

# leisureopportunities

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## Duchess becomes patron of NHM

The Duchess of Cambridge has been announced as a patron of the Natural History Museum (NHM) in London, with hopes she will inspire the next generation to conserve the planet's diversity.

The announcement follows the Duchess officially opening the museum's Treasure Gallery in November.

She also met with NHM scientists studying biodiversity during her trip to Borneo with the Duke of Cambridge last year, which was part of their Diamond Jubilee Tour.

The Natural History Museum, located in South Kensington, has the world's largest natural history collection, with more than 70 million specimens, and attracts five million visitors a year.

At the Treasure Gallery launch, the Duchess said: "William and I are just two of millions of



The Duchess at the opening of the museum's Treasures Gallery

people who have passed through these doors and marvelled at the spectacular wonders of the natural world, housed in this beautiful gallery." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=14p3D>



£4.5m will be invested in new fitness technology

## Fitness First plans £20m capital investment

Fitness First is planning a capital investment of £20m in 2013 in an attempt to return the brand to UK market leader.

The spend will cover essential maintenance, major refurbishments and an investment of £4.5m in fitness technology, marking the largest phase of innovation in the company's history.

Products and features at clubs will include hot yoga studios, cool down air showers, interactive screens with virtual personal trainers and high definition screen treadmills. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=g9v2l>

## S&P merges with AFL Architects

S&P has merged with AFL Architects to form AFLS+P, now one of the largest architectural practices in the UK. Keith Ashton, former chief executive of S&P and now one of six Principals of AFLS+P, said: "This merger adds to our skill base and allows us to offer more services to our existing clients internationally. We share the same values, with a strong emphasis on developing creative and innovative design solutions that maximise commercial value and are fit-for-purpose as well as the future." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=j7C9X>

## College launches new training spa

Scotland's James Watt College has launched The Eden Spa at its Finnart Campus in North Ayrshire, where students can train in industry standard facilities.

The spa includes 22 treatment beds, separate relaxation areas, a dispensary and a full reception and waiting area to give customers a professional experience.

The spa is open to the public with a range of dry spa treatments available, including massage and muscle therapies.

Curriculum manager and make-up artist lecturer at the college Morven Aikmen said: "We decided to go for a full refurbishment of the department because many of the facilities



The spa lets students train in industry level facilities

were spread across the college and some areas were becoming a little tired."

The Salon, also located on the Finnart Campus, provides hair styling, facials and nail treatments. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=k5E2f>

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## SPORT

# New UK Sport, Sport England chairs

The former chief executive of the Royal Yachting Association, Rod Carr, and London Marathon CEO Nick Bitel have been appointed chairs of UK Sport and Sport England respectively.

Carr and Bitel will be tasked with helping deliver a lasting legacy from London 2012 and using their commercial and sports administration experience to ensure maximum return and results from the public investment in sport.

Carr's main focus will be to keep up the momentum from Team GB and Paralympics GB's performances in London last summer, in the lead up to Rio in 2016. UK Sport is investing £500m of funding in the run-up to Rio to boost elite sports performance and to secure major sports events.

Bitel will be tasked with helping Sport England deliver its community sports legacy



London Marathon CEO Nick Bitel is the new Sport England chair

plans and strengthen grassroots sport across the country.

Sports participation is at an all-time high following London 2012 and Sport England aims to build on this even further, increasing the number of people playing sport and continuing to improve facilities. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Q5X7P>*

## Islington delivers free tennis for residents over 60

Islington Council is offering free tennis for over-60s in an effort to help more residents get active and encourage people to try the sport.

The council has appointed Karen Dawson its new tennis development officer, funded with help from sports trust Aquaterra and the Lawn

Tennis Association. Councillor Janet Burgess said: "We want people of all ages and backgrounds to try tennis and Islington's new tennis development officer is helping to build on the 2012 legacy to get people into sport." *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=D5D9Y>*

## Sports clubs surveyed on 2012 legacy

The Sport and Recreation Alliance has launched a survey to examine how grassroots sports clubs are faring in the wake of the 2012 Games.

The 2013 Sports Club Survey covers issues ranging from the Olympic legacy and disability sport, to local authorities and school links.

At the end of 2012, the Alliance's Olympic and Paralympic legacy snapshot survey revealed that more could be done to help clubs drive up participation.

The survey showed that 42 per cent of clubs are experiencing an increase in membership since the London 2012 Games but a quarter of these clubs are struggling to meet this demand. It also found that a lack of funding is preventing three in five sports clubs (60 per cent)



Forty-two per cent of clubs have seen an increase in membership

from growing their membership. Increased operational costs are furthermore holding back the growth of 54 per cent of sports clubs and half are struggling with a lack of affordable venues or facilities to use. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=h8t5u>*



## Beckham's new ambassador role

David Beckham has signed a long-term agreement with Sky Sports as an ambassador in an effort to get more people involved with sport at the grassroots level.

The global sports star will support Sky Sports Living for Sport – a free initiative that uses the stories and expertise of athlete mentors to inspire young people to learn new skills. Around 30,000 young people from around Britain and Ireland participate in the programme each year.

Beckham said: "I've always been passionate about the importance of sport in the lives of young people.

"It's not all about winning; just getting involved in sport gives you confidence and skills for life. I was lucky to have some amazing role models when I was younger, and I'm excited about the opportunity to work with



David Beckham aims to inspire more young people into sport

Sky to pass on some of that knowledge to the next generation."

Other athletes who work with Sky include track and field athlete and Olympic medalist Jessica Ennis and road and track racing cyclist Sir Bradley Wiggins. *Details:* <http://lei.sr?a=8b8o8>

## New squash courts for Hull ahead of Open

Five new glass backed squash courts have been officially opened at the University of Hull as it prepares to host the British Open Masters competition in May.

World number three James Willstrop officially opened the courts and was joined by university vice chancellor Calie Pistorius and British Open sponsor Dr Assem Allam.

The tournament will run alongside the main British Open event, which will be held at the all-glass court at KC Stadium.

Willstrop said: "As a Yorkshireman it's even more prominent for me that by holding the British Open in Hull we can also create a lasting legacy for students and the local community. Sport and in particular squash



James Willstrop tries out the new court with young squash players

is really thriving in Yorkshire and these courts will only help to get more people involved in our sport."

Students from the local Humber Squash Academy also enjoyed trying out the new courts. *Details:* <http://lei.sr?a=c1por>

## Gleneagles experiences flat profit in lead up to Ryder Cup

Gleneagles has reported flat before-tax profit for its financial year to the end of June 2012, due to costs related to preparations for the Ryder Cup in 2014.

The golf and spa resort in Perthshire, Scotland said room sales were level with the

previous year but an increase in turnover was mainly attributable to improved revenues for leisure activities, restaurants and bars.

Gleneagles includes three championship golf courses, a 232-room hotel and luxury ESPA spa. *Details:* <http://lei.sr?a=j8s7Y>

## Curler appointed chef de mission for Sochi 2014

Former champion curler Mike Hay has been appointed chef de mission for Team GB at the Sochi 2014 Olympic Winter Games. He will lead a delegation of around 50 athletes and a further 50 support staff to next year's event.

Currently head of sport engagement at BOA, Hay has won five European titles and two World Championship silver medals during his competitive career in curling, and has also coached the sport. He has an MBE for his services to the sport. *Details:* <http://lei.sr?a=Y1p7g>



The new 3G pitch received £0.5m in funding

## Money redirected from crime into grassroots sport

A government initiative that redirects money from crime into community projects has helped fund a new 3G pitch at Edinburgh's Meadowbank Sports Centre.

The synthetic surface was funded through £300,000 from the Scottish Government's CashBack for Communities scheme and a further £200,000 from the City of Edinburgh Council. Leith Athletic FC has successfully bid to become the home club for the venue and the council will work with the club and the Scottish Football Association to manage pitch bookings. *Details:* <http://lei.sr?a=Y7w5A>

## Finsbury sports clubs to take over local facilities

An umbrella group representing community sports clubs will now run the Finsbury Park Track and Gym and local tennis courts under a new agreement with Haringey Council. Finsbury Park Sports Partnership Limited will now be required to meet specified milestones over the next three years as part of the agreement, before the full 25-year lease is granted.

Improvements for the facility include floodlights for the tennis courts, refurbishment of the running track and a tennis pavilion. *Details:* <http://lei.sr?a=i5w9A>

### LA Fitness backs down on children's swimming prices

From June, children under four will be allowed to go swimming for free, with their parents, at LA Fitness clubs and a new national pay structure will be introduced.

The gym chain was pulled up by the *Observer*, which claimed it was breaching the terms of its own contracts when it introduced a fee of £8 per month for children, in January. Many members who had joined because they could bring their children free were unimpressed at the new charge. *Details:* <http://lei.sr?a=P6C9G>



The planned leisure centre for Coleshill School

### Community leisure centre approved for Coleshill

Planning approval has been granted for a community sports centre to be built at Coleshill School in North Warwickshire.

The facility will replace the ageing Coleshill Leisure Centre, which according to planning documents would be costly and time-consuming to refurbish. The planning document also stated the facility's popularity had dropped 14.5 per cent between 2008/09 and 2010/11. The new facility will have a four-court sports hall, two squash courts, a 40-station gym and dance studio. *Details:* <http://lei.sr?a=8M4l6>

### Construction to start on Haltemprice Leisure Centre

A contractor has been appointed to begin work on Haltemprice Leisure Centre, in Anlaby, Yorkshire.

Local construction company Hobson & Porter will lead the build, which will begin in late April and is set to be complete by autumn 2014. It will take place in a phased approach, beginning with the transformation of the rear of the building into the main entrance and refurbishment of outdoor pitches and the addition of parking spaces. *Details:* <http://lei.sr?a=N6j3E>

## Asda Sports Leaders launches

Ukactive has facilitated a new partnership between supermarket chain Asda and community sports organisation Sports Leaders UK to improve the health and employment prospects of young people.

Launched at the House of Commons, the Asda Active Sports Leaders scheme will receive the Inspired by 2012 brand, unveiled by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in April. The scheme will support 150,000 people annually to get qualifications in sports leadership.

Chief executive of ukactive David Stalker said: "ukactive exists for one reason and one reason only – to get more people, more active, more often. We're delighted that we've been able to play such a role in bringing the two organisations together."



IMAGE: OLGA DMITRIYVA/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Asda Active Sports Leaders will deliver 150,000 qualifications annually

Asda said it saw the potential in the scheme following a survey of more than 5,000 mothers in 2012 that found their two biggest concerns were about their children's health and prospects for employment. *Details:* <http://lei.sr?a=q6Y2k>

## Surrey leisure centre approved by council

Reigate & Banstead Borough Council has approved plans for an £8.7m leisure, community and youth centre for a site at Preston, Surrey.

The development would include a 25m six-lane swimming pool, teaching pool, 50-station gym, dance and exercise studios, four-court sports hall, football pitches, café, crèche and wet and dry changing studios.

Construction is expected to start in autumn and be complete within a year.

Approval was also granted for 130 new homes on the site of the existing Banstead Leisure Centre, which will remain open until the replacement facilities open.

Councillor Adam De Save said: "It is fantastic news for local residents that the



The £8.7m leisure centre is scheduled to be finished by autumn 2014

exciting new leisure facilities and much needed new and affordable homes that local people have been promised are moving closer to becoming a reality." *Details:* <http://lei.sr?a=zov7c>

## Leicester GPs to prescribe patients physical activity

Leicester GPs can now prescribe free exercise programmes to residents, under the city's new Active Lifestyle Scheme.

The sessions, including walking and aqua aerobics, will include a referral to a qualified fitness instructor for patients suffering medical

conditions such as heart problems, diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity.

Deputy city mayor Rory Palmer said: "This scheme will help people get some exercise on a regular basis, with support from qualified instructors." *Details:* <http://lei.sr?a=V4i6x>



## Stroke, exercise link not proven

The Stroke Association says more research needs to be done to confirm whether high-intensity exercise can trigger an attack, after BBC presenter Andrew Marr claimed his stroke earlier this year was brought on following a vigorous exercise session.

The 53-year-old presenter stated on his own programme, BBC Two's *Andrew Marr Show*, that he had been overworking in the year leading up to his stroke, but that it was sparked by an intense rowing machine workout.

It is estimated that each year, 150,000 people in the UK will have a stroke, most aged over the age of 65. It is believed Marr experienced two transient ischaemic attacks, or mini strokes, that went undiagnosed at the time.

The Stroke Association has released a statement stating regular exercise is an important



BBC presenter Andrew Marr says vigorous exercise triggered his stroke

factor in stroke prevention and recovery. Spokeswoman Nikki Hill said: "We have heard anecdotally that some activities like vigorous exercise can sometimes cause blood vessels to burst. We need more research on the underlying factors that might make that happen."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=U4u8t>

## Glasgow 2014 legacy funding distributed

SportScotland has distributed the first grants from the £10m Legacy 2014 Active Places Fund to 24 community projects across the country.

The grant enables groups to develop and revamp fitness facilities in the lead up to the Glasgow Commonwealth Games. A total of £1.2m has been awarded to projects in 15 local authorities.

Projects that received funding include £38,000 for Edinburgh's Leith Links to develop tennis and petanque facilities and Children in Edinburgh, which will receive £87,900 for tennis and cycling in the city.

Scottish minister for the Commonwealth Games and sport Shona Robison said: "This fund allows individuals, young and old,



A total of £1.2m was delivered to fitness projects in this funding round

increased access to sport and physical activity, while also developing the skills and experience of users, coaches and volunteers."

The end date for the next round of applications is 1 July. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Y9x1Q>

## Council backs £13.5m leisure centre for Blackburn

A £13.5m leisure centre for Blackburn has received backing from the local council to replace the aging Waves Water Fun Centre.

The council approved £8.5m for the project, with Blackburn College providing the remaining £5m. Facilities will include an eight lane

25m pool; a 15m by 7m training pool; an 80-station fitness suite; an aerobics studio; a health suite with sauna and steamroom; two four-court sports halls and a sports science lab.

Work is set to begin on the site in September. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=f6B5G>



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### Council backs restoration of lower Derwent Valley

Derbyshire County Council is the latest partner to back a Heritage Lottery Fund bid to protect and restore a historic valley in the region linked to the birth of the industrial revolution.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is leading the bid for the proposed £2.3m development that would conserve and enhance the lower Derwent Valley, which includes the Derwent Valley Hills World Heritage Site. The bid will be submitted in May, with a decision expected in September. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=i4X7S>*



The museum will double in size under the plans

### Satrosphere launches £7m fundraising campaign

Aberdeen's Satrosphere Science Centre has launched a £7m fundraising campaign as it unveiled plans to refurbish and double the size of its current facility.

As part of the scheme, the centre would also change its focus to the science of energy, a theme Satrosphere says is rarely emphasised in science centres throughout Europe. The development will include new learning, teaching and corporate spaces, intended to increase Satrosphere's visitor numbers from its current 55,000 to 70,000 annually. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=m8Y4P>*

### Madame Tussauds studio creates Houston tribute

A team of artists at Madame Tussauds' studio in London are creating four wax figures of singer and actress Whitney Houston to celebrate distinct events in her life.

It is the first time in more than 200 years of the history of Madame Tussauds that the attraction has created four distinct wax likenesses of a single subject.

The process takes four months to complete with the four figures costing £777,000. The figures will be displayed at the four Madame Tussauds attractions in the US. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=eoy1B>*

## Funding boost for Fort Bovisand

Heritage Lottery Funding has been awarded to Plymouth's derelict Fort Bovisand, to help it further develop its £16m plans to transform the scheduled ancient monument site into a visitor attraction.

Development funding of £352,500 was awarded to The Fort Bovisand Trust and could lead to a £4.32m grant for the public/private project, which will see part of the site converted into residences.

Owned by former director general of the BBC Greg Dyke the fort has been a defence feature since Tudor times and played a role in World War II when it was manned by servicemen with anti-aircraft guns and searchlights. Development plans include site renovations, a visitor interpretation centre, a café and learning facilities. The Fort Bovisand Trust has had initial discussions



The planned development with red representing the visitor attraction

with Plymouth educational establishments, The Conservation Volunteers and the City Museum, aimed at engaging apprentices, volunteers and students.

Councillor Tudor Evans said: "This plan all helps add to the sense that Plymouth's time is really coming." *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=d1x1M>*

## Plans for Windermere steamboat attraction

London architects Carmody Groarke have submitted a planning application to the Lake District National Park to redevelop the Windermere Steamboat Museum into a heritage attraction.

The £13.4m museum development will include exhibition space, a wet dock to display heritage boats and an operational conservation workshop open to the public.

Highlights of the collection will include steam launches of the 1890s and 1900s; SL Dolly (1850), the oldest mechanically powered boat in the world; and Beatrix Potter's tarn boat that she used to sketch in on Moss Eccles Tarn. In addition to display space, the museum will feature a learning centre and café with views to the north of Windermere.



The £13.4m development will include wet docks and a lakeside café

The completed museum is expected to attract 100,000 visitors a year and 200-300 school groups.

It will create 94 direct and indirect jobs. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=v6EoA>*

## Suspected rhino horn thieves target Irish museum

Four rhinoceros heads have been stolen from a storage facility at the National Museum of Ireland, likely for the illegal trade of powdered horn that is used in traditional Far East medicine. A security guard was tied up by a number of raiders in the 17 April incident at the Dublin

museum. A total of eight horns have been taken, which could have a street value in the region of €0.5m (£0.43m).

In 2011 more than 50 rhino horn thefts were reported from European museums and galleries. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=A6P6q>*



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## Sofitel London St James appoints new spa manager

Trafalgar Square's Sofitel London St James has appointed Robin Mauras Cartier as spa manager for its So SPA.

Cartier has previously worked as spa duty manager at Pennyhill Park in Surrey, general manager of Glow Urban Spa and spa consultant with Tres in London.

Cartier said: "The So SPA is a superb escape from the city, offering the finest in French cosmetology for exhilarating and rejuvenating rituals, and I look forward to using my experience to develop this further." *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=W4N2r>*



The bridal suite at Fonab Castle Hotel, Scotland

## Scotland's Fonab Castle Hotel set for May opening

Scotland's Fonab Castle Hotel, in Pitlochry, Perthshire – previously scheduled to open in March – will now open in May, with plans to add a spa and other leisure facilities at the property later this year.

The 26-room hotel aims to become a five-star lodging and will offer private hot tubs, a panoramic, glass-fronted restaurant and exclusive-use packages for events and weddings. In autumn, the hotel plans to open a destination spa, pool, leisure club and heated and air-conditioned dog kennels. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Y8H8U>*

## Website to sell adventure and spa combo packages

Digital Sports Group (DSG) has announced it is releasing a range of online packages, which combine adventure activities with a spa break. The group launched spa booking website Spadays.co.uk in February and now offers 500 packages to customers.

DSG operations manager Dan Jones said: "The new packages are designed to cater for both tastes, giving the customers not only an adrenaline-packed activity to enjoy, but also a relaxing pamper break afterwards to unwind." *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=I4Q1c>*

# Spa in the pipeline for Heckfield

The opening of Hampshire's Heckfield Place has been delayed following a decision to open the hotel at the same time as a planned spa, which is yet to break ground.

The 60-room hotel, set in an 18th-century manor on 400 acres of garden and countryside, was due to open this year. Planning permission for the spa has been granted but the hotel is not releasing further details about its offer or opening date at this stage.

However, it has revealed private health and beauty treatments will be available in the property's former estate cottages.

Other facilities to be offered at the hotel include The Beckwith dining room, a 60-seat cinema and a library. Gardens advisor to the Royal Palaces Todd Longstaffe-Gowan is working on the design of the property's garden. Set



Heckfield Place is currently being transformed into a hotel and spa

on a working farm, Heckfield Place's menus will utilise estate-sourced ingredients, with Skye Gyngell acting as culinary director. With the opening of the hotel now delayed, plans for Gyngell to launch a restaurant in London have been brought forward to the end of this year. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=x4A3V>*

## Mercure spas jump on 'babymoon' trend

Mercure has unveiled a series of spa treatments for expectant parents in an effort to reap the benefits of the 'babymoon' trend, where couples treat themselves before the arrival of their newborn.

The babymoon menu is specifically designed to be safe for expectant mothers and their unborn baby and treatments target concerns such as stretch marks, skin tone and tired and swollen legs.

Fathers are not excluded from the spa menu with the 85-minute Total Body Wellness treatment including a body polish, massage and sauna mask.

Mercure says even the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge have jumped on the babymoon



'Babymoons' let couples unwind before the arrival of their newborn

trend, taking relaxing getaways before the arrival of their child in July. Treatments will be available at Mercure spa hotels across the UK. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=M6u6A>*

## New beauty suite opens at Holiday Inn Stratford

Holiday Inn has opened a beauty suite at its Stratford City hotel with treatments targeted towards busy male and female executives.

Bodycraft Beauty Therapy offers facial treatments and Swedish, hot stone and deep tissue massages. Ten minute express massages will be available to guests in the hotel's reception.

Holiday Inn's 188-room hotel is located within retail destination Westfield Stratford and the suite will also cater to shoppers.

Dermalogica skincare products will be used for facial treatments while natural and holistic oils will be used for massage. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=L9BoP>*





High-end spa tables, beds, loungers, equipment and furniture. Made in Germany.



References: Le Meridien, Stuttgart Germany • Hotel Hyatt Regency, Düsseldorf & Mainz Germany • Ritz Carlton, Wolfsburg Germany • Burj al Arab, Dubai, UAE • Crans Ambassador, Crans Montana, Switzerland • The Dolder Grand, Zurich, Switzerland • Hotel Arlberg, Lech am Arlberg, Austria • Hotel Union, Geiranger, Norway • The Westin, Costa Navarino, Greece • Hotel Prezydent, Krynica-Zdrój, Poland • Grand Hotel Kempinski, Strba-Strbské Pleso, Slovakia • Crowne Plaza, Amman, Jordan • Crowne Plaza, Kuwait City, Kuwait • Hiltonia Health Club & Spa at Hilton, Abu Dhabi, UAE • Jumeirah Zabeel Saray, Palm Island, Dubai, UAE • DoubleTree by Hilton, Istanbul-Moda, Turkey • JW Marriott Hotel, Ankara, Turkey • The Ritz Carlton, Istanbul, Turkey • Hotel Hout Bay Manor, Cape Town, South Africa • Hotel Chateau Spa & Organic Resort, Malaysia • The Ritz-Carlton Seoul, South Korea • Sofitel Marrakech, Morocco • And many more...

## Culture sector called on to make its economic case

Culture secretary Maria Miller has called on the sector to make an economic case for investing in the arts in her first keynote address.

Speaking at the British Museum she said the arts deliver direct and indirect economic benefits: "The arts are not an add-on; they are fundamental to our success as a nation," she said.

Miller added that philanthropy would play an important role in the government's long term funding strategy for the arts. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=a6r1V>



Paul Hobson will join Modern Art Oxford

## Modern Art Oxford appoints new director

Contemporary arts space Modern Art Oxford has appointed Paul Hobson its new gallery director.

Hobson will bring more than 20 years experience in the visual arts sector to the gallery including programme development, fundraising and income generation.

He will take up the post in September, leaving his current role as director of the Contemporary Art Society. Hobson has previously held senior positions at the Serpentine Gallery and the Royal Academy of Arts. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=S3xoF>

## South Devon Arts Centre gets the green light

Work has begun on a South Devon Arts Centre (SDAC) project to transform an empty industrial building in Totnes into a new arts and entertainment venue.

Located at Totnes Trading Estate, the project includes a new 250-capacity live performance venue, a 70-seat theatre and cinema, art exhibition space, recording studios and a new home for community radio station Totnes FM.

The official opening of the 5,000sq ft (465sq m) space is set for May. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=W6Y1W>

## Arts centre plans for Ringwood

Ringwood Musical & Dramatic Society, in partnership with Greyfriars Community Centre, is planning to develop a new multi-use arts centre on the old Activities Centre site.

The new centre will include a 280-seat theatre/cinema with retractable seating; 160 places at tables for functions; a large space for dances, proms, conferences and exhibitions, and bar facilities.

Also included is a north-facing room to provide the best light for art clubs, rooms where Judo clubs can train, a coffee shop, kitchens and bars to service the theatre and cinema, and a glass foyer area.

Planning permission has been submitted to New Forest District Council with a decision expected by the end of June. The proposed independently-funded building, designed by



A decision on whether the centre gets the go ahead is expected in June

Ringwood architects Brennan Williams Lester, is estimated to take five years to develop.

The Ringwood & District Community Association and the Ringwood Musical & Dramatic Society have spent more than two years examining the feasibility of the centre. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=k2K3g>

## Arts Council restructures non-executive governance

Arts Council England (ACE) has announced significant changes to its organisational structure, following an independent review.

Five new area councils – London, South West, South East, Midlands and North – will replace the nine regional councils.

Membership of the National Council will also drop from 17 to 14.

ACE chair Sir Peter Bazalgette said the restructuring gives the organisation a chance to reflect on its non-executive governance. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=J6nov>

## Fund for older people to participate in arts

A new £1m fund aims to get older people living in residential homes involved in the arts, both as audience members and participants.

Partnerships between residential care providers and arts organisations are currently being sought to apply for the funding, which has been put forward by Arts Council England and the Baring Foundation.

Museums and libraries can also apply provided their proposal for the scheme is art focused. It is envisaged the scheme will fund four proposals over the next three years. According to the most recent Taking Part in the Arts survey, people aged over 75 have a much lower engagement in the arts than other age groups.



IMAGE: FRANCES ANDERSON

Older people are encouraged to engage as participants and audiences

Arts Council chair Peter Bazalgette said: "The arts are a demonstrable source of health and happiness, no matter what age we are." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=O5J8q>



## French top UK inbound visitors

VisitBritain has revealed figures that show the increasing popularity of Britain from tourism powerhouse China, a strong French inbound market and record spend from Australia, Canada and the United Arab Emirates.

The figures, from the Office for National Statistics' 2012 International Passenger Survey, recorded total spend of £18.6bn – a 4 per cent rise from 2011 – and a 1 per cent rise in visits.

Looking at the market specific breakdown, there were no substantial changes to the top 10 countries from 2011, with close European neighbours France continuing to dominate the visit tables. More than 3.8 million people from France visited the UK last year, spending £1.5bn.

Germany, the USA, the Republic of Ireland and the Netherlands complete the top five. The



The figures break down Britain's inbound tourist numbers by country

Netherlands – along with Poland and Belgium – moved up the top 10 rankings in 2012.

A record 179,000 visitors came to Britain from China in 2012 (up 20 per cent), spending a total of £300m (a rise of 25 per cent), equating to an average of £1,676 per visit. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=10c3T>*

## Post-Olympics slump anticipated for London hotels

London hotel industry experts anticipate a potential slump this summer, according to discount travel website Hotwire.com.

Although the British government predicted that an additional 4.5m tourists would visit the city in the four years after the 2012 Olympic

Games, industry experts are starting to sense that this may be an overly optimistic view.

Hotwire said that even amidst the projected tourism boom of last year, the number of tourists to London actually dropped from 3.36m to 3.18m. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=b8yoQ>*

## Belfast benefits from Titanic attraction

Northern Ireland museum Titanic Belfast has contributed an estimated £54.3m to the city's economy in the year since it opened.

The six-floor building, which includes nine interpretive and interactive galleries, informs visitors about the construction of RMS Titanic and the wider story of the country's industrial and maritime history.

Touted as the world's largest Titanic visitor experience, the attraction opened on 31 March 2012, in time for the 100th anniversary of the ship's fateful maiden voyage.

In the year since it opened its doors, more than 800,000 people have visited the museum and it is believed the attraction



The £97m museum opened last March, ahead of Titanic's centenary

brought an additional 460,000 people to the city, increasing hotel occupancy levels to record numbers during the summer months. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=n3n3J>*



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## Hospitality needs fewer regulations



### UFI IBRAHIM

is chief executive officer of the British Hospitality Association

**T**he news that Britain hasn't slipped into triple dip recession will come as a relief to the whole hospitality and tourism sector. Moreover, the 2.5 per cent growth in our sector over the last year is a real confidence boost.

Restaurants have bounced back well in the last year. Our appetite for eating out has not been dampened as badly as feared either by the cold weather or by the economy. Restaurant entrepreneurs are innovative and creative with new brands, new concepts and menus.

This is particularly so in London – emergent eating out brands expanded in London by 42 per cent in 2012. Operators have also been developing a host of other strategies from pop-up outlets to street food, world food buffets, new cuisine offers and healthy eating concepts.

The cost of raw materials is becoming a real issue however. In the last six months, food prices have overtaken rent and rates in the list of major overheads facing UK restaurants. Global pressures affecting the price of wheat, meat and dairy have filtered through to the UK restaurant industry and 74 per cent of restaurants cite the cost of food as the major factor affecting menu prices. It now comes second only to staff wages, according to the Livebookings European Dining Index.

The innovative ones are those who are changing their menus more frequently as they react to price changes; increasing their efforts to source locally and re-structuring relationships with suppliers to protect against price changes.

The hospitality industry is also widely aware of the need to find ways to cut out waste: it's estimated by Wrap that careful management of waste could save the industry more than £720m a year.

We need to make a united effort to ensure that the government listens to what the industry needs and that the government helps us to help ourselves.

The BHA is campaigning for fewer regulations for hospitality and would like to hear from restaurants about how it can further help support success. *Details: bha.org.uk*

## HOTELS

# New Edinburgh boutique hotel

A new boutique hotel which can be booked in its entirety for up to 22 guests, has opened in a Victorian building opposite Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh.

Owned by the G1 Group – which also operates Central Hotel, Grassmarket Hotel and Bank Hotel – Murrayfield House has been designed by Jim Hamilton to create a homely ambience.

Features include antique furniture from India, light fittings from Holland, chairs from Paris and vintage photo frames, as well as bespoke handmade fixtures and fittings. Each of the nine rooms feature daily complimentary gifts – such as miniature whiskies and home-made macarons – and custom-made beds. Bathrooms include extra large baths and Porcelanosa textured tiles. Hotel spokeswoman Nikki Greenhaugh said:



The boutique Victorian hotel has been designed by Jim Hamilton

“Original features including high ceilings and ornate cornicing have been blended with modern designs to create the lavish yet welcoming setting here at Murrayfield House.

“We think we have captured a niche by being able to offer the entire house as a booking.”

*Details: <http://lei.sr?a=7B8Y8>*

## Manchester boasts Europe's strongest hotel pipeline

Manchester has the largest hotel development pipeline for Europe, according to STR Global figures released for the month of March.

The city will see room growth of 22.7 per cent if all 3,061 rooms in its total active pipeline open. Pipeline data includes developments in

construction or the planning stages, but does not include pre-planning developments.

Significant room growth is also forecast for Birmingham (17.2 per cent with 1,702 rooms) and London (14.1 per cent with 16,392 rooms).

*Details: <http://lei.sr?a=09A9A>*

## Salcombe Harbour Hotel to open in August

The luxury Salcombe Harbour Hotel on the Devon coast has announced it will reopen on 1 August, following an extensive refurbishment.

The hotel will feature 50 new bedrooms – many with private balconies and panoramic sea views – and the Harbour Spa, which covers two levels and has been excavated into the cliff.

The spa will include five treatment rooms and a fitness suite on the first level, plus a swimming pool, spa pool and heat experiences on the second, subterranean level.

The multi-million pound refurbishment is being undertaken by construction group Galliford Try with interiors by DO Design. DO Design used natural materials, textures



Sea views will be a feature of many of the hotel's 50 new bedrooms

and tones to connect the property to its coastal surroundings. Other facilities at the hotel will include event space, The Jetty restaurant and a crustacean bar. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=g4j9z>*





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An aerial view of the planned Belle Vue village

## Sports village plans unveiled for Manchester

Manchester City Council has revealed plans for a national home for both speedway and basketball, as part of the £10m Belle Vue Sports Village development.

It will offer new sports facilities for the community and elite athletes alike, while also modernising the existing Belle Vue Leisure Centre. A purpose-built 6,500-capacity speedway will provide the Belle Vue Aces with their own home allowing them to hold weekend meets, which will strengthen the earning potential of the club.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=C1d6q>

## West Midland Safari Park aims for resort status

West Midland Safari and Leisure Park has unveiled redevelopment plans which it hopes will propel it from a three-star day attraction to a four-star resort.

The Worcestershire park has set out plans to create a 250-bed hotel, a conference centre for 1,000 delegates, an indoor waterpark, a rail halt, monorail link and multi-million pound upgrade of the safari drive.

The park currently welcomes 1.3 million visitors a year, but it is hoped the redevelopment would attract thousands more.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=h4e1>

## Plans submitted to revamp Swansea's Liberty Stadium

Swansea City FC has submitted a formal planning application for the expansion of Liberty Stadium to accommodate an additional 11,000 spectators.

The phased approach would start with the expansion of the East stand to take an additional 3,844 spectators, with phases two and three expanding the North and South stands. The work is expected to take three to five years to complete, and would increase the stadium's current capacity of 20,750 by more than 50 per cent. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=c2q0A>

## Work starts on £200m Newcastle project

A landmark £200m development is underway to transform Newcastle's historic Stephenson Quarter into a vibrant cultural, living and working area.

Located next to the city's Central Station, the first phase of the Stephenson Quarter project will feature a 251-room Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Centre, which will also house a luxury spa.

Expected to be complete within two years, the first phase will also include a 357-space multi-storey car park, 35,000sq ft (3,252sq m) of offices and a large landscaped public space.

Later phases will see the addition of residential, commercial, restaurant and retail facilities, as well as an art gallery and exhibition space.



The development will include a Crowne Plaza Hotel and luxury spa

The project is a catalyst for the regeneration to the west of the Quayside and the area designated by the council as the Discovery Centre.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=k4v3Y>

## Bowmark invests in Drake & Morgan

Mid-market private equity firm Bowmark Capital is investing £30m in the management buyout and expansion of London bar and restaurant group Drake & Morgan.

Founded in 2008 by the Imbiba Partnership, the group's sites include The Refinery in Southwark, The Parlour in Canary Wharf and three sites in the City – The Anthologist, The Folly and The Drift. Its concept is an all-day food and drink offering in stylish, accessible and female-friendly premises.

Over the past three years the group has experienced 75 per cent growth in sales, with a current level of £18m.

Drake & Morgan sites are typically based in landmark locations, often on the ground floor of new office developments. Sites in St. Paul's and Holborn are planned for openings this



Drake & Morgan bar and restaurant The Anthologist in London

year, while a further eight sites have been identified for expansion over the next two years.

Over the long term the company plans to roll out the concept nationwide and believes there is the potential to develop up to 70 Drake & Morgan units across the UK. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=U6V7u>

## Shortlist announced for Scottish sports centre bids

SportScotland has revealed the bidders who have made it to the second stage of the process to develop a National Performance Centre.

A preferred bidder for the multi-sport centre, to receive up to £25m of government support, will be announced in summer with

the facilities expected to be complete by early 2016. Those that have been invited to take their bid to the second stage include Dundee City Council, Heriot-Watt University and a joint bid from Stirling Council and the University of Stirling. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=p9C9Z>





Proposed design – Rio 2016 Olympic Park, Brazil



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## Britain launches technical baccalaureate

A new technical baccalaureate (TechBacc) launched by the government aims to give vocational education a status on a par with A level study.

Education minister Matthew Hancock revealed the new performance measure will be available to those aged 16 to 19 and would launch in September 2014.

The qualification would be targeted at students pursuing careers in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), service and creative industries, including retail and hospitality management, engineering and construction and roles in the sports industry.

The three elements of the programme would be a vocational qualification, core maths



The service sector is among several targeted by the new qualification

qualification and an extended project, which would develop and test students' communication and research skills and self-motivation.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=K8e6z>

## Widnes Vikings offer in-house diploma

Cheshire rugby league club Widnes Vikings have announced the launch of an in-house college course open to students aged 16 to 19 years old interested in pursuing a career in the sport.

Students will complete a BTEC National Diploma in Performance and Excellence at Level 3 covering sports performance, nutrition, psychology and fitness.

Based at Storbart Stadium, they will also develop communication, planning and delivery skills through work experience within the club's Valhalla Foundation community department.

Widnes Vikings head of performance Phil Finney said: "We believe it is ground-breaking because every aspect of this course will



The Vikings want to recruit students interested in a career in rugby

be delivered by members of Widnes Vikings' staff. This means we will have complete control over the educational, physical, technical and tactical development of all participants."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=G9H6O>

## Leisure Connection sales course endorsed by ISMM

The Institute of Sales and Marketing Management (ISMM) has recognised Leisure Connection for its Sales Foundation Course – the only leisure management company to receive such an endorsement. Students that pass the course will now receive certification directly from the ISMM, which can lead to associate membership of the institute.

Training and development manager at Leisure Connection Claire Owen said: "Our industry has for many years recognised and demanded formal qualifications from fitness teams, lifeguards and catering teams, so it is only right that we extend that professionalism to our sales colleagues." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=F9Z4w>

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



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If you would like to discuss the position further, please contact Carl Chambers, Sports Centre Manager on 01536 713708. For an application pack please contact Montsaye Academy on 01536 713708 or by email at [HRofficer@montsaye.northants.sch.uk](mailto:HRofficer@montsaye.northants.sch.uk)

All applications are to be returned to Michelle Johnston at Montsaye Academy, Greening Road, Rothwell, Kettering, Northants NN14 6BB by Friday 10th May 2013



## MEMBERSHIP SALES MANAGER



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This is an exciting and challenging role that will involve responsibility for driving our golf and health club memberships through local outreach activity and on-site sales conversion.

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at [matthew.orwin@ccgclubs.com](mailto:matthew.orwin@ccgclubs.com).

Please note that due to the volume of applications we can only respond to candidates who are shortlisted for interview.

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ENGLANDGOLF

The English Golf Union Ltd invite application for the positions of  
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(Post 1 covering Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire (BB&O), Hertfordshire and Northamptonshire)

(Post 2 covering Cheshire, Derbyshire, Lancashire and Staffordshire)

The English Golf Union Ltd, trading as England Golf, the governing body for amateur golf in England, is seeking to appoint a Regional Development Officer with the intention to develop the role within a transition phase to potentially Regional Manager encompassing a wider remit to support Club Services and Compliance activity across the organisation at County and Club level.

The role of the Regional Development Officer is to further the aims of England Golf as identified within its strategic plan and the England Golf Partnership (EGP) Whole Sport Plan (WSP) for golf.

Applicants must have an understanding of the structure of national, regional & county based sport, the structure of golf (general, club based and admin structure) along with the club management and operations side. It is essential that you have prior experience within management and administrative positions and within the leisure or golf related industry. You will need to be self-motivated and be able to motivate others. You must have outstanding communication skills, including public speaking and have strong organisational skills and be IT literate. Attention to detail and the ability to work to tight deadlines are imperative.

The post is full-time (Monday - Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm core hours) and will be required to work evenings/weekends if necessary. It is preferred that you live within the Counties associated with this role.

For further information and to apply please visit our website [www.Englandgolf.org/vacancies](http://www.Englandgolf.org/vacancies), complete and return the application form along with a copy of your most recent CV to Mary-Anne Price, Human Resources Officer on [m.price@Englandgolf.org](mailto:m.price@Englandgolf.org)

Closing date for applications: Tuesday 7th May @ 1pm

Interviews for Post 1: 13th and 14th May 2013

Interviews for Post 2: 23rd and 24th May 2013

## Duty Manager

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We are looking for an experienced Duty Manager and duties will include assisting to provide an efficient and effective operation, ensuring our facility is clean, safe and well maintained which will include the monitoring and supervision of employees, building security, health and safety requirements, involvement in the on-site training of employees and most importantly to assist our customers with their queries or complaints in a helpful and professional manner in a busy centre.

Our ideal candidate will have a sports related qualification and the possession of, or ability to gain a lifeguarding qualification is essential, be pro-active, reliable and dependable, have the ability to work as part of the team, able to plan ahead, have a calm head under pressure and possess excellent customer service and public relations skills.

Harlow Leisurezone is a registered Charitable Trust and our not for profit status means that all the income we receive goes towards investing in services

If you are interested in this opportunity please call **01279 621512** or email [lborthwick@harlowleisurezone.co.uk](mailto:lborthwick@harlowleisurezone.co.uk) for an application pack and application form leaving your full name and address.

**The closing date for all applications 15th May 2013.** If you do not hear from us within three weeks of the closing date please assume you have been unsuccessful on this occasion.

Interviews will be taking place on week commencing 28th May 2013

Harlow and District Sports Trust - Harlow Leisurezone, Second Avenue, Harlow, Essex CM20 3DT



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 Sales Manager, *Antenna International, London, UK*  
 Swim Instructor (Part-Time), *Parkwood Leisure, Weston-super-Mare, UK*  
 Fitness Instructor, *Parkwood Leisure, Bristol, UK*  
 Cleaner, *Parkwood Leisure, Newbury, UK*  
 Managing Director, *activeNewham, East London, UK*  
 Group Marketing and Business Development Manager, *activeNewham, East London, UK*  
 Fitness Instructor, *Parkwood Leisure, Newbury, UK*  
 Aquazone Coordinator, *Parkwood Leisure, Penzance, UK*  
 National Citizenship Service Mentor, *Valley Leisure Ltd, Test Valley, UK*  
 Communications (Marketing) Development Manager, *Valley Leisure Ltd, Andover / Romsey, UK*  
 Experienced Personal Trainer/ Manager wanted, *Ten Pilates, Central London, UK, UK*  
 Full Time Personal Trainers wanted, *Ten Pilates, Central London, UK*  
 Freelance Personal Trainers, *Soho Gyms, London/Manchester, UK*  
 Sales and Membership Officer, *Brio Leisure, Northgate Arena, Cheshire, UK*  
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 Regional Managers Vacancies, *ICON TRAINING, Across England, UK*  
 Duty Manager, *Harlow Leisurezone, Harlow, UK*  
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 Assistant Gym Manager, *Pure Gym Limited, Warrington North, UK*  
 General Managers, *truGym, Various, UK*  
 Personal Trainer, *Pure Gym Limited, Various locations, UK*  
 Gym Manager, *Pure Gym Limited, London, UK*  
 Franchise Opportunity, *Premier Sport, Nationwide, UK*  
 Personal Trainer, *énergie group, Tower Hill, UK*  
 Sport Services Assistant x 2, *sportscotland, Inverclyde, UK*  
 Personal Trainer, *Matt Roberts Personal Training Company, London, UK*  
 Head of Human Resources, *Fusion, London, UK*  
 General Manager, *Fusion, Various locations, UK*  
 General Manager, *Finesse Leisure Partnership, Hatfield, UK*  
 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*  
 Duty Manager (full-time), *Borders Sport and Leisure Trust, Eyemouth, UK*  
 Leisure Assistants (casual), *Borders Sport and Leisure Trust, Eyemouth, UK*  
 General Manager, *English Heritage, Stonehenge, UK*  
 Trainee Fitness Professional, *Pocketfit Training, UK*  
 Performance and Elite Sport Manager, *Nottingham Trent University, Nottinghamshire, UK*  
 Participation Sport Manager, *Nottingham Trent University, UK*  
 Personal Training Opportunities, *Hull City Council, North Yorkshire, UK*  
 Managing Director, *Training Solutions Consultant, Gladstone Health & Leisure, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, UK*  
 Junior Development Officer, *The Swimming Teachers' Association, Walsall, UK*  
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 Assistant General Manager, *DW Sports Fitness, Gloucester, UK*  
 Regional Development Officer, *England Golf, Covering Cheshire, Derbyshire, Lancashire and Staffordshire, UK*  
 Regional Development Officer, *England Golf, Covering Beds, Berks, Bucks and Oxon (BB&O), Herts and Northants, UK*  
 Disability Officer, *England Golf, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire, UK*  
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 Group Operations Manager, *activeNewham, East London, UK*  
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 Football Coaches, *The Sports Factory, New Jersey, United States*  
 Personal Trainer, *Pure Gym Limited, Various locations, UK*  
 Assistant Gym Manager, *Pure Gym Limited, Wolverhampton South, UK*  
 Duty Officer Post, *Montsaye Academy, Northants, UK*  
 Head of Leisure, *Celtic Community Leisure, Neath Port Talbot, UK*  
 Assistant Manager (Service Manager), *GLL, Hackney, UK*  
 Full time Membership Consultant, *Everyone Active, Staines Upton Thames, UK*  
 Physical Education Teachers and Sports Coaches, *Let Me Teach, London and South East, UK*  
 Sports Development Manager, *London South Bank University, London, UK*  
 General Manager, *English Heritage, Stonehenge, UK*  
 Operations Manager, *Mark Anthony's, London, UK*  
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 Course Sales Advisor, *YMCAfit, Central London, UK*  
 Duty Manager, *DW Sports Fitness, Northampton, UK*  
 Assistant General Manager, *The Gym Group, Ipswich, UK*  
 Sales and Retention Manager, *DW Sports Fitness, Middlesbrough, UK*  
 Personal Training Opportunities, *Hull City Council, North Yorkshire, UK*  
 Theatre Manager, *Parkwood Leisure, Weston-super-Mare, UK*  
 General Manager Hospitality and Events, *Parkwood Leisure, Weston-super-Mare, UK*  
 Marketing & Sales Manager, *Parkwood Leisure, North Devon, UK*  
 Swimming Instructor, *énergie group, Wilmslow, UK*  
 Fitness Apprentice, *énergie group, Wilmslow, UK*  
 General Manager / Curator, *Blue Reef Aquarium, Newquay, UK*  
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 Head Receptionist, *Hertfordshire Sports Village, Hertfordshire, UK*  
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 Spa Reception and Reservations Agent, *The Bulgari Hotel and Residences London, London, UK*  
 Leisure Attendant, *Manchester City Football Club, Manchester, UK*  
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 Duty Manager (Leisure Centre Supervisor), *GLL, Horley, Surrey, UK*  
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### SALES MANAGER

Antenna International™ is the world's leading provider of handheld interpretation in the global cultural arena. Each year, more than 63 million people enjoy one of our experiences at more than 500 of the greatest museums and historic sites around the world. The majority of our clients are museums and historic sites, and an affinity with these places, and an understanding of how they work, is essential.

Many of these sites are in the UK; where we have our largest office. The opportunity has now arisen to join our commercial team to continue growing that success. We are looking for an experienced Sales Manager with a proven track record in sales; but who can also demonstrate an active love and interest in art and culture.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the generation of new business for Antenna International™ through the winning of new client relationships, and the ongoing strategic development of those relationships. He/she will also be responsible for the entire sales process, from prospecting to contract signing as well as the strategic relationship between Antenna International™ and the client for the life of the contract and beyond.

For further details and to apply, please go to our website:  
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To be considered for this role please send across your  
covering letter and CV to - [jobsuk@antennainternational.com](mailto:jobsuk@antennainternational.com)

The closing date for submitting applications is 25 May 2013.

## Director of Public Programmes

Attractive package commensurate with skills and experience

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew is the world-leader in plant diversity science, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a major visitor attraction that shows the importance of plants in all our lives. Kew's mission is to inspire and deliver science-based plant conservation worldwide, enhancing the quality of life. Following the appointment of a new Director last year and a subsequent restructuring that aims to strengthen Kew's visitor offer, we are seeking to appoint a Director of Public Programmes to lead the visitor attraction strategy.

Reporting to the Director and a member of the Executive Board, the Director of Public Programmes will lead a reshaped and wide ranging brief including events and festivals, marketing and communications, commercial activity, digital media, visitor services, outreach, volunteers, and community engagement and learning. At the heart of the role will be the need to raise Kew's performance and position us as a world-leading visitor attraction that delivers an outstanding on-site experience.

You will bring ambition, commercial focus and the leadership and management experience to re-invigorate Kew's public offering. With responsibility for a team of over 200, you will bring experience of leading major change to deliver improvements in organisational performance and income generation. This role will require energy, creativity and the desire to challenge the status quo.

You will understand the need to balance public purposes with commercial growth.

Your leadership experience will most likely have been gained in the visitor attraction, culture or heritage sectors; whatever your background, you will share our passion and will be excited by the opportunity to apply your experience in a world-renowned organisation that plays an important role in educating, informing and inspiring the public about the importance of plants.

To find out more, please visit [www.gatenbysanderson.com](http://www.gatenbysanderson.com) quoting reference **GS14912** or contact our advising consultants at GatenbySanderson: **Elliott Rae** on **020 7426 3964** or **Juliet Taylor** on **020 7426 3990** for a confidential discussion.

Closing date: **Noon on 28 May 2013.**



## Aloft hotel to open in Liverpool

Liverpool's derelict Royal Insurance building is to be refurbished under an £18m partnership between the city council and Ashall Property, paving the way for Starwood Hotels to open its Aloft brand at the landmark property.

The building has been unoccupied for two decades and is on English Heritage's 'at risk' register.

The planned 116-room four-star Aloft hotel will feature the brand's signature high ceilings, oversized windows, platform beds and walk-in showers. Facilities will include

a re:chargeSM fitness centre and re:fuelSM deli and café, as well as meeting spaces.

Ashall aims to begin work on the building in early May, completing at the end of 2014.



The Royal Insurance building has been unused for the past two decades

Liverpool is working to restore its historic buildings with only 4 per cent now listed on the 'at risk' register, compared with 7 per cent nationally. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=xoK7j>*

## Global Zumba campaign aims to fight world hunger

Dance fitness company Zumba Fitness has launched a new initiative encouraging people: "don't just burn calories, donate them" in a bid to help fight one of the world's greatest health risks – hunger. 'The Great Calorie Drive' initiative is a collaboration with the United

Nations World Food Programme. Participants are encouraged to shake off their calories in Zumba classes worldwide and Zumba will donate the equivalent of the average amount of calories burned per class to the food charities. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=y8v8N>*

## Stonehenge tests Neolithic houses

English Heritage has enlisted the help of volunteers to test build three Neolithic houses that will be the centrepiece of an outdoor gallery planned for the new £27m Stonehenge visitor centre, currently under construction.

Rare evidence of English Neolithic buildings unearthed near Stonehenge is informing the build and lessons learned from the experiment will be used to create the exhibit at the visitor centre. Excavation by Professor Mike Parker Pearson has uncovered floors of the houses and stake holes where the walls once stood but the above ground appearance of the houses is unknown.

Materials used include 12 tonnes of chalk, 2,500 rods of wattling, 10 oak logs, 600 bundles of sedge, 600 bundles of water reed and hundreds of timber stakes and rafters. English Heritage senior properties historian Susan



The houses will go on display at Stonehenge

Greaney said: "The reconstructed houses will be an immediate and sensory link to the distant past and will bring visitors as close as they can to appreciate what life was like for the extraordinary individuals who built Stonehenge." *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=c5x1C>*

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- LPF +44 (0)1462 471932  
[www.leisurepropertyforum.org](http://www.leisurepropertyforum.org)
- Natural England +44 (0)845 600 3078  
[www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)
- People 1st +44 (0)870 060 2550  
[www.people1st.co.uk](http://www.people1st.co.uk)
- REPs +44 (0)20 8686 6464  
[www.exerciseregister.org](http://www.exerciseregister.org)
- SAPCA +44 (0)24 7641 6316  
[www.sapca.org.uk](http://www.sapca.org.uk)
- Sports Aid +44 (0)20 7273 1975  
[www.sportsaid.org.uk](http://www.sportsaid.org.uk)
- Sport and Recreation Alliance  
+44 (0)20 7976 3900  
[www.sportandrecreation.org.uk](http://www.sportandrecreation.org.uk)
- Sport England +44 (0)8458 508 508  
[www.sportengland.org](http://www.sportengland.org)
- Springboard +44 (0)20 7529 8610  
[www.springboarduk.org.uk](http://www.springboarduk.org.uk)
- SkillsActive +44 (0)20 7632 2000  
[www.skillsactive.com](http://www.skillsactive.com)
- Tourism Management Institute  
+44 (0)1926 641506  
[www.tmi.org.uk](http://www.tmi.org.uk)
- Tourism Society +44 (0)20 8661 4636  
[www.tourismsociety.org](http://www.tourismsociety.org)
- ukactive +44 (0)20 7420 8560  
[www.ukactive.org.uk](http://www.ukactive.org.uk)
- VisitBritain +44 (0)20 7578 1000  
[www.visitbritain.com](http://www.visitbritain.com)
- World Leisure +1 250 497 6578  
[www.worldleisure.org](http://www.worldleisure.org)