A large proportion of audiences say booking fees for concert and theatre tickets are far too expensive, with many claiming that any extra charges should be revealed before purchases are made, according to a new Which? survey.

People were questioned by the consumer campaigning charity as it launches its Play Fair On Ticket Fees campaign, in order to help bring an end to hidden booking fees.

The research revealed that eight in 10 people who bought tickets in the last 12 months have admitted to feeling ripped off. Details: http://lei.sr?a=d9b3X

Audiences being put off by ticketing fees

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Guitar Hero creators offer fitness gaming concept

The creators of the popular Guitar Hero franchise – which played a pivotal role in making music games mainstream – have unveiled the first product in a new venture which will incorporate the idea into fitness gaming.

Blue Goji – the new company run by brothers Kai and Charles Huang – takes bespoke hardware plus the gaming concept from Guitar Hero and applies the idea to cardio machines, exercise bikes, treadmills and cross trainers.

The company’s first product, which has just been released, retail at US$99.99 ($61) and includes a pair of two-button controllers which strap onto the handles of the exercise equipment and an activity sensor which clips to the user’s clothes.

The device connects wirelessly to an iPad or iPhone, turning the fitness data into gameplay inputs varying from speed in racing games to strength in fighting games.

Not only does the device turn exercise into gaming, but it also measures physical activity including time, distance and calories burned – with the data available to view in a separate app.

The company has already announced a partnership with fitness-tracking app MyFitnessPal to enable users to share data to it from Blue Goji and, much like the major gaming consoles, includes unlockable achievements.

“The activity trackers are less about games and more about gamification – tracking you and letting you compete against your friends,” said Kai Huang. “That’s where we’re different from all the other fitness devices out there, given our background in games.”

The Guitar Hero series has sold more than 25 million units worldwide, earning US$2bn (£1.5bn) at retail and was the third largest game franchise at its peak in 2009 after Mario and Madden NFL. Details: http://lei.sr?a=X2R3q

Stonehenge opens new visitor centre

The much vaunted Stonehenge exhibition and visitor centre opened its doors on 18 December, transforming the site from a quick stop off and photo opportunity into an immersive visitor experience, giving a sense of what it was like to live back in the Bronze Age.

This marks the first phase of English Heritage’s £27m project to revamp the visitor experience of this iconic site, which receives one million visitors each year.

Visitors will be able to see original artefacts which Neolithic and Bronze Age people used on a daily basis, as well as two 14th century manuscripts, which are among the earliest known drawings of the monument.

The exhibition also includes the reconstructed face of a 5,500-year-old man found buried in a long barrow 1.5 miles from Stonehenge and a 360-degree virtual experience lets visitors stand among the stones before they enter the gallery.

Continued on back cover
QPR announces new stadium plans

Queens Park Rangers Football Club has unveiled plans for a new 40,000-seat stadium as part of a major regeneration project of the Old Oak area in west London.

The development, which has been provisionally called New Queens Park, will see the stadium built alongside a new residential area with 24,000 homes and commercial space to include a 350-bedroom luxury hotel, studios, offices, cinemas and restaurants.

The news follows London mayor Boris Johnson’s recent announcement that turning Old Oak into a new world-class city quarter is to be one of his main regeneration priorities for the city and that a Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) – only the second after the Olympic Park development – is to be set up to promote it.

The project – which will be larger than Canary Wharf – is expected to generate 50,000 new jobs.

"Not only will this give us a top quality stadium to cater for QPR’s needs as the club progresses and grows over the years ahead, but we are very excited about being the driving force behind creating one of the best new urban places in the world," said QPR chair, Tony Fernandes. “It will create a vibrant new destination in London, boosting local businesses, attracting new visitors and tourism and creating a thriving community.”

Fernandes revealed the club was looking at alternative sites to Loftus Road in west London in November 2011 and QPR confirmed they have been in talks about the Old Oak site dating back to August 2013.

Details: http://lei.sr?i=c6E3g

Sports activity: No change since London 2012

There has been no change in the number of people playing sport regularly since the London 2012 Olympic Games.

A total of 15.5 million people in England played sport at least once a week for 30 minutes during the 12 months to October 2013 – the exact same figure as the year before (12 months to October 2012).

According to the latest Active People Survey (APS), published in December by Sport England.

The report presents a mixed picture for overall participation, as it shows record participation numbers for many areas, while others show signs of decline.

People of BME origin are embracing sporting opportunities more than ever before with 2.7 million taking part in organised sport at least once a week.

There is also a record number of 1.67 million disabled people playing sport each week, up by 62,000 over the last year – a testament both to the impact of the Paralympic Games and Sport England’s investment in accessible sport.

Figures for the 16- to 25- year old age group, however, show a different story. A decline of 51,000 over the last year means that just over 3.74 million young adults are now playing sport.

While there were increases in five Olympic sports – cycling, equestrian, boxing, canoeing and archery – the evidence shows a sharp drop in the popularity of traditional sports such as football, tennis and netball.

Details: http://lei.sr?i=E4M6T
Lack of funding puts legacy at risk

More money is required in order to achieve the “crucial” legacy of the London 2012 Olympics, according to a report by the London Assembly’s Regeneration Committee.

It has been found that a funding gap of around £5m between 2015-2016 could prevent legacy plans from coming to fruition.

To achieve its legacy goals it is now thought that the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) would have to find ways of increasing its income, or cut spending, in light of the prospective gap in funds.

However the report states that making cuts to outlay on community events and security are not ideal moves if the Olympic Park wants to be seen as one of the area’s premier attractions.

To combat the gap, the committee has called on the Mayor of London to confirm additional funding of around £12m for two years between 2015 and 2017.

“Regenerating east London and the Lower Lea Valley is important not just to meet the London 2012 legacy objectives, but for the benefit of the people of east London who will be a crucial part of building the community for years to come,” stated Gareth Bacon, chairman of the committee, in summary of the report.

“We believe in the short term the mayor should continue to support the LLDC.

“However, to ensure the LLDC’s objectives are not dependent on mayoral funding indefinitely, the corporation should commit to becoming self-sustaining as soon as possible and certainly by 2020 at the latest.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=E4v6c

Premier League fans want return to terraces

Supporters’ groups from more than half of the Premier League’s clubs say they would like the option to be allowed to stand at football matches again.

Groups from the league’s top clubs including Arsenal, Chelsea, Manchester United, Tottenham and Newcastle, say it would improve the atmosphere at games and that the adoption of German-style “rail seats” could prevent injury to fans who currently stand.

A rail seat comprises of a rail going across every row in place of a seat which in effect means people cannot fall forward and it has proved effective across Europe in countries such as Austria and Germany.

The government says that all-seat stadia remain the best way to ensure fans’ safety, with all-seaters having been made compulsory in both the Premier League and Championship following an inquiry into the Hillsborough disaster in 1989, which saw 96 Liverpool fans die after a crush on the steel-fenced terraces at the home of Sheffield Wednesday.

Liverpool’s supporters union has said it has not yet adopted a position on designated standing zones but 12 of the Premier League’s 20 clubs say they do back a trial of safe standing areas.

Clubs in England and Wales would need government approval to carry out such trials, but the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) said in a statement: “We do not believe there has been a compelling case made for the policy to change.”

Laws in Scotland and Northern Ireland are different however, with Scottish Premier League champion Celtic stating that it is considering a standing area in its ground.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=Eqv6c

Barca is first sports club to get 50 million Facebook fans

Catalan footballing giant FC Barcelona has announced that it has become the first sports club to gain 50 million fans on the social media network Facebook.

The La Liga title-holding club set up its Facebook account in October 2009, as part of a progressive digital strategy which also sees the use of seven other platforms.

Given the current number of followers on the social networking site, the club now states that its Facebook page is one of the top 30 most popular in the world.

Barca has also revealed that its highest number of Facebook followers come from Indonesia, where 4.7 million people subscribe. Mexico came in second with 3.4 million and Brazil was third with 2.5 million people keeping tabs on the club’s Facebook page.

Manchester United is the largest football club in the UK from a social media standpoint with 38.7 million followers on Facebook. Details: http://lei.sr?a=S4G9d

Football Foundation reaches £1bn in grassroots investment

The Football Foundation has announced that it has now supported more than £1bn worth of grassroots sports projects.

Since its launch in 2000, the Foundation has funded 12,007 projects with grants worth £473m, which it has used to attract a further £732m in additional partnership funding – a total £1.205bn of investment into the grassroots game.

Among the facilities which the investment has helped to develop are 819 changing facilities, 2,474 real grass pitches, 469 artificial grass pitches and 90 multi-use games areas.

The Football Foundation is the largest sports charity in the UK and is funded by the Premier League, The FA and the government, via Sport England. Details: http://lei.sr?a=Q2P8T

The report calls on Boris Johnson to grant £12m of additional funds

The report states that making cuts to outlay on community events and security are not ideal moves if the Olympic Park wants to be seen as one of the area’s premier attractions.

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Premier League supporters’ want to bring in safe standing

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New guidelines from the American Heart Association (AHA) show specific ways to eat and exercise for a healthier heart and to reduce the risk of developing heart disease.

The guidelines, published in *Circulation* and the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, were made after an AHA committee consisting of doctors and medical experts looked at more than 10 years of research into the subject to decide on the recommendations.

A plant- and grain-based diet and aerobic exercise three to four times a week has been recommended by the committee, as well as cutting down on extra sodium intake, red meat and sweets.

The committee – co-chaired by Robert Eckel and John Jakicic – said that a healthy diet should consist mainly of vegetables, fruits, whole grains with low-fat dairy, poultry, fish and legumes. They also recommended the people should reduce the number of calories consumed from both saturated and trans fats.

Adults with high blood pressure are advised to lower sodium intake, preferably to 1,500mg or less per day.

People with high cholesterol or high blood pressure are also recommended to undertake moderate to vigorous exercise three to four times a week for 40 minutes each session.

The authors of the guidelines did note some areas require more research including ethnicity, diet and fibre. Details: http://lei.sr?a=X6e7t

### Withdean Sports Complex gets £2.7m upgrade

**Freedom Leisure and Brighton & Hove City Council** have completed the £2.7m redevelopment of the Withdean Sports Complex.

Operated by Freedom Leisure in partnership with the city council, the complex now offers a larger gym-space, to house 125 exercise stations.

The gym will provide room for small group ‘360’ classes, incorporating the use of kettlebells, battling ropes, suspension training and plyometric rebounding.

The refurbishment has also seen the installation of Hammer Strength weight training equipment, while there is now a dedicated personal training studio for one-to-one and small group training sessions.

Two new exercise studios have been added, including an indoor cycling studio using the forward motion video-enabled Myride+ programme. The use of Myride+ will provide users with access to virtually instructed, automated workouts outside of traditional class hours.

Away from the gym, the complex has undergone work to its six squash courts, with sprung floors being added to aid an improved playing experience.

Finally, male and female integrated sauna cabins have been installed, as well as three therapy rooms and a bar and café. Details: http://lei.sr?a=b7N7d

Exercising when pregnant could stimulate a child’s brain says the study

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### AHA releases new heart guidelines

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Tracking sock teaches technique

A tracking sock has been developed to help runners correct troublesome foot positioning and limit injuries, while also offering beneficial coaching techniques.

Developed by company Heapsylon, the Sensoria Fitness Socks are fitted with a number of sensors which link up to a small Bluetooth strap applied to the ankle.

Real-time information is then sent from the strap to a mobile device or tablet, where it is then displayed and interpreted.

The socks can be put in the wash without any of the sensors being damaged.

Like most other tracking devices, the socks can monitor steps, speed, calories, altitude and distance, however it also offers a number of more proactive elements.

These include the collection of data on cadence, foot landing technique and weight distribution on the foot, with audio coaching also available to offer tips on how to correct and develop technique.

The device is still listed as being in a prototype stage, with an expected launch for the product costing $199 (£121, €145) and coming in March 2014. Purchasers will receive four pairs of socks, the anklet and access to an app to install on their mobile device.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=q9u6v

Tees Valley Leisure launches The Golden Mile

Tees Valley Leisure is getting ready to kick off its Golden Mile programme aimed at inspiring primary age children to run 50 miles through the course of 2014.

More than 3,000 children from 10 schools in Middlesbrough have signed up to take part in the initiative, which launches during January’s National Obesity Awareness Week.

Designed to encourage physical activity along with being fun and offering rewards and personal achievement, pupils will be able to walk, jog, run or cycle a course marked out at their school, either before or after school, at lunchtime and during PE lessons. The aim is to do one mile a week and 50 during the year. The programme is fully funded by Tees Valley Leisure, so there is no cost to schools or parents.

“The Golden Mile will help to tackle the problem of childhood obesity, a national issue which is prevalent on Teesside,” says managing director of Tees Valley Leisure, Ian Donley. “It’s all inclusive, for all the children, not only those who are good at sport. The whole idea is to get children in the habit of walking, running and cycling, to pull them away from the internet and games consoles and to see physical activity as enjoyable and fun.”

Tees Valley Leisure has also teamed up with North East Athletic to deliver a one year football programme to help recovering addicts keep away from drugs and alcohol.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=C6C6y
Natural care market shows growth

The natural personal care market continues to show strong growth after posting a 10.6 per cent increase globally to reach US$29.5bn (£18bn, €21.4bn) at the manufacturers level for 2013.

Natural Personal Care: Global Market Brief, carried out by consulting and research firm, Kline, analyses industry trends and development, market size and growth, product trends, major brand synopses, and competitive forces within the global natural personal care market.

The leading brands differ based on country, with Aveeno and Bare Escentuals leading in the United States, L’Occitane and Saishunkan in Japan, Chando and Inoherb in China, and Yves Rocher and Oriflame in Europe.

Due to high manufacturing costs and limitations of natural preservatives, natural-inspired products are the in-product for many manufacturers, which is reflected in their market domination. Furthermore, encouraged by growing consumer awareness and improved technology, several companies are seeking to reformulate their existing product lines to remove synthetic ingredients from the mix altogether.

Brazil and particularly China are the fastest-growing natural personal care markets, with sales in China increasing nearly 24 per cent in 2013, while growth within mature markets remains impressive as exemplified by a 7 per cent increase over the year in the United States and 6 per cent in Europe.

Mintel tips Mixologiste as top trend for 2014

Mixologiste, or multi-functional beauty products, are set to be a key trend in 2014, according to research from Mintel Beauty & Personal Care.

BB (blemish balm) creams which can moisturise, give SPF protection, sheer coverage and provide soothing and healing properties, have kicked off the growing trend.

“The huge success of BB creams has led manufacturers to think about how they can build on their portfolios and add excitement to saturated sectors,” says Jane Henderson, global president of Mintel’s Beauty and Personal Care Division.

Mintel research shows that up to 70 per cent of US female consumers are interested in multifunctional lip products and 65 per cent in multifunctional facial coverage products, for example a foundation and concealer hybrid.

In China, 46 per cent of make-up users say they like trying new multifunctional products, such as eyeshadow and blusher.

Currently, the UK lags behind in this area, with just 25 per cent of women saying they are interested in a product which also has cosmetic benefits.

As well as skincare products, it is likely that we will also see more multifunctional hair products and fragrances. French women have expressed an interest in skincare products which contain their favourite fragrance, while Italian women would like fragrances for clothes.

Only 13 percent asked if clients would like to book

Spa sector losing bookings through poor call handling

According to a new survey by Leisure-net Solutions, only six per cent of spas ask potential clients making a telephone enquiry what benefits they want from a treatment and only 13 per cent are asked if they would like to make a booking.

The Spa call-Focus survey, which assesses and scores all aspects of a spas’ telephone enquiry services against industry standards, tested a sample of 15 UK day spas by calling them three times over a seven-day period in October 2013.

More than half scored under 60 and the average score was 52 per cent, based on specific spa service criteria.

Retreat set to teach women to become more sensual

Shhglobal has launched a retreat programme which promises to help women grow their confidence and sensuality, as well as release old traumas.

The four to seven day retreats are being held at a private 18th century manor house in Dorset and a hilltop villa in Ibiza.

Guests will learn how to build confidence, release anxiety, overcome trauma and explore their sensual potential, through treatments and group workshops.

Therapies on offer include reiki, acupuncture, sex counselling, sensual healing, massage and transformational breathing. A three month aftercare programme is included to reintegrate women into their lives.

“We want to shift the taboo around women’s sensuality and sexual awareness,” says co-founder, Lucy Arrowsmith. “We offer women the chance to experience, appreciate and celebrate their femininity through developing an understanding of the relationship between sensuality and self-confidence, creativity and the effects this has on a full and rich life.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=D3fsh

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Details: http://lei.sr?a=t6j9D

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Details: http://lei.sr?a=Q3R7C
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The food rating scheme is a red tape burden for the hospitality sector

With the new year well under-way and people up and down the country working hard to honour their resolutions to keep fit and eat healthily, food and nutrition is high on the agenda. So BBC’s Inside Out investigation of food hygiene ratings, which aired on 6 January 2014, was highly topical, tapping into the UK’s latest obsession.

While the importance of food hygiene cannot be understated, the proposed system is fundamentally flawed and the burdens of legislation under an inadequate system could ultimately have a detrimental effect on small businesses and eateries in the UK.

The flaws, we believe, relate to inconsistencies in the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme. For example, only 4 per cent of hospitality and retail food businesses in London are currently around 81-82 per cent, which means the capital is technically full for nearly six nights of the week. Despite the new supply of rooms coming on stream the company believes that occupancy looks likely to remain at these levels. Room rates in London, while down from the highs seen during 2012, look set to rise again in 2014 but have some way to go to over-take the 2012 levels.

PwC also predicts occupancy rates in London to be up 0.9 per cent on last year, with the regions seeing a rise of 0.4 per cent.

Edwardian Group refines its UK hotel portfolio

The Edwardian Group London, which owns a number of luxury hotels operating under the Radisson Blu Edwardian London and May Fair brands, has received £375m of new funding.

The deal involved separate transactions with Wiesbaden, Germany-based lender Aareal Bank and insurer Metlife, with the former providing £175m in finance for a hotel portfolio of five Radisson Blu Edwardian properties in London with a total of 996 rooms.

Metlife is providing a £200m debt refinancing package Details: http://lei.sr?a=q3Y9W

London hotels hot property among investors

London is the most sought after location in the world for investors looking to acquire a hotel, according to real estate site, LuxuryEstate.com, and accounts for 13.5 per cent of website searches for all hotels for sale.

This rise in interest is attributed to the 2012 Olympics, which sparked a 7.7 per cent rise in hotel occupancy for the first six months of 2013.

“Demand considerably outstrips supply and combined with the recovering economy, leads us to expect that this trend will continue,” says LuxuryEstate.com president, Silvio Pagliani.

The global hotel market remains strong, especially in established European markets, as well as Brazil.

Switzerland, France, Germany and the UK are the top four countries in which people are looking for luxury hotels, according to the website. Details: http://lei.sr?a=q3Y9W

PwC report on UK hotels outlook

A new hotel report from PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) sees the company remaining ‘cautiously upbeat, but increasingly optimistic’ about the outlook for the UK’s hotel sector in 2014.

It says that despite a poor start to the year, room occupancies in London are currently 81-82 per cent, which means the capital is technically full for nearly six nights of the week. Despite the new supply of rooms coming on stream the company believes that occupancy looks likely to remain at these levels. Room rates in London, while down from the highs seen during 2012, look set to rise again in 2014 but have some way to go to over-take the 2012 levels.

PwC also predicts occupancy rates in London to be up 0.9 per cent on last year, with the regions seeing a rise of 0.4 per cent. RevPAR is also expected to rise by 2.4 per cent in London – to £112.80, which the report says is a record level in nominal terms – and 1.8 per cent – to £42.40 – in the regions.

The number of hotel rooms available is similarly expected to show an increase, with those in London rising by 5,644 in 2013 (4 per cent), and in the regions by 8,232 (2 per cent).

Details: http://lei.sr?a=J6V9M

MARTIN COUCHMAN is deputy CEO of the Institute of Hospitality

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VisitBritain has given a robust response to tabloid criticism of market profiles published to help UK tourism businesses cater for inbound tourists.

Reports by a number of tabloids likened VisitBritain’s advice on cultural customs to the BBC sitcom *Fawlty Towers*, suggesting some of the tips border on the offensive. The advice was reported as featuring tips such as not to mock Indian accents or that people from Hong Kong are superstitious and prefer not to sleep in four poster beds. However, VisitBritain says the advice has been misrepresented and decontextualised: “The points that have been picked out and repeated are random, and don’t paint a true picture of the market profiles,” said Visit Britain chief executive Sandie Dawe.

A look at VisitBritain’s Hyperlink Market and Trade Profiles shows rather than being a dos and don’ts list, the profiles are actually in-depth, 60-page briefings that have been sensationalised and paraphrased by the tabloids. Far from being a leaked or recently devised list as claimed, the comprehensive documents have been on the VisitBritain website for a number of years and are designed to help businesses cater for overseas visitors.

Dawe added: “These profiles - put together by staff who are native to the country featured - provide valuable information on cultural differences and market trends for the industry and have been made to look silly through cherry-picking.”

She also said none of the newspapers had contacted the Visit Britain press office to check the accuracy of the claims prior to publication, although the Mail Online did carry a quote from marketing director Joss Croft. Details: http://lei.sr?a=N3Y4b

VisitBritain says sensationalism has made the profiles look silly

UK sees tourism growth from across the world

VisitBritain – quoting provisional figures from the 2013 International Passenger Survey (Office of National Statistics) – says that October was a record-breaking month for tourism visits and spend, with Britain welcoming increased visits from all regions of the world.

Unusually for an October, growth was seen from all the world regions – EU15, Other EU, Rest of Europe, North America and Rest of World – with North America returning to growth at 9 per cent up on October last year.

The high volume EU15 markets were up five per cent, while visits from other EU markets saw a 40 per cent increase.

Tourism spend is shown to be growing at a faster rate than the volume of visits, putting Britain on track for the highest spend from overseas visitors, a total of £1.88bn.

The figures have also put holiday visits on track for a record year, marking six consecutive months of record levels of holiday visits, with nine per cent more holiday visits from overseas in October 2013 than the previous October.

From January to October there were eight per cent more holiday visits than in the same period in 2012. Details: http://lei.sr?a=Y3b9n

Holiday visits to the UK for 2013 are on track for a record year
Crawley to get new museum following £1m HLF funding

Crawley Borough Council has been awarded £1.15m by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to help create a new museum in the town’s centre.

The council, working in partnership with the Crawley Museum Society, is looking to install the facility within The Tree and The Tree Annexe at a total cost of £1.95m.

It is hoped the project will get underway in April 2015, with a build time estimated at around 18 months.

Having already sought to upgrade The Tree with a spend of £763,000, the council plans to connect the two buildings with a glass link.

The museum society, council and the HLF believe the attraction has the potential to improve the town’s heritage offerings, with the Crawley Museum Society operating the new attraction with financial support from the council.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=A8M8a

Scottish attractions ‘failing the deaf’

Major tourist attractions in Scotland are failing to cater to the deaf, according to a leading hearing loss charity.

Action on Hearing Loss Scotland (AHLS) – formerly the RNID – carried out spot checks on 21 Scottish venues and discovered that only three had working hearing loops at their main ticket or information point.

Hearing loops amplify speech over background noise for people who wear a hearing aid and the charity said it was “absolutely essential” for the equipment to be maintained.

The three attractions which had working hearing loops were Stirling Castle, McManus Museum in Dundee and St Mungo’s Museum in Glasgow.

“AS Scotland prepares for major high profile events in 2014, it is crucial that tourist attractions are fully accessible for the one in six in Scotland who have hearing loss as well as those coming from overseas,” said AHLS director Delia Henry. “People who are deaf or hard of hearing have the legal right to enjoy the same level of service as other customers so it is absolutely essential that tourist attractions ensure that equipment such as loops at main information points are installed, maintained and switched on and that staff are trained in deaf awareness.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=w7E7M

Flambards theme park sold to Livingstone

The Flambards theme park in Helston, Cornwall, has been sold to Livingstone Leisure Ltd, with the attraction reported to have been put into in administration.

The park has been bought by new owner Ian Cunningham, who is also responsible for co-founding Blue Reef Leisure, as well as working as an operations director at the Eden Project.

Flambards has been partially closed while refurbishments are made, though the new owner has stated that there are no plans for major changes to existing facilities.

Prior to the sale, it was thought that Flambards was facing financial difficulties, with nineteen members of staff thought to have been laid off in November and a number of people working on reduced and flexible hours.

“In simple terms they couldn’t afford to trade any longer and the bank decided to look at their overall structure and finances and put them into administration,” said Timothy Smart of Stratton Creber Commercial, which was involved in the park’s sale.

Flambards was originally owned by the Kingsford-Hale family since 1976, with it having developed the site into a 27-acre attraction offering visitors access to rides and museum exhibits.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=w8B9x

London’s Science Museum releases interactive iPad app

The Science Museum, London, has released an iPad app that gives users the chance to explore 14 different interactive journeys specially crafted by its curators.

The Journeys of Invention app allows for the exploration of over 80 objects from the museum’s collection, including a journey inside the Apollo 10 Command Module and a World War II Enigma machine.

Users are given two free journeys to explore, with 12 others being offered as an add-on package bought through the app at a cost of £6.99 (US$11.42, €8.37).

The two free journeys come in the form of ‘Connected’ and ‘New Science’, with the former showcasing how technology has developed connectivity.

“Journeys of Invention is at once awe-inspiring and intimate,” said Dr Andrew Nahum, lead curator at the museum. “It is like having a curator take you on a series of guided tours through the most magnificent objects in our collection.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=Q4K7a

Users can explore 14 different interactive journeys

ATTRACTIONS
Wood Wharf development plans put forward

The Canary Wharf Group has put forward plans to develop the area’s nearby Wood Wharf site into a business, leisure and residential development in time for the introduction of the Crossrail network.

The group has submitted plans to Tower Hamlets Council in a bid to create a district housing 3,100 residential units, 240,000sq m of office space and 100 shops, restaurants and cafes.

It is thought that the group also wants to develop the area into a location offering leading creative and technology companies.

Instead of using the same skyscraper method deployed at Canary Wharf, the Wood Wharf site is to feature mainly mid to low-rise buildings, with residential offerings ranging from affordable housing to luxury penthouses.

Despite a focus on smaller structures, the area is to be dominated by a 57-storey residential tower by Herzog & de Meuron, which is to be built alongside another two buildings, as part of the first phase of the development.

If plans are approved, the group hopes to start construction some time next year, with a view to completing the first set of buildings in 2017.

The Canary Wharf and Wood Wharf area is to be serviced by a high-speed Crossrail station, which is set to be completed during 2018.

Gloucester Quays opens leisure quarter

Peel Outlets has formally opened its new £60m leisure quarter at the Gloucester Quays outlet centre, which sees the addition of a 1,486sq m (16,000 sq ft) health and fitness centre.

New developments include a fitness facility operated by The Gym Group and a 1,600-seat, 10-screen Cineworld cinema. The newly developed area also includes a number of restaurants and eateries.

The new gym features equipment including six Myride virtual bikes, 24 exercise bikes, 23 running machines, 20 cross trainers, eight rowing machines, six steppers and 35 pieces of strength training kit.

The leisure quarter takes Gloucester Quays outlet centre to 33,600sq m (362,600 sq ft), with the 110-unit site expected to attract a footfall of 4 million people per annum by the end of 2014.

“"The formal opening of Gloucester Quays’ leisure quarter marks a key milestone for the centre as it evolves into a recognised regional outlet destination,” said Jason Pullen, managing director of Peel Outlets.

“We have introduced 20 new fashion and leisure brands to the centre over this past year. Retailers and restaurant/leisure occupiers have recognised that we have created a critical brand mass and we expect other brands to join the line-up in 2014.”

Gloucester Quays is also home to a 96-room Travelodge hotel and parking for up to 1,500 cars. Details: http://lei.sr?a=y3w8j

Cineworld to anchor new development in Hinckley

Work on The Crescent redevelopment scheme in Hinckley is due to start in March after final plans got the go ahead from Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.

The £80m project, being undertaken by Wilson Bowden for the Tin Hat Regeneration Partnership, will be anchored by a 5-screen cinema to be operated by Cineworld, together with a Sainsbury’s supermarket.

Also part of the plan, which is using the site of the town’s former bus station, are a range of smaller retail units and a number of family restaurants. The bus station itself will be replaced by a new facility in Waterloo Road.

There had been concerns for the future of the scheme after it was reported earlier in the year that the supermarket chain was no longer interested in building on the site, although the situation has now been resolved.

With work having been delayed for some time since the grant of planning consent in 2011, completion is now anticipated to be in the summer of 2015.

Plans for multi-million pound Feethams project approved

A multi-million pound leisure complex is to be built in Darlington after the local council approved plans to build on a former bus depot site.

Proposed by developers Terrace Hill, the Feethams Leisure project will feature an 80-room Premier Inn, a nine-screen multiplex Vue cinema and restaurant offerings from the likes of Nandos and Prezzo.

Darlington Borough Council’s planning applications committee made its decision to grant approval on 18 December. It is believed that work could get underway some time next year, with a planned completion date of 2015.

The developers are welcoming proposals from independent businesses and independent operators, to ensure that the Feethams Leisure project offers variety to its visitors.
INVITATION TO LET BY FORMAL TENDER FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A NINE HOLE, PAR 3, GOLF COURSE IN OAKWOOD PARK.

The London Borough of Enfield is seeking a suitably qualified and experienced Operator to tender for a concession to operate and maintain an existing Nine Hole, Par 3 Golf Course in Oakwood Park, Enfield, North London. Specific information will be available within the tender documentation.

The Park itself has been awarded Green Flag status and is used by a wide variety of ages with different interests. The Park is a popular destination with good pedestrian access and excellent transport links (both buses and trains). The London Underground Piccadilly Line runs from Kings Cross and Central London and stops at Oakwood Station which is just a short walk away.

The successful tenderer shall operate and maintain the Premises under a management agreement for a period of three (3) years (with the Authority’s option to extend the agreement in increments of one year up to a maximum period of two (2) years).

DEADLINE FOR TENDER SUBMISSIONS IS 12 Noon, 19th February 2014.

For further information or to register your interest, please visit the London Tenders Portal or call Tina Heather on 020 8379 3313 or email tina.heather@enfield.gov.uk

The Council is not obligated to accept any proposal and may cancel this procurement exercise at any stage.

www.enfield.gov.uk
Outdoor Leisure Centres

- Available Individually Or As A Group
- Full Details Available Upon Request

For details please contact:
susannah.moss@gva.co.uk
gavin.brent@gva.co.uk
lakis.pavlou@gva.co.uk

08449 02 03 04
gva.co.uk
Premier Training partners with Ricky Hatton

Premier Training International has teamed up with Ricky Hatton’s boxing training academy to provide boxing training and education at level one foundation and level two advanced boxing workshops.

The level one workshop will help to expand the trainer’s knowledge from an organisational and instructing standpoint, while giving them the accreditation to teach both boxing and circuit classes.

The level two advanced workshop follows on from the fundamentals of level one and will expand trainers’ knowledge of boxing for fitness, teaching the new combinations, routines and advanced techniques for their boxing sessions.

“We’re looking forward to the launch of the level one foundation and level two advanced boxing workshops,” said Ricky Hatton. “They will help our trainers expand their knowledge base, giving them the accreditation, confidence and expertise to forge a successful career.”

Premier Training will deliver coaching qualifications for the Hatton Academy

Hatton is a former WBA (Super), IBF, IBO and The Ring Light Welterweight Champion and WBA Welterweight Champion and retired from the ring in 2012 following a comeback fight more than three years after his previous fight. Hatton was recognised with an MBE for services to sport in 2007.

Launching on 25 January, the workshops will take place at the Hatton Academy in Hyde.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=y6X6p

Apprenticeship Week toolkit launched

Businesses are being encouraged to take part in this year’s National Apprenticeship Week following the launch of a new online toolkit.

The online kit has been designed to help potential participants get involved with the event by aiding the organisation of activities based around the theme of “Great Apprenticeships”.

The activities are to be used to showcase the idea that apprenticeships can work well for both businesses and individual trainees.

The event – now into its seventh year – is organised by the National Apprenticeship Service and helps portray the beneficial impact apprenticeships can have.

“National Apprenticeship Week is a fantastic opportunity to shine the spotlight on apprenticeships and how they help employers grow their own talent and provide a great opportunity for apprentices to earn while they learn,” said Karen Woodward, interim national director of apprenticeships at the National Apprenticeship Service.

Starting 3 March, the National Apprenticeship Week uses a variety of methods to encourage businesses to be more active in the positive portrayal of apprenticeships.

The use of social media and new technologies is also being pushed, with Twitter being used to broadcast images of products developed by apprentices.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=u2a4g

The first step to sporting participation

January always brings a fresh cohort of exercise enthusiasts, and 2014 is no different. However, this year we must consider the motives for those taking to gyms, parks, leisure centres and swimming pools, and ensure this new-found commitment is sustained in an active lifestyle filled with health benefits.

When a member of the public chooses an exercise professional, they put their faith and trust in this person, so it is imperative this professional is qualified to effectively and safely meet the needs of the client.

The explicit relationship between health and exercise has received much coverage in recent months.

While this is not ground-breaking news in the sector, we must appreciate that recent media coverage will have got people thinking about whether they do enough exercise, or whether it is something they need to consider as a simple yet major health benefit.


This association between health and exercise reinforces the importance of REPs Level 4 professionals, which is again outlined in the government response to the House of Lords Report Sport and exercise science and medicine: building on the Olympic legacy to improve the nation’s health, going on record to recommend “participating exercise professionals belong to REPs”.

Developed as part of National Occupational Standards (NOS), REPs Level 4 categories specifically focus on the medical aspect of exercise, which, as we have seen so often, can act as a powerful motivator for people.

REPs Level 4 is essential as we work together to help prevent this potential national crisis. Obtaining the correct skills to work with someone with specific conditions or outcomes is essential and cannot be done without this bespoke qualification.
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Dianne Eade, Newquay Zoo
Head of Finance, Human Resources and Administration

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The University of Nottingham is in the top 1% of Universities worldwide and consistently ranked in the top 10 in the UK for sport. University of Nottingham Sport is embarking on an ambitious change programme to further elevate our sports standing and secure a consistent place in the top 5 sporting Universities. The University has invested heavily in facilities with £7m committed this year alone, and ambitious plans are underway to re-develop the flagship facility at University Park. Moreover significant investment has also been made in coaching, scholarships and staffing provide an excellent platform for the successful candidate. The University is therefore looking to recruit a dynamic and experienced Assistant Director of Sport to lead on the University’s performance programme.

The successful candidate will also provide consultancy for the sports operations at the two overseas campuses in Malaysia and China. They will be part of the senior sports management team at the University that is tasked with taking the department to new heights and establishing it as one of the best sports providers in the UK.

Candidates should be educated to degree level (or equivalent), with demonstrable experience of working in a high performance environment, including coaching, sports science & medicine, international competition and development pathways. Other essential requirements are excellent communication skills and a commitment to delivering a high level of customer service, experience of managing and developing people and resources, and proven project and financial management skills.

Hours of work are full-time, 36¼ per week, noting that the operational hours are between 5.30am and 11 pm seven days a week, is required. This permanent post is open to job share.

Interviews will be a two stage process. Provisional dates are as follows:

- Interviews stage 1: Thursday 27th or 28th February
- Interviews stage 2: Thursday 6th March

Informal enquiries may be addressed to Dan Tilley, email: dan.tilley@nottingham.ac.uk. Please note that applications sent directly to this email address will not be accepted.

For more details and/or to apply on-line please access: www.nottingham.ac.uk/jobs/CurrentVacancies/ref/LD15312R.

Closing date: 10 February 2014.

SPEEDFLEX EUROPE LTD launched in the UK in 2011 and has ex-England captain Alan Shearer among its ambassadors; the company’s backers include chairman Graham Wylie, the founder of Sage Software, and MD Paul Ferris, ex-Newcastle footballer and physiotherapist, who designed the Speedflex concept.

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Exercise Physiologist
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Head Trainer
This role requires an individual who is motivated, driven, with leadership qualities and has a desire to work within health and fitness.

Sales and Membership Manager
This is a multi-skilled and varied role offering an exciting opportunity to develop with an innovative and growing business. You’ll need to be outgoing with a real desire to get to know members and ensure their smooth journey through the Speedflex centre and their Speedflex session.

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For more information on the above vacancies go to: www.leisureopportunities.co.uk
Please apply in confidence by sending us your CV and covering letter with details of your current salary to nigel.foster@speedflex.com

CLOSING DATE: JANUARY 17th 2014
Recruitment Opportunities at Polin

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- Designer

If you have experience in the following areas, preferably in the theme park or water park industry, then please email your CV and covering letter to Magic Bowling at magic.bowling@polin.com.tr.

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**Front of House positions**
- Company: Ten Pilates
  - Location: London, UK

**Club Manager**
- Company: Soho Gyms
  - Location: Manchester, UK

**Research and Communications Officer**
- Company: Kent County Council
  - Location: Kent, UK

**Trainee Duty Manager**
- Company: Parkwood Leisure
  - Location: Portsmouth, UK

**Recreation Assistant**
- Company: Parkwood Leisure
  - Location: West Berkshire, UK

**Personal Trainers**
- Company: The Gym Group
  - Location: Various locations, UK

**Membership Consultant**
- Company: Everyone Active
  - Location: Poole, UK

**Sales Advisor**
- Company: GLL
  - Location: York, UK

**Personal Trainer**
- Company: Pure Gym Limited
  - Location: Various locations, UK

**Group Sports Manager (f/m)**
- Company: Aspria Group
  - Location: Europe

**Fitness Instructor / Vibro Plate instructor**
- Company: énergie group
  - Location: Finchley, N12, UK

**Swimming teachers**
- Company: Community Swimming
  - Location: Various, UK

**Lifeguard (Training offered)**
- Company: GLL
  - Location: Hillingdon and Ealing, UK

**Recreation Assistant**
- Company: GLL
  - Location: London Borough of Bromley, UK

**General Managers**
- Company: The Gym Group
  - Location: Various locations, UK

**Sport Assistants**
- Company: The Robert Gordon University
  - Location: Aberdeen, UK

**Lead Gymnastic Coach**
- Company: GLL
  - Location: Walthamstow, UK

**Leisure Assistant**
- Company: London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
  - Location: Richmond upon Thames, UK

**Duty Manager**
- Company: London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
  - Location: Richmond upon Thames, UK

**Fitness/Duty Manager**
- Company: London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
  - Location: Richmond upon Thames, UK

**Swimming Pool Manager**
- Company: Alfriiston School
  - Location: Buckinghamshire, UK

**Duty Manager**
- Company: Parkwood Leisure
  - Location: Southend, UK

**General Manager**
- Company: The Gym Group
  - Location: London Kingston, UK

**Swim Lesson Manager / Duty Manager**
- Company: Everyone Active
  - Location: Stroud, UK

**Personal Trainers - Level Three**
- Company: NRG GYM LTD
  - Location: Gravesend, Kent

**Fitness Motivator**
- Company: Everyone Active
  - Location: Fareham, UK

**Tutors / Assessors / Internal Verifiers**
- Company: Diverse Trainers
  - Location: Nationwide, UK

**Recreation Assistant**
- Company: Everyone Active
  - Location: Ely, UK

**Assistant General Manager**
- Company: The Gym Group
  - Location: Crawley, East Sussex, UK

**Sales and Fitness Manager**
- Company: Parkwood Leisure
  - Location: Buckinghamshire, UK

**Front of House Receptionist**
- Company: Everyone Active
  - Location: North Wembley, UK

**Front of House Receptionist**
- Company: Everyone Active
  - Location: Harrow Leisure Centre, UK

**Casual Fitness Instructor**
- Company: Parkwood Leisure
  - Location: Exeter, UK

**Sports Assistant**
- Company: Everyone Active
  - Location: Bristol, UK

**Group Exercise Lead**
- Company: GLL
  - Location: Lambeth, UK

**Head Trainer**
- Company: Speedflex
  - Location: Leeds, UK

**Centre Manager**
- Company: Speedflex
  - Location: Leeds, UK

**Exercise Physiologist**
- Company: Speedflex
  - Location: Leeds, UK

**Sales and Membership Manager**
- Company: Speedflex
  - Location: Leeds, UK

**Full Time Membership Consultant**
- Company: Everyone Active
  - Location: Stratford Upon Avon, UK

**Leisure Club Manager**
- Company: 3d Leisure
  - Location: Stourport, UK

**Assistant General Manager**
- Company: The Gym Group
  - Location: London Colindale, UK

**Duty Manager**
- Company: Parkwood Leisure
  - Location: Barnstaple, UK

**Personal Trainer - Freelance**
- Company: Harrow School
  - Location: London, UK

**Centre Manager**
- Company: Parkwood Leisure
  - Location: Newbury, UK

**Catering Manager**
- Company: Parkwood Leisure
  - Location: Cardiff, UK

**Membership Advisor**
- Company: Parkwood Leisure
  - Location: Nottinghamshire, UK

**Swimming Teachers**
- Company: Everyone Active
  - Location: Wembley, London, UK

**Gym Manager**
- Company: Pure Gym Limited
  - Location: Various locations, UK

**Health And Fitness Manager**
- Company: YMCA London South West
  - Location: Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, UK

**Gymnastic and Trampoline coaches**
- Company: Everyone Active
  - Location: Fareham, UK

**Assistant Gym Manager**
- Company: Pure Gym Limited
  - Location: Various locations, UK

**Leisure Attendant**
- Company: Brio Leisure
  - Location: Ellesmere Port, UK

**Associate Personal Trainers**
- Company: markanthony’s unlimited
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**Duty Manager**
- Company: Parkwood Leisure
  - Location: Oxfordshire, UK

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Location: Studley Leisure Centre, UK

Leisure Centre Manager
Company: Wiltshire Council
Location: Marlborough, UK

Marketing Coordinator
Company: Tone Leisure
Location: Taunton, UK

Duty Manager
Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Oxfordshire, UK

Duty Manager
Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Solihull, UK

Cluster Manager
Company: Soll Leisure
Location: Oxfordshire and Hampshire, UK

Sales Adviser - Part Time 25 hours
Company: Soll Leisure
Location: Didcot, Oxfordshire, UK

Duty Manager
Company: Soll Leisure
Location: Didcot, Oxfordshire, UK

Lifeguard
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Studley, Warwickshire, UK

Cafe Assistant
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Stratford upon Avon, UK

Part Time Lifeguard
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Shipston on Stour, UK

Full Time Lifeguard
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Stratford Upon Avon, UK

Freelance Personal Trainer
Company: Everyone Active
Location: North Wembley, London, UK

Full Time Sports Attendant
Company: Aberdeen Sports Village
Location: Aberdeen, UK

Fitness Instructor (Part Time)
Company: 3d Leisure
Location: Central London, UK

Personal Trainer
Company: Matt Roberts Personal Training
Location: Belgravia, UK

Recreation Assistants
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Fareham, UK

Membership Sales Advisor
Company: énergie group
Location: Harrow, UK

Chief Executive Officer
Company: Celtic Leisure
Location: Neath Port Talbot, Wales

Front of House Receptionist
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Ealing, Brent & Harrow, UK

Park Manager
Company: Bounce UK
Location: Milton Keynes, UK

Personal Trainer
Company: Logic Trainers
Location: Nationwide, UK

Assistant Director of Sport: Performance
Company: University of Nottingham
Location: Nottingham, UK

Funding for Careers in Fitness
Company: Amac Training Ltd
Location: South East, UK

Tutor
Company: Leisure Industry Academy
Location: Nationwide, UK

Trainee Personal Trainers Required
Company: The Training Room
Location: Nationwide, UK

Operations Manager
Company: Xercise 4 Less
Location: Nationwide, UK

Membership Consultant
Company: Xercise 4 Less
Location: Nationwide, UK

Personal Trainer
Company: Xercise 4 Less
Location: Nationwide, UK

Assistant Manager
Company: NRG Gym
Location: Gravesend, Kent

Receptionist
Company: Xercise 4 Less
Location: Nationwide, UK

Housekeeper
Company: Xercise 4 Less
Location: Nationwide, UK

GP Exercise Referral
Company: Focus Training
Location: Nationwide, UK

Marketing Executive
Company: Polin Waterparks & Pool Systems
Location: Turkey

Senior Spa Therapist
Company: Dorchester Collection
Location: London, UK

Senior Spa Receptionist
Company: Dorchester Collection
Location: London, UK

Personal Trainer
Company: Pure Gym Limited
Location: Various locations, UK

Spa Receptionist
Company: Dorchester Collection
Location: London, UK

Business Development Manager
Company: VOYA Products Ltd
Location: UK wide, UK

Events and Hospitality Manager
Company: The National Trust for Scotland
Location: East Fife, UK

Visitor Services Manager
Company: Deep Sea World
Location: Scotland, UK

Property Manager
Company: The National Trust for Scotland
Location: East Fife, UK

General Manager
Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Weston-super-Mare, UK

Regional Sales Manager
Company: Polin Waterparks & Pool Systems
Location: Turkey

Designer, Theming
Company: Polin Waterparks & Pool Systems
Location: Turkey

Senior Project Engineer
Company: Polin Waterparks & Pool Systems
Location: Turkey

Senior Mechanical / Civil Engineer
Company: Polin Waterparks & Pool Systems
Location: Turkey

Engineer, Product Development
Company: Polin Waterparks & Pool Systems
Location: Turkey

Attractions Manager
Company: Yesterday’s World
Location: Great Yarmouth, UK
Deane appointed head of YMCAfit

After four years away from the health and fitness industry, Leisure Opportunities can exclusively reveal that former FIA/ukactive chief executive Andree Deane will return as head of YMCAfit one of the UK’s leading trainers of fitness professionals.

Effective from 15 January, Deane is to replace Denise Page, who is stepping down after 22 years working at the charity.

Prior to her appointment, Deane has spent the last four years in consultancy - specialising in government affairs plus becoming chair of charity TimeBank - and is well-placed to head up YMCAfit, having carried out a comprehensive review of YMCA's organisational structure over the past 18 months.

She expects to spend the next year easing YMCAfit into its new incarnation, following the December 2013 merger between Central YMCA and YMCA Training, which brought together 520 staff across 26 UK locations.

The new role is not the only change for Deane in 2014, as her husband (Labour MP Kevin Barron) recently received a knighthood, giving her the new title Lady Deane Barron.

Discount card for spas and salons rolled out in London

A new discount card has been launched in London with the aim of boosting footfall to the capital’s spas and salons.

The 118 118 Beauty card offers members discounted treatments at locations involved with the subscription scheme.

Discounts of 50 per cent or more are already being offered by upwards of 300 London spas and salons including Spa London, Aesthetics of London and Spa Verta – and 50 more merchants are expected to sign up to the scheme each week. Details: http://lei.sr?a=T8B2j

Stonehenge visitor experience praised

Continued from front cover

Chief executive of English Heritage, Dr Simon Thurley, has expressed his delight that the long-awaited Stonehenge visitor centre is now ready.

In addition to the new centre, later this month, a group of specially trained volunteers will build a group of Neolithic houses complete with furniture and fittings as part of the new Stonehenge visitor centre.

“At last visitors to Stonehenge will be able to get a sense of the people who built this monument, of their lives, their deaths and their ceremonies,” said Dr Thurley. “Visitors will, for the first time, learn the astonishing history of the stones and will see objects, many never seen before, bringing the stones to life.”

The development has been funded by a £10m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and gifts from the Garfield Weston Foundation, The Linbury Trust and the Wolfson Foundation.

Culture Secretary, Maria Miller, said: “It is only right that after decades of indecision, we can now offer Stonehenge the visitor experience it deserves.” Details: http://lei.sr?a=88s2S