

leisure opportunities

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Museum of the Year shortlist revealed

England's first purpose built art gallery, a gallery dedicated to sculptor Barbara Hepworth and a London museum dedicated to music and anthropology are among the finalists for the Art Fund's 2013 Museum of the Year.

The winner will be announced on 4 June and awarded £100,000.

A second prize of £10,000 will recognise achievements in learning programmes for children and youth.

The finalists for this year's prize are: BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead; Beane House of Art and Knowledge, Canterbury; Dulwich Picture Gallery, London; The Hepworth Wakefield, Wakefield; Horniman Museum & Gardens, London; Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery, Glasgow; Museum and Archaeology &



The Hepworth Wakefield Gallery is among the shortlisted attractions

Anthropology, Cambridge; Narberth Museum, Pembrokeshire; Preston Park Museum, Stockton-on-Tees; William Morris Gallery, London. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=18j2F>



The group currently has 80 clubs across the UK

US private equity firm mulls David Lloyd purchase

KSL Capital Partners is reportedly looking to purchase gym chain David Lloyd, thought to be worth around £900m.

The Sunday Times said the US-based private equity firm, which recently bought UK hotel chains Malmaison and Hotel du Vin, is one of several potential buyers with US investment house Blackstone also thought to be mulling a bid.

The group has 80 clubs across the UK and is named after former tennis professional David Lloyd, who founded the business in 1980. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=r6H9i>

Government skills funding for énergie

Health club operator énergie Group has secured £400,000 worth of funding from the Government's UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) to invest in its national training programme.

The grant was made out from the Employer Ownership of Skills scheme - a competitive fund open to employers to invest in their current and future workforce in England. énergie will look to use the grant towards raising skill sets and the creation of new jobs and apprenticeships - as well as help drive the group's growth.

Manchester football clubs "bring £300m"

Football provides Greater Manchester with the equivalent economic impact of an Olympic and Paralympic Games every four seasons - according to a new report which outlines the financial worth of the game.

Analysing the value of football to Greater Manchester has been produced by the Sport Industry Research Centre and Cambridge Econometrics on behalf of a Greater Manchester partnership including Manchester City Council (MCC), New Economy, MIDAS, and Marketing Manchester.

It finds that football contributed around £330m in gross value added (GVA) to Greater Manchester's economy in 2010-11.



The clubs profile could be worth £100m on adverts

It is also estimated that the global profile that Manchester receives from football, particularly Premier League clubs - could be worth over £100m a year on an advertising-equivalency basis. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=R7u5B>

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SPORT

Compass appoints board of directors

The Compass Association (TCA) – the newly launched industry body for sports providers – has appointed its new board of directors.

Linda Plowright, CEO of Sports Leaders UK has been named chair while Dean Horridge, founder and CEO of Fit For Sport has taken the role of vice chair.

Other board members are Guy Ker, Super Camps; Steve Franks, Water Babies; Matthew Lord, Let Me Play; Dominic Gibson, Go Active Schools; Rob Oyston, Sports Xtra; Jon Pettit, PE Recruitment; Richard Doubleday, Perkins Slade Insurance; David Batch, Premier Sport; and Toby Mitchell, Activate Sport.

The appointment of the full board marks the final phase of setting up TCA, which was officially launched in February 2013. Linda Plowright said the association's aim was to



Sports Leaders CEO Linda Plowright has been elected TCA's new chair

become an active and strong voice for the providers of physical activity and sport in schools and school communities - alongside the other established bodies such as the Association for Physical Education.

"We will contribute strongly to a cohesive and collaborative industry sector," she said. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=i4c9G>

Sports technical college set for Stoke-on-Trent

Construction has started on a new sports technical college at Holden Lane High School Specialist Sports College in Stoke-on-Trent that will open in January 2014.

Designed by architects Aedas, the facility is being constructed by Balfour Beatty under a

design and build contract with Stoke-on-Trent City Council. The building will feature curriculum-based hubs for teaching and training, which allow for teaching spaces and a large indoor area for use in inclement weather. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Z2L2T>

Cost biggest barrier to sport participation

A new report, delivered by Brunel University, reveals that cost is the main barrier preventing increased participation in sport.

The 'Building a Participation Legacy' study highlights affordable access to sport as being the vital key to delivering a genuine legacy from the London 2012 Games. The research study points out that the most disadvantaged members of the 2012 generation, youths from impoverished urban areas such as Newport, Pendle and the Olympic Borough of Newham, are less likely to participate in sport where a cost is involved or there is a need to travel beyond their local neighbourhood.

The two-year study was carried out on more than 3,000 young people across the



Youths from impoverished urban areas lack opportunities to take part

UK in five disadvantaged neighbourhoods (in Newham, Newcastle, Birmingham, Pendle and Newport). The report outlines the main factors that help young people engage in sport, which include the style of sports coaching. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Y8r7c>

'inspired by 2012' brand launched

A new brand has been unveiled to celebrate and promote sports and community projects inspired by London 2012 and the Queen's Jubilee.

'Inspired by 2012' – a government initiative – will lend its logo to a range of organisations connected to last year's events. Culture secretary Maria Miller launched the brand on 10 April, at a funding announcement in Essex for Sportivate.

The sports participation scheme is one of the first legacy projects to use the brand, along with Join In, Big Lottery Fund and Our Big Gig. The Prime Minister's Olympic and Paralympic legacy ambassador Sebastian Coe said: "Over the next 10 years the Games' legacy will be delivered across the UK through a great variety of organisations and projects. The 'inspired by 2012' brand is a great way to give



Jennie Price and culture secretary, Maria Miller, with the new logo

some of these projects a link to each other and the Games' legacy and will help people recognise the breadth of the legacy."

Miller said last year's summer was like no other and the government is committed to making the feeling of enthusiasm and inspiration last. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=i6C3E>

Langport welcomes new £130,000 MUGA

Langport has welcomed the official opening of a new £130,000 mixed-use games area (MUGA) – the largest in South Somerset.

The MUGA includes floodlit facilities and markings for a full size netball court, five-a-side football pitch, two tennis courts, cricket practice and a basketball court.

It is hoped the free, open access facility will drive up participation in sports and physical activity. Langport & Huish Memorial Field Management Committee led the project with support from South Somerset District Council.



Sports offered by Sportivate include wakeboarding

Bristol considers back up stadium options

Bristol City FC has appointed a project manager for the proposed redevelopment of their stadium at Ashton Gate – a back up option should its plans to build a new £60m stadium at Ashton Vale fall through. Capita Symonds has been appointed to the £40m redevelopment that would comprise new stands and pitch widening, which would be expected to be complete by the 2016/17 season.

The Wedlock and Williams stands would be demolished and replaced, while the Dolman and Atyeo stands would be renovated.

The plans will be put before the council for planning permission in summer.

In January planning permission was approved for supermarket chain Sainsbury's



An artist's impression of the redeveloped stadium at Ashton Gate

to redevelop the Bristol Rovers FC Memorial Stadium into a retail and housing space, paving the way for the club to build a new stadium £40m stadium at the University of the West of England Frenchay Campus, UK. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=R9l3m>

Youth participation project Sportivate lands £24m

Sport England has announced an extra £24m worth of funding in order to expand and extend its Sportivate programme. The scheme, which will run until 2017, has been designed to help 14- to 25-year-olds to get involved in sports by offering discounted and free sessions in sports ranging from judo and tennis to wakeboarding. It is delivered by the network of 49 county sports partnerships, working with local clubs and providers. It aims to give young people – who currently aren't playing sport in their own time – the chance to find a sport they like. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=5H5a7>

Sport England's £10m for community facilities

Sport England has appointed almost £10m for changing room facilities and grass pitches in the first round of a four-year investment programme in grassroots sport projects.

Thirty-eight community facilities are set to benefit from the funding, such as Hampshire's largest amateur sports club, Trojans, which will get £175,000 towards an artificial hockey pitch.

The facility will get new floodlights, fencing and an improved spectator area. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=V7p6Z>

Wandsworth to invest in tennis to increase participation

Wandsworth is investing £500,000 in local tennis facilities and offering coaching in an effort to make the sport more popular in the borough. The council has teamed up with All Win, which will offer drop-in sessions, cardio tennis, mini-tennis camps and adult courses.

All Win will be responsible for the management and refurbishment of facilities at six locations: King Georges Park, Wandsworth Common, Tooting Bec Common, Leaders Gardens, Putney, Furzedown Recreation Ground and Wandsworth Park.

Plans revealed for Finsbury Leisure Centre in London

Islington Council has revealed plans to rebuild and improve facilities at Finsbury Leisure Centre as part of a larger development earmarked for the St Luke's area.

Included in the revamp would be improvements to squash courts, the sports hall and football pitches.

The council also wants to improve the layout of outdoor spaces for local people. Part of the St Luke's Area Draft Plan, proposals include council homes and new public spaces. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=z3D5Z>*



Facilities include a 25m swimming pool and gym

Sandwell unveils £8m Tipton Leisure Centre

Tipton Leisure Centre has opened its doors to the public, at a formerly vacant site on Alexandra Road.

Facilities at the centre include a 25m six-lane pool, a 12.5m teaching pool, a dance studio and a fully equipped 54-station gym that overlooks the centre's pool.

Sandwell Leisure Trust will manage the new centre, which was designed by Sandwell Urban Design Architects - the council's in-house service. Construction was led by Hertfordshire-based group Willmott Dixon. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=C8N9Y>*

Oldham Council renews 10-year leisure contract

Oldham Council has renewed its contract for sports and leisure provision with Oldham Community Leisure (OCL), which has run local sporting facilities since 2002. The new 10-year deal, with the option of a five-year extension, follows a council review into leisure service across the borough.

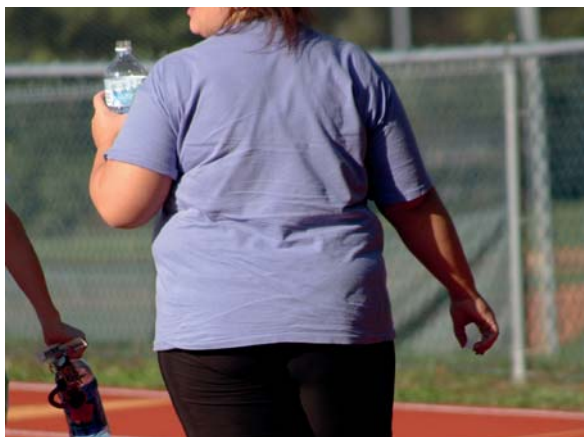
The final plans include a new leisure facility to replace the Oldham Sports Centre and a new facility in Royton town centre - both to be designed and built by Willmott Dixon. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=woT7q>*

Inactivity £7bn cost for health

More than £7bn of savings could be made on the UK's health spending if each person took the government's recommended daily amount of exercise. The findings, from a new report by the London School of Economics and healthcare charity, Nuffield Health, show that 70 per cent of UK adults do not currently meet the target of 150 minutes of exercise a week.

The report, *12 minutes more...*, uses data from the annual Health Survey for England and suggest that if each inactive UK citizen would do just 12 minutes of exercise each day the UK could save £7bn in costs of associated NHS treatments, welfare and loss of earnings.

Health benefits attainable by simply moving more include decreased levels of cholesterol and risk of high blood pressure; cutting the



Improving activity levels among the public would save health spending

risk of lifestyle related diseases - such as Type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease - as well as better control of body weight.

Active people are not only 7 per cent less likely to be obese, but they also reduce their risk of poor mental health by 6 per cent. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Y3r9R>*

Technical defects delay Fife's £23m centre

The £22.6m Michael Woods Sports & Leisure Centre in Glenrothes, Fife, will now open in mid-June, instead of this month, due to a serious technical defect.

Construction began in July 2011 and when complete the centre, which has replaced the Fife Institute, will be managed by Fife Sports and Leisure Trust on behalf of the Fife Council. Sports partnership manager for the council Andy MacLellan said: "We had intended to open the new facility at the end of April, but during final testing a serious technical defect with the walls around the swimming pools was identified and this needs to be rectified by the contractor before the building can be formally handed over to the council."



When open, the centre will be managed by Fife Sports and Leisure Trust

Wetside facilities will include a 25m eight-lane swimming pool with a gallery for 250 spectators; a 20m by 10m training pool with moveable underwater floor; and an 11m by 5m pool. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=3l8W4>*

Community group takes action over leisure cuts

A community action group has commenced judicial review proceedings against Sheffield City Council over proposals that would effectively close the Stocksbridge Leisure Centre.

The council tentatively approved proposals to remove £400,000 of subsidies for the

leisure centre at a meeting on 1 March, but has deferred a final decision until the end April to allow the community to progress alternative proposals. The council has plans for a new centre in North Sheffield to serve the whole district. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=i5q5J>*

Pure Gym to open 30 new clubs

Budget fitness operator Pure Gym is set to double the number of its London-based health clubs as the company, founded in 2008, seeks to become the biggest gym chain in the UK.

The group opened a facility in Wandsworth, South West London, last month and plans to open further sites in Hammersmith, Enfield, Finsbury Park and Balham.

The new launches will mean that the company will be running a total 50 gyms by the end of April, with at least 30 openings planned before the end of the 2013-2014 financial year.

As a result of its expansion plans the company has appointed Stephen Rought Whitta as its new group acquisitions director.

Pure Gym is reported to have made profits of £9m for the year to February, up from



Pure Gym plans to become the UK's largest health and fitness chain

£5.3m in 2011-2012. It is backed by Magenta – the private-equity firm of New Look founder Sir Tom Singh.

Pure Gym founder, Peter Roberts, was reappointed chief executive in December 2012 following the departure of previous CEO Tony Harris. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=J2h2w>

Leeds to provide free sports and leisure

Leeds City Council is moving ahead with plans to provide free sports and fitness sessions in an effort to get the city more active and reduce the burden on the public health system.

Sport England has earmarked £500,000 in support for the council's 'Leeds Let's Get Active' pilot, with another £500,000 being invested by the city council from its community health budget.

The scheme will provide a free hour of gym or swimming sessions each day at council managed leisure centres. The proposals, which will be considered by the council executive at its board meeting on 24 April, would be open to anyone but the scheme aims to specifically target those who currently do not take part in physical activity.

Other elements of the scheme would include free running and walking groups in local parks and packages for leisure centre access for as little as £5 for three months. Figures released by Sport England show the basic cost



Free activities will include sports and gym sessions

of physical inactivity for Leeds in 2009-2010 was £10.95m.

Council member, Lisa Mulherin said: "Apart from improving participation and wellbeing, there will also be significant benefits for the city in terms of reducing the pressure on health services." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=k6e9z>

Lancaster London to open £1m hotel gymnasium

Lancaster London, part of the Preferred Hotel Group, has announced it will open its new £1m 24-hour gym in June, on the second floor of the 18-storey hotel. The 94sq m (1,012sq ft) gymnasium will include the latest machines from Technogym and will as well as a dedicated

exercise area and free weights area. Other features include mini TV screens, high-impact flooring and white non-glare lighting.

For guests interested in outdoor exercise the hotel concierge can arrange bicycles, horse-riding and outdoor swimming in the Serpentine.



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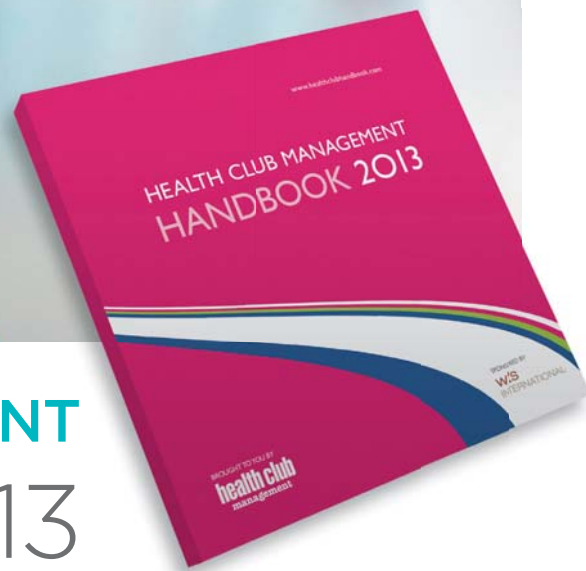
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GPs to prescribe more activity

Physical activity measures have now been implemented in a voluntary reward and incentive programme used by GPs across the UK.

Two physical activity indicators have been added to the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF), and have been effective from 1 April when public health responsibilities were switched to local authorities. The indicators set thresholds for increasing physical activity for patients with hypertension – which affects 7.3m in England and Wales – and delivering lifestyle advice on physical activity to hypertensive patients.

A House of Lords committee report on Olympic health legacy last year recommended including physical activity in QOF, as did the Royal College of Physicians 'Exercise for Life' report. Including physical activity in the QOF has been one of the primary policy objectives



It is hoped the new reward programme will increase exercise referrals

of ukactive, as part of a wider aim to establish physical activity as a core business of the National Health Service (NHS).

Ukactive chief executive David Stalker said: "We hope that these new indicators for hypertensive patients are just the beginning of an opportunity to embed physical activity across indicators for the management of chronic conditions." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=D9C8j>

Notts leisure centre plans move forward

Approval is being sought for a £13.5m redevelopment of leisure facilities in Nottingham. The Nottingham City Council's Executive Board was presented with a stage two submission from the Local Education Partnership (LEP) to redevelop Harvey Hadden Leisure Centre.

The new facility will have improved access and state of the art facilities including a 50m swimming pool with adjustable pool floor that splits into two 25m pools, two multi-use activity studios, 100 station gym, health suite complete with spa pool, steam, sauna and relaxation space, café and new changing facilities.

Funding for the project has already been secured and ring-fenced through the Council's



Facilities will include the city's first Olympic-sized 50 swimming pool

Leisure Centre Transformation Programme and Capital Programme. The development, which is the final project in the programme, will create Nottingham's first ever Olympic-sized 50m pool. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=a9y2K>

Urban planning can improve activity among disabled

Sports and physical activity advocates are calling for better urban planning to ensure people with disabilities can keep active, as World Physical Activity Day approaches.

The annual event encourages local activities to get people exercising and the theme

for this year's event, on 6 April, is 'No Barriers to Physical Activity'. The American College of Sports Medicine says current barriers facing people with disabilities include a lack of nearby parks or safe neighbourhoods to walk and play. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=m3Y3B>



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Pleasurewood Hills invests ahead of summer season

Suffolk Coast theme park Pleasurewood Hills has opened four new rides for its 2013 season, as part of a £3.5m investment in the attraction. The refurbishment sees the return of pedalos to Pleasurewood Lake, a family teacup ride at Woodies Tea Party, and the Moby Dick ride.

Thrill ride Hobs Pit will open soon. Nine new rides have now opened at the theme park since it was bought in 2011 by Looping Holding Group, including 40m tower drop The Jolly Roger. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=n5X1r>



Glasgow Museum will purchase bespoke storage

Scottish museums and galleries get capital funds

Twenty-four successful applicants have been announced by Museums Galleries Scotland to receive a share of its £500,000 Capital Fund programme.

The government-funded grants of up to £40,000 each will be used for projects such as re-thatching the roof on the Glencoe Museum and installing solar panels at Historylinks Museum in Dornoch. Glasgow Museums will use a £28,000 grant to purchase bespoke storage for their collection of Dutch and French pastels. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=s3t7M>

Welsh museums attract more visitors than ever

The number of people visiting National Museum Wales' (NMW) sites reached a record high of 1.75m visits in 2012-13.

Over the last 12 months, NMW's seven museums collectively welcomed 50,000 more visitors than in 2011 - 12, with four of the museums enjoying their best years ever.

National Museum Cardiff, which has developed its offer with a new National Museum of Art, welcomed a record 477,399 visitors - an increase of 29 per cent since 2010-11. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=m6o2M>

Oxford plans £38m science centre

Science Oxford has submitted a planning application for its proposed £38m attraction The Magnet - the UK's first integrated science discovery and innovation centre.

The development has been designed by Foster + Partners to be built next to Castle Mound. Its centre-piece attraction would be a world-class planetarium but it would also include displays, events and lectures promoting all forms of science.

The innovation centre would provide accommodation and support for 50 local high-tech companies. The Magnet is expected to attract 150,000 guests annually, create more than 100 skilled jobs and generate £128m over the next 10 years for the local economy.

Chief executive of Science Oxford, Ian Griffin, said: "Working together the discovery



An artist's impression of the Foster + Partners design for The Magnet

and innovation elements of The Magnet will provide education, inspiration and support for the long term benefit of Britain's science economy. We're proposing a world class building which reflects the spirit of discovery and innovation and enhances its historic setting close to Oxford Castle." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=C1T1w>

Coventry Transport Museum plans revamp

Coventry Transport Museum will redevelop a 12th-century school building and improve its galleries and visitor facilities with a £4.6m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The project is set to be complete by April 2015, when a new learning programme will also be launched with aims to attract 30,000 visitors to participate in heritage and community development activities.

The renovated Old Grammar School, which has been unused for the past 30 years, will serve as an exhibition, event and education space. It is in close proximity to the museum and is a grade-I listed building, included on English Heritage's 'at risk' register. The museum galleries will be improved to



The museum is set for a major facelift following the £4.6m HLF grant

better explain Coventry's transport heritage.

Reyahn King head of Heritage Lottery Fund West Midlands said: "Coventry was and is so important to the motor industry and cars are in its DNA. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=b1F4x>

Five-year plan for Antonine Wall heritage site

Public feedback is being sought before a five-year management plan is finalised for the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site in Falkirk. The wall became part of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site in 2008 and the site also includes Hadrian's Wall and

the German Limes. Historic Scotland and five local authorities along the wall have launched the 12-week consultation on the draft management plan, which seeks to maximise the social, cultural and economic potential of the heritage site. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=K2e1i>

Cultural attractions earn £100m on retail

British cultural attractions are earning more than £100m a year through retail sales generating essential additional income as many institutions face funding cuts.

The figure, from the Association for Cultural Enterprises (ACE), comes as many stores struggle through the tough economic climate, with a recent Deloitte study predicting four out of 10 high street shops will shut over the next five years.

ACE chair John Stachiewicz said the cultural sector's retail offer was succeeding because of their unique and relevant products and clever visual merchandising.

At this year's Best Product Awards, hosted by ACE, the National Theatre won best new range for its War Horse merchandise and at St. Paul's Cathedral cufflinks incorporating rubble



The Transport Museum experienced retail turnover of £1.5m in 2012

from renovations are helping to fund an ongoing restoration project.

The London Transport Museum experienced retail turnover of £1.5m in the last year, up six per cent on the previous year, while its year-on-year growth online is running at almost 30 per cent. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=D9B3g>*

New arts initiative makes donating to causes easier

The National Funding Scheme has launched a new initiative in London that enables people to make donations to cultural institutions via digital channels. The initiative, to be known as Donate, lets people pay via text/SMS, credit or debit card, or PayPal. Institutions involved

include Almeida Theatre BALTIC; Holburne Museum; Kala Sangam; National Portrait Gallery; National Trust; Octagon Theatre; Phoenix Dance Theatre; Science Museum; Southbank Centre; and Victoria and Albert Museum. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=G8O9z>*

Manchester lands £5.5m for arts centre

A planned centre for contemporary art, theatre and film at Manchester's 20-acre First Street site has received a £5.5m boost from the Arts Council. The HOME centre is due to open spring 2015 and will include a 500-seat theatre; 150-seat studio; a 500 sq m (5,382sq ft) gallery space; five cinema screens; digital production and broadcast facilities; a café bar and restaurants.

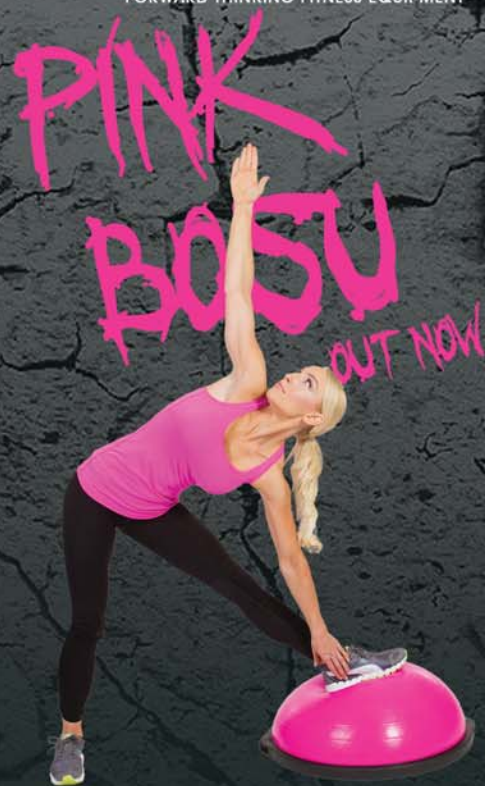
North west regional director for Arts Council England, Jane Beardsworth, said: "It's fantastic that in such difficult times a local authority can have the confidence and vision to invest in such an ambitious cultural project."

Dave Moutrey, director and chief executive



HOME cultural centre is due to open in the city centre by early 2015

of HOME, said: "From the start of the project our aim has been to create a shared space, where people can come together in their passion for art, cinema, theatre, good food and conversation." *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=lK8S>*



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SPA

Luxury spa to open in Newmarket

Review Hotels will open a £5.5m luxury destination spa at the grounds of its Bedford Lodge Hotel in Newmarket on 3 July.

Located within a Victorian property adjacent to the hotel, The Spa at Bedford Lodge will feature 10 treatment rooms. Facilities at the spa will include a rooftop hot tub, a mezzanine hydrotherapy pool, experiential showers, a relaxation room and shoulder massage fountains. A thermal area will be on offer consisting of a steamroom, sauna and hammam as well as a beauty parlour for manicures.

The spa will house a therapy room for visiting cosmetic doctors offering non-invasive procedures. Treatments include relaxing full body massages, Balinese massage with hot stones, detoxifying body cleanses and skin refining facials as well as luxury manicures and pedicures.

The spa will feature products from luxury spa company ESPA and beauty products from Jessica. Signature treatments will include the use of Rasul, a traditional Arabian cleansing ritual using mud to exfoliate the skin and



The spa is housed in a Victorian building by the hotel

improve well-being, as well as experiential showers to awaken the senses with a combination of music, lights and water. The spa will be under the managed by Anna Ramsay, a former International Trainer for Britain for ESPA.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=LoJ3n>

Qualification proposed for dermal fillers

A report presented to the health secretary is recommending a qualification is established for beauty professionals and doctors who wish to provide dermal fillers used to target wrinkles and rejuvenate the skin.

Led by NHS medical director Sir Bruce Keogh the report follows an independent review into the cosmetic surgery industry, launched in January last year.

Complications involved with injectable substances include bruising, swelling and necrosis - the death of skin tissue due to the blockage of blood vessels. A survey completed by the British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons found 69 per cent of surgeons had treated patients suffering complications



The new legislation would have a big impact on the UK's beauty sector

from temporary fillers. A further 49 per cent had treated patients suffering problems with semi- or permanent fillers, and of these 84 per cent required corrective surgery or were deemed untreatable due to the damage caused.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=C7X9a>

Shropshire's Serenity spa unveils £40,000 revamp

Shropshire's Serenity wellness centre and spa has revealed £40,000 of refurbishment and expansion at its church premises adjacent to Shrewsbury Castle. The spa now boasts a new spa suite with the town's first Arabian Rasul and a salt cave - a reproduction of a

natural salt microclimate aimed at improving respiratory problems.

Laura Butler, who opened the spa in 2006, said: "Along with the introduction of the new spa facilities we are working on a general refurbishment." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=C4t9L>

A woman with long, dark, wet hair is looking upwards and to the left. She is holding her hands cupped together, catching water falling from a waterfall. The background is a lush green forest with sunlight filtering through the leaves.

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Visa reforms are crucial for continued growth in sector



UFI IBRAHIM

is chief executive officer of British Hospitality Association

Teresa May announced that she'd be restructuring the UK Border Authority (UKBA) – this should be applauded. The need to reform the UK's visa procedures so that they are less expensive and more straightforward is absolutely critical to continued growth.

Championing the improvement of the visa system is one of our most important campaigns here at the BHA. It has now gained the support of many other organisations including the CBI, Institute of Directors and the British Chambers of Commerce.

The fact is that the UK's overall economic competitiveness is being weakened by both international perceptions and the reality of visa policy driving business into the hands of our European competitors. To give an example, tour operators bringing Chinese tourists to Europe have been removing the UK from their tour itineraries because of the complicated need for an extra visa.

So what needs to change? We need to bring the UK up to the European equivalent as soon as possible. More far reaching opportunities would be sharing of biometric data with the French and German governments and a 'dual processing' system which would allow Chinese visitors to submit their UK forms at the same time as their single European one. It's estimated that we miss out on an £1.2bn in annual spend from Chinese tourists and the UK share of the Chinese tourists is falling in contrast to growing annual Chinese visitor numbers in countries like France and Germany.

Britain should also follow Australia which introduced an online visa programme, storing personal information and doing away with personal stamps.

Elsewhere, the US administration has also made a number of changes to its visa policies with the deliberate intention of increasing the number of international arrivals – especially those from China.

With the UKBA now back under Home Office control I hope that the government is moving towards reform. It's not just the hospitality and tourism sectors which will benefit from these changes. It is the British economy as a whole.

HOTELS

£1.62bn in distressed UK sales

Britain has seen £1.62bn of hotels sold under administration or receivership between 2010 and 2013.

This year is already the most active in terms of sales by distressed companies due to the sale of the 42 Marriott portfolio. The Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) bought the hotels for a reported £657m.

Jones Lang LaSalle's Hotels & Hospitality Group executive vice president George Nicholas said: "The process of bank deleveraging is quickening and we are already experiencing a record year of administration led transactions in 2013, a level which is significantly higher than the total of £542m sold in 2011."

The investment firm says pricing has become more realistic as banks speed up the de-leveraging process.



A record number of hotels under administration have changed hands

It predicts an increase in non-performing loan note sales as banks explore methods to balance their loan books. Nicholas said: "Lone note sales lead the deleveraging process, however, we expect corporate and property specific administrations to continue to accelerate. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=w4P5T>

Starwood Hotel Group appoints president for EMEA

Starwood Hotels & Resorts has appointed Michael Wale its new president for the Europe, Africa & Middle East (EAME) region.

Wale has most recently managed Starwood's operations in Western Europe, leading 54 hotels across eight brands, and began his career

with the company in 1978 as a graduate trainee. Wale takes over from Roeland Vos, who took on the role in 2001 and has seen the brand grow from 127 properties in the region to 243, with an additional 64 hotels in the pipeline. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=1l8d7>

The Autograph Collection launches in UK

Threadneedles in London and The Glasshouse in Edinburgh have been added to Marriott's portfolio of upscale hotels The Autograph Collection - its first UK properties.

The Autograph Collection comprises 40 hotels across the world including in the US, Europe, Caribbean and South America.

The vision behind the collection is to provide a variety of travel experiences including: Culinary Delight, Artistic Getaway, Historic Exploration or Sporting Adventure.

Threadneedles is located in London's Square Mile in a grade-II listed building minutes from sites such as The Bank of England and St Paul's Cathedral. The Glasshouse is built into the 150-year old façade



Threadneedles is located in London in a historic Grade-II listed building

of the Lady Glenorchy church and located at the foot of Calton Hill. It includes a two-acre roof garden with views across Edinburgh. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=A1iox>

Brits taking holidays overseas

UK's weather appears to be driving holidaymakers abroad with three quarters of people stating they will take an overseas vacation this year, research consultancy BDRC Continental reveals.

The company's annual Holiday Trends survey reveals the number planning a 'staycation' had dropped for the first time in four years - with the poor weather being cited as the main reason the UK had lost its appeal for holidaymakers.

However, London bucked the trend with boasting an increase in the number of domestic bookings already made for 2013 compared with the same period last year. Of those considering London for a holiday 31 per cent said last year's Olympics and Paralympics had had a positive influence on their decision. In the 2012 survey 66 per cent



Domestic tourism, which boomed in 2012, could see a decline in 2013

of people planned an overseas holiday but this increased to 73 per cent in this year's survey.

The survey also found that review sites influenced holiday decision making with 41 per cent using the websites for most or all of the holidays they had taken.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=G5m1X>

Coventry plans to keep London 2012 ambassadors

Coventry City Council will this month consider whether to provide funding for a scheme to recruit, train and manage volunteers, following the success of the city's ambassadors involved in London 2012. The ambassadors would welcome visitors to the city at major

events and the scheme would be run as a social enterprise by Coventry University.

The council will consider whether to provide £20,000 for the scheme's first year at its cabinet meeting on 15 April.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=02U9D>

New website for tourists with disabilities

A website to inform travellers about disability access at English hotels and attractions has been launched by Tourism for All UK in partnership with VisitEngland, at the House of Lords.

The OpenBritain.net website will also help business in England reach out to the lucrative accessible tourism market. Speaking at the launch Paralympian Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson said the website would mean people with disabilities would no longer have to "make do" with their travel choices.

"I hope that every hotel, attraction and restaurant in Britain will take advantage of the chance to easily promote their facilities to disabled travellers."



The website informs users about accessible hotels and destinations

Tourism for All UK is a charity dedicated to removing barriers to disabled and older people, which restrict their access to tourism and leisure. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=c8A6j>

2012 - A Curate's Egg



KURT JANSON

is policy director of Tourism Alliance

The figures for UK domestic tourism in 2012 have been released by VisitEngland. They show that total number of visits for the year was down by 1 per cent to 126m while expenditure on domestic tourism was up £1.3bn to a record £24.0bn. Impressive figures, considering the impact of the weather, combined with the double-dip recession and the want of many people to sit in front of the TV during the Olympics.

However, these topline figures hide a complicated picture of distinct winners and losers within the tourism sector. One major trend is that the increase in domestic holiday taking has occurred only within certain socio-economic groups. While more domestic holidays have been undertaken by ABC1 families (who have substituted domestic holidays for their usual overseas holidays), the number of holidays taken by those in the DEF socio-economic groups has declined.

The reason for this is that these groups didn't take overseas holidays and, with their discretionary income being eroded, are now simply not taking holidays.

As a result, destinations that cater mainly for ABC1 customers have shown increased visitor numbers and revenue while those that cater for DEF customers have seen a decline. Yet even within an ABC1 destination, the picture is not straightforward. Visitors to these destinations are still looking to find ways of economising and so businesses that are deemed to offer value for money are doing better than others. For example, there is a noticeable shift in accommodation from 3-4 star hotels to high-end self-catering properties as a means of economising without reducing comfort. Similarly, attractions are reporting good visitor numbers, but also report lower secondary spend.

The second trend is that while domestic trips decreased by 1 per cent last year, the number of day-visits increased by 11 per cent. This means that destinations within two hour's drive of a major conurbation have done well, while those destinations further away are under pressure. If you're an attraction within a daytrip zone, you will have done a lot better than a hotel.



The development will include 45 retail units

Retail and leisure centre approved for River Avon

A £35m retail and leisure project, IntoOutdoors, has received planning permission for a location near Stratford-Upon-Avon on the banks of River Avon.

Owner and developer Eagle One will create a 45-unit retail centre, outdoor leisure pursuits and holiday lodges within its 125-acre site near the A44 and A46 trunk roads junction.

The project will break ground this year and is expected to be completed by summer 2014. In addition to 140,000sq ft (13,006sq m) of retail, restaurant, cafes and leisure space, the development will include 60 holiday lodges, two fishing lakes, cycle routes, outdoor exhibitions and activity areas.

The retail and visitor attraction is within 60 minutes drive of a population of around 3.6m. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=l1C9t>*

Atkins secures Chinese luxury hotel project

UK-based design and engineering group Atkins has been appointed to draw up plans for a five star hotel and residential complex with sea-side views and private beach in the Chinese city of Sanya. Atkins' scope of work consists of concept design development, schematic design and landscaping.

The masterplan is centred on seashell-like curvaceous buildings and strategically placed landscaped platforms that terrace towards the sea, optimising beach views for the hotel guests and the private residences. With a total gross floor area of 97,000sqm above ground, the complex will dominate the skyline from both inland and seaside.

The 38,000sqm luxury hotel has 300 rooms and supporting amenities includes a ballroom, a Chinese restaurant, a Western restaurant and spa facilities. Sanya is a popular tourist destination in China with the presence of many luxury hotelier brands.

£200m mixed development for Edinburgh

A joint venture company has been established to move ahead construction on £200m mixed-use development in the heart of Edinburgh - one of the city centre's last remaining major gap sites.

Construction group Interserve has partnered with current landowner Tiger Developments to progress the project, which received detailed planning approval in March 2011.

The development site will incorporate commercial offices, retail units, leisure use, hotel accommodation and underground parking, and will create up to 3,500 jobs.

Tesco and serviced apartments provider StayCity have already signed up for the initial phase of the development, while food chains



The development will go ahead on one of the city's last major gap sites

Prezzo and Pret A Manger are committed to the second phase. Interserve chief executive Adrian Ringrose said the development will link seamlessly with Haymarket railway station and is adjacent to the city's new tram network. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=GojoJ>*

Liverpool plans Cains brewery village

Liverpool's Cains Brewery has unveiled ambitious plans to transform into a major tourism, leisure and retail destination in a bid to become a national visitor destination.

The multi-million pound Brewery Village would restore the Grade II listed headquarters building on Grafton Street to its former glory.

The building would also house a 100-room boutique hotel, a spa and fitness centre and function rooms.

The proposal includes the addition of digital work studios and a large open plan delicatessen-style food market and restaurant for independent artisan producers to make and sell their produce on site. The existing historic Brewery Tap pub would be restored and retained and the company is looking to increase the amount of traditional Cains ales brewed at the site.



Plans for the 'brewery village' include a food market and 100-room hotel

The plans also include proposals for a four-screen independent art-house cinema, separate food store, high quality apartments and car parking. The architect working on the scheme, Falconer Chester Hall, is looking to create a destination, which retains the brewery's industrial heritage. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=09c2S>*

"Growing optimism" for the future among architects

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) has released its monthly member survey for February regarding the health of the profession and the larger construction industry.

The survey revealed confidence in future growth prospects for the profession has grown

for the third consecutive month, with practices employing more than 51 employees the most optimistic about future workloads.

Confidence in the commercial, public and community sector was also up compared with January figures. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=E9Ioq>*



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Bournemouth Borough Council is seeking expressions of interest from experienced operators that can create, develop and operate a small new zoological* or botanical attraction at Durley Chine on Bournemouth's seafront.

Durley Chine is located one kilometre west of Bournemouth Pier and set behind some of Bournemouth's busiest beaches. The area available for the attraction and surrounding grounds is approximately 2500 square metres and sits behind the Durley Inn public house and opposite a beach cafe / restaurant. The site is bounded to the north by cliffs and is adjacent to a public car park to the west. The site's aspect is south facing. The cliffs to the rear of the site are designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) a national designation for the geological exposures and nature conservation interest.

The facility could include an integral cafe; this would not be permitted to sell any take-away food or drink. The Council would be prepared to invest in a younger children's playground within the site providing it remained publicly accessible and free to use.

Interested parties would need to demonstrate a track record of experience in operating zoological/botanical attractions and submit a business plan that clearly outlines how the facility would be funded, developed and operated. The successful applicant would need to gain a planning consent for any proposals – it is advised that pre-planning advice is sought from Bournemouth's Planning Department.

Bournemouth Council would expect a market valued site rental.

For further details please contact Bournemouth Borough Council Parks Team on parks@bournemouth.gov.uk

The closing date for submitting expressions of interest is May 17th.
*Excluding aquaria

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Newcastle City Council Leisure Facilities Offers invited for an asset transfer

Newcastle City Council is seeking Expressions of Interest from organisations, including voluntary sector organisations (which may include consortia arrangements) in respect of a proposed asset transfer of:

- Eldon Leisure Centre
- Gosforth Pool
- Outer West Pool
- Elswick Pool

The city council's objectives for the transfer are:

- To ensure the long term sustainability of sport and leisure provision from the buildings with continued community access.
- To continue to support the Active Newcastle initiative (www.activenewcastle.co.uk) through partnership working with the variety of public leisure operators in the city
- To release the council from any further financing or subsidy of the leisure facilities, through an asset transfer by way of a lease with full repairing and insuring responsibility.

Major reductions in the city council's funding has led to a series of proposals to broaden the already mixed provision of Leisure Services within Newcastle. The council is committed to providing a fit for purpose leisure offer in the city and is looking for partners to share its vision and to assist in the delivery of leisure in the city.

We are interested in negotiating over each individual facility or preferably groups of the facilities listed above.

Please note that there are staff based in the above centres. As this transfer is designed to ensure that service provision will continue, TUPE legislation will apply to staff eligible to transfer to the successful organisation.

For further information please contact Tony McKenna on 0191 277 3591 or email tony.mckenna@newcastle.gov.uk

To express an interest in any of the above, please email Denise Tymon on denise.tymon@newcastle.gov.uk or phone 0191 211 5542. Expressions must be received no later than 4pm, Friday 10 May 2013.



2013 - getting off to a busy start



IAN TAYLOR
is chief executive
officer of SkillsActive

It has been an exceptionally busy time for us recently at SkillsActive. We have welcomed the marvellous news from the government that primary school sport and activities are to benefit from £150m investment over the next two years, which I hope will help to inspire the next generation to take up sport.

This investment presents a fantastic opportunity for members of the Compass Association of Sports and Activity Providers (TCA) and sports national governing bodies to work together with primary schools to deliver sport and physical activity sessions. TCA members are experts in this field the association will set standards for competency, training and health and safety and promote accredited qualifications.

We are building on the success of the Register of Exercise Professionals (REPs) through the introduction of six new UKCES funded Registers, and I am very pleased to be able to tell you now about Capre, the Register of Children's Activity Professionals. SkillsActive is extremely proud of this innovative independent Register which houses information about individuals working in the children's physical activity industry.

Members of Capre deliver vitally important services for children and young people in the area of multi-disciplinary games and sports, and all types of physical activity.

As with any of our registers, prior to a full launch this Autumn we will be piloting the scheme which helps us to rigorously test the system, raise awareness, and give employers and the public the assurance that individuals have all been verified. REPs has now been running with enormous success for ten years and currently has circa 30,000 members. The Register of Aquatic Professionals (RAPs) was launched this February, and our Playwork Register is currently in its pilot stage. The support of government and employers alike for the continued professionalisation of the sector workforce through a system for registered professionals is key. Through this system we can instill confidence that the person coaching or teaching them has the appropriate qualifications for the role.

TRAINING

Prince of Wales opens hospitality centre

The Prince of Wales has officially opened the Belling Hospitality Training Centre at Dumfries House Estate this month.

The training facility, sponsored by electrical manufacturers Glen Dimplex, provides a training kitchen and restaurant.

It has been designed to cater to the needs of restaurateurs and hoteliers as well as providing one-day experiences for visitors.

The Prince's Trust is behind five-week programme Get into Hospitality, which covers food hygiene, food preparation and front of house skills for 16 to 25 year olds.

The Prince also visited the Sawmill Traditional Skills Centre, which is a



The Prince of Wales with students at Belling Hospitality Training Centre

base for the trust's Get into Sustainable Building programmes, and covers stone masonry, carpentry and dry stone walling. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=I5O6Y>

Building starts on Hospitality House

Builders have begun work on the £1.1m project to develop the Hospitality Guild's flagship training and development hub Hospitality House in north London.

It will include a training and demonstration kitchen, training bar, café, meeting rooms, video conferencing, events space, and offices for the Guild and other partner organisations.

The building was donated rent free by fast food giant McDonald's as one of the principal benefactors of the development.

Sponsorship and equipment has also been provided by industry suppliers and employers such as Gram Commercial, Electrolux, Heineken, Compass Group UK, Hilton and People 1st. The building is being carried out by Claremont Group Interiors and



The new facility will include a training and demonstration kitchen

is expected to be complete by summer.

Guild executive director Suzy Jackson said: "That we've managed to get from a dream of having a state of the art training facility to actually making it a reality in less than a year is mind blowing." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=F1R2Z>

Marriott launches European careers smartphone app

Marriott International is taking its recruitment digital in Europe with the newly launched careers app that is available in English, French, German and Russian.

The new innovation has been developed with Evvive Brands following market research

among young people - the target demographic for the app. Though the app is not designed to replace traditional face-to-face recruitment, its aim is to enable Marriott to reach a technologically savvy and ever increasing mobile audience. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=k9z5l>

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Dianne Eade, Newquay Zoo
Head of Finance, Human Resources and Administration



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GET NEWHAM *active*

activeNewham was born in January 2013 as a Leisure Trust serving the people of Newham, East London. Our mission is to "get people active". We deliver leisure, sports, parks and volunteering activities in the borough. We aim to give local residents every opportunity to get active in their community – not just physical but also creative activity. Our Sports and Activities programme is already the most extensive in London. Our Volunteering Service is recognised as a leader in the field. We currently generate £5m pa through our 3 leisure centres, parks and activity programmes.

We are now in a position to appoint a number of key roles in the senior management team working with a Board of Trustees. You will be part of a new senior team that will help activeNewham achieve its mission of getting people active. Key to this will be the development of an innovative community engagement programme across the borough to promote the benefits of activity, develop a range of opportunities, and create an active community.



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Assistant General Manager, *DW Sports Fitness, Bury, UK*
Temporary Duty Manager, *DW Sports Fitness, Burton, UK*
Duty Manager, *Westminster Academy, London, UK*
League Operations Manager, *Soccersixes, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, UK*
Training Manager, *YMCAfit, Central London, UK*
Fitness Instructor (3 Posts) Physical Education, *University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK*
Duty Supervisor (3 Posts) Physical Education, *University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK*
Sports Development Manager, *Quadron Services Limited, Wandsworth & Kingston, UK*
Head of Community, *West Ham United Football Club, Beckton, East London, UK*
PL4 Sport Programme Manager, *West Ham United Football Club, London Borough of Newham, UK*
General Manager, *English Heritage, Stonehenge, UK*
Property Director, *The Gym Group, Flexible, UK*
Health and Fitness Supervisor, *University of Essex, Evolve Gym, Southend, UK*
Spa Manager, *Your Spa, Ramsgate, Kent, UK*
Personal Training Opportunities, *Hull City Council, North Yorkshire, UK*
Client Support Manager, *Harlands Group, Nationwide, UK*
Regional Account Manager, *Harlands Group, North West, UK*
Swim Education Trainer, *Edinburgh Leisure, Edinburgh, UK*
Director of Derbyshire Sport, *Derbyshire County Council, Ripley, Derbyshire, UK*
Leisure Services Manager, *Center Parcs, Lake District, UK*
Sports Development Manager, *London South Bank University, Southwark, UK*
Full Time Personal Trainers wanted, *Ten Pilates, Central London, UK*
Experienced Personal Trainer/ Manager wanted, *Ten Pilates, Central London, UK*
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Personal Trainer, *Pure Gym Limited, SVarious locations, UK*
Personal Trainer, *énergie group, Tower Hill, UK*
Senior Recreation Attendant, *Brentwood Leisure Trust, Brentwood, UK*
Visitor Assistants, *House of Commons, London, UK*
Massage Therapists, *Lifefhouse Spa & Hotel, Essex, UK*
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Personal Trainers, *The Gym Group, Various locations, UK*
Sales and Retention Manager, *DW Sports Fitness, Preston, UK*
Recreation Attendant, *Everyone Active, Harold Hill, Romford, UK*
National Citizenship Service Mentor, *Valley Leisure Ltd, Test Valley, UK*
Recreation Attendant, *Everyone Active, Romford, UK*
Duty Manager, *GLL, London Borough of Ealing, UK*
Freelance Personal Trainer, *Everyone Active, Cheam, UK*
Manager, *Soll Leisure, Fleet, Hampshire, UK*
Duty Manager, *DW Sports Fitness, Various locations, UK*
Head Therapist, *The Bulgari Hotel and Residences London, London, UK*
Sports Academy Duty Supervisor, *Hartpury College, Gloucestershire, UK*
Senior Receptionist, *Parkwood Leisure, Bristol, UK*
General Manager, *Anchor, Bishopstoke Park, Eastleigh, UK*
General Managers, *truGym, Various, UK*
Junior Development Officer, *The Swimming Teachers' Association, Walsall, UK*
Franchise Opportunity, *Premier Sport, Nationwide, UK*
Gymnastics Assistant Coach (x 2 posts), *Edge Hill University, Lancashire, UK*
Sales and Retention Manager, *DW Sports Fitness, Various locations, UK*
Membership Sales Advisor, *énergie group, Colchester, UK*
Property Director, *The Gym Group, Flexible, UK*
General Manager, *English Heritage, Stonehenge, UK*
Fitness Instructor (part-time), *énergie group, North West London, UK*
Promotional Staff, *énergie group, St Albans, Hertfordshire, UK*
General Managers, *The Gym Group, Reading, Ipswich and 'roaming', UK*
Group Fitness Coordinator, *Edgbaston Priory Club Ltd, Edgbaston, UK*
Club Business Development Officers, *Amateur Swimming Association (ASA), Regionally Based, UK*
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IT Support Manager, *Finesse Leisure Partnership, Welwyn Garden City, UK*
Personnel, *Training and H and S Administrator, Finesse Leisure Partnership, Welwyn Garden City, UK*
Team Leaders x3, *Finesse Leisure Partnership, Hatfield, UK*
Assistant Managers x3, *Finesse Leisure Partnership, Hatfield, UK*
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Duty Manager, *Kidspace, Essex, UK*
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Female Health/Fitness and Sports Manager, *IS Wellness, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia*
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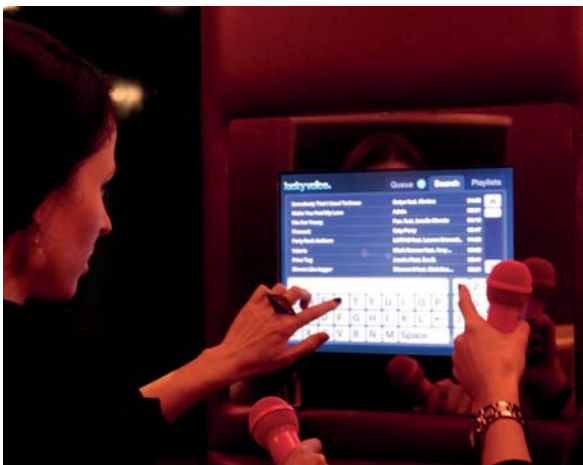


Lucky Voice expands to Ireland

Karaoke chain Lucky Voice has announced a new partnership this month with Irish entertainment complex Arena 7 in Donegal, as it moves forward with its global expansion.

The agreement will see an existing site at the complex converted into a karaoke room with bar that will accommodate up to 25 people. Arena 7 will license Lucky Voice's technology, by adopting Lucky Voice Enterprise, and install the brand's custom-built touch-screen karaoke software into the private room.

Enda Nicholls, Arena 7 owner, said: "On a recent trip to London we visited Lucky Voice in Islington and saw an immediate synergy between the Lucky Voice premium



Arena 7 will install Lucky Voice's touch-screen karaoke technology

customer experience and Arena 7 ethos." Arena 7 includes seven entertainment options including Bowling World and Strikes Bar & Restaurant. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=f2r9Y>*

British Olympic Association appoints licensing partner

The British Olympic Association (BOA) has named IMG Licensing - a division of IMG Worldwide - as its new official licensing partner following a tender process.

IMG will be tasked with creating a comprehensive licensing programme that offers a

range of officially-licensed Team GB products and apparel. Demand for officially-licensed Team GB apparel reached an all-time high in 2012, with over 10,000 individually licensed items bearing the Team GB & ParalympicGB marks. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=h1voj>*

UK lacks "family-friendly" hotels

A new survey reveals more than 250,00 British parents have cut short a family holiday because they felt their children were unwelcome or accommodation was ill-equipped for their needs. The research, conducted by Marketiers4DC, surveyed 1,005 UK parents.

Around a quarter of parents taking part in the study complained about a lack of evening activities and 23 per cent had experienced unfriendliness towards their children.

One in five said menus were unsuitable for children and 13 per cent complained there was no children's cutlery or tableware.

Nigel Chapman, of Luxury Family Hotels, said: "It's about time UK hotels sat up and took notice as the industry as a whole clearly still has a long way to go to prove that young guests are as welcome as their parents and recognise how important that is."



Nearly a fifth had experienced "unfriendliness"

Other concerns included unsuitable bedding and a lack of kids' clubs or nanny services. The survey also found one in three parents believed foreign hotels were more accommodating to children than those at home. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=17B5I>*

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