

# leisure opportunities

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## Fitness First announces debt deal

Health club operator Fitness First has signed a three-month waiver agreement with its key creditors to allow a comprehensive debt restructuring.

The deal will see most of the group's debt wiped out, with two key creditors – Oaktree and Marathon – gaining more control of the business.

In a statement, Fitness First said: "During this three-month extension period, Oaktree and Marathon have agreed to work closely with Fitness First and its management to ensure that the company has the necessary working capital to continue to operate its facilities as normal and fulfil its obligations."

Chris Stone, CEO of Fitness First, said: "Fitness First is a strong brand that offers excellent service to its members in a number of countries, and I am looking forward to



CEO Chris Stone (above) said the deal secures the gym chain's future

working closely with all our stakeholders to ensure that appropriate finance is in place to allow us to prosper well into the future."

Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=y6W3l>



The historic ship has now reopened to the public

## Restored Cutty Sark unveiled by The Queen

The Queen has officially reopened the restored Cutty Sark in London.

The historic clipper was severely damaged by fire in 2007, but has since been fully restored thanks to a £50m redevelopment that has taken five years to complete.

The Heritage Lottery Fund has contributed a total of around £23m towards the conservation, while the Greater London Authority, Greenwich Council and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have also invested in the scheme.

Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=e6G3r>

## Work to begin on St Ives leisure centre

Work on a £3.2m redevelopment of the One Leisure facility in St Ives, Cambridgeshire will begin in June 2012 after the project was given final approval by the local authority.

The redevelopment will include the opening of a new Pure Health and Wellbeing-branded spa facility and a new 150-station fitness suite, as well as a five-lane bowling alley. The Pure spa will have six treatment rooms.

The centre is operated by One Leisure, the leisure division of Huntingdonshire District Council.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=D2a8g>

## DCMS to close after Olympics?

The coalition government is considering shutting down the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), according to Labour party deputy leader Harriet Harman.

Writing in London's *Evening Standard* (ES), Harman said "there are well-sourced rumours" that the government sees DCMS as surplus to requirements after the 2012 Games.

Harman's claims came on the same day that an influential conservative think tank suggested that scrapping the department would produce 'huge savings' for the government.

The Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) claims that closing the DCMS could save £1.6bn if all departmental spending ceased.



Jeremy Hunt is currently culture secretary at DCMS

The free market group also suggested that the savings on expenditure would give the government scope to cut taxes elsewhere.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=W1J4y> (ES)

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=T2D20> (IEA)

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# Sports drinks tax plans questioned

Consumer groups and sports nutrition manufacturers and distributors have joined forces in a new alliance to call on chancellor George Osborne to abandon his plans for the introduction of VAT on sports nutrition products.

The alliance has written to Osborne after he announced in the Budget that some sports nutrition products will be subject to 20 per cent VAT with effect from 1 October.

The UK Specialist Sports Nutrition Alliance (UKSSNA) claims the tax would penalise consumers and deal a blow to the sports nutrition industry.

In a letter to the chancellor, the UKSSNA described the decision as "bizarre" and warned that the introduction of VAT could push consumers to the grey and unregulated market.

Chris Whitehouse, campaign director for UKSSNA, said: "Introducing VAT on these



UKSSNA said the plans were a "disaster" to the sports nutrition sector

sports nutrition products will hit thousands of consumers in the pocket and undermine the growth of an entire industry but will generate little additional revenue for the Treasury.

"We strongly believe that it is unreasonable to tax consumers for products designed to ensure good health and nutrition."

Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=FiaoL>

## Green light for Brighton stadium expansion plans

Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club's plans to expand the 22,000-seat Amex Stadium in East Sussex have been given the green light by the local authority.

The KSS Group-designed venue's capacity will be increased to 30,750 over two phases of

work. The first stage will see 5,000 seats added in time for the 2012-13 season and a further 500 by the end of December.

A second phase of work will result in the addition of the remaining seats next year.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=X4G7W>

## Sport Wales unveils community strategy

Sport Wales has launched its new sector-wide *Community Sports Strategy*, which aims to challenge the Welsh sector into accelerating its efforts to increase participation.

The organisation said it will be "far more targeted" with its resources going forward, while it plans to invest in partners looking to deliver more opportunities for children.

Organisations seeking to introduce informal or social versions of traditional sports and clubs that are already thriving but still look to grow are also among those set to benefit from the new strategy.

The launch of the strategy was attended by Welsh sports minister Huw Lewis, who has announced a further £9m of Lottery funding will be invested over the next three years.



Sport Wales wants the sector to accelerate efforts to grow participation

Sport Wales chair Professor Laura McAllister said: "The new *Community Sports Strategy* sets out clear priorities to enable a dramatic shift in the range and number of people involved in local sport."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=J9k3Y>

## SportsDock opens in east London

SportsDock, a new £21m complex to be used by Team USA as its training base during the 2012 Games, has opened at the University of East London's (UEL) Docklands Campus.

Canterbury-based architectural firm Clague are behind the design of the new facility, which was built by Denne Construction. The project was managed by Ball Hall.

A Precor-equipped fitness centre and offering cv equipment and free weights is among the facilities, along with two indoor arenas catering for a range of sports such as basketball.

Elsewhere, the complex incorporates two outdoor 3G five-a-side football pitches and dance studios, as well as a sports café, changing facilities and a sports injury clinic.

Meanwhile, Team USA has kitted out a strength and conditioning suite at SportsDock.



SportsDock's two indoor arenas cater for basketball among other sports

The equipment will then be left for community use following the 2012 Games.

UEL vice-chancellor Professor Patrick McGhee said: "The opening of SportsDock will herald the dawn of an exciting new era for sport in East London."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=k3K3T>

## Hunt calls for greater disability participation

Culture secretary Jeremy Hunt has used the government's first Disability Sport Summit to urge the sector to do more to boost participation levels among disabled people.

Hunt urged governing bodies to use the 2012 Games to integrate disability sport provision into their respective Whole Sport Plans and attract more participants.

Sport England is to invest £8m from its Places People Play scheme to help remove some of the barriers preventing disabled people from taking part in sports.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=j9r4y>



London's Olympic Games are moving ever closer

## Research uncovers school sports 'warfare'

A new study carried out the Chance to Shine campaign has uncovered the extent of the "psychological warfare" experienced by children as young as eight-years-old while playing sport at school.

Chance to Shine – together with Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) – polled 1,250 kids aged eight-to-16-years-old, plus 1,010 parents of children from the same age group.

MCC head of cricket John Stephenson said: "The results from the survey highlight an alarming trend in school sport, which needs to be pro-active addressed."

More than two thirds of the children (68 per cent) had witnessed verbal abuse during school matches, while 66 per cent of parents had seen "different forms" of mental intimidation.



The MCC has urged pro-active steps to address "psychological warfare"

Meanwhile, 51 per cent of children surveyed admitted they had been a victim of taunts or threats, while 55 per cent had seen physical violence – a quarter of which had seen their team mate deliberately fouled.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=p7x7X>

## London 2012 marks 100-day Olympic countdown

A new London 2012 motto – Inspire a generation – has been announced by organisers as part of celebrations marking the 100-day countdown until the Olympic Games.

The London Organising Committee of the 2012 Games (LOCOG) has also unveiled a giant set of Olympic rings under the Heathrow flight path at Kew Gardens as part of the celebrations on 18 April.

Meanwhile, LOCOG has confirmed the Red Arrows will perform a nine-ship flypast across the UK to coincide with the opening ceremony of the Games on 27 July.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=G2LoY>

## Championship clubs to adopt financial rules

The Football League will extend its Financial Fair Play rules to all three divisions from next season, following the backing of the 24 power Championship clubs.

Clubs in League One and League Two are already subject to the regulations, which were introduced after a review by the competition to curb unchecked spending.

The regulations contain a number of sanctions for clubs that exceed "defined limits" with regards to losses and shareholder equity investment.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=H7koF>

## BISL/Oliver Wyman to produce new report

Business in Sport and Leisure (BISL) has partnered with Oliver Wyman, the international consulting firm, to produce its first report mapping the size of the UK's leisure industry.

The inaugural *BISL Oliver Wyman Leisure Industry Report* is designed to outline the role

that sport and leisure can play in supporting the UK economy's "rehabilitation".

The research will also support BISL's political and media campaign to secure a "fairer deal" for commercial operators in the sector.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=U9a2D>

### Serco lines up new leisure management contracts

Serco has been confirmed as the new operator of Mansfield District Council-owned leisure facilities, following the signing of a 10-year contract commencing on 1 May.

The agreement includes all five local authority-owned centres – such as the Rebecca Adlington Swimming Centre.

In addition to the Mansfield deal, Serco has also been named as preferred bidder for a 10-year contract to manage five leisure centres owned by Shropshire Council.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Oymzg> (Mansfield)

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=t7w1u> (Shropshire)



The extension doubles the venue's available space

### Crayford fitness facility to open new extension

Independently-owned Crayford Weights and Fitness in Crayford, Kent, will open a new gym extension this month (May).

First launched in 2010, the club has acquired an adjacent unit at the Crayford Retail Park and has appointed supplier Jordan Fitness to equip the space.

The extension will double the space available and new facilities include a group exercise studio, a ladies-only gym and a group cycling room as part of plans to attract more female users.

Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=W9K9G>

### Hampshire launch for Anytime Fitness

A recent Oxford Brookes University graduate is to open Anytime Fitness' latest UK health club below an apartment complex in central Basingtoke, Hampshire.

The 1,500 member capacity venue is located in a previously vacant unit opposite the town's railway station and will contain more than 50 pieces of Precor equipment.

A full renovation is being carried out ahead of the launch of the new health club, which will be open 24 hours a day and will include private changing rooms.

Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=v4Tid>

## New obesity campaign launches

Healthcare professionals have come together under the Academy of Royal Medical Colleges (AoRMC) to launch a new campaign to combat increasing levels of child and adult obesity.

The UK medical profession – including surgeons, psychiatrists, paediatricians and GPs – is aiming to tackle what it described as the "single greatest public health threat".

A three-month evidence-gathering inquiry has marked the launch of the campaign in to gather research and experience of actions that help reduce obesity.

Among the five main areas being investigated by AoRMC will be the actions that can be taken by individuals, which comprises exercise in addition to diet and "positive parenting".

Fiscal incentives – including minimum pricing, personal incentives and taxation – is also



The campaign aims to be a driving force in the fight against UK obesity

one of the areas that will be investigated as part of the campaign's inquiry.

AoRMC chair Professor Sir Neil Douglas said: "This won't be just another report that sits on the shelf and gathers dust; it will form the bedrock of our ongoing activity."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=X5l2M>

## Three new locations for The Gym Group

The Gym Group is set to unveil three new locations this month (May) – in Ashford, Bournemouth and Luton – in a move which will expand its UK estate to 23 fitness clubs.

Matrix will provide more than 200 pieces of resistance and cv equipment at each of the new sites, which will span between 9,000sq ft (836sq m) and 15,000sq ft (1,394sq m).

The new sites will also offer members virtual classes, with the chain already trialling 24-hour virtual pilates and yoga at four other clubs.

John Trehan, the group's CEO, said: "Over the next few years the fitness sector will experience more segmentation. Brands will have to work harder to establish themselves in the market and attract new members."



Trehan predicts further fitness market segmentation in coming years

To read the opinions of industry experts on the arrival of virtual yoga and pilates classes in the UK from more industry experts, see *Health Club Management 2012 Issue 3*, p43.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=e316x>

## Construction milestone for Toxteth Fire Fit scheme

Work on the construction of Toxteth's new £5.2m combined sports centre and fire station in Liverpool has reached a milestone after the final metal beams were put into place.

Wates Construction started work on the Toxteth Fire Fit project last year and is set to

include a fitness gym, a dance studio, a combat sports room and a climbing wall.

Toxteth Fire Station is relocating to the Upper Hill Street site as part of the scheme. A sports hall is also planned for the complex.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=t4u2f>



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### £3m revamp for Brighton's Withdean Sports Complex

Brighton & Hove City Council is to invest £3m in improving the health and fitness facilities at Withdean Sports Complex.

The centre, which is owned by the council and run by Freedom Leisure, is to benefit from a new 125-station gym and a larger dance and group exercise studio.

The complex is currently operating at capacity for gym use and exercise classes and the improvements are part of the council's plan to grow participation by nearly 70 per cent, attracting 1,000 new members.

Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=h1R3y>



The renovation has taken 20 months to complete

### Pure Gym to open second Wolverhampton location

Pure Gym, the low-cost health club chain founded in 2009, is to continue its UK expansion with the opening of its second site in Wolverhampton on 24 May.

Stephen Clarke, who oversaw the launch of the first Pure Gym site in the city more than two years ago, has been appointed gym manager of the new facility.

The new Wolverhampton club joins other clubs to open in the West Midlands in the next two months, with West Bromwich and Walsall also set to host Pure Gyms.

Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=O7A2p>

### Body Confidence Award winners announced

The winners of the UK's first ever Body Confidence Awards have been announced at the House of Commons in London.

A total of ten award winners were chosen across a diverse range of categories, which ranged from education and advertising to fitness and broadcasting.

Virgin Active's 'Oomph' marketing campaign won the Sport, Health and Fitness Award – sponsored by Central YMCA – for its use of a range of shapes, ages, sizes and ethnic diversity in its advertising.

Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=l1z2w>

## DLL to open new Worcester club

David Lloyd Leisure (DLL) is to open a new £8m sports, health and leisure facility near Worcester's Sixways Stadium later this year – the group's 81st site in the UK.

The 5,600sq m (60,278sq ft) development will open on 1 December and will accommodate a range of activities, including three indoor and five outdoor tennis courts.

A 900sq m (9,688sq ft) fitness suite will boast resistance and cv equipment, free weights and Power Plates, while three studios are planned – one dedicated to group cycling classes.

Elsewhere, the new DLL club will have a 25m indoor pool and a 20m outdoor pool and two physiotherapy rooms, along with a wet spa area to include a sauna and steamroom.

An "exclusive area" for adults is also being proposed by DLL, which is to accommodate a



The new DLL venue will be located next to Worcester's Sixways Stadium

salt steamroom; a saunarium; a sauna; an ice machine; and a large spa pool.

DLL regional director Jason Andrews said: "We are very excited about providing the community with what will be a fantastic club offering excellent facilities."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=q1F4x>

## British Land in Virgin Active clubs sale

British Land has sold five of the 17 Virgin Active health clubs it acquired in July 2011 for a combined £33m.

Colliers Capital has bought clubs in Gloucester and Poole, while the new owners of the Virgin Active sites in Neath, Manchester and Oxford – also institutional buyers – have declined to be named.

Following the deal British Land now holds a core portfolio of 12 premium racquet clubs. The majority of the 12 clubs left in the portfolio are located in the south east, with more than half within the M25. The disposal price of £33m represents an average net initial yield of 6.5 per cent.

Charles Maudsley, head of retail for British Land, said: "This reflects the high quality of



British Land now holds a core estate of 12 premium Virgin Active sites

the assets and demonstrates our ability to work successfully with banks and other sellers to unlock opportunities and create incremental value for our shareholders."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=bo18g>

## IOW leisure centre relaunch pushed back

The opening of the first new-look facilities at a leisure centre in Sandown, Isle of Wight, has been pushed back due to "significant additional works" during a £2.67m refurbishment.

Isle of Wight Council has revealed that the renovated swimming pools and expanded Tone

Zone will now open on 1 October, having been originally due to be unveiled in June.

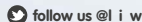
According to the local authority, the roofs above both pools needed an extensive rebuild, while a gas main had to be relocated.

Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=ix3G>



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## Cutting VAT is a win-win situation for UK



**UFI IBRAHIM**  
is chief executive  
officer of British  
Hospitality Association

**T**he high level of VAT for visitor accommodation and attractions is again rising to the top of the agenda. A survey of more than 200 British Hospitality Association (BHA) members shows an overwhelming majority support the campaign to reduce VAT to 5 per cent on hotel accommodation, attractions and for meals away from home.

The launch of new VAT pages on the BHA website – [www.bha.org.uk](http://www.bha.org.uk) – gives the whole industry a continuous update on the campaign, as well as providing a comprehensive series of questions and answers which explain the background to the campaign and its aims and objectives. A new campaign is also being launched on Facebook.

The research highlights the benefits that would be brought about by a reduction in VAT for the industry. Experience in other countries shows that major changes in VAT pass through to customers in their entirety. It's clear the industry plans to plough savings back into their business with lower prices, more training and higher wages.

Reducing the VAT rate will improve the UK's competitiveness. This country is only one of four out of the 27 EU member states which does not impose a lower rate of VAT on hospitality services. This makes the UK uncompetitive with the rest of Europe. We are effectively fighting our European competition with one hand tied behind our back.

The findings emphasise our belief that a reduction in VAT will boost customer demand, leading to the creation of more and more jobs. BHA's research indicates that 78,000 jobs will be created following a reduction of VAT to five per cent. And, of course, this will lead to greater revenues to the Treasury through higher tax returns.

This is surely a win-win situation – more visitors, a growing industry, more jobs and greater tax revenues to the Treasury. We will continue to press home these arguments to government but we also need members of the industry to persuade their local MP and councillors to understand the merits of the case. The argument is powerful. Let's get the message across so the whole industry – and the UK economy – can benefit.

## HOTELS

# New spa hotel for Southampton

Planning permission has been approved for a landmark £50m waterfront scheme at Ocean Village in Southampton.

The MDL Marinas 'super-yacht'-inspired scheme was given the backing of planning officials at Southampton City Council and includes a luxury spa hotel; a Michelin-starred restaurant; and a rooftop champagne bar.

MDL Marinas has teamed up with Harbour Hotels on the plans. The ground floor of the hotel will include a large open plan lounge, restaurant and bar which will extend out onto a terrace at the end of the existing promontory. Details of the spa are yet to be confirmed.

Harbour Hotels is owned by Surrey-based property investors Nicolas James Group and the company currently operates five hotels along the south coast of England.



IMAGE: DOROTHY KENNEDY/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

MDL is planning to build a "luxury waterfront hotel and spa" in the city

Nicolas James Group chair Nicolas Roach, said: "We intend to bring a luxury waterfront hotel and spa to the city, along with our award winning jetty restaurant concept."

The opening of the new spa hotel will form the first phase of the waterfront project.  
Details: <http://lei.sr?a=W8d6A>

## PKF: UK hotels 'bounce back' during March

UK hotel operators "bounced back" from a challenging winter period in March, according to the latest preliminary sector figures published by PKF Hotel Consultancy Services.

London rooms yield was up 5.5 per cent and room rate grew 7.6 per cent to £131.93,

compared with March 2011. However, occupancy fell by 1.9 per cent to 79.7 per cent.

In the regional market, room rate declined by 1.5 per cent but occupancy (3.1 per cent) and rooms yield (1.5 per cent) both increased.  
Details: <http://lei.sr?a=X6R3Z>

## De Vere Village to roll out room concept

De Vere Village Hotels has announced the launch of its UpperDeck room concept.

UpperDeck will provide a "superior room type", with hotels in Swansea, Solihull and Chester St Davids among the first to offer the concept.

It is expected 20 rooms per property will be rolled out by September 2012, which represents a total of 1,000 bedrooms in a bid to improve customer experience and increase profitability.

UpperDeck rooms aim to offer a sleep experience that rivals five-star operators and a full Sky TV entertainment package.

De Vere Village Hotels CEO Robert B Cook said: "With all the benefits that already come with staying at a Village hotel, we could see a



Each property will offer 20 UpperDeck rooms as part of the UK roll out

great opportunity to offer, to both corporate and leisure guests alike, a must-have upgrade that has real benefits."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=6e5e7>



## Scottish tourism numbers soar

New research from the Moffat Centre at Glasgow Caledonian University has found that visits to Scotland's main tourist attractions grew by 4 million in 2011, compared with 2010.

Edinburgh's relaunched National Museum of Scotland (NMS) and the new Riverside Museum in Glasgow helped to boost the figures, according to the latest *Moffat Centre Visitor Attraction Monitor*.

A total of 47 million trips were made to Scottish sites last year, with attractions with free entry welcoming twice as many visitors as those with an entry charge.

NMS was the top ranking Scottish attraction with nearly 1.5 million visitors, as identified by the Moffat Centre for Travel and Tourism Business Development Survey.

Glasgow's Riverside Museum welcomed more than 1 million visitors since opening in



Glasgow's Riverside Museum has attracted more than 1 million tourists

June 2011, while Edinburgh's St Giles Cathedral posted a 20 per cent growth to 851,000 visits.

Professor John Lennon of the Moffat Centre for Travel and Tourism Business Development said the Scottish tourism industry had continued to grow throughout 2011.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=1719X>

## New online visitor access tool for English restaurants

VisitEngland has announced the launch of a new online tool to assist restaurants and cafés cater for visitors with access requirements.

The Access Statement Online resource has been developed by the national tourist board in collaboration with the British Hospitality

Association and the Restaurant Association to provide detailed information.

Businesses will be able to provide a statement outlining facilities and specific services they offer, which will be available to visitors.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=W2D3Z>

## Milestone for London's cable car scheme

The construction of a new cable car link spanning the River Thames in London has reached a milestone with the installation of the 1.1km (0.7-mile) steel cable by Mace.

Work is also complete on erecting the three main towers that form part of the Emirates Air Line and will allow 34 cabins to cross the river at a height of 90m (295ft).

The multi-million pound, Wilkinson Eyre Architects-designed cable car scheme is to provide a new link between Greenwich and the Royal Docks, with passenger service due to commence this summer.

Mace is providing design and build services on the scheme, along with its specialist facilities management firm, Macro.



London's new cable car service will open to the public later this summer

"The next step will be to commence the testing of the whole system," said Mace project director Matt Randall.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=bob3j>

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### Edinburgh Zoo names new chief executive officer

Professor Chris West, the current chief executive officer of the Royal Zoological Society of South Australia, has been appointed to the same role at Edinburgh Zoo.

The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland – owner of Edinburgh Zoo – said that Professor West will take up his new position later this year after six years in Australia.

Professor West will replace incumbent Edinburgh Zoo CEO Hugh Roberts, who was appointed to the role in an interim capacity in April 2011 and is now retiring. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=P5R9U>



The building has undergone a £6.4m restoration

### New heritage centre for south Liverpool

PLB, the Malton-based consultancy, has completed work on a heritage centre at The Florence Institute in Toxteth, Liverpool, as part of a £6.4m regeneration project.

The group worked on the interpretative design and installation of the new Heritage Resource Centre, which will look at the history of the Victorian leisure facility.

It complements other facilities created at the Grade II-listed Florence Institute created as part of the scheme, including a 269-seat auditorium and a gym.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=k5moB>

### London's Wellington Arch due to reopen on 9 May

English Heritage has announced Wellington Arch at Hyde Park Corner, London, will become the capital's "latest exhibition space" when it reopens on 9 May.

A "fast-changing" programme of exhibitions will be hosted at The Quadriga Gallery, which will examine the history of England and of the landmark itself.

Meanwhile, visitors will also be able to access the balconies on top of Wellington Arch and experience views overlooking the Royal Parks and Horse Guards Parade.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=X6EoG>

## Tate Modern to open Oil Tanks

The first phase of Tate Modern's £215m redevelopment project – the opening of the former power station's Oil Tanks – is to be completed in time for the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad.

The circular tanks span 30m (98ft) across and 7m (23ft) high and will open on 18 July, providing a space for showing "art in the live form".

In addition to the industrial chambers, neighbouring galleries will provide new spaces for the attraction to display its collection of artworks. The tanks also house learning areas.

Phase two of the development, which will provide more floors of galleries and increase Tate Modern's exhibition space by 70 per cent, is not due for completion until at least 2016.

Designed by architects Herzog and de Meuron, the redevelopment includes the



The former Oil Tanks will offer spaces for showing "art in the live form"

creation of a spectacular new building adjoining Tate Modern to the south.

According to Tate Trustees, the completion of the first phase of the building was made possible by donations which so far have raised more than three quarters of the total costs.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=q57T7>

## Thinktank to launch new Science Garden

Thinktank has announced that a new outdoor interactive exploration space – the Thinktank Science Garden – will open at the Birmingham science attraction on 2 June.

It is the first scheme of its kind in the UK and one of only a few in the world, with the garden to comprise 42 zones and exhibits – such as a human-sized hamster wheel.

An 8m (26ft)-tall clanging Terminus machine and an 'elasticated squirter' – a water piston that uses elastic potential energy – will also be among the experiences in the new space.

Thinktank Science Garden will open seven days a week and entry is included in the cost of a ticket to the attraction, which already boasts more than 200 hands-on exhibits.



Thinktank Science Garden is thought to be the first of its kind in the UK

Janine Eason, director of learning and operations, said: "After three years in the making, we are looking forward to welcoming visitors of all ages to our Science Garden."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=B1wgi>

## £537k funding boost for Hadrian's Wall project

SITA Trust, the not-for-profit funding organisation, has awarded £537,000 towards a project designed to "properly conserve" the central section of Hadrian's Wall.

Hadrian's Wall Heritage is leading the conservation scheme at the World Heritage Site,

with some of the parts to receive work currently listed on the Heritage At Risk register. The funding will also be used to enhance access at other locations along Hadrian's Wall, as well as improvements to interpretation.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=x0joY>



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## Baltic launches new 'cultural hub' in Newcastle

Gateshead's iconic Baltic Centre Contemporary Art has unveiled a new arts "hub" - Baltic 39 - within a former printing warehouse in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The institution will co-ordinate the public gallery programme at Baltic 39, which was funded by Newcastle City Council in partnership with Arts Council England.

Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art will run the new venue alongside Northumbria University, which is using the facility to provide a new home for its fine art students.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=F4q9p>



The gallery recently marked its first anniversary

## Turner gallery worth £13.8m to Kent economy

A new report has found that Turner Contemporary in Margate, a £17.4m gallery dedicated to artist JMW Turner, has generated £13.8m for the Kent economy.

The research was published to mark a year since the attraction's launch on 16 April 2011 and also showed that nearly 500,000 people had visited following its opening.

David Chipperfield Architects designed the gallery, which was built by R Durnell and Sons and houses 750sq m (8,072sq ft) of gallery space across two floors.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Hoy2k>

## £12.6m Executive boost for City of Culture 2013

The Northern Ireland Executive has agreed to contribute up to £12.6m of additional funding for Derry/Londonderry City of Culture 2013 over the next two years.

Northern Ireland culture minister Carál Ni Chuilín said the announcement underlined the Executive's ongoing support to ensure the success of the City of Culture.

Ni Chuilín said: "Derry is a vibrant cultural city, which is growing in confidence and asserting itself as a destination for visitors from near and far."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=h5Y5R>

## Belfast's MAC officially opens

Belfast's £18m Metropolitan Arts Centre (MAC) has been welcomed as "another symbol of progress" by the Northern Ireland Executive, following the venue's official opening.

Carál Ni Chuilín, minister for culture, arts and leisure, was among the figures in attendance at the launch of the new Hall McKnight-designed complex on 19 April.

Located in the Cathedral Quarter, the MAC incorporates two black box theatre spaces seating 120 and 350 spectators respectively, as well as three art galleries and a dance studio.

A rehearsal space and education rooms also form part of the new development, in addition to office areas for resident art organisations and an artist-in-residence studio.

Ni Chuilín said: "The MAC is an impressive venue and a focal point for the arts in the



The £18m facility is "another symbol of progress" for Northern Ireland

Cathedral Quarter which stands proud among the north's cultural offering."

Ni Chuilín's predecessor at the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure and current social development minister Nelson McCausland also welcomed the opening of the MAC.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=z4W1h>

## UK and China launch new 'cultural dialogue'

Culture secretary Jeremy Hunt has met with Chinese state councillor Liu Yandong at the Victoria and Albert Museum in a "cultural dialogue" between the two countries.

Exchanges are scheduled to take place on an annual basis in order to develop closer links

in areas where the UK is a world leader, such as culture and the creative industries.

According to the government, the UK is the only country aside from the US to participate in high level talks with China on the issues.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=z1t5C>

## Council approves West End theatre plans

Plans for the development of the "first new West End theatre in more than a decade" have been approved by Westminster City Council as part of the Crossrail scheme.

The venue will occupy the former Astoria site as part of the transformation of the Tottenham Court Road area, with retail, residential and office space also proposed.

Crossrail submitted its plans with Derwent London, which cover two schemes above each ticket hall of the integrated Crossrail and London Underground station.

Derwent London has already entered into an agreement with Nimax to operate the 350-seat theatre, which is part of plans for two of four development sites designed by AHMM.



The new 350-seat theatre is to be built on the site of the former Astoria

HawkinsBrown have also worked on designs for part of the Tottenham Court Road vision, which is expected to cost around £1bn.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=T4w7r>



## Sheraton reopens Scottish hotel

Sheraton Hotels and Resorts has continued its USD6bn (£3.7bn) international revitalisation with the reopening of the Sheraton Grand Hotel and Spa in Edinburgh.

The hotel – located in the centre of the Scottish capital – has benefited from a multi-million dollar revamp, which has included the creation of a new restaurant and bar.

Facilities at the hotel also include the six-storey One Spa, which is described as one of the most advanced city spas in Europe and covers 35,000sq ft (3,252sq m) of floorspace.

One Spa offers a range of treatments, including a menu of ayurvedic-inspired services that have been devised by spa therapist Jamie Chalmers – Rasayana at One.

The spa includes a rooftop hydromassage and a thermal suite containing a hammam; an aroma



Sheraton's Edinburgh property comprises the extensive One Spa facility

grotto; a rock sauna; a bio sauna; a laconium; a tepidarium; and lifestyle showers.

Elsewhere within One Spa is a 19m infinity-edge swimming pool on the top floor of the building and Cleopatra Baths – individual hydromassages offering underwater massages.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=QsA6H>

## Chapter Hotels to open Exeter property

Chapter Hotels, the UK-based operator launched in 2010, has announced plans to open its second property within a 19th century former Exeter hospital building on 25 June.

The 59-bedroom Magdalen Chapter is to occupy the city's West England Eye Hospital following a sympathetic restoration which has been led by Bath-based architects Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios.

Facilities will include The Spa, which will boast four treatment rooms offering massages and mini-treatments from locally-based skincare brand REN.

A fitness area and an 'inside-out pool' will also be among facilities at the hotel, which will join the group's first property – The Montpellier Chapter Hotel in Cheltenham.



The new Exeter hotel will incorporate a spa with four treatment rooms

A spokesperson said: "Original Victorian features have been maintained throughout the building and striking new extensions have been added to create bright public spaces."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Y4j3Q>

## Comfort Zone signs first UK concept spa in London

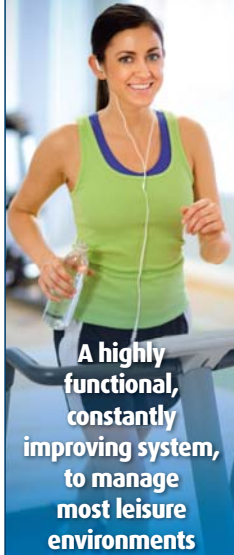
Adamina Spa of Kensington in London has signed an agreement to become the UK's first Comfort Zone concept spa.

The deal between the spa and the Italian product house will see Adamina Spa use Comfort Zone's Aromasoul Mediterranean

line, which aims to provide a renewed physical energy inspired by the Mediterranean seas.

Located in the affluent West London, Adamina Spa includes a number of treatment rooms, steamrooms and a relaxation area.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=V8b1d>



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A seven-screen cinema forms part of the scheme

## Work starts on new Trowbridge development

Contracts have been exchanged between Legal and General Property; Odeon; and Premier Inn for a multi-million pound leisure scheme in Trowbridge.

St Stephens Place Leisure Park will transform a brownfield site in the heart of the Wiltshire town and includes a seven-screen cinema and an 80-bedroom budget hotel.

Restaurants and cafés also feature as part of the scheme, which is revamping a site formerly occupied by Tesco. The scheme is due for completion in autumn 2013.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=CiD2E>

## Green light for £90m Hereford regeneration

A six-screen cinema with full digital and 3D capabilities is among the facilities to be created as part of a £90m redevelopment of a former livestock market in Hereford.

In addition to the 1,100-capacity cinema, Stanhope's Old Market scheme will also include a number of restaurants and cafés, a public square and retail accommodation.

Herefordshire Council has now given the scheme its final approval. Leader John Jarvis said it represents a "great deal for the city and a great deal for the county".

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=H5p2E>

## Cineworld confirms Gloucester Quays site

Cinema operator Cineworld has confirmed it will open a 10-screen, 1,600-capacity digitised multiplex at the mixed-use Gloucester Quays in Gloucester.

The £60m development is being led by Peel Group and was given the green light last month by Gloucester City Council. Work is due to be completed by 2013.

Cineworld currently operates from a six-screen cinema at The Peel Centre – located opposite Gloucester Quays, which has also been earmarked for refurbishment.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=d3n3B>

## Conygar's Fishguard marina plans backed

Plans put forward by Conygar Investment Company for a mixed-use marina scheme in Fishguard, south west Wales, have secured outline approval from the local authority.

The development will be centred around a 450-berth marina and 250 apartments, but it will also incorporate a new marine-inspired visitor attraction for the town.

Conygar said plans for the visitor centre remain under discussion, but it is hoped that a marine aquarium, a seal hospital and marine heritage exhibits could feature.

Robert Ware, the company's chief executive, expressed delight in Pembrokeshire County Council's decision to award planning permission. He said: "This now gives us the confidence

to push ahead with preparing detailed proposals during the course of which we will continue to consult with all relevant parties."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=KoV5s>



Conygar's outline plans include the provision of a new visitor attraction

## Lloyd Webber sells Palace Theatre

Renowned musical theatre impresario and composer Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber has announced he has sold central London's Palace Theatre to Nimax Theatres for an undisclosed sum.

Lord Lloyd Webber said the sale would help repay debt and strengthen the balance sheet of his West End theatre ownership vehicle Really Useful Group (RUG).

Proceeds from the sale will, according to Lord Lloyd Webber, help in planning the future of the Theatre Royal

Drury Lane and in continuing a refurbishment of the London Palladium.

Nica Burns and Max Weitzenhoffer are the duo behind Nimax Theatres and purchased four venues from RUG in 2005 – the Lyric, the Garrick, the Apollo and the Duchess theatres. The group added the Vaudeville Theatre to its

portfolio from RUG in 2008, before completing a deal to acquire the Palace Theatre.

Lord Lloyd Webber said: "I want to see a secure theatrical future for the Palace as I do the other historic theatres that I own through Really Useful Theatres."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=X9b2W>



Lord Lloyd Webber owned London's Palace Theatre for nearly 30 years

## £6.4m Chester development proposals submitted

Plans have been submitted for a £6.4m redevelopment of a Grade II-listed former lead shot mill in Chester, which will contain leisure and retail facilities along with residential units.

Neptune Developments is working with Chester and District Housing Trust on the

scheme, with proposals drawn up by international architectural firm, Broadway Malayan.

The project, which is due for completion in mid-2013. A small visitor centre is also planned in order to explain the site's history.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=H8T7Y>

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The country park is free at the point of use with a popular visitor centre including public toilets and attracts a broad spectrum of users, especially high use by families, schools and youth groups. As well as offering the land, the Council would encourage the partner to take advantage of the existing country park facilities e.g. car park, toilets and visitor centre. Where or if facilities do not meet the standards required by the partner, the Council would be open to considering business proposals for improvements.

Potential partners should express their interest to Matt Howe, Senior Procurement Consultant, Braintree District Council, via email to [matthew.howe@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.howe@braintree.gov.uk) Quoting reference number Col12/ Life Opps/ BP0002.

**The closing date for expressing interest is 30th May 2012.**

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## PTI: More people choosing fitness careers

A new study carried out by training provider Premier Training International (PTI) has found that more people are opting to pursue a career within the fitness industry.

The sector has a total market value of £3.8bn, according to the 2011 FIA State of the UK Fitness Industry study, and is increasingly seen to provide a "more dynamic" career path.

PTI polled nearly 700 of its recent graduates, with 78 per cent entering the industry as the result of a career change. More than 85 per cent expect to follow their new career for at least six years, while more than 60 per cent now operate a personal training business.

PTI sales and marketing director Victoria Branch said: "The recent survey figures are



The fitness sector is proving an attractive career path for more people

fantastic and really encouraging in showing that it is PT graduates who are really shaping the future of the health and fitness industry."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=N2A3z>

Is 2012 set to be a summer of content?



**RHONA MENNIE**

is senior customer relationship manager at The Springboard Charity and Springboard UK

Work experience is the most important factor in determining career choice. It comes before careers talks, careers websites and – while social media may be grabbing the headlines – it is not a major influence in this particular decision-making process of young people.

Great work experiences are planned, with the buy-in of the team, communicated to all concerned in advance and delivered to show the best of the working environment. A buddy is appointed to keep an eye on the young person in what can be a daunting environment. So a buddy and a friendly-but-structured work placement can only help get the best out of the young visitor.

Yet it is surprising how this may go out the window when faced with the demands of a busy, customer-facing environment, where there may seem to be too little time to spend with the young person who will disappear after one or two weeks. However, that young person may disappear out of the industry for life. We may have lost a talent from an industry that is faced with skill shortages and increasing job vacancies.

The Springboard Summer School takes advantage of the 'try before you buy' philosophy as it brings school, college and – this year through Inside Track – university leavers, together with employers in a two-week work experience opportunity. It aims to give students an insight into the industry and helps kick start their careers. A recruitment day, held in late May/early June, sources the successful applicants who benefit from a week of practical training from Springboard prior to the placement.

Utilising the INSPIRE guidelines for the delivery of quality work experience, employers can create a motivational experience that will literally inspire young people. This year, Summer School and Inside Track will take place in London, Birmingham, Cardiff, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Edinburgh and Glasgow – even more opportunities to get involved in developing that talent pipeline.

## CYQ/Youth Sport Trust join forces

Central YMCA Qualifications (CYQ) has formed a strategic partnership with Youth Sport Trust as part of efforts to offer support to young people who have chosen a career in the active leisure sector.

The partnership has identified its goal as developing and providing information, advice and guidance for young people working in the industry and will also look to expand CYQ's current work with schools across the UK.

CYQ and the Youth Sport Trust have teamed up partly in response to the "severe cuts" faced by careers guidance services in schools and community settings which include the proposed closure of Connexions and the Next Steps service.

According to trade union UNISON there are concerns over the future for careers guidance with potential job losses in the sector.



The new partnership is to assist young people working in active leisure

Lori Randall, CYQ's director of business development said: "At CYQ we regard this as a strategic and highly important move in collaborating more closely with schools and in supporting young people in the general area of health and wellbeing."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=y1F3Y>

## Active IQ unveils two new qualifications

Active IQ has announced the launch of two new active leisure qualifications, which are now available for delivery from training providers accredited by the awarding organisation.

The courses are the Level 1 NVQ award in Sport and Active Leisure (QCF) and the Level 2

NVQ Certificate in Sales (QCF), which expand Active IQ's range of qualifications on offer.

Active IQ's Suzy Gunn said: "It is about giving learners the opportunity to develop the skills they need to forge successful careers."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=b7q4r>

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- Active IQ L2 Certificate in Fitness Instructing (Gym/ETM) – 1 evening per week over 17 weeks
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For further information or to reserve your place on one of the above courses please contact Peter Morrison Head of School of Sport, Business, Public Services and IT (0191) 3754437

[www.newdur.ac.uk](http://www.newdur.ac.uk)

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Grade Hay 6, £44,403 - £51,423  
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You will manage our Sports & Leisure, Arts and Libraries offer, providing high quality, customer focused services to residents and visitors to the borough.

### Service Manager Wellbeing

Grade Hay 6, £44,403 - £51,423  
(Salary subject to review)

This is a strategic post that will work closely with the Service Manager Recreation & Culture, and other senior managers, in creating the strategic vision and framework for supporting children and young people, their families, carers and older people to determine how they use the Council services in the future.

Application forms and further details are available from the Transactional HR, Payroll and Pensions, PO Box 158, Bootle, L20 3WA, or visit our website at [www.sefton.gov.uk](http://www.sefton.gov.uk). Completed forms must be returned by the date shown to recruitment@sefton.gov.uk. A 24 hour recruitment hotline is in operation on 0845 140 1040.

Closing date: 30th May 2012



Sefton is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community

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Ideal candidates will have a minimum of 4 yrs proven operational experience, sales experience, a level 3 fitness instructor qualification and REPS accreditation, along with a PPO, NPLQ and first aid qualification.

Interested candidates should email their CV and a covering letter to [julie.lewis@pulsefitness.com](mailto:julie.lewis@pulsefitness.com) before Monday, May 14th 2012.

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# Lead the future at The Gym



## Regional Manager

**Salary:** £40-45,000 + c20% bonus

**Job Reference:** TGG/RM2012/05

The Gym Group, the UK's fastest-growing low-cost gym operator, is seeking to recruit an exceptional industry professional to this exciting new role.

Our ideal candidate will see themselves as an industry-leader of the future and be capable of making a significant contribution to the growth and development of this groundbreaking business.

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With over 1/4 million members already joined, our rapid growth means we require a Regional Manager to oversee a number of existing gyms as well as being responsible for opening new sites.

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### The candidate

- An experienced leisure professional with multi-site, regional management experience
- Preferably will have experience of opening new health & fitness sites
- Preferably will have experience of commercially exploiting a significant online platform within the leisure industry
- Will be organised, thorough and innovative, with strong planning skills
- A strong communicator with excellent people management and leadership skills and with natural drive and motivation



If you see yourself as an industry-leader, please apply in confidence by submitting your CV and a covering letter via our recruitment website: [www.leisureopportunities.co.uk/gymgroup](http://www.leisureopportunities.co.uk/gymgroup)

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OPERATIONS MANAGER**

Ref No: LRH01

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Ref No: LAR30

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Download details on line at [www.gedling.gov.uk](http://www.gedling.gov.uk) or contact Personnel Services for further details and an application pack. Telephone 0115 9013864 (24 hour answer service) or email [pod@gedling.gov.uk](mailto:pod@gedling.gov.uk). Please quote the appropriate reference number on all correspondence.

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- Liaison with BUCS, the RFU, the AFA and other key stakeholders.
- Championing the league website and ensuring results are current and accurate.
- Receiving and monitoring appeals and disputes from institutions.
- Planning and implementation of ULU's development programme.
- Deliver a marketing and communications strategy focusing on the close relationships with member institutions

The successful candidate will exhibit first rate negotiation skills, determination and an understanding of the needs of student sportswomen and men. Previous experience of running a league competition and using league software is desirable. You must have excellent communication, administration and organisational skills. A flexible approach to working hours is also essential.

For information and to apply please visit [www.ulul.co.uk](http://www.ulul.co.uk) and complete an application pack as instructed. Any queries can be directed to 020 7664 2011. Deadline for applications is 12pm, Tuesday 15th May 2012.

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University Tennis Coordinator, *University of East London, London, UK*  
Service Manager - Recreation and Culture, *Sefton Council, Merseyside, UK*  
Service Manager - Wellbeing, *Sefton Council, Merseyside, UK*  
General Managers, *The Gym Group, Various locations, UK*  
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Team Leader Information Services, *Lake District National Park, Various, UK*  
Project Manager Information Services, *Lake District National Park, Kendal, UK*  
Sales & Marketing Consultant/ Manager, *energy group, Beckenham London, UK*  
Area Manager, *Fitness Agents, South West, UK*  
Personal Trainer, *Energy Group, Rotherham / South Yorkshire, UK*  
Client Support / Training Specialist, *OmniTicket Network, Newcastle, Staffordshire, UK*  
Sales Officer, *University of Westminster, Central/West London, UK*  
Manager, *Pulse Fitness Limited, Surrey, UK*  
Group Fitness Instructor and Personal Trainer, *LeisureForce, West coast, Saudi Arabia*  
Operations Manager, *Gedling Borough Council, Nottingham, UK*  
Temporary P/T Duty Manager, *Gedling Borough Council, Nottingham, UK*  
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Sales and Fitness Assistant Manager, *GLL, Barnet, UK*  
Swimming Teachers, *Everyone Active, Weymouth, Dorset, UK*  
Swim School Teachers, *SOLL Leisure, Abingdon and London, UK*  
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Operations Manager - Fitness, *Heights Holdings - myu ladies only gym, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia*  
Exercise Referral Specialists (REPs: level 3), *Oneadepbreath, London, UK*  
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*Bucks Students' Union, Buckinghamshire, UK*  
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Lifeguard, *Everyone Active, Spelthorne Leisure Centre, Staines, UK*  
Customer Advisor, *GLL, Didcot, UK*  
Leisure Assistants (fulltime and casual), *GLL, Henley, UK*  
Strawberry Lipo Sales Person, *Energy Group, Forest Hill, UK*  
Business Manager, *Armadillo Tate Youth Café & Venue, Bristol, UK*

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General Manager - Seven Islands Leisure Centre, *Fusion, Southwark, UK*  
Maintenance Supervisor, *Fusion, Oxford, UK*  
Youth Club Development Officer, *Oxfordshire Association for Young People, Oxfordshire, UK*  
Duty Manager, *Rosendale Leisure Trust, Lancashire, UK*  
Football Development Officer, *Rosendale Leisure Trust, Lancashire, UK*  
Sports Coaching Positions (Permanent), *Sports Plus Scheme Limited, West Midlands, UK*  
Personal Trainer, *Pure Gym Limited, Various locations, UK*  
Sports and Leisure Manager, *Chesterfield Borough Council, Chesterfield, UK*  
Personal Trainer, *Energy Group, Various locations, UK*  
Full Time Sales Consultant, *Everyone Active, Watford, UK*  
Team Coordinator, *YMCAfit, Central London, UK*  
Centre Assistants, *Valley Leisure Ltd, Andover, UK*  
General Manager, *The Gym Group, London West Hampstead, UK*  
Personal Trainers, *The Gym Group, Various locations, UK*  
Children's Party Leader, *Everyone Active, Spelthorne Leisure Centre, UK*  
Team Leader and Recreation Assistants, *Everyone Active, Stroud, UK*  
Duty Manager, *Everyone Active, Staines, UK*  
Group Exercise Instructor, *GLL, Reigate & Banstead Borough Council, UK*  
Leisure Assistant (Lifeguard), *GLL, Tower Hamlets, UK*  
Group Exercise Instructor, *GLL, City of York, UK*  
International Netball Roadshow Coach, *Activate Sport, Nationwide, UK*  
General Manager, *The Real Mary King's Close, Edinburgh (some travel to other sites required), UK*  
Acting Head of Visitor Experience, *Science Museum, London, UK*  
Commercial Manager, *National Trust, Hughenden Manor, High Wycombe, UK*  
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Casual Duty Assistants, *Hertfordshire Sports Village, Hertfordshire, UK*  
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Gym Instructor, *Formby Pool Trust, Formby, UK*  
Commissioning and Development Manager, *Get Berkshire Active, Berkshire, UK*  
General Manager, *Mack Golf, Blackpool, UK*  
Assistant Sports Development Officer, *South Northamptonshire Council, Towcester, Northamptonshire, UK*  
Mobile Climbing Wall Operator, *Valley Leisure Ltd, Andover, UK*  
Head Therapist, *Clinique La Prairie, Clarens/Montreux, Switzerland*  
Massage and Beauty Therapist, *Coworth Park, Ascot, UK*  
Spa Attendant, *Coworth Park, Ascot, UK*  
Freelance Therapists, *Coworth Park, Ascot, UK*  
Fitness Instructor, *Energy Group, Crosby & Waterloo, Liverpool, UK*  
Regional Manager, *The Gym Group, Various locations, UK*  
Fitless Crew Member, *energy group, Kettering, UK*  
Personal Trainer, *Pure Gym Limited, Various locations, UK*  
Shane Williams Rugby Academy Coach, *Activate Sport, Nationwide, UK*  
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Sport Instructor, *Activate Sport, Nationwide, UK*  
Activity Instructor, *Activate Sport, Nationwide, UK*  
Swimming Instructor, *Everyone Active, Spelthorne Leisure Centre, UK*  
Qualified Part-Time Sessional Tutors, *Surrey County Council, Surrey, UK*  
General Manager, *The Gym Group, Edinburgh, UK*

for more news and jobs updated daily visit [www.leisureopportunities.co.uk](http://www.leisureopportunities.co.uk)

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**OmniTicket Network** - the market leader in the field of computerised admissions ticketing, access control and ticket distribution systems for visitor attractions - is seeking a **Client Support/Training Specialist** to operate from it's UK base in Staffordshire.

Suitable applicants will already have experience in providing software application implementation, training and support to end-users. Ideally they should also have some experience maintaining PC based products, networks and peripherals, plus Windows Server knowledge. A full UK Driving Licence is essential.

Although the successful applicant will be based at our Newcastle-under-Lyme offices, there will be a considerable amount of travel throughout the UK and Europe. Some out of hours and weekend work will also be involved. OmniTicket Network operates a non-smoking policy.

Please apply to the address below (marking your envelope "Private & Confidential") enclosing your CV along with current salary details and a letter explaining why you feel that you would be suitable for the position.

Mr John Davies, OmniTicket Network Ltd,  
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or email your CV to [jdavies@omniticket.com](mailto:jdavies@omniticket.com)

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## General and Commercial Manager, the Lake District Visitor Centre at Brockhole

Grade E £34,033- £39,269 F/T 37 hours

Responsible for the strategic management of the historic building and grounds at Brockhole you will deliver increased visitor numbers, improved usage and visitor experiences, raise levels of income and improve the site's profitability particularly in the shop, café and through events. You will need experience of managing a large multi-purpose historic site with diverse skilled teams to achieve increased commerciality and profitability. Interviews 29 May 2012 at Brockhole.

## Team Leader Information Services

Grade G £24,752 - £29,512 F/T 37 hours  
Various locations

Based at Murley Moss, Kendal but expected to work in four different locations each week. Responsible for maximising commercial opportunities and ensuring the delivery of high quality information service provision at four information centres across the Lake District National Park. You will need to demonstrate successful retail management experience, great people management skills alongside a good understanding of visitor information needs. A key focus will be to engage visitors through the use of technology. Interviews 24 May 2012 at Murley Moss.

## Project Manager Information Services

Grade I £18,326 - £21,421 (pro - rata) F/T 37 hours  
Fixed term for 8 months  
Murley Moss, Kendal

We are looking to make our Information Services sustainable and fit for purpose for the future and as the Project Manager you will be responsible for delivering the Information Services Transformation Project. You will need to be experienced in project management, spotting commercial opportunities and pitfalls, motivating colleagues and partners to want to do the tasks you need doing, on time, on budget and to the highest possible standard, managing budgets and producing processes that are flawless and have experience and understanding of visitor information needs and the technology needed to meet them. Interviews 23 May 2012 at Murley Moss.

For an informal discussion about the position please contact Adam Thomas, Brockhole Development Programme Director, on 015394 40260 or [adam.thomas@lakedistrict.gov.uk](mailto:adam.thomas@lakedistrict.gov.uk)

We are committed to equality of opportunity and welcome applicants from all sectors of society. If you are an applicant with disabilities who meets the essential requirements of the job, we will interview you.

For further details and an application form, visit our web site at [www.lakedistrict.gov.uk](http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk), email us at [hq@lakedistrict.gov.uk](mailto:hq@lakedistrict.gov.uk) or write to Human Resources, Lake District National Park Authority, Murley Moss, Oxenholme Road, Kendal LA9 7RL. We are unable to accept CVs. Closing date for all applications is midday Wednesday 16 May 2012.



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE



We're Supporting  
AGE POSITIVE



## Free ME seminars for female staff

Staffing specialist LeisureForce is to hold a number of free seminars aimed at UK-based female fitness and sports professionals looking to work in Saudi Arabia and the wider Middle Eastern (ME) region.

The half-day seminars will provide cultural advice on how to work and live successfully in the region. According to Simon Windsor, founder of LeisureForce's parent group UltraForce, the demand for qualified female fitness professionals is increasing rapidly across the region.

"The Middle Eastern region has become increasingly interested in health, fitness and sports activities," he said. "Women especially have become increasingly more involved."

Each leisure facility in these traditionally Muslim countries, however, needs to provide separate areas for men and women.



Women in the Middle East are increasingly taking up sport and fitness

Windsor added: "Due to the high demand for female staff in such a short time there is a shortage of employees – and the owners of the sports clubs and complexes look to import the talent. The UK is a popular resource for this."

Each seminar will offer advice on adjusting to the cultural differences of life in the Middle East, as well as guest speakers offering insights into their own careers working in the region. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=E3Tz>

## £2m renovation for Genting's Liverpool casino

Genting, one of the UK's largest casino and gaming operators, has announced plans for an extensive refurbishment of its Queen Square club in Liverpool this summer.

More than £2m is being invested in the project, which will include the creation of a new

360-degree Cai bar to be located on a mezzanine floor above the main gaming area.

Existing gaming facilities will be expanded and updated, while a complete redesign of the internal layout is also proposed. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Y1R9L>

## Akkeron to lead Plymouth scheme

Members of Plymouth City Council's (PCC) cabinet have approved Akkeron Leisure as the preferred bidder for a proposed £83m redevelopment of the city's Plymouth Pavilions site.

It is anticipated the scheme will deliver a remodelled arena through Akkeron's wholly-owned Five Directions Limited subsidiary, as well as residential and retail elements.

Plans include a refurbishment of the existing arena and a new entrance foyer, as well as more backstage spaces; increased capacity; and upgraded lighting and acoustics.

An international-standard ice rink is also proposed as part of the project, which will be located next to Plymouth Argyle Football Club and will complement the new Life Centre.

The future operation of the Pavilions Arena will be managed by PCC in partnership with the Theatre Royal (Plymouth).



A remodelled facility is at the heart of the proposals

Akkeron Group chair James Brent said: "The new facilities will provide sporting and leisure facilities which are the envy of other cities in Europe and put Plymouth on the map as a destination for leisure in the south west."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Y5f4f>

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