

leisure opportunities

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£13m Robin Hood Experience planned for Nottingham

Plans have been revealed for a £13m Discover Robin Hood visitor attraction in Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire.

Nottinghamshire County Council has appointed Discovery Attractions to design and operate the attraction, which will include a mix of indoor and outdoor experiences. Facilities include the Discover Sherwood Forest dome – which will offer an insight into the history of the forest – and The Village, exhibiting the medieval way of life with live entertainment, crafts workshops and live animals.

There will also be an open-air theatre, a torture chamber-themed scare attraction, a maze, an adventure play area and a 4D cinema showing a 10-minute Robin Hood film.

The attraction's 'jewel in the crown' will be a daily entertainment show, produced in partnership with US-based BRC Imagination Arts.



The attraction will include a mix of themed rides, live entertainment and 4D cinema

fully operational in mid-2015. Discovery Attractions was founded by entrepreneur Tom Hartley and Ian McGonigal, who has more than 20 years' experience in the design and construction of visitor attractions for major operators including Madame Tussaud's.

The company's chief executive, John Lowther, is a former manager of London's Vinopolis and is also a former director of the Trentham Estate in Staffordshire.

Rob Gray, marketing director of Discovery Attractions, said: "Robin Hood is a global brand that deserves to be celebrated, and where better to do this than at his spiritual home of Sherwood Forest."

"Discover Robin Hood will be the first in a series of world class visitor attractions from Discovery Attractions, based on Britain's rich heritage." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=U1u1E>

Sebastian Coe named new BOA chair

Lord Sebastian Coe has been appointed as the new chair of the British Olympic Association (BOA).

The former head of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games was voted to the role by 43 members of the National Olympic Committee on 7 November 2012. A double Olympic gold medallist, Lord Coe stood unopposed and will serve a four-year term as BOA chair.

He succeeds Lord Colin Moynihan, who announced in August this year his decision to step down after seven years. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=v7k6m>

PPL licensing reform to take effect in 2013

The Fitness Industry Association (FIA) and Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL) have reached an agreement to reform PPL's Exercise tariff – which covers the use of PPL-recorded music as an accompaniment to fitness classes. Coming into force in May 2013, the reforms will impact both the way the tariff operates and the charges applied.

In future, the sole responsibility for holding a valid PPL licence for group exercise classes in fitness centres will be on the operators of those facilities. Fitness instructors will only be required to hold a valid PPL licence for any classes that they hold in premises other than fitness facilities – such as hired halls,



The tariff will rise from 95p to £1.88 per class by 2017

community spaces and offices. The new tariff, entitled Exercise To Music, will see PPL fees eventually rising over a five-year period.

The tariff fee will start at 95p per class, rising to £1.25 in May 2014, £1.50 in May 2015, £1.75 in May 2016 and £1.88 per class in 2017. Indexation will apply from May 2018 at the earliest. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=B6ho>

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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

Aoife Dowling 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

Sarah Gibbs 01462 471908

Account manager, attractions

Ben Barnard 01462 471914

Property desk

Simon Hinksman 01462 471905

Publisher, Spa Opportunities

Sarah Gibbs 01462 471908

Financial Administrator

Denise Gildea 01462 471930

Circulation Manager

Michael Emmerson 01462 471932

Subscribe to Leisure Opportunities,

Online: www.leisuresubs.com

Email: subs@leisuremedia.com

Tel: +44 (0)1462 471913

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WSFF calls for legacy for women

Major changes are needed in sport in order to maximise the Olympic legacy opportunity for women, the Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation (WSFF) told MPs at the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Women's Sport and Fitness on 24 October.

British women had their best ever Olympics, winning 11 gold, eight silver and six bronze medals, however, the WSFF claims there needs to be a cultural change in sport in order to capitalise on this success.

Currently only 5 per cent of sports media coverage and 0.5 per cent of commercial investment is directed at women's sport. At grassroots level, only 12 per cent of 14-year-old girls are doing sufficient physical activity, half the figure of boys of the same age. This is partly because of a culture which prizes being thin over being healthy, claims the WSFF.

The organisation is proposing a strategy which would see greater media coverage of women in sport, a rethink of school sport to encourage more female participation and more female leadership at the highest levels.

"The issues are endemic and chronic," says WSFF chief executive Sue Tibbolls. "The achievements of Jessica Ennis, Sarah Storey, Kath Grainger and so many others have taken sport for women's sport to new heights.



Team GB women won more medals than ever in 2012

But we cannot rely on goodwill alone to overcome the obstacles to women's sport taking its proper place in public life. This has to change or the Olympic legacy will have failed for women."

The WSFF wants the government to scrutinise how public money is being spent on sport to see how much funding is reaching women. The organisation launched the Go Girl campaign this year to create a celebration of female sporting achievement and to create a community of women to inspire each other to get healthy. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=s5W8L>

'Game changing' plans for women's football

The Football Association (FA) has launched plans to transform the future of women's football in England.

Entitled Game Changer, the strategy looks to harness the momentum of the 2012 Olympics and drive the game forward at every level.

The plans are based on four key elements: creating an Elite Performance Unit (EPU); delivering a new commercial strategy for women's football; expanding the Women's Super League (WSL); and growing participation at grassroots level.

The EPU will be tasked with developing the best young players via a talent development pathway. For the first time in FA history, a distinct commercial programme for women's football will be created to help the game have a clear identity and become financially more sustainable.

As part of this, the commercial rights for England Women, The FA Women's Cup and The FA WSL will be sold separately from rights



Plans include developing players via a talent development pathway

for the men's game to establish a clear identity. A second tier – WSL2 – will also be created to enable promotion and relegation, expanding a competition format that is driving up playing standards and improving awareness of the women's game. The FA aims for women's football to become the second largest team sport after men's football by 2018 based on independent Sport England research, with 253,600 women playing football each month. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=x4tox>

£18m football facility fund launched

The Football Foundation has launched a new grant scheme which will invest in the development of new and enhanced local sports facilities across England and Wales.

Funded by the Premier League and delivered by the Football Foundation, The Premier League Community Fund (PLCFF) will invest £18m into new or refurbished sports facilities over the next three years.

It is open to all football club community-led organisations from the Premier League, Football League, Football Conference, and the Conference's North and South divisions.

The first facility to benefit from the fund is Stretford High School in Lancashire, where a new, full-size floodlit third-generation artificial grass pitch has been built with the help of a £350,000 grant.



The funding will invest £18m into grassroots facilities over three years

Located less than a mile from Old Trafford stadium, The Manchester United Foundation is a key partner in the project. The foundation will have 10 hours' free use of the facility each week and will see Kickz community project sessions being delivered at the site by the end of the first year. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=z8v4T>

Olympics helped pull the UK out of recession

The UK is officially out of recession – partly thanks to the economic boost provided by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show that the UK economy grew by 1 per cent during Q3 2012 (the period from July to September) – an increase significantly more than economists had expected.

Among the sectors showing growth during the period were hospitality and tourism.

Hotels showed greater activity, with higher revenues in July and August being attributed to the Olympics.

The arts and entertainment sector has also been showing strength for some time with further growth in the most recent



The London 2012 Games offered a significant boost to the UK's economy

quarter. According to the ONS report, there was evidence from survey returns that output in the cultural sector was "higher in July and August because of the Olympics". Details: <http://lei.sr?a=a4Dnn>

Active Universities attracts 46,000 students in first year

More than 46,000 university students have got involved in sport in the first year of Sport England's Active Universities campaign.

The three-year, £8m project is part of work to tackle the issue of drop-off in sports participation that sees many young people giving

up sport in their late teens and early twenties. The first results from 40 funded projects across 49 universities have now been revealed and show how a range of sports have benefited from an increase in people taking part. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=1517g>

Caerphilly leisure facilities set for revamp

Leisure facilities in Caerphilly County Borough, south Wales, are set for a revamp as councillors meet to discuss a raft of improvements. The borough council's Environment Scrutiny Committee is considering a range of investment ideas proposed by individual leisure managers.

Suggested improvements include an indoor 3G training surface at New Tredegar Leisure Centre; interactive water features, a play zone and slides for the pool at Cefn Fforest Leisure Centre; and a modular changing room at Bedwelty sports field.

It has also been proposed that the tennis courts at Risca Leisure Centre are converted into a floodlit 3G area and that vibration training equipment is installed in fitness suites at Newbridge, Pontllanfraith and Risca Leisure Centres. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=E8R7U>



England will host the Rugby World Cup in 2015

RFU plans £26m rugby legacy investment

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) will invest £26m in developing the sport's grassroots as part of a strategy to create a lasting legacy from the 2015 World Cup in England.

The RFU predicts an increase in interest in rugby both during the run up and after the World Cup and is keen to capitalise on it. Announcing the plans, RFU chief executive Ian Ritchie outlined seven areas of focus for the RFU in the lead up to 2015 and beyond.

The seven areas include a £10m facility fund to improve club equipment and facilities at more than 500 clubs across the country and a new £1m training fund which will deliver more than 6,500 newly qualified referees and coaches.

Elsewhere, RFU's All Schools programme will ensure that more schools offer rugby while a target has been set to encourage 15,000 new players to take up touch rugby. There will also be increased efforts to work with universities and employers to encourage 'returning players' – people aged 16-24 who might have played rugby at school but aren't currently active. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=H5S7x>

Leisure Connection admits safety breach in pool death

Management company Leisure Connection has admitted a health and safety breach over the death of a seven-year-old girl at Blackwater Leisure Centre in Essex.

Michelle Gellard was pulled unconscious from the centre's swimming pool on 14 June 2008. Staff were unable to resuscitate her and she was later pronounced dead at Colchester General Hospital. Leisure Connection, which runs the centre on behalf of the local council, admitted failing to ensure the safety of a member of the public at a hearing at Chelmsford Crown Court. The company is to be sentenced in March 2013. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=m7R0t>*



The refurbished centre is operated by Fusion

Loughborough Leisure Centre reopens

Loughborough Leisure Centre has reopened following a £2.1m redevelopment.

Facilities at the centre, which is owned by Charnwood Borough Council and operated by leisure trust Fusion Lifestyle, now include a new 75-station gym space, a new indoor cycling studio and a refurbished group exercise studio.

The new facilities opened as part of the first phase of renovations which are due for completion in mid-December. The final phase will see the launch of a refurbished main exercise studio and upgraded changing rooms. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=x6w1W>*

Exercise in later life keeps brain healthy

A study by the University of Edinburgh has shown that people who exercise later in life may better protect their brain from age-related changes than those who do not.

Researchers found that people over the age of 70 who took regular exercise showed less brain shrinkage over a three-year period. Shrinkage is linked to problems with memory and findings suggest that exercise is potentially one important pathway to maintaining a healthy brain. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=X9b9m>*

Glasgow deal for Technogym

Fitness equipment supplier Technogym has secured a contract with leisure trust Glasgow Life, which manages 26 sports and leisure facilities in the city on behalf of Glasgow City Council.

As part of the deal Technogym will upgrade all Glasgow Life-operated fitness and active leisure facilities with new equipment.

The new installations will include equipment from the company's Visioweb – a digital platform for cardiovascular equipment – and Vario ranges, as well as a number of its Kinesis functional training stations.

Archie Graham, chair of Glasgow Life, said: "Over the next three years this partnership with Technogym will provide the people of Glasgow with an unrivalled leisure experience."



As part of the deal, Technogym will be looking to upgrade all 26 centres

Glasgow Life's managed centres include the recently opened £113m Emirates Arena and the Tolcross International Swimming Centre which is due to open in mid-2013. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=v2D1N>*

Power Plate bought out of administration

US-based PPI Acquisitions has acquired vibration fitness equipment supplier Power Plate out of administration.

The company's administrators – Duff & Phelps, the same firm which handled the administration of Rangers FC – confirmed that it had agreed a deal which includes all of Power Plate's business and assets.

The sale process has entered into an exclusivity period while the contractual terms are completed and during which time PPI Acquisitions will be operating the Power Plate business under license from the administrators.

Additionally, PPI Acquisitions has entered into an exclusive manufacturing agreement with the current manufacturer of



A Power Plate session – the machines are used in gyms across the UK

Power Plate products. With this agreement in place, PPI Acquisitions will be the sole source for the complete line of Power Plate branded products world wide. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=e7e5p>*

Leisure centre opens as part of Bridgewater project

A new leisure centre in Bridgewater has opened as part of a £20m redevelopment of Robert Blake and Elmwood School.

The centre was opened under Somerset County Council's Building Schools for the Future Project (BSFP). Robert Blake and

Elmwood Leisure, which will be managed by 1610 leisure trust, will provide a state of the art gym and exercise studio as well as a four court sports hall. In addition to this a grass football pitch, MUGA and all weather pitch will be available. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=d5u7f>*

ACSM charts 2013 fitness trends

A survey of fitness trends has confirmed the re-emergence of body weight training by naming it among the top hot exercises for the future.

Body weight training – which includes push-ups, planks, pull-ups and squats – appears in the top 10 of the annual American College of Sports Medicine Fitness Survey for the first time.

The global survey, now in its seventh year, was completed by 3,346 certified health and fitness professionals worldwide and was designed to reveal trends in various fitness environments.

Pilates, balance training, and the stability ball are trends that had previously been listed in the top 20 but have not reappeared on the list after they dropped off the list a couple of years ago. Thirty-seven potential trends were given as choices, and the top 20 were ranked



Push-ups and body weight training methods are making a comeback

and discussed in the survey report. Other trends identified by the survey included the increasing need to create exercise classes and programmes for an older population and the emergence of group personal training.

Dr Walt Thompson, author of the study, said: “Body weight exercises are a proven way to get and stay fit.” Details: <http://lei.sr?a=usr&A>

PayasUgym secures Tesco contract

PayasUgym has secured a partnership with Tesco which could see the online company provide gym passes to up to 16 million Clubcard customers.

The deal will allow Clubcard customers to use their Clubcard points to purchase gym passes for health clubs and leisure centres across the UK.

Every £5 worth of Clubcard points will give card owners £15 worth of gym credits which they can then spend on day passes and short term memberships at any of the health clubs listed on the payasUgym.com website.

First launched in February 2011, PayasUgym is the brainchild of entrepreneurs Neil Harmsworth and Jamie Ward. The online gym network utilises smartphone and mobile



More than 600 gyms and health clubs have signed up to PayasUgym

technology for customers to locate a gym, book a session and pay per visit without membership fees.

More than 600 gyms and health clubs of all sizes are currently signed up with the service. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=c6W3D>

Barnet Football Club opens community health club

Barnet Football Club (BFC) has launched a new £1m health club which will be used by both professional footballers and local residents. Facilities at The Hive Fitness Centre include a 60-station gym equipped by Pulse Fitness, two group exercise classes, an indoor

group cycling space with 30 bikes and wet areas including a sauna. Personal training services will also be on offer. The club will be open to the public seven days a week and will offer memberships from £29.99 per month. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=z9d2i>

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Lowering VAT would increase UK's competitiveness



UFI IBRAHIM
is chief executive
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Hospitality Association

As we approach the end of the year, the Campaign for Reduced Tourism VAT, is stepping up its work. In today's global tourism market, the current rate of 20 per cent VAT undermines UK tourism's ability to compete effectively. Reducing VAT on tourism services to 5 per cent would increase UK competitiveness, create jobs and grow GDP. This is the message we are urging on the Treasury in our talks with ministers and officials. In particular, reducing VAT on key tourism services such as visitor accommodation and entry to attractions would:

- Boost GDP by £4bn a year
- Create 78,000 jobs
- Deliver £2.6bn in tax over 10 years

We have strong evidence that cutting tourism VAT is one of the most efficient, if not the most efficient, means of generating GDP gains at low cost to the Exchequer. There is also strong evidence of a clear relationship between the high rate of VAT and the decline in UK competitiveness.

Out of 27 EU member states, only four (Denmark, Lithuania, Slovakia and the UK) do not take advantage of a reduced rate of VAT on visitor accommodation, while the UK is one of only 10 countries that applies the full rate of VAT on admissions to cultural attractions. Fourteen countries have a reduced rate for restaurant meals.

In spite of the recession, there have only been marginal increases in VAT rates for accommodation and attractions in the EU in the last four years, confirming that tourism is highly price sensitive and is damaged by high rates of taxation.

The argument for a reduced rate of VAT on tourism services is strong, but it needs even more support from members of the industry. The Campaign for Reduced Tourism VAT, led by the BHA, BALPPA, Bourne Leisure and Merlin Entertainment, is supported by over 300 other stake holders.

But what is now needed is for members of the industry to add their weight to a campaign that will create jobs and benefit competitiveness, by registering their support on www.cuttourismvat.co.uk. The time for action is now.

HOTELS

Luxury hotel plans for The Mall

Admiralty Arch – the iconic gateway between The Mall and Trafalgar Square in the heart of London – is to be transformed into a luxury hotel and restaurant.

Built in 1912 as a memorial to Queen Victoria, the historic Grade I building has been leased by the UK government to Spanish company Prime Investors Capital (PIC) for a period of 99 years.

PIC is a private equity group run by Spanish property developer Rafael Serrano Quevedo. It is believed the group paid around £70m for the property.

Although exact details of the hotel have yet to be confirmed, it is thought that the hotel will have no more than 100 rooms and a panoramic restaurant and bar at the top.

Due to its location – rooms will offer views of both Trafalgar Square and Buckingham Palace



The new hotel will be located on the top floors of Admiralty Arch

– the landmark property is likely to become an instant destination when it opens in 2014.

Rafael Serrano said that the 100-year-old, historic building's period features will be 'painstakingly preserved' and respected during the conversion work. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=q3F0q>

New boutique hotels to open in England

The House Collection, a new group of boutique hotels, is set to open its first properties in the east of England.

The company has been set up by three former members of the senior management team at the Belfry hotel in Warwickshire.

David Toulson-Burke, Ian Cross and Jonathan Baker aim to create a portfolio of unique 'luxury house hotels' with no more than 45 bedrooms. The first hotel will be the Poet's House in Cambridgeshire, which will open in March 2013. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=g80j>

London hotels avoid Olympic slump

London hotels avoided a feared post-Olympic slump in September as occupancy levels increased by 3.1 per cent on September 2011 levels.

The latest HotStats survey by TRI Hospitality Consulting found that despite a year-on-year decline of 3.2 per cent in average room rate (from £141.82 to £137.26), the increase in occupancy levels resulted in a 0.6 per cent increase in RevPAR for the month. During the same period, Total Revenue per Available Room (TrevPAR) increased by 1.3 per cent, underpinned by a strong increase in non-rooms revenue of around 19 per cent.

While the strong performance can in part be attributed to the success of the Paralympic Games, London also witnessed a late increase



London hotels saw increases in occupancy despite fears of the contrary

in visitors as data reveals that the increase in occupancy levels was underpinned by a 22 per cent increase in leisure-related demand.

Jonathan Langston, MD of HRI, said: "The strong start to the year, in addition to the performance in August and September, has guaranteed growth in 2012."



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Paul Kelly named new BALPPA CEO

Former Thorpe Park boss Paul Kelly has been named the new chief executive of the British Association of Leisure Parks, Piers and Attractions (BALPPA).

Kelly is well known in the industry from his long service to Thorpe Park, where he began his career in 1988 before progressing through the ranks to become park manager in 1994. He was then named head of operations at London Eye in 1999 and later took over a new business development role at Merlin Entertainments - owner of London Eye. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Q8R9M>*



The historic ruins will become a major attraction

Swansea castle redevelopment planned

Swansea Council has approved plans to redevelop the city's historic castle into a major new visitor attraction.

Swansea Castle was built more than 800 years ago and its ruins dominate Castle Square in the city centre. Swansea Council has already been working with the Welsh Government and historic environment service Cadw to make the landmark more accessible to visitors and has now approved plans to invest further in the site to establish it as a major visitor attraction.

The next phase of the work will involve landscaping works within the courtyard that will be designed to increase public use. There will also be improvements to the lighting scheme to highlight points of interest and an interpretation project will be designed to provide information to residents and visitors regarding the historical and cultural significance of the castle.

Councillor Nick Bradley, Swansea Council's cabinet member for regeneration, said: "Working in close partnership with the Welsh Government and Cadw meant we were able to open up Swansea Castle for the first time in decades.

"The next phase of works being proposed will further improve the landmark and attract even more visitors."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=S6A5D>

Shard attraction details revealed

The View from The Shard (VTS), a new visitor experience located at the top of Europe's tallest building in London, will open to the public on 1 February.

Details of the attraction's design were revealed for the first time on 25 October by Anders Nyberg, VTS chief executive. The attraction will take guests on a journey to 244m (800ft) above London, twice as high as any viewing point in the city.

A series of colourful tongue-in-cheek illustrations of famous Londoners in playful juxtapositions will greet visitors at the entrance to The View from The Shard. Here Margaret Thatcher and Karl Marx are pictured out for a ride together on a tandem bicycle; Vidal Sassoon and Vivienne Westwood are giving King Charles I a makeover; and George Orwell is installing CCTV cameras.



The high-rise attraction will open to the public on 1 February 2013

From the ground floor, guests depart in two high-speed lifts that take just 30 seconds to reach the viewing platforms.

On their journey skywards they will be accompanied by a soaring anthem from the London Symphony Orchestra, building anticipation of being able to enjoy 64km (40 mile), 360-degree views over the capital and beyond. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=y3F2a>*

Falling visitor numbers close Camelot park

Knights Leisure, operator of Camelot theme park in Chorley, Lancashire, has announced that the park will not be reopening for the 2013 season. Knights Leisure director Mark Leader said: "While we have become used to the inclement summer weather in the UK during the past few years, a combination of the wettest summer for 100 years, the Queen's Jubilee celebrations followed by the spectacular television coverage of the Olympic Games during our busiest months of the year had a major impact on visitors to the park."

All of the equipment owned by Knights Leisure is to be put up for sale.

Camelot theme park closed temporarily in early 2009 when its owner, Prime Resorts, went



Camelot's operator blamed a number of factors for dwindling attendance

into administration. It reopened two months later in May after being acquired by The Story Group, a newly-formed company led by the former chief executive of Prime Resorts, Roy Page. The park was then leased to Knights Leisure. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=G7H1Z>*

Castlehill heritage attraction opens in Dungannon

A new €5.5m heritage park and visitor attraction has opened on the Castlehill site in Dungannon, Northern Ireland.

Located on the grounds of the town's former Belfast Bank, the Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre includes

a multimedia exhibition that narrates the story of Dungannon and Ireland's famous O'Neill Dynasty - after whom the hill has been named. Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council invested €2.6m in the project with €2.3m funding secured from the HLF.

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Bonington Theatre to receive upgrade of facilities

Gedling Borough Council (GBC) has confirmed plans to invest £1.3m in the borough's leisure services.

As part of the council's plans, £250,000 will be spent on the publicly-owned Bonington Theatre, which is set to benefit from improvements to its seating areas, dressing rooms and bar area.

The council has plans to complete this work over the next 18 months although details of the work and timescales have yet to be finalised. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=x8w6m>



The scheme will help young people find work

NSA to provide creative employment scheme

The National Skills Academy, the delivery arm of Creative & Cultural Skills, has been named the new national provider for the Arts Council's Creative Employment Programme.

The programme aims to help young unemployed people find paid entry level work in the arts and cultural sector.

The decision was the result of an open application process and means the Skills Academy will be responsible for delivering the Arts Council funding of up to £15m which will directly benefit unemployed young people. The Creative Employment Programme will give young people at the start of their careers paid opportunities to access on the job training, skills and experience that potential employers will value. It is aimed at unemployed people, graduates and non-graduates, aged 16-24.

The initiative looks to support up to 6,500 new apprenticeships, pre-apprenticeships and paid internships in a variety of roles across the arts and cultural sector at a time when many young people are struggling to find paid employment.

Skills Academy, the national delivery arm of Creative & Cultural Skills, will deliver the programme through its network of Further and Higher Education partners.

19.8m visit London 2012 Festival

The London 2012 Festival attracted more than 19.8m visits during its run from 21 June – 9 September.

Official figures show that the £63m event – the culmination of the Cultural Olympiad – included 621 productions and projects resulting in 13,006 performances and events at 1,270 venues across the UK. More than 200 works were commissioned for the festival, which also included 160 world and UK premieres and left a legacy of 176 permanent artworks.

Around 80 per cent of the 19.8m visits were for free events and a poll taken during the festival showed that 85 per cent of attendees said the event was a positive addition to the Games.

It's estimated that up to 500,000 people signed up to London 2012 to receive information on cultural events linked to the Games, with the strongest interest coming from young audiences, women and black, Asian and



The festival included a total of 13,006 performances of a wide variety

minority ethnic (BAME) people. The results will be welcomed by the festival organisers, whose key aim of the London 2012 Festival was to use the power of the Games to engage new audiences with the arts.

Ruth Mackenzie, director of London 2012 Festival and Cultural Olympiad, said: "We asked partners and artists to create 'Once in a Lifetime' work to match the scale of London 2012 Games." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=t9P5O>

Arts Council reveals restructure details

Arts Council England (ACE) has revealed detailed plans for a restructure, forced upon it as it looks to deal with the government's budget cuts.

The changes are set to take place on 1 July 2013 and come as a result of the Government's requirement – made as part of Arts Council England's settlement for 2011-15 – that the organisation reduces its administrative costs, as applied to its grant in aid for the arts by the end of March 2015. In a statement ACE said: "Making savings on this scale

has required a major restructure and a substantial reduction in staff numbers, and will call for new ways of working.

"In shaping its new structure the Arts Council has been guided by the principle of remaining one national organisation with local presence, able to continue to deliver its 10 year strategy 'Achieving great art for everyone' and 'Culture, knowledge and understanding: great museums and libraries for everyone'."

Among the announced changes are a 21 per cent decrease in staff numbers – leading to 117 jobs being cut – and a 50 per cent reduction in property costs due to downsizing of



Alan Davey, Arts Council CEO, described the restructure as "challenging"

office space. To assist with the measures and to streamline operations, five areas covering London, the south east, the south west, the Midlands and the north will replace the Arts Council's current regions and areas.

Alan Davey, chief executive of ACE, said: "These savings have been challenging to achieve, given our already pared down structure. There is an absolute need for us to remain an intelligent investor, leading growth and ambition in an arts and cultural sector which contributes so much to the wealth, quality of life and reputation of our nation." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=b2E9L>

TOURISM

Tourism robust despite economic gloom

Growth in the global tourism industry in 2012 will be broadly in line with expectations set at the beginning of the year. Announcing its final forecast for 2012 during the World Travel Market (WTM) event held in London this week, the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) predicted that global tourism will grow 2.7 per cent during 2012.

Earlier this year, WTTC released a report predicting a 2.8 per cent growth in the sector. The main reasons for the marginal downgrade are that WTTC now expects world GDP growth to be 2.3 per cent in 2012 – down 0.2 per cent from the beginning of the year – and the continuing problems in the Eurozone.

The latest economic data from WTTC's research partner, Oxford Economics, show downgrades in the Eurozone and the US since the beginning of the year, contrasting with upgrades in Japan and emerging markets.

David Scowless, president and CEO of WTTC, said: "The latest figures from WTTC confirm the resilience of the travel and tourism industry around the world.



Global tourism numbers have remained healthy

"Despite some specific and regional downgrades to short-term economic and industry forecasts, the longer-term prospects for travel and tourism remain very positive, and continue to be boosted by strong growth and rising prosperity in emerging markets." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Eou4M>

Youth Contract scheme kicks off in Liverpool

Liverpool has become one of the first cities in the UK to launch a new Youth Contract aimed at lifting teenagers out of unemployment.

The Youth Contract Apprenticeship Business Grant Initiative offers a subsidy of up to £3,500 for employers to take on young people who

are aged 16-17 and not in education, employment and training. The priority areas include tourism and the creative sector and applications are being invited from businesses offering employment beyond the apprenticeship term. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=H8N2o>

VisitBritain and BA join forces for campaign

British Airways and VisitBritain have joined forces to launch a new multi-million pound marketing push to boost inbound traveller numbers to the UK.

The Big British Invite campaign features 'real' British people inviting the world to visit Britain to enjoy their favourite places and experiences. Ambassadors include the chief Yeoman warder of the Tower of London and the director of the Loch Ness Project, which helps inform millions of visitors each year about the mystery surrounding the world famous loch. The first phase of the campaign began on 3 November, with print and digital advertising featuring special fares for British Airways flights to the UK.



The campaign looks to attract people from emerging markets to the UK

The campaign will target travellers from emerging markets such as China and India, alongside established markets such as the UAE and the US. In 2011, 4.6m visitors from these markets spent a total of £3.9bn in the UK.

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PROPERTY

£20m leisure centre for Elephant and Castle

Plans for a new £20m leisure centre in Elephant and Castle, south London, have been given the go-ahead by Southwark Council. The new centre will replace an existing centre and will house the area's first swimming pool for more than 15 years.

S&P Architects will be responsible for designing the centre, in partnership with John McAslan and Partners.

The leisure centre will form part of a regeneration programme being developed by 4 Futures, a partnership between Southwark Council and Balfour Beatty.

Demolition was set to begin on the existing building in October but archaeological discoveries were made delaying the project's end date by two months to Q3 2014.



Facilities at the new centre will include the area's first pool for 15 years

Plans began for the centre after a public consultation in September 2010 produced a huge response from local residents and customers on the need for a revamp.

Leader of Southwark Council Peter John said: "Planning consent means that we're ready to take this to the next stage."

Fens visitor centre competition launched

RIBA Competitions – an arm of the Royal Institute of British Architects – has launched a two-stage Design Ideas Competition for the Great Fen Visitor Centre in Cambridgeshire.

The competition has been commissioned by the Great Fen – a partnership organisation which comprises the Environment Agency, Huntingdonshire District Council, Middle Level Commissioners, Natural England and The Wildlife Trust. Great Fen plans to establish a £2m visitor centre at New Decoy Farm in Cambridgeshire and the competition is open to design teams based in Europe and the UK.

Up to four schemes will be shortlisted from the anonymous Stage 1 entries. Stage 2 will involve further exploration and refinement of



The proposed site of the Great Fens attraction – New Decoy Farm

the Stage 1 design concepts, with the short-listed teams invited to attend an interview and make a presentation to the Judging Panel.

The Great Fen is considered one of the most important wildlife projects in Britain.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=R6E6F>

Public consultation underway on Stafford leisure plans

Stafford Borough Council is to undertake a public consultation regarding plans to upgrade leisure facilities in the town of Stone.

Earlier, an independent report commissioned by the council revealed that facilities were nearing the end of their operational life

and that Stone required a new sports and leisure centre and improved football pitches.

The report added that the cost of providing new facilities would be significant and would need widespread public support before going ahead with future investment.

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GARETH EDWARDS
is education
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As Halloween slips away into the shortening nights of November I'm not sure whether to keep screaming about the current GCSE fiasco, or treat myself to a celebratory drink as I review Springboard's positive contribution to vocational education.

As a former teacher I understand and sympathise with teachers' outrage against the Ofqual accusation that the profession 'marked-up' GCSE English coursework. Most educators I've spoken to think that they followed all the exam board criteria on marking and attended training as laid out by the regulator.

All this seems a far cry from a few years ago when schools were being urged, and congratulated, as they made excellent progress in teaching the three Cs, cooking, communication and culture.

Thankfully, The Springboard Charity has made huge strides on all these fronts with its nationally recognised FutureChef Programme regularly getting over 8,000 young people aged 12-16 across the UK involved. Springboard recognises the vital importance of learning for life and how valuable practical, hands-on skills are.

More businesses recognise the importance of signing up to Springboard's INSPIRE work experience kitemark and are reaping the rewards for their investment with the charity. Retention rates are better, staff come motivated and knowing what to expect in the sector and, most importantly, they find a career that offers them a real pathway to job satisfaction.

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Springboard offers pre-employment training, work placements, interviews and mentoring once individuals are in work. This support works to ensure the transition from economic inactivity to the ranks of the employed and develops continuity for both employers and employee.

TRAINING

HLF announces £15m heritage skills boost

An additional £15m worth of funding will be invested in heritage skills as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund's (HLF) Skills for the Future scheme.

The grants will support work-based training in a wide range of skills that are needed to look after museum and archive collections, as well as equipping people to lead education and outreach programmes, manage volunteers and use digital technology. The new £15m investment adds to the £26.8m already distributed by HLF via the Skills for the Future scheme since 2009.

Dame Jenny Abramsky, chair of HLF, said the initiative will have a lasting impact on the sector and the wider economy.

"These grants – building on what has already been achieved since 2009 – are designed to



Grants will support skills needed in museum collection maintenance

address the shortage of skills and training opportunities and will provide hundreds more training places," she said.

"One of our aims is to build organisational resilience within the sector. Ensuring people have the skills to look after our heritage is an important part of that. We know this works and that's why we are making a further £15m investment." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=k3OzT>

£5m for Welsh apprenticeship scheme

Welsh deputy minister for skills, Jeff Cuthbert, has announced a further £5m funding for additional apprenticeship places for newly recruited young people aged 16-24. Speaking at the National Training Federation Wales conference in Llandudno, Cuthbert also set a challenge for the Work Based Learning Network to engage with those employers who do not already offer apprenticeships and find more opportunities for the young people of Wales.

He said: "In today's market an apprenticeship holds as much value as a place at a top university, but it is only by raising the value and profile of apprenticeships that they will gain the parity of esteem with more traditional academic routes."

Julian Leybourne, chief executive of ICON Training and chair of CIMSPA Wales, says the announcement is a "golden opportunity" for the leisure industry.

He said: "This announcement – alongside the recent change in status for sport as a high priority sector – will provide an ideal opportunity for employers to harness the power of



The scheme is a "golden opportunity" for leisure

apprenticeships to make viable business investments with a high rate of return.

"Jeff Cuthbert gave a challenge to the work-based learning network to engage with employers who have not been aware of or committed to the benefit of apprenticeships."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=L3aog>

FIE launches app to support fitness courses

Online training provider Fitness Industry Education (FIE) has released an app to support its certifications and CPD workshops.

The Mobile Student Desktop App allows FIE students to access their personal online course material on mobile devices.

FIE will make all of its course theory content, diagrams, animations, video content and podcasts available for the app which is free to download from iTunes App Store (Apple) and Google Play Store (Android). Details: <http://lei.sr?a=P1r7O>

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SPORT AND LEISURE STATISTICS

FORECASTS FOR THE SPORT AND LEISURE INDUSTRIES

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

Both publications are essential references for industry practitioners, consultants and researchers.

The Sport Market Forecasts are produced in conjunction with Sport England.

To find out more please visit
www.shu.ac.uk/ad/sportandleisure

Or contact
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Fax 0114 225 4341
Email s.shaw@shu.ac.uk



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



General Manager, *The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust*, London, UK
Trainee Personal Trainer/Fitness Instructor, *The Training Room*, Nationwide, UK
General Managers, *The Gym Group*, Various, UK
Part & Full Time Crew Member/Fitness Instructor, *énergie group*, Northampton, UK
Sales and Retention Manager, *DW Sports Fitness*, Burton, UK
Operations Manager, *Kirklees Active Leisure*, Huddersfield, UK
Just Play Co-ordinator, *University of Essex*, Essex, UK
Retail and Assistant Building Manager, *The Crown Estate*, Windsor, UK
Sales and Retention Manager, *DW Sports Fitness*, Oldham, UK
General Manager, *Fusion*, Southwark, UK
Physical Activity and Development Manager, *Valley Leisure Ltd*, Romsey, UK
Assistant Manager, *Tone Leisure*, Ivybridge, UK
Experienced Health/Fitness professionals wanted, *Ten Pilates*, Central London, UK
Gym Instructors/Basingstoke Sports Centre, Basingstoke, UK
Personal Trainer, *At Home Fitness*, Various, UK
Sports Development Manager, *team BEDSO-LUTON*, Luton, UK
Health and Beauty Therapist, *Stars Gym*, London, UK
Reception / Duty Manager, *Stars Gym*, London, UK
League Operations Manager, *Socxercise*, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, UK
Fitness Motivator, *Everyone Active*, Sutton, London, UK
Disability Football Development Officer, *Cambridgeshire FA Ltd*, Histon, UK
Commercial Officer, *Bury FC Community Trust*, Bury, UK
Club Development Manager, *Wimbledon Racquets and Fitness Club*, UK
Commercial Development Manager, *Lee Valley Regional Park Authority*, Enfield, UK
Club Manager, *Lee on the Solent Tennis Club*, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, UK
Chief Executive, *Hyndburn Leisure*, Accrington, Lancashire, UK
Temporary Golf Courses Manager, *Derby City Council*, Derby, UK
Outdoor Sports Facilities Team Leader, *Derby City Council*, Derby, UK
Duty Manager, *Bluecoat Sports Health & Fitness Club*, West Sussex, UK
Sports Club and Bar Operations Manager, *Barnes Sports Club*, London, UK
Assistant Manager - Customer Services, *Aspire National Training Centre*, Middlesex, UK
Facilities Manager, *Ashford Leisure Trust*, Ashford, UK
Centre Manager, *Ashford Leisure Trust*, Ashford, UK
General Manager, *Academy Sport*, Reading, UK
Health and Fitness Supervisor, *GLL*, Amersham, Buckinghamshire, UK
Partnership Manager - York, *GLL*, Huntington - York, UK
General Manager, *DW Sports Fitness*, Halifax, UK
Sales and Retention Manager, *DW Sports Fitness Clubs*, Bangor NI, UK
Duty Manager, *DW Sports Fitness Clubs*, Middlesbrough, UK
Regional Director, *Parkwood Leisure*, Cardiff, Wales, UK
Regional Director, *Parkwood Leisure*, Staffordshire, UK
Sales and Retention Manager, *DW Sports Fitness*, Winsford, UK
Area Manager, *DW Sports Fitness*, South West Region, UK
General Manager, *DW Sports Fitness*, Swindon, UK
Operations Manager, *Bournemouth Borough Council*, Bournemouth, UK
Visitor Manager, *Bowood*, Wiltshire, UK
Outdoors Commercial Development Manager, *National Trust*, Swindon, UK
Visitor Experience Consultant (Customer Service), *National Trust*, Based at our Exeter Hub (covering the South West), UK
Facilities Manager, *Royal Armouries*, Leeds, UK
Head of Operations, *Scottish Seabird Centre*, North Berwick, UK
Sales and Retention Manager, *DW Sports Fitness*, Preston, UK
Team Leader, *Everyone Active*, Epping, Essex, UK
General Manager, *GLL*, West Oxfordshire, UK

Coach Educator (Academic Programmes), *Loughborough College*, UK
Facilities Manager/Sports Development Officer, *Fleckney Parish Council*, UK
Assistant General Manager, *DW Sports Fitness*, Trafford, UK
Temporary General Manager, *DW Sports Fitness*, Macclesfield, UK
Personal Trainers, *Matt Roberts Personal Training Company*, London, UK
Full time Membership Consultant, *Everyone Active*, Malvern, UK
Sales and Retention Manager, *DW Sports Fitness*, Liverpool, UK
Sports and Recreation Instructor, *Blind Veterans UK*, Brighton, UK
Personal Trainer, *énergie group*, Stockport, UK
Fitness Instructor, *Energy group*, Southbury, Leighton Buzzard, UK
Increase Your Earning Potential, *Energy Group*, Swindon, UK
Female Pilates Instructors, *Active Connection*, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
General Manager, *GLL*, City of York, UK
Trampoline Coach, *Everyone Active*, Spelthorne Leisure Centre, UK
Freelance Gymnastics Instructor, *Everyone Active*, Spelthorne Leisure Centre, UK
Leisure Assistant, *GLL*, Various London, UK
Personal Trainers, *Everyone Active*, Watford Leisure Centre - Central, UK
Fitness Motivator - Part Time, *Everyone Active*, Fareham, UK
Membership Consultants, *Everyone Active*, Stratford upon Avon Area, UK
Leisure Assistant, *GLL*, South London, UK
Leisure Assistant (Lifeguard), *GLL*, East London
Duty Manager, *DW Sports Fitness*, Various locations, UK
Admin Manager, *DW Sports Fitness*, Various locations, UK
Assistant General Manager, *DW Sports Fitness*, Various locations, UK
Temporary Duty Manager, *DW Sports Fitness*, Various locations, UK
Senior Fitness Trainer, *Oxygen Fit*, Barnet, London, UK
Spa Managers, *Resense Spa*, Worldwide
Female Pilates Instructors, *Active Connection*, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Swimming Teacher, *Everyone Active*, Fareham, Hampshire, UK
Team Leader, *Everyone Active*, Cambridge, UK
Sales and Retention Manager, *DW Sports Fitness*, Wigan, UK
General Manager, *The Gym Group*, Ashford, Kent, UK
General Manager, *DW Sports Fitness*, Blackburn, UK
Spa Manager, *Crystal Spa and Lounge*, Saint Petersburg, Russia
Massage Therapists, *SpaStaff.com*, India, Malaysia, UAE, Worldwide
Personal Trainers, *Everyone Active*, Westcroft Leisure Centre, Sutton, UK
Personal Trainer, *Pure Gym Limited*, Various locations, UK
Senior Hair Stylist, *Crystal Spa and Lounge*, Saint Petersburg, Russia
Spa Therapists, *Crystal Spa and Lounge*, Saint Petersburg, Russia
Hair Stylists and Spa Therapists, *SpaStaff.com*, Leicester, UK
Beauty Therapists, *SpaStaff.com*, Derbyshire, UK
Beauty and Massage Therapists, *SpaStaff.com*, Perthshire, Scotland, UK
Fitness Professional, *SpaStaff.com*, Doha, Qatar
Personal Trainer, *Energy Group*, Fit4Less Swindon, UK
Membership Sales / Duty Manager, *Energy group*, Enfield, UK
Promotional Staff, *énergie group*, Northampton, UK
Swimming Instructor, *énergie group*, Wilmslow, Cheshire, UK
Sales Advisor/Club Promoter, *énergie group*, Chelmsford, UK
P/T Fitness Instructor/Sales Person, *énergie group*, Chelmsford, UK
Physiologist and Personal Health Manager, *Viavi Limited*, West End, London but global travel might be necessary, UK
Sales and Retention Manager, *DW Sports Fitness*, Newtownabbey, UK
Personal Trainer, *Energy Group*, Croydon, Greater London, UK
Membership Consultant / Duty Manager, *Energy Group*, Croydon, UK
General Manager, *The Gym Group*, London Ilford, UK

for more news and jobs updated daily visit www.leisureopportunities.co.uk

TO BE INSPIRED IS GREAT, TO BE INSPIRING IS INCREDIBLE!

And inspiring is what we are looking for you to be to achieve our vision to improve lives through physical activity & sport. Sport and leisure in the Scottish Borders is heading into a new & exciting era, offering opportunities for everyone in our communities to participate in physical activity and sport. It's an exciting time for Borders Sport and Leisure too and we're looking to recruit key individuals to ensure we improve the lives of all our communities in our beautiful region.



COULD YOU HOLD THE KEY? WE HAVE A NUMBER OF POSITIONS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE:



ACTIVE COMMUNITIES MANAGER

This is a leader's role for an individual with previous senior management experience to drive our strategic objectives for Community Sport.



AREA MANAGERS

Combining facilities management with the requirements of the wider sporting community.



HEALTH, FITNESS & WELLBEING MANAGER

Championing Health & Fitness programmes for all across our region.



HEALTH & WELLBEING COORDINATOR (PART TIME)

A key role in developing healthier futures through physical activity and sport.



PLAY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (PART TIME)

An innovator who can motivate a lifetime of active play.



CLUB DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

A sports enthusiast required to ensure that there are opportunities to participate in club sport across all communities.



ACTIVE SCHOOLS COORDINATOR

A personality who encourages school aged pupils to participate in regular, frequent, safe and fun sport and physical activity.

In return you get to work for a great company with an excellent salary, a generous holiday allowance, pension, life assurance and inspiring colleagues, all in the beautiful surroundings of the Scottish Borders countryside.

Salaries in most cases dependent on skills and experience.

For more information, please see www.bslt.org.uk or contact enquiries@bslt.org.uk for full job descriptions and application details.

Closing date for all applications is 12 noon on 30th November 2012.

BORDERS SPORT AND LEISURE TRUST

Unit 6, Tweed Mill, Dunsdale Road, Selkirk

T: 01750 724980 | E: enquiries@bslt.org.uk





Graduate Trainee

£18 - £23k pa (subject to evaluation)
Enfield, North London

Providing full administrative and operational support to the Director and Assistant Directors, you will develop your skills and gain a full insight into the processes of an extremely busy leisure organisation.

This role is varied and insightful and will see you build strong relationships with senior managers, helping to ensure processes, policies and strategies are maintained to a high standard, whilst developing an understanding of performance management frameworks and their impact on the business.

With a Leisure Management qualification, you will have an eagerness to learn, be confident and able to communicate with ease both verbally and in writing. Although you do not need any formal leisure experience, you should have a real passion for the industry as well as the drive and determination to progress your career.

If you are a graduate who is keen to develop within the leisure industry and relish the opportunity to work within a multi-venue organisation, then this could be the role for you!

Please complete an application form, found on our website www.leevalleypark.org.uk/jobs and return it to: jobs@leevalleypark.org.uk or The HR Team, Myddelton House, Bulls Cross, Enfield EN2 9HG. Alternatively, please call 01992 709839 for an application pack.

Closing date: 23 November 2012
Interview date: 11 December 2012



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CLUB MANAGER

Hampshire

£25,000 - £30,000 per annum



Situated in an enviable location near the seaford, the Lee-on-the-Solent Tennis, Squash & Fitness Club has, over the years, developed into a facility acknowledged to be amongst the finest in the country. With over 1,400 current members and a history of hosting major sporting events, the Club is committed to excellence across its racquet sports, fitness programme and social facilities, in order to foster and promote participation and enjoyment at all levels. For further details please visit our website www.lostclub.co.uk

The Club is looking for an energetic and dedicated Club Manager to work full time flexible hours to suit the needs of the Club.

THE POST

- To plan, develop and implement strategy for the operational management of Lee-on-the-Solent Tennis, Squash & Fitness Club.
- You will manage the Club's activities, liaise with sports professionals, and meet its financial targets, member satisfaction and sporting excellence, whilst ensuring compliance with current legislation relating to Clubs.
- You will lead the team dynamically and effectively to meet and exceed existing member expectations and be proactive in seeking new members.

THE PERSON

- You will be a results-driven, team player with the confidence and ability to interact at all levels and be a true ambassador for the Club.
- A relevant degree would be an advantage, as would a good standard of computer literacy.
- You must have sound financial experience, along with exceptional administrative and commercial skills.
- You must be someone who has genuine pride in delivering high standards of satisfaction and who can work effectively within Lee-on-the-Solent private members' club and with the Management Committee.

TO APPLY: Please send a CV and covering letter explaining why you are the right candidate for this post to: Mr S Cox, Chairman of the Management Committee, Lee-on-the-Solent Tennis, Squash & Fitness Club, 41-47 Manor Way, Hampshire PO13 9JQ or email chairman@lostclub.co.uk

Or telephone 02392 550381 to speak to Simon Cox about the post. CLOSING DATE: 30TH NOVEMBER 2012



SENIOR SPORTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Full-time – 37 hours per week

£27,052 - £28,636

Ref: H582

Charnwood Borough Council are looking to recruit to the post of Senior Sports Development Officer.

You will be responsible for the development of policies, preparation and implementation of strategic plans aimed at developing sport initiatives throughout the borough in partnership with local providers in the voluntary, educational and commercial sectors.

You will have significant experience of partnership working, budgetary planning, securing external funding and report writing within a sport/leisure development environment. You must be educated to degree level in a relevant subject and have a minimum of a level 2 coaching qualification. A good working knowledge of sport, leisure and health initiatives and managing and developing staff is essential.

You will be an effective communicator with excellent organisational and leadership skills necessary to build team success and effectively manage a number of projects simultaneously. A flexible approach to working hours is essential. You must also be mobile across the borough.

We base selection on job related criteria. Disabled people and ethnic minorities are particularly welcome to apply as they are underrepresented in the Council. Disabled people who meet the essential criteria will be interviewed.

As a 'Regulated Activity' an enhanced CRB is essential.

For any informal enquiries please contact Zoe Griffiths on 01509 634529.

To apply visit: https://www.eastmidlandsjobs.org.uk/job/Senior_Sports_Development_Officer_H582_111276

Closing date: 4th December 2012.

Interview date: 19th December 2012.

Lee Valley
Regional Park Authority

World-class venue. World-class opportunity.

Lee Valley VeloPark Manager - Circa £60k pa (subject to evaluation)

Based in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Stratford, London

Following the enormous success of Team GB in the Velodrome at the London 2012 Olympic Games (where 7 Gold medals were won) comes this superb opportunity to manage the Lee Valley VeloPark. Due to open in January 2014 the VeloPark will be home to no fewer than four cycling disciplines incorporating the iconic Velodrome, a world-class BMX track, Mountain Bike trails and a Road Cycle circuit.

Initially based at our Head Office in Enfield, North London (before moving to Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park), you'll play a key role in the launch of this exciting sports venue. Once opened, you'll be able to truly shine as you manage a well balanced schedule of activities that will establish the VeloPark as a successful and unique legacy venue. Forming strong relationships with key partners and organisations such as British Cycling, Sport England and local clubs, you will be responsible for all operations including major events, regular cycling activities, sports development programmes, courses and school/youth activities as well as the management of a world class team of people.

A degree in Leisure/Sports Management or equivalent is a must as is extensive leisure management experience. Knowledge of cycling and the cycling world would be very desirable. Working knowledge of funding, grants, awards and accreditation schemes, health & safety, child protection and environmental regulations is essential. We're looking for a talented, confident and innovative forward thinker who has the passion and determination to succeed.

If this sounds like you and you are interested in being responsible for the opening and management of the Lee Valley VeloPark, then please complete an application form found on our website www.leevalleypark.org.uk/jobs and return it to:

jobs@leevalleypark.org.uk or The HR Team, Myddelton House, Bulls Cross, Enfield EN2 9HG.

Alternatively, please call 01992 709 839 for an application pack.

Closing date: 23 November 2012

Interview date: 10 December 2012



Change of use for Boscombe reef?

ASR Limited, the New Zealand-based company that built the Boscombe surf reef in Dorset, has ceased trading. The liquidation of ASR casts doubts over the future of the site as a surfing attraction – the only artificial surf reef in Europe.

Plans for the beleaguered £3.2m reef first surfaced in 1999 when Bournemouth Borough Council gave the green light for a feasibility study to be conducted on the project. Detailed plans were then approved by the council in March 2003. The reef finally opened in November 2009 following a number of delays and setbacks during building works.

Soon after it was opened, however, it was discovered that the reef was producing "the wrong kind of waves", rendering it inaccessible for many potential users.

ASR had been tasked with repairing the faults but the reef was then hit by a boat, causing structural damage that forced its permanent closure in April 2011. The plan was for ASR – one of only a few companies with the expertise to repair the damage – to return to the site to correct the problems.

Following the demise of ASR, it is now unclear whether the reef will ever reopen as a surfing attraction.

Speaking to the BBC, the council's director for tourism, Mark Smith, said the



The surf reef could be redesigned as a diving centre

reef could potentially be used as a diving centre in the future.

In a statement sent to *Leisure Opportunities*, a council spokesperson added: "The council has been awarded significant government funds to develop a Coastal Activity Park at Boscombe, as part of the National Coastal Tourism Academy. The reef is integral to this Coastal Activity Park.

"Before the reef was damaged it was already being used for much more than just surfing. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=D2R4s>

£120m cuts for Birmingham leisure

Council-run leisure facilities in Birmingham are in danger of being axed, as the Labour council warns that it needs to make £120m of savings this year alone.

A shocking financial review from the Birmingham Business School has revealed that the council has £200m more savings to make by 2017 than originally calculated. From 2011-2017, £600m will have to be carved from the budget, which represents 48 per cent of the council budget which isn't ringfenced.

Council leader, Sir Albert Bore, said there can be no more "salami slicing" cuts, and decisions would need to be taken as to what the council can no longer afford to provide, with some services having to be decommissioned.

Priorities underpinning the budget setting for the next financial year is "safeguarding the most vulnerable". The council predicts 1,000 jobs are in danger, further to the 1,100 job losses which had already been announced.



The cuts will affect the city's active leisure services

A council spokesperson confirmed there are currently no specifics of how the cuts will be made. They will be informed through four public meetings, starting next month.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=E8v7u>

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