leisureopportunities

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Olympic Park opens to public after £300m investment

East London's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park has officially opened to the public following its redevelopment after the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Stretching across 230 hectares (568 acres), the site is the biggest new park to open in Europe for 150 years. A programme of music, sports and arts ran throughout the weekend to mark the opening.

More than £300m has been invested in the park since the closing ceremony of the 2012 Paralympic Games. The works in the park have been overseen by the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC).

Parts of the park have already been accessible to the public, including the "northern half" which houses the Lee Valley VeloPark, touted as the UK's foremost cycling facility.



The site has has more than £300m worth of investment with future developments still planned

The southern half - South Plaza - covers the size of 16 football pitches and sits between the Zaha Hadid-designed aquatics centre, the Olympic Stadium and the ArcelorMittal Orbit - the UK's tallest sculpture.

As well as the iconic sporting facilities, the park includes interactive fountains, waterways, landscaped gardens and children's play areas with giant swings and climbing walls.

The waterways that stretch up to the centre of the Park will be used for transport including water taxis, kayaking and other water based activities, while along the waterways future developments will include floating restaurants and cinemas.

Sustainability has been at the heart of the park's design.

Using the London 2012 Games' infrastructure as

inspiration, the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park is seeking to provide a "pioneering model of urban regeneration" by promoting sustainable lifestyles through sustainable infrastructure. Details: http://lei.sr?a=w2V5Q

CIMSPA team in place to drive transformation

The Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA) has appointed a team to restructure the organisation in line with the plan approved by members.

The team is comprised of interim chief operating officer Tara Dillon supported by Spencer Moore and Ben Gittus, who have joined from the Amateur Swimming Association and SkillsActive respectively.

They will report to CIMSPA trustee and ukactive CEO David Stalker, who began the business review in June 2013. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=B7v5n*

Maria Miller resigns as culture secretary

Maria Miller has resigned as culture secretary after a lengthy row over expenses, with the tourism industry expressing its sadness at the departure of a "strong representative."

After intense media speculation over her position, Miller sent a letter of resignation to Prime Minister David Cameron.

In response, Cameron thanked her for serving in the cabinet and expressed the hope that she would be able to return "in due course."

Miller had been at the centre of a row about expenses claimed to pay the mortgage of a house she owned in Wimbledon.

The Basingstoke MP was cleared of funding a home for her parents at taxpayers'



The conservative MP for Basingstoke was elected in 2005

expense, but was told to repay £5,800 of the expenses she claimed.

Previously, independent parliamentary commissioner for standards Kathryn Hudson had recommended she repay £45,000, but this was overruled by the Commons Standards Committee. Continued on back

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SPORT

Spurs hope for stadium move by 2017

Tottenham Hotspur Football Club (Spurs) is hoping to have its new stadium ready for the start of the 2017-18 season.

The proposed 58,000-capacity stadium, which forms part of the ambitious Northumberland Development Project in North London, has received initial planning permission - but it is understood the club still needs to secure additional funding to cover construction costs.

In a statement, Spurs chair Daniel Levy said the club had

now identified those properties it intends to sell to raise cash and that a tender for the stadium will be launched later this year.

"We've undertaken a review of our property holdings in order to determine the essential core properties required to deliver the new stadium, with non-core properties – that are excess to requirements - being sold and the proceeds used



Tottenham's new football stadium will have a total capacity of 58,000

to pay down debt secured against those properties," he said. "The Northumberland project is a major development that will present ongoing challenges and subject to these challenges being manageable we anticipate going out to tender for construction late this year which will make a stadium opening date of summer 2017 feasible." Details: http://lei.sr?a=p7E5g

Olympic athletes' commission joins forces with PFF

The British Athletes Commission (BAC), which represents more than 1,500 of Britain's Olympic and Paralympic athletes, has joined forces with the Professional Players Federation (PPF).

Set up in 2004, BAC's mission is to ensure that UK athletes in world class performance

systems train and compete within a "fair, supportive and transparent system". The organisation is a funded partner of UK Sport.

The new partnership aims to strengthen the position of BAC athletes within professional sport in the UK. Details: http://lei.sr?a=Y7E4M

FA to allow artificial pitches in the FA Cup

The Football Association (FA) is to allow the use of 3G artificial pitches in every round of the FA Cup, starting from next season (2014-15).

Until now, artificial playing surfaces have not been allowed beyond the competition's first round proper.

The announcement is the latest endorsement given to artificial pitches by the FA, which is increasingly calling for clubs of all levels to install non-grass pitches in order to allow more community foot-

ball to take place and to help in poor weather.

FA general secretary Alex Horne said: "Clubs are seeing the benefits of using 3G surfaces across the football pyramid and clubs who play on those surfaces can now retain home advantage in the competition.



Artificial turf could be the solution to lower league clubs' weather problems

He added that the community aspect played a part in the decision, too. "3G pitches are a very useful asset and capable of delivering 50 plus hours per week as compared to a natural turf pitch which can deliver perhaps five hours per week," he said. Details: http://lei.sr?a=M5e6a

£9.6m invested in sustainable sport

A total of 28 community sports projects will become more environmentally sustainable thanks to the latest round of Sport England's Improvement Fund.

Now in its second cycle, the Improvement Fund is aimed at medium-sized sport projects and facilities, awarding capital grants worth between £150,000 and £500,000 to initiatives that seek to "improve the quality and experience of sport".

The second round prioritised sports projects that will deliver savings by making facilities more efficient and sustainable.

Sport England estimates that a typical sports clubs spends around 30 per cent of its running costs on energy, and about £10,000 each year on electricity alone. By making changes to become more sustainable, it is hoped clubs can reduce their energy bills by 10-20 per cent.

Projects to receive funding include Taunton Vale Sports Club, which has been awarded £273,000 to refurbish its existing hockey pitch and install LED lighting across the club, as part of improvement works costing £500,000.



Taunton Vale Sports Club has received a sustainability grant of £273,000

Lighting for the clubhouse, indoor sports hall, tennis and netball courts, football area and floodlighting across the hockey pitch, will all be upgraded to LEDs. The project – one of the first of its kind for sports clubs - will reduce light spillage affecting local residents from the outdoor lights, reduce maintenance costs as well as reducing energy consumption in the clubhouse.

Other bodies to receive funding include Southwark Council which has been awarded £252,000 to improve the energy efficiency of Peckham Pulse healthy living centre. Details: http://lei.sr?a=t6D3S

Castleford Tigers reveals new stadium plans

Super League rugby club Castleford Tigers has revealed detailed plans for a new 10,000-capacity community stadium in the town.

To be located close to the Junction 32 of the M62 motorway, the stadium will form part of a £135m mixed development project proposed by London-based developers Lateral Property Group (LPG). The stadium would also be funded in its entirety by the retail development.

Designed to meet Super League requirements, the stadium will provide administration, changing facilities, restaurants and hospitality areas, with a mixture of both seating and standing terraces.

LPG has entered into talks with Wakefield Council over the Junction 32 plans, which also include a major retail development, a new 50-acre county park and a number of leisure spaces.

Philip Lunn, MD of Lateral Property Group said: "This is a major scheme for the area on a site which has impressive transport links.



The stadium will form part of a £135m mixed-use project

"In addition to delivering this new stadium for Castleford Tigers, the enabling retail development could bring a massive boost to the local economy."

LPG has appointed Leeds-based GMI Construction as the principal contractor for the scheme, subject to planning approval.

It is anticipated that construction will begin in 2015 and the new stadium would be ready for the 2017 season, with the retail opening later that year. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=r3x4U*





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Correlation between activity levels in mothers and children

The more active a mother is, the more active her child is likely to be, according to new research published in Pediatrics.

Researchers from Cambridge and Southampton Universities worked together for the study, which observed the patterns of 554 mothers and four-year-olds over a period of seven days.

Experts used heart rate monitors combined with an accelerometer to measure levels of physical activity, with the results showing a direct, positive association between physical activity in children and their mothers.

Having collated the results, scientists were able to show that for every minute of moderate-to-vigorous activity the mother undertook, her child was more likely to take part in 10 per cent more of the same type of activity. Details: http://lei.sr?a=G7Z5G



Colin MacGillvray of Bannatyne's Fitness

Bannatyne's puts £850,000 into north east club upgrades

Bannatyne's Fitness has invested £850,000 into four of its north east health clubs as part of a major upgrade to workout equipment.

The investment comes after The Bannatyne Group recently announced a £92m deal with M&G Investments for the sale and leaseback of the ground leases for 39 Bannatyne Health Clubs.

The company has turned to providers Technogym to replace cardiovascular machines at Coulby Newham in Middlesbrough, Ingleby Barwick in Stockton, plus Darlington and Durham.

The company has invested £250,000 at Coulby Newham and £300,000 in Darlington, while Ingelby Barwick has benefitted from a £180,000 investment.

Colin MacGillvray, north east regional manager at Bannatyne Fitness, said: "Continually investing in new workout equipment is hugely important because it ensures members are always able to access the very best and most up-to-date equipment to help them achieve their personal fitness goals." Details: http://lei.sr?a=z8q4D

Disregard 'feelings' over obesity

A leading leisure industry medical advisor has said doctors need to ditch concerns about hurting obese patients' feelings and be more proactive in prescribing exercise and weight management programmes.

Dr Davina Deniszczyc, GP and medical director of wellbeing for Nuffield Health, was commenting on a new report that found as many as six million overweight UK citizens could be at risk of life-threatening illnesses as they're unaware of the extent of their obesity.

The research from Nuffield Health - the UK's largest healthcare charity - found nearly half of clinically obese patients (44 per cent) say they have no concerns that they are at risk of serious illness or premature death due to their weight.

The study of 3,126 UK adults found ignorance of the health risks surrounding obesity was the key reason for this laissez faire attitude. More than two thirds of respondents were unaware that being obese increases the risk of developing types of cancer, liver disease and conditions like osteoarthritis.



As many as six million people in the UK could be at risk from obesity

"As healthcare professionals, we need to prioritise the health of our patients over the risk of them having 'hurt feelings' caused by a frank and open conversation about their weight," said Dr Deniszczyc.

"It's vital that people have information to make informed decisions. While we need to increase access to clinically recognised weight management programmes, some people may simply benefit through structured information, goal setting, an exercise regime or through tackling the root cause of their obesity. Details: http://lei.sr?a=J4U9j

ukactive wants CIMSPA watchdog role

ukactive CEO David Stalker has outlined his organisation's credentials to serve as watchdog for the national physical activity plan suggested in a report from the All-Party Commission on Physical Activity.

The report - launched by a cross-party group of politicians including Tanni Grey-Thompson – sets out clear recommendations to tackle the growing physical inactivity epidemic in the UK.

It calls for a National Plan of Action to tackle declining levels of physical activity, backed by all sectors and political parties.

It also recommends establishing an independent body to have oversight and ensure accountability for the plan and Stalker believes ukactive - which highlighted the extent of the inactivity crisis in a high-profile report - would be a suitable candidate for the role.

"ukactive is uniquely positioned to be able to be a delivery partner and effectively manage the evaluation of a national plan, so of course



David Stalker believes that ukactive is 'uniquely positioned' for the role

we're open to discussions," said Stalker in a statement sent to Health Club Management.

Stalker also warned that tackling inactivity must take an all-encompassing approach, adding: "We must be cautious that the youth demographic aren't seen as the main driver in overturning what is a societal problem that really does need to be tackled holistically." Details: http://lei.sr?a=T6n3S

HEALTH & FITNESS

DC Leisure now 'Places for People'

Leisure operator and developer DC Leisure has rebranded as a social enterprise called Places for People after being acquired by the property management and development group of the same name.

DC's merger with the not-fordividend organisation marks the first time a leisure provider has joined forces with a housing provider and the outfit says its core mission is to create active places and healthy people. The financial details of the deal have not been disclosed.

Places for People Leisure Management will now be the new industry facing brand replacing

DC Leisure Management. It will continue to provide leisure facilities and tender for outsourced leisure management contracts, while aiming to drive leisure participation through the building of new centres and improving existing facilities.

Steve Philpott, chief executive of Places for



Steve Philpott will now become chief executive of Places for People

People Leisure, and CEO of DC leisure for the past decade, said: "This rebrand enables us to highlight what we can offer in the future as a communityminded organisation bursting with passion and enthusiasm to get communities more physically active." Details: http://lei.sr?a=T5A4D

Regular exercise helps to combat dementia

A series of recent studies have added credence to the notion that physical activity is far more effective than mental exercises, such as crosswords or puzzles, in staving off dementia.

A recent study from the University of Pittsburgh showed the immediate positive effect brisk outdoor walks had on the brains of middle aged and elderly men and women, compared to those who were inactive.

Focusing on those aged 55 to 80, researchers found that the regular workouts increased the size of the hip-

pocampus - the brain's memory hub - knocking almost two years off its biological age.

Whereas the brain usually shrinks with age by around one per cent per year, the



Researchers found that regular workouts increase the size of the hippocampus

brains of the men and women who exercised by walking for 40-minutes three times a week expanded by up to two per cent. Details: http://lei.sr?a=V9n6c

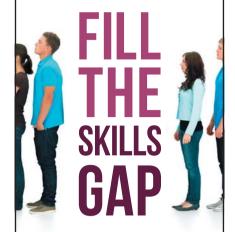
Workington's £9.4m leisure centre plans unveiled

Allerdale Council has revealed images for Workington's new £9.4m leisure centre.

If given the go ahead following a planning application submission on 14 April, the centre will include a 25m eight-lane swimming pool with spectator seating, a four-court

sports hall, soft-play area, 100-station gym, a spinning studio, climbing wall, artificial pitch, two squash courts and a café. The centre will also feature spa facilities including a sauna, steamroom and spa pool. Details: http://lei.sr?a=P4E7D





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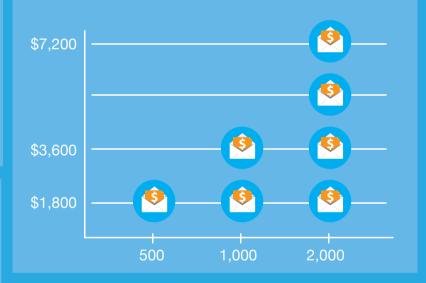


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Sources: ISPA 2011 U.S. SPA INDUSTRY STUDY http://searchengineland.com/ SpaBooker Promote Companion Guide



£90m Torbay plans gain approval

Torbay Council and Torbay Development Agency granted planning permission for a £90m luxury resort and flats development on the site of the existing Torquay Palace Hotel in Torbay in March.

Mapstone Developments are consulting GJR Architects to create the 137 apartments - a mix of flats and duplex units - with 270 parking spaces, private spa and leisure facilities.

of the entire hotel complex.

Divided into four blocks of flats in a gated, concierge-serviced community linked to the hotel, these apartments will finance a £20m staged redevelopment

Accommodation within the hotel will be increased to 160-bedrooms with an extra penthouse storey. New luxury spas, restaurants and swimming pools are included in the Palace Hotel's expansion plans, as well as an extension



The Palace Hotel's expansion plans include parts of Ansteys Cove

of their 28-acre site to include Ansteys Cove and a stretch of Redgate Beach.

"This is a new phase for the Palace Hotel to respond to the changing needs of the tourism market," said Paul Uphill, MD of the Palace Hotel.

Work on the project may start as early as summer, enabling the reopening of Redgate Beach after it was closed off for 15 years following subsidence. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=e3k5y*

Buxton Crescent spa scheme gets council loan extension

Derbyshire County Council announced that it is extending a multi-million pound loan to developers for the completion of The Buxton Crescent and Thermal Spa in February.

The Council stepped in to save the delayed redevelopment of Buxton Crescent into a £35m (US\$57.9m, €42m) luxury 79-room hotel and spa.

The exact sum of money being lent to developers - The Trevor Osborne Property Group, CP Holdings plus Danubius Hotels - has not been disclosed and the completion date for the development has been pushed back to 2016.

"The county council, High Peak Borough Council, English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund all share our determination that, after 10 years of working together, we must get contractors on site to restore the heart of Buxton in a way that the whole community deeply desires," said developer chair, Trevor Osborne. Details: http://lei.sr?a=2A4g9



Sheila McCann is the GM of Chiva-Som spa

Hoteliers misunderstand the spa industry: McCann

Sheila McCann, general manager of the Chiva-Som destination spa in Thailand, has said that most hoteliers don't fully understand the spa industry because of their backgrounds.

"Most come up through food & beverage or the rooms division," said McCann, speaking to the Spa Handbook. "They don't take spas seriously enough as an operation to ever really enable the full business potential, although, thankfully this pattern is starting to change."

McCann also said that having a spa person on board at a hotel brings a new dimension of understanding about the emotional needs of hotel guests.

For more from Sheila McCann, the Spa Handbook is available online here: http://lei.sr?a=A9O7e and a full interview with Sheila McCann can be viewed online here (p53-55): http://lei.sr?a=P3l4j

Champneys closes underperforming day spas

Spa operator Champneys closed its day spa in Bath, UK, on 31 March after six years of trading. Its day spa in Brighton will also shut its doors on 22 April due to underperformance.

Owner, Stephen Purdew, explained the company will be focusing on developing its four destination spas and its six remaining day spas in Chichester, Enfield, Guildford, Milton Keynes, St Albans and Tunbridge Wells.

He added that the development of the company's online

retailing is important for the brand's growth, but the decision to reduce its portfolio of day spas - as part of a strategic business portfolio review - highlights the wider challenges facing day spa operators: "Like any other retail outlet on the high



Champneys is moving from the high street to online retailing

street, we're subject to the vagaries of the economy, changing customer demographics and local parking restrictions," he said. "As a result, unfortunately, these locations have not been as successful as we'd hoped." Details: http://lei.sr?a=E2A8q

Historic Lido in Reading to undergo structural repairs

Renovations to the roof and structure of a historic Grade II-listed lido in Reading may take place while delays in the planning process of a £3m (US\$4.9m, €3.6m) spa complex continue.

Redevelopment of the King's Meadow Baths into a spa has attracted significant interest since

the council selected the complex as its preferred choice for the renovation in October, putting a 250-year lease out to tender.

A separate application has been submitted to the ouncil, which would allow minimal work to be carried out. Details: http://lei.sr?a=J7T9J

New £11.5m attractions tell untold stories of Royal Navy

A new £11.5m trio of exhibitions have opened in Hampshire telling the "untold stories" of the Royal Navy.

The attractions – based at the National Museum of the Royal Navy in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard and in Gosport - aim to give the public an insight into life at sea protecting British interests around the globe.

The £4.5m HMS Hear My Story permanent exhibition tells the tales of 1,000 men and women who have worked in the Senior Service in the past century.

The museum is also opening its temporary exhibition Racing To War: The Royal Navy And 1914, which charts the Anglo-German naval arms race.

The third exhibition has seen the £7m restoration of HMS Alliance, with the rusting submarine transformed into a gleaming example of 20th century engineering. Details: http://lei.sr?a=N4i8W



People will have to pay to visit the Meridian Line

British Museum is world's second-most visited

London's British Museum is now one of three in the UK capital to be among the 10 most visited museums in the world, alongside the National Gallery and the Tate Modern.

6.7 million people came through the British Museum's doors in 2013 - a 20 per cent increase on the previous year - which has now overtaken New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, only beaten by Paris' Louvre that saw 9.3 million people visit the attraction.

It should also be noted that several of the attractions - particularly those listed in London – offer free entry, while others listed are able to draw in huge crowds despite charging notable entrance fees. For example, a visit to the Louvre can range from between €12-16 (\$16-22, £10-13) per person.

London and Paris are on equal footing in terms of attractions in the top ten - both having three - with the French landmarks being the aforementioned Louvre, Centre Pompidou and Musée d'Orsay. Details: http://lei.sr?a=G7G8F

Puy du Fou-style park coming to UK

French theme park Puv du Fou has announced it will partner with Auckland Castle in the UK to create its first international location.

The historical re-enactment park has signed a deal with the Eleven Arches Trust to create a visitor attraction in County Durham.

The new concept will be based on the Puy du Fou, which has both a theme park - The Grand Parc - and a spectacular night show the Cinéscénie. It will aim to bring regional and national history to life.

The project will be rolled out in two phases. The first features the launch of an 80-minute night show in 2016 in the style of the Cinéscénie. The show will run as a not-for-profit venture, with Puy du Fou assisting in the creation and staging of the show as an official partner.



Puy du Fou is bringing its unique style of entertainment to the UK

The second phase of the development - a theme park – will open in 2020. Construction will cost £80m (\$134m, €97m) and although smaller in size and scale than Puy du Fou at 115 acres, the new park will aim to attract 800,000 visitors a year. It will be a commercial venture. Details: http://lei.sr?a=U2h3Z

British heritage gets £30m funding injection

The Heritage Lottery Fund has announced £30m of funding towards 10 diverse projects across the length and breadth of the UK.

The former North British Rubber Company HQ in Edinburgh, birthplace of the Wellington boot, was the big winner during this round of funding, gaining initial support of £4.9m, including a development grant of £500,000.

The site at Castle Mills will be regenerated as a creative hub for Edinburgh, turning the listed building into a

modern visual arts centre incorporating a printmakers, art centre, cafe and a learning centre.

St Albans Cathedral in Hertfordshire was handed the second-highest amount of funding, receiving initial support of £4.2m, including



The North British Rubber Company was the birthplace of Wellington boots

a development grant of £391,800. The funding will allow the cathedral, which has been a site of continuous worship and pilgrimage for over 1,700 years, to undergo much-needed conservation work. Details: http://lei.sr?a=g3M9A

MA says London biased funding system is 'broken'

The Museums Association (MA) has said the current system for museum and arts funding is "broken", condemning Arts Council England for "ignoring" a recent report.

A report has been submitted by the MA to the parliamentary committee, outlining problems

faced by regional museums in reference to Rebalancing Our Cultural Capital, which said that funding is skewed towards London.

The MA say the report presents the opportunity to talk about the imbalance in funding and how it can be addressed. Details: http://lei.sr?a=f4X3T



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The employment paradox



PETER DUCKER is chief executive officer of the Institute of Hospitality

n a recent *Financial Times* (*FT*) article, David Fairhurst, chief people officer at McDonald's Europe, warned that we face a future of stunted growth unless employers do more to bring marginalised groups such as young people and older workers into the labour force. Fairhurst said McDonald's is already starting to feel the effects of what he called the 'workforce cliff'.

"The workforce is shrinking at both ends of the spectrum," he told the FT. "There aren't enough young people coming into the labour market and too many older people are leaving it." His comments coincide with a report by the European Commission that says that after 2021 the European workforce is set to shrink by about 0.5 per cent each year.

So why is McDonald's unable to attract staff when there is high unemployment across Europe, particularly amongst the young?

One answer may be that people, whatever their age, simply do not want to work for McDonald's. But then recruitment problems are reported by companies of all types.

So where does the problem lie? Many in our industry think it is with young people themselves because they don't have the same work ethic as previous generations. In a survey on the *Big Hospitality* website, the largest number of respondents (41 per cent) placed the blame with young people, compared to 20 per cent who thought business owners needed to be more proactive in attracting young talent and 17 per cent who thought that our education system was to blame.

The contributing factors to our skills shortages and high youth unemployment are varied and complex. One factor is that vocational jobs continue to be seen as lower in status in our society. But blaming young people is not going to help.

Once we have successfully attracted new entrants, we need to nurture them, motivate them and support them with career-long learning, giving them a feeling of belonging and a sense of identity. This is the support that we provide to our members. Joining the Institute of Hospitality also makes good financial sense; according to research, members of professional institutes earn 37 per cent more over their lifetimes than those who are not.

HOTELS

Bill Shankly hotel plans revealed

The company behind the opening of the Titanic hotel in Liverpool's city centre, has proposed plans to redevelop the council-owned Millennium House to become a Bill Shankly-themed aparthotel and museum in a £15m (\$25m, €18.1m) scheme.

Signature Living is proposing a 250-bedroom hotel, complete with a museum dedicated to Shankly and 17,500sq ft (1,625sq m) of office space.

The building would house Signature Living's head office,

while the Lifestyles Gym currently based in the property would undergo an expansion and be leased back by the council under the proposals.

Bill Shankly was a Scottish footballer and manager and is best known for his time managing Liverpool, which he led to 11 titles including three first division wins in the 1960s and 70s.

"Liverpool's sporting heritage is celebrated throughout the world, but we do not have a major football attraction in the city centre," said Liverpool mayor Joe Anderson.

"These proposals would change that, providing a permanent tribute to one of our most



Bill Shankly is regarded as one of the greatest ever football managers

famous footballing heroes, filling a gap within our tourism market, and attracting visitors from across the globe.

"This really is something people would not be able to experience anywhere else in the world. A hotel celebrating the life and times of Bill Shankly would complement the raft of cultural attractions on the William Brown Street, and further boost our tourism offer in this part of the city."

Plans were discussed at a council cabinet meeting on 4 April with a planning application to be lodged later this month. Details: http://lei.sr?a=Q6e5Q

Andy Murray's luxury Scottish hotel opens

Andy Murray's Cromlix luxury hotel in Perthshire, Scotland, has opened for business following the tennis player's £1.8m purchase of the property in February 2013.

The five-star Cromlix Hotel, located near Murray's home town of Dunblane, features five suites, ten bedrooms, a chapel, reception hall, two drawing rooms, a conservatory, library and meeting rooms. There is also the Chez Roux restaurant overseen by French

chef Albert Roux and run by award-winning executive head chef Darin Campbell, offering locally-sourced produce.

In addition, the site boasts landscaped grounds, plus a tennis court and practice wall in the Wimbledon colours of purple and green.

"We are delighted that one of our greatest sportsmen – Andy Murray – has entered the tourism game and I'm sure he will be a terrific ambassador for the industry," said Mike Cantalay, chair for VisitScotland.



The five-star Cromlix Hotel has opened its doors following a refurbishment

"The Cromlix is bound to be a huge draw for visitors from all over the world, generating the kind of excitement that Andy creates on court. I am positive this venture will be a resounding success and we wish the team all the very best."

Cromlix House was built in 1874 as the family home for the Edens, who own the surrounding 2,000 acre estate.

The hotel is being managed by Inverlochy Castle Management International and has created 40 new jobs for the area. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=F3Y3D*



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Where Now for **Domestic Tourism?**



KURT JANSON is policy director of Tourism Alliance

ince the financial crisis domestic tourism has overturned a longterm trend of declining at 2 per cent per annum to register growth of over 5 per cent per annum. A large part of this reversal is obviously due to the twin impacts of reduced discretionary expenditure by UK residents and the fall in the value of the pound making it more expensive to holiday overseas.

The net result has seen domestic tourism revenue grow by 24 per cent from £18.6bn in 2008 to £23bn in 2013 and tourismrelated employment accounts for a third of all new jobs over the past three years.

The question is, therefore, with the UK economy expected to grow at the fastest level of any G7 country during 2014, what is going to happen to domestic tourism?

As the economy has recovered, the Pound has started to strengthen. Over the past year the pound has risen by 9 per cent against the dollar and by 4 per cent against the euro. The expectation is that it will strengthen further as the economy continues to grow and the Bank of England starts to increase base interest rates.

This strengthening of the pound, combined with a more optimistic view of the economy by UK residents suggests that people will start to look to take more holidays overseas.

However, there are a number of factors that will mitigate against any dramatic switch from the staycation to the overseas holiday. Foremost among these is that wages will take some time to catch-up with the cost of living increases that most families have incurred since 2008. Second, prior to the crisis, savings rates in the UK were close to zero - now they are over 5 per cent, and people will still be cautious in their expenditure for some time. Finally, for the last five years the domestic tourism industry has been able to showcase itself to people who would normally holiday overseas, and many of these will continue to take more domestic holidays.

So while we shouldn't expect to see domestic tourism expenditure continue growing at the rates we've seen during the recession, we shouldn't expect to see it revert back to pre-recession levels either.

TOURISM

Record tourism spend in February

International visitors spent a record £1.5bn across Britain in February 2014, representing a 45 per cent increase on February last year, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

In what is traditionally one of the quieter months, visits in February were also up nine per cent in February 2014, with holiday visits posting double digit growth (25 per cent).

Visits from Europe were the main driver of overall visits growth, followed closely by 'rest of world' markets. This

was despite reports from hotels and shops of a 17 per cent drop in spending from Russian visitors - among the top five biggest-spending tourists - amid political unrest in Ukraine.

ONS figures show the three months to February remain in the black, with visits up five per cent and nominal spend up 21 per cent year-on-year.

"The strong results continue to prove that tourism has a key role to play in the wider success of the British economy," said VisitBritain chief executive Sandie Dawe. "Tourism may not be a tangible product, but it's a



Tourism hotspots like London benefited from above average spending

major export earner for this country which VisitBritain sells overseas. Last year earnings topped a record £24 billion, which is more than crude oil and cars."

Mike Saul, head of hospitality and leisure at Barclays, said: "The increasing number of overseas visitors year on year bears testament to the enduring appeal of the UK as a tourist destination.

"The sector continues to gather strength supported by generally favourable macro-economic conditions and by the contribution of overseas trade bodies." Details: http://lei.sr?a=H2d4X

Chris Hadfield fronts Irish tourism campaign

Tourism Ireland is harnessing star power to fuel its latest marketing campaign by recruiting famed Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield to front a series of online videos.

The spaceman - who became a YouTube sensation last year after recording David Bowie's Space Oddity at the International Space Station has starred in a series of four short films where he visits some of Ireland's top attractions to encourage viewers to take one small step for man and follow in his footsteps.

The resulting videos are called 'An Astronaut's Guide to the Island of Ireland' and will be promoted around the globe by Tourism Ireland.

The first film features Donegal and the spectacular scenery of the Inishowen Peninsula, starting point of the Wild Atlantic Way.

The other three films, which launched on 26 March, feature the popular attractions of Titanic Belfast and the Guinness Storehouse, as



Chris Hadfield is promoting Irish tourism in a series of online videos

well as footage of Chris learning to play hurling at the GAA clubs of Na Fianna in Dublin and Cushendall in Co Antrim.

All four films, and the accompanying feature articles, will be promoted on Tourism Ireland's website, Ireland.com, as well as shared across Facebook, Twitter and the organisation's YouTube channel. Details: http://lei.sr?a=D5u5b

Sports Floor Upgrade **Eco-Fit saves 40% in**



ournemouth University were overjoyed with the planned refurbishment of their Sports facilities which all parts being rejuvenated but the designs and estimates showed that their tired sports hall was going to have to wait.

The client asked Kier Construction one more time if anything could be done with the question passed on to Gerflor whilst exhibiting at Ecobuild in 2011. Gerflor had decided that the show was going to be the springboard for massive new innovations, one being TaraflexTM EcofitTM. Whilst older sports surfaces had always led to large refurbishment



Taraflex Ecofit is ideal for multi-sports areas

costs, the new Eco-fit system gave Kier a great message to take back to Bournemouth University.

Both the University and Kier were trusting of the TaraflexTM brand. Used at every Olympic Games since 1976 and with over 60 Million Square metres installed globally, TaraflexTM had both the elite sporting preference looked for by high level University Sport whilst also offering top level protection needed by players.

Rick McEvoy, a senior project manager for Bournemouth University commented "We were suitably impressed when visiting a neighbouring school which had the same solution one year prior. We set the bar high, challenging the sub-contractor to produce an even better finish than our neighbours, on this they delivered. The Sport M Performance looks immaculate and feedback from users of the facility is excellent. The BU Sport department now have excellent facilities including the sports hall which matches other facilities all around our campus."

TaraflexTM ECO-FITTM can be installed directly over existing sports surfaces, reducing cost, project down-time and impact of land fill.

TARAFLEX™ CASE STUDY:

Client Name:

Bournemouth University

Project Details:

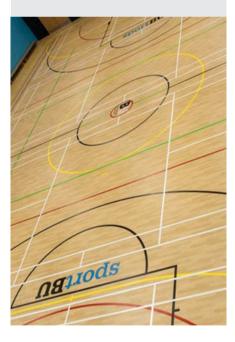
Sports Hall Floor Over Lay

Product Specification:

Taraflex[™] Sport M
Performance 9mm Eco-fit

Budget:

£30k





The refurbishment of the sports area had to include a new sports hall floor but we questioned if the budget would allow. Anything more than a treating of the old Granwood surface was looking unlikely

Rick McEvoy (Senior Project Manager, Bournemouth University)



Darren Wood - Sports Manager on 07836 366579 or dwood@gerflor.com

Visit **www.gerflor.co.uk** for further information





The plans have met opposition from some locals

English Heritage backs £35m leisure plans for Hippodrome

Ambitious proposals to redevelop the Grade II listed Brighton Hippodrome into a £35m leisure complex have been backed by English Heritage, which said this could be the "final chance" to save the 117-year-old structure.

Alaska Development Consultants, working on behalf of an institutional client of Helix Property Advisors, has submitted a planning application to Brighton & Hove City Council to redevelop the theatre into a leisure complex housing an eight-screen Vue cinema and four restaurants.

An independent feasibility study, carried out at the council's request, concluded this was the only viable option for the building against other proposals including a casino and a theatre.

However, Alaska's plans have met with opposition from groups including the Theatres Trust - which wants to see the building return to its former use as a performance space - while a petition started in October to keep the site as a theatre attracted 1,000 signatures. Details: http://lei.sr?a=9a4d9

Hopes dashed for Barry Island leisure redevelopment

Proposals to transform a Barry Island attraction into a multi-million pound mixed use development were thrown out by the local council, just days before the annual Barry Island Pleasure Park fairground opened for Whitmore Bay's summer season.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council said the permanent redevelopment scheme - which it initially backed two years ago had no "realistic" way of moving forward, but added it is eager to speak to the site's co-owners over alternative leisure options.

Under the proposals put forward by development agents Asbri Planning, 4,738sq m (51,000sq ft) was to be given over to leisure - including a cinema, indoor attractions and restaurants - within the 1.9 hectare (4.7 acre) mixed use scheme. Details: http://lei.sr?a=v6P2D

Read Leisure Opportunities online: www.leisureopportunities.co.uk/digital

Lakeside leisure proposal given green light

A multi-million pound leisure development at Lakeside shopping centre in Thurrock has edged closer to construction, after council officers granted outline planning consent.

The 225,000sq ft (20,903sq m) proposal, previously quoted by intu as costing £100m, would create a series of outdoor spaces, including a town square focal point. This would be surrounded by a wide range of leisure facilities - including bars, restaurants, a hotel, bowling alley, health club, night club

and comedy venue - spread over two levels, with developer and Lakeside owner intu currently in discussion with potential tenants. Architects 3D Reid are responsible for the design.

The public spaces created by the development have been proposed as a host site for



The £100m proposal includes a town square as a focal point

farmers' and Christmas markets, street theatre, music shows and live screenings of big sporting events throughout the year.

Building on the leisure development could start as early as 2015, with a view to opening in 2017. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=k3B5e*

Laing O'Rourke for Etihad Expansion

Manchester City Football Club (MCFC) has appointed construction group Laing O'Rourke to build the expansion of its Etihad Stadium.

The extension works, designed by architects Populous, are expected to cost £50m and will be undertaken in two phases.

The work will result in the venue having a capacity of 60,000 (up from the current 48,000) - making it the second largest in the English Premier League behind Old Trafford (capacity 75,811),

home to local rivals Manchester United.

The first phase of construction, which will be completed in time for the 2015-16 season, will see Man City's South Stand expanded by around 6,000 seats. The second phase, development of the stadium's North Stand, will then complete the transformation.



artist's impression of how the redeveloped third tier will look

Tom Glick, chief commercial officer for MCFC, said: "The expansion of the stadium is a hugely significant moment for us.

"The waiting list for the expanded Etihad is already close to capacity and we look forward to seeing a sell-out 54 000 seat stadium as we open the 2015 season." *Details: http://lei.sr?a=E2B9x*

Aberdeen city centre to undergo £107m redevelopment

New look plans have been revealed for Aberdeen's city centre on the site of the former City Council headquarters

Muse Developments has been selected as Aberdeen City Council's development partner for the £107m joint project, which will see

the site transformed to include 175,000 sq ft (16,258sq m) of sustainable offices, and mixeduse leisure facilities including a new civic square, plus a 125-bedroom, four-star Marriott hotel and space for retail and restaurants. Details: http://lei.sr?a=X2g7g









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Premier offers guaranteed employment

Premier Training International has teamed up with fitness brand Pure Gym to provide its graduates with guaranteed employment, giving students a definitive pathway into the working world.

The Pure Premier Diploma in Fitness Instructing and Personal Training package allows graduates the opportunity to become a freelance personal trainer with Pure Gym, the UK low-cost fitness chain currently in the process of merging with The

Gym Group, giving them the opportunity to build their personal training client base and gain hands on experience in the sector.

The package includes a Premier Diploma in Personal Training, one-day studio cycling course and an online total pad-work course.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for people wanting to enter the industry as it enables them to follow a specific employment pathway straight into work with Pure Gym," said Paul Dorkings, sales director at Premier Training International.



The training package allows graduates to become a freelance

"It is a pleasure to be working with Pure Gym and we're really looking forward to watching our graduates grow into exceptional fitness professionals," he continued.

Pure Gym has more than 60 health clubs across the UK with plans to expand to more than 100 during 2014. Premier graduates will work on the gym floor and take group exercise classes as part of their licence agreement as a freelance personal trainer. Details: http://lei.sr?a=m5f6m

Art museum scheme secures key funds

The Bowes Museum in County Durham hopes to serve as a launchpad for the next generation of museum industry workers after winning a major funding grant for graduate training.

The fine arts museum has been awarded £454,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) under its Skills for the Future programme, which will go towards training the industry's next generation and help to fill key skills gaps in the sector.

The award will fund the Conservation in Action project, which aims to utilise the museum's valuable collections and experienced conservation team to offer a number of twelvemonth paid internships over a five-year period, beginning this summer.

Graduates will have the opportunity to learn on the job, bridging the gap between academic training and meaningful practical skills.

The project will cover aspects such as surveying, preventative conservation, staging of temporary exhibitions, supervision of volunteers and interaction with other museums; fostering independence, confidence and decision making.



The Bowes Museum was first opened more than 100 years ago

Graduates will cut their teeth working on the museum's extensive collection, which spansthe 14th to the 20th centuries and includes paintings, ceramics, textiles and furniture.

"This project will assist the museum by allowing us to use our collections more extensively and further develop our recent progress in conservation," said Jon Old, conservation manager at The Bowes Museum.

"It will also offer one of the best opportunities available for conservation graduates to gain hands-on experience of working in a museum environment while gaining key skills in their sector." *Details: http://lei.sr?a=J7B9r*



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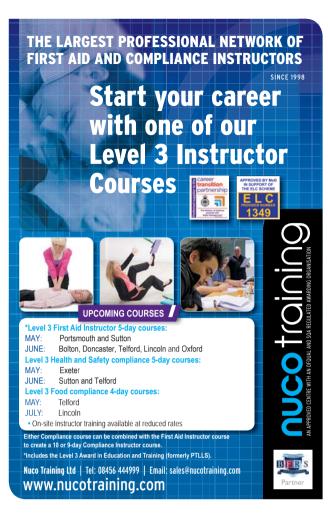
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Dianne Eade, Newquay Zoo Head of Finance, Human Resources and Administration



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Location: London Borough of Camden,

Personal Trainers

Company: Pure Gym Limited Location: Various locations, UK

Duty Manager

Company: GLL

Location: London Borough of Ealing, UK

Lifeguard

Company: Everyone Active Location: Enderby, UK

Business Manager

Company: Leigh Sports Village Location: Leigh, UK

Recreation Assistant

Company: Everyone Active Location: Cleveland, UK

Recreation Assistant

Company: Everyone Active Location: North Wembley, UK

Duty Leisure Manager

Company: Live Active Leisure Location: Perth, UK

Duty Manager

Company: LED Leisure Management Location: Exmouth, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: Pure Gym Limited Location: Sheffield Millhouses, UK

Full-Time Duty Manager

Company: Sylvestrian Leisure Centre Location: Snaresbrook, London, UK

Tenders Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Worcester, UK, UK

Team Leader

Company: Finesse Leisure Partnership Location: Hatfield, UK

Sales prospector/promotional staff

Company: énergie group Location: Cannock, UK

Fitness Apprenticeship

Company: énergie group Location: Cannock, UK**Swimming**

Lesson Manager / Duty Manager

Company: Everyone Active Location: Shipston on Stour, UK

Full/Part time Lifeguard

Company: Everyone Active Location: Ely, UK

Swim Teacher

Company: Everyone Active Location: Ely, UK

Impact Sales Consultants

Company: Alliance Leisure Location: Nationwide, UK

Personal Trainers

Company: The Gym Group Location: Various locations, UK

Technical Manager

Company: GLL Location: Rugby, UK

Sports Assistants

Company: Wandsworth Borough Council Location: London, UK

Membership Sales Advisor

Company: énergie group Location: Harrow, UK

Sport Volunteering & Employability Manager

Company: Loughborough University Location: Loughborough, UK

Sport Experience Manager

Company: Loughborough University Location: Loughborough, UK

Lifeguard / Recreation Assistant

Company: Everyone Active Location: Malvern, UK

Full time Pilates Instructors

Company: Ten Pilates Location: Central London, UK

Health and Fitness Supervisor

Company: University of Essex Location: Colchester, UK

Duty Manager Fixed Term

Company: GLL Location: Prestwood, UK

Sales Supervisor

Company: GLL Location: West Oxfordshire, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: Pure Gym Limited Location: Walton on Thames, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: Pure Gym Limited Location: Stockport, UK

Fitness Motivator

Company: Everyone Active Location: Hampshire, UK

County Football Development Manager

Company: Manchester County FA Location: Manchester, UK

Apprenticeships Available

Company: Everyone Active Location: Watford, UK

Community Sports Officer

Company: GLL Location: Reigate and Banstead, UK

National Governing Body & Partnership Development

Company: Nottingham City Council Location: Nottingham, UK

Deputy Leisure Manager

Company: Center Parcs
Location: Elveden Forest, Suffolk, UK

Purchase Ledger Assistant

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Worcester, UK

Recreation Assistant

Company: Surrey Sports Park Ltd Location: Guildford, UK

Receptionist

Company: Everyone Active Location: Hertford, UK

Receptionist - Part Time

Company: Everyone Active Location: Studley Leisure Centre, UK

Membership Administrator

Company: Everyone Active Location: Leicestershire, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Everyone Active Location: Studley Leisure Centre, UK

Football Coach (part time)

Company: Everyone Active Location: Studley Leisure Centre, UK

Swimming Professional

Company: Pool Schools Location: Surrey, Sussex and Essex

Front of House positions

Company: Ten Pilates Location: London, UK

Fitness Motivator

Company: Everyone Active Location: Aylesbury, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: Everyone Active Location: Aylesbury, UK

Membership Sales Advisor

Company: Everyone Active Location: Nottinghamshire, UK

Head of Badminton

Company: Wimbledon Racquets and Fitness Club

Location: Wimbledon, London, UK

Assistant General Manager

Company: The Gym Group Location: Manchester Openshaw, UK

Buildings CareTaker/ Assistant

Company: GLL Location: Woolwich, UK

Swimming Teachers

Company: Everyone Active Location: Brent, UK

Service Manager (Assistant Manager)

Company: GLL Location: Kings Cross, UK

Apprentice

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Nottingham, UK

Swimming Pool Manager

Company: Alleyn's School Location: London

Assistant Community Sport Officer

Company: Nottingham City Council Location: Nottingham, UK

Sports Project Officer

Company: University of Hertfordshire Location: Hertfordshire UK

Membership Sales Manager

Company: Cranleigh Golf & Country Location: Surrey, UK

Sales Manager

Company: GLL Location: Caversham, UK

Governing Body Support Manager

Company: Kent County Council Location: Kings Hill, West Malling, UK

Facilities Assistant

Company: GLL

Location: City of Westminster, UK

Facilities Assistant

Company: GLL

Location: City of Westminster, UK

Recreation Assistant

Company: GLL

Location: City of Westminster, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: énergie group Location: Bedfordshire, UK

Team Leader

Company: Everyone Active Location: Poole, UK

Creche Lead

Company: GLL Location: Merton, UK

Battersea Sport Centre Manager

Company: Wandsworth Borough Council Location: London, UKMaintenance

Technician

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Portsmouth, UK

Crew Member/Fitness Instructor

Company: énergie group Location: Long Eaton, UK

Membership Manager

Company: Everyone Active Location: Epping, UK

Club Manager

Company: énergie group Location: Long Eaton, UK

Membership Sales/Crew Member

Company: énergie group Location: Long Eaton, UK

Active Communities Officer

Company: Stratford-on-Avon DC Location: Stratford-on-Avon, UK

Fitness Motivator

Company: Everyone Active Location: London, UK

Swimming Teachers

Company: Community Swimming Location: London and the South, UK

Duty Manager - Facilities

Company: Aspire National Training Location: Stanmore, London, UK

Personal Trainer - Freelance

Company: Everyone Active Location: Watford, UK

Funding for Careers in Fitness

Company: Amac Training Ltd Location: South East, UK

UK Sales Director

Company: Pavigym UK Location: UK

Pilates Instructor

Company: Matt Roberts Location: Belgravia - London, UK

Lifeguard - Part Time Hours

Company: Everyone Active Location: Studley Leisure Centre, UK

School Leisure and Sport Managers

Company: School Lettings Solutions

Location: Various, UK

Swimming Teacher

Company: Everyone Active Location: Studley Leisure Centre,

UKFreelance Personal Trainer

Company: Everyone Active Location: Ware, UK

Club Development Manager

Company: Wimbledon Racquets Location: London, UK

Assistant Leisure Club Manager

Company: Tudor Park Marriott Hotel Location: Bearsted - Maidstone

Duty Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Nottingham, UK

Promotional Staff

Company: énergie group Location: Various locations, UK

Personal Trainers

Company: énergie group Location: Various locations, UK

Fitness Instructor

Company: énergie group Location: Leighton Buzzard, UK

Membership Sales Advisor

Company: énergie group Location: Warrington, UK

Club Manager

Company: énergie group Location: Hemel Hempstead, UK

Crew Member / Fitness Instructor (P & FT)

Company: énergie group Location: Hemel Hempstead, UK

Membership Sales Advisor

Company: énergie group Location: Hemel Hempstead, UK

Membership Sales Advisor

Company: énergie group Location: Long Eaton, UK

Club Manager

Company: énergie group Location: Bracknell, UK

Assistant Manager

Company: Powerleague Location: Various, UK

Spa / Beauty Therapists

Company: Bedford Lodge Hotel Location: Suffolk, UK

Apprenticeships -

Recreation Assistants

Company: Everyone Active Location: Fareham, UK

Personal Trainer/Owner

Company: Your Gym Location: Nationwide, UK

General Managers

Company: truGym Location: Various locations, UK

UK wide Trainee Personal Trainers Required

Company: The Training Room Location: Nationwide, UK

Operations Manager

Company: Xercise 4 Less Location: Nationwide, UK

Membership Consultant

Company: Xercise 4 Less Location: Nationwide, UK

Sales and Marketing Manager

Company: Xercise 4 Less Location: Nationwide, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: Xercise 4 Less Location: Nationwide, UK

Receptionist

Company: Xercise 4 Less Location: Nationwide, UK

Franchise Opportunities

Company: Premier Sport Location: Nationwide, UK

Operations Manager

Company: Resense Spa Location: Worldwide

Beauty Therapists

Company: Zen Lifestyle Location: Edinburgh, UK

Salon Manager

Company: Zen Lifestyle Location: Edingburgh, UK

Training Manager

Company: Resense Spa Location: Worldwide

Spa Manager

Company: House of Enspa Location: Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Bio Sculpture Educator

Company: House of Enspa

Location: Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Ticketing, Revenue and

Yield Manager

Company: English Heritage Location: Swindon & Amesbury

Project Manager

Company: National Trust Location: Worksop, UK

Group Commercial

Experiences Manager

Company: Science Museum Location: London with regular travel.

Operations & Technical Mgr

- Doctor Who Experience

Company: BBC Worldwide Location: Cardiff, UK

General Manager

Company: National Trust Location: South East Cumbria & Morecambe Bay, Cumbria, UK

Attractions and Shows /

Entertainments Manager

Company: Warwick Castle Location: Warwick, UK

General Manager

Company: Continuum Leading At-

tractions Location: York

Visitor Services Manager

Company: Royal Armouries Location: Leeds, UK

Head of Commercial Development

Company: Science Museum Location: Based London, UK

Assistant Manager

Company: Original Bowling Company Location: Basildon, Essex

Attraction Duty Manager

Company: The Bournemouth Pier /

Rock Reef Ltd

Location: Bournemouth, UK

General Manager

Company: KidZania Location: London, W12, UK

General Manager Designate

Company: Grosvenor Casinos Location: UK wide, UK

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Javid appointed new culture secretary

Continued from front cover Sajid Javid has been appointed as new secretary of state for culture, media, sport and equalities, replacing Maria Miller who resigned last week.

He joins the cabinet having previously occupied the ministerial role of financial secretary to the treasury.

Javid is a muslim and became the Conservative party's first British-Pakistani MP when he was elected as member for Bromsgrove in 2010.

Javid pursued a successful career in banking, before taking an estimated 98 per cent pay cut to become an MP.

His appointment was warmly received by top Tories, with several - including Lord Ashcroft, George Freeman and Andrew Griffiths - tweeting their approval.



Sajid Javid has replaced Maria Miller as culture secretary for the government

The move also elicited a positive response from the Sport & Recreation Alliance, which tweeted to Javid's official account: "Congrats on new appointment. From your CASC work we know you get sport." Details: http://lei.sr?a=z9j5m

Hadrian's Wall Trust to dissolve after funding disappears

Hadrian's Wall Trust - which oversees maintenance of the wall and adjoining visitor centre - is to close down within six months after finance for the project evaporated, leaving funding support for the World Heritage Site mired in uncertainty.

Following an internal review, the trustees decided that current arrangements for the site were "unsustainable". A number of organisations are attempting to generate funds for the attraction though nothing is set in stone. Details: http://lei.sr?a=J5v7g

Southwest rail reconnected to rest of UK

Dawlish's storm damaged railway line has reopened, reconnecting the south west rail service with the rest of the UK following an estimated loss of £50m in tourism income alone during the closure.

A section of track was swept away with part of the sea wall in early February, cutting off the service linking Cornwall and much of Devon with the rest of the UK. The track has been rebuilt two weeks ahead of schedule at a cost of £35m – a relatively small amount compared with the estimated losses for the region.

Sir Tim Smit, founder of Cornwall's Eden Project, told Radio 4's Today programme: "We get viewed by the capital as if it's still at the old days of the Cornish Riviera, with a few nice things to do for people who've got wealth to come down and have holidays, but actually it's a really thriving place. I mean, it's one of the hubs of the

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The rail line was closed for more than two months

creative industries in Britain. Yet you wouldn't know that the way we're talked about".

Prime Minister David Cameron, who travelled to Dawlish to mark the reopening, hailed it as "a great day" and said the south-west of England was "open once again". Details: http://lei.sr?a=N9u8v

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- BALPPA +44 (0)20 7403 4455 www.balppa.org
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- CPRE +44 (0)20 7981 2800 www.cpre.org.uk
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- SAPCA +44 (0)24 7641 6316 www.sapca.org.uk
- Sports Aid +44 (0)20 7273 1975 www.sportsaid.org.uk
- Sport and Recreation Alliance +44 (0)20 7976 3900 www.sportandrecreation.org.uk
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