Community sports clubs in the UK 'defying recession'

By Pete Hayman

Community sports clubs across the UK are withstanding the recession after reporting an increase in membership levels, according to new research by the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR).

An independent study of 3,000 clubs – commissioned by the CCPR every other year to gauge the state of grass-roots sports – found that 34 per cent had seen an increase in the number of adult memberships and 40 per cent in junior memberships.

A total of 73 sports were represented in the Survey of Sports Clubs 2009, with sailing, motor sports and junior football among the sports to report the largest growth since 2007. It is hoped that the results from the CCPR study demonstrate the positive effect of the government's attempts to increase the number of people participating in sport ahead of the London 2012 Olympics through additional levels of investment.

CCPR chief executive Tim Lamb said: "Hopefully, what we're beginning to see is the fruit of policies designed to deliver a legacy from the Olympic Games, bringing more people into more clubs. It shouldn't be any surprise that people are joining their local sports club despite the current financial downturn – communities tend to come to the fore during crises and sports clubs are at the very heart of communities."

Despite the increase in membership levels, the recession has impacted on finances, with the average profit per club declining by a third due to increasing costs.

David Lloyd unveils £1.5m Raynes Park proposals

Indoor bowling alley and children's centre scheduled for completion in early 2010

By Pete Hayman

A new indoor bowling alley and a purpose-built children's centre are set to be created as part of a £1.5m scheme unveiled by David Lloyd Leisure (DLL) to improve leisure facilities in Raynes Park, London.

DLL's main health club in Raynes Park will remain unaffected by work on the scheme, which will result in a complete overhaul of the area's existing bowling facilities. The new venue will operate under the DLKids brand.

The DLKids venue will offer a range of children's activities

A range of activities and programmes for families with children will be provided by the DLKids venue, which will be linked to the revamped bowling venue to offer educational and fitness sessions, play and after-school activities.

DLKids currently offers more than 2,000 activities each week across the country, including sessions for specific age groups, sports coaching led by specialist instructors and pre- and post-natal activities.

The new facilities, which have been designed for use by the local community, will be open to both members and non-members and are scheduled for completion in early 2010.

Harlow complex opening delayed

A problem with the installation of fire dampers at the new £25m Leisurezone leisure complex in Harlow, Essex, has forced the opening of the facility to be put on hold.

Forming part of the wider Harlow Gateway regeneration scheme, it had been hoped that Abingdon-based contractor Leadbitter would hand over the venue to the Gateway partners by Christmas 2009.
Revamp for Staffordshire arboretum

National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas to undergo £8m redevelopment

By Pete Hayman

The National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) in Alrewas, Staffordshire, is set to undergo a £8m refurbishment, which aims to transform the 150-acre (61-hectare) site into a major centre for remembrance.

Established in 1997, the arboretum has seen more than 50,000 trees planted and is home to 160 memorials, including the Armed Forces Memorial dedicated to 16,000 service personnel who have died on duty since 1945.

The revamp will include an Armed Forces Pavilion, a 'Heroes Square', an exhibition space and an education facility, while Glenn Howells Architects has been appointed to remodel the landscape to unite the existing and new buildings.

NMA chief executive Charles Bagot Jewitt said: "The brief was to design a scheme which not only accommodates the increased visitor numbers but is also a fitting tribute to those that have given their lives in the service of their country.

"The team have created building and event space which we believe will inspire all that pass through our doors and add greatly to the experience of a visit."

Support for British forces in Iraq and Afghanistan has led to an increase in visitors to the NMA and it is expected that the site will attract nearly 500,000 visitors each year.

The revamp will include new exhibition spaces and a pavilion

Parkwood axes sunbeds from leisure centres

By Tom Walker

Health club operator and management contractor Parkwood Leisure has become the latest operator to remove all sunbeds from its sites.

According to Andrew Holt, managing director, the decision to remove all tanning equipment by 1 January 2010 was made after the group reviewed research conducted by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).

Holt said: "Having considered the latest research in this area, we now feel that removing the sunbeds is in the best interests of our customers. "Health and safety is our number one priority and always will be. Our local authority clients have given us their unanimous support."

"I am pleased to see that the sunbeds removed."

Parkwood will remove the beds from all of its 81 sites

Lorraine Langdon, a member at Cardiff International Pool, which is operated by Parkwood, said she was relieved to see the sunbeds removed.

"I am pleased to see that the sunbeds are being removed from our centre. I think they are detrimental to our health and it is good to see that customers and members’ health alike are being taken into consideration."

In July, a report by IARC declared that it had established a "clear link" between sunbeds and skin cancer.

The IARC, the World Health Organisation’s agency for research into cancer, reclassified sunbeds as a Group 1 agent and determined them to be "carcinogenic to humans". The move means that sunbeds and artificial tanning systems are now deemed to pose a risk to human health.

Katy Scammell, Cancer Research UK’s SunSmart manager, said: "Sunbeds have no real health benefits and we’re really pleased to hear that Parkwood Leisure are removing them from their leisure centres."
New Medieval gallery opened at V&A

New £30m gallery includes 10 exhibition spaces and more than 1,800 artefacts

By Luke Tuchscherer

The Victoria & Albert Museum (V&A) in London has opened its new Medieval and Renaissance Gallery, as part of a £120m revamp project.

Spanning the east wing of the museum, the gallery’s 10 exhibition spaces contain artefacts dating between 300 and 1600 and feature exhibitions including Medieval Monasteries, Gothic Architecture, Charlemagne and Aachen and Rudolph II & Prague.

Some of the objects include stained glass from Mairawald Abbey in Germany, an oak staircase from Morlaix, France, the Book of Trades (Das Standebuch) from Frankfurt and an edition of Aesop’s Fables published in 1485. In total, the galleries present more than 1,800 objects from the medieval and renaissance collections.

The gallery was designed by MUMA (McInnes, Usher, McKnight Architects) and was partly funded by grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The wider plans for the museum, named the FuturePlan project, were put into action in 2001, when the £30m British Galleries were opened.

The next phase of the project is the completion of the Ceramic Galleries, which is scheduled to open next year.

UK leisure companies returning to recruitment

By Tom Walker

Only a fraction of leisure and hospitality businesses are looking to cut jobs in the new year, with 89 per cent of companies either looking to recruit new blood or keep current staff levels.

A study from banking giant Santander shows that only five per cent of small and medium-sized UK companies plan to shed jobs during 2010, with a quarter (24 per cent) looking to create new positions.

The figures seem to buck the trend of job cuts across other industries. The overall number of unemployed people in the UK has reached a 14-year high of nearly three million.

Steve Pateman, head of Santander Corporate Banking, said: “SMEs have proved remarkably resilient throughout the recession. It is encouraging to see the confidence recorded in our report may be translated into jobs.”
Council unveils Wakefield pool plans

New £10m centre to include 25m swimming pool and 130-station health club

By Tom Walker

Detailed plans for a new multi-million-pound swimming pool and fitness complex in the centre of Wakefield, West Yorkshire, have been unveiled by the local authority.

The scheme, which is expected to cost at least £10m and will be situated on the site of the former Sun Lane baths, will now be the subject of a two-week consultation.

Wakefield Council's proposals include an eight-lane, 25m swimming pool and a 13m by 7m learner pool, both boasting moveable floors to allow more members of the local community to have access to the facility.

A 130-station fitness suite, a multi-use activity studio and a health suite with spa bath, steamroom and sauna are also earmarked as part of the project, as well as a 200-capacity spectator viewing area and a café.

Denise Jeffery, deputy leader and cabinet member for sport and regeneration at Wakefield Council, said: "Last year we promised people we would work towards building a fantastic new pool in the city and we are now moving forward in earnest.

"This is a major project and one we are determined to get right - these things don't happen overnight and a lot of work has been going on in the background. Now we can show people our initial thoughts and look forward to hearing people's responses as we move towards a planning application early next year."

The two-week, public consultation into the plans will be held between 30 November and 13 December.

Council grant for referral centre

By Tom Walker

A £250,000 revamp of the Fitness @ The Leisure Centre facility at Stevenage Arts & Leisure Centre in Hertfordshire is set for completion this month.

The Stevenage Borough Council funded project will provide an expanded open plan gym facility, including 47 new pieces of G7 strength range equipment by Matrix Fitness System, to meet the increased number of GP referrals from local surgeries and the Lister Hospital.

A new entrance to allow easy access for wheelchair users, a new changing area and a new cycle studio will also be built.

"This is a major project and one we are determined to get right - these things don't happen overnight and a lot of work has been going on in the background. Now we can show people our initial thoughts and look forward to hearing people's responses as we move towards a planning application early next year."

The leisure centre currently receives 170 GP referrals each week for patients suffering from a range of ailments.

Kids not getting enough exercise

Parents have been warned to "take off the blinkers" over how active their children are to prevent an increase in childhood obesity levels, according to new research from the British Heart Foundation.

The new Couch Kids report found that 71 per cent of parents believe their children to be "active enough", despite just 11 per cent of young people doing the recommended daily hour of physical activity. According to the BHF, schools need to maximise the opportunities to participate in physical activities.

In Brief

IFI recognition for Sencio

Sencio Community Leisure has secured the Inclusive Fitness Initiative’s (IFI) provisional level status. The Kent-based operator has achieved the accreditation for its work at Sevenoaks Leisure Centre, which it manages on behalf of the local council.

Mark Whyman, Sencio Community Leisure's chief executive, said: "Access to facilities and opportunities for everyone has always been key to our operation and we are constantly looking to develop and serve the needs of our customers better."

Firm appointed to complete Louth complex

Lincoln-based Gelders Group has been appointed by East Lindsey District Council to complete the final stages of work on a new £12m leisure centre in Louth. The council had been due to take ownership of the Meridian Leisure Centre in December 2009, but has now admitted it is unsure when the complex will open after construction company UCS Civils entered administration in November 2009.

Facilities at the new centre will include a 25m, eight-lane swimming pool, a fitness suite with sauna and steamroom, a child care area with outdoor and indoor play areas and a leisure pool with a flume.

Withington Leisure Centre reopens

Withington Leisure Centre in Manchester has reopened after a £200,000 refurbishment. The centre, which is operated by Manchester Sport and Leisure Trust on behalf of the city council, was closed in late September after a roof inspection found that a number of glazing panels above the swimming pool needed replacing.
Woodland workout scheme unveiled

Initiative aims to inspire people to get fit while contributing to upkeep of habitats

By Tom Walker

A new ‘woodland workout’ scheme has been launched in Lincolnshire to help people keep fit while also helping to improve wildlife habitats in two woodland areas near Wragsby and Market Rasen.

Developed in partnership between the Forestry Commission and Lincolnshire Lime-woods Project, the initiative at Osgodsby Wood and Great West Wood will include the removal of invasive species of plants and heathland restoration.

Adults are being encouraged to sign up to the scheme, which will offer training in the safe use of tools, while traditional woodland craft workshops will also be provided.

Hannah Darcel, the Forestry Commission’s health and wellbeing ranger, said: “The sessions are all about doing yourself and the environment the world of good. There are loads of tasks that need doing in the woods, from removing invading plants and trees, restoring heathland, opening up ponds and enhancing historic features.

“People are encouraged to work at their own pace and there’s also a real sense of creating new havens for wildlife.”

Ripon Leisure Centre to receive new fitness suite

By Tom Walker

A fitness suite is to be created at Ripon Leisure Centre, North Yorkshire, as part of a £285,000 scheme funded by Harrogate Borough Council (HBC) and Ripon City Council (RCC).

The venue’s original ground floor Brimhams’ Fitness Suite, will be developed into a free weights training area as part of the project, which will create one of HBC’s largest fitness facilities, boasting 209sq m (2,250sq ft) of gym space. Technogym will supply 36 pieces of equipment for the new suite. Earlier this year, HBC secured a deal to take over the freehold transfer of Ripon Leisure Centre from RCC, having previously run the venue under a leasehold/management contract. RCC has also provided £125,000 to invest in the centre.

HBC spokesperson, Andrew Jones, said: “We have set up an investment pot to make sure that the equipment at the centre can be renewed at regular intervals.”

£850,000 revamp for Berwick leisure centre

Construction work has started on a £850,000 redevelopment of the Swan Centre for Leisure in Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland, which is to be delivered in three stages.

The first phase of the scheme, which is being managed by operator Tees Active, will see Createability convert an existing 500sq m (5,382sq ft) soft play area into a new 65-station gym equipped with Technogym cv and resistance equipment.

Scheduled for completion by January 2010, stage one also includes a new 800sq m (8,611sq ft) spinning studio, a refurbished coffee area and upgraded changing facilities.
Odeon and UCI to roll out digital theatres

Odeon & UCI Cinemas Group (OUGC) is to install digital projectors to the remainder of its sites, after securing distribution deals with three leading Hollywood studios. OUGC, Europe’s largest cinema chain, which operates the Odeon, UCI and Cinesa brands, already has 187 digital screens within its portfolio. The fitting of the remaining cinemas with digital theatres will cost more than £70m to complete, and be funded over time by a combination of contributions from the three studios as well as the earnings derived from the improved programming offer.

The three studios which will part fund the new projectors are Twentieth Century Fox, Paramount Pictures and Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures international.

Camelot sets deadline for Lottery bids

Prospective bidders for the majority stake in National Lottery operator Camelot – said to be more than 20 – were told that offers must be in by 18 November. The deadline was extended due to delays in documentation. Four of the five equal shareholders in Camelot – Cadbury, Thales Electronics, De La Rue and Fujitsu – have appointed NM Rothschild and La Rue and Fujitsu – have appointed NM Rothschild and Devised by former general manager of the city’s Tiger Tiger, Doug Waldron, the new club offers groups the opportunity to book booths with table service and has cost nearly £1m to fit out, including an £80,000 sound system.

Covering two floors, Entourage has a capacity for 800 people.

The plans were approved by the Blackburn with Darwen council.

Approval for Lancashire holiday village

Pleasington Lakes development to include 94 holiday lodges and three new lakes

By Pete Hayman

Plans for a new holiday village near Blackburn, Lancashire, have been approved by Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council (BDBC) despite local opposition.

The proposed Pleasington Lakes development comprises the creation of three new lakes surrounded by 94 holiday lodges, a members’ facility building and a car park.

Manchester-based Castleland’s plans for the 46.6 hectare (115-acre) site initially included more than 100 lodges, five lakes, a restaurant and a fitness suite, but were rejected by council planning officials in 2007. However, the developer’s planning application has now been approved by BDBC in spite of concerns raised by Tockholes Parish Council, Livesey Parish Council, Pleasington Parish Council, Natural England and the Campaign to Protect Rural England.

A report put before the council’s planning committee said: “The scheme represents a major development, which would result in a number of improvements across the site. “The holiday village is considered to be an acceptable form of development in this location and the revised design and layout of the proposals overcome previous concerns in relation to the harm to the landscape resulting from the number of lodges.”

Developer Michael Lewis said: “We now have the opportunity to create a major tourism facility in a stunning part of the world. “The views from the site which open over local nature make it an ideal place for people to come and relax.”

Entourage club for Manchester

Silverstone unveils course plans

Silverstone has unveiled plans for its new Stowe Complex, an experimental driving and test facility. The focal point of the centre will be a multi-surface 1.15-mile (1.85km) race track, designed to demonstrate chassis control systems like Electronic Stability Programme (ESP) and anti-lock braking system (ABS).

Alongside a split braking area, there will be a three-lane irrigated wet handling pad with different levels of grip, from sheet ice to standard wet tarmac. There will also be two hospitality buildings, built to cater for automotive and corporate events.

The new Stowe complex is expected to open during 2010.

The Stowe Complex is the first phase of a £7m development that will change the configurations of the existing Grand Prix circuit to cater for the Moto GP.

When complete, Silverstone will boast five different track configurations. The Stowe Complex is scheduled to be completed by March 2010.
The 6th edition of the Health Club Management Handbook, published in association with the Fitness Industry Association (FIA), is being distributed in January 2010. The handbook is a comprehensive guide and reference tool distributed to industry suppliers and operators, FIA members and to industry buyers at events such as LIW, SIBEC and IHRSA.

Copies will be available to purchase at £12.50 each and all content will be available online.

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London 2012 Games 'still on time, still on budget'

New figures from the government and the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) have shown that the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be delivered on time and on budget.

The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Quarterly Economic Report has seen a £7m increase in the cost of the ODA’s construction programme, which equates to an increase of less than 0.1 per cent. However, nothing from the £1.27bn contingency funding has been required to cover the increase due to savings achieved elsewhere as part of ongoing construction of the 2012 venues at the Olympic Park site.

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Rugby House unveiled at Twickenham

By Tom Walker

Rugby House, a new conference and events complex that forms part of the South Stand development at Twickenham Stadium, London, has been officially unveiled by Twickenham Experience Limited (TEL).

The purpose-built facility features an additional 5,000sq m (53,820sq ft) of space for conferences and exhibitions, while the venue’s Live Room boasts a stage and tiered seating for 400 people to cater for live performances and presentations.

Receptions for 600 guests can also be accommodated at the Live Room, which forms part of the Rugby House development along with the Rose Suite – capable of holding dinners for up to 800 people.

Chris Morris, managing director of TEL – a joint venture between the Rugby Football Union and caterer Compass Group said: “Our aim is to ensure that Twickenham remains the leading player on the international stage.”

The development also includes the four-star, 156-bedroom London Marriott Hotel Twickenham, which features six suites overlooking the pitch with balcony access.

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Glasgow 2014 preparations 'making progress'

By Tom Walker

Preparations for the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow are “making progress” but need to be properly managed to ensure costs are kept under control, according to a new report.

Audit Scotland’s Progress report on planning for the delivery of the XXth Commonwealth Games 2014 states that organisers need to ensure all areas of delivery – including venues, security and ticketing – are brought together in order to manage risks through to the event and beyond. The report comes just after it was revealed the budget for hosting the 2014 Commonwealth Games has increased to £454m due to uncertainty over the sale of domestic broadcasting rights.

Caroline Gardner, deputy auditor general, said: “In the current economic climate public sector finances are already under pressure and it is essential that the organisers keep all costs tightly under control.”

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Eston pool reopens after revamp

By

Eston swimming pool in Middlesbrough has opened its doors following a £200,000 facelift. The work is part of a £2.4m investment in the centre, which is run by Tees Valley Leisure. Upgraded facilities include changing rooms with newly installed cubicles and lockers, new poolside surrounds, a new filtration system and easy access steps for bathers.

Refurbishments are also planned for the borough’s other leisure sites for 2010 and 2011 as part of the council’s long term commitment to improve the region’s leisure provision.

South Lanarks. leisure projects on course

South Lanarkshire Leisure’s new leisure facility – South Lanarkshire Lifestyles Lanark – is nearing completion and is set to open in January 2010. The new structure houses a 25m, 6-lane swimming pool with a health suite; a gym; a fitness studio; a Starbucks coffee shop; changing areas and a covered link to the adjacent Harry Smith Complex, an adult day care centre.

General manager Gerry Campbell said: “Having all of these new facilities under one roof will encourage customers to try different leisure activities, and perhaps increase overall levels of physical activity.”

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New community venue set for Middlesbrough

By

A new sports and community facility is set to be built as part of a scheme to rejuvenate the Central Whinney Banks in Middlesbrough, after the local authority backed the plans. The new three-storey venue will boast meeting rooms and changing facilities for adjacent sports pitches, as well as space for community activities.

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More funding for Ravenscraig scheme

Grant earmarked to kick start second phase of ambitious regeneration plans

By Pete Hayman

Scottish Enterprise, North Lanarkshire Council (NLC) and developer Wilson Bowden have agreed to contribute £2m towards the second phase of a scheme to regenerate the former Ravenscraig steelworks.

The funding will be used to help draw up detailed planning briefs for the 450-hectare (1,250-acre) site in central Scotland, which will examine the options for developing a new town centre, an industrial area and a business park.

The £200m first phase of the Ravenscraig scheme has included the construction of a new regional sports facility, boasting a full-size indoor football pitch, a 120m athletics track with field event training areas and a sports hall. Wilson Bowden and Scottish Enterprise have both contributed £800,000 towards the second phase, along with a £400,000 contribution from the council, which will help to outline future costs of the second phase and the level of public sector funding required.

Liz Connolly, Scottish Enterprise’s operations director, said: "This is a long term project and it is important that all partners involved can evaluate progress."

### IN BRIEF

**Glasgow Rangers posts £31m annual loss**

- Glasgow Rangers Football Club (GRFC) has insisted that there is no need to sell players in the January transfer window, despite reporting a £31m loss for the year ending 30 June 2009.
- Compared with the previous 12 months, the Scottish Premier League champion’s turnover fell by 38 per cent due to a lack of participation in European competitions and a decline in ticketing and hospitality revenue caused by a 19-match reduction during the 2009-09 season.

**Burnley FC optimistic despite £8.9m loss**

- Burnley Football Club (BFC) has revealed that it expects promotion to the Premier League to generate more than £30m, helping to offset losses of £8.9m for the year ending 30 June 2009.
- The club’s match-related income increased by 47 per cent for the 2008-09 season as a result of extended runs in both the FA Cup and Carling Cup tournaments, as well as reaching the Coca-Cola Championship playoff final.
- BFC chair Barry Kilby also confirmed that plans for the redevelopment of the club’s Turf Moor stadium could be revisited if Premier League survival is secured, after the scheme was shelved due to the economic downturn at the start of 2009.

**New £800,000 pavilion for Woodmansterne**

- Kent County Cricket Club (KCCC) has been handed a £4m loan to help fund the multi-million pound redevelopment of its St Lawrence Ground, Canterbury, by the local authority.
- The club revealed that it approached Canterbury City Council to provide financial support towards the scheme on the grounds it met with a series of economic and wellbeing objectives.
- Plans for the redevelopment of the St Lawrence Ground include a hotel, a health and fitness centre, a conference suite and revamped spectator facilities, as well as hospitality boxes.

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### Kent CCC loan approved

Kent County Cricket Club (KCCC) has been handed a £4m loan to help fund the multi-million pound redevelopment of its St Lawrence Ground, Canterbury, by the local authority.

The club revealed that it approached Canterbury City Council to provide financial support towards the scheme on the grounds it met with a series of economic and wellbeing objectives.

Plans for the redevelopment of the St Lawrence Ground include a hotel, a health and fitness centre, a conference suite and revamped spectator facilities, as well as hospitality boxes.

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### Government rejects Everton plans

By Pete Hayman

Everton Football Club and Tesco have been left “bitterly disappointed” at a decision to reject plans for the transformation of Kirkby, Liverpool, which would have included a new 50,000-seat stadium.

Communities secretary John Denham blocked the scheme, following a public inquiry after Knowsley Council approved planning permission.

In addition to the new stadium, proposals for the Destination Kirkby scheme also included improvements to the town centre, new leisure facilities, a new Tesco Extra superstore, office space and a housing development.

Everton CEO, Robert Elstone, said: "We’re all bitterly disappointed with the decision as we felt that we had compiled and presented a most compelling case for the project."

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Plans for the redevelopment of the St Lawrence Ground include a hotel, a health and fitness centre, a conference suite and revamped spectator facilities, as well as hospitality boxes.
**IN BRIEF**

**New scheme to promote the Heart of England**

A joint marketing campaign – Heart of England Adventures – has been launched in a bid to promote a number of visitor attractions across the West Midlands region. The Key Attractions Group (KAG), which was set up in 2008, is comprised of a range of tourist destinations, including Ironbridge Gorge Museums, Alton Towers, Drayton Manor Theme Park, Warwick Castle and Cadbury World. Visitors will be provided with travel advice, ticket information and offers as part of the new campaign, which is being funded by KAG and the regional development agency, Advantage West Midlands.

**Temporary exhibition opens at Austen centre**

A temporary exhibition showcasing how Christmas was celebrated two centuries ago has opened at the Jane Austen Centre in Bath. The centre is running a special exhibition which gives a glimpse into how the famous writer and her family enjoyed the holiday season, including the types of food eaten, games played and how they decorated their home. Regency Christmas at the Jane Austen Centre runs between 21 November 2009 and 3 January 2010.

**Hastings Pier deal collapses**

The future of a historic pier in Hastings, East Sussex, remains uncertain after the owners of the Grand Pier in Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, pulled out of a deal to acquire the attraction. Kerry and Michelle Michael of Grand Pier Limited, which is currently redeveloping of Weston-super-Mare’s Grand Pier, decided not to go ahead with the purchase due to the £24m cost of restoring the pier.

**Jewish museum reopening delayed**

Heritage attraction to relaunch in March 2010 following £4.3m redevelopment

By Tom Walker

The Jewish Museum London will reopen to the public on Wednesday 17 March 2010, four months later than originally planned. The museum, located in Camden Town, has undergone a £10m redevelopment which has resulted in the museum tripling in space in order to accommodate its collections, which are currently housed at two separate sites in Camden and Finchley. The revamp, funded partly by a £4.3m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, has divided the museum into five galleries, with four permanent ones and one earmarked for temporary and touring exhibitions.

The Welcome gallery will include a multimedia installation, highlighting the background of Jewish people living in Britain today, and a mikveh (a ritual bath) dating to the medieval period. The other new galleries are the History Gallery, which includes an interactive exhibition exploring the history of British Jews; the Religion Gallery, which explores Jewish ethics and values; a special exhibitions gallery for travelling exhibits; and the Holocaust Education Gallery. Other additions will include a 100-seat auditorium, an educational suite for children, a research library and shop.

When open, the museum is expected to attract more than 165,000 visitors a year. Founded initially in London’s Bloomsbury in 1932, the Jewish Museum relocated to its current location in a listed property in 1995.

**New exhibition for Cornish museum**

The National Maritime Museum Cornwall (NMM) is to launch a major new exhibition on lighthouses in the new year.

Called Lighthouses: Life on the Rocks, the exhibition opens in February 2010 and will run for two years.

The installation’s artefacts will include old sketchbooks and photos taken by former lighthouse keepers, as well as large objects, including solid bronze doors from the Bishop Rock lighthouse and a four-tonne optic used to reflect light from the tower.

Part funded by a £30,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the exhibition was designed by Falmouth-based Gendall Design.

**New museum projects for Mivan**

Interiors and theming company Mivan has secured two major museum fit-out projects – the new £4.4m Glasgow Riverside Museum contract and a £1.6m project at the Museum of the Order of St John in London.

The Glasgow project will be Mivan’s largest assignment to date, completed in the new £74m, with £18.1m of funding coming from the Heritage Lottery Fund. It has been designed to celebrate Glasgow’s contribution to the world of travel and transport and, situated at the heart of the Glasgow Harbour development, is due to open in spring 2011.
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IN BRIEF

TRG planning 20 new openings next year

The Restaurant Group (TRG) has continued to trade in line with expectations, with like-for-like sales currently 3 per cent down on the same period last year and total turnover up 4 per cent. Announcing its trading update for the 46 weeks to 15 November, TRG reported that it had opened 17 new restaurants so far this year, with another 15 to 20 new openings expected next year. Looking ahead to 2010, TRG expects trading conditions to remain tough for the sector, with tax rises, fuel price increases and the threat of higher unemployment all potentially impacting on consumer spending. However, it believes its strong brands and value-for-money offer will allow it to continue trading profitably.

‘Testing year’ hits Enterprise Inns profits

UK pub company Enterprise Inns has said that a “very testing year” is to be blamed for a 21 per cent decline in pre-tax profits for the 12 months ending 30 September 2009. Compared with the previous year, the operator of 7,399 tenanted and leased pubs across the country saw a 13 per cent decrease in EBITDA to £445m as a result of increasing overhead costs and alcohol duty.

New owner for Shendish Manor Hotel

Shendish Manor Hotel near Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, has been acquired by the owners of the Manor of Groves Hotel, Golf and Country Club in High Wych, near Sawbridgeworth. The original manor house at Shendish Manor has been refurbished to provide 18 suites and rooms, including the bridal suite, while a new wing built in 2007 offers a further 52 bedrooms. Shendish Manor Hotel also boasts a par 70, 18-hole golf course.

Chipotle Mexican Grill enters London

US chain to begin European expansion by opening site in London’s West End

By Martin Nash

The Denver, US-based burrito restaurant chain Chipotle Mexican Grill is to open its first location in the UK.

Design and building plans are currently being finalised for a site at 114-116 Charing Cross Road in London’s West End, which is scheduled to open in April next year. It will also be the company’s first in Europe.

Steve Ells – founder, chair and co-ceo of Chipotle – said: “London has become an important food city over the years, especially because of the awareness of and desire for things like locally sourced, seasonal and artisanal ingredients. These are all core values of Chipotle. We call it ‘Food with Integrity’ and it is how we are changing the way people think about fast food.

“We believe Londoners will appreciate our efforts to serve food that is raised right and in a way that is so accessible.”

In the US, Chipotle claims to be one of the only restaurant chains committed to serving food made with ingredients from sustainable sources.

Ells added that, beyond the group’s interest in the UK, it has looked at sites in both Paris and Munich but has neither identified specific sites nor released time lines for such expansion.

Galvin La Chapelle set for launch

The restaurant will be owned by brothers Jeff and Chris Galvin

By Pete Hayman

London-based restaurateurs, the Galvin Brothers, launched their latest venture – Galvin La Chapelle and Café de Luxe – at the capital’s Spital Square on 18 November.

The new venture includes the Galvin La Chapelle restaurant, which is housed within the converted 19th century, Grade II-listed St Botolph’s Hall dating back to the 19th century and boasting 30m (98.4ft)-high ceilings. Meanwhile, Café de Luxe will act as an all-day café and bar, with a 6m (19.7ft)-long pewter bar originally commissioned by Sir Terence Conran for the Aurora restaurant at the Great Eastern Hotel, as well as outdoor seating opening onto Bishop’s Square.

Jeff Galvin said: “We wanted to create a place which everyone in the area can call their own and feel at home.”
The recent Best Western Investment conference showed the independent hotel sector to be in good heart, determined to expand and develop in what is generally considered to be a difficult sector in which to operate. A quick glance at the entries for the 2010 Hotel Excellence Awards 2010 – the winners will be announced in the New Year – also emphasizes the fact that action taken to solve a problem has typically led to higher occupancies, higher yields and higher profits even in these difficult times.

All this during the deepest recession in a generation. Yet there’s no doubt that trading is still difficult. No-one knows whether consumer spending will pick up in 2010. There are just too many unknowns for accurate prediction but what is certain is that costs are continuing to rise – and almost all have been caused by government decisions and regulations. The level of VAT is about to increase back to 17.5 per cent in January – who knows what level it might reach after the new government takes office?

National Insurance rates are due to increase in 2011. The National Minimum Wage rises every year – dragging other wage rates up in its wake; as a result all payroll costs are constantly forced upwards by government pressure. Business rates are rising significantly next year. There are plans for four weeks paternity leave from birth for fathers; only the recession prevented the current nine-month maternity leave turning into 12 months.

It is inconceivable that the government does not recognise that all these costs represent an additional burden on businesses that are still fighting a recession.

The hospitality industry – and hotels in particular – may have come through it so far in reasonably good shape but only by cutting costs to the bone, reducing jobs and offering special deals to boost demand (but at much reduced margins).

Now, these new government measures are about to impose yet more new burdens on those operators who have so far survived the downturn through their own talent and ingenuity. Can this continue?

Without government understanding – and a moratorium on more regulations that just add cost for seemingly little benefit – the next 12 months could be more critical than 2009.

Privately owned hotel operator Cairn Hotel Group has acquired the Imperial Hotel in Newcastle-upon-Tyne from F&C Reit Asset Management for an undisclosed sum.

Formerly operating under the Swallow brand, the 122-bedroom hotel's facilities include the 80-cover Chapters Restaurant; the 50-cover Library Bar; seven conferencing and meeting rooms; and a fitness club with a swimming pool and spa bath.

The Cairn Hotel Group currently operates 16 hotels across England and Scotland, including the Barkston Gardens Hotel in Earl's Court, London; the Royal British Hotel in central Edinburgh; and the Gardens Hotel in the heart of Manchester. The company plans to invest a substantial sum to re-position the hotel.

The property used to house the Royal Scottish Automobile Club

Cairn acquires Newcastle’s Imperial

Blythswood hotel opens

Former automobile club building reopens as hotel

By Martin Nash

Blythswood Square, a five star hotel housed in the former Royal Scottish Automobile Club (RSAC) building in Glasgow, Scotland, has opened.

The £25m redevelopment of one of the city’s most iconic buildings has been carried out by boutique hotel group, The Town House Collection. The opening is around 12 months later than originally planned and marks the first of a three phase opening which will run into the New Year. Overlooking urban green spaces, the hotel offers 100 bedrooms including six suites and a top floor penthouse complete with rooftop hot tub. It will also house Glasgow’s first luxury spa offering indigenous Scottish treatments, a 120-cover restaurant created from the RSAC’s ballroom, bars, a private screening room and event facilities.

Other highlights of the hotel include a 35m salon featuring two original fireplaces and a private screening room which will be furnished in more than 40 individual designs of Harris Tweed.

When will the government get it?

With another set of red tape to hit our sector, 2010 could be more challenging than 2009

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Revamped arts centre opens in Cardiff

Gallery areas and theatre space redeveloped as part of 16-month refurbishment

By Pete Hayman

Chapter Arts Centre in Canton, Cardiff, has been relaunched, following the completion of a £3.8m refurbishment scheme designed by London-based architects Ash Sakula.

Llanelli-based WRW Group acted as main contractor on the 16-month revamp, which included the transformation of the venue’s front and rear entrances and the refurbishment of the cinema, theatre and gallery area.

The work was funded by a £1.75m award from the Arts Council of Wales, a £172,000 grant from the European Regional Development Fund and £850,000 from the Welsh Assembly Government.

A new 60ft (18.3m) lightbox now spans the main entrance and the café bar has been expanded into the old outdoor terrace to increase internal space by 40 per cent as part of the scheme, which has drawn on three main influences.

The refurbished arts facility was designed by Ash Sakula Architects

Arts Council England publishes new RFO criteria

By Pete Hayman

Arts Council England (ACE), which distributes around £350m to regularly funded organisations (RFOs), has published the criteria it will use to help decide where to direct regular investment.

Two sets of criteria aim to provide improved clarity and transparency about how funding decisions are made: the first to determine whether the arts organisation is well-managed, and the second to ensure it fits in with ACE’s overall strategy.

The criteria will determine how ACE distributes regular funding

Liverpool unveils bid for UNESCO City of Music status

Liverpool City Council has revealed that it is leading the city’s bid to be selected as England’s first UNESCO City of Music, following its success as the 2008 European Capital of Culture.

The council is working alongside the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and a range of other key music organisations in the city as part of the bid, which saw a steering group meet for the first time at the end of November.

Liverpool’s Lord Mayor will officially launch the bid by writing to UNESCO, which has already designated the city as a World Heritage City and would see it become just one of four cities of music across the world.
SPORT AND LEISURE STATISTICS

FORECASTS FOR THE SPORT AND LEISURE INDUSTRIES

The Sport Industry Research Centre publishes two annual reports, Leisure Forecasts and Sport Market Forecasts. These reports provide valuable insight into future market trends.

Both publications are essential references for industry practitioners, consultants and researchers.

Leisure Forecasts
This publication identifies the way in which economic trends, new technologies and new consumer priorities will shape the leisure industry over the next five years. It is divided into two sectors, leisure in the home and leisure away from home, providing analysis for 24 distinct leisure markets.

Sport Market Forecasts
This publication is produced in conjunction with Sport England. It provides detailed economic information on consumer spending for the entire sports market. It is divided into sport goods and sport services, providing economic analysis for 10 sport markets.

Our forecasts are a valuable resource for data related to:
- travel and tourism industry
- exploring the leisure industry
- hospitality in leisure and recreation
- visitor attractions
- eating and drinking
- local entertainment
- computer games
- home entertainment
- the sport industry
- health and fitness
- sports participation
- sport equipment
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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
Green light for Heartwood Forest initiative

By Pete Hayman

Planting is set to get underway on the creation of a new 347-hectare (858-acre) native woodland near St Albans, Hertfordshire, after the scheme was given the go ahead by the Forestry Commission.

The commission has approved an environment statement submitted earlier this year by the Woodland Trust, which will see more than 600,000 native broadleaf trees planted as part of the Heartwood Forest scheme.

Heartwood Forest will be the largest site in England operated by the Woodland Trust, providing publicly accessible green space for more than 250,000 people living within a 10km (6.2-mile) radius, as well as a hub for active recreation and leisure pursuits.

Toby Bancroft, Heartwood project manager, said: "We propose to retain views at key points, with most planting scheduled for the main ridge and site plateau, creating a woodland effect on lower slopes and graded woodland edges lessening the impact from roads and human activity. "Our environment statement consent by the Forestry Commission was a culmination of comments, opinions and consideration of issues, raised with the local population and a wide range of organisations to help shape proposals."

Work starts on Bury woodland scheme

£3.8m initiative to include 7.5 miles of leisure trails for cyclists and walkers

By Pete Hayman

A new 71-hectare (175-acre) community woodland is set to be created in Bury, Greater Manchester, as part of a £3.8m regeneration scheme incorporating the town's Waterdale and Drinkwater parks.

The Forestry Commission has started work on a former industrial site between Prestwich and Clifton to improve the local environment and create a number of new recreational facilities, including 12km (7.5 miles) of leisure trails.

Work on multi-purpose waymarked trails, which will be used by walkers, horse riders and cyclists, is set to get underway next month, while plans also include wetland wildlife habitats and fishing ponds. A new mountain bike track, the illumination of a viaduct running through the site and the introduction of information signs outlining the area's history are also set to feature as part of the community woodland.

Funding for the woodland, which will form part of a major community woodland across Salford, Manchester and Bury, is being contributed to by the Newlands initiative – a £59m land regeneration scheme.

The Forestry Commission's Richard Topley said: "There will be plenty of opportunities for everyone to enjoy the outdoors, whether it's cycling, running, fishing or horse-riding."

Winter overhaul for Ashton Locks

Ashton Canal in Manchester is to benefit from a £60,000 programme of essential works by British Waterways (BW). The maintenance, part of BW’s winter programme of network improvements, will include the replacement of three sets of head gates along the canal at locks 10, 11 and 12, as well general grouting repairs to the locks.

Phase two Preston parks scheme underway

Work has got underway on the second phase of a scheme to restore Avenham and Miller Parks in Preston to original 1860s designs drawn up by landscape architect Edward Milner. Nearly 500 new trees will be planted and 73 diseased trees will be removed as part of the project, while an additional 19 trees will also be removed in order to fit in with the designs for the new-look parks. The second stage of the scheme, which has received a £1.75m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, is set to be completed in November 2010.

Bathing water quality results unveiled

Nearly all bathing waters around the English and Welsh coast adhere to the European Commission's (EC) mandatory standards for 2009, according to new results published by the government. Statistics from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Welsh Assembly revealed more than 98 per cent of waters passed water quality tests, while 82.2 per cent met the stricter EC guideline standard. The Environment Agency conducted a total of 29,700 water quality tests at nearly 500 bathing waters during 2009, while new technology is to be used to help discover the source of pollution.

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Chichester District Council invites tenders from suitably experienced contractors for the design, supply and construction of a new concrete Skate Park, at Westgate Leisure Centre, Chichester, West Sussex.

Parties who wish to tender will be sent a detailed specification and will be required to complete a tender form and questionnaire, which must be returned, as directed by 12 noon on 20th January 2010.

For further information and requests for the specification and tender form please contact:

Amy Roots
Community Sport Development Officer
Chichester District Council, East Pallant House, 1 East Pallant, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1TY
Telephone 01243 534871
Fax 01243 534792
Email: aroots@chichester.gov.uk

Expressions of Interest: Leisure Contract

Hastings is at the heart of a multi-million pound regeneration programme. The Jerwood Art Gallery and outdoor performance space planned for its seafront will not only be a major boost to the town’s cultural offer but also an enduring symbol of the extraordinary progress we’re making in this unique corner of South East England.

Completed questionnaires must be returned by noon on 4 January 2010

Closing date: 24 December 2009. Quote ref: 09/S225-323219/EN

Further to a Contract Notice placed in OJEU on 26 November 2009 (OJEU ref: 095 228-327492/EN), St Albans City and District Council (SACDC) is seeking expressions of interest from potential partners to deliver a new leisure development, with access for public use.

Potential development partners will be encouraged to suggest commercial uses that maximise viability, whilst including provision for community accessible facilities. Expressions of interest are invited from operators, contractors and developers, acting both independently or as a consortium.

To express an interest in the opportunity and to request a brochure and Pre-Qualification Questionnaire, please email cotlandswick@driversjonas.com stating your name, company name and contact details, or alternatively, please call 020 7896 7768.

Proposed new leisure opportunity at Cotlandswick Open Space, St Albans

Lee Valley Regional Park Authority is seeking Expressions of Interest (E.O.I.) for the provision for a Corporate Electronic Leisure Management System.

The Contract will run for three years, beginning on 1 May 2010, with an option to extend for a maximum of a further two years.

Potential suppliers will be assessed on their ability to implement and deliver an Electronic Leisure Management software system for thirteen existing venues and services, and three new London 2012 Games venues which we will own, fund and manage in legacy. The award criteria within the tender documentation will be based on value for money, quality, availability of specialist staff, a proven track record in delivering and implementing Leisure Management Systems, and to the degree to which the proposed contractor satisfies the Authority’s requirements determined by the tender submission.

Organisations interested in applying for this work should submit the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ), contract reference ‘LVRPA171S1001’ which can be found at www.leevalleypark.org.uk/procurement

If successful at this stage you will be invited to submit a formal tender submission.

The Pre-Qualification Questionnaire must be submitted by noon Thursday 14 January 2010 to the address below.

Matthew Jones - Procurement
LVRPA171S1001: ELMS PQQ
Lee Valley Regional Park Authority,
Myddelton House, Bulls Cross, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 9HG
Telephone: 01992 717 711
Email: procurement@leevalleypark.org.uk

Lee Valley Park – Corporate Electronic Leisure Management System

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Legal dispute over Bath Spa resolved

A statement issued jointly by the three parties involved has indicated that the long running litigation over the Bath Spa project has been resolved. Following mediation between Bath & North East Somerset Council (B&NES); Carillion (which owns Mowlem, the main contractor on the project); and Nicholas Grimshaw & Partners (NGP), the project architect, the three sides have agreed to a settlement. The agreement provides for net payments to be made to the council towards its spa-related costs by both Carillion and NGP. The payment by Carillion takes account of its own financial claim against B&NES. The statement concludes that “all three parties agree that the settlement reflects a sensible recognition of the costs and uncertainties associated with pursuing litigation.”

Mantis acquires Lord Milner Hotel

Finisterre Holdings has sold the leasehold interest of the five-star Lord Milner boutique hotel in Central London to Adrian Gardiner, owner of the Mantis Group, for an undisclosed sum. The Mantis Group currently operates the five-star Draycott Hotel, situated between Chelsea and Knightsbridge, which it acquired in 2007, and a number of game reserves, boutique hotels and retreats throughout South Africa and Europe. Located in the heart of London’s Belgravia, the 11-bedroom Lord Milner Hotel is named after Lord Alfred Milner, 1st Viscount Milner, the controversial British statesman and colonial administrator.

Camperwell Baths plans approved

Local authority shows green light to £3m scheme to overhaul Grade II-listed baths

By Pete Hayman

London-based architects Watkins Gray International’s plans for the regeneration of the historic Camberwell Baths have been given the green light by the local authority.

The London Borough of Southwark has approved planning consent for the first phase of a £3m scheme to overhaul the Grade II-listed baths, which will include repairs to the pool and sports hall and major upgrade works.

Facilities at the refurbished 4,000sq m (43,056sq ft) complex will include a café, a creche, office space and youth areas, such as a youth music centre, as well as a new entrance hall and new lifts.

The plans also include retaining Camberwell Baths’ original frontage, although one entrance will close to create a single main entrance. Shop spaces within the existing glazed partitions of the entrance will be created and modern changing areas introduced.

Roy Caddick, a partner at Watkins Gray International, said: “Camberwell Baths is an historic and characterful building, and should provide an important health and fitness service in a relatively deprived area of London. Unfortunately, the facility has been in a poor state of repair, and in order to safeguard its future, certain upgrades will be vital.”

€430m complex for Dundalk

By Tom Walker

An application for a €430m (£387.4m) snow complex in Dundalk, Ireland, is to be submitted to Louth County Council. The Altitude project – proposed by local firm Innovative Leisure Systems and the UK-based Briton Engineering – will include a ski slope and nursery slopes; and a 100-bedroom family hotel.

Plans for the complex also include a 110,000sq ft (10,000sq m) indoor concert arena; an 80,000sq ft (7,400sq m) leisure zone, which includes a cinema and bowling alley; and a surf and water leisure dome, as well as a range of restaurants and bars.

Later phases will include additional hotel accommodation and, once relevant legislation is in place, an international casino.

Water polo arena named

London-based David Morley Architects (DMA) has been appointed by the Olympic Delivery Authority to draw up designs for a new water polo arena, which will be used at the 2012 Games.

The temporary venue, which will provide seating capacity for 5,000 spectators and a warm-up pool, will be located alongside the permanent Aquatics Centre and will act as a gateway to the Olympic Park site. Construction work is scheduled to start in spring 2011.
On the instructions of Southampton City Council

**Mixed Use Development**

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Site area approximately 8.07 ha (19.95 acres)

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Contact:
guy.ingham@knightfrank.com
+44 (0)20 861 5389
george.barnes@knightfrank.com
+44 (0)20 861 5387
Tourism showing signs of growth

More than 9 million people visited the UK during the first nine months

By Martin Nash

Provisional figures from the International Passenger Survey appear to indicate that Britain’s tourism industry reached a turning point during the key summer months.

VisitBritain commented that the trend seen in the summer with increasing numbers of overseas residents choosing to visit the UK is likely to continue to the end of the year, mostly due to a favourable exchange rate with the euro.

The figures show that in the first nine months of 2009, overseas residents made nearly 23 million visits to the UK and spent £12.5bn. While the number of visits is 8 per cent down compared to 2008, visitor spend is unchanged due to strong growth in how much. During the vital summer months of July to September, 3 percent more international visitors holidayed in Britain than over the same period in 2008,

The North American market is recovering too, with a 6 percent growth in total visits during the three months to September.

The ‘Only in London’ campaign, designed to promote the capital as a visitor destination, boosted the economy by £50m, according to mayor Boris Johnson. Johnson also unveiled plans to invest a further £400,000 in the £2m scheme in a bid to generate an additional £8m for London’s economy. According to the mayor, anticipated cuts in public spending means the city is now more reliant on foreign investment and tourism, with a new ‘Brand for London’ to be unveiled in spring 2010.

Johnson said: "We are working on an iconic identity to tie together the diverse strands that make up the London brand. Hosting the London 2012 Games will bring endless opportunities.*
As the year draws to a close, the government – under Lord Mandelson’s leadership – has published its new skills white paper, Skills for Growth. The paper, which outlines plans to address skills issues as part of Britain’s bid to grow out of the recession, has been produced in the context of the UK Commission for Employment and Skills’ (UKCES) Ambition 2020 skills document. Around 90 per cent of the UKCES’ recommendations can be found in the white paper, giving momentum to some of the proposals outlined.

One problem, however, is that this is an overarching strategy and, despite referencing Sector Skills Councils, doesn’t reflect any sector-specific differences. The government recognises that ‘it is as valuable for a young person to gain a good technical qualification through an apprenticeship as it is to go directly into university’, and I agree. But if this approach is to have an impact, apprenticeship legislation needs to support the development of frameworks that work for our sector.

Equally, it is encouraging that the government ‘set a bold new ambition for the higher education and skills systems – that three quarters of young people should participate in higher education or complete an Advanced Apprenticeship or equivalent technician level course by the age of 30’. It reaffirms the need to develop high level skills as we come out of a recession, but we would question the benefit in such a large number of individuals studying for degrees without courses appropriately preparing graduates as ‘job-ready’. Our sector doesn’t necessarily need a degree as an entry level requirement. It’s the technical, job-ready skills that employers want.

Other challenges include the move toward a digital Britain and a low carbon economy as a means of taking us out of the recession. This in itself poses us a challenge. We must continue to demonstrate the vital role our sector plays in the economy, the physical activity agenda, and the health and well-being of the nation, and not get overlooked within this new approach.

The commitments outlined in the paper are a start, as long as the government continues to recognise that a sector approach to tackling skills challenges is the right one. One thing is sure; as we approach a general election, the white paper puts skills firmly at the centre of political debate. This recognises their importance to the future of the UK. 2010 promises to be an interesting year.

### HLF unveils Skills for the Future

**£5m programme to support traditional skills training**

*By Pete Hayman*

A £5m grant scheme, designed to provide up to 1,000 paid training opportunities delivering traditional conservation skills to people across the UK, has been launched by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Skills for the Future will support organisations offering vocational learning, as well as the use of new media and technology for people looking for a career in heritage.

Organisations can apply for grants between £100,000 and £1m to provide traineeships over a five-year period. The closing date for applications is 19 March 2010, with awards being made in May 2010.

Dame Jenny Abramsky, HLF chair, said: "More than ever in these difficult times, HLF wants to focus on offering people skills that will give them a future career and meet the needs of the sector. "This £5m commitment will ensure our heritage is protected for the future and represents a hugely exciting chance to attract people who might not usually consider a career in the heritage sector."

### LA Fitness joins forces with IQL

*An LA Fitness health club in Derby is to become an Institute of Qualified Lifeguards (IQL)-approved training centre.*

The designation is part of a deal between LA Fitness and IQL, which will see IQL train more than 500 LA Fitness staff in the Emergency Response Qualification and a select number of staff in the NPLQ (National Pool Lifeguarding Qualification).

Tara Dillon, executive director of the IQL, said: "The training is especially great for us as it means more lifeguards can be qualified in the future as the demand for our qualifications continues to grow."

The IQL has also launched a training scheme, designed to qualify a team of trainer assessors in a bid to ensure the ongoing lifeguard programme is sustainable.

### Funding will help support people looking for a career in heritage

**The year ends on a government skills pledge**

New white paper puts skills at the heart of efforts to bring Britain out of recession

**STEPHEN STUDD** is chief executive of SkillsActive

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- Physiology and pathology of respiratory disease
- Management of chronic respiratory disease
- Responses to exercise and exercise prescription
- Managing breathlessness
- Referral pathways

The BLF bursary, funded by Air Products, is available to exercise professionals who meet the following entry requirements:

- Level 3 equivalent qualification as recognised by REP's
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- Endorsement from a local pulmonary rehabilitation team
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- Current CRB disclosure form

Instructors taking up a bursary will be expected to work with local Breathe Easy support groups to set up exercise classes within the community.

For more details or an application pack please log on to www.lunguk.org/supporting-you/blf_active/ or contact Danielle Smreczak using the details below

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t: 020 7688 5618
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To apply for any of the above positions please email your CV and covering letter to careers@fusion-lifestyle.com quoting the relevant reference number. Closing date: 30th December 2009.
We celebrate diversity and welcome applications from everyone regardless of gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, faith or disability.

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You will support our learners in all aspects of their learning as a tutor and will preferably be able to lead a course team.

Suitable candidates should be familiar with the quality assurance processes, so learner assessment meets Awarding Body standards.

You should also possess a degree in a related subject and a teaching qualification or be willing to gain one. Fitness Instructor qualifications would also be advantageous.

Ref: 4621

Apply online at www.candi.ac.uk or please leave a message for an application pack on 020 7700 9240.

Closing date: 14 December 2009 (Midday).

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Suitable candidates should be familiar with the quality assurance processes, so learner assessment meets Awarding Body standards.

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UNIVERSITY OF WALES INSTITUTE, CARDIFF ATHROFA PRIFYSGOL CYMRU, CAERDYDD

A position has become vacant at the Sports Facilities Department within University Wales Institute, Cardiff (UWIC)

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If you have the relevant management experience and qualifications, and are a highly motivated and enthusiastic person and believe you have the potential to take on the post with its current and future challenges, we would like to hear from you.

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Interviews scheduled for: 15th January 2010

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**Supervisor Wetside**

*£14,650 – £16,824 pa Full-time*

You must have sound knowledge and experience in the day to day operations of a wetside and dryside leisure facility. Communication skills are also essential, as is the ability to respond to customers.

It is essential that you have a leisure related qualification or the relevant operational experience.

National Pool Lifeguard Trainer Assessor Qualification desirable.

Further details and an application form are available on request from the Sports Centre office on 01249 857335 or via e-mail to: lchalk@stmaryscaleine.org

Closing Date: Friday 18th December 2009

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**Coach Development Manager**

*Salary up to £30,594 3 Year Fixed Term Contract*

The Tees Valley Sport Partnership aims to increase participation in sport and physical activity, promoting its benefits across a wide range of sport, health and community development agendas. This is a new position to provide the knowledge and experience we need to deliver our expanding remit to support coaches at a community level.

Educated to degree level or equivalent, or with comparable experience, you will be skilled in developing mechanisms to support coaches and assist their deployment in a variety of settings including clubs, schools, local authorities and national programmes. You will have excellent communication and interpersonal skills and knowledge of current policies in coach education and development.

As part of a national network of similar officers you will work closely with sports coach UK, the national governing bodies of sport and local authority partners to ensure their coaching needs are met.

The position we are filling is exempt from the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act and a satisfactory CRB disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau is required as part of our clearance procedures.

This post is available on a full-time or job share basis. (If you wish to apply on a job share basis you must state this on your application).

Job Reference: 6316.

Application forms and further details are available online at www.tees.ac.uk or from the Human Resources Department, Teesside University, Middlesbrough, Tees Valley TS1 3BA.

E-mail: jobs@tees.ac.uk

Tel: 01642 342200 (24 hours).

For further details of this and other posts, please refer to our website at www.tees.ac.uk

Closing date: 15 December 2009, 12 noon.

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We have a vacancy for an enthusiastic, conscientious and motivated team member to join our prestigious Sports Centre. This swimming pool and fitness suite facility is set in the private grounds of St Mary’s School in Calne which opens its doors to community members during peak times. Other facilities include a dance studio, therapy suite, outdoor tennis courts and astroturf pitches.

**Facility Officer Operations**

*£16,265 - £19,091 pa Full-time*

You must have sound knowledge and experience in the day to day operations of a wetside and dryside leisure facility. Communication skills are also essential, as is the ability to respond to customers.

It is essential that you have a leisure related qualification or the relevant operational experience.

National Pool Lifeguard Trainer Assessor Qualification desirable.

Further details and an application form are available on request from the Sports Centre office on 01249 857335 or via e-mail to: lchalk@stmaryscaleine.org

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You will have the following:

• Experience of supervising/mentoring staff and have excellent organisational skills.
• Experience of developing action plans, monitoring and evaluating projects.
• Level 3 Advanced Instructor.
• Preferably hold an Exercise to Music qualification or similar.
• Extensive experience of teaching health and fitness or related sessions/classes.
• Experience of working with clients with special medical needs.
• Knowledge of the effect of exercise on people with health related problems.

Activity for LIFE Advisor x 1.5 posts

Ref: REC 01638

£17,161 - £21,519 pro rota • Fixed term contract until 31st March 2012

You will be working with the Primary Care Health practitioners dealing with referred clients. You will be required to arrange client consultations including physiological and lifestyle measurements, choosing appropriate ‘client focused’ activity/lifestyle interventions, delivering gym, aerobic, circuit training or related activity sessions and co-ordinating the Activity for LIFE programmes within the locality on a daily basis.

You will have the following:

• Level 3 Advanced Instructor.
• Preferably hold an Exercise to Music qualification or similar.
• Extensive experience, teaching health and fitness or related sessions/classes.
• Experience of working with clients with special medical needs.
• Knowledge of the effect of exercise on people with health related problems.

For each post, you will need a high standard of verbal communication, the ability to motivate others, self-motivation, be flexible and committed to attaining the highest standard of customer care. You will also be required to work in different locations across the Borough. Please indicate whether you would like to be considered for both posts.

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National Football museum set for Manchester move

Museum trustees agree a deal with Manchester City Council to relocate to the Urbis centre by end of 2011

By Pete Hayman

The National Football Museum has announced plans to relocate to Manchester’s Urbis centre in 2011 after trustees of the attraction resolved to enter into a deal with Manchester City Council.

It is hoped the new partnership will secure the long-term future of the museum, which no longer has sufficient funds to remain at its current location in Preston, Lancashire, despite attracting more than 100,000 visitors a year.

Under the plans, the National Football Museum will remain open to the public in Preston to allow for the creation of the new attraction in Manchester, while it is hoped to retain current exhibitions in Preston beyond 2012 if funding can be secured.

The museum also plans to continue its research partnership with the University of Central Lancashire, which had teamed up with Lancashire County Council and Preston City Council to keep the attraction in the city.

The £60m first phase of the museum was completed late last year with the 800-seat Floral Pavilion and Conference Centre.

It is hoped the new partner will secure the long-term future of the museum, which no longer has sufficient funds to remain at its current location in Preston, Lancashire, despite attracting more than 100,000 visitors a year.

Contractor appointed for New Brighton scheme

By Tom Walker

Neptune Developments has named developer Bowmer & Kirkland as its preferred contractor for the second phase of the New Brighton project in Wallasey, Merseyside.

Work is set to start on the scheme by the end of the year with civil engineering works, including draining the Marine Lake prior to refurbishment and works to the Promenade.

The £35m second phase will include a 66-room Travelodge, a six-screen, 1,000-seat digital cinema, a watersports training centre and a public lido.

The Marine Lake and a new Promenade and Model Boating Lake are due to be completed by summer 2010. The Travelodge, Light Cinema and some leisure venues are set to open by spring 2011. The remaining facilities and the Lido will be completed by summer 2011.

Phase two includes restaurants

The first phase of the £60m scheme was completed late last year with the 800-seat Floral Pavilion and Conference Centre.

Local grants for coastal change

The government has awarded grants worth £11m to fifteen local authorities who have come up with the best and most innovative ideas for dealing with and adapting to coastal change. A total of 20 bids for funding were received and the programme will run from November 2009 until Spring 2011.

CONTACTS BOOK

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