Thinkwell to design Potter studio

TOM WALKER

US-based exhibition design company Thinkwell has been appointed to design the Harry Potter visitor attraction at Leavesden Studios, UK.

Although exact details of the attraction are to be revealed, Thinkwell said the site will give the general public the ability to tour several of the original Harry Potter film sets.

The studios, near Watford, Hertfordshire, were acquired by Warner Bros in November last year (2010).

Shortly after, the US-based film giant said that it would spend more than £100m (US\$160m, €116m) in developing the 170-acre site, which it has used to produce all eight *Harry Potter* films as well as other hits films such as *The Dark Knight* and *Inception*. The group has secured permission



Parts of the new studios will be operated as a visitor attraction

for its development plans from the Three Rivers District Council. It is expected that Warner Bros. Studios, Leavesden and its attractions will open in mid 2012.



IMAGE: BRITAIN ON VIEW

Regent's Park – one of the city's eight Royal Parks

Penrose calls for 'directly accountable' Royal Parks

PETE HAYMAN

Tourism and heritage minister John Penrose has announced plans to transfer responsibility for London's eight Royal Parks to mayor Boris Johnson.

The parks – including Regent's Park, Kensington Gardens and St James' Park – are currently managed by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

However, Penrose said that the proposals would ensure “full democratic accountability” to Londoners and would help establish links with other London-wide issues.

Gym location a 'pressing concern'

PETE HAYMAN

New research by YouGov SixthSense has found that location is the “most pressing” issue affecting consumers when choosing a gym.

More than two-thirds of participants to the *YouGov SixthSense Healthclubs survey* said that the proximity of a health club to home was the main factor that influenced their choice. Nearly one-fifth of UK gym goers said that a location close to the workplace was important, while 64 per cent said that “reasonable price” was also a significant factor.

£5m for Dundee museum scheme

PETE HAYMAN

The Scottish Government has revealed that it will invest nearly £5m in the V&A at Dundee development over the next two years.

Japan-based architect Kengo Kuma is behind the design of the new attraction, which is to be developed at Craig Harbour as part of a wider regeneration of the city's waterfront.

The funding will now allow the project partners – Dundee City Council; the Universities of Dundee and Abertay Dundee; and the V&A – to start fundraising towards the full cost.

Fiona Hyslop, culture minister at the Scottish Parliament, said: “The V&A at Dundee will be great for the city, as well as benefitting the



Kengo Kuma won a design contest for the project

whole of Scotland, acting as a magnet for visitors from all over the world.

“The V&A at Dundee presents quite an opportunity to grow Dundee's reputation as a centre for the creative industries sector.”

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The Leisure Media Company
Portmill House, Portmill Lane,
Hitchin, Herts SG5 1DJ, UK
Tel: +44 (0)1462 431385
Fax: +44 (0)1462 433909
e-mail: please use contacts'
fullname@leisuremedia.com

Subscriptions

01462 431385
subs@leisuremedia.com

Editor

Liz Terry 01462 431385

Managing Editor

Tom Walker 01462 471934

Journalists

Pete Hayman 01462 471938

Martin Nash 01462 471933

Design

Ed Gallagher 01905 20198

Internet

Dean Fox 01462 471900

Tim Nash 01462 471917

Sales Team Manager

Annie Lovell 01462 471901

Account Managers

Recruitment, training, tenders

Paul Thorman 01462 471904

Simon Hinksman 01462 471905

Emma Matthews 01462 471907

Sarah Gibbs 01462 471908

Property desk

Simon Hinksman 01462 471905

Spa Opportunities

Emma Matthews 01462 471907

Financial Controller

Sue Davis 01395 519398

Financial Administrator

Denise Gildea 01462 471930

Circulation Manager

Michael Emmerson 01462 471932

Subscribe to Leisure Opportunities,

Online: www.leisuresubs.com

Email: subs@leisuremedia.com

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SPORT

CPFC unveils new stadium plans

PETE HAYMAN

Crystal Palace Football Club (CPFC) has unveiled plans to transform the National Sports Centre (NSC) as part of a major new stadium development to be located at Crystal Palace Park, London.

The npower Championship club – in partnership with CB Richard Ellis and AFL Architects – is looking to move back to its original home with a new 40,000-seat venue.

A new indoor aquatic centre; a reconfigured indoor complex for the NSC; and a community athletics facility are also proposed as part of the development.

CPFC said that the aquatic facility would remove a need for the swimming pool to remain as part of the listed NSC structure and help reduce its running costs. The scheme would also enable the current space to be



Plans include retaining an athletics facility within Crystal Palace

redeployed to cater for a wider range of community and elite athletic sports.

CPFC co-chair Steve Parish said: "We believe a stadium at Crystal Palace park can help create a bright new future for the club as well as helping it to breathe new life into both the sports centre and the park."

Council plans Cheshunt leisure investment

PETE HAYMAN

Grundy Park Leisure Centre in Cheshunt is to benefit from up to £2.5m of investment under Broxbourne Borough Council plans.

The local authority said that it was proposing "large-scale investment" at leisure facilities

such as Grundy Park, rather than look to reopen Hoddesdon's open air pool.

Hoddesdon Open Air Pool shut in 2008 and councillors have decided that the expenditure required needed to bring the facility up to a "reasonable" standard was not justified.

Godalming leisure centre plans submitted

PETE HAYMAN

Waverley Borough Council (WBC) has received a planning application for a new leisure centre in Godalming.

The proposed facility would be located next to Godalming Lawn Tennis Club and feature a 25m swimming pool as well as a learner pool.

A 60-station fitness suite, a dance studio and a café are also included in the design.

ISG has been appointed to deliver the £6m facility, which has been designed by Pozzoni and aims to rival privately operated health clubs.

WBC is likely to decide the fate of the plans in March, with members of the public able to comment until 11 February. The construction phase is expected to take 18 months.



The leisure centre will boast a 25m swimming pool and a 60-station gym

WBC's Roger Steel said: "Building a new leisure centre in Godalming is a top priority for Waverley and receiving the planning application is another major milestone reached."

Water Polo Arena firms revealed

PETE HAYMAN

Work on the 5,000-seat Water Polo Arena at London's Olympic Park has now started after the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) named the contractors for the scheme.

Silvertown-based ES Group will construct the main structure of the venue, while A&T/Barr and Wray of Glasgow will install the temporary swimming pools. Jackson Civil Engineering Group; Byrne Group; Alto Seating Systems; and Balfour Beatty Engineering Services are also working on the scheme.

A design team – headed by David Morley Architects and including Buro Happold and Max Fordham – has drawn up plans for the wedge-shaped arena, which will feature an inflatable roof and include a 37m-long competition pool and a 33m-long warm-up pool.



The ODA has revealed which firms will build the 2012 water polo arena

The venue will be used to host the men's and women's Olympic water polo competitions.

ODA project sponsor for the Water Polo Arena Ian Crockford said: "The venue will join the Aquatics Centre to form a dramatic and action-packed gateway to the Olympic Park when spectators arrive in 2012."

Work starts on UEA Soccerpark extension

PETE HAYMAN

Construction work is now underway on a £400,000 expansion of the Soccerpark venue at the University of East Anglia's (UEA) Sportspark.

Three new seven-a-side football pitches are to be constructed as part of the development, which is to be delivered by contractor Bernhards and scheduled to be completed by February.

The 48m x 24m pitches will be fitted with a 3G synthetic surface and will complement the four existing five-a-side 3G and six seven-a-side AstroTurf pitches at Soccerpark.

Sportspark director Keith Nicholls said: "We already have more small-sided soccer pitches than anywhere else in East Anglia."



Three new seven-a-side football pitches are to be created at Soccerpark

"After this extension, we will have 13 pitches for the public to hire. The larger sized 3G pitches will give our customers even more choice when it comes to size and surface."

Maidstone United in stadium funding appeal

PETE HAYMAN

Maidstone United Football Club (MUFC) has launched a campaign to raise funds towards a new £1.6m stadium at James Whatman Way.

The Ryman League Premier Division club is planning to fund the development using

capital from its new owners (£250,000) and the Football Foundation (£150,000).

MUFC anticipates that it will source the remaining £1.2m from new investors buying shares in the club, with the closing date for the campaign at the end of April.

New Indoor tennis centre opens in North Tyneside

PETE HAYMAN

Tennis@ Churchill – a new indoor tennis facility – has been officially launched at Churchill Community College in Wallsend, North Tyneside.

Funded by the college, the Lawn Tennis Association and the government, it is hoped that the new facility will help encourage more people to take up the sport.

The all-weather centre incorporates four courts and will be available to students, local clubs and the local community, catering for all ages and abilities.



FaulknerBrowns drew up plans for the new venue

£100,000 boost for Aberdeen aquatic centre

PETE HAYMAN

First Group is to provide £100,000 towards the cost of Aberdeen's new aquatic centre.

A 50m swimming pool will be at the centre of the FaulknerBrowns Architects-designed development, which will form the second phase of Aberdeen Sports Village.

Aberdeen City Council approved the development in October, which will see the former Linkfield Academy demolished.

Facilities will include a 25m x 16.5m diving pool with adjustable floor; a full-timing/video analysis lab and a health suite.

Rodney Parade stadium scheme moves forward

PETE HAYMAN

Newport Gwent Dragons has announced that work is to commence on the next stage of a multi-million pound renovation of the Rodney Parade stadium in Newport.

Work will include a new East Stand at the venue, which is set to boast seating for more than 2,000 supporters and 13 corporate boxes. The development is scheduled for completion in August.

Port Talbot-based Andrew Scott is leading the latest phase of the scheme, with HLN Architects acting as project architect.

Wiltshire Council in pledge to reopen fire-hit complex

PETE HAYMAN

Wiltshire Council has said that it is working with operator DC Leisure to reopen the fire-damaged Lime Kiln Leisure Centre in Wootton Bassett "as soon as possible".

The council revealed that damage caused by December's blaze was centred on the health suite, the swimming changing rooms and the main corridor.

Lime Kiln's swimming pool plant room has also suffered structural and roof damage, while the swimming pool hall itself has experienced "heavy" smoke pollution.



The renovation has taken 20 months to complete

Surrey leisure centre reopens after revamp

PETE HAYMAN

Mole Valley District Council has unveiled the new-look Leatherhead Leisure Centre following the completion of a 20-month refurbishment.

An open weekend took place on 15-16 January to enable local residents to explore the facilities at the revamped venue, which was designed by A+G Architects.

Volker Fitzpatrick carried out the improvements, which included the creation of a new 439sq m (4,725sq ft) fitness suite and aerobics studio.

New leisure centre for Houldsworth Village

TOM WALKER

Stockport Sports Trust – working in partnership with Stockport Council – has launched a new fitness facility at Houldsworth Village in Reddish.

Target Fitness+ Houldsworth Village houses a fitness suite, a dedicated spinning studio, large aerobics studio and four five-a-side indoor football pitches, the first football facility of its kind in Stockport.

The centre is the first new facility that Stockport Sports Trust has launched since its inception in 2002.

Abbeycroft to open budget gym

TOM WALKER

Suffolk-based Abbeycroft Leisure has become the latest UK-based leisure trust to announce that it will launch a budget gym concept.

The non-profit group is to open The Gym Ipswich on 24 January in the former St Matthews Baths in Civic Drive after a major refurbishment of the building.

The club will boast a 100-station gym equipped by Matrix and offer memberships starting at £12.99 per month with no joining fee.

Abbeycroft chief executive Warren Smyth said: "The more affordable fitness is, the more people will start taking exercise and that can only be a good thing for the UK, where 62 per cent are already obese or overweight."

Abbeycroft currently manages both Haverhill and Bury St Edmunds Leisure



The trust's first budget site is scheduled to launch in Ipswich by summer

Centres in Suffolk as part of a partnership with St Edmundsbury Borough Council.

In November 2010 Kirklees Active Leisure, which operates community leisure services in West Yorkshire, announced it was to launch two budget gyms in the Huddersfield and Dewsbury areas.

SLM announces 2011 investment plans

TOM WALKER

A number of leisure facilities run by Sports and Leisure Management (SLM) on behalf of local authorities are to benefit from improvements as part of its redevelopment programme for 2011.

The operator, which is also set to open the £38m Basildon Sporting Village in April, will invest more than £2m in existing centres during 2011.

A £500,000 upgrade is planned for Stratford Leisure and Visitor Centre, which is to see the installation of new

resistance equipment; dance mats and a sports wall supplied by Zig Zag; indoor bikes from Keisure and Trixter; and a Power Plate suite.

Elsewhere, two Poole facilities – Dolphin leisure centre and Ashdown leisure centre



The investment includes improving existing facilities at leisure centres

– will receive £250,000 and £347,000 worth of improvements respectively, while the single largest investment by SLM is planned for Loughton Leisure Centre in Essex, which will see its existing gym increased in size.

Swimming referral scheme launches in Suffolk

TOM WALKER

Swimming On Referral – an initiative allowing people with health issues to gain free swimming sessions – has launched in Suffolk.

The scheme, operated by Anglia Community Leisure, will be offered at at Newmarket and

Mildenhall leisure centres and will see people who would benefit from being more active being prescribed free sessions on referral.

Sessions include a one-to-one assessment, after which participants will receive a specifically prescribed aquatic programme.

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GLL secures 15-year deal to operate Merton facilities

PETE HAYMAN

Leisure trust GLL has secured a 15-year deal to run three facilities on behalf of Merton Council, following a re-tender process.

The agreement will see the operator continue to run Canons Leisure Centre, Wimbledon Leisure Centre and Morden Park Pools, while implementing a £3.5m investment programme.

Areas earmarked for improvement include Wimbledon Leisure Centre, which will benefit from an upgraded health and fitness area, and Canons Leisure Centre.



The move could create the UK's largest gym chain

Sporta members to create national chain of gyms

TOM WALKER

Members of the Sports and Recreation Trust Association (sporta) are finalising plans to create a nationwide chain of leisure centres and fitness suites.

The move, which can be seen as an expansion of the current UK Fitness Network (UKFN), could result in linking more than 900 centres across the country – making it the largest gym chain in the UK.

UKFN currently includes 14 leisure trusts, which gives the public access to nearly 130 leisure centre gyms.

New trust to operate Doncaster leisure facilities

PETE HAYMAN

Doncaster Culture and Leisure Trust (DCLT) is to run a number of leisure facilities on behalf of the local authority.

The trust, which operates Doncaster Dome, is set to be further developed after Doncaster Council's cabinet agreed that it would offer the best way forward.

Adwick; Armthorpe; Edlington; Rossington; St James Pool and Health Club; and Thorne will be taken over by DCLT on 1 April, along with Hatfield Water Park and Crookhill Golf Club.

Three new locations for The Gym

PETE HAYMAN

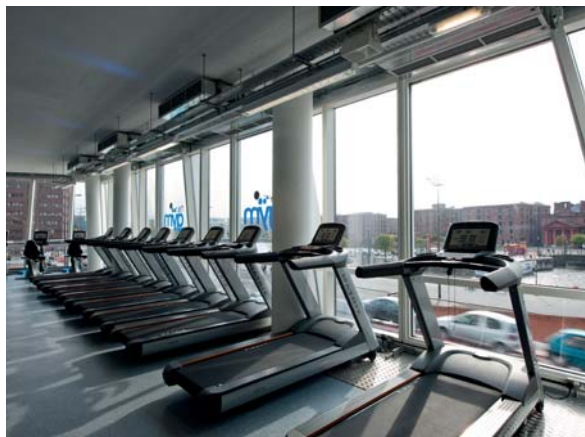
Property agent Cushman and Wakefield (CW) has acquired three new locations for low-cost chain The Gym.

In December, the health club operator confirmed its plans to add up to 20 new sites to its portfolio during 2011 after securing a multi-million pound funding package.

The three latest locations that have been secured by CW on behalf of The Gym include a 20,000sq ft (1,858sq m) site in Leeds and a 16,500sq ft (1,533sq m) Bristol property.

A 17,500sq ft (1,626sq m) location in Kingston-upon-Thames will also be incorporated into The Gym's expanding UK portfolio of low-cost health clubs.

CW senior surveyor Thomas Rose said: "These three illustrate the demand for affordable gym membership across the UK. The



The Gym is eyeing up a major expansion of its portfolio across the UK

prime locations we have secured highlight the quality of The Gym's offer and appeal to major landlords such as Hammerson and LaSalle.

"The Gym is the leading operator in the sector and it is continuing its aggressive expansion having secured £30m of funding to acquire at least 20 new sites in 2011."

Tone to roll out ladies-only concept

PETE HAYMAN

Leisure trust Tone is to roll out its Feel Good Factory concept at its managed centres following a successful 10-month pilot period.

Currently based at Tone's Blackbrook Pavilion centre in Taunton, Somerset, Feel

Good Factory is a ladies-only power assisted fitness and inch loss centre.

It has its own entrance and reception, which separates it from the main facility, and is targeted at females who are overweight and/or have limited mobility.

New £450,000 gym for Brighton facility

PETE HAYMAN

Brighton and Hove City Council (BHCC) is to unveil a new £450,000 fitness facility at the King Alfred Leisure Centre in Hove, East Sussex.

Due to open on 24 January, the gym features more than 40 stations of cv and resistance machines, which have been supplied by Life Fitness.

A former café has been transformed as part of the scheme, while a spinning studio is located next to the gym area and contains 12 Star Trac spinning cycles.

Meanwhile, both male and female changing areas have been revamped, along with the toilets and showers. New air conditioning and audio-visual systems have also been installed.



Life Fitness has supplied equipment at King Alfred's new fitness suite

BHCC cabinet councillor for recreation David Smith said: "We promised to improve the King Alfred in the current building and this is what we're delivering."

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ATTRACTIONS & MUSEUMS

Maryport museum to reopen 'by Easter'

PETE HAYMAN

Allerdale Borough Council (ABC) has revealed that Maryport Maritime Museum will reopen by Easter after handing over the attraction to a local community group.

The Maritime Heritage Group has been awarded a licence from the local authority that will enable it to maintain the museum and its collection of maritime exhibits.

ABC staff will provide assistance with the day-to-day running of the museum, while public funding is also being made available through a grant to the enthusiasts.



HLF cash will help improve visitor interpretation

Llyn Peninsula awarded HLF landscape funding

PETE HAYMAN

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has announced that the Llyn Peninsula has been awarded more than £706,000 through its Landscape Partnership (LPS) scheme.

Gwynedd Council is leading the LPS, which comprises a number of other local groups and includes a range of schemes to promote the area's economy and culture.

Work includes the conservation and restoration of 330 hectares (815 acres) of wildlife habitats and improvements to interpretation for visitors to the peninsula.

Funding boost for National Botanic Garden of Wales

PETE HAYMAN

A new interactive green technology trail is to be developed at the National Botanic Garden of Wales, Carmarthenshire.

The Welsh Assembly Government has provided funding, with a £28,500 grant – awarded through the National Science Academy – to help finance the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Sustainable Futures Technology Trail.

A further £42,000 award will enable the attraction to host an exhibition looking at the role of fungi in the health of people.

HLF gives Thinktank £900,000

PETE HAYMAN

Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum has secured £900,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) towards its new Made In Birmingham exhibition gallery.

The grant will help the attraction exhibit around 1,200 objects in five new themed displays – Orientation; Nuts and Bolts; Tins and Things; Treasure; and Gadgets. It is to open in December 2012.

Developed in consultation with museum visitors, Made In Birmingham will help to provide a new education facility for everyone from pre-school to adult learners.

Anne Jenkins, head of the HLF for the West Midlands, said: "When complete it will expose the fascinating tale of Birmingham's manufacturing heritage as the 'workshop of the world'; and show how innovations in materials and



Five themed displays will help explore Birmingham's industrial heritage

manufacturing from the past are paralleled in industrial developments today."

Birmingham City Council's Len Clark, chair of the Thinktank Trust, added: "Birmingham has a rich and diverse heritage of manufacturing, and it's fantastic that we are able to better showcase this to our visitors."

2011 Kids In Museums Manifesto launched

PETE HAYMAN

Museums need to be noisy to encourage new ideas and debate, according to the 2011 Kids In Museums Manifesto.

Independent charity Kids In Museums is behind the document, which was launched at London Transport Museum, contains 20 measures that attractions should adopt in order to ensure they are family friendly, including making the most of their 'wow factor'.

The manifesto sees museums being encouraged to welcome each visitor; to offer flexible family tickets; and to be "height and language aware". Attractions should also be at the heart of developing 'conversations' between different generations of family members, as well as offering more interactive features.



Culture minister Ed Vaizey helps to launch the charity's 2011 manifesto

Kids In Museums director Dea Birkett said: "Visitors have let us know what they want from a museum visit. And they've said they don't want to go with one, but with many generations of their family."

Knowsley zoo responds to animal disposal claims

PETE HAYMAN

Knowsley Safari Park has said that it has 'swiftly addressed' issues following allegations in relation to its treatment of deceased animals.

Photos taken by a former employee, which were published in *The Sun* on 10 January,

appeared to show animal carcasses that had not been properly disposed of.

Concerns were also raised regarding fire-arms procedures at Knowsley Safari Park; issues that the Lord Derby-owned attraction insisted "had been addressed".

Newcastle theatre firm selected

PETE HAYMAN

Newcastle-based Surgo Construction has been appointed to deliver a £4.75m restoration of the city's Theatre Royal ahead of its 175th anniversary in 2012.

Work will be undertaken between March and September in order to restore the auditorium to Frank Matcham's original 1901 design.

The scheme will also include selective demolition of post-Matcham interior features; repairs to the roof; and the restoration of screens, partitions and barriers.

Surgo Construction will also manage the Theatre Royal's interior finishings, as well as the installation of new seating and the refurbishment of toilet facilities.

Theatre Royal chief executive Philip Bernays said: "The success of this project is of critical



Bernays (centre left) says the work is 'critical' to the region and beyond

importance not only to us, but also to the theatre-going public in the region and beyond."

Surgo will work with architects Sansome Hall; theatre consultants Charcoalblue and conservation expert Dr David Wilmore of Theatresearch. The Theatre Royal will reopen its new auditorium on 12 September.

New 3D cinema facilities for St Albans venue

PETE HAYMAN

Digital and 3D cinema facilities will be installed at The Maltings Arts Theatre in St Albans as part of a major overhaul of the venue.

St Albans City and District Council (SACDC) subsidises the venue at a rate of

£100,000-£150,000 each year and hopes the revamp will safeguard the theatre's future.

The addition of digital cinema facilities could help The Maltings Arts Theatre to become a self-financing venue, with 3D cinema projection also set to enhance its offer.

Fourth Plinth commissions announced

PETE HAYMAN

London mayor Boris Johnson has revealed that works by Elmgreen and Dragset and Katharina Fritsch have been chosen to occupy Trafalgar Square's Fourth Plinth.

Elmgreen and Dragset's *Powerless Structures, Fig.101* will take up residence in 2012, replacing Yinka Shonibare's *Nelson's Ship in a Bottle*. Katharina Fritsch's *Hahn/Cock* is to be unveiled in 2013. Both were among a shortlist of six works for the Fourth Plinth.

Johnson said: "All of the shortlisted artists show what an extraordinary crucible the Fourth Plinth is for contemporary art. It continues to spark the imagination and there has been a tremendous response from the public."



Elmgreen and Dragset's proposal will occupy the Fourth Plinth in 2012

Fourth Plinth Commissioning Group chair Ekow Eshun added: "Both have created imaginative and arresting artworks that fully respond to the uniqueness of their location."

County Council to cease Fishguard theatre support

PETE HAYMAN

Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) is to cease operation of Fishguard's Theatr Gwaun on 31 March after deciding the venue was no longer sustainable.

According to a report put before PCC's cabinet, this financial year has seen the cinema and theatre complex attract an average of 42 customers per performance.

The figure is well below Theatr Gwaun's 186-seat capacity and the council said that losses of £82,203 in 2009-10 mean that it cannot sustain the venue's operation.



AStudio Architecture is behind TOKKO's design

Government funding for Luton youth centre plans

PETE HAYMAN

Plans for a new £4.7m youth centre in Luton, Bedfordshire, are to move forward after the government confirmed capital funding towards the scheme.

TOKKO – designed by Max Rengifo of AStudio Architecture – will feature a climbing wall; performance spaces; a games and IT area; and multi-use studios.

Training and counselling rooms; a rooftop zen garden and a beauty and fashion studio are also proposed, along with a café that will be open to the public.

US to play host to major Irish arts programme

PETE HAYMAN

More than 40 US states are to host a major arts programme – Imagine Ireland – being organised by Culture Ireland.

The Irish government is investing EUR4m (£3.4m, US\$5.4m) in the project, which will see more than 1,000 artists and producers create in excess of 400 events.

Irish culture minister Mary Hanafin said: "We have invested in Imagine Ireland because the arts and culture are so vital to Ireland's recovery and it will bring Irish culture to new audiences and generations."

Inbound tourism entering a period of great opportunities



PHILIPPE ROSSITER
is chief executive of
Institute of Hospitality

According to the CBI's recent London Business survey, 84 per cent of companies in the capital regard it as a good place to do business. Yet it is not all rosy, for within the survey findings, there is also evidence of some of the perennial 'gripes' from London-based enterprises; high operating costs, the tax environment and the transport infrastructure. In addition, the survey was conducted after the government's June 2010 budget, and before the spending review announcement. There is, therefore, an element of uncertainty within the survey findings, with 45 per cent of respondents undecided about the economic recovery.

In keeping with the outcome of this 'satisfaction survey', it is interesting to note how well the London hospitality industry has fared over the past twelve months. Hoteliers in London have had some exceptional results, with more than 12 per cent revPAR growth, and the highest occupancy in Europe at some 83 per cent.

Whether this trend will continue for 2011 is not clear, although the industry remains optimistic. The Royal Wedding, the Champions League final and the accelerating build up to the Olympics will all create the conditions for increased visitor arrivals, both business and leisure. Nevertheless, these positives have to be set against a more challenging domestic economic environment, with the impact of the government's austerity measures beginning to hit home.

Add to this the relative appreciation of sterling against both the euro and the dollar, coupled with the VAT increase, and there is every chance that the UK, and London in particular, will become more expensive for overseas travellers.

There is, however, room for optimism, with a report from VisitBritain revealing that 83 per cent of holidaymakers in London rated dining out as their top experience, with 49 per cent enjoying the attractions of its pubs. All told, the capital attracted more than 14 million visitors, spending in excess of £8bn. At a time of general economic gloom this is a positive message from which we can all glean some good cheer.

HOTELS

Travelodge eyes up expansion

PETE HAYMAN

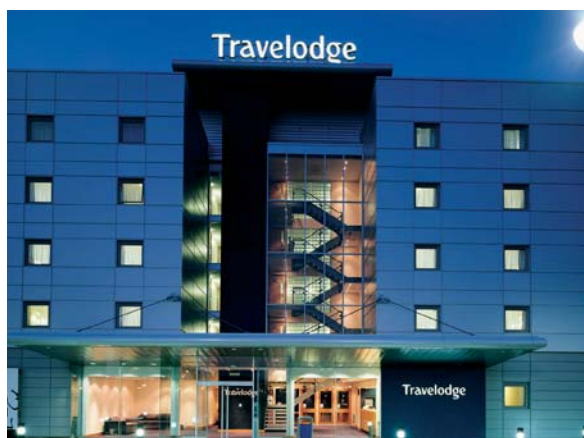
Travelodge has announced plans to build 35 new hotels this year – in the UK and in Spain – as part of a £300m investment in its estate.

The move will increase the budget hotel operator's portfolio to 495 hotels and comes as the group increased its growth targets to have 1,100 properties by 2025.

More than half of the new-build Travelodge hotels to open this year are being built in major UK cities, including Birmingham; Cardiff; Liverpool; and Manchester.

Five of the properties will be developed in coastal locations such as Morecambe and Paignton, while a new Travelodge is also planned for Valencia Airport, Spain.

Travelodge's chief executive, Guy Parsons, said: "We have successfully acquired superior



Sahara India Pariwar plans to joint run the property with JW Marriott

sites due to lower market property prices, which otherwise would not have been available for hotel use.

"We have demonstrated our commitment to expand and have a clear growth plan laid out which means we will reach more than 1,100 hotels and 100,000 rooms by 2025."

'Key events' to benefit London hotel operators

PETE HAYMAN

April's Royal Wedding and the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games present a 'fantastic opportunity' for London hoteliers.

According to HVS London, hotels are now able to charge full room rates and demand

minimum stays, with properties already fully booked for the wedding of Prince William.

HVS London is predicting that the capital's hoteliers could benefit from "boom years" as a result of the events, as well as other major UK cities such as Edinburgh and Manchester.

Westfield Stratford City deal confirmed

PETE HAYMAN

Cycas Hotel Partners and Patron Capital have secured the long-term leasehold rights for two hotels which are being built at London's Westfield Stratford City development.

Due to open ahead of the 2012 Games, the deal encompasses 350 rooms and suites and include a Holiday Inn and a Staybridge Suites property.

Cycas Hospitality will run the hotels in a franchise agreement with Intercontinental Hotels Group. Westfield will lead the construction phase.

John Wagner, director at Cycas Hotel Partners, said: "The new Holiday Inn and Staybridge Suites at Westfield Stratford City will be situated in one of London's most important new developments."



London's Westfield Stratford City is to boast a 188-bedroom Holiday Inn

Patron Capital director of hospitality Josh Wyatt added: "The project represents a prime opportunity to own and operate a large scale hotel scheme in London."

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Inbound tourism entering a period of great opportunities



KURT JANSON
is policy director of
Tourism Alliance

Although both inbound and domestic tourism numbers for 2010 showed a slight fall, there is a place where tourism is continuing to rise – the government agenda.

When the coalition programme was launched in May 2010, many commentators were surprised to see a specific undertaking to “take steps to improve the competitiveness of the UK tourism industry, recognising the important part it plays in our national economy”. This new-found interest was reinforced by the Prime Minister’s speech on the importance of tourism to the UK economy in August and the subsequent undertaking to produce a National Tourism Strategy.

The latest step up the government agenda for the tourism industry came in the Prime Minister’s speech on 6 January, where he unveiled plans to target support into industries that the government considers best able to provide the growth and job opportunities required to rebuild the economy. To use the PM’s own words, “Getting behind tourism, green energy, pharmaceuticals, advanced manufacturing, aerospace, the industries of the future – all this is crucial.”

To have tourism identified as being one of the five industries of the future is a step-change from the previous position of having to convince government that tourism was a legitimate sector to be recognised in the development of policy. However, there is a long way to go before we consider it “job done”. What the sector needs to do now is offer the government measures that it can take – within budget restraints – to provide economic growth and employment.

The Tourism Alliance is developing a menu of opportunities to help stimulate visitor numbers. A large part of this will be reducing the level of regulatory burden affecting businesses and the tourism minister has recently agreed to ‘develop a problem’ in consultation with the industry to achieve this. There are also efficiencies that can be achieved within existing procedures, such as visa processing, which will boost growth.

This will help focus government efforts to where they will provide the greatest return for both businesses and for UK plc.

TOURISM

Saatchi appointed by VisitBritain

TOM WALKER

Advertising agency M&C Saatchi has been appointed to work on VisitBritain’s new You’re Invited global marketing campaign.

The agency has been tasked with creating a campaign aimed at boosting tourism around the forthcoming Royal Wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton, the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations and the 2012 London Olympic Games.

The agency will work ‘pro bono’ for the five-month period between January and May 2011, when the campaign is due to be launched to consumers.

The theme will be extending a message of welcome and inviting the world to visit Britain in the run up to, during and beyond 2012. The company is lead by brothers Maurice and



Saatchi’s campaign will promote events such as the Royal Wedding

Charles Saatchi, famous for iconic marketing such as the 1979 “Labour isn’t Working” campaign for the Conservative Party in 1979 – resulting in a landslide election victory for then opposition leader Margaret Thatcher.

Welsh tourism figures beat expectations

PETE HAYMAN

Welsh tourism performed better than expected between January and September last year, according to the latest UK Tourism Survey.

The study found that UK residents made nearly 7.3 million visits to Wales that involved

an overnight stay, down one per cent on the previous year.

Meanwhile, the total number of nights spent in Wales by domestic residents increased by one per cent to nearly 28.9 million. Visitors to Wales spent £1.237m, up three per cent.

Mayor: New London hub ‘vital for growth’

PETE HAYMAN

London mayor Boris Johnson has called on the government to create a new hub airport in south east England in order to help encourage future UK economic growth.

A new report overseen by Transport for London deputy chair Daniel Moylan has claimed that jobs would go to other European countries if UK capacity is not increased.

Johnson has now urged the government to review its aviation policy and has received the backing of a number of business leaders from the services and aviation sectors.

“The capital’s airports are full, our runways are rammed and we risk losing jobs should we fail to act,” said Johnson.



Boris Johnson has called for a new hub airport to help drive UK growth

“We need to start planning for a brand new airport that can help meet the ever increasing demand for aviation and act as a hub, particularly to the rest of the UK.”

Advertisement for the tender of Culture and Leisure Services



The Council is inviting expressions of interest from suitable competent operators for the management of all of the following culture and leisure facilities and services within the District of Cannock Chase.

- Rugeley Leisure Centre
- Chase Leisure Centre
- Cannock Park Golf Course
- The Museum of Cannock Chase
- The Prince of Wales Theatre
- Community Wellbeing Services, (Arts, Sports and Play)
- Business Development and Support Services, (as appropriate in support of the above services)

Looking to the future, the Council wishes to enter into a long term partnership with one or more partners for the management of its Cultural and Leisure services for up to 20 years. The partner(s) will have a strong track record in the management of these services and facilities and be able to bring innovation, improvement and increase levels of participation throughout the District. In addition to the services and facilities listed above the scope of this procurement includes all of the integral support services required to deliver and develop effective services.

Working in partnership the core outcomes will be to:

- Increase participation in sports and physical activity
- Increase participation and attendance in cultural activities
- Increase value for money by delivering minimum target savings of £540k per year, (in a full year)

Please note that the Culture and Leisure Services to which this procurement exercise relates fall within Part B of Schedule 3 to the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 ("the regulations") and Annex IIB to council directive 2004/18/EC. Whilst the Service requirement has been advertised via the OJEU neither the placement of this advertisement [or contract notice] or any other indication shall be taken to mean that the Council intend to hold themselves bound by any of the regulations save those applicable to Part B Residual Services. Please note the Council will not be liable for any costs incurred by Applicants in the preparation of their pre-qualification submissions, tender documents or any other submissions related to this procurement exercise. The contract term will be for a minimum of Ten (10) years with the option to extend for Two, (2) periods of Five (5) years.

It is the Council's intention to comply with the Code of Workforce Practice in order to protect the employment terms and conditions of existing employees transferred to successful operator(s).

Expressions of interest should be made via e-mail to the following address strategicprojects@cannockchasedc.gov.uk for the attention of Tony McGovern, Corporate Director and a Pre-Qualification Pack will be sent out to interested operators.

The deadline for the completion and submission of the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire is Midday Friday March 4 2011.



TENDER FOR LEISURE FITNESS EQUIPMENT WORTHING LEISURE CENTRE

Worthing Leisure Services are looking to enhance and replace the fitness equipment within the Lotus Suite and Spinning Studio at Worthing Leisure Centre.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified providers wishing to be considered for inclusion on a select list of tenderers for the provision of fitness equipment. The anticipated value of the equipment is between £100-140,000k, bidders must be able to offer both lease and outright purchase options.

To be considered for inclusion on our tender list you must complete a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire which can be downloaded from our website <http://www.worthing.gov.uk/worthings-services/technicalservices/businessservices/purchasingamprocurement/currentcounciltenderopportunities/>

The closing date for return of the PQQ, by post only, is by 2pm Tuesday 8th February 2011. From the information provided by interested parties, it is the intention of the council to select a shortlist of no more than 4 suitable organisations who will be invited to tender.

The contract will be awarded on the basis of The Most Economical Advantageous bid received and will be based on the information contained in the tender document and the tender proposal.

The evaluation will be split into 60% Quality and 40% Price.

Applications must be returned to the below address by no later than 2pm Tuesday 8th February

Zoe Ventress, Procurement Assistant, Worthing Borough Council, Portland House, Richmond Road, BN11 1HS

Email zoe.ventress@worthing.gov.uk

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The Alma now features a 23-room boutique hotel

Young's opens new South London hotel

PETE HAYMAN

Pub operator and brewer Young's has unveiled a new 23-bedroom hotel at its Alma pub in Wandsworth, South London, following a £2.7m investment.

A new accommodation wing featuring boutique-style bedrooms has been added to the pub, which will add to the group's existing portfolio of nearly 350 rooms.

Hotel designers RDD were involved with the scheme, which also included a revamp of The Alma's pub and dining room. The property also includes an events space.

Ashford development consultation launches

PETE HAYMAN

Ashford Borough Council (ABC) is inviting local residents to have their say on a new planning document outlining potential development sites in the Kent town.

Covering a period up until 2016, the *Urban Sites and Infrastructure Development Plan Document* has identified possible locations for sport and recreation schemes.

ABC's strategy also sets out potential sites for open spaces. The consultation is scheduled to end at 5pm on 4 February and also identifies potential urban extensions.

Stockport Council secures leisure complex acquisition

PETE HAYMAN

Stockport Council has announced that it has completed a deal to acquire the town's Grand Central leisure complex.

The purchase is designed to help push forward the regeneration of central Stockport and to attract up to a further £100m in private sector investment.

Stockport Council leader Dave Goddard said: "Our proactive approach to the redevelopment of the site includes working with private sector partners to build office space, a hotel and multi-storey car park."

£30m floating leisure village for Glasgow

PETE HAYMAN

A £30m floating leisure village is set to transform the former Canting Basin in Glasgow.

Scottish Enterprise said that plans put forward by Manchester-based Floating Concepts – designed by ZM Architecture and water-based architects Baca – had been selected for the scheme.

Work is scheduled to start in the second quarter of 2012 and will take up to three years to complete, with the complex to be built in three phases.

Floating Concepts is to hold talks with Glasgow City Council with a view to submitting an outline planning application for the scheme, which will include a roof-top concert arena; a marina; restaurants; shops; offices and residential units.



IMAGE: (C) FLOATING CONCEPTS/BACA

The Canting Basin plans include a marina and a roof-top concert arena

Floating Concepts chief executive David Beard said: "All great coastal cities have a prime waterfront destination and now Glasgow has the chance to join those ranks."

Mixed-use revamp for Armagh Gaol

PETE HAYMAN

A former gaol in Armagh, Northern Ireland, is to be transformed as part of a mixed-use development.

Armagh City and District Council has held an event to gather views on plans for a reconciliation and heritage centre as part of the scheme.

The attraction will form part of a wider heritage-led development for Armagh Gaol, with the council working alongside Trevor Osborne Property Group and The Prince's Regeneration Trust.

Plans for the gaol also include a new hotel, spa, retail space and residential units and will help transform a previously closed off part of the gaol into an accessible city resource.

Trevor Osborne said that the heritage and reconciliation centre is at the very heart of the regeneration and the project team would be



It is hoped the plans will open up previously closed off parts of the gaol

doing the community a disservice if it "didn't get its buy in" for the project.

Ros Kerslake, the chief executive of The Prince's Regeneration Trust, added: "We want the centre to be both a reflective acknowledgment of a difficult past and a real opportunity to promote reconciliation."

Two potential schemes for former arms dump

PETE HAYMAN

Two developers have been shortlisted to lead a mixed-use scheme at a former Royal Navy arms dump at Broughton Moor, Cumbria.

Allerdale Borough Council and Cumbria County Council acquired the 425-hectare

(1,050-acre) site in 2008 and aim to dispose of it by 31 August.

Derwent Forest Developments and ESH Developments have now been given more time to refine their proposals, which could both include leisure facilities.

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The park has secured a significant boost

£11.4m funding for South Downs National Park

PETE HAYMAN

The government has allocated £11.4m to help fund work to be undertaken by the new South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) in the coming financial year.

SDNPA, which is to become fully operational on 1 April, is planning to provide Community Grants totalling £400,000 over the next year to local groups.

Over the next four years, the authority's budget will be reduced to £10.2m but chair Margaret Paren said it would ensure the maximum benefit from any expenditure.

New scheme to boost Lancashire moorland

PETE HAYMAN

United Utilities is working with Lancashire County Council as part of a scheme to enhance more than 1,000 hectares (2,471 acres) of moorland near Burnley.

Worsthorne Moor is to benefit from a major restoration project, which has been designed to help prevent the erosion of peatland and improve visitor facilities.

Information signs will be installed and wheelchair access will be upgraded, while a formal mountain bike trail through Hurstwood Wood is also being proposed.

VHE appointed to deliver Millennium Park revamp

TOM WALKER

The States of Jersey has awarded land remediation group VHE a £5.2m contract for the construction of the long-awaited Millennium Town Park in St Helier.

Work by VHE will see all toxic materials removed from the gasworks and secure an environmental future for the public park.

The scheme started on 10 January with completion due in autumn. Consultants involved are engineer Parsons Brinckerhoff, Davis Langdon and Burns and Nice.

Manchester park consultation launches

PETE HAYMAN

Manchester City Council (MCC) is inviting local residents to comment on plans for a major overhaul of Alexandra Park in Whalley Range.

A new email network to gather the views of park users – the 'People's Panel' – has been launched by the council as part of the process.

MCC is currently working on a bid for Heritage Lottery Fund support worth £2m towards the restoration of the park's Victorian features. Meanwhile, a funding application has been also submitted to Sport England, which aims to secure £1.25m towards new sports facilities.

MCC executive member for culture and leisure Mike Amesbury said: "While the current



The local community is being invited to help shape plans for the park

financial climate for public services is an exceptionally tough one, Manchester remains committed to improving its parks and green spaces wherever possible."

FCW to fund Stackpole Estate project

PETE HAYMAN

Forestry Commission Wales (FCW) has confirmed that it will fund a five-year programme to restore the National Trust's (NT) Stackpole Estate in Pembrokeshire.

Work has already started on clearing shrubs and weeds from parts of the 235-hectare (581-acre) woodland, while a 1960s conifer plantation will also be removed.

FCW has also secured consent to remove a group of trees that will help open up views across the estate from where the Stackpole Court mansion once stood.

NT's Shane Logan said: "This will encompass the views the Campbells of Cawdor would have enjoyed in the mid 19th century. We'll be planting trees in other parts of the estate to compensate for the felling. It's vital that we continue the work of previous generations."



The scheme will open up spectacular views across the Stackpole Estate

One of the additional benefits from the coppicing and felling of trees is that wood will be used in the newly-installed woodchip boiler in the Stackpole Centre for Outdoor Learning.

The Campbells of Cawdor Castle in Scotland acquired Stackpole in 1689, which became their principal seat until the early 20th century.

Farm attraction 'admits' E.coli liability

PETE HAYMAN

A Surrey farm attraction at the centre of an E.coli outbreak in 2009 will not dispute liability, according to lawyers.

Field Fisher Waterhouse (FFW) is representing 27 children who suffered health issues as a

result of exposure to E.coli 0157 at Godstone Farm and Playbarn.

FFW partner Jill Greenfield said: "Godstone Farm's confirmation that they will not contest the claim is a welcome decision for all families involved in the outbreak."

InterContinental Hotels in UK jobs pledge

PETE HAYMAN

InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) is one of a number of private sector companies to pledge to create new UK jobs in 2011 and beyond.

The hotel operator confirmed that it will make 1,000 jobs available this year and a further 3,000 opportunities in the next 'three-to-four years'.

IHG was one of a number of major private sector employers to meet with Prime Minister David Cameron at Downing Street over how the private sector can be helped to create new UK jobs.

Richard Solomons, the group's chief financial officer, said: "Hotels offer a quick and flexible way to get people back into work. These are jobs with real prospects for progression."



The operator has pledged to create 1,000 new opportunities this year

"Unemployment levels are the highest in the kinds of jobs needed in the hotel industry – from bar staff, through catering assistants, to hotel porters."

UWIC sports medicine facility opens

TOM WALKER

A new sports and exercise medicine centre – one of the first facilities of its kind in the UK – has officially opened at the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff (UWIC).

Designed to benefit both elite athletes and the general public, the new facility forms part of the National Indoor Athletics Centre and will support sport and exercise medicine research.

Facilities and services offered by UWIC's new centre include ultrasound, sports and clinical biomechanics, echocardiography, rehabilitation and physiotherapy. Postgraduate medical education and a range of clinical services will also be supported by the new UWIC facility.

Wales national football team manager Gary Speed said: "It is a forward thinking attitude



UWIC's new centre features sports and clinical biomechanics facilities

and innovative system here at the new Sport and Exercise Medicine Centre."

Dr John Fairclough, professor of sports medicine, added: "Our links with universities in Wales and the South West of England will allow us to develop a pre-eminent research centre for sport and exercise medicine."

People 1st calls for improvements in customer service

TOM WALKER

People 1st has warned that leisure businesses could lose out on Olympic revenue if they fail to improve levels of customer service.

The sector skills council for the hospitality, leisure, tourism and travel industries is urging

firms to invest in training now to make the most of the £2bn that could be generated from visitors to the 2012 Games.

The UK is currently ranked a lowly 14th in the international customer service rankings by the annual *Nation Brand Index Survey*.

Change, challenges and opportunities



STEPHEN STUDD
is chief executive
of SkillsActive

It's a challenging time for the public purse, but if we are going to work through the ongoing recession, education and skills development needs to be funded and supported appropriately.

The Conservative Manifesto promised to create 20,000 additional apprenticeships across key sectors, and yet the coalition government is now stalling on its commitment to support the highly successful Young Apprenticeship programme, particularly the Sports Management, Leadership and Coaching programme in our sector. In previous years the policy and process for future cohorts have been released 12 months before teaching begins.

Following this model, Sector Skills Councils, SkillsActive included, should have been informed of the government's funding commitment in September 2010. This would allow time for the Young People's Learning Agency to allocate funds to delivery partnerships, and for learners to be recruited ready to start the programme in September 2011. So far, the government has not announced its commitment, so none of this essential process can be commenced.

Launched in 2005, more than 2,000 14-16 year-olds have successfully completed the programme, which is now delivered by over 70 partnerships across England. With youth unemployment on the rise, this programme offers young people a much needed career pathway and also helps employers to source skilled talent for their workforce.

Over the last five years colleges and employers have shown incredible dedication and hard work to establish a hugely successful programme and these efforts are now, unfortunately, in danger of being lost to indecision and uncertainty.

Without an imminent decision from the government this successful programme will be lost. As a result, young people will be denied an opportunity to prepare themselves for a highly competitive jobs market.

On behalf of SkillsActive, I urge the coalition to provide clear guidance on the future of the Young Apprenticeship programme.

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For more details or an application pack go to www.lunguk.org or contact Danielle on 020 7688 5618 or www.exercise@blf-uk.org



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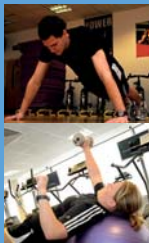
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Senior Community Development Officer (Strategy) and Senior Community Development Officer (Delivery)

£34,260 to £37,056

We are looking for two enthusiastic and talented people to join our newly restructured Leisure Services Team. The Senior Community Development Officer (Strategy) will have skills and abilities in strategy development and implementation, working with key partners; and the Senior Community Development Officer (Delivery) will have skills in managing a team and working with partner organisations to deliver community activities and events in line with corporate objectives.

To be the ideal candidate for either role, you will have a proven track record in developing and delivering community development projects and programmes relating to arts development, sports development, youth development and play services; accessing grant and sponsorship funding and be able to display initiative, drive and have a passion for engaging with customers and stakeholders. You will have exceptional organisational and communication skills and be strong at finding innovative solutions to problems. Your positive attitude in this challenging role will support the work of the Community Development Manager. You will work across an exciting and varied range of community development activities and programmes including initiatives linked to London 2012.

If you are up for a challenge and you thrive in a changing environment then we would like to hear from you.

You should hold a relevant qualification in a leisure or management related discipline.

Closing date: 11 February 2011

Interview dates: 28 February and 1 March 2011

An attractive benefits package is available.



Apply on line at www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk or contact Aylesbury Vale District Council on (01296) 585062 (24 hour answering machine) or (01296) 585020. Minicom: (01296) 585055.

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Sports Centre Manager

24 hours a week. 5 Days out of 7 £15,000 pa (actual)

Sports Centre Assistant

15.5 Hours per week. 3 days per week £6,425 pa (actual)

This is an exciting opportunity to join us as we open our 4 year old, state of the art Sports Centre to the local community during evenings and weekends.

We are looking for a dynamic team to build the business from scratch and to create a vibrant 'leisure club' atmosphere.

For further details and an application form, see our website Chapel Hill, Uffculme. Devon. EX15 3AG

www.uffculme.devon.sch.uk/work-with-us

Closing date 8th February 2011

Uffculme School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment



UFFCULME SCHOOL

Atholl
Estates



Head of Visitor Services

Highland Perthshire, Scotland

Atholl Estates covers an area of 145,000 acres in Highland Perthshire, less than 2 hours drive from Edinburgh and Glasgow and at the gateway to the Cairngorms National Park. Within a developing portfolio our two main leisure enterprises are Blair Castle and Blair Castle Caravan Park. Blair Castle has been open to the public since 1936, attracting on average 140,000 visitors each year, with a full diary of functions and events. Blair Castle Caravan Park, the largest 5 star site in Scotland, provides 410 pitches over 30 acres and serves over 75,000 guests annually, with plans for further expansion.

The senior management role provides an exciting opportunity to manage and shape the future of these two respected venues, supported by experienced deputy managers and a team of 60 staff.

We seek applicants who can demonstrate a management record of strong team leadership, uncompromising customer service and sharp commercial acumen within the tourism industry. Experience of management within a multi-site operation would be an advantage and an appreciation for heritage conservation and interpretation is essential.

In return we're offering a very competitive salary package and accommodation, if required, in one of the most attractive parts of rural Scotland.

For an application pack please contact:

Atholl Estates Office, Blair Atholl, Perthshire PH18 5TH.

Telephone: 01796 481355

Email: abw@atholl-estates.co.uk

Or download a pack from
www.atholl-estates.co.uk

Closing date: Friday 11 February 2011



For more details on the following jobs
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Personal Trainers with Management Experience

Company: Ten Pilates
Salary: Competitive
Location: Central London, United Kingdom
Closing date: 28 Jan 2011

Recreation Assistant

Company: Leigh Sports Village
Salary: £12,145 - £15,039
Location: Leigh, United Kingdom
Closing date: 28 Jan 2011

Senior Duty Manager

Company: Leigh Sports Village
Salary: £22,221 - £23,708
Location: Leigh, United Kingdom
Closing date: 28 Jan 2011

Studio Coordinator

Company: Roehampton Club
Location: London, United Kingdom
Closing date: 31 Jan 2011

senior supervisor

Company: Triyoga
Location: London, United Kingdom
Closing date: 02 Feb 2011

Coach Development Officer

Company: Northamptonshire County Council
Salary: £20,198 - £22,958
Location: Northampton, United Kingdom
Closing date: 03 Feb 2011

Sports Centre Manager

Company: Gosforth Academy
Salary: £30,011 - £33,661
Location: Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK
Closing date: 04 Feb 2011

Sports Development Manager

Company: Jags Sports Club
Salary: £24k pa
Location: London, United Kingdom

Sports Marketing Manager

Company: Chelmsford Borough Council
Salary: £26,160
Location: Chelmsford, United Kingdom
Closing date: 07 Feb 2011

Children's Activities Co-ordinator

Company: The Hawthorns School
Salary: £18,000-£20,000 depending on experience
Location: Surrey, United Kingdom
Closing date: 07 Feb 2011

Sports Centre Assistant

Company: Uffculme School
Salary: £6,425 per annum (actual)
Location: Uffculme, United Kingdom
Closing date: 08 Feb 2011

Sports Centre Manager

Company: Uffculme School
Salary: £15,000 per annum (actual)
Location: Uffculme, United Kingdom
Closing date: 08 Feb 2011

Sales Managers

Company: Virgin Active
Salary: £competitive + uncapped commission
Location: Nationwide opportunities, United Kingdom

Personal Trainers Wanted!

Company: YOUR Personal Training
Salary: OTE £40-60K
Location: Various (see details) United Kingdom
Closing date: 14 Feb 2011

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Salary: £competitive + uncapped commission
Company: Virgin Active
Location: Nationwide opportunities, United Kingdom

Trainee Personal Trainer / Fitness Instructor

Company: The Training Room
Salary: £20K-£30K
Location: Nationwide, United Kingdom
Closing date: 01 Mar 2011

Become a Personal Trainer

Salary: n/d
Company: Premier Training International Ltd
Location: Nationwide, United Kingdom

Become a Nutritional Therapist

Company: Premier Training International Ltd
Location: Nationwide, United Kingdom

Specialist Courses

Company: YMCA Fitness Industry Training
Location: London, United Kingdom
Closing date: 31 Oct 2011

Become an Exercise to Music Instructor

Company: YMCA Fitness Industry Training
Location: Nationwide, United Kingdom
Closing date: 31 Oct 2011

'Future Leaders' management development programme

Company: Goals Soccer Centres plc
Location: Nationwide, United Kingdom

Visitor Experience and Enterprises Manager

Company: National Trust
Salary: c.£31,000
Location: Cheltenham, United Kingdom
Closing date: 07 Feb 2011

Head of Marketing & Visitor Experience

Company: The Royal Yacht Britannia
Salary: Very competitive
Location: Edinburgh, United Kingdom
Closing date: 07 Feb 2011

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Operations Manager

énergie is the UK's largest fitness club franchise with 70 clubs open and a healthy pipeline of future openings for 2011. Our business model means that we are one of the few fitness operators who are expanding our network.

We are recruiting an Operations Manager to support the énergie fitness clubs and énergie Fit4Less clubs in England & Wales. Reporting to the Operations Director, the role is based from the Milton Keynes office but requires travel on a weekly basis.

The primary function of the role is to influence the performance of the clubs through monitoring KPIs, conducting audits, driving the sales and retention process and providing on-site support as required.

énergie's unique émpower programme is the foundation of our member experience and the Operations Manager will be expected to champion this programme to colleagues, owners and members.

Relationship management, communications and coaching are key skills as are time management and administration.

Applicants must have relevant experience in a multi-site organisation and a track record of success in operations and business management.

Competitive package and incentives for the right candidate.

Please email your CV to innes@energiehq.com

For more information on the énergie group go to www.energiefitnessclubs.com

Health & Fitness Managers – UK wide



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With the ability to inspire and motivate your teams, your focus will be on delivering an engaging, industry-leading exercise experience for the members, maximising personal training revenue, driving club usage and providing an exciting offering of studio classes and events whilst maintaining a vibrant atmosphere for your members.

What do we look for?:

- REPS Level 3 or equivalent
- A history of driving personal training revenue through teams of trainers
- Experience of working with KPI's, budgets and revenue targets
- Evidence of implementing and managing a member retention strategy
- Polished managers with strong communication and people-management skills
- A passion for exceeding customer expectations

What can our clients provide?:

- Competitive packages from £22-30k + bonuses
- Fantastic training and development with exposure to other departments within the club
- Great opportunities for progression to General Manager
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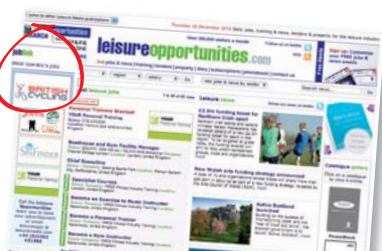
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FULL-TIME RECEPTIONIST

We are looking for a dynamic Receptionist to join our team in Mobberley, Cheshire. Duties to include computer work, cash handling and serving light refreshments to our members. High standards of personal presentation are essential for this customer-facing role.

Experience preferred for both positions, but not essential, as full training will be given. Hours of work for both positions are: 40 hrs per week (shifts 5 days over 7).

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Government unveils alcohol plans

PETE HAYMAN

The government has unveiled plans to prohibit licensed retailers from selling alcohol below the rate of duty and VAT in England and Wales.

According to the Home Office proposals, new pricing controls would help reduce the level of alcohol-related crime and follows a review conducted last summer.

Crime prevention minister James Brokenshire said: "We know that pricing controls can help reduce alcohol-related violent crime and this is a crucial step in tackling the availability of cheap alcohol."

In response to the government plans, British Beer and Pub Association chief executive Brigid Simmonds said: "This is a clear measure



The government proposals aim to prevent the below-cost sale of alcohol

that can be implemented quickly and will stamp out the worst cases of below-cost selling. However, it will not have a significant impact on low-priced alcohol in supermarkets."

Caffè Nero completes £140m refinancing

PETE HAYMAN

Italian coffee shop operator Caffè Nero has completed a £140m restructuring of its debt in order to fund its growth plans.

The group currently has a portfolio of nearly 500 stores in the UK and internationally, and

currently planning to open more than 50 new outlets in the UK each year.

In addition to its UK operations, Caffè Nero is also looking to open around 40 coffee shops each year in international locations to add to its Turkish and Middle East portfolio.

SFA signs Vauxhall sponsorship deal

PETE HAYMAN

Car manufacturer Vauxhall Motors has become lead partner of all UK football associations after agreeing a three-and-a-half-year deal with the Scottish Football Association (SFA).

The agreement with SFA – which covers the Scottish men's, women's and youth national teams – follows similar deals with the Welsh, Northern Irish and English associations.

SFA chief executive Stewart Regan said: "Vauxhall's marketing expertise will also ensure that our supporters and media partners can look forward to many exciting initiatives involving the national teams."

The announcement comes after it was reported that England could play the three other Home Nations in one-off matches in 2013. Football Association (FA) general secretary Alex Horne has revealed that talks have



The SFA deal completes a 'clean sweep' for Vauxhall

been held over the possibility of England playing Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Horne said the fixtures could comprise part of the FA's 150th anniversary, but he dismissed any revival of the Home International tournament, which was last staged in 1984.

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