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Study reveals increase in Britons holidaying at home

By Luke Tuchscherer

More than one million more holidays were taken in England this year as British residents elect to take breaks closer to home, according to new figures published by VisitEngland.

The national tourism agency's United Kingdom Tourism Survey revealed that trips taken in England by UK residents during the first four months of 2009 increased by 13 per cent, equating to 1.2 million more holidays and more than 5 million extra nights' holiday taken than in the same period of 2008.

Figures from the Office of National Statistics confirm that



One million more UK residents have opted to holiday in England

outbound holiday travel has decreased by 18 per cent during the same period.

James Berresford, VisitEngland chief executive, said: "Time will tell if the trend for

holidaving at home continues throughout the summer, but these early indications that people are rediscovering holidays in England is welcome news to the sector."

The study said that overall trips taken in England during April 2009 have increased by 34 per cent, although this year's late Easter is thought to be a significant factor.

However, business travel for the four-month period showed an 11 per cent decline.

Berresford said: "We know that businesses are still having a tough time and business travel is still a concern, which we will continue to monitor.

"However, it seems for now that leisure travel is helping to keep numbers at the same level as last year, which is encouraging given the differences in the economic climate in the two comparative years."

Sport offers "effective response" to youth crime

New report calls for greater investment in sport to help address social issues

By Tom Walker

Sport can provide an effective response to the growing problems of gun and knife crime among young people, according to a report by social research company Substance.

The research, called Laureus - Breaking the Cycle of Violence, was commissioned by the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation and calls for organisations to provide greater investment in sport as an effective means of tackling youth crime and gang violence.



Sport can help address the problem of gang-related crime

Substance has reviewed existing research and surveyed disadvantaged young people in Manchester, Coventry, Glasgow,

Liverpool and London as part of the report, which outlines the ways sports initiatives could best meet the challenge of urban youth violence.

The report concludes that there should be more focus on the similarities between sport and the reasons behind gang-related crime, such as meeting the need for belonging, status and excitement; a need to engage whole groups rather than individuals; and inclusion of peer mentors into project structures to provide realistic role models.

Arsenal sports centre approved

Islington Council has finally approved Arsenal Football Club's plans for a new sports facility on Oueensland Road in Holloway, London.

Arsenal Sports Centre, which will accommodate educational and socialinclusion community programmes to local residents for at least 52 hours a week, will include the development of affordable housing with a play space for children living in the new flats.



















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Oldham to introduce alcohol guidelines

Council set to become the first in the UK to implement a minimum pricing strategy

By Tom Walker

Oldham, Lancashire, is poised to become the first town across the UK to introduce a minimum price for alcohol.

Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council (OMBC) has introduced a series of new conditions on 22 town centre pubs and bars as part of efforts to curb anti-social behaviour and alcohol-related violence.

In a letter to the licensed premises, the council states that if a bar wishes to offer "happy hour" or 2-4-1 type offers to customers, it must radically change the way it operates.

OMBC has set the minimum price of one unit of alcohol at 75p, meaning that a pint of strong beer would cost no less than £1.90. Any premises selling drinks for less than that,



OMBC wants to tackle a "worrying trend" in alcohol consumption

even for a limited time, will have to commit to a number of new measures introduced by the council – or face the threat of having its license revoked.

The new measures include post office-style queueing systems to ease pressure on bar staff, a limit of two drinks per order, an increase in security staff to supervise the bar queues and two extra police officers – paid for by the licensee – to be on patrol in the town centre in order to prevent alcohol-related crime.

Pubs and clubs which agree to the minimum price of 75p per unit would be allowed to continue operating as normal.

Councils urged to promote children's activities

By Pete Hayman

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has urged all local authorities to ensure that young people are made aware of the activities and places available to them.

Between 2008 and 2011, £900m will be invested by the government in positive activities for young people, including £270m in new myplace youth centres. But new research has revealed that young people are unaware of what is being offered.

The DCSF's Positive Activities Qualitative Research with Young People study also revealed that young people believe activities are reserved for sporty or talented children, while peer pressure and low confidence levels are an issue.



The DCSF said young people should be more aware of activities

Parents were also interviewed as part of the research and expressed support for organised activities. However, a lack of information means parents feel unable to fully encourage children to take part.

Children's minister Dawn Primarolo said: "The summer holidays are a key time for councils to publicise to young people all the activities on offer.

"It is evident that we are on the right track but we can do more to support local authorities in delivering activities. We will be holding road show events throughout the year encouraging and supporting local authorities to use new and innovative ways to communicate to young people."

BCC urges government tourism support

New report calls for sector to receive greater support in a bid to encourage growth

By Pete Hayman

A new report from the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) and hotel chain Travelodge has called on the government to provide greater support for the UK tourism industry.

According to the *Backing UK Tourism: Destination Recovery* study, the sector – which contributes £86bn towards the economy – needs to be brought under the remit of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

The tourism industry currently sits within the remit of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), but the report claims that the department only directly contributes £50m out of the £350m annual public sector spend on support for the sector.



The report said that the UK tourism industry lacks clear guidance

Regional Development
Agencies, local authorities and
domestic tourist bodies are
responsible for the remaining
£300m, but the BCC said that
there is a lack of clear guidance,
which is restricting growth at a
time when the sector has the
second worst balance of trade
tourism deficit in the EU.

Director of policy for the BCC, Adam Marshall, said: "Tourism will play a key role in Britain's future economy, but it needs stronger, clearer support.

"This is a sector which can rapidly create jobs, even in the current economic conditions, yet it suffers from an extremely confused support structure."

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Visitor centre opens at Basildon country park

By Helen Patenall

A new £2.2m visitor centre has opened at Wat Tyler Country Park near Basildon, Essex.

A 100-year-old former munitions factory located on the 40-hectare (98.8-acre) site has been restored to house an interpretative exhibition on the park's history and heritage.

Education rooms and a conference hall will provide additional space for the venue to host business conferences and wedding receptions.

The eco-friendly renovation features a boiler fuelled by a



The new centre incorporates a range of eco-friendly measures

sustainable bio crop harvested at a nearby reclaimed landfill, while the 'green roof' will attract butterflies and bees. Surplus rainwater will be used to flush the toilets and top-up the park's wetlands.

Stephen Horgan, deputy leader of Basildon Council, said: "The modern construction and eco-friendly features have bought this building right into the 21st century."

Funding came from the East of England Development Agency, the Heritage Lottery Fund and Veolia ES Cleanaway Pitsea Marshes Trust.

A further £700,000 will be spent on 5km (3.1 miles) of new and upgraded pathways, as well as new biodiversity habitats by December 2010.

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Refurbishment for Southampton complex

Construction work has started on a £177,000 refurbishment scheme at the The Ouavs 'Eddie Read' Swimming and Diving Complex in Southampton, Hampshire. Plans include a 100sq m (1,076sq ft) extension to the existing fitness suite, which will increase the number of stations from 90 to 120 - one of the largest fitness facilities in the city. Life Fitness and Star Trac will supply the equipment. A 90sq m (968sq ft) multi-use studio for aerobic classes and children's activities will also be created, while additional space will allow the centre to develop dry side diving facilities ahead of the 2012 Olympics.

Council to fund Swan **Centre improvements**

▶ Northumberland County Council is to invest £850,000 in improvements to the Swan Centre for Leisure in Tweedmouth. The proposals include a new fitness suite, a spinning studio and a dance studio, a new soft play area, refurbished changing rooms and a new café. Operator Tees Active Leisure will continue to manage the leisure facility, but the upgrade will be contracted to Alliance Leisure.

Harpenden gym gets revamp

▶ The Harpers Fitness club at Harpenden Leisure Centre in Hertfordshire is to undergo a revamp. The gym will be split into specific zones, creating a number of separate areas. There will be a personal training zone, a CV zone and a weights zone. Communal areas will also be upgraded. Charles Smith, centre manager, said: "The investment will transform the gym and offer a fantastic local facility for the Harpenden community."

New £20m complex opens in Corby

Northamptonshire venue includes Olympic-sized swimming pool and fitness suite

By Pete Hayman

A new £20m Olympic-sized swimming pool, which has been included as a potential training facility for teams ahead of the 2012 Games, has opened in Corby, Northamptonshire.

The 50m Corby East Midlands International Pool was unveiled by Olympic swimmer Mark Foster on 24 July and is equipped with moveable floors and booms to accommodate international junior diving events and short and long course races.

Designed by S&P Architects, the centre also includes a 20m training pool, a fun pool with a 63m aguatube body ride and pirate ship, an aerobic studio and a 70-station fitness suite equipped by Life Fitness.

The pool also includes a health suite incorporating a sauna, a spa pool and a steamroom, a meeting room



The pool will be used as a training facility ahead of London 2012

and a café, as well as the area's first Changing Place that exceeds requirements outlined in the Disability Discrimination Act, which offers disabled users full, assisted access to toilet, shower and changing facilities.

Hertfordshire-based Willmott Dixon was responsible for the construction of Corby East Midlands International Pool, which was funded by Corby Borough Council (CBC) in

partnership with English Partnership, the East Midlands Development Agency, the Department of Local Government and North Northants Development Company.

CBC leader Pat Fawcett said: "We are an ambitious town and we are proud to have opened a state-of-the-art 50m pool that will be a great training facility for our future swimming and diving stars."

Referral scheme for Edinburgh

NHS Lothian and sports trust Edinburgh Leisure have teamed up to allow the city's GPs to refer adults with mild to moderate mental health issues to a 12-week programme of physical activity.

The programme, called Healthy Active Minds, will give all participants an activity action plan with a range of options based in a leisure or community setting and including swimming, dancing, gym use, cycling and gardening and food growing.

Edinburgh Leisure will manage the scheme's delivery and development.

£12m Matlock centre approved

By Helen Patenall

Plans for the development of the £12m Central Area Leisure Centre (CALC) at The Dimple between Matlock and Darley Dale in Derbyshire have moved a step nearer.

The all-weather complex will include a new swimming pool meting regional competition requirements, along with a main sports hall comprising badminton courts and facilities for basketball, volleyball, five-a-side football, netball, gymnastics and cricket nets.

A second hall will accommodate aerobics, dance, martial arts, fitness and yoga classes, while a new café, meeting rooms and a community room



The CALC will include a new competition-standard pool

will also be built to replace the existing facilities at Darley Dale Community Centre.

The council has agreed to commit £7m to the CALC project, along with support from the East Midlands Development Agency, Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership and Sport England.

Shapemaster nets Alliance agreement

New venture seeks to target new gym users with not-for-profit fitness provision

By Tom Walker

Alliance Leisure and Shapemaster have joined forces as part of efforts to offer not-for-profit fitness facilities as a way of targeting new user groups.

The venture will see Shape-master installing £50,000 worth of toning table equipment at sites run by trusts and other not-for-profit companies. Shapemaster will also deliver all the marketing, sales and promotional support for free.

The scheme is designed to work on an income share basis, where the facility retains the initial income up to an agreed level, after which the income share mechanism kicks in.

Pendle Leisure Centre will be the first site in the UK to benefit



A 'Feel Good Factory' has been created at Pendle Leisure Centre

from the initiative, forming part of a small redevelopment that will see the centre's bar and lounge area transformed into the area's first 'Feel Good Factory' with a reception and a relaxation area where customers can buy refreshments.

The new equipment installed at Alliance sites will include Shapemaster's new range of dual-function exercise equipment, designed for a range of potential members - including people with disabilities, mobility and stability issues.

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Barnsley Premier reopens Royston Leisure Centre

By Tom Walker

Barnsley Premier Leisure (BPL) has unveiled the refurbished health club at the Royston Leisure Centre in Barnsley, South Yorkshire, following a £400,000 upgrade.

Work on the centre follows the reopening of the Dorothy Hyman Sports Centre in Cudworth, which also benefited from a similar investment.

Royston Leisure Centre's fitness facilities are spread over



The scheme cost BPL £400,000

two levels and include a range of new equipment, which has been supplied by Pulse Fitness. The 50-station gym features rowing machines, cross trainers and treadmills, as well as a free weights area.

The health club will also offer fitness classes, such as boxercise, group cycling and yoga, while other facilities at the centre include a 25m pool and a multi-use sports hall.

Glenn Tolan, head of operations at BPL, said: "Due to this recent investment, Barnsley now boasts some of the best fitness facilities in the region."

Sencio Community Leisure takes over Waterside Club

Sencio Community Leisure (SCL) has taken over the management of the Waterside Club at Cambridgeshire's Buckden Marina.

SCL has taken over the operation of the 92-acre (37.2-hectare) facility, which includes a 30-station health club, an indoor swimming pool, a sauna, a steamroom and a spa pool, on

a 15-year lease from owners Mark Williams Leisure Estates (MWLE).

Mark Williams, managing director of MWLE, said: "Sencio's experience means that the Waterside Club is well-placed to grow as a business while at the same time striving to deliver the best possible member experience."

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Contractor appointed for Weston pier rebuild

The owners of the Grand Pier in Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, have appointed John Sisk and Son to rebuild the historic tourist attraction, which was severely damaged by a large fire in July 2008. Plans for the £34m redevelopment of the 104-year-old pier have been drawn up by Bristol-based architects, Angus Meek, which will include a new pavilion, a 250-seat conference facility, rooftop thrill rides and a 90m (295.3ft) observation tower overlooking the resort.

Cadbury World opens new themed zone

▶ Birmingham's Cadbury World visitor attraction has opened a new advertising-themed zone. Advertising Avenue allows visitors to "take a nostalgic and retro walk through time" in a life-sized street displaying Cadbury's adverts from years gone by. The street is made to look and feel like chocolate, while the architecture begins in the style of the 1830s (when John Cadbury first started selling drinking chocolate in Birmingham) and becomes more modern as visitors walk along.

Blue Reef to open Bristol site in October

▶ Blue Reef Leisure has appointed a manager to its new Harbourside attraction in Bristol. Alex Page, former head of commercial operations at Bristol Zoo Gardens, is to take charge of the attraction when it opens in October. The £4m redevelopment of the former Wildwalk building will showcase native and tropical marine and freshwater creatures in naturally themed habitats. The centrepiece of the aquarium is a large coral reef housed within an ocean display, which will house angelfish and giant humphead wrasse.

Museum service worth £115m to city

NML boosted by Liverpool's status as European Capital of Culture during 2008

By Tom Walker

National Museums Liverpool (NML), which operates eight museums and galleries in the city, is worth more than £115m to the local economy and supports more than 2,200 full-time jobs in the city.

A study by the North West Research Service (NWRS) shows that a total of 2.74 million people visited NML's museums and galleries during 2008, an increase of 36 per cent on the previous year (2007).

According to the report, NML generated £79.3m worth of direct and indirect visitor spend in the local economy. NML directly employs 624 full-time jobs while supporting a further 174 jobs in the area by using regional suppliers.

NML director Dr David Fleming said: "Liverpool's year as European Capital of Culture



Liverpool has the only museum service of its kind outside London

has helped increase our visitor figures, and as the backbone to cultural activity in the city, we had an extraordinary year.

"However, the benefits to Liverpool of being European Capital of Culture, and the impact of having the only national museum service in England outside of London, are far more than a brilliant series of exhibitions and events. "There has been a steady increase in our impact levels since 2001, likely to be significantly enhanced with the opening of the Museum of Liverpool in 2010-11."

NML is made up of eight museums and galleries, including the Walker Art Gallery, the International Slavery Museum and Merseyside Maritime Museum.

Palace reopens at Dover Castle

By **Pete Hayman**

A historic 12th century royal palace inside the Great Tower at Dover Castle, Kent, has reopened following a major £2.45m refurbishment carried out by English Heritage (EH).

The King's Hall, which was used by Henry II to entertain foreign pilgrims and dignitaries, has been restored by a team of historians in partnership with 140 artists and craftspeople to recreate the medieval interior.

Pepper's Ghosts (light projections of moving figures), costumed re-enactors and audio-visual presentation will be used to enhance the visitor experience, and tell the story of one of the most volatile periods of European history.



The historic royal palace was used by Henry II to entertain

The scheme has been funded through the government's Sea Change initiative, while EH has provided grant-in-aid to help finance the restoration work.

Dr Edward Impey, EH's project director, said: "The newly presented rooms will enable visitors to gain a fresh view onto the world of 12th century life, power and politics."

Ashmolean to reopen in November

Oxford's Ashmolean Museum is to reopen in November following a £61m revamp.

The new Ashmolean, which has been designed by London-based architect Rick Mather, will replace all but the original 1845 Cockerell Building.

A total of 39 new galleries, offering twice the display space as the former building, will be arranged across five floors and allow the museum to display thousands of objects previously kept in storage.

A new education centre, including three new study centres, will be opened as well as a new rooftop restaurant.

The Heritage Lottery Fund contributed £15m towards the cost of the transformation.





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FF grant for North Holmwood pavilion

▶ Mole Valley District Council and North Holmwood Football Club have been awarded a £197,709 grant by the Football Foundation (FF) to help fund the construction of a new sports pavilion. The pavilion project has already received £3,000 from the Bishop of Guildford's Foundation and £15,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation. while a series of fundraising events organised by the football club and the King George V Pavilion Working Group has raised a further £600.

Labour accused of playing field sell out

▶ The *Daily Mail* has accused the Labour government of breaking its 1997 manifesto pledge to protect school playing fields. The newspaper said that ministers have approved the sale of 203 pitches in the 12 years Labour has been in power, while in the years since London was chosen to host the Olympics, 49 school sports fields have been sold off. Margaret Morrissey of the Parents Outloud campaign group said: "Despite all the government's wonderful words on this issue, it seems that when we get to the truth, playing fields are still being removed."

Three Anglesey pools earmarked for closure

▶ Beaumaris Leisure Centre and two other swimming pools on Anglesey, North Wales, are reportedly to close. According to the Bangor and Anglesey Mail, Anglesey Council has decided to have just one main pool on the island, resulting in the closure of Beaumaris Leisure Centre and the draining of the pool at Amlwch Leisure Centre - though it is not known yet which of the pools at Holyhead and Llangefni will also be drained.

£6m Leicester complex moves nearer

University set to acquire council land for the development of new sports centre

By **Pete Hayman**

Plans for a new £6m sports complex in Leicester have been given the go-ahead after the local authority approved the sale of land on Duns Lane to De Montfort University (DMU).

Leicester City Council's (LCC) decision will enable plans for the regeneration of the city's West End to move forward, with the derelict Bowstring bridge set to be demolished to make way for the new facility.

The complex, which will be available for public use as well as DMU students, is set to include a 25m swimming pool, a six-court sports hall, a gym and a fitness suite and will replace the existing John Sandford Sports Centre.



Leicester's derelict Bowstring bridge will make way for the centre

Following the council's decision to approve the sale of land to the university, detailed plans for the new venue are expected to be submitted during 2010, with construction work scheduled to get underway in spring 2011.

LCC cabinet member for regeneration, Patrick Kitterick, said: "This will be a major development project to rejuvenate part of the city's West End, which will bring a state-of-the-art sports complex that will be open to the public."

Northampton Town redevelopment plans approved

By Pete Hayman

Plans for the redevelopment of Northampton's Sixfields stadium are set to move forward after the local authority agreed to work with Northampton Town Football Club (NTFC) to deliver the scheme.

Northampton Borough Council (NBC) has now entered into a development agreement with the club and the Homes and Communities Agency to build a new 15,000-seat venue.



NBC has backed NTFC's plans

The proposed development will include building on the site of an existing athletics track,

although a deal has already been reached that will see Rugby and Northampton Athletics Club relocate to new facilities designed in accordance with UK Athletics' competition standards.

NTFC now expects to finalise the development agreement with all parties, including a development partner, within the next month before a planning application for the scheme can be submitted to NBC in the autumn.

£700,000 revamp for Worcestershire athletics track

The Ryland Centre in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, is set to undergo a major £700,000 refurbishment programme in a bid to improve facilities at the venue.

The centre's track and field events areas will be completely revamped, while plans also include the installation of new disabled changing facilities equipped with ramps and hoists.

The project has received a grant of £200,000 from Sport England, while Worcestershire County Council has agreed to contribute a further £500,000. Bromsgrove School will provide support for the centre's maintenance over the next 10 years.

8

£16m refurbishment for London pool

Historic Islington baths set to undergo major overhaul in time for 2012 Olympics

By Pete Hayman

The Grade II-listed Ironmonger Row Baths in Islington, North London, is to undergo a major £16m refurbishment in time for the 2012 Olympics.

First opened as a public wash house in 1931, the facility is home to one of the capital's original Turkish baths and is set to benefit from improvements funded by Islington Council (IC) and the EC1 New Deal for Communities (NDC) initiative.

Facilities to be upgraded at Ironmonger Row Baths include a 30m swimming pool, a children's pool, changing facilities, two dance studios and a area for spectators, as well as the Turkish Baths. Plans also include increasing the venue's gym provision.

HLF funding for Yorkshire sport

Rotherham United Football Club (RUFC) and Bradford City Football Club (BCFC) have both received grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to help explore their sporting history.

The Bantams
Community Programme
has been awarded £49,400
to fund the new 18-month
bantamspast initiative,
an oral history project
designed to preserve the
memories of supporters
who have followed BCFC
over the past fifty years.

Around 500 volunteers will be used to conduct interviews or provide guided tours as part of the scheme, which will then see a permanent exhibition stage set up in the bantamspast museum.



The facility is home to one of the capital's original Turkish baths

Ruth Polling, the council's executive member for leisure, said: "Ironmonger Rows Baths is a wonderful building steeped in history, which we are determined to preserve.

"Investing in the venue also means investing in the health and fitness of the community." Islington Council is contributing £12m towards the scheme, while the EC1 NDC board has committed £3.7m.

Work is expected to get underway next year at the centre, which is operated by Aquaterra, with a scheduled completion date of May 2012.

IN BRIEF

UEFA concerned over **EPL** finances

▶ UEFA, European football's governing body, has expressed concerns over some English Premier League (EPL) clubs, which could be facing a financial crisis if current spending levels are sustained. Speaking to BBC Radio 5 Live as part of a special report on debt in English football, UEFA general secretary David Taylor said the combination of clubs living beyond their means while decreasing in value could have worrying implications. The comments follow the news that the owners of Liverpool Football Club had re-negotiated the club's multi-million pound debt with the Royal Bank of Scotland

Celtic Crusaders eyes Newport ground deal

▶ Celtic Crusaders Rugby League Football Club (CCRLFC) has announced that it is poised to secure an agreement with the Newport Gwent Dragons rugby union team to use the Rodney Parade stadium from 2010. The Bridgend-based club was one of five recently warned by the Rugby Football League that it faces the threat of being ejected from the Super League in 2012 if it fails to sufficiently advance plans to provide new or improved stadium facilities by 2011. CCRLFC was already scheduled to play its first ever match at the Newport venue on 22 August against Leeds Rhinos as part of its "on the road" initiative, although it is now likely that the match will be the club's first game in a new home.

Work begins on Inverness track

▶ The 25m, eight-lane athletics track at Inverness leisure has closed for a £130,000 revamp. The track is scheduled to reopen on 24 August.

ECB unveils domestic structure



The 2010 domestic cricket calendar will feature three competitions

By $Pete\ Hayman$

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has unveiled plans to retain the County Championship and protect the status of Test match cricket as part of a three-competition structure for domestic cricket.

An enhanced Twenty20 tournament – P20 – and a third limited overs competition will also comprise the English county season from 2010, with

the ECB opting to retain the existing 16-match, two-division arrangement used in the County Championship.

The new P20 competition will feature two pools of nine county teams split according to geographical location in order to retain the element of local rivalry, while the specifications for the third competition to replace the current Pro40 leagues are yet to be determined.

SAC launches new AmbITion project

▶ The Scottish Arts Council (SAC) has launched its AmbITion Scotland scheme, a new £800,000 programme aimed at supporting arts organisations to improve their digital offering. The project will provide free workshops, events, online material, case studies and online tools to organisations and institutions hoping to develop their electronic services. AmbITion Scotland will also look to address SAC's corporate aims, including raising the overall level of digital technology used within the arts sector and strengthen Scotland's competitiveness.

Final report hails Liverpool '08 success

▶ The Liverpool Culture Company (LCC), which was established to develop a programme of events to coincide with the city's status as European Capital Culture for 2008, has published its final report. According to the 36-page report, LCC invested more than £122m over a four-year period to ensure the success of Liverpool '08, which generated £800m and attracted 3.5 million new visitors, while also creating a lasting cultural legacy for the city.

Sandwell outlines cultural strategy

▶ Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council has appointed consultants Strategic Leisure to deliver a new cultural strategy for the region. The strategy, for the period running from 2010 up until 2015, will aim to deliver on the council's core objectives, such as using cultural opportunities to support lifelong learning and using culture to improve the health of residents. Strategic Leisure has been tasked with strengthening partnerships with key stakeholders and to secure capital and revenue funding.

Cheltenham art gallery plans approved

Popular attraction to increase number of galleries and provide education facilities

By Luke Tuchscherer

Proposals for the £5.5m redevelopment of an art gallery and museum in Cheltenham have been approved by the borough council.

The existing Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum, which is more than 100 years old, attracts 60,000 visitors each year, but presently only has enough space to exhibit around a third of its collection.

The designs for the development of the attraction, by architects Berman Guedes Stretton, feature new exhibition galleries, new open access storage, dedicated education spaces, improved visitor facilities and a ground floor café. The project has received a



The art gallery and museum attracts 60,000 visitors each year

£500,000 grant from The Monument Trust, bringing the total raised so far to £3.8m.

Jane Lillystone, arts manager at Cheltenham Borough Council, said: "This is a significant grant from The Monument Trust and is excellent news for us as we move forward to the launch of the second phase of our fundraising campaign.

"We've now raised 70 per cent of the funds needed to start construction, the remainder of which we hope to secure by summer next year."

New £2.4m public gallery planned for Leicester

By Pete Hayman

A new £2.4m public arts gallery is set to be built on the site of a former nursery in Leicester to replace the existing City Gallery, provided the proposals are given the green light by the local authority.

Leicester City Council's (LCC) cabinet will decide whether to approve plans for the new building at the council-owned site on New Walk, which have been drawn up by Marsh



What the gallery will look like

Grochowski Architects and Focus Consultants UK. The council has already agreed to

replace the City Gallery with a new venue in the existing nursery building, but will now be asked to approve the construction of the new building to replace City Gallery, which is due to close when its lease expires in February 2010.

It is expected that the construction of the proposed venue, which is scheduled to open in spring 2011, will be funded mainly by LCC, as well as a £120,000 contribution from Arts Council England.

ACE urges arts to increase digital and online offering

Arts Council England (ACE) has encouraged arts organisations to increase their digital and online services in order to attract a new generation of visitors to their facilities.

A study by ACE showed that digital technology is used by the public primarily as a research tool, allowing people to explore

artists and arts events, rather than an alternative to visit and view real art.

The majority of the respondents to the ACE study felt that digital and online exhibitions of art cannot replace the atmosphere and immediacy of the live experience, but are a useful tool when providing context for a live experience.



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Betfair reports annual revenue increase

▶ Betfair has reported that annual revenue increased by 27 per cent during the year ending 30 April 2009 following the success of the online betting company's three-year investment strategy. Revenues from the company's sports business went up by 20 per cent compared with 2008, which has helped to establish Betfair as one of the largest online sports operators in Europe. Meanwhile, the lifting of advertising regulations in Australia contributed to a 40 per cent growth in the Australian market. The number of active Betfair users also went up by a quarter during the 12-month period, with the company attributing the increase in new customers to a full calendar of sporting events and the security of its ring-fenced customer accounts, which currently contain £240m in deposits.

DCMS unveils new licensing changes

▶ The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has introduced a new application process designed to make it easier for pub and bar operators to make small alterations to the terms of their licence. It is expected that the Minor Variations process will save the industry up to £2.3m each year, with licensees now able to apply to change the layout of their premises or stage live music events for a fee of £89, compared with the previous average fee of around £225. Licensees will also no longer have to make the relevant authorities aware, or to advertise in a newspaper, of their intention to change the terms of the licence, while the waiting time for applications to be resolved will be almost halved to 15 days from the current 28-day period.

Hull casino criteria set out by council

Local authority looking to invite expressions of interest at the start of next year

By Pete Hayman

Casino operators looking to secure a licence to run a large facility in Hull will have to provide bars, restaurants and conference facilities as part of new criteria outlined by the local authority.

Hull City Council (HCC) drew up the guidelines, which also call for prospective bidders to create 125 retail, hotel and catering jobs, following the government's decision to award the city one of eight licences for a large casino in March 2006.

The proposed casino will have to complement existing regeneration plans for the city centre and be built within a set period, according to the council's criteria, although the awarding of any future large casino licence is currently subject to a wider review of licensing policy.



Hull City Council secured a license for a large casino in 2006

John Robinson, HCC portfolio holder for image and culture, said: "Should the council be successful in selecting a casino operator it would be good news for the city particularly during this time of recession.

"The potential construction and subsequent opening of the casino would create a large number of job opportunities for people and we would encourage the successful applicant to use local people where possible."

John Holmes, chief executive of economic development company, Hull Forward, added: "A casino – if well managed – could be a key driver for bolstering the leisure offer in the city centre.".

The council does not expect to invite expressions of interest from potential casino operators until December 2009.

Ladbrokes heads to Gibraltar

Ladbrokes has become the second UK-based bookmaker within a week to announce plans to relocate its online betting division to Gibraltar in a bid to take advantage of lower tax rates.

The Harrow-based company's decision to relocate its Ladbrokes. com sportsbook arm by the end of 2009 came just days after fellow bookmaker, William Hill, said that it was to relocate its online betting and gaming division to Gibraltar after paying nearly £300m in UK taxes during 2008.

£21m Ffos Las racecourse opens

By **Pete Hayman**

The new £21m Ffos Las Racecourse near Llanelli, Wales, which is the first turf horse racecourse to be built in Britain since the 1920s, is to be officially opened on 28 August.

Located on the site of a former 650-acre (263-hectare) open cast mine near the village of Trimsaran, the 1.5-mile (2.4km) left-handed circuit was built by Aberdare-based civil engineers, the Walters Group and is managed by racecourse group, Northern Racing.

Facilities at Ffos Las Racecourse, which hosted its first meeting on 18 June, include a grandstand with 150-seat restaurant and eight hospitality



The racecourse is the first turf horse venue to open since 1920

boxes, a weighing room and a permanent media room.

It is expected that the venue will cater for up to 16 horse racing meetings each year, both on the flat and over jumps, while eight fixtures have been scheduled for between June and December 2009.

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Accor reports firsthalf revenue slump

Accor, the French hotel chain, has seen revenue for the first half of 2009 decrease by 8.1 per cent to 3.41m euro (£2.92m), compared with the same period in 2008. The company said that its revenue performance has been shaped by its expansion strategy, the sale of properties and the 1 per cent negative currency effect. In a statement, Accor said: "The second quarter figures reflect the global economic situation, which is still extremely depressed."

Green light for **Soho House Hotel**

▶ Soho Estates has been awarded planning consent for a new 27,000 sq ft (2,508sq m) 40-bedroom hotel and restaurant scheme on Dean Street in London. The property will be operated by Soho House, which is owned by restaurateur Richard Caring. The company also operates three private members club in the capital. Planning associate Gerald Eve advised Soho Estates and Soho House on the proposals. Kieron Hodgson, associate at Gerald Eve, said: "The hotel provides a sensitive blend of old and new to create a boutique establishment with a special feel of exclusivity."

Green light for Box Hill restaurant plans

▶ Councillors at Mole Valley District Council have approved plans by the National Trust (NT) for a restaurant and a larger car park at the summit of its Box Hill, Surrey site. NT said the scheme would provide improved facilities for the many thousands of people who visit Box Hill each year. The restaurant will be created from the redevelopment of Fort Cottage and will provide indoor seating for 44 people, as well as an outdoor terrace.

Financial restructuring for Paramount

French restaurant operator to refurbish London estate as part of upgrade plans

By Helen Patenall

Paramount Restaurants - which owns Chez Gerard, Bertorelli and Brasserie Gerard - has announced a financial restructuring of the business.

Private equity house Silverfleet Capital has sold its entire interest in the group to the Royal Bank of Scotland, HSBC, Barclays and Sankaty.

The undisclosed sum will provide funding to enable the new management team to complete its upgrade programme, which will include refurbishing the London estate.

Mark Phillips, CEO of Paramount, said: "The financial restructuring means that the new senior management team, who have been appointed over the last 12 months, can now



The company hopes to be able to continue its investment scheme

focus all their efforts on the upgrade programme which they commenced last year.

"The restructuring, together with the injection of new money, will provide stability for the group and enable it to continue to invest in its brands. This is a business with real

potential, and the restructuring gives us the opportunity to fulfill this potential."

Gareth Whiley, a partner at Silverfleet Capital, added: "We hope that the restructuring enables this brand to continue its investment programme and ensure a stable future."

Calcot acquires **Barnsley House**

Calcot Health and Leisure (CHL) has acquired its second property with the purchase of the 18-bedroom Barnslev House property near Cirencester.

CHL, which already owns the 35-bedroom Calcot Manor hotel, took over Barnsley House after previous owner Barnsley House Limited went into administration in July.

The Grade II property also includes two pubs -The Village Pub and The Catherine Wheel.

Richard Ball, CHL's managing director, said: "Calcot Manor and Barnsley House will be putting the spotlight on Gloucestershire and the Cotswolds with added vigour together."

Travelodge nets six London sites



The budget chain aims to be the largest brand in London by 2012

By Martin Nash

In a move which will see it become the largest hotel brand in London by 2012, budget hotel chain Travelodge has spent £84m acquiring six properties in the capital.

Spread across five boroughs and providing a total of 828 rooms, the sites are in Drury Lane, Covent Garden; Ealing; Stratford; Bromley and two properties in Harrow.

With these six exchanges, plus a further seven hotels currently being built, Travelodge will operate 45 hotels in London by summer 2012.

Travelodge chief executive, Grant Hearn, said: "We have long stated our aim of being the lead brand in London by the time of the Olympic Games. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the tourism industry and one we intend to take with both hands."



All five new properties are expected to be open within five years

Five new hotels for Premier Inn

Budget chain announces plans to extend its portfolio

By Martin Nash

Premier Inn, Whitbread's budget hotel chain, has announced that it plans to add five new hotels to its portfolio.

The new sites will include a 122-bedroom hotel at Worcestershire County Cricket Club and a 121-bedroom hotel at Medway Leisure Park, near Rochester, Kent, in a deal with real estate firm PRUPIM.

A new 75-bedroom hotel and Beefeater restaurant in Newmarket, Cambridgshire and a 155-bedroom hotel in Southampton, Hampshire are also planned, along with a 62-bedroom hotel and Table Table restaurant to be developed as part of an agreement with the Newton Abbot Jockey Club in Devon.

The company expects the first of the sites, worth a cumulative £27m, to open in 2010-11, with the final one complete by 2014.

John Bates, head of acquisitions at Whitbread Hotels and Restaurants, said: "Securing these top locations is a fantastic result for Premier Inn and a welcome addition to our expanding portfolio."

Prison restaurant unveiled in Surrey

An innovative new restaurant has opened at High Down prison in Sutton, Surrey.

The Clink – Britain's first commercial in-prison restaurant – aims to provide former inmates with the chance to attain catering qualifications within a commercial environment, while also offering customers a unique dining experience.

Customers enter The Clink via the prison gates, before

passing through security checks and a yard to the barred restaurant entrance.

The 420sq ft (39sq m) dining room designed by Ishoka features furniture crafted and glasswork inscribed by the prisoners.

Locally sourced food can be ordered by up to 80 customers seated at eight tables, cooked by nine trainee chefs and served by 10 inmates.

Banking sector poses threat to future growth

The lack of readily available finance from banks may curtail the sector's recovery

he recession has hit the hospitality industry hard yet hoteliers and restaurateurs are a hardy bunch. Few hotels have ended up in Carey Street and even though more hospitality companies have gone into insolvency – 694 in the first quarter of 2009 compared with 442 in the same period in 2008 – it has not been the bloodbath that some observers were predicting last year.

True, customers are eating out less often and spending less when they do so, with corporate spending in significant decline, but many branded restaurants have boosted footfall with special deals and offers which has hit margins but has kept them afloat.

A survey of members of the BHA's National Restaurants Group, recently conducted on behalf of the association by BDO Stoy Hayward, showed a surprising amount of confidence in the restaurant

slight growth in both 2009 and 2010 while a similar number believes there will be strong growth in 2010.

No company is forecasting a strong contraction though about half forecast a slight contraction or no growth in 2009; this

industry. Over one-third of businesses believe there will be

No company is forecasting a strong contraction though about half forecast a slight contraction or no growth in 2009; this reduces to a quarter looking ahead to 2010.

So all is not gloom. What is worrying, however, is the difficulty in obtaining bank finance,

The vast majority of businesses believe that the attitude of the banks to both current and prospective lending has hardened in the last year; half say it's worse for current lending and more than 60 per cent say it's worse for new lending. The pricing of finance is also considered a negative factor.

Clearly, growth in the future will be curtailed if finance is not made more readily available and this is widely considered to be one of the most inhibiting factors to restaurant expansion. One reason for restaurateurs' success in the present tough times is that they have been nimble on their feet. Over three quarters cut back on employee numbers while almost two thirds have frozen wages and salaries. Menus have also been re-engineered by many and 88 per cent have renegotiated food and beverage contracts.

Perhaps restaurants have something to teach other sectors of the economy: cut costs quickly and boost turnover by giving extra value, even if this does threaten margins. When survival is all, lower margins are better than the trip down Carey Street.



BOB COTTON is chief executive of the BHA. Leisure Opportunities is a member benefit of the BHA

National Trust recruits surf ambassadors

▶ Five British professional surfers have been recruited as ambassadors by the National Trust (NT) to help support the organisation's coastal conservation work in Devon and Cornwall. The surfers will each carry the NT logo on their boards as part of the project, as well as promoting the trust's work through school visits and surf sessions to encourage more people into the water.

Cardiff City strikes Far East agreement

▶ Cardiff City Football Club (CCFC) has secured a new "strategic marketing alliance" with Football Focus Asia SDN BHD in a bid to strengthen the club's profile in the Far East. It is hoped the new partnership will help the club to create new fans' groups to support the club and attend matches, as well as the creation of a vouth development scheme in the region. CCFC chair Peter Ridsdale said: "The Far East market is one of the largest in the world representing over a half of the world's population. Their appetite for 'English Football' is already proven."

BBC submits free-toair proposals to DCMS

▶ A list of sporting events the BBC believes should remain available to free-to-air broadcasters has been submitted to the Department for Culture. Media and Sport (DCMS) as part of an ongoing review into the listing system. The independent review is the first to be undertaken since 1998, and the BBC proposes that home nation World Cup and European Championship football qualifiers, together with Wales Six Nations and autumn rugby union internationals, are added to the list of protected events.

McDonald's in row over Olympic deal

Fast food chain attracts criticism over proposed exclusivity agreement for 2012

By Martin Nash

US fast food giant McDonald's seems likely to be the sole branded restaurant chain at the 2012 London Olympics, which has attracted strong criticism.

The company, a main sponsor of the games, along with Coca-Cola which has exclusive rights to sell non-alcoholic drinks within the Olympic venues, is said to be in talks with the games organisers to ensure that it has the same exclusivity for meal provision.

Under the arrangement, other food chains will only be able to sell their products on certain Olympic sites if they remove labels or change the packaging. Other venues will see existing restaurant and cafe owners having to make way for



McDonald's is set to secure an exclusivity deal for London 2012

officially authorised providers for the duration of the games.

Critics say that the food on offer at such a showcase should properly reflect regional foods and London's ethnic mix.

A spokesperson for McDonald's said: "At past Olympic Games we have been the branded food retailer but there have been other 'unbranded' products available."

A London 2012 spokesman said: "A full and diverse range of local food offerings will be available at the Olympic Park along with sponsor-branded restaurants and products."

LOCOG to alter ticket pledge

Plans to make the cheapest London 2012 tickets available for £15 may be reconsidered after organisers admitted that the circumstances had changed since the initial pledge was made.

According to the BBC, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) said that the £15 pledge was indicative and based on 2004 exchange rates and the inclusion of softball and baseball.

Paul Deighton, LOCOG chief executive, told reporters: "The principle still applies that a very significant chunk of our tickets will be highly affordable so we can get families there."

New partnership for Gateshead



Gateshead's council and football club will promote healthy living

By Pete Hayman

Gateshead Football Club has teamed up with Gateshead Council in a bid to develop sport in the area and encourage local residents to lead a healthy lifestyle.

The football club, which was promoted to the Blue Square Premier at the end of the 2008-09 season will incorporate a new logo on its shirts to

promote the 'Gateshead Fit for a City' scheme.

Mick Henry, leader of Gateshead Council, said: "We believe in making Gateshead fit for a city, not only in terms of the investment in infrastructure and redevelopment, but also by becoming a shining example of an active and healthy place to live and work. We believe this partnership will help us to deliver both of these aims."

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£3.9m facelift for Swindon's Canal Walk

Canal Walk in Swindon, Wiltshire, is to be transformed over the next six months as part of a £3.9m project, which will include the installation of a new water feature and living green walls. Work will include the removal of all existing paving, street furniture and advertising hoardings to make way for new stone paving featuring a ribbon feature running the entire length of the thoroughfare. The installation of lighting that changes colour depending on the weather and the relocation of the existing Golden Lion feature also form part of the project.

New country park planned for Wiltshire

A new leisure scheme called White Horse Country Park may be developed in Westbury, Wiltshire. Town councillor Derek Hulin, the owner of contractors Carpleton, has teamed up with Shaun May, owner of Transcar, to transform a plot of land featuring a nine-hole golf course, a fishing lake and a bowling green into a more extensive recreation venue. The duo plan to expand the golf course to 18 holes, as well as developing a fishing recreation area, a tackle shop and a touring caravan park in a bid to attract anglers.

Facelift plans for Swansea waterside

Swansea Council has unveiled plans to provide improved cycling and walking facilities as part of a scheme to improve a section of the city's River Tawe waterside. The project, which will be jointly funded by the council and the Welsh Assembly Government, will also include new surfacing, lighting and street furniture in a bid to complement a series of recent riverside improvements.

New English coastline study published

Natural England hopes new legislation will increase access to England's coastline

By Pete Hayman

Natural England (NE) has published the findings of an extensive survey that reveals nearly 1,000 miles (1,609km) of coastline are currently either inaccessible to members of the public or lack secure access.

Conducted by the organisation in partnership with 53 local access authorities, the region-by-region audit of England's 2,748-mile (4,423km) coastline reveals that 34 per cent fails to provide satisfactory or legally secure rights of way.

According to the NE survey, just 44 per cent of coastline in North West England is open to the public, although at least 70 per cent in the East of England, the Yorkshire and Humber region, and South West England provide full access.



Natural England hopes more coastline will be opened to the public

NE hopes that the new Marine and Coastal Access Bill will help to open up more of the English coastline to visitors. It is also hoped that the legislation will help tackle the effects of coastal erosion, which could result in the loss of 13 per cent of existing rights of way over the next 20 years.

Helen Phillips, NE chief executive, said: "Our audit maps form the first look at where efforts will need to be focussed in delivering on the provisions of the Marine and Coastal Access Bill. There are real opportunities to open up a new future for the 'forgotten areas' of England's coastline."

National Trust opens Wicken Fen dragonfly centre

By **Pete Hayman**

A new purpose-built centre designed to protect dragonflies from the threat of extinction has been opened by the National Trust (NT) at Wicken Fen near Ely, Cambridgeshire.

The Dragonfly Centre, which has been developed by the NT in partnership with the British Dragonfly Society and the Dragonfly Project, is housed in a renovated former fen worker's cottage and aims to raise the profile of the insect with one in three British species currently under threat.

Volunteers will manage the centre, which includes displays containing information about dragonflies, while a regular programme of events is to be introduced, including guided walks and dragonfly safaris.



The new centre is designed to protect dragonflies from extinction

The threat to dragonflies has been attributed to the loss of wetland habitat due to development and intensive farming, as well as the use of insecticides.

Chris Packham, naturalist and BBC Springwatch presenter, said: "The loss of wetland habitat throughout the UK is having a massive impact on the long-term survival prospects for many dragonfly species.

"Since the 1960s, three species have become extinct and a third of the forty-two species found in Britain are under threat of extinction. This is why sites such as such as Wicken Fen are so important in giving many of our dragonfly and other threatened species the chance of survival."

City of Bradford MDC

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Tender for Supply of Gym and Fitness Equipment **Framework**

Contract Ref: BMDC/9776

Bradford Metropolitan District Council is seeking suitably experienced contractors for a framework arrangement for the above for the Councils sports centres across the Bradford District.

Further information and Tender documents can be downloaded from http://scms.alito.co.uk Please ensure you have registered for Bradford MDC to enable access to documentation. If you require any assistance downloading the documents, contact SCMS help desk on 0113 247 4001.

After downloading the tender documents, any queries arising should be directed to: Vanessa Baker on 01274 432392 email: vanessa.baker@bradford.gov.uk

The closing date for the receipt of Tenders is Wednesday 30 September 2009 at 2.00pm.

A contract notice relating to this procurement was sent to the Official Journal of the European Union on 18th August 2009.

Plymouth City Council



SOFT MARKET TEST

Ice rink facility in Plymouth

Plymouth City Council would like to invite expressions of interest from companies interested in developing and operating a new ice

The new facility would replace an existing rink within the Plymouth Pavilions complex which is likely to be displaced by the forthcoming regeneration of the area.

A project briefing note and soft marketing questionnaire will be available to interested organisations on www.devontenders.gov.uk from Thursday 20 August 2009.

Responses to the questionnaire, which should be received by midday on Friday 25 September 2009, will help the authority assess the market in terms of interest, feasibility, experience, and knowledge.

Individual discussions with organisations that have submitted completed questionnaires may be held to clarify and explore responses in order to inform a future procurement process.

This invitation is an information seeking exercise and is not part of a procurement process. Interested parties should note that a response to this notice does not guarantee any discussion as part of this soft market testing exercise. It does not guarantee that a procurement exercise relating to the subject matter of this notice will be advertised or take place or that any proposals offered would be accepted.

Queries can be raised online or via e-mail to procurement@plymouth.gov.uk

www.plymouth.gov.uk

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

TENDER NOTICE The Baths Hall - Appointment of Management Company

North Lincolnshire Council is redeveloping the existing 'Baths Hall' site to create a new entertainment venue. The new venue will provide a high quality landmark building that contributes to a diverse cultural offering in North Lincolnshire.

The council is seeking to appoint a management company to operate all aspects of the venue.

Organisations wishing to be considered for supplying this service must complete a pre-qualification questionnaire.

The issue and submission of completed questionnaires is via the supplier contract management system (SCMS) website (http://scms.alito.co.uk). You will have to register interest by following the suppliers/contractors link and then selecting the project titled '12722 - The Baths Hall Management Company' before uploading the completed questionnaire. If you require any assistance accessing the website please contact the SCMS Helpdesk on telephone 0113 2474001 or email scms@yhcoe.org.uk

Contacts:

All queries should be raised via SCMS by selecting the above project.

Closing date for completed pre-qualification questionnaires is

Noon on 18 September 2009.



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IN BRIEF

RICS unveils new group to study pub rents

▶ The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) has launched a new forum group, tasked with studying the role of surveyors in the calculation of rents between pub tenants and the pub companies. RICS is looking to explore a number of key elements relating to pub evaluations, including the role of surveyors acting for landlords and tenants at arbitration and whether the pub sector has unique characteristics which should be reflected in rental valuations. RICS is inviting interested parties to contribute to the forum's discussions. RICS hopes to attract a cross section of industry bodies and interested parties to individually present their views during the meetings.

Salford regeneration plans submitted

▶ Plans for the multi-million pound regeneration of central Salford, Greater Manchester, have been submitted by English City Funds following more than two years of consultation. Backed by Central Salford Urban Regeneration Company, the scheme covers a 17.744-hectare (43.8-acre) area in the heart of the city and will link sites including Salford University and The Crescent, Chapel Street and the Spinningfields business district. The proposals include the creation of new bars, 390 new hotel rooms, a public square to be called St John's Place, 24,000sq m (258,334sq ft) of active use space and the restoration of historic buildings situated on Chapel Street, as well as cycle routes, footpaths and new open spaces.

Major revamp for Bickershaw Colliery

Former Lancashire mine site to undergo transformation as part of HCA scheme

By Pete Hayman

The former Bickershaw Colliery site near Leigh, Lancashire, is set to be transformed as part of a major Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) scheme designed to regenerate the UK's coalfield communities.

Work on a new road into the site and the remediation of land to prepare for the revamp of the former coalfield is set to get underway after the HCA agreed to release £19.14m funding for the project.

Bickershaw South - the first phase of development plans - is set to include a 40-berth canal boat marina, 650 new homes and 2,750sg m (29,601sg ft) of employment space, incorporating food and drink outlets.

Future plans for the overhaul of the North West Regional



Work is set to get underway after £19.14m funding was agreed

Development Agency (NWDA)owned site could include a new country park, an 18-hole golf course, a driving range and an outdoor activity centre at Bickershaw North.

Steven Broomhead, NWDA chief executive, said: "With the release of this funding, we will be able to fully remediate the

site and create an attractive prospect at Bickershaw."

Martin Kimber, director of environmental services at Wigan Council, added: "In the fullness of time it will be followed by a magnificent country park that will form the unofficial centre for the much bigger 'Greenheart' project."

Rhyl revamp plans drawn up

The Welsh Assembly Government has announced that 2DPP Shape, part of Welsh planning consultancy DPP, has been appointed to draw up a new masterplan for the redevelopment of West Rhyl, Denbighshire.

Architects, urban designers and regeneration specialists will form part of a team that will develop new plans for the regeneration of the area to the west of Rhyl's town centre, including the creation of green spaces and street refurbishment.

Trinity College in O2 lease talks

By Pete Hayman

Trinity College – part of the University of Cambridge – is reportedly in talks with Meridian Delta Dome Limited (MDDL) over the acquisition of the land lease for the O2 arena site in Greenwich, East London.

According to the *Sunday* Times newspaper, the institution has been in negotiations over the possibility of taking on the lease from Quintain Estates and Lend Lease, the two firms behind the MDDL joint venture.

In its interim management statement for the first quarter of 2009, Quintain Estates which has a 49 per cent stake



The land lease is on the market

in the site – revealed that "exclusive negotiations continue with a preferred bidder for the disposal of the group's interest".

The proposed sale of the land lease will not affect AEG Europe's status as the owner and operator of the venue.

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Britain still top of the table

Leisure visits to Britain increase despite recession



SANDIE DAWE is chief executive officer of VisitBritain

id-way through the British summer season, and although the economic downturn is having some effect on international travel, Britain is performing better than many other countries in these financially tough times.

Although business visits have dropped by 28 per cent compared to the first 5 months of last year, holiday visits have grown by 3 per cent. While ups and downs are presented to us, it is clear that Britain is still being favoured as a place to go on holiday.

Near European countries are performing better than this time last year, particularly France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands. Visits from these countries were no doubt helped by the weak pound earlier this year. In these tough times, its Vive la France! Last year the country was our biggest market – overtaking the USA for the first time in a decade. Holidays from French visitors grew 53 per cent in the first quarter of 2009, compared with 2008.

It is believed that one in five of Brits that holidayed overseas in 2008, will be considering holidays here this year – that's potentially an extra 5 million of us holidaying at home. This is great news for reminding people of the brilliant adventures that are on their own doorsteps, without having to leave the country, especially with the bank holiday fast approaching! So although circumstances may mean 2009 continues to be a challenging year, there are plenty of signs that Britain will do better than most.

£1bn Heathrow T2 plans unveiled

New eco-friendly terminal to cater for 20 million passengers each year

By Pete Hayman

BAA has unveiled plans for the new £1bn Terminal Two building at London's Heathrow Airport, which has been designed to emit 40 per cent less carbon than the existing second terminal facility.

The new development will cater for 20 million passengers each year and forms part of BAA's wider £4.8bn investment in improving services and facilities at one of the world's busiest airports.

Plans for Terminal Two, which will become the new home for Star Alliance airlines, include 11,300sq m (121,632sq ft) of floor space to accommodate self-service check-in facilities, fast-bag drops, traditional check-in desks and 15 security search lanes.

Initial designs drawn up by international architects Foster + Partners and developed by HETCo – a joint venture comprising Ferrovial Agroman and Laing O'Rourke –



A new Terminal 2 is planned for Heathrow

also incorporate a two-level departure lounge with large windows to reduce the need for artificial lighting and solar panels to further reduce energy dependency.

Building work will be carried out in two phases, with the first set to include a 185,000sq m (2 million sq ft) building on the site of the existing Terminal 2.

Further decline in inbound visits to Ireland



Visits to Ireland have continued to decline

By Pete Hayman

Figures published by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) show a 15.1 per cent decline in the number of visitors to Ireland during June 2009, compared with last year.

According to the new CSO statistics, sharp falls in the number of UK and European visitors resulted in just 636,600 trips made to Ireland during June this year, a decline from 750,000 in June 2008.

The CSO has also reported that the number of Irish residents travelling abroad in June 2009 declined by 7.6 per cent.

Tour of Britain boost for Scottish cycle tourism

Cycling-based tourism in Scotland could be in line for a boost after the route for the Scottish Stage of the 2009 Tour of Britain cycle race was announced by first minister Alex Salmond.

It is hoped that the 150km (93-mile) route between Peebles, Scottish Borders, and Gretna Green, Dumfries and Galloway, will help to consolidate

Scotland's position as a high quality cycling destination and increase participation in the sport.

A partnership between EventScotland, Scottish Borders Council and Dumfries and Galloway Council has helped to secure the Scottish Stage for the southern and borders region, which will be staged on 14 September.



Funding will be used to establish more sports coaching positions

Government to create new jobs

£1bn employment scheme targeted at young people

By Pete Hayman

The government has pledged to create up to 47,000 new jobs, including sports coaching positions and roles in the green sector, for young people and the long-term unemployed.

Work and pensions secretary Yvette Cooper said that 117 bidders are already set to receive funding from the £1bn Future Jobs Fund, which is available to local authorities and other organisations to create around 150,000 new jobs.

The fund will also contribute to the Backing Young Britain

campaign launched by Cooper along with business secretary Peter Mandelson, schools secretary Ed Balls and communities secretary John Denham.

Cooper said: "We are determined not to lose a generation of talent as has happened in the past because of the global recession. This is why we are announcing 47,000 new jobs for young people."

A further £40m will help boost the Backing Young Britain campaign to fund more than 20,000 internships for young people to obtain higher quality work experience.

Focus awarded academy status

Focus Training has been awarded the status of National and Regional Academy Provider for Health and Fitness by the National Skills Academy for Sport and Active Leisure (NSA).

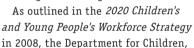
Focus has also been enlisted to deliver the NSA's health and fitness training in north west England after being awarded Academy Provider for Health and Fitness in the region. As an approved provider, Focus will be signposted by NSA to employers seeking training solutions.

Dan Rees, operations director at Focus Training, said: "Academy Providers and Centres of Excellence must adhere to the high quality standards set by the Skills Academy and the impact of this will be seen with the improved workforce in our industry."

Working with young people is not child's play

The sector requires a commonality of skills to provide services and facilities for kids

Back in 2005, the Department for Education and Skills published the 'common core' – a document outlining the skills and knowledge required when working with young people in a variety of settings. This set of skills and knowledge covered areas such as effective communication, child development, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the child, supporting transitions, multi-agency working and sharing information.





Skills Active

STEPHEN STUDD is
chief executive of
Skills Active

Schools and Families announced a 'refresh' of the common core to examine the content and extent of implementation of these skills and knowledge and ensuring it is relevant, user-friendly and used by more people in the children's workforce.

The Active Leisure and Learning Sector is one of the biggest sectors working with children and young people. Playwork aside, sport, fitness and the outdoors all have participation from children and young people and specific targets to get more of them engaged with physical activity and the outdoors. This is particularly relevant through the government's specific social cohesion, obesity and grassroots agendas – engaging young people is high on the agenda at every level.

Through our role of ensuring we have the right people with the right skills to deliver across the sector, we have made sure that the current common core principles are embedded within national occupational standards – the competencies that roles are based on. Meaning that those working in the sector should have the skills, qualification and knowledge required to do so.

However, as the sector develops, so must the skills and training of the workforce. With this in mind, SkillsActive is working with key partners across the children's workforce running a series of consultations to ensure that the common core skills and knowledge are appropriately updated.

It is crucial that employers and practitioners from sport, fitness, the outdoors, and caravan industries, as well as the playwork sector, have their say in these consultations, in order to influence the refreshed outcomes and provide a common core which is accessible and meaningful for those working with children in the sector, so they can provide the best possible service for young people using their facilities and services.

For more information, or to take part in the consultation, visit: www.skillsactive.com/events. This is your chance to influence the sector's future when it comes to young people.



MA Sport Management and Leadership

This new and innovative course is of particular relevance to experienced professionals such as sport managers and administrators and others involved in the sport and leisure industry who wish to develop their skills in management and leadership.

The programme offers opportunities for professional, personal and career development and focuses on applied and experiential learning. Modules include principles of management and leadership, organisational strategy, planning for business performance and leadership in sports organisations.

Teaching Pattern

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Further Information: Dr Nicola Bolton email: njbolton@uwic.ac.uk or css@uwic.ac.uk Tel: 020 2041 6591

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Both publications are essential references for industry

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

To find out more please visit

www.shu.ac.uk/ad/sportandleisure

Or contact Susie Shaw Phone 0114 225 5919 Fax 0114 225 4341 Email s.shaw@shu.ac.uk





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Contact: Joan Evans, HRM, SOLL Leisure, Tilsley Park, Abingdon, OX14 IPU. 01235 524524 or mobile 07795 293079 Email: jevans@soll-leisure.co.uk

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For further information and/or an application pack please contact Dave Pond, Duty Manager (Recreation) on 01963 824400 or email davepond@wincantonsports.co.uk

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For further information please contact Steve Howell, Head of Sport & Leisure on 0191 383 5728.

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Head Junior Aquatic Development Coach x 2 posts

Grade 6 £22,730 to £26,016 (bar at £25,220) pro rata Ref: NB50677797/15

Location: Manchester Aquatics Centre, Booth Street, Ardwick, Manchester M13 9SS Hours: 17.5 per week. Fixed-term contract for 3 years

As part of Manchester City Council's Swimming Strategy, in conjunction with the Amateur Swimming Association, a Beacon Programme has been established for Manchester. The positions of Head Junior Aquatic Development Coaches have been identified as critical to the implementation and delivery of the Beacon Programme.

Based within the Sport Development Section, you will help to deliver coaching in the city's Coaching Programme. You will deliver and provide a clear swimming pathway in the city, support local clubs' ASA 'SWIM21' / Sport England's 'ClubMark' accreditation and generally strengthen aquatic clubs, whilst contributing towards increasing participation, increasing sporting performances and widening access to aquatic disciplines.

We are looking for a self motivated individual, committed to improving opportunities for young people of Manchester. You will be part of a supportive team which has been nationally recognised for its partnership work and which strives to achieve high standards in all areas.

Candidates must display evidence of a thorough understanding of the sports development process, especially in relation to local, regional and national plans.

Short-listing will take place on 21st September 2009 and interviews will be on 1st and 2nd October 2009

Basketball Development Manager

Grade 7 £26,784 to £29,714 (bar at £28,947) Ref: NB50678380/15

Location: Sport Development Centre, Denmark Road, Hulme, Manchester M15 6FG Hours: 35 per week. Fixed-term contract for 3 years

As part of Manchester City Council's Basketball Strategy, in partnership with England Basketball and The Greater Manchester Community Basketball Club, a new Management position has been created to strategically lead the development of Basketball in Manchester.

Based within the Sport Development Section, you will facilitate partnerships between Schools, Sports Colleges, Basketball clubs and other key strategic stakeholders associated with the Manchester Basketball Programme, and provide leadership and support across all programme areas.

We are looking for a self-motivated individual, committed to improving opportunities for young people of Manchester. You will be part of a supportive team which has been nationally recognised for its partnership work and which strives to achieve high standards in all areas.

Candidates must display evidence of a thorough understanding of the sports development process, especially in relation to local, regional and national plans.

Basketball Head Coach

Grade 6 £22,730 to £26,016 (bar at £25,220) Ref: NB50678480/15

Location: Sport Development Centre, Denmark Road, Hulme, Manchester M15 6FG Hours: 17.5 per week. Fixed-term contract for 3 years

As part of Manchester City Council's Basketball Strategy, in partnership with England Basketball, a new Head Coach position has been created to develop the Basketball coaching infrastructure in Manchester.

Based within the Sport Development Section, you will be responsible for all aspects of a city wide coaching programme with a specific remit to develop the existing coaching infrastructure. You will work with Schools, Sports Colleges, Basketball clubs and other key strategic stakeholders associated with the Manchester Basketball Programme, and provide leadership and support across all coaching programme areas

We are looking for a self-motivated individual, committed to improving opportunities for young people of Manchester. You will be part of a supportive team which has been nationally recognised for its partnership work and which strives to achieve high standards in all areas.

Candidates must display evidence of a thorough knowledge of the structure of Basketball both locally and nationally and be a holder of the England Basketball Level 3 coaching award.

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Application forms and further details are available from: Recruitment Services, Personnel Shared Service Centre, Corporate Services, Belle Vue Centre Offices, Level 1,

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For full details of the post and an application form please visit www.sussexsport.org or phone Michelle Collier on 01273 643869.

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Alongside the building of a new teaching block and Sports Hall through BSF St Bede's has been successful in securing Football Foundation funding to build a 3G all weather pitch along with new changing facilities, the building of which is underway. We now seek to employ a dynamic individual with the necessary enthusiasm and commitment to make a real difference to the development of grassroots football and sport within our College and the North Bristol community.

The post is subject to an enhanced CRB check and validation of references.

Closing date for applications to St Bede's Catholic College is midday on Friday 4th September 2009.

Application form and details available from the Principal at the above address or during school holidays from Nick Baker, County Development Manager, Gloucestershire Football Association Ltd. Email nick.baker@gloucestershirefa.com



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ENVIRONMENT & CULTURE

LEISURE SERVICES – DANES CAMP LEISURE CENTRE

Duty Officer

£22,001- £26,016 pa Ref 469 (Subject to Pay and Grading Review)

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Danes Camp Leisure Centre offers a wide range of facilities including Trilogy Gym, Sports Hall, Leisure Pool & Flume, Climbing Wall and Multi Activity Rooms.

You will need to have Duty Manager experience within a busy leisure environment, excellent leadership and customer service skills and a track record in leisure. Ideally you will hold a current RLSS National Pool Lifeguard Qualification and First Aid Certificate.

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Northampton Leisure services has achieved Quest, Customer Service Excellence (Charter Mark), IFI accreditation, TAES and has reached the APSE Final for service Team of the year 2009. We would like a candidate with the skills to maintain and develop the success our service has already achieved.

Closing Date: Thursday 17th September 2009.

Interview Date: Week Commencing 28th September 2009.

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- Increase the awareness of physical activity to various target groups which include older people and people with medical conditions.
- Assist in the implementation and delivery of county and district wide strategies which focus on physical activity and health promotion.
- Effective partnership working with local, regional and national agencies. Your substantial experience in exercise and health promotion will be supported by a sport, exercise science or health related degree. Effective communication and presentation skills are essential as is the ability to organise, manage and prioritise a complex and varied work-load.

After reading the application pack, if you would like an informal discussion about the post, please contact Ian Munday, Leisure Services Manager, on (01749) 341267.

Closing date for applications is Monday, 7 September 2009. Interviews for this post will be held on Friday, 25 September 2009.

For further details and an application pack, please visit the 'vacancies' page on our web site www.mendip.gov.uk or telephone (01749) 648999 quoting Post No. 4127.





Mendip District Council is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

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Corporate Services, Sport and Physical Activity

Health and Fitness Manager

This is an exceptional opportunity to join the University of Leeds at an exciting time in Sport and Physical Activity. The new £12.5m swimming pool and 200 station fitness suite will open in the Spring of 2010 and being part of this development will provide an excellent opportunity to further your career within a challenging and dynamic service.

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University Grade 7 (£29,704 - £35,469 p.a.)

Informal enquiries to Mr Bill Butterworth tel +44 (0)113 343 4921 email w.j.c.butterworth@leeds.ac.uk

For an application pack visit www.leeds.ac.uk and click on jobs or contact James Winn tel +44 (0)113 343 5080 email sport@leeds.ac.uk

Job ref 211082 Closing date 1pm 11 September 2009

Interviews will take place 24 September 2009

Find out more about our exciting development at www.leeds.ac.uk/sportsrevolution

We welcome applications from all sections of the community. Textphone for deaf applicants only +44 (0)113 343 4353. All information is available in alternative formats please contact +44 (0)113 343 4146.

DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE & SPORT

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Ref: LAT0124

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A proactive and committed team member, you will be able to effectively manage a team and individuals, work to deadlines and use your excellent communication and negotiating skills to successfully develop and deliver a range of projects across Reading.

For more information, please contact **Lisa Pearce**, Sport Reading Service Manager, on **0118 901 5723**.

Closing date: 6 September 2009 Interview date: 22 September 2009

To apply

Application forms can be downloaded or completed online at www.reading.gov.uk

Alternatively, email: recruitment@reading.gov.uk or call 0118 939 0039 (24 hour answerphone) quoting the relevant reference number and stating which position you are interested in.

Please do not send a CV. For the purposes of equal opportunities, we can only accept Reading Borough Council application forms.

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The Gym Group opens third site in central London

New London site houses 170-station health suite and offers flat membership rates of £14.99 per month

By Tom Walker

Low-cost health club operator The Gym Group (TGG) has opened its third site with a new fitness suite at St Georges Wharf in Vauxhall, London.

Facilities include a 170-station gym supplied by Matrix and the club is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with a flat membership rate of £14.99 per month with no contracts.

TGG is headed by John Treharne – former boss of Dragons Health Clubs – and financed by Bridges Ventures. Bridges Ventures, a venture capital company, invested in The Gym as part of its social mission to support facilities in underprivileged areas in the UK and to enable large portions of the local community to enjoy the benefits of a low cost gym membership.

Further clubs are planned in Liverpool and Manchester. TGG already operates clubs in Hounslow and Guildford.

John Treharne, CEO, said:
"We plan to open two further
gyms in Manchester and
Liverpool this autumn."



The Gym Group already operates clubs in Hounslow and Guildford

Dance and teenage fitness become more popular

By Tom Walker

Dance classes, teen fitness and exercise involving a mind-body aspect are among activities that will increase in popularity among gym members.

The annual Programs & Equipment Trends Report by US-based IDEA Health and Fitness Association (IDEA) shows that 81 per cent of clubs taking part in the survey expected mind and body



Pilates is also gaining ground

classes to become more in demand in the future, while only 16 per cent currently offer them. Other activities deemed to have the most growth potential include teen fitness (30 per cent offer classes, while 61 per cent expect them to increase in popularity); social activity groups, such as walking groups (45 per cent/55 per cent) and dance classes (39 per cent/52 per cent).

Pilates has also gained ground, as the percentage of clubs possessing Pilates equipment has risen from 29 in 2001 to 44 in 2009.

Dimplex for Staveley facility

Staveley, Derbyshire's Healthy Living Centre has installed Dimplex ARC architectural air curtains as part of a list of energy saving measures.

The £8m health, sport and leisure centre, which opened in March 2008, generates up to 40 per cent of its energy requirements from low carbon sources.

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