

leisure opportunities

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Daily news & jobs: www.leisureopportunities.co.uk

BISL unveils new industry report

A new study commissioned by Business in Sport and Leisure (BISL) and compiled by global consulting firm Oliver Wyman has underlined the "significant contribution" of the UK leisure sector.

State of the UK Leisure Industry: A Driver for Growth was launched at an event held in central London on 12 June, which was attended by tourism minister John Penrose.

The new study revealed that leisure employs 2.6 million people, a figure second only to the retail sector and representing 8.8 per cent of the total UK workforce. More than a fifth of 16- to 25-year-olds working in the UK (21 per cent) are employed within the sector.

BISL's report, which aims to demonstrate how leisure can create jobs and deliver growth, contains a number of recommendations for



John Penrose: "There is an enormous amount to admire in this report"

the government to better support the sector – including a designated cabinet member responsible for "championing" the sector.

Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=r8A4e>



Paul Elliott was handed a CBE for his sport work

Leisure sector represented on Birthday Honours List

A number of individuals from the leisure industry – including the sport, heritage and arts sectors – have been recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2012.

Among those awarded a CBE is Paul Elliott, the former Chelsea footballer and already an MBE, for his work as trustee of equality campaign Kick It Out.

Royal Shakespeare Company executive director Vikki Heywood; UK Sport's Peter Keen; and National Museum Scotland's Dr Gordon Rintoul also received CBEs.

Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=i8Nzu>

Arts/heritage groups net endowment grants

Michael Portillo has confirmed that 34 arts and heritage organisations across England are to share £56m worth of endowment grants, which will help unlock further investment.

The funding has been made available through Catalyst: Endowments – a joint initiative between the government, Arts Council England and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

It is hoped the grants will help successful bidders in attracting a further £106m of investment from private and corporate donors.

Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=boB3e>

Openings 'gather pace' in London

Drivers Jonas Deloitte has found that sport and fitness facility openings in London have "gathered pace" ahead of the 2012 Games.

According to the latest *Sports Crane* survey, more than 350 new facilities have been unveiled across the capital since it was awarded the Games' hosting rights in 2005.

The figure includes 100 new-build facilities, with the remainder consisting of extensions to existing centres. Nearly two-thirds of the projects have been privately-funded.

The gym sector has seen "significant expansion", with nearly 7,500 stations opened since 2006; 2,000 of which were added in 2011 and 76 per cent of which are in the budget sector.



Becontree Heath is one of London's new leisure sites

Among the new facilities opened in London since 2005 is Becontree Heath Leisure Centre, a new-build venue designed by S&P Architects and unveiled in Dagenham in May 2011.

Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=F9R2a>

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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
subs@leisuremedia.com

Editor

Liz Terry 01462 431385

Managing editor

Tom Walker 01462 471934

Assistant editor

Pete Hayman 01462 471938

Design

Ed Gallagher 01905 20198

Internet

Dean Fox 01462 471900

Tim Nash 01462 471917

Publisher

Julie Badrick 01462 471919

Associate publishers

Paul Thorman 01462 471904

Simon Hinksman 01462 471905

Annie Lovell 01462 471901

Account manager

Sarah Gibbs 01462 471908

Account manager, attractions

Ben Barnard 01462 471914

Property desk

Simon Hinksman 01462 471905

Publisher, Spa Opportunities

Annie Lovell 01462 471901

Financial Controller

Sue Davis 01395 519398

Financial Administrator

Denise Gildea 01462 471930

Circulation Manager

Michael Emmerson 01462 471932

Subscribe to Leisure Opportunities,

Online: www.leisureopportunities.com

Email: subs@leisuremedia.com

Tel: +44 (0)1462 471913

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SPORT

ISG to build London college facility

ISG has been awarded a contract for the construction of a new £3.5m "highly sustainable" facility at King's College London's (KCL) Honor Oak Park sports ground.

The BREEM Excellent-rated development is designed by Loates-Taylor Shannon Architects and Designers and includes a two-storey brick and block work building.

On the ground floor of the centre will be 10 changing rooms to be used by KCL's hockey, rugby and football teams, as well as by visiting teams from other universities. Function rooms will also be included among the ground floor facilities, while the first floor is to feature a viewing gallery with an open plan design.

The building is located adjacent to one of two artificial pitches installed in the first phase of redevelopment at the ground, while the site



The "highly sustainable" building will boast a first floor viewing gallery

also extends across a former Roman road. Archaeologists will be working with ISG, documenting any remains that are unearthed.

Stuart Deverill, ISG managing director-London, said: "The project reflects King's College London's core focus on quality and environmental sustainability."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=d5x3C>

Work starts on artificial pitch at Berkshire rugby club

Work has now started on the installation of one of the country's "first club-based artificial pitches" at Braywick Sports Ground - home of Maidenhead Rugby Club in Berkshire.

Greenfields has been appointed to deliver the £575,000 project, which is part-funded by the

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) using developer contributions.

The Rugby Football Union's Capital Investment Fund has also invested £240,000 in the installation of the new artificial pitch.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=FiA9L>

LTA and TFF join forces to promote tennis

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and Tennis for Free (TFF) have announced a joint partnership deal to help increase UK participation.

The programme will include a combination of capital and revenue investment by the LTA to improve tennis facilities and initiatives on offer to help attract new players.

Facilities that qualify for extra LTA funding will then benefit from TFF working with local coaches to provide free tennis coaching.

Roger Draper, chief executive of the LTA, said: "This partnership is part of a wider, affordable, sustainable programme to try to grow tennis. Together we're exploring how we can work effectively with local authorities to make tennis more inclusive and accessible."



The aim of the joint partnership is to increase grassroots participation

Paul Jessop, chief executive of TFF, added: "Building grassroots tennis is vital to the future of the game in the UK. We are looking forward to working with the LTA to develop new projects that can make a real difference."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=K9SoU>

Cage Cricket campaign launched

Cricketing stars including Sir Ian Botham have teamed up with MPs in London for the launch of a campaign to promote Cage Cricket as a new "street version" of the sport.

Devised by ex-Hampshire cricketer Lawrence Prittupaul and Trevor McArdle, the concept involves six players competing against each other and scoring points in cricket's main disciplines of batting, bowling and fielding.

Cage Cricket is designed to increase participation and remove barriers such as lack of time, space and money. Funding is now being sought to support the roll-out of Cage Cricket across the country, with a crowd-funding campaign fronted by Sir Ian Botham aiming to reach out to fans and businesses.

Portsmouth has been earmarked as one of the first locations for bespoke cricket cages.



A cage was installed at Parliament to mark the launch of the campaign

According to Cage Cricket, there are around 12,500 multi-use games areas in the UK "perfectly suited" to supporting the game.

Sir Ian said: "It's a concept for anyone and everyone whether they're fit, old, young or disabled. It's all about accessibility."

Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=Foa2L>

Social media platform unveiled for cyclists

British Cycling and broadcasting company Sky have launched a new social network called Social Cycling Groups, which is designed to help people connect with other cyclists in their communities.

The online platform, which can be accessed for free via the goskyride.com website, gives people who might otherwise be cycling alone the chance to buddy up with other cyclists and join unlimited groups and rides in their area.

With dates, distances, durations and maps, people can choose the group and ride that is best for them. People can also visit goskyride.com, the home of recreational activities, to create Social Cycling Groups and rides of their own, adding their own routes or using British Cycling's recommended routes.



Many cyclists revealed they would like to have someone else to ride with

New figures released by British Cycling show that almost half of its near 50,000-strong members are not involved in club cycling. However, many cyclists feel they would like to have someone else to ride with.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=b7s4H>

September opening for Swansea watersports facility

A new £1.4m centre of excellence for watersports being developed by Swansea Council on the Welsh city's seafront is due to open to the public in September.

Located opposite St Helen's, the scheme will provide a facility for sports such as kayaking

and windsurfing and is designed to be "inclusive and accessible to everyone".

The centre has been funded by Visit Wales, the European Regional Development Fund and the Welsh Government.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=09B7B>

Jubilee Hall Trust secures NBA partnership

Jubilee Hall Trust has agreed a partnership with the National Basketball Association (NBA) to hire Covent Garden's Jubilee Hall from late July through to mid-August.

The event will see the iconic Jubilee Hall building transformed into the NBA House offering members of the public the chance to participate in basketball activities.

In addition, Jubilee Hall Trust will be working with the NBA Cares programme to deliver six basketball skills clinics for disadvantaged young people.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=ao2Zz>



Altman has revealed he will leave after the Games

Andrew Altman to leave London legacy corporation

Andrew Altman has announced he is to step down as chief executive of the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) following the 2012 Games.

During his time at LLDC and its former incarnation as the Olympic Park Legacy Company (OPLC), Altman helped guide plans for the park's overhaul post-2012.

Among Altman's achievements as LLDC and OPLC chief executive has been the appointment of legacy operators for Olympic Park venues such as the Aquatics Centre and the Multi-Use Arena.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=iiP3j>

Sport NI and sported. announce partnership

Sport NI, the public body for sport development in Northern Ireland, has entered into a new partnership with sported., one of the UK's leading sport charities.

The new memorandum of understanding cements the two organisations' commitment to working together in supporting sport development across Northern Ireland.

sported. director Joe Stocks said: "We hope to highlight and support the work of both the sport for development sector and sport sector in local communities."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=r9E3m>

Work starts on renovation of Cardiff leisure centre

Work is now underway on a £400,000 revamp of Cardiff's Fairwater Leisure Centre – part of the local authority's wider strategy to improve the city's provision.

Due for completion in mid-September, the renovation will lead to the creation of a new gym containing approximately 30 stations supplied by Life Fitness.

A coffee and juice bar, a dance studio and a multi purpose activity room will also be offered at the new-look centre. Existing facilities will remain open throughout.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=j8m5F>



The new gym was part-funded by Sport England

New fitness facilities for Bolton leisure centre

A new health and fitness space is among the facilities to be unveiled at Bolton's Westhoughton Community Leisure Centre, following a £650,000 refurbishment.

The fitness area has been doubled in size and now offers more than 60 pieces of Life Fitness cardiovascular and resistance equipment, as well as free weights.

New changing rooms, a fully-equipped disabled changing space and a new entrance also featured as part of the project, which was part-funded by Sport England.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=07j5h>

'One-off' cash boost for Portland leisure centre

Weymouth and Portland Borough Council has agreed a "one-off" £82,000 cash injection for Osprey Leisure Centre in Dorset.

The funding is being made available towards improvement plans over the next five years and will help plug a deficit in the facility's capital plans budget.

Osprey Leisure Centre, which has been managed by South Dorset Community Sports Trust since 2007, will benefit from investment in disability access and general improvements to the building.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Z9l9v>

Virgin to overhaul Esporta clubs

Health club operator Virgin Active is to invest £25m in improving and refitting the 53 former Esporta venues it acquired in July 2011.

Virgin Active chief executive officer Matthew Bucknall said: "In the coming year, we will be completing the integration of the Esporta sites, and making significant capital investment in the acquired clubs to improve all areas of the member experience."

"Overall, we see exciting opportunities to continue to grow the business internationally in both existing and new territories, underpinned by a great product, a powerful brand, a strong balance sheet and two supportive shareholders."

The news came as the company reported its results for the 12 months to 31 December 2011, in which revenue was up 20 per cent and



The new investment will "improve all areas of the member experience"

EBITDA increased 11 per cent – the twelfth successive year of double-digit earnings growth.

The growth was largely due to the acquisition of 57 clubs during 2011, which has resulted in the company having 259 clubs across Europe, South Africa and Australia.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=N6Y9p>

Green light for Fitness First CVA proposal

Fitness First is to restructure existing lease agreements on a number of its UK clubs after creditors approved the group's Company Voluntary Arrangement (CVA).

Richard Fleming, UK head of restructuring at KPMG, is a supervisor of the CVA and said the proposal had received the backing of the required number of creditors.

In addition to providing Fitness First's operational issues relating to its property portfolio, the CVA allows for a wider restructuring and injection of fresh capital to take place.

Fitness First announced earlier this month it would be selling 67 UK clubs and keeping 80, with all retained facilities to continue trading under the terms of the CVA.



Fitness First can now restructure lease agreements on some of its clubs

KPMG restructuring partner Brian Green said: "As we have sought to develop CVA models, we have worked with creditors to find workable compromise agreements."

Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=r2ezf>

New £7.3m leisure centre proposed for Horsham

Horsham District Council has put forward plans for a new £7.3m leisure centre, which will replace Broadbridge Heath Leisure Centre.

The proposals tabled by the local authority would see the creation of a larger and more expensive facility than originally planned.

A large health and fitness suite will be among the facilities at the new centre, as well as a multi-purpose dance studio/meeting room/ crèche, a six-rink indoor bowls arena, a three-court sports hall and outdoor courts.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=igc6U>



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Assembly urges high-calorie Olympic sponsorship ban

Members of the London Assembly have called for the manufacturers of products linked with childhood obesity to be barred from sponsoring the Olympic Games.

The Olympic movement has been urged to introduce strict criteria for the sponsorship of the Games, which would exclude the producers of "high calorie" items.

A motion passed by the assembly also called on London mayor Boris Johnson to encourage organisers of future sports events in the capital to adopt a similar approach. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=t9v9y>



Pozzoni are behind the design of the new facility

Godalming facility to open 'well ahead' of schedule

Waverley Borough Council has announced that a new £6m facility in Godalming, Surrey, is to open its doors "well ahead of the planned schedule" on 30 July.

ISG has been responsible for delivering the Pozzoni-designed Godalming Leisure Centre, which will include a 60-station fitness suite. DC Leisure is the operator.

The gym will boast nearly 40 cv stations and 20 stations of resistance equipment, with users able to tailor sessions to tone, build muscle and improve fitness.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=p7t1b>

IFI accreditation for Cirencester leisure centre

A leisure centre in Cirencester has become the latest facility to be awarded Inclusive Fitness Initiative (IFI) accreditation in recognition of its gym's accessibility.

Cotswold Leisure Cirencester features a 1,300sq ft (121sq m) gym housing 60 stations from London 2012 supplier Technogym, as well as a free weights and a stretch area.

English Federation of Disability Sport chair Charles Reed said: "I am extremely impressed by the inclusive nature of the fitness suite, changing rooms and reception."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=c4C6u9>

Kids in 'urgent need' of exercise

Primary school children across the UK are in 'urgent need' of increasing physical activity levels in order to prevent serious health problems in later life, according to a new study.

The joint research – carried out by the Universities of Strathclyde and Newcastle – found that many children under the age of 10 are only physically active for around 20 minutes a day. It also suggests that young girls exercise much less than boys.

Published in the *PLoS ONE* online journal, the new study was based on research which monitored more than 500 children aged between eight- and 10-years-old.

Each child was given a pedometer to measure physical activity levels over a week-long period. The body mass index (BMI) of each child was also recorded. In most cases, the exercise levels were well short of the recommended 60 minutes a day.

The report also found a direct link between a lack of physical activity and childhood obesity. It stated: "Increased BMI was associated with greater percentage of time spent in sedentary



The study found kids are not getting enough exercise

behaviour and with reduced total physical activity. Children who spent more time in out-of-school sports clubs had lower percentages of time spent in sedentary behaviour."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=pos4l>

CISCO publishes wellness survey results

New research from networking solutions firm Cisco UK and Ireland has found that the vast majority (90 per cent) of employees believe that "healthier workforces" are beneficial to businesses.

The *Health and Wellbeing* poll – involving 501 middle managers in part or full time employment – revealed that a further 89 per cent believe a fit employee performs better.

However, only 15 per cent of workers said their businesses had made changes to improve health and wellbeing as a result of major events this summer.

A mere 13 per cent of firms were said to be running sport-inspired activities this summer, and just 38 per cent said their workplace was promoting team building through exercise.



Most participants said that fit and active people perform better at work

Cisco UK and Ireland head of HR Phoebe Leet said: "I would urge companies across the UK to build on their existing health and HR policies in the coming months."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=XzW1a>

Active IQ launches new resources for yoga course

New resources designed to accompany the Level 3 Diploma in Teaching Yoga (QCF) have been launched by awarding organisation Active IQ with immediate effect.

A bespoke manual is now available and increases the scale of resources for providers

offering the Register of Exercise Professionals (REPs)-recognised qualification.

Active IQ operations director Suzy Gunn said: "The demand for qualified tutors has been steadily increasing over the last few years."

Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=v3d5C>

Spa to open at Wyboston Lakes

A new spa facility being built at Wyboston Lakes, the independently-owned conference and leisure destination in Bedfordshire is to open during the third quarter of 2012.

Located within Wyboston Lakes Hotel, Y Spa will incorporate a total of 11 therapy rooms – three of which will be couples' rooms – steamrooms, water beds and relaxation areas with reading pods.

A signature feature of the new spa will be the external hydropool and kelo sauna in a south-facing spa garden, along with an open air fireplace.

R-Spa Limited, the consultancy set up by former Champneys Health Resorts managing director Ray Payne, is working on the design and feasibility of the new spa area.

Emma-Jane North has been appointed director of the Y Spa at Wyboston Lakes, while it



An external hydropool will be a signature feature at the new spa facility

has also been announced that products supplied by Elemis and Murad will be used.

North said: "We wanted to inspire our guests and deliver real results with our treatments – our choice of Elemis and Murad proved the perfect partnership."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=n457m>

UNESCO enters Antrim resort dispute

UNESCO is to call for a new resort development in Northern Ireland to be halted until its impact on the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site has been "properly assessed".

The £100m Bushmills Dunes Golf Resort and Spa was approved by the province's environment minister Alex Attwood in February.

The development – including a 120-bedroom hotel with spa and conference facilities – is to be located near Bushmills and Portballintrae.

However, the National Trust recently revealed it would be seeking leave for a judicial review of the decision to approve the development – to be located near the province's sole World Heritage Site.



The Bushmills Dunes resort is to be located on the North Antrim coast

It now appears UNESCO is requesting the World Heritage Committee asks the government to halt the project in order to allow for a "proper assessment" of its potential impact.

Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=7a7f9>

The Moat spa to open at North Wales' Ruthin Castle

One of the UK's first outdoor log-fired sauna tents is to form part of The Moat spa – a new concept being launched at North Wales' privately-owned Ruthin Castle hotel in July.

The Moat spa will be nestled amid the rustic woodlands of the castle's moat and features

indoor and outdoor experiences, including the sauna tent in the middle of the moat.

A Dutch hot tub and a spring water shower fed by the Clwydian mountains will also be among the spa's outdoor facilities.

Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=q4u2Q>



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Deverell named director of Royal Botanic Gardens

Richard Deverell has been named director of London's Royal Botanic Gardens by the Kew Board of Trustees, with the appointment effective from mid-September.

A former member of Kew's board of trustees between 2003 and 2009, Deverell will take up his new position having spent nearly 20 years working for the BBC.

Deverell succeeds Professor Stephen Hopper, who is returning to Australia to become professor of biodiversity at the University of Western Australia.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=c2X6f>



Edinburgh Castle remains the most popular site

'Bumper year' for Scottish heritage attractions

Historic sites across Scotland reported a record-breaking year in 2011-12 as footfall and income hit "unprecedented levels".

Historic Scotland's 78 paid-for staffed sites welcomed nearly 3.4 million visitors in 2011-12 – up 7 per cent on 2010. Tourism and commercial activities generated a 13 per cent rise in income to £31.5m.

Edinburgh Castle remains the most visited attraction, with visitor numbers reaching 1.3 million – a 10 per cent increase when compared with figures for 2010-11.

Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=z3f5z>

ACE reveals additional strategic fund details

Arts Council England (ACE) has revealed further details of its Renaissance Strategic fund, which is part of a number of measures in support of the museum sector.

The programme will be delivered in two stages – the first in 2012-13 will see £7m made available and the second will invest up to £15m a year in 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Renaissance Strategic investment will be directed at locations not served by Major partners, with the East Midlands and South Yorkshire among the first set to benefit.

Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=K6W5p>

RAMM wins Art Fund Prize 2012

Exeter's Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM) has been crowned winner of the 2012 Art Fund Prize for Museums and Galleries at an event held in London.

The museum reopened last December following a major £24m refurbishment and held off competition from three other institutions to pick up the £100,000 award.

RAMM was established in 1868, with its founding principles influenced by Prince Albert's "cultural ideals" of art, science, design and technology combined in one universal vision.

During its 144-year history, the museum has acquired more than a million objects spanning a range of subjects – including gemstones, examples of taxidermy and medieval coins.

Lord Smith of Finsbury, chair of the Art Fund Prize judges, said: "The Victorian



RAMM reopened in December following a major £24m transformation

aspirations to bring the world to Exeter are stunningly realised through some of the most intelligently considered displays in the UK."

Hepworth Wakefield; the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh; and Watts Gallery in Surrey were also shortlisted.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=C5l9n>

Admissions increase at global theme parks

The international theme park industry continued to grow in 2011, with total admissions to the world's top 25 theme parks increasing by 4 per cent on the previous year.

The figures come from the annual *Global Attractions Attendance Report*, published by the Themed Entertainment Association (TEA) alongside economic analyst AECOM. In total, the world's leading parks attracted a record 196 million people last year.

Asian parks performed particularly well, with the top 20 attractions reporting an increase of 7.5 per cent in total visits. Overall attendance passed the 100 million mark for the first time.

In North America, the number of visits increased by 2.9 per cent, while the European



International theme park admissions grew to record levels during 2011

market endured a mixed year. Some of the continent's leading parks saw capital investment result in higher attendances. Others such as Alton Towers however, reported decreases.

Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=Sot6G>

English Heritage sites net outside learning awards

The Council for Learning Outside the Classroom has awarded the first 10 national Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) Site Provider Awards to English Heritage sites.

Bolsover Castle in Derbyshire and Dover Castle in Kent are among the first 10 recipients

of the award – a new benchmark to accredit sites that meets the needs of school visitors.

The awards were launched in May following the success of the LOtC Quality Badge, which has accredited more than 850 organisations.

Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=k7c1f>



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Down Arts Centre reopens after £1.4m redevelopment

Down Arts Centre in Downpatrick, Northern Ireland, has celebrated its official reopening following the completion of a £1.4m refurbishment and extension.

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI), Northern Ireland Tourist Board and Down District Council were funding partners on the redevelopment project.

ACNI invested more than £600,000 as part of a pledge to improve arts infrastructure, which aims to ensure each person is within 20 miles (32km) of an arts facility. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=15K9n>



The guide details the energy issues facing venues

New sustainable energy for arts/cultural venues

A new strategic guide from non-profit company Julie's Bicycle has been launched to ensure a more sustainable energy future for cultural buildings throughout the UK.

Emerging Culture was produced with The Theatres Trust and was unveiled at the national advisory agency's Conference 12 – Delivering Sustainable Theatres.

The guide aims to engage cultural leaders with issues regarding energy demand and supply, as well as the implication the issues will have on business models.

Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=Mov9A>

£4.6m for temporary cultural venue in Derry

The Northern Ireland Executive is to invest £4.6m in a temporary cultural venue in Derry-Londonderry as part of the UK City of Culture 2013 programme.

Vital Venue will host a number of major events throughout the year and will accommodate more than 2,000 people seated theatre-style or 4,000 standing.

The structure will be built on the Ebrington site to the rear of the city's Clock Tower. It is to remain in place during 2013, before being removed at the start of 2014. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=d1B8A>

Design team for Chester project

Bennetts Associates, the firm behind the revitalisation of the Royal Shakespeare Company's home in Stratford-upon-Avon, has been appointed to work on the design of a new £38m theatre in Chester.

Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWCC) chose the practice to lead an "all-star cast" working on the scheme, which could also incorporate a new central library.

The architects will be supported by consultants Charcoalblue, Buro Happold and project manager Buro Four, with all four having worked on the Grade II*-listed Royal Shakespeare Theatre.

The new theatre is to be housed within the city's art deco Odeon cinema building, with the local authority currently preparing a bid for £5m of funding support from Arts Council England. The application is expected to be



Chester's art deco Odeon cinema building is to house the £38m theatre

submitted when the next application process opens within the coming two months.

CWCC leader Mike Jones said: "We have secured an unrivalled blend of expertise and flair that will produce a theatre vital to our aspirations as an international visitor centre."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=H3j8W>

UK-wide London 2012 Festival underway

The three-month London 2012 Festival – a nationwide programme of cultural events designed to celebrate the Olympic and Paralympic Games – is now underway.

The series of events marks the culmination of the four-year Cultural Olympiad, which

began in 2008 and has seen 18 million people take part in cultural events across the UK.

London 2012 Festival is due to run until 9 September, which is also the last day of the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=a2K3O>

New auditorium to open at Bristol Old Vic

Bristol Old Vic is to open its newly-revamped Georgian auditorium in September, following the first phase of a £19m redevelopment being carried out at the venue.

The restoration of the Grade I-listed theatre has been designed by Andrzej Blonski Architects, with the auditorium upgrade including new seating and improved sightlines for spectators.

Charcoalblue has worked on new technical systems, which includes an overhaul of the scenery flying system; the replacement of the stage grid; and new lighting.

In addition to the redevelopment of Bristol Old Vic's auditorium, the first stage of work has included the conversion of the paintshop



The Grade I-listed theatre's new auditorium will launch this September

and sidestage into new performance spaces. The next stage of work – transforming of the foyers and studio spaces – is to start in 2014. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=q7Gom>

New tourism plan for Scotland

A national strategy – designed to establish Scotland as a “destination of first choice” over the coming years – has been launched by the country’s Tourism Leadership Group.

Tourism Scotland 2020: The future of our industry, in our hands was produced by the group following extensive consultation across the Scottish tourism sector.

Among the aims of the industry’s new document is to “break from the status quo” and to generate overnight spend worth between £5.5bn and £6.5bn over the next eight years.

The figure represents an increase of £1bn on 2011 levels and is to be achieved by targeting the main growth areas – domestic, European, long-haul and emerging markets.

Four groups of “assets” have also been identified in the strategy: destination towns/cities;



Nature, heritage and activities is one of four groups of Scottish “assets”

events and festivals; nature, heritage and activities; and business tourism.

The Scottish Tourism Alliance will use the strategy to lead businesses and other stakeholders throughout the sector to deliver its aims for 2020 and beyond.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Q2foM>

UKinbound warns against ‘Jubilee complacency’

UKinbound has warned the government against becoming complacent in its drive to attract 40 million visitors by 2020.

Mary Rance, the organisation’s chief executive, raised concerns the Jubilee – plus the 2012 Games – could “distract” the government.

Rance said: “I call on government and the industry to tackle the issues impeding inbound tourism with the same determination, enthusiasm and gusto that they have put into the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics.”

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=4z4G2>

‘Staycation’ effect to reach new heights

Up to 41 per cent of British adults are planning to spend their main holiday in the UK during 2012 – the highest level seen since the beginning of the recession in 2008.

The figures come from the *Annual Holiday Index* by budget hotel chain Travelodge, which polled 5,000 adults.

With the average week’s holiday in the UK costing £433.47, the study estimates the ‘staycationing’ effect is set to benefit the UK industry by £8.7bn – up £1.5bn on 2011.

Travelodge chief executive Grant Hearn said: “The staycation is going to be bigger than ever this year despite British household budgets being attacked by a second recession. 2012 is such a momentous year for British tourism and it’s a



Grant Hearn: “The staycation is going to be bigger than ever this year”

great bonus that the economy will be further boosted by £8.7bn due to more Britons holidaying at home this summer.”

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Y3r2t>

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Summit yields need for industry strategy



UFI IBRAHIM
is chief executive
officer of British
Hospitality Association

Following the Hospitality and Tourism Summit at the InterContinental London Park Lane, it's clear a new strategy is needed to unlock the industry's job-creating potential.

If there was one message that came out of the event, it was that there is overarching concern that the government is not listening to the country's wealth creators. It means the BHA must now focus on ensuring a strategy is developed so the industry's potential – in jobs and investment – is fully realised.

What is essential is that growth must not be restrained by barriers which could be removed to huge advantage; not just of the industry, but of the UK economy overall. So we are now following up with all speakers and delegates to trawl opinion on the focus of the strategy before taking it forward.

With ever-widening industry support, the BHA must lead opinion so that government understands the important role that hospitality and tourism plays in the economy. At present, there is a great deal of government talk about support but very little action.

At the summit, more than 500 delegates were united in consensus on the need for industry and government partnership to ensure the industry's job-creating potential was realised. Many speakers also emphasised that tourism was a rapidly changing global industry, with more destinations opening up every year. But it's not just the number of destinations which continues to grow; the nature of competition is also changing.

The UK cannot compete without greater government understanding of the barriers holding back growth. More importantly, those barriers must be removed. The industry is just fighting to maintain its share of the market, with little hope of significant growth. We have to make government listen to the people who create the country's wealth because they have to deal with the UK tourism's lack of competitiveness.

This is the biggest barrier to creating jobs in the industry – jobs at all levels, for men and women of all ages, throughout the country. The BHA will be taking this message to Whitehall as we develop the new industry-wide strategy for growth.

HOTELS

Accor unveils new UK academy

France-based hospitality giant Accor is to expand its Accor Académie training network by announcing the launch of the service in the UK market.

Accor has opened its new employee training campus in London and also announced a new apprenticeship scheme, an "into-work" programme and a university placement scheme as part of an investment into the group's HR programme and significant job creation in the sector.

Accor Académie now operates in 72 countries. First launched in 1985, the Académie delivers more than 435,000 days of training a year and invests around €45m (£36m) per annum in training.

In 2011, more than 145,000 group employees were trained through modules adapted to the specific local challenges of each country and covering more than 100 hotel industry jobs.



Accor's Académie now operates in 72 countries after opening in the UK

Accor's Sophie Flak said: "Identifying, developing and retaining talented people is a crucial guarantee for Accor's strategy of conquest. With 40,000 new rooms every year, our mission is to train our employees on the ground, where they work."

Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=F6M8L>

Firmdale Hotels relaunches Dorset Square Hotel

Firmdale Hotels has announced the launch of the new-look Dorset Square Hotel in central London, following the completion of an extensive refurbishment programme.

Husband and wife team Kit and Tim Kemp originally purchased the boutique hotel during

the 1980s and have now reacquired it for the Firmdale portfolio, 10 years after it was sold.

Dorset Square Hotel features 38 bedrooms, as well as The Potting Shed bar and restaurant. It joins Firmdale's six other London hotels.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=v1u4S>

Hilton's spa plans unveiled for FA centre

Hilton has announced details of the health club and spa concepts that will be on offer at its two hotels at St George's Park, a new national football centre near Burton-on-Trent.

The complex is being built by the Football Association (FA) and will feature Hilton and Hampton by Hilton-branded properties, which will share the Health Club and Spa at St George's Park.

Spa facilities include four treatment rooms offering services using Comfort Zone products. Treatment spaces will use mood lighting and music to create a "sensory environment".

Meanwhile, the fitness area will house Technogym equipment. An indoor pool and relaxation areas are also among the facilities.



A swimming pool will be among the property's health and spa facilities

Guests of both hotels will be able to use the facilities, while the public can also obtain memberships to use the health/spa area.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=con4X>



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The Brannigans venue in Blackpool is to be sold

First phase of Birmingham project receives approval

Birmingham City Council has approved the first phase of the new £150m Beorma Quarter – a mixed-use scheme in Digbeth dominated by a 27-storey building.

Work is due to start on phase one in September and will include a new 60,000sq ft (5,574sq m) hotel and the revamp of a Grade II-listed cold storage building.

Kuwait-based Sahlia is funding the project, having signed a deal with HSBC earlier this year for the first phase. The bank is contributing more than £10m.

Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=M7f3a>

Chesterfield's Northern Gateway set for revamp

A cinema and a hotel are among plans for Chesterfield's £50m Northern Gateway, which have been put on show by the council and Wilson Bowden Developments.

The area surrounding the Donut roundabout will be transformed under the proposals, with an outdoor performance area and restaurants also to be created.

Chesterfield Borough Council leader John Burrows said: "It is going to be one of the biggest developments we've had in Chesterfield for many years."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Hox8H>

CWCC clarifies position over Chester sports project

Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWCC) chief executive Steve Robinson has clarified the council's position over the new Redgrave Sports Science Institute.

Some councillors raised concerns from residents that CWCC had supported a bid to develop the facility as part of a student village between Mollington and Blacon.

Robinson said: "Suggestions that this authority or any of its officers have indicated support for a site-specific suggestion are totally unfounded."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Q1b4M>

RIBA announces 2012 award winners

National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh and the Olympic Stadium in London are among this year's winners of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Awards.

Winners range from a house built in the shape of a sand dune in Suffolk to the London 2012 Olympic Stadium, and from a demountable opera pavilion in High Wycombe to the radical transformation of a Spanish bull-fighting arena in Barcelona.

A dominant theme among this year's winners was the inclusion of a number of major public arts buildings – 10 of which have made the grade. Many are the result of precession lottery funding and include Bath's Holburne Museum (Eric Parry Architects);

the Hepworth Wakefield (David Chipperfield Architects); and the Turner Contemporary at Margate (David Chipperfield Architects).

Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=i2l9j>



London's Olympic Stadium is among the winners of a 2012 RIBA Award

Green light for Nine Elms projects

Wandsworth Council has approved plans for two development projects in London's Nine Elms regeneration area – One Nine Elms and New Covent Garden Market.

Both schemes were given the go ahead by members of the local authority's planning committee and will complement a range of other projects proposed for the area.

While New Covent Garden Market's existing facilities will be upgraded, a mixed-use element is being planned for land no longer required for market operation.

Cafés, bars and a 200-bedroom hotel will be developed, while rooftop sports pitches and a gym are also included in the plans drawn up by Covent Garden Market Authority.

One Nine Elms will lead to the replacement of a 1970s tower block with two new towers



A linear park is set to run through the New Covent Garden Market site

housing a hotel and a public viewing level at the top of the tallest (58-storey) tower.

Facilities on the ground floor will be located around a public square lined with shops, cafés, bars and restaurants. Around 50 per cent of the entire site will be public realm.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=A706h>

Work starts on new Trowbridge leisure development

Bristol-based Leadbitter Group has commenced construction work on the new multi-million pound St Stephens Place Leisure Park development in Trowbridge, Wiltshire.

The scheme was given the green light by Wiltshire Council earlier this year and is to

include a seven-screen cinema run by Odeon and an 80-bedroom Premier Inn hotel.

Restaurants, cafés and bars are also planned as part of the project, which will transform a "long-neglected" part of the town centre.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=F3e9j>

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The Council currently employs 6 staff to deliver the catering service (4 fte) and TUPE is likely to apply.

All enquiries to Simon Grady, tel. 01206 282908
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TO LET

Leisure World Tennis Centre

Expressions of interest are sought to develop and operate a programme of sport and leisure activity at the Tennis Centre for the benefit of Colchester residents. Commercial uses are acceptable. The 3.7 acre site has 22 courts -10 tarmac courts (6 floodlit) and 12 grass courts, a clubhouse building that includes changing rooms, communal area, kitchen and office and a car park.

Colchester Borough Council currently employs a full time Tennis Development Officer and TUPE is likely to apply.

All enquiries to Ian Duggan,
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Expressions of interest for the construction of Ise Skate Park, Kettering

We are seeking expressions of interest from suitable companies wishing to be considered for inclusion on the tender list for the construction of a concrete skate park off Grantown Close, Kettering. This will replace the existing timber constructed skate park.

Companies wishing to participate will be required to complete and return a pre-qualification questionnaire by noon on the 13th July 2012, from which a shortlist of tenderers will be selected. Companies should note that the scheme will only proceed if full funding is secured.

INTERESTED PARTIES SHOULD FORWARD THEIR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST TO:

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Further information can be
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Portsmouth Historic Dockyard,
HM Naval Base (PP66),
Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 3NH.
Emma.nash@nmrn.org.uk or 02392 727574.

The closing date for tenders is 13th July 2012.

Keeping the best with Springboard



GARETH EDWARDS is the education director of The Springboard Charity and Springboard UK

As this year's graduates get ready to sit their final exams, thoughts wander towards employment. Given the economic climate, a move into a career may not be as easy as it was, but there are still opportunities, and Springboard can help identify them. The end of the year often prompts thoughts of a new start and it is common for employees to also think about changing jobs.

Staff are the most important asset to any business and the cost of replacing them can hurt a business financially, not to mention their performance and reputation. The CIPD says the average job turnover in the UK is 18.1 per cent – disappointingly much higher in the leisure sector. However, a certain level of turnover can be positive as it weeds out poor performers and gives the opportunity to bring in new recruits.

The clear strategy for employers needs to be – hang on to those you want to keep – and investing in Springboard's Into Work and Summer School is a smart way of doing just that. Improving retention will involve some time and effort, but the sector has one major advantage over others in that it's generally regarded as fun to work in.

There's no doubt regular and ongoing training can make a big difference as many candidates look for businesses that support professional development and training and that have some sort of succession planning. The last thing an employer wants to see are talented employees leaving after two years because they can't see a clear career path.

Research shows that learning new things at work is something that makes people happy. This is good news, given that in the race to become a more skilled and successful nation there will be an increased demand from employers on workforces to upskill in order to keep a competitive edge. Skills levels required for employment will continue to rise, but even more rapidly than before.

There is no doubt that learning pays and that skills matter, but – equally – if minds wander then feet will walk!

TRAINING

CYQ reports growth in number of awards

Central YMCA Qualifications (CYQ) has recorded a 17 per cent increase in the number of certificates it awarded between 2010 and 2011.

According to Ofqual's *Annual Qualifications Market Report 2012*, CYQ remains the largest awarding organisation for the fitness sector and awarded a total of 43,984 certificates throughout 2011.

Other award bodies mentioned in the report include Sports Leaders UK, whose Level 1 Award in sport leadership was named among the country's top 20 qualifications in the 'other' category.

CYQ director of awarding Jenny Patrickson said: "We are immensely proud that we have made such an important contribution to



Patrickson: "Our steady growth is a reflection of our high standards"

enabling many of the over 600,000 people working in the health, fitness and wellbeing sector to develop their careers."

Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=01M7v>

NSA to extend into cultural heritage

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is investing in the extension of the National Skills Academy Creative and Cultural into the cultural heritage sector.

A new development programme is to enhance and develop career opportunities for young people across a range of areas – including museums and galleries.

Creative and Cultural Skills and partners such as the Museums Association, Arts Council England and the Heritage Lottery Fund will lead the initiative. Worth an estimated £5.5bn a year, the cultural heritage sector employs 54,000 people and makes a "significant contribution" to the UK's tourism economy.

John Hayes, minister for further education, skills and lifelong learning, said the government funding boost will help the National



The cash will create new opportunities in the cultural heritage industry

Skills Academy for Creative and Cultural create a number of new opportunities.

"This is very good news for the creative industries and will help them to overcome the skills gaps that stand in the way of them meeting their full potential," said Hayes.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=g1Z8U>

Everyone Active confirms British Rowing partnership

More than 90 Everyone Active fitness motivators will receive training from British Rowing to increase the quality of rowing instruction at all UK facilities with indoor rowers.

The sport's national governing body will deliver seven four-hour sessions to address a

gap between the popularity of indoor rowing and the standard of gym instruction.

Everyone Active's Michelle Bletso said: "This training will really up our game in providing the best gym experience for our users."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=g1Q6D>

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We are looking for an experienced individual with proven supervisory experience in a Leisure/Sports Centre to join and lead a team of 25 full and part-time instructional staff. The duties of the post will include planning, organising and managing staff and facilities, ensuring the health, safety and hygiene of facilities at all times, developing the services available and encouraging their use by the public and other commercial organisations.

The successful candidate will have excellent customer service, interpersonal and communication skills and be able to work to tight deadlines. They will be a member of IMSPA and as a minimum hold relevant qualifications including National Pool Lifeguard Qualification (RLSS), First Aid at Work and IOSH Managing Safety. The ability to manage staff and budgets will be essential as will the willingness to work a shift pattern and at weekends, if required.

To request an application pack
please call 01608 812175
or email recruitment@fireservicecollege.ac.uk

CLOSING DATE:- 20th JULY 2012

BOWLING TECHNICIAN

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Applicants should ideally have 2 years experience and would be expected to:

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- Be enthusiastic, positive and driven.
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- Use initiative when working alone.
- Customer service and communication skills.
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- Ability to work under pressure in a busy environment.

Candidates must be fully flexible and be available for shifts across weekends and bank holidays; 40 hour week over 5 days, 33 days holiday (including public holidays).

A competitive salary is negotiable depending on experience.

Please send current CV and covering letter to hjones@mamco.co.uk

Aberdeenshire COUNCIL

Enjoy work, enjoy life.

Active Schools & Community Officer, Meldrum Academy.

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>> Aberdeenshire Council, in partnership with SportsScotland, are recruiting for an exciting and key role to lead a team to help meet SportsScotland national objectives. As Active Schools & Community Officer, the right candidate will lead and support staff in developing new, high quality opportunities for school pupils to participate in regular, frequent, safe and fun physical activity (incorporating sport, play, health and active travel) and oversee the development and implementation of the Active Schools network.

>> You will be required to be qualified to degree level or GTC registered. Proven experience in the management of projects and budgets in areas of education, sport, health, leisure and/or recreation industry is also a pre-requisite.

Informal Enquiries to Brian Mitchell, tel: 01569 768349.

Closing date 6 July 2012.

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Invite applications for the position of

Performance Manager (Women's Golf)

Based at the National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire
Salary, in the range of £30,000 - £35,000 per annum + benefits

The position's purpose is to ensure that England Golf is a leading country in the world of golf in terms of the performance of its players, teams and the development of the overall coaching and competitive programme.

Applicants must have an excellent knowledge of competitive golf. They should be self-motivated but able to work as part of a team and have strong communication and organisational skills. IT literate and fully conversant with Microsoft Office, the person appointed will be responsible for managing the performance development of female amateur players, through coaching and competitive opportunities, from Regional level to England National level. Attention to detail and the ability to work to tight deadlines are imperative. A full clean driving licence and willingness to work unsocial hours and away from home are essential.

An application form is available from Mary-Anne Price, Human Resources Officer on m.price@englandgolf.org Please send a completed application form along with your current CV.

CLOSING DATE: 12th JULY 2012 AT 5.00PM
INTERVIEWS: W/C 23rd JULY 2012

For more details on the following jobs
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or to advertise call +44 (0)1462 431385



Community Sports Officer, GLL, London, UK
Spa Manager Vacancy (Full Time), Bali Health Lounge, Manchester (M1), UK
Bowling Technician, Namco Operations Europe Ltd, The Trafford Centre, Manchester, UK
Duty Manager (2 vacancies), University of East London, London, UK
Sports Manager, The Lansdowne Club, Mayfair, London, UK
Sports Hall and Lettings Manager, St Aubyn's, Essex, UK
Indoor Duty Manager, Southampton Solent University, Southampton, UK
Field Service Engineer Fitness Equipment, Servicesport UK Limited, Northern England / Scotland/ Oxfordshire / Midlands, UK
Duty Manager/Girls Games Coach, Motcombe Park Sports Club, Dorset, UK
FeelGood Supervisor and Assistants, Leisure in Hyndburn, Accrington, UK
Area Sales Managers, Fitness Systems, South, Midlands and the North of England, UK
Performance Manager (Women's Golf), England Golf, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire, UK
Sales / Club Manager, Anytime fitness, London, UK
Fitness Manager, Vale Resort, Wales, UK
Membership Sales Manager, Vale Resort, Wales, UK
Beauty Therapists, The Langham, London, London, UK
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Spa Receptionist, Dorchester Collection, London, UK
Sports Centre Assistant / Relief Duty Manager, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, UK
Swimming Teacher, Everyone Active, Pitsea Swimming Pool, UK
Children's Party Leader, Everyone Active, Stratford Upon Avon, UK
Club Supervisor, Merton Hotel, Jersey, UK
Swimming Teacher, Everyone Active, Stratford, UK
Sport4Women Coordinator, GLL, Tower Hamlets
Swimming Teacher, Everyone Active, Cambridge, UK
Swimming Teacher, Everyone Active, Shipston / Stratford Upon Avon / Warwickshire, UK
Trampoline Coach, Everyone Active, Spelthorne Leisure Centre, UK
General Manager, GLL, Greenwich, UK
Swimming Teacher, Everyone Active, Fareham, UK
Swimming Teacher, Everyone Active, Southam, Warwickshire, UK
Part-time Lifeguard, Everyone Active, Wickford, UK
Sports Development Assistant, Get Berkshire Active, Berkshire, UK
Sports Centre Manager, Westminster School, Westminster, London, UK
Operations Manager, Fusion, London, UK
Leisure Centre Manager, The Fire Service College, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, UK
Duty Managers x3, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, UK
Gymnastics Coach, Everyone Active, Stratford Leisure Centre, UK
Active Schools and Community Officer, Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeen, UK
General Manager, Stars Gym, Battersea, London, UK

Duty Manager, GLL, London Borough of Lambeth, UK
Party Host, Everyone Active, Studley Leisure Centre, UK
Cover/ Casual Relief Dance Instructors, Everyone Active, Stratford/ Studley Leisure Centre, UK
Commercial Brand Officer x 3, GLL, Based at Brixton Leisure Centre, UK
Community Sports Officer, GLL, London Borough of Ealing, UK
Community Sports Officer, GLL, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, UK
Trampoline and Gymnastics Coaches, Everyone Active, Fareham, UK
Recreation Apprentice Scheme, GLL, London, UK
Leisure Assistant (Lifeguard), GLL, East London
Leisure Assistant, GLL, South London, UK
Part-time Lifeguards, Everyone Active, Pitsea, UK
Full time Membership Consultant (Maternity Cover), Everyone Active, Staines/Sunbury, UK
Full time Membership Consultant, Everyone Active, Staines/Sunbury, UK
General Manager (40hpw), GLL, Oxford, UK
Dual Role - Fitness Instructor / Sales Promotor, énergie group, Guildford, UK
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Full time Membership Consultant, Everyone Active, Staines/Sunbury, UK
General Manager (40hpw), GLL, Oxford, UK
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Fitness Manager, Edgbaston Priory Club Ltd, Birmingham, UK
Director of Finance, Finesse Leisure Partnership, Welwyn Garden City, UK
General Manager, Fusion, Milton Keynes, UK
Divisional Business Manager, Fusion, London and Essex, UK
Lecturer - Sport, Uxbridge College, London, UK
Sport and Fitness Duty Manager (Part Time, Leads Trinity University College, UK
General Manager, GLL, North London, UK
Assistant Manager (40hpw), GLL, Thame, Oxon, UK
Recreation Assistant - lifeguard, GLL, Crystal Palace National Sports Centre, UK
Leisure Assistant, GLL, West London, UK
Sales Advisor, Énergie Group, Swindon, UK
Personal Trainer, Pure Gym Limited, Various locations, UK
Recreation Assistant, GLL, Camden Borough, UK
Chief Executive, Gosling Sports Park, Welwyn Garden City, UK
Spa Therapist, GLL, Tower Hamlets, UK
Development Officer, GLL, Woolwich, London, UK
Fitness Supervisor, GLL, Westminster, London, UK
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If you have the drive to be part of our high-performing team and make a real difference then we want to hear from you. Previous candidates need not reapply.

Please send your CV and covering letter to
lisamarie.reddan@fusion-lifestyle.com

Closing date: 12 July 2012

www.fusion-lifestyle.com



Emirates Air Line service to open

Transport for London (TfL) has announced the new cable car service across the river Thames between Greenwich and the Royal Docks will be opening on 28 June.

The 1.1km (0.7-mile) the Emirates Air Line has been designed by Wilkinson Eyre Architects and will launch in time for the 2012 Games.

The 34 cabins will cross the river at a height of 90m (295ft) and will have capacity for up to 2,500 people an hour in each direction. Passengers will also have the chance to take a non-stop return journey to experience the views over London.

Mace provided design and construction services on the project, which also involved Aedas, Buro Happold, Expedition, URS and



London's Emirates Air Line connects the Royal Docks with Greenwich

cable car specialist Doppelmayr. The new service – sponsored by Emirates Airlines – will be run by Mace's management firm, Macro. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=A6w0l>

Report criticises 'flawed' Llangollen hotel decisions

A new report from the Wales Audit Office has criticised "flawed" decisions taken by the Welsh Government in its purchase of Llangollen's River Lodge Hotel in 2007.

The devolved government paid £1.6m for the property and subsequently entered into a lease

agreement with Powys Fadog to operate a local centre for health, healing and learning.

Plans included a social centre built around a café and hotel, as well as one of the first Shaolin Martial Arts Centres located outside China. Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=e8D1v>

New Middlesbrough casino planned

Stockton-based Jomast Developments has announced it has secured Middlesbrough's large casino licence – one of eight UK areas in which such licences are to be made available.

The developer is planning a £25m leisure and entertainment scheme in the heart of the town centre, which will transform the Gurney House building and adjoining car parks.

In addition to a new casino, Jomast's plans include the provision of a luxury hotel, a budget hotel and banqueting facilities, as well as restaurants. Plus3 Architecture has been working with Jomast on the plans.

A full marketing campaign aimed at securing a casino operator will now get underway, with a number of parties already expressing interest in the site. Meanwhile, a planning application is being prepared and a consultation will be held prior to the proposals being



A large casino is set to anchor the new £25m project

submitted. It is hoped the first phase of work will start early next year.

Jomast's Adam Heard said: "Our vision is to create a major new casino-based leisure and entertainment destination."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Vok7z>

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