

leisure opportunities

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Funding boost for disabled sport

Sport England has announced it will invest £2m over the next two years to encourage sport as a lifestyle choice for disabled people.

The money will be given to the English Federation of Disability Sport (EFDS) to provide expertise to sports organisations to help them motivate disabled people to take part. Sports to be focused on include athletics, cycling, swimming, cricket, gymnastics, badminton, tennis, football, table tennis, equestrian, golf and volleyball.

Despite the number of disabled people participating in sport steadily growing since 2005, non-disabled people are still twice as likely to take part regularly.

Sport England's director of sport Lisa O'Keefe said last year's Paralympic Games put sport for disabled people in the spotlight and



The funding aims to make sport more accessible to disabled people

EFDS now has a vital role to play in inspiring more disabled people to get involved.

"We need everyone in sport to work together to challenge the uncomfortable truth that disabled people are still far less likely to be taking part." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=z2xip>



More emphasis should be placed on exercise

Report recommends 'more emphasis on GP referrals'

A new report has recommended the prescription of leisure activities at council facilities become widespread, as local authorities prepare to take over public health responsibility from the NHS.

A Dose of Localism: The Role of Council in Public Health welcomes the transfer of responsibility, set to happen in April, stating local government services such as housing, planning, licensing, welfare and leisure play a role in preventative public health measures. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=z8R5g>

Survey studies impact of social media on arts

A survey of US art organisations has revealed how technology – such as social media, the internet and mobile connectivity – can have a positive impact on their operations.

The Pew Internet survey questioned 1,244 organisations that had received funding from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) between 2007-2011. The survey found most organisations agreed digital technologies had increased engagement, made art more accessible and established more diverse audiences.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=S8r4A>

Mytime Active acquires MEND

Social enterprise Mytime Active has acquired healthy lifestyle provider MEND, which will save the weight management business from going into administration.

MEND (Mind, Education, Nutrition, Do it!) delivers over 200 healthy lifestyle programmes throughout the UK for children and families in local communities. Since being founded in 2004, MEND has helped more than 55,000 children and adults across the world improve their health and lifestyles.

As part of the acquisition a number of staff will transfer across, including dietitians, physical activity specialists and psychologists. In addition to the wealth of knowledge within



Steve Price, chief executive officer of Mytime Active

the business, MEND has developed a 20-year research partnership with Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust and University College London Institute of Child Health. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=S1x2E>

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SPORT

Exercise medicine centre for Graves

Graves Tennis and Leisure Centre in Sheffield is to become one of three regional headquarters of the National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine. The Graves HQ will be supported by three other, smaller hubs in the north, west and east of the city and work is underway to finalise the locations.

Sheffield's 2012 legacy centre aims to drive forward the physical activity and health legacy following the London 2012 Games. The Government has allocated £10m to develop the Sheffield project as part of its £30m investment in the National Centre.

The plan for Graves includes proposals for a replacement swimming pool, additional tennis courts, gymnastics and outdoor football, an extended fitness facility and associated health, rehabilitation and research services.

The centre will promote physical activity and educate the public on improving health and productivity.

The National Centre has committed £5m to the Graves scheme and partners are now seeking match funding to complete the £10m-plus funding package. If all funding is secured, work will begin on site in late 2013.

Sheffield Hallam University and University of Sheffield, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS



The centre is due to receive a £10m redevelopment of its facilities

Foundation Trust, Sheffield City Council, Sheffield International Venues, NHS Sheffield, Sheffield Chamber of Commerce, English Institute of Sport and voluntary sector will all be involved in the centre.

Steve Brailey, chief executive of Sheffield International Venues, which operates Graves, said: "We are delighted that Sheffield is one of the three hubs of the national centre. It is a great opportunity for us to really help improve the health of the people of Sheffield and the Centre will integrate into the sports facilities at Graves to deliver a unique service."

"We all know about rising levels of obesity and physical inactivity and Sheffield will be at the leading edge of the national effort to tackle these hugely important issues." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Q8X9C>

March opening for improved Trinity pools

Sedgemoor District Council has announced 1 March as the opening date of its new £6.3m swimming pool and café at Trinity Sports and Leisure Centre, Somerset, UK.

The facility will include a six-lane 25m (82ft) main pool, a 13m by 7m (43ft by 23ft) learner pool, modern changing facilities and new café for around 80 customers.

Services on offer will include swimming lessons, Aqua Aerobics, swimming club training and children's birthday parties.

Teresa Harvey, the council's group manager of community development and wellbeing, said the 15-month construction had run on-time and on-budget. Trinity Sports and Leisure Centre is run by leisure group 1610 and



The centre will house a six-lane 25m swimming pool and learner pool

facilities include a weights room, dance studio, fitness studio, sports hall and pitches, disability access, training classes and a GP referral centre. The centre's normal timetable will commence following an opening ceremony on 1 March. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=S8e7P>

Sport England funding announced

Sport England has revealed the details of its £493m, four-year investment cycle which will run up to the next Olympic year (2016).

Cycling, netball, wheelchair basketball and triathlon are among the sports being rewarded for progress made in participation numbers at grassroots level, all receiving funding increases of more than 30 per cent.

Sport England chief executive, Jennie Price, said: "This investment represents years five to eight of our long term plan to get more people playing sport.

A conspicuous legacy of the London 2012 Paralympic Games can be seen in the fact that 40 sports have now developed detailed plans to accommodate and attract more disabled people to take part in organised sport. At least 60 per cent of the £494m investment



Cycling clubs are among the sports to benefit from increased funding

will support young people aged between 14-25. More than £83m of this will be used to support the development of talented young athletes in 43 sports, ensuring those with podium dreams receive the best possible coaching and support in high-quality facilities. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=x6b7x>

Grassroots clubs in line for £2.1m boost

Grassroots football clubs are set to receive £2.1m of funding from The FA to boost the development of clubs.

Grants of up to £5,000 will be available to grassroots football clubs through the Foundation's Grow the Game scheme. The initiative aims to increase participation by helping clubs to provide opportunities for new players, or training volunteers to support new players and teams.

The FA has extended the window for club applications to Friday 18 January. Clubs interested in applying for the funding are advised to visit the Grow the Game section of the Foundation's website or speak to their local County FA.

The FA's senior national game development manager, Peter Ackerley said: "The FA



Grants of up to £5,000 will be made available through the initiative

has invested over £100m into the Football Foundation over the last decade and it's an exciting time to be involved in the grassroots game and the positive changes to small-sided youth football all contributing to a bright future." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=H3d8R>

Young people inspired to take up sport following 2012 Games

A new survey reveals the legacy of London's Olympics and Paralympics on school children studying at United Learning Group schools, with the majority saying it has inspired them to become more active. More than 2,500 students aged 11-18 and studying at the

group's academies and independent schools responded to the survey. Results revealed 69 per cent wanted to try new sports after watching the Games, 83 per cent said it made them rethink their attitudes towards disability. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=F8f9H>

Plans approved for Newmarket Stadium

Planning permission for the Newmarket Stadium in Wakefield has been granted following a lengthy application process.

The 12,000-capacity stadium, which will be a home ground for the Wakefield Trinity Wildcats rugby league team, had initially been granted permission in 2010, but when Leeds City Council opposed the decision a planning inquiry was launched.

The resulting Local Development Framework report, released June 2012, addressed the council's concerns, freeing the proposed site from greenbelt status and rejecting claims the stadium would blur district boundaries.

Having received the report, and supplementary information requested as a result, the Secretary of State announced last month he fully approved planning permission for the development.



Plans include a number of multi-use courts

Tennis, BMX and skating facilities for Durham

Work is underway on tennis, BMX and skating facilities at Billingham's John Whitehead Park, Durham, UK.

Work on the multi use games area will begin in the coming weeks replacing current facilities with four tennis courts.

This is a reduction from the six courts currently available but the council states new facilities will be much improved.

A contractor has also been appointed to construct a new BMX and skatepark, with work set to begin in spring pending planning permission.

Billingham is currently undergoing a multi-million pound regeneration, which includes a new customer service centre, library, paving, lighting and seating.

Councillor Ken Dixon said there was high demand for the BMX and skatepark and the council had worked with a large number of young people on the design of the facility. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=U3B3T>

Pop-up cycling studio 'creates community'

In a twist on the popular retail pop-up store concept, indoor cycling brand Beatbike has established a pop up studio in a St. Albans' cricket club. Through word of mouth it has attracted 200 regular participants within three months. Co-founder Victoria Robertson said the studio gives her and business partner Sian Brice a chance to perfect their business model and build a loyal fan base before establishing a permanent space.

The pair started with one class a day but are now teaching 11 a week. Robertson said a recent survey revealed 50 per cent of users had never done an indoor cycling class before and she believed Beatbike was popular for the sense of community it provided. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=NoP6Y>*



CV training is recommended for weight loss

Aerobics 'better' than resistance for weight loss

Aerobic training is the best mode of exercise for burning fat, according to a study by US-based healthcare group Duke Medical.

Researchers studied 234 overweight or obese adults with participants being randomly assigned to one of three exercise training groups – resistance training (three days per week of weight lifting, three sets per day, 8-12 repetitions per set); aerobic training (approximately 12 miles per week); and aerobic plus resistance training (three days a week, three set per day, 8-12 reps per set for resistance training, plus approximately 12 miles per week of aerobic exercise).

The groups assigned to aerobic training lost more weight than those who did just resistance training. The resistance training group actually gained weight due to an increase in lean body mass.

Aerobic exercise was also a more efficient method of exercise for losing body fat.

£6m redevelopment for Anlaby

Haltemprice Leisure Centre, in Anlaby, Yorkshire, has been given the go ahead to expand, providing a number of local services under one roof including a doctor's surgery, library and customer service centre as well as sport and fitness facilities.

The £6m makeover of the leisure centre was given planning approval on 18 December by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council, which also owns the facility.

The scheme will also see a Tone Zone fitness suite extended, pool and sports hall refurbished, a new café, refurbished outdoor pitches and additional parking.

Construction will also address a number of maintenance requirements and improve energy efficiency. The council stated the partnership with the NHS to provide a doctor's surgery at



Work at the centre will include the addition of a new Tone Zone suite

the centre strengthened the link between keeping active and keeping healthy. Leader of East Riding of Yorkshire Council Stephen Parnaby said the centre attracted 1.1m visitors last year, making it one of the most visited in the country. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=ksh8W>*

Wavelengths centre set for major revamp

Extensive renovation works have begun on the Wavelengths Leisure Centre in Deptford, south east London.

The project will be undertaken in partnership by Fusion Lifestyle and Lewisham Council and will transform the facility into a modern, purpose-built health and fitness leisure centre.

The first phase, which will include the construction of a brand new fitness suite, group exercise studios and café, is due to open in January 2013.

A new health suite with sauna and steam-room, additional group exercise studio and a soft play zone for children will form the second phase and is set to launch in March 2013.

Tim Mills, Fusion's business development



The project will be funded by Fusion Lifestyle and Lewisham Council

director, said: "We've been planning this project for some time and the investment we are making shows our commitment to the provision of modern leisure facilities for Lewisham residents." *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Dzj2x>*

Online community aims to improve fitness of women

A national campaign to get the UK's women more active more often has been launched by the Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation (WSFF). Introduced to appeal for women whose New Year's resolution is to get more active, She Moves aims to create an online

community where users can access advice, tips and support on improving fitness.

The campaign comes as WSFF releases new figures revealing just 33 per cent of women under 65 consider exercise to be a regular priority. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=0701p>*

Medina Leisure Centre relaunched

The completion of the first phase of the upgrading at Medina Leisure Centre on the Isle of Wight, has been delayed, with the Newport facility now set to open on 1 March 2013.

The delay is due to additional works required on a steel structure that will house a new ToneZone gym, exercise studio and dry-side changing rooms. The current ToneZone gym remains open while works continue.

The gym upgrade is the first of three phases of a multi-million pound refurbishment funded by the Isle of Wight Council. The delayed opening will push back the remaining phases of construction at the leisure centre, which include new bar, café and toilet facilities, now to be opened at the end of April, and refurbished pool, plant and wet-side changing rooms to be opened 7



The refurbished centre and its new gym are due to open in March 2013

June. Phase three, which will see a new meeting and training room and the refurbishment of female dry-side changing rooms will finish 23 August.

Medina Leisure Centre facilities include a sports hall, outdoor sports facilities, fitness classes, swimming facilities and a gym.

Peter Roberts returns as Pure Gym CEO

Budget fitness chain Pure Gym has announced that it has re-appointed company founder Peter Roberts as the new chief executive.

Roberts, who moves from the role of deputy chair, takes over from Tony Harris who is leaving by mutual agreement after six months in the role. Roberts founded the company in 2008 and the chain has since grown to 38 clubs in the UK.

"I would like to thank Tony for his time with us," Roberts said. "His hard work and corporate discipline have been much appreciated and I wish him well in his next venture."

"I'm very pleased to be stepping back into the role of CEO to continue to drive the business forward as a market leader in the sector."



Pure Gym was founded by Roberts in 2004 and now has 38 UK clubs

According to Pure Gym's financial reports, turnover in the year to February 2012 was £16.4m, up from £6.3m in the previous year. EBITDA was £5.2m, up from £1.5m in 2011. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=joap>

Fitness Express to expand Hethersett leisure centre

A Norfolk leisure club, at Park Farm hotel Hethersett, has celebrated its 21st birthday with the official opening of a new extension.

The club, run by Fitness Express, features a new spa pool, refurbished swimming pool and a carbon neutral biomass boiler system, which

heats the hotel as well as club facilities.

Fitness Express was founded 26 years ago by Steve Taylor and Dave Courteen and largely provides gyms for hotels, commercial premises and student accommodation. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=c7Q7d>

Obesity costs Irish economy 1.64bn euro every year

Overweight and obese populations in Ireland and Northern Ireland cost the island 1.64bn euro (£1.34bn) annually.

A survey by University of Cork research, funded by SafeFood, reveal 398m euro (£324.40m) goes towards healthcare costs each year with the remaining two thirds of economic costs in reduced productivity. Eighteen weight-related diseases were studied and the main drivers of healthcare costs were cardiac disease (44 per cent), type 2 diabetes (nine per cent), colorectal cancer (12 per cent) and other cancers.



Beattie is leaving to "pursue new opportunities"

Founding director of énergie leaves company

David Beattie, a founding director of fitness chain énergie Group has left the company to "pursue new opportunities". He spent 10 years with the company, with his latest role being brand and marketing director.

"The company is about to embark on a new chapter and on a journey that will transform the organisation," Beattie said.

"It is therefore the ideal time for me to take the opportunity to pursue my own personal goals across a broader portfolio of ventures." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=b5r1M>

Premier Global appoints Jon Haywood as new FD

Premier Global has appointed Jon Haywood as its new finance director.

Haywood, who has previously held a number of similar roles at large organisations, has been tasked with overseeing the line management of the finance and IT divisions of all of Premier's three companies - Premier Training International, Active IQ and Active IQ Academy.

He will work alongside Premier Global's CEO, Debra Stuart, to deliver the group's three-year growth strategy. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=h2W1F>

A look ahead at 2013



UFI IBRAHIM
is chief executive
officer of British
Hospitality Association

As we look ahead to the new year, I want to start by taking a last look back at 2012 and then move forward to set out the BHA's ambitions for 2013.

2012 will be known for three things - the fantastic Olympics which has done so much to raise the profile of 'Great Britain', The Queen's Jubilee and the wet weather! In 2012, we kicked off some important campaigns which have been gathering momentum throughout the year:

- The Economy - to champion a supportive environment for our industry to prosper in the context of global competition.
- Employment - bridging the gap between education and industry to build a skilled workforce for hospitality.
- Intelligent regulation - advising government on how best to cut costly regulation for our members.
- Sustainability - encouraging industry-led effort to develop economic, social and environmental success.
- Health - shaping industry and public sector policy to enhance the wellness of our consumers. We'll begin to see the results of our work in 2013.

We will soon be hosting the Big Conversation for Hospitality - encouraging leaders in our sector to reach out to young people in order to attract them into a career in the industry. Our campaign to cut tourism VAT to 5 per cent is also gaining traction, both within government and the media.

We'll be reminding government that tourism is one of the leading UK industries, demonstrating huge economic potential for export and staycations. We must aim to capitalize on the visibility that the Olympics gave us and be recognized as a major competitor in the global marketplace.

Crucial to our ongoing success is the need to invest in our best resource, our young people. This is the shared mission of BHA and our members.

We're already counting down to Day One of world-beating British Hospitality. It starts on 11 June 2013 at the Hospitality and Tourism Summit in London.

It's going to be a busy year and we look forward to working with all our members to bring about shared success in 2013.

HOTELS

Castle to open as boutique hotel

Privately owned Fonab Castle Hotel will open in Pitlochry on the Scottish highlands in March 2013.

The brainchild of Jed and Joanne Clark, the historic castle - which was used as a medical hospital during World War I - has been transformed into a boutique hotel.

A new wing has been added featuring 18 guestrooms in addition to the 13 suites in the main castle. There has also been 36 luxury lodges built on the grounds with some featuring private hot tubs.

Work is soon to start on the addition of a luxury spa featuring treatment rooms, a swimming pool and a fitness centre.

Designed by Leeds-based Edwards Architectural Services, the design of the new extension blends with the stonework of the original building.



The castle will be transformed into a luxury hotel by March 2013

Joanne Clark and daughter Becky Cross who were responsible for the interior design contracted Style Contracts interior designers to produce a number of bespoke pieces of furniture for the castle. Set on the grounds, which contain the famous Pitlochry Theatre, the castle's new wing will also feature a 80-seat restaurant.

Profit increase for Leisure Connection's hotels arm

Hotel and Facilities Management by Leisure Connection (HFM), an operator of outsourced leisure facilities within the private and hotel sector, has reported a 200 per cent increase in profits - just a year after a commercial restructuring of the business.

The company, which is part of management company Leisure Connection, also announced an 87.5 per cent increase in membership numbers across its nine sites. As a result, HFM has invested £20,000 in creating a new corporate identity to further market its services.

UK hotel transaction activity down in 2012

Hotel transaction activity across the UK was down significantly in the second half of 2012, according to Deloitte.

Consistent with the first half of the year single asset transactions dominated and London remained the focus for most investors.

Transaction activity across the UK totalled around £300m in the second half of 2012, compared with £1bn for the first half, and £2.5bn for the same period last year.

The most notable transaction was the acquisition of the Cavendish Hotel by the Ascot Group for £159m.

Deloitte's global head of hospitality Nick van Marken said in 2013 the market will favour cash buyers or those not totally reliant on bank financing to close a deal.



Transaction activity across the UK totalled around £300m in H2 2012

"There are a number of portfolio and single asset transactions that are currently being marketed. As a result, activity is expected to pick-up, although difficulties in accessing debt funding is likely to continue to be longer and more difficult to complete." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=x2O5r>

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* In 2012 over 400 clubs took part with an average membership of 2,500 per site

Colchester Castle closes for £4.2m redevelopment

Colchester Castle in Essex closed its doors to the public on 6 January in order for a £4.2m redevelopment project to get underway.

The castle, which will reopen in Easter 2014, requires roof repairs, a heating upgrade, improved disability access, improved collections care for objects on display and improvements to the visitor experience. New displays will present the archaeology and history of Colchester from the origins of the town in the Iron Age to the Civil War Siege in 1648.

The Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service hopes the redevelopment will see locals make repeat visits to the attraction and states it will leave visitors in no doubt Colchester was the first capital of Britain.

The castle will temporarily reopen this Easter for visitors to see it cleared of its contents. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=H9V7H>



The three rhinos are ZUFARI's first residents

Rhinos take up residence at Chessington's new ZUFARI

The first inhabitants of Chessington World of Adventures' new themed land, ZUFARI: Ride into Africa, have arrived.

The Surrey theme park is now home to three white rhinos, which have come from zoos in Holland, France and Portugal, necessitating the need for the zookeepers to learn commands in all languages.

Over the next few weeks the rhino will be joined by other animals including Rothschild giraffes, greater flamingos, blesbok, Nile lechwe and Grevy's zebra.

ZUFARI will be a theme park adventure crossed with a safari experience. Visitors will take a safari truck expedition into an African kingdom, where a specialist conservation team have stumbled on a previously undiscovered land. Guests will enter an interactive pre-show cinema experience to be briefed on the story, before forming a team and jumping aboard an off-road vehicle to head into the African outback.

£4m investment for Oakwood park

Oakwood Theme Park in Pembrokeshire, Wales, has announced that it will be investing more than £4m in its facilities ahead of the 2013 summer season.

The investment will see a new restaurant and café, family park area, themed retail areas and series of new rides and experiences at the Pembrokeshire attraction, which includes more than 30 rides and experiences set in 80 acres of countryside.

A family-friendly facility will include baby-changing facilities, high chairs and microwaves.

Park director Dominic Jones said the investment is the largest the park had seen in a decade and was a response to visitor feedback.

He said the development would be a major boost for the local economy and create a number of new jobs.



The park currently has more than 30 rides - including the Speed coaster

"This will be the latest new attraction of its kind in Wales and is the first phase in an ambitious and ongoing programme of investment over the coming years."

Full details of the new attraction will be released early in 2013 and work is set to begin in the next couple of weeks.

Wales' coal museum installs solar panels

Wales' national coal mining museum will get a boost from cleaner solar energy in an effort to reduce energy bills and its carbon footprint.

Big Pit, which is also a working coal mine, has installed 200 photovoltaic solar panels on its museum building in Blaenafon.

A second museum, The National Collection Centre in Nantgarw, has also had 200 panels added to its roof.

Along with Big Pit it is part of the National Museum Wales and together the buildings' solar panels will save the organisation 5m kWh in power over 25 years and 44,813kg of CO₂. Big Pit museum manager Peter Walker said the museum would benefit from reductions in energy bills and a return from the Feed in Tariff.

"Coal is such an important part of Wales' heritage and yet green energy will play a major part in its future. A solar powered coal mining museum is a fantastic way to celebrate this national journey."



The attraction includes a fully operational coal mine

The project was completed by Warm Wales, which provides energy advice, installations, community regeneration, project management, surveying, architecture and planning expertise. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=8g6M3>

HMS Caroline gets £1m lifeline to become museum

The last surviving First World War ship, HMS Caroline, has been given a £1m boost for urgent repair works with plans in the pipeline to turn the vessel into a floating museum.

The grant to the National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN) from the National

Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF), will enable works to make the Belfast ship, built in 1914, wind and watertight and to remove asbestos.

The restoration will be part of a two-phase rescue plan, the next stage being the transformation of the ship into a museum.

Dormy House set to open £5m spa

Cotswolds' Dormy House Hotel is to launch a luxury spa in 2014 as part of a £10m planned revamp.

Located near Broadway village, the spa is being developed by UK-based interior designers Sparcstudio.

The spa will include an infinity pool, treatment rooms, fitness gym, dining area and terrace garden.

It will be available both to hotel guests and as a day spa and health club for local residents. Spa consultant Neil Howard has also been appointed to deliver the project. Neil's previous work has included the spa at The Dorchester and The Lanesborough in London, as well as all three Armani Spas in Tokyo, Milan and Dubai.

More than £5m will be spent on the design and creation of the House Spa, while £5m will also be spent on refurbishing and upgrading



The boutique hotel's new spa has been designed by UK-based Sparcstudio

the hotel's public areas and its 40 bedrooms.

The Dormy is due to close in mid-March for the work to begin, reopening after the first phase of bedroom redevelopment this summer. It will remain open while work continues on House Spa, which is due to open in early 2014. Dormy House Hotel has been owned by the Philip-Sorensen family since 1977.

Grayshott launches digestive health scheme

Grayshott Spa in Surrey is launching the New Year with a programme focused on clients' digestive health.

The Grayshott Programme, has been developed by director of natural therapies Elaine Williams and clinical nutritionist Stephanie Moore.

It includes personal health consultations, two semi fast days, abdominal massages, hydro baths, liver compresses, Tai Chi, relaxation and breathing classes, an educational lecture programme and post-departure support.

The programme, which runs for a minimum seven days, will start at £1,295 (US\$2097.56, 1600.83 euro) per person. Williams said many of her clients were traveling abroad to undertake digestive system health treatments and she



The Grayshott Spa is located within 47 acres of landscaped gardens

had wanted to establish a similar programme in the UK for some time.

The privately-owned spa is located within 47 acres of landscaped gardens and was once the home of poet Alfred Tennyson.

Spa on the cards for Carlisle

A planning decision is pending on a proposed spa for Carlisle. A redevelopment of an existing residential property, Rickerby Retreat, would offer a pool, two treatment rooms, a gym, whirlpool, sauna, steamroom, a licensed café and restaurant.

Planning officers are recommending the scheme for approval, as the proposals are acceptable in principle.

There would also be some camping pods to provide accommodation for walkers. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=J325A>

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Andrew Dixon to leave Creative Scotland

Creative Scotland is seeking a new chief executive, following the decision of Andrew Dixon to step down at the end of January 2013. The Scotland arts' funding body has a budget of more than £75m of lottery and government money annually, and was established through a merger of the Scottish Arts Council and Scottish Screen.

Dixon has had a role in the formation of The Year of Creative Scotland, The Guide to Scotland's Festivals and a new capital programme, the Creative Place Awards.

However, there has been controversy surrounding him. In October 2012, 100 artists launched an attack on the management and running of the organisation and author, Ian Rankin, was among those to criticise the organisation's decision making.

In a statement Dixon said: "I am proud of what has been achieved since the merger. We have delivered new resources for the arts and established strong partnerships with local authorities and a number of other agencies." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=kR4b>



The scheme forms part of the City of Culture bid

£30m revamp for Aberdeen gallery as part CoC plans

Aberdeen City Council is making a bid to be the City of Culture (CoC) 2017, with the announcement of plans for a £30m redevelopment of the Aberdeen Art Gallery, as well as the creation of a £3m Museums Collections Centre.

A £10m grant is being sought from the Heritage Lottery Fund, a further £10m will be sought from other grant funding, as well as corporate, philanthropic and personal support. The rest will come from the council's non-housing capital programme.

Aberdeen City Council's chief executive, Valerie Watts, said the redevelopment would be positive for the city.

"The investment will increase access to the city's Art and Museums Collections by a third, as well as making it possible to welcome larger incoming exhibitions," she said. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=U100A>

Oldham secures cultural funding

A landmark project to unite Oldham town centre's cultural "jewels", including plans for a new Heritage Centre and Coliseum Theatre, have been granted development funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The HLF grant of £615,000 will support a later second-stage bid for a full £3.9m grant.

The council-led plans involve a new Oldham Heritage Centre being housed in the former Oldham Library and an Art Gallery on Union Street. A separate application to the Arts Council England Fund is seeking a grant towards a new build Oldham Coliseum Theatre, including a state of the art auditorium.

Oldham Council leader, Jim McMahon, said that heritage will be the foundation stone to rebuild Oldham: "The wider regeneration scheme we're planning here is inspiring, because it will bring all our cultural jewels together in one integrated facility. That will significantly enhance our leisure, arts and heritage



Plans include a new Oldham Heritage Centre and a separate art gallery

offer and provide yet another significant catalyst for regeneration of our town centre."

Head of NLF North West Sara Hilton said: "Oldham has a fascinating industrial past and these innovative plans for a heritage resource centre will help bring that story to a whole new audience."

Separate to this, there are also plans for the Old Town Hall to become a cinema, with restaurants. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=b6H1C>

Lightbox gallery given Big Society Award

The Lightbox, a museum and gallery set up and run by a group of volunteers, has been given the Prime Minister's Big Society Award.

Located in Woking, Surrey, the attraction is staffed by more than 150 volunteers and runs an education and outreach service focused on history and the arts which sees community groups and schools work with professional artists in the centre's purpose-built Education Studio. The local community raised more than £7m to develop The Lightbox cultural centre through charitable events ranging from golf days and sponsored walks to auctions.

Announcing the award, Prime Minister David Cameron said: "I recently met volunteers from The Lightbox and saw first-hand the dedication and passion they have shown to make their museum and gallery a reality."

"The Lightbox shows what the Big Society is in so many ways; from volunteers giving their time and expertise, to winning the support of



The Lightbox gallery opened in 2007 and is run by a team of volunteers

the whole community for their plan, to generating millions of pounds in donations to make it work. Even now more than 150 volunteers are putting in their time to provide this service to others in the community."

Designed by Marks Barfield Architects the museum and art gallery is the end result of a 15-year campaign by a group of locals. In 2008, The Lightbox was awarded the Art Fund Prize. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Z1h7A>

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Inbound visits to increase in 2013

VisitBritain predicts that inbound tourism levels will increase by 3 per cent during 2013 - translating to more than 1 million extra visitors.

Publishing figures from its annual review for 2012, the agency said that during the past year the tourism industry contributed a record £18.7bn to Britain's economy, a 5 per cent rise in nominal terms.

Records also show that inbound tourism is now the nation's third biggest earner of foreign exchange and has increased by 3 per cent in volume and 8 per cent in value since May 2010.

Tourism - both domestic and international - is also the country's fifth largest employer, supporting 2.6 million jobs and contributing £115bn to the economy. In the past two years tourism has accounted for a third of all new employment in the UK.



The London Olympics have increased interest in the UK as a destination

Launching the review, chair of VisitBritain, Christopher Rodrigues said: "2012 has shown just what Britain can offer.

"It has re-energised our image overseas and triggered the desire to visit our country. Our job now is to turn aspiration into action." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=ws3p3P>

Northern Ireland suffers tourism dip

Research from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency show a 12 per cent fall in the number of overseas visitors coming to Northern Ireland between January and September this year. The estimated number of visitors on holiday in Northern Ireland

decreased by 3 per cent and those visiting friends and relatives decreased by 14 per cent, compared with the same period in 2011.

Visitors from the UK are down 15 per cent and there is a fall of 20 per cent from the rest of Europe. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=u2T3f>

Midlothian tourism village gets green light

Midlothian will receive an economic boost thanks to a £13m tourism village to be developed by Oakridge Property. It will include shops, a visitor centre, a hotel, restaurants and cafes.

Midlothian Council gave planning permission for the development in 2011, but it was called in by the Scottish Government because the proposals were contrary to the Edinburgh and Lothian Structure Plan and the Midlothian Local Plan. The government has now decided it can go ahead provided certain conditions are met.

Councillor Jim Bryant, who has responsibility for economic development, said: "This is a significant milestone in nurturing economic



Historic attractions in Midlothian include the ruins of Crichton castle

recovery in the area. We are confident this is the best location for this tourism village and we look forward to working with developers on this exciting project."

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PROPERTY

Developer to resubmit plans for Drake's Island

Plymouth City Council has denied planning permission for a hotel development on Drake's Island, UK, but said it wants to see investment on the island and will work with the developer to create more detailed plans for resubmission.

Rotolock Holdings had tabled proposals to convert a barrack block into a 25-room hotel and a casemated battery into 19-room hotel.

A heritage house was to become a bar and restaurant, while plans also included the refurbishment of a landing jetty, demolition of a boat house, and development of a spa, gym and swimming pool.

The application was denied at the council's planning committee meeting on 3 January,



The rejected plans for Drake's Island included two boutique hotels

due to a lack of detail. The island's buildings have been largely unused and fallen into a state of disrepair since the current owner bought it from the Crown in 1995. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=EoZ1w>

Regeneration for historic copperworks

Regeneration organisation Groundwork has been appointed to manage the development of the Hafod Copperworks in Swansea, Wales, due to start early this year. The long-term vision for the site – which dates back to 1810 and includes 14 buildings and structures of historical significance – is to become a hub for work, education, tourism and leisure.

Led by Swansea Council and Swansea University the development will see listed buildings protected, vegetation cleared, walking trails introduced, the installation of information panels and the staging of archaeological digs and other events.

The Welsh government is contributing £277,000 to the scheme and £244,000 has been provided by the European Regional Development Fund.



Hafod is described as being among the UK's most important heritage sites

Professor Huw Bowen, who is leading the project team on behalf of Swansea University, said Hafod is one of the UK's most important heritage sites, but has remained neglected.

"Because of its copper production, Swansea's impact on the development of the world economy can't be understated," he said. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=E1O5d>

Mulalley secures contract for Stratford centre

Essex construction firm Mulalley has been confirmed as the preferred contractor for the new Atherton Leisure Centre, Stratford, UK.

Newham Council is investing £14.7m in the centre, which will include swimming pools, a gym, crèche facilities, disabled facilities, and

possibly some housing. It will replace the existing leisure centre, which was found to contain significant amounts of asbestos and closed its doors for the last time on 31 December.

Construction on the new centre is expected to begin in July. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=x9f5C>

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LYMINGTON SEA WATER BATH

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST



The Lymington and Pennington Town Council invite expressions of interest for a contract to provide and run additional leisure and recreational facilities at the Sea Water Bath.

The Council owns and manages the bath which is situated behind the Lymington Sailing Club at the end of Bath Road, Lymington, SO41 3SE. The bath is possibly the largest remaining Sea Water Bath in the country measuring approximately 117 metres by 42 metres and 1.5 metres deep at its deepest. The bath is usually open from May to the beginning of September; however this could be extended should activities justify an extension to the season.

The Council is interested in entering into a fixed term agreement with a contractor able to provide suitable additional activities. These will complement swimming which is currently managed by the Council and kayaking which was introduced very successfully in the past year. The Council realises the potential for this and other activities to draw more people to the pool

Expressions of interest must include the following as a minimum:

- A detailed description of the activities to be provided.
- An outline of the area or areas of the bath required for these activities
- Preliminary financial details including proposed charges for the activities and a rental proposal. The period should preferably be for three or four years but must not exceed five.
- Whether the bidder would consider the possibility of working with another company providing complementary activities.
- Details of facilities such as storage which will be needed. It should be noted that the Council has very limited space for additional structures.
- Full details of the contractor and similar projects undertaken including capability and expertise.
- Latest company report and accounts.

Full details of the tender can be found on the Councils website:

www.lymingtonandpennington-tc.gov.uk

Expressions of interest should be marked clearly SEA WATER BATH INTEREST and addressed to the Town Clerk, Lymington and Pennington Town Council, Town Hall, Avenue Road, Lymington, SO41 9ZC to reach him by no later than 12pm on 14 February 2013. Alternatively email: info@lymandpentc.org.uk

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Apprenticeships scheme extended to 2014

A government-funded scheme that provides cash incentives for employers to take on apprentices has been extended following positive feedback from participants.

The Apprenticeship Grant for Employers of 16-24 year olds (AGE 16-24) pays some or all training costs and a £1,500 grant to employers who sign up.

Open to employers with fewer than 1000 employees, the scheme was initially only on offer during the 2012/13 financial year, but has now been extended to March 2014. It has also been increased so eligible employers can claim the grant for up to 10 apprentices.

Business Secretary Vince Cable said it is a big decision for small, busy companies to take on an apprentice and the £1,500 grant was a token to acknowledge this.

The National Apprenticeship Service, which runs the scheme has also announced the minimum level of support employers can expect



The Apprenticeship Grant pays training costs and offers a £1,500 grant

from the service, outlining a five step process they will use to match businesses with apprentices.

This includes defining employers' requirements, discussing the right training provider, determining the number of apprentices required, driving recruitment applications and deciding on the right person.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=G6l30>

Springboard Welcomes the New Year!



LOUISE ROUTH
is marketing and communications director of Springboard UK

Springboard is making a great start to the New Year with a range of exciting programmes, activities and events taking place throughout the year. Springboard will be kicking things off at the Hospitality Show! This lively and exciting exhibition is being held at the NEC, Birmingham between Monday 21 January and Wednesday 23 January 2013.

Springboard will have a strong presence at the show. We are running the student centre, and will have stands to promote CareerScope to students attending, and to promote Springboard's business offering to existing and potential business partners.

Staff will be on-hand to offer a range of information and advice to students looking or considering a career within the hospitality industry. We will also be talking about the up and coming careers campaigns focusing on Hotels, Food Service Management and Restaurants which promote the industry and encourage students to consider the range of exciting careers in the various industry sectors.

During the show students will also be able to attend a variety of lively and interactive seminars offering careers advice and how to get into the hospitality, leisure or tourism industry.

Businesses can look forward to talking with the team on partnership opportunities. Whether you are a student or a business Springboard welcome you to one of our stands. That's just the start and the focus is on much more.

Springboard continues to offer a range of Into Work programmes throughout the year, engaging with those who need help most, whatever the barriers on the journey to paid employment.

We also offer pre-employment training, work placements, interviews and mentoring once individuals are in work.

The year will also see a host of other activities and events, to promote the Hospitality, Leisure and Tourism sector as a great place to be. Watch this space for more details.

Premier introduces hypopressive training

Premier Training International is bringing a fitness training method, used in Spanish and French speaking countries since 1990, to the UK.

The hypopressive method programme focuses on strengthening the pelvic floor, abdominal and core muscles with exercises that stimulate reflex muscle contractions.

Hypopressive instructor and perinatal fitness expert Kaisa Tuominen will lead courses across four training levels, which are scheduled for February, March and May.

Premier Training International's research and development director Julian Berriman said: "Not only is it new to the UK market, but in the way the techniques address posture, abdominal tone and appearance, core strength and post pregnancy muscle function, it has benefits that will translate extremely well to everyday health and fitness. At Premier we are always looking at how we can improve our offering to fitness



The perinatal courses will be structured across four training levels

professionals, and ensure that we are bang up to date with the latest trends and innovations within the health and fitness industry.

"The hypopressive method is a great example of exactly that."

The first course takes place in February at Premier's London Academy.

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CONTACT:

Ginny Smith, Programme Administrator Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, Oxford Brookes University, Jack Straws Lane, Oxford OX3 0FL

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Assistant Gym Manager, *Pure Gym Limited*, Wandsworth, London, UK
Admin Manager, *DW Sports Fitness*, Bury, UK
Business Development Manager, *Worthing Leisure*, Worthing, UK
Leisure Centre Manager, *Kings Fitness and Leisure*, Somerset, UK
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Personal Trainer, *Pure Gym Limited*, Various locations, UK
Sports Facilities Manager, *Redgrave Sports Centre*, Marlow, UK
Junior Technical Support Officer, *The STA*, Walsall, UK
Technical Support Officer (Swimming Teaching), *The STA*, Walsall, UK
Assistant General Manager, *The Gym Group*, North Harrow, UK
Full Time Membership Consultant, *Everyone Active*, Carshalton, Surrey, UK
Duty Manager, *DW Sports Fitness*, Various locations, UK
Assistant General Manager, *DW Sports Fitness*, Morecambe, UK
Temporary Admin Manager, *DW Sports Fitness*, Trafford, UK
Assistant General Manager, *DW Sports Fitness*, Blackburn, UK
Sales and Retention Manager, *DW Sports Fitness*, Macclesfield, UK
Assistant Manager, *Lifestyle Verwood Leisure*, Verwood, Dorset, UK
Sports and Community Centre Manager, *Greasley Parish Council*, Nottinghamshire, UK
Customer Service Manager, *Lawn Tennis Association (LTA)*, *The National Tennis Centre* in Roehampton, SW London, UK
Head of Climbing, *Westway Development Trust*, North Kensington, London, UK
General Manager, *Milton Keynes Council*, Milton Keynes, UK
Sales and Membership Officer, *Brio Leisure*, Northgate Arena, Chester, UK
Sports Officer, *Tandridge Trust*, Surrey, UK
Director of Arts and Leisure, *Stantonbury Campus Leisure Centre*, Milton Keynes, UK
Business Manager - Benn Hall, *Rugby Borough Council*, Rugby, UK
Full and Part Time Personal Instructor, *Movers & Shapers*, London/South West London, UK
Manager, *Movers & Shapers*, London/South West London, UK
Relief Leisure Supervisors, *Hartlepool Borough Council*, Hartlepool, UK
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Duty Manager, *GLL*, Various locations, UK

Senior Customer Advisor, *SOLL Leisure*, Park Club Fleet, UK
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Provision of General Manager at Windmill Hill Golf Centre

Milton Keynes Council is seeking an experienced General Manager to take on the management of Windmill Hill Golf Centre including all the staff and to implement a business strategy to maximise the revenue streams for the facility. This includes the hands on day to day running and delivery of a continual improvement based, customer focused business and the drive and vision to identify commercial opportunities, develop services and promote them within the Centre. Working hours will be to meet the business requirements of a seven-day operation.

The role is required for an eighteen month period (subject to possible extension) commencing in early February 2013.

Your Quotation should be submitted to the Council electronically through the In-Tend Portal:

<https://in-tendhost.co.uk/miltonkeynescouncil/> by the 25th January with an anticipated start date of the 18th February 2013.

For general enquiries about the contract contact Paul Sanders, Assistant Director Community Facilities Unit on 01908 253639 or email Paul.Sanders@milton-keynes.gov.uk



Sports and Community Centre Manager

Pay Scale (S01) Salary Range (£24,646 - £26,276)
37 hours per week (shift pattern)



Greasley Parish Council's Sports and Community Centre in Newthorpe, Nottinghamshire offers a 3 badminton court sports hall, 40 station fitness gym, parish hall, committee/meeting room and floodlit 5-a-side 3G artificial grass pitches. The Centre's programme offers a wide variety of activities for sports and leisure customers of all ages and abilities.

The successful candidate who will lead a team of nine full and part-time staff, will be accountable for initiating improvements in usage numbers and the financial performance of the centre whilst maintaining the community ethos which is important to the Parish Council.

For further information, job description, person specification and application form, contact: Andrew Marshall, Parish Office, Greasley Sports & Community Centre, Dovecote Road, Newthorpe, Notts NG16 3QN.

Email: greasleypc@btconnect.com or download from www.greasleypc.co.uk

Closing Date: Applications, marked Private, should be received no later than Friday 22nd February 2013. (This is a re-advertisement. Previous applicants need not apply.)

Assistant Manager

Verwood Arts & Leisure Amenities

Salary:- £25,000 + benefits

Closing date: January 31st 2013



Verwood Arts and Leisure Amenities is a charitable organisation currently undergoing an exciting phase in its development; with a number of new facilities due to open to the local community.

Directly responsible to the General Manager we require an Assistant Manager who will play a key role within the organisation, not only managing day to day running of all facilities, but also assist with the development and delivery of a wide range of projects. He / she will be expected to have a flexible approach to work, which will include evenings, weekends and bank holidays.

Closing date for applications: January 31st 2013 at 5pm

Interviews to be held in February dates tbc

Please send your CV and cover letter by clicking

"Apply now" angela.spicer@lifestyleverwood.com

Verwood Arts & Leisure Association is a limited company registered in England & Wales. Company registration no 07188405. Charity No 1135753 The Hub, Brock Way, Verwood, BH31 7QE

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These roles are pivotal in the success and financial performance of SOLL Leisure.

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The Senior Advisor will also need the ability to set and achieve targets, to work under pressure to deadlines and be motivated to improve the direction of the Club.

SEND YOUR CV AND COVERING LETTER BY 18th JANUARY TO:

Jennifer Wright, SOLL Leisure,
Park Club, 17 Milton Park,
Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 4RS

Or email: jwright@soll-leisure.co.uk



Leisure plans for Devon seafont

A public consultation is underway about proposals to develop new leisure and seafont attraction facilities on Exmouth seafont, Devon.

Located beside Maer on Queen's Drive, the Exmouth Splash would include an indoor and outdoor recreation area with attractions such as mini-golf and an area of active water play. There will also be an indoor leisure centre and the operator will determine facilities.

A water sports hub would provide hiring, training and retail facilities for sports such as kite, wind and body surfing, canoeing and kayaking. Other facilities at the attraction would include retail areas, amusements and a public square as well as holiday accommodation.



An artist's impression of the planned seafont attraction in Exmouth

If the proposal gets the go ahead the current Harbour View café building would also be replaced by a two-storey café and restaurant.

East Devon District Council is urging the public to comment on the development before the consultation period ends on 14 January. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=W1m3z>

Whitbread raises £51m in sale and leaseback

The UK's largest hospitality group Whitbread has raised £51m in a sale and leaseback deal.

The company confirmed it has exchanged agreements with NFM Mutual and Standard Life Assurance Ltd for the sale and leaseback of seven properties, operating as Premier Inns and joint site restaurants. Whitbread will

continue to operate the properties through 25 year leases. Nicholas Cadbury, group finance director, said: "This sale and leaseback is a continued evolution of our overall funding portfolio and follows our successful 2011 US private placement and bank refinancing." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=t9Qoh>

Panel announced for Art Fund Prize

A panel of judges has been revealed for this year's Art Fund Prize for Museums and Galleries, now rebranded Museum of the Year.

Applications for the 2013 award, which was created in 2001 to recognise originality and excellence in UK museums and galleries, opened on 2 January and will be whittled down to 10 finalists of which a winner will be decided and granted £100,000.

This year, the competition is open to any accredited museum or gallery, where previously only those with a new project or development from the previous 12 months were eligible. From the finalists a £10,000 prize will be granted to the Clore Award, which recognises achievements in learning programmes.

Chaired by Art Fund director Stephen Deuchar, this year's panel includes Daily Telegraph art editor Sarah Crompton, writer



The 2012 winner - Royal Albert Memorial Museum

and broadcaster Bettany Hughes, historian Tristram Hunt MP and artist Bob and Roberta Smith. Last year's winner was Exeter's Royal Albert Memorial Museum for its £2.4m transformation and in 2011 the British Museum won for a project which told a history of the world through individual objects.

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