£12.5m improvements to 'future-proof' London Eye

By Pete Hayman

Merlin Entertainments has unveiled plans for a £12.5m upgrade of the London Eye in a bid to improve customer experience and to 'future-proof' the attraction in the lead up to the London 2012 Olympics.

The wheel's 32 capsules will be removed one at a time to undergo work to install new, environmentally-friendly heating and ventilation systems, while one of the capsules will also feature ceiling-mounted TV screens and have wi-fi installed.

A temporary capsule, which will not carry passengers, will be used to replace whichever pod is being upgraded.

It is hoped that the project, which is due to be completed in time for the London 2012 Olympics, will ensure that no major maintenance work will have to be carried out on the attraction for up to 20 years, and will make it more environmentally friendly.

Merlin Entertainments’ divisional director of London Midway attractions, David Sharpe, said: “This investment is a clear demonstration of Merlin Entertainments’ commitment to constantly investing in upgrading its attractions, and to delivering the best possible experience to visitors.

“We believe that investment is more important than ever in the current economic climate when both local and international visitors to attractions like the London Eye are looking for real value for their leisure pound.”

The 135m (443ft)-high London Eye has attracted more than 33 million visitors since it first launched in 2000, becoming the UK's top paid-for visitor attraction.

Report claims fitness is "growing" despite recession

FIA’s State of the Industry survey reveals sector has generated £3.77bn revenue

By Caroline Wilkinson

The health and fitness sector has grown by 3 per cent during the year to 31 March 2009, according to the FIA’s annual State of the Industry survey.

Compiled by market analysts The Leisure Database Company, the survey of 6,000 health club sites shows that the industry's revenue reached £3.77bn during the year.

The number of new public and private fitness facilities has also increased by 114, while one in eight consumers are now members of either a health club or leisure centre.

The industry has also benefited from government funding to support its role as a delivery partner for national public health programmes.

The FIA’s activity-led initiatives developed over the last 12 months – including behavioural modification scheme Fit for the Future for 18 to 24-year-olds and activity programmes 'go' and 'active at school' – have all been created to improve the physical activity levels and the nation's health.

MoreActive4Life, a sub-brand of the government’s Change4Life campaign, is also due to launch in June 2009.

Knock Castle work complete

Redevelopment work at the Knock Castle Hotel and Spa in Crieff, Scotland, has been completed.

The second phase of the £1.5m revamp included a new spa treatment wing, housing treatment rooms and a relaxation area, while the leisure area, incorporating a swimming pool, a spa pool and a steamroom was upgraded.

Work also included the creation of a 100-capacity conference suite.
**£160m Birmingham scheme approved**

Jewellery Quarter redevelopment set to include leisure facilities and public spaces

By Pete Hayman

Birmingham’s historic Jewellery Quarter is set to receive an extensive refurbishment after proposals for the £160m St Georges scheme were given the go-ahead by Birmingham City Council.

The first phase of the 6.8 acre (2.8-hectare) mixed-use scheme, which is the largest development in the Jewellery Quarter for more than 20 years, includes the £55m transformation of the former Kettlesworth factory into office and retail space and a 60m (197ft) x 50m (164ft) public square featuring outdoor performance space.

Although the 109-year-old Kettlesworth building is not listed, developer Chord Deeley intends to retain the red-brick exterior, while a fifth storey will be added to the side of the building along with the revamp of a 1950s extension. A nearby 1930s warehouse will also become a multi-storey car park.

Future plans for the site, which have been drawn up by Online Architects and will be implemented over a five-year period, include a 151-room Ramada Encore hotel and a 100-room budget hotel, 1,145sq m (12,230sq ft) of commercial space including restaurants and bars and a residential development.

Chord Deeley – a joint venture between Coventry-based Deeley Properties and local developer Chord – expects to begin work on the first phase in June.

The cuts include the closure of Fife’s Hill of Tarvit Mansion House

By Helen Patenall

The National Trust for Scotland has come under attack from its stakeholders over recent plans to make 90 redundancies and to close 11 of its historic properties including Kellie Castle and the David Livingstone Centre – until too late in the day.

The union’s attack has been compounded by criticism over funding for the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum project, which is putting the charity under pressure to find a £3.8m shortfall during an already financially difficult period. However, chief executive Kate Mavor defended the council’s decisions: “While it’s fair to say that we are facing challenges at the moment, we are making good progress in strengthening our finances and we anticipate that we will be in surplus by the end of this year.”

“Our finances are reviewed regularly by auditors and we are regulated by the Office of the Scotland’s Charity Regulator which has not highlighted any concerns. We are acting now to ensure our finances remain stable for the long term. These decisions are never easy, but it is our belief that they are essential.”

**£48m Tropicana development on hold until 2010**

By Pete Hayman

Plans for the £48m development of a new leisure complex on the site of the Tropicana centre in Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, have been put on hold until early 2010 due to the recession.

The Lifestation@Tropicana project, which was approved by North Somerset Council’s (NSC) West Area planning committees on October 31, had been set to get underway later this year as part of a wider scheme to revamp the town’s seafront.

The council has now admitted that the recession looks set to delay the scheme by around six months, although work will continue to address outstanding planning issues and the planned Section 106 agreement with developer Henry Boot in the meantime.

NSC deputy leader Elian Rees said: “Everyone is aware of what the recession is doing for development plans. We’re discussing with Henry Boot over when they can start work, but they remain our preferred development partner.”

Plans for the complex include a six-lane, 25m indoor swimming pool, a multiplex cinema, a 20-lane bowling alley and a 96-bedroom hotel, as well as a restaurant.
**Paddington facility to open in summer**

**Little Venice Sports Centre** will be the first IFI-accredited facility in the borough

By Pete Hayman

A new £4.3m multi-purpose leisure complex in Paddington, London, which will be the only facility in the area to be accredited by the Inclusive Fitness Initiative (IFI), is to open this summer.

Westminster City Council hopes that the 1,800sq m (19,375sq ft) Little Venice Sports Centre will help to tackle the borough’s health inequalities by making its facilities fully accessible to customers with physical disabilities and learning difficulties, as well as non-disabled users.

The complex, which has been designed by LCE Architects, includes a 30-station, 172sq m (1,861sq ft) fitness suite equipped by Matrix Fitness Systems, as well as four indoor-courts sport hall, a multi-use dance and exercise studio and a training suite with cameras to monitor athletes’ performance and needs. A satellite library offering free wi-fi internet access in the reception area is also included. Funding for the new complex has been provided by the council, while more than £1.8m has been contributed through grants from a range of organisations, including Sport England, Skills Active, the Big Lottery Fund and John Lyon Charity Trust.

It will also be designated as a Centre of Excellence for Physical Activity as part of the National Skills Academ for Sport and Active Leisure, and has been built using sustainable materials to reduce the leisure complex’s carbon footprint.

**Health & Fitness**

**New £2m fitness suite for Rivermead**

A new £2m fitness suite has been unveiled at Rivermead Leisure Complex in Reading, Berkshire, following the completion of a refurbishment scheme carried out by operator Greenwich Leisure (GLL). Escape Fitness has worked in partnership with GLL to help equip the facility, which now boasts 120 stations of equipment and a free weights area, along with two 10m BSF sprint-track lanes have also been installed in the complex’s new exercise studio. The fitness suite also now offers an aerobics studio, a Kinesis studio and a crewn area, as well as a dedicated area for GP referrals and disabled users.

**Virgin Active plans Italian expansion**

Health club operator Virgin Active plans to open 25 clubs in 2004, opened four clubs last year and is now preparing for an Italian expansion and disabled users.

**Plans for St Neots centre submitted**

Proposals to extend St Neots Leisure Centre have been submitted by Huntingdonshire District Council. If approved, the facility will benefit from a new fitness suite, a wellness suite, a crèche, changing rooms and a soft play area. A decision is expected to be made by the planning committee on 22 June.

**Proposed leisure centre for new technical college**

By Helen Patenall

Metrix Consortium’s proposals for a £12bn defence technical college at the former RAF airbase in St Athan, South Wales, incorporate a new community leisure centre.

Plans submitted to the Vale of Glamorgan Council include a new sports centre comprising 12 sports courts plus two squash courts; an eight-lane, floodlit athletics track; 12 outdoor sports pitches for rugby, hockey, football and cricket; and a fitness suite with a free weights area.

The two swimming pools will be revamped later this year of new equipment, including seven treadmills and stretching machines supplied by Technogym, matting areas and resistance machines.

The council-owned centre is operated by Greenwich Leisure, and offers an indoor and outdoor swimming pool, squash courts and a health suite.

**Dulwich facility to get a £5m revamp**

The centre is one of four facilities in the borough to undergo refurbishment work

By Pete Hayman

Construction work on a £5m refurbishment of Dulwich Leisure Centre in London, which is underway and is the first phase of a wider Southwark Council-led scheme to upgrade leisure facilities in the area.

The entire scheme is expected to take 20 months to complete, and includes a revamp of the centre’s 80-station gym and 27m swimming pool, enhanced changing areas and improved disabled access.

Although the centre’s swimming pool, crèche and rear studios will be closed until spring 2010 to enable the refurbishment to be carried out, the gym will remain open.

The 27m swimming pool and gym will be given a new lease of life the long-term future of its two historic Victorian Baths in Dulwich and Camberwell.*

Dulwich Leisure Centre, operated by Fusion, is one of four sites set to undergo work as part of the council’s Leisure Improvement Programme.

**Recession causes Heston’s pool plans to be cancelled**

Plans for a £20m leisure centre in Heston, west London, have been shelved by the London Borough of Hounslow due to the recession.

The proposals included replacing the town’s existing swimming pool, as well as the construction of a learning disability resource centre and community rooms.

Following discussions with developers Barratts, it became clear the project would not begin until the housing market improved, which the council felt was detrimental to the provision of improved leisure facilities in the area.

The executive committee will meet again later this year to discuss other options.
July opening for Bugworld Experience

New £3.8m attraction to enable visitors to learn about a range of insect species

By Tom Walker

A new £3.8m visitor attraction based on the life of insects will launch at the Albert Dock in Liverpool this summer. Bugworld Experience, a 1,200sq m (13,000sq ft) attraction, will open on 1 July and includes a number of simulated habitats – ranging from a rainforest to savannah to the everyday British home – in which visitors can observe a wide range of species.

The concept has been developed by Rogers Group Investments (RGI). According to RGI founder, Des Rogers, the idea to create Bugworld came as a result of him visiting a successful insectarium in Canada a few years ago. Alastair Wallace, partner at property company T&A, the company appointed to build the attraction in a Grade A-listed building, said: “The Bugworld Experience will bring a unique attraction to Britain that is also an amazing learning experience.”

Bugworld will be divided into six distinct zones, which will feature digital and interactive exhibits, games, information points and daily shows with insect handlers, as well as a shop.

Keith Thomas, director of Petersham Group, which will manage the site, said: “There will be a lot of touch screens, games and multimedia. Visitors will start their journey by studying the bugs found in a tropical rainforest and end up finding out about the creatures they share their home with – such as cockroach-es and bedbugs.”

The visitor attraction will be located at Liverpool’s Albert Dock.

Zoo goes green with wind power

Wildwood Wildlife Park near Canterbury, Kent, has invested in green energy by installing a 18m (59.1ft)-high wind turbine at the attraction.

The 20kW turbine is expected to generate around 35,000 units of energy a year, preventing the release of more than 15 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

The £111,478 turbine was funded by grants from the government’s Low Carbon Infrastructure Fund, with wind power units of energy a year, preventing the release of more than 15 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Dorset-based company Windmill World built the turbine and is planning to install two more before the end of the year.

By Helen Patenall

Merlin Entertainments is planning to build a new hotel at the Alton Towers theme park and resort in Staffordshire.

An outline proposal will be submitted to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council within the next two months.

Corporate communications manager Liz Greenwood said: “We have conducted a very detailed economic impact survey which looks at how our business affects those around us and the wider area.

“We have come to a very detailed economic impact survey which looks at how our business affects those around us and the wider area.

“Visitors to the park are currently offered accommodation at the 175-bedroom Alton Towers Hotel and the 216-bedroom Splash Landings hotel, which has an indoor water park.
Urban Cricket unveiled in Nottingham
New purpose-built facility to increase the number of young people playing cricket

By Pete Rayman
A new Urban Cricket facility has opened in Nottingham as part of a scheme led by npower and the England and Wales Cricket Board to increase the number of children playing cricket.

The purpose-built facility, which has transformed a disused area of the city’s King Edward Park in Sneinton, is designed to provide a permanent area for young people to develop their cricket skills.

It is the fourth of five sites planned in cities across the UK as part of the scheme, which also includes the creation of five urban cricket zones in local school playgrounds in a bid to provide additional areas where the sport can be practiced.

Sport England launches new £5m innovation fund

By Pete Rayman
A £5m innovation fund has been launched by Sport England in a bid to encourage people across the country to come up with new ideas to help to transform participation in grassroots sports.

National Lottery funding will be offered to as many as 20 of the most inventive ideas, which help to remove barriers preventing participation, develop new ways of exploring technology or to inspire increased participation by adapting existing sports.

Royal opening for Loughborough University facility

Prince Anne has unveiled the £8m Clyde Williams building at Loughborough University, which is at the centre of the university’s new school of sports, exercise and health studies.

Designed by London-based David Morley Architects, the new centre was built by GB-Building Solutions and houses 27 laboratories, four teaching rooms and a large lecture theatre, as well as two climatic chambers, a sprint lane and bespoke training and testing equipment.

The university’s schools of sports and exercise sciences and human sciences will be brought together as part of the new combined school, which will become operational in August.

Thousands of clubs face closure threat

CCPR report claims 60 per cent of clubs are suffering from decreasing revenue

By Caroline Wilkinson
Around 6,000 community sports clubs (equivalent to 4 per cent of all clubs) could be forced to close in the next 12 months as a result of the recession, according to a new survey.

The research released by CCPR, an umbrella organisation for 290 national governing and representative bodies of sport and recreation in the UK, revealed that 60 per cent of clubs are suffering from reductions in the revenue they manage to raise commercially.

Around 40 per cent are seeing membership subscription income and renewals fall.

Financial constraints are also forcing almost half to consider reducing spending on coaching, kit, facilities and community initiatives, while cuts are being made in the level of coaching and training offered, staffing levels and opening hours.

Brigid Simmonds, CCPR chair, said: “The data shows that sports clubs are in trouble. CCPR has been pushing the government to do more through our ‘Subs for Clubs’ campaign and by fighting off endless increases in regulation, which increase their costs. This survey shows that unless we act, thousands of local sports clubs could go under. That would be a tragic shame for their members and communities.”

New leisure complex for Dublin

The Meadowbrook centre includes a 25m, six-lane swimming pool, six-lane swimming pool and a 13m x 9m learner pool, as well as an aerobics room, four all-weather pitches, a fitness suite and squash courts.

The Irish government contributed 3.8m (£3.4m) to the project under the Department for Arts, Sport and Tourism’s Local Authority Swimming Pool Programme, as well as a further 940,000 (£846,400) through the Sports Capital Programme.

New purpose-built facility to increase the number of young people playing cricket

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Fans launch bid to buy Stirling Albion

Supporters of Stirling Albion Football Club have launched a new campaign to acquire the Scottish League Division Two outfit after fears were raised about the club’s long-term future. The BuyStirlingAlbion scheme has been established by the Stirling Albion Supporters’ Trust with the intention of raising enough money to take sole ownership of the games areas.

A planning application is expected to be submitted for the construction of a new North Stand at its Recreation Ground’s existing facilities at Branksome (Tatnam Park home), which will see the club relocate from its Tatnam Park home, will come up with new ideas to help to remove barriers preventing participation, develop new ways of exploring technology or to inspire increased participation by adapting existing sports.

Falling revenue is threatening the survival of clubs across the UK

By Pete Rayman
A new £5m training facility for Stike City Football Club is set to be built at Trent Vale in Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire, after the scheme was approved by the local authority. Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council granted conditional planning approval for the new development on 12 May, which is earmarked for the site of the former Michelin Athletic Club playing fields, although the project could still be called in at any point over a mandatory 21-day period.

Fisher Athletic wound up over unpaid tax

Fisher Athletic Football Club, which has been wound up with immediate effect following a hearing at London’s High Court on 13 March, after failing to pay around £250,000 owed in income tax. Barristers acting on behalf of owners of the relegated Blue Square South outfit were unable to secure more time to pay, with the club having already received a 21-day reprieve by the High Court on 22 April. The club’s supporters’ trust will now be exploring the possibility of reforming the club lower down the non-League pyramid.

New sports complex planned for Canterbury

A new Community Sports Hub is under development in Canterbury, Kent, following the appointment of consultants Capital Symonds and Misp Architects by the city council. The scheme will comprise a clubhouse with health and fitness facilities, as well as changing rooms and spectator seating. A floodlit, full-size football pitch and additional junior and mini pitches will be constructed as well as an artificial pitch and further recreation and play facilities.

Stoke City training ground plans approved

A new £5m training facility for Stoke City Football Club is set to be built at Trent Vale in Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire, after the scheme was approved by the local authority. Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council granted conditional planning approval for the new development on 12 May, which is earmarked for the site of the former Michelin Athletic Club playing fields, although the project could still be called in at any point over a mandatory 21-day period.
CORINTHIA TO DEVELOP UK FLAGSHIP HOTEL

The five-star, 283-bedroom hotel is the first investment IHI has made in the UK

By Caroline Wilkinson

Corinthia Hotels is due to make its London debut, having secured a £155m loan from a syndicate of banks to develop the Metropole Building near Trafalgar Square.

The historic Metropole Building will be redeveloped as part of a joint venture formed by Malta’s International Hotel Investments (IHI), shareholders of the Libyan Foreign Investment Company and Istithmar Hotels FZE of Dubai.

The property, to be called The Corinthia Hotel & Residences, will be the first investment IHI has made in the UK and will accompany its portfolio of hotels located in Malta, Libya, Portugal, and Russia. The five-star, 283-bedroom hotel is due to open in 2010 and will be operated by Corinthia Hotels & Resorts. The hotel will feature two clusters of restaurants, a bar, meeting and ballroom facilities. The investors bought the property last year from Crown Estates for around £135m, which has been matched by banks to make it a 50:50 loan-to-equity funded project.

The Metropole Building, originally constructed by the Gordons Hotel Company in 1883, has been leased by the government since 1936 for use by various departments such as the Ministry of Defence.

Joint venture for Wembley

Developer of the Wembley City scheme has signed a joint venture to handover the site’s hotel development to Summmit Hotels.

The Summit Wembley City Hotels venture, led by Quintain Estates, will result in Summit Hotels building an Express by Holiday Inn hotel with up to 262 bedrooms.

Summit Hotels will pay Quintain £7.5m for a 51 per cent stake in the hotel and will be able to buy Quintain’s interest over the next 15 months. Other hotels on the site include a 441-bed Hilton Hotel – the second on the site – and a Millennium & Copthorne hotel, developed by London & Newcastle.

The committee has recommended an investigation into beer-ties

A committee of MPs has called for an investigation into the current disparity between on and off-licence beer prices.

The committee, which is chaired by Peter Luff MP, ruled that it was the government’s duty to investigate any failure and abuse of the market, and has called upon the Competition Commission for an urgent investigation into the current arrangements in the interests of consumers and tenants.

Two new hotels will be built on the site of a former Thistle Hotel

Guanom to launch new flagship property near airport

By Tom Walker

Proposals for the redevelopment of the Thistle Hotel site, close to the new Terminal Five at Heathrow Airport in west London, have received the approval of Hillingdon Council.

Plans for the site, which have been drawn up by the UK-based firm, EPR Architects, include the demolition of the existing 1960s hotel building on Bath Road and replacing it with two new hotels.

The first property will be a 250-room, luxury hotel, operated by Guoman Hotels, while the operator of the second property, which will be a 353-room budget hotel, is yet to be confirmed.

Both properties are set to incorporate a number of green measures, including a combined CHP plant with biomass boilers and roof-mounted solar panels, in a bid to reduce the carbon footprint.

Designed as a pair, the hotels will also meet the Greater London Authority’s 20 per cent renewable energy target by taking advantage of biomass boilers and photovoltaic panels on the roofs.

Hotel planned for Biggin Hill Airport

London-based EPR Architects have submitted a detailed planning application to Bromley Council for the construction of a four-star hotel at the Biggin Hill Airport in south east London.

EPR has drawn up plans for a 76-room hotel with a restaurant at the airport, which played a major role as an RAF base in the Battle Of Britain during the Second World War.

Peter Lonergan, Biggin Hill Airport’s managing director, said that the airport is in “desperate need of good quality accommodation” and added that many of the pilots, crew and businesses are forced to travel miles outside of the area.

“A new hotel would also be fantastic for the economy in terms of employment and revenue generation for other local businesses,” he added.

ULSTER HOTEL REOPENS AFTER £2.5M REVAMP

The Belmont Court and Hotel in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, has been reopened by Northern Irish tourism minister Arlene Foster following the completion of a £2.5m refurbishment.

Four conference rooms, a new reception area, a foyer and a breakfast room have been created as part of the scheme, which also included the addition of 30 more bedrooms, taking the property’s total to 64. Foster said: “The new facilities at the Belmont Court and Hotel can help showcase Northern Ireland as an attractive location.”

HOSPITALITY

IN BRIEF

Four star hotel for Birmingham scheme

Hotel La Tour has announced that it will open a four-star hotel at the mixed-use City Park Gate development in Birmingham. The hotel group, led by hoteliers Alan English, Norman Bellone and Jane Chisholm, plans to open a 200-room property which will include a large conferencing space. To be called Hotel La Tour at City Park Gate, the property is the latest addition to the group’s portfolio of UK hotels.

Carluccio’s receives takeover bid

Carluccio’s has confirmed a preliminary takeover approach by an unnamed suitor, believed to be from a private equity firm. Speculation of an advance arose on the back of a sudden 18 per cent rise in the chain’s share price, to 92.5p, valuing the company at around £52m.

City analysts speculate a possible bid of 110p to 120p a share, but it is unlikely that the group would accept anything less than 150p per share.

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Ulster hotel reopens after £2.5m revamp

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SUFFERING FROM A PREOCCUPIED PARLIAMENT

Words aren’t enough to help the industry at this critical time, the government must act

While Rome burns, our MPs fiddle – or, rather, try to explain why they didn’t. But there is a far more serious point made by the redeveloped – or, rather, try to explain why expenses revelations and speaker Michael Martin’s resignation – is the government actually governing, or is it riding from crisis to crisis, trying to damp down fire after fire?

The reason for asking is there was an excellent and little-reported debate in the House of Lords in early May that discussed the state of UK tourism. It was measured, positive and helpful. Three points emerged, the first of which identified the need for small seasonal tourism businesses, reliant on overnight stay facilities, to obtain appropriate finance from the banks.

Secondly, there must be an end to the ceaseless flow of new regulations that are so costly to implement in terms of money and time. While thirdly, there is a need to boost UK domestic tourism at a time when the low value of sterling against other major currencies could potentially be so positive.

At least, our landlords understand the challenges facing tourism at the beginning of what could be a make-or-break season for many operators. But at this critical time, the government is so preoccupied by the crises that are overwhelming it that it’s like a rabbit staring into a car’s headlights – it is doing nothing.

Tourism is still difficult to obtain. Whistling bureaucrats are still determined to saddle industry with increasing regulations.

Meanwhile, the season approach consumers with VisitEngland only just in operational mode and VisitBritain operating on a tighter budget than ever before.

UK tourists face a testing year. In spite of the fall in the value of sterling, the number of overseas visitors in the first three months of this year was down on 2008 by 13 per cent although spend was more or less the same – a sign that either visitors are spending more voluntarily or, more worrying, that UK prices have increased.

In this scenario, if the government is to take tourism seriously, it should take note of the House of Lords debate. Yet, the government’s general policy drift is reflected in its approach to tourism: no clear policy, little support, minimal financial help, and yet more regulations. And there is little hope that anything will change soon.

Read Leisure Opportunities online www.leisureopportunities.com/digital
£1.6m revamp for Mayflower Theatre

Southampton venue set to undergo summer refurbishment to upgrade facilities

By Pete Rayman

Southampton’s Mayflower Theatre is set to undergo an extensive £1.6m refurbishment this summer in a bid to upgrade the venue’s backstage and production facilities.

The theatre will close for 12 weeks between June and August in order to allow the work to be carried out, although the box office and its conference and meeting room facilities will operate as normal.

It is expected that the new backstage area, which will include a new facility to store scenery, will be fully operational by spring 2010, ensuring the venue can cope with the evolving demands of touring productions.

Land at the back of the theatre is earmarked for a housing development by the Mayflower Theatre in partnership with Southampton City Council, Atlantic Housing and Drew Smith in a bid to provide key worker homes for the city.

Dennis Hall, chief executive of the Mayflower Theatre, said: “The fact that we are getting this exciting and modern facility means that the land at the back of the theatre is now re-zoned for the much needed key worker homes for the city.”

£44.5m Arts Council funding to tackle recession

By Pete Rayman

Arts Council England (ACE) has announced that it is to invest an additional £44.5m in arts initiatives over the next two years in a bid to fight off the economic downturn.

The new proposals were unveiled by chair Dame Liz Forgan on 24 April at an ACE-sponsored seminar looking at ways in which the importance of arts and culture can be maximised during the recession.

A new £40m open application fund called Sustain will be established in order to support arts organisations that are suffering from the downturn, while a further £500,000 will be made available for the Town Centres Initiative to allow more artistic activities to take place in empty retail areas.

Grants for the arts budget will also increase by £4m over the next two years as part of the new funding strategy, although Forgan has also called on private and public sector partners to maintain current levels of investment.

£25m revamp for Mayflower Theatre

Southampton venue set to undergo summer refurbishment to upgrade facilities

The first phase of Colston Hall scheme completed

→ The first phase of building work at the new £20.3m Colston Hall performance venue in Bristol has been completed. The work included the venue’s foyer, which features an atrium crossed by bridges at upper floor levels, designed by Levitt Bernstein Associates. The bridges connect the foyer with the rear of the existing auditorium and other parts of the historic building.

When finished in September, Colston Hall will boast modern box office facilities, new performance and exhibition spaces, meeting rooms, and rehearsal and recording studios.

New funding for Scottish public art

→ The Scottish Arts Council has provided a funding lifeline to eight emerging public art projects. The new Public Art Fund, formed from £466,000 of National Lottery money, will invest in projects to investigate the possibility of artworks being installed within beaches, woodland, schools and parks. By pushing these projects forward, the council hopes to encourage public art and community engagement to be at the heart of new regeneration projects.

World’s smallest art gallery unveiled?

→ The Open Empty Spaces arts organisation is showcasing a series of non-gallery-based exhibitions at public sites throughout Cardiff. The series launched on 1 May with Hole in the Wall – a temporary art exhibition housed in a small 20cm (8ins) by 28cm (11ins) alcove on Albany Road, Roath.

The next temporary exhibition is to be unveiled by chair Dame Liz Forgan on 24 April at an ACE-sponsored seminar looking at ways in which the importance of arts and culture can be maximised during the recession.

The concept for the venue, which will replace Aylesbury Civic Centre, has been developed by Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) and theatre designers RHWL Arts Team.

The construction of the AVDC-funded theatre is being undertaken by the Hertfordshire-based firm, Willmott Dixon.

The masterplan is being created by Landscape architect Gross Max, who is to re-landscape of Kew’s river border. A footbridge is also being considered to link Kew Garden to Syon Park, according to The Times newspaper.

The plan is expected to be completed in November. Eelco Hooftman, partner of landscape architects Gross Max, said: “The challenge of the project is to pay tribute to the gardens’ status as a World Heritage Site as well accommodate continuous transformation. Over the years the gardens have lost their relationship with the River Thames. The opportunity to reintegrate Kew Gardens with the river is an exciting project.”

New review of National Park expansion revealed

By Pete Rayman

Natural England has announced that it is considering extending the boundaries of both the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales National Parks in a bid to preserve a number of unprotected landscapes.

The government’s national environment advisory body believes that there are large areas of land between the two national parks which could qualify for National Park status, including the Howgill Fells, the Orton Fells and the fells from Shap to Whinlatter.

Although Natural England postponed its designation last year during a public inquiry into the South Downs National Park, the planning inspector has supported the designation of national parks around more than one type of landscape feature. The proposals will be subject to extensive public consultation before designating any new boundaries for both the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales, while final approval must be given by the environment secretary, Helen Phillips, Natural England chief executive, said: “The work of looking at whether new landscape areas can be included as part of the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District National parks remains a high priority for Natural England. The legal uncertainties of recent years have caused significant delays and we are looking into how we can progress the project quickly, but thoroughly.”

Barnes Park revamp gets funding boost

→ Barnes Park in Sunderland is to be redeveloped thanks to a £2.4m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund. The Parks for People award will allow the city council, which is contributing £1.24m towards the project, to develop a multi-use games and an adventure play area for all ages, as well as a cycleway connected to the pop-in Coast-to-Coast cycle route. Historic features such as the cannon, bandstand, railings and gates will be restored, a sensory and formal garden laid, and the lake and surrounding area will be rejuvenated. A full-time community development and exhibition officer will also be based within the park.

Decline in Blue Flag beach numbers

→ Keep Britain Tidy has revealed the effects of flooding in recent years has led to a small decrease in the number of English beaches awarded Blue Flag status for 2009. Blue Flag awards have been given to a total of 71 beaches across the country, compared with 82 last year, although the number of Quality Coast Awards handed out has increased from 82 to 113.
Natural England unveils two projects

By Pete Rayman

Natural England has launched two flagship initiatives in a bid to encourage more people to access parks, woods and city farms as part of its £25m Access to Nature programme. VisitWoods, a scheme designed to increase access to woods, and Let Nature Feed Your Senses – intended to develop a greater understanding of the natural environment – have been set up to coincide with the first anniversary of Access to Nature, funded by the Big Lottery Fund.

The Woodland Trust has been awarded £1.2m by Natural England in order to establish the VisitWoods project, which will include the creation of an online database of accessible woodland around the country, as well as working with around 20 partner organisations to promote the natural environment.

Meanwhile, £960,000 will be put towards the Let Nature Feed Your Senses scheme, which will lead to the creation of eight Nature Networks in a bid to connect disengaged groups with wildlife and the natural environment.

Access to Nature has awarded 23 grants, worth more than £7m, in its first year to projects designed to improve education and access to wildlife.

One scheme is aimed at getting more people visiting woodland

NEW WELSH FOOD TOURISM SCHEME

Gastronomic experiences will be used to tempt tourists to Wales

By Pete Rayman

Welsh heritage minister Alun Ffred Jones and rural affairs minister Elin Jones have launched a New Welsh food tourism scheme, called Feed Your Senses, which will help the company work more efficiently.

Ecsite-UK re-brands itself

Ecsite-UK, the UK network of science centres, museums and natural history attractions, has changed its name to the Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC).

The re-branding is part of the trade body’s strategy to increase its independence. For the past eight years, the body has been part of The British Science Association (BSA). By cutting its ties with BSA, ASDC will be able to operate as an independent legal entity with its own finance, banking and IT systems.

The company will work out of its new office in Bristol, which is hoped will help the company work more efficiently.

How robust is the hotel industry?

An early evening LPF seminar to be held at the offices of Lawrence Graham LLP, 4 More London Riverside, London SE1 2AU on Tuesday 2nd June 2009

CONTENT:

These are challenging times for the hotel sector. Two experts in the hotel market give their view of the current hot topics and where the market is heading.

SPEAKERS:

Mark Anderson, Property Director (UK & Ireland), Whitbread PLC

Nick Turner, Partner, LG LLP

PROGRAMME

6.15pm Seminar registration
6.30pm Introduction

6.45pm Speaker presentation

7.30pm Panel Discussion with Q&A’s

7.45pm Refreshments and networking

8.30pm Close

TO BOOK OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael Emmerson, LPF Administration

E: info@leisurepropertyforum.org

T: 01462 471932

F: 01462 433909

www.leisurepropertyforum.org

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£30m Edgbaston revamp is approved

The cricket ground redevelopment will include a new hotel and a spectator stand.

By Pete Rayman

Details plans for the £30m redevelopment of Edgbaston cricket ground, home to Warwickshire County Cricket Club (WCCC), have been given the go-ahead by Birmingham City Council.

MCCD Developments has been appointed to deliver the scheme, which includes a new hotel, a housing development, offices, and a new stand and pavilion designed to increase the venue’s capacity to more than 25,000.

The new stand has been designed to provide improved facilities for both spectators and players, with new changing rooms, bars and restaurants planned, as well as upgrades to corporate hospitality offerings and the media centre.

It is hoped that the redevelopment will reaffirm Edgbaston status as an international cricket venue. WCCC chief executive Colin Povey said: “It would be difficult to overstate the importance of redeveloping Edgbaston to the club, Birmingham and wider region. Our plans will enable us to provide world class sporting facilities for players, fans and the thousands of young people that use our ground every year.”

Architects Broadway Malyan, planning consultants Turley Associates, design consultants Urban Initiatives and builders Ridley Levett Bucknall have been involved with the project.

The completed venue will be able to hold around 25,000 people.

Ski centre plans are submitted

Plans for the construction of a £2.9m dry ski slope and clubhouse at Newmills Snow and Sports Complex near Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, in Scotland, have been submitted to East Ayrshire Council.

The proposals, drawn up by architects Lawrence McPherson Associates, include a new 115m (377ft) adult ski slope and a 30m (98ft) nursery ski slope in addition to the new clubhouse facility, which will feature a cafe-bar, function rooms and conference facilities.

Meadowsidw revamp revealed

Meadowside Leisure Centre in Burton, Staffordshire, is set to undergo a £5m transformation.

East Staffordshire Borough Council has revealed its initial plans and artist impressions, produced by Maber Architects, of how the revamped leisure facility will look when it reopens in summer 2010.

The scheme includes a refurbished gym with upgraded equipment and studio facilities, improvements to toilets and changing rooms and the introduction of a new creche and soft play area. The six- to eight-month refurbishment is scheduled to kick off in October, when the facility will close for health and safety reasons.

In the meantime, the council aims to find alternative facilities and venues for its existing customers and staff members.
Turning interest into bookings

Wales can offer real value for holidaymakers this summer

By Pete Hayman

A new £25m seven-point action plan has been launched by regional development agency Advantage West Midlands (AVM) in a bid to boost the region’s tourism industry.

The plan, which was unveiled at the West Midlands Tourism Summit in Gaydon, Warwickshire, includes £1m for a new television advertising campaign and a £12m initiative to attract conferences, exhibitions and events to the area.

A pilot scheme will also be launched in conjunction with the Department for Work and Pensions in a bid to increase skills and tourism employment, while new partnerships will be developed between visitor attractions across the West Midlands region to offer joint ticket offers.

Regional minister Ian Austin said: “Tourism is our fourth largest industry bringing in £6bn each year to the West Midlands, supporting 115,000 jobs across 30,000 companies. The business tourism sector is worth another £6.6bn on its own.

“The downturn is having a real impact and our action plan sets out the real help we’re providing to get the industry through the recession.”

AVM unveils £25m tourism plan

Initiative designed to attract more visitors to the West Midlands region

Council unveils ‘Nottingham Riviera’ plans

By Pete Hayman

Nottingham’s Old Market Square is to be transformed this summer as part of new proposals to create a temporary seaside resort in the heart of the city centre.

Around 300 tonnes of sand will be used to create the beach as part of the plans, which include the installation of a large paddling pool and fairground rides.

The scheme has been drawn up by Nottingham City Council along with Mellors Group, the operator of the city’s big wheel attraction.

The beach is coming to central Nottingham

Ireland reports fall in inbound visitor numbers

Ireland’s Central Statistics Office (CSO) has reported a sharp decline in the number of people visiting the country during March, with a 16 per cent decrease compared with March 2008.

According to the CSO, the main reason for the decline in inbound numbers is a 26.3 per cent decrease in tourists visiting from the United Kingdom, contributing to an overall fall of 9.1 per cent in the number of visits to Ireland for the first quarter of 2008.

The CSO figures also revealed that the number of Irish residents travelling abroad also dropped by 15.4 per cent to 563,700, which has resulted in a 12.6 per cent fall in overall outbound travel in the first three months of the year.

Habia UK workshops in June

A series of Habia workshops will take place across the UK to examine future qualifications in beauty therapy, nail services and hairdressing.

Launching on 8 June in Glasgow, the workshops will cover changes to the updated National Occupational Standards, as well as changes to Assessment Strategies and Evidence Requirements.

Habia is the government-approved standards setting organisation for hair, beauty, nails and spa.

Funding will be made available to firms over the next two years

Apprenticeships net £11m boost

By Pete Hayman

Nearly 3,000 more apprenticeship places are to be made available to young people after the government unveiled an £11m funding package in a bid to increase the number of training opportunities.

A range of 16 businesses across the country that already offer apprenticeships, including sport and leisure companies, will be entitled to receive a share of the investment over the next two years, announced by skills minister John Denham and schools secretary Ed Balls.

Nearly 60 per cent of the funding will be targeted towards training young people between 16 and 18 years old. It is hoped that the additional investment will contribute towards the government’s £140m plans to fund an extra 35,000 training places across the public and private sectors.

Balls said: “We will not sit back during the current downturn or cut our investment when the priority is to build a talented, skilled and motivated workforce for the future.

“That’s why we are running a major campaign, fronted by Sir Alan Sugar, to increase the number of employers with apprentice places.”

Denham added: “The businesses we have signed agreements with will be able to train more apprentices, thanks to the £11m of funding, and will have a skilled workforce improving the strength of the sector as a whole.”

Gaining an important insight into the sector

The 2009 Working in Fitness survey will help sustain the needs of a diverse industry

By Pete Hayman

SkillsActive

A sk anyone and they’ll tell you that my motto is there has never been a better time to work in the sector and, despite the recession, I stand by that. The health and fitness sector offers so many opportunities at so many different levels, including community cohesion, removing cultural barriers, addressing the physical activity agenda, raising participation and even identifying sportsmen and women of the future. Why wouldn’t you want to be a part of that?

Academic qualifications aren’t necessarily the route to entry though: employers need recruits with vocational qualifications. These are the bread and butter of the industry and what employees look for. With budgets slashed and funds depleted, it is more important than ever that we ensure employees are doing all they can to attract, train and keep the right people if it is not only to continue to weather this storm, but continue to develop and thrive.

With this in mind, we have just launched the 2009 Working in Fitness survey, which gives an insight into how the sector rewards its workforce by examining salary levels, job satisfaction and spending on training and development. We know through previous research that there are an average of 8,500 job openings a year in the sector, to meet staff turnover and the creation of new positions. And one of the survey’s aims is to find out whether the industry is doing enough to attract new, as well as retain existing staff, to meet these demands.

The survey allows us to get a good representation of jobs in the sector and to identify issues at a local level and where improvement is needed. Past results have informed the way we work with training providers, the way we’ve developed the new Qualifications and Credit Framework and our ongoing development of national occupational standards – which inform training courses, qualifications and job roles in the sector.

So you can rest assured we’re not just filing away the results in a drawer, they are informing the way we do business!

Increasing participation in physical activity and adopting an active lifestyle is key to the health and wellbeing of the nation. It is an agenda shared with governments across the UK and we’re doing our upmost to ensure the workforce is skilled, professional and highly qualified.

To complete SkillsActive’s 2009 Working in Fitness survey, visit: www.skillsactive.com/wif09

Pete Hayman

ALUN FFRED JONES is Welsh Assembly Government minister for heritage

I’ve recently had the opportunity to announce some key pieces of the Tourism Advisory Panel, which has had the role of guiding the heritage minister since its inception in 2006.

One of the key recommendations that came out of an industry review last year was the need for a new national level public/private sector Tourism Partnership. I now propose to establish a revised Tourism Advisory Panel, with increased industry representation to help forge stronger working links between government and industry.

Looking at the prospects for the summer ahead, industry surveys have revealed a good level of interest in holidaying in Wales this summer. However, we are aware that in the current economic climate, there is still a great deal of uncertainty and there is a strong feeling that bookings decisions have, in many cases, yet to be taken.

But, although this summer’s weekends has boosted the industry’s confidence ahead of the summer, we are aware this doesn’t make a good summer season. We cannot rest on our laurels and Visit Wales has adjusted this year’s budget in order to provide the marketing team with resources to extend the current UK campaign to convert interest into bookings.

Together with the value that the pound offers visitors to Wales and the promise of a better summer from the weather forecasters, we can look forward with cautious optimism to our tourism industry weathering the current economic storm.
Love Pilates?
Whatever your background you could turn your love for Pilates into a new and rewarding career...
Non-qualified Pilates enthusiasts
Train as a fully certified STOTT PILATES® network instructor...
Full support every step of the way
Qualified fitness & health professionals
Train as a fully certified STOTT PILATES® network instructor...
Qualification at level 3 through CVS (optional)
Earn 16 REPS points per course

Enhance your competitive advantage through the identification and evaluation of safety risks by using Top Lodge Leisure ltd for all your health and safety requirements for leisure, sport and recreation.

For further details contact Top Lodge Leisure ltd on: 04578 446695 or email shenagh@top-lodge.co.uk
www.top-lodge.co.uk
Barrymore Premier Leisure is one of the region’s most active employers - now operating eleven leisure centres throughout the Borough area. Working hard to enrich the lives of the local community, we aim to deliver enjoyable sport and leisure choices for all.

**Facility Manager**
£23,459 per annum

40 hours per week

You will bring management, organisation and a strong customer focus to the team. Your commitment to quality must be evident in everything you do. You will maintain high standards of customer service, ensure a rigorous approach to Health & Safety and set and achieve targets for the team. You can find recent management level experience in a leisure or customer-facing environment, where strong problem solving skills and managing a flexible team are key. Recruiting and developing a talented team and exploring ways of improving your income streams.

An NVQ Level 5 Management qualification or a relevant本科 degree is assessed - with a full driving license and your own vehicle. Some work in other areas may be required. Flexibility is key as this position will require evening and weekend work.

This post requires CRB disclosure. Working together to enrich lives through enjoyable sport and exercise choices for all.

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**FLECKNEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**SPORTS FACILITIES MANAGER/SPORTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**

*Salary: Scale 6 (£22,001 - £23,473)*

**Term:** 3 year fixed (contract extension beyond 2012 subject to additional funding)

**Location:** Fleckney, Leicestershire.

This post provides an opportunity to make a real impact in the local community in the delivery of sport and physical activity.

You will be responsible for the formulation, management and implementation of a multi-use leisure facilities development plans designed to increase access, participation and inclusiveness and for developing working partnerships with local clubs and organisations. You will manage the Council’s Sports Hall, Floodlit Multi Use Games Area and its recreation areas which are currently let for various sports and activities.

Ideally, you should be qualified to degree level within a sporting/leisure field and be able to demonstrate and evidence appropriate knowledge and experience in the background of sports facility management and sports development. Coaching experience and/or a coaching qualification would also be an advantage.

Weekend and evening working will be required and this is subject to seasonal variation.

This post is subject to a satisfactory enhanced CRB check.

To obtain an Application Pack either email fleckneypfo@leicestershire.gov.uk or telephone 01162 240489.

Closing date: Friday 12th June 2009

Interview date: Monday 29th June 2009
Business Development Manager
Wrexham FC Community Football & Education Foundation
£26,000 - £30,000 per annum
Wrexham Association Football Club (WAFC) in partnership with Glyndŵr University Sport & Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC) wishes to establish a community scheme to replace the previous Wrexham Football in the Community scheme which ceased trading on 31st August 2008.

With the establishment of the Wrexham FC Community Football & Education Foundation (WAFC Foundation) as a charitable trust, it is hoped that an inspirational and enthusiastic individual will structure, establish, develop and expand this organisation for the benefit of individuals in North Wales and Wrexham Towns and nationwide.

You will be reporting to a board of Trustees concerning the management of the Foundation and will work with the Chief Executive Officer of Wrexham Association Football Club; Head of Sports Facilities at Glyndŵr University and the Football Development Officer of WCBC to ensure that the standards and quality of all programmes provided will be appropriate to the standards and requirements of national organisations and partners.

The post holder will be responsible for the development of a business that will incorporate opportunities for Women & Girls Football; Disability Football; Birthday Parties; Match Day Visits; After School Programmes; School Holiday Programmes; Football Skills Programmes and weekend Community Football.

You would also be expected to work in partnership with education and health organisations to co-ordinate Coach Education Programmes, Coaching CPD opportunities, the development of funding bids for work in Outreach Provision, Double Club Programmes; Health Promotion etc.

Through these programmes your goal will be to improve the health and well-being of the community, especially relating to the social and economic environment in the Club site. Using football as a vehicle to educate and improve the health of Wrexham and beyond to North Wales. This will be done through positive PR; utilisation of Wrexham professional players as role models and the development of charitable outreach.

Outreach Provision, Double Club Programmes; Health Promotion etc.

You would also be expected to work in partnership with education and health organisations to co-ordinate Coach Education Programmes, Coaching CPD opportunities, the development of funding bids for work in Outreach Provision, Double Club Programmes; Health Promotion etc.

Your remit will include planning, delivering and monitoring of coaching activities for young people in identified communities, you will create opportunities for young people in the community, especially utilising the professional knowledge of Wrexham Association Football Club, Glyndŵr University and Wrexham County Borough Council sport & education staff.

Closing Date: Friday 12 June 2009
Interview Date: Friday 19 June 2009

Closing Date: Friday 12 June 2009
Interview Date: Friday 19 June 2009

Club, Coach, and Volunteer Development Officer
Ref: COM/27/09
£22,001 - £23,473 (Subject to job evaluation)

Fixed term 3 years

Sporting participation within local sports clubs, you’ll increase capacity and help clubs to achieve National Governing Body of Sport Educts accreditation, your Club, you’ll be at the centre of improving standards and increasing opportunities for volunteers and coaches and you’ll strategically pull together partners through the Sports Alliance Volunteer and Coach Development Group. Interagency partnerships, project management, team working, development and planning of activities will be key to the success of the role. A flexible worker with a background in sports development or similar, plus knowledge of working with community sports clubs and volunteers and an understanding of Club Mark or equivalent accreditations is essential.

CRB clearance will be required.

Closing Date: Thursday 11 June 2009
Application forms and further details are available from: warrington.gov.uk/jobs (Ref: 01925 442040 (24 hr).
Please quote reference number.

Committed to equality at work and in our community.

Directorate of Regeneration and Housing

Positive Steps Outreach Instructor
Development & Outreach
£16,991 - £18,937 per annum

'Positive Steps' is the Swansea service referral scheme which aims to increase physical activity levels amongst people who are at risk from suffering Coronary Heart Disease and/or have mental health problems.

Positive Steps is looking for a suitably qualified, enthusiastic and highly motivated person to join the Development & Outreach Team. The aim is to increase the opportunities for retained clients to access physical activity opportunities which will lead to lifelong participation in healthy lifestyles.

You will need an Exercise Referral Qualification and a range of recognised health & fitness qualifications. A Register of Exercise Professional Accreditation is desirable. If you would be an advantage to have experience of instructing individuals and or groups, classes in a voluntary or professional capacity.

For more information please contact, Paul Whapham 01792 635219 or email: paul.whapham@swanseacrc.co.uk

Please quote ref: RG052829

Apply immediately at www.swanseacrc.co.uk

Or contact Human Resources, City of Swansea Council, City Hall, 7.8 Civic Centre, Oystermouth Road, Swansea SA1 3NZ. Tel: (01792) 636875.
Closing date: 5pm, 11 June 2009.

City and County of Swansea
Dinas a Sir Abertawe

Creating in April 2003, we are a non-profit organisation that manages the area’s libraries, art galleries, leisure facilities and visitor attractions such as Mucking Country Park.

Sports Development

3 Community Sports Coaches
Scale 5 (£19,370 – £21,244) per annum

Robin Park Arena

Wigan Sports Development Unit are seeking three highly motivated Community Sports Coaches (volleyball, gymnastics and dance) to join its highly successful and progressive team.

Full Time Community Sports Coach (multi-skills/volleyball)
Ref: 0177/THLG040

You will work within schools and the community delivering volleyball and multi-skill sessions through the Premier League for Sport Initiative. You will increase the number of young people aged 5-19 years participating, leading and volunteering in volleyball clubs through Volleyball England’s ‘Let’s Play Volleyball’ community programme and deliver multi-skill and monitor quality coaching.

Qualified to Level 2 or above standard in Volleyball with at least one other National Governing Body sport qualification is required. You are looking for an individual who can illustrate two years’ or equivalent experience working with young people in the community, club and school setting. You will have the ability to deliver leadership opportunities and lead a small team of assistant coaches.

This is a one year contract with a view to an extension depending on external funding.

Full Time Community Sports Coach (multi-skills/gymnastics and dance)
Ref: 0155/THLG040

You will deliver a structured exercise and physical activity programme for young women and girls aiming to address specific health needs. You will work within schools delivering specific dance and gymnastics sessions for the National Curriculum Scheme of Work. Working in partnership with external organisations to deliver diversionary activities for young people in identified communities to create sustainable sports programmes. Your role will include planning, delivering and monitoring of coaching activities across the Borough.

Qualified in Dance or a Level 2 standard or equivalent, you will also have at least one other National Governing Body qualification.

Full Time Community Sports Coach (multi-skills)
Ref: 0155/THLG040

You will work within schools delivering multi-skill sessions and establishing multi-skill clubs in line with the National Curriculum for PE and Sport. Working in partnership with external organisations to deliver diversionary activities for young people in identified communities, you will create sustainable sports programmes as well as the planning, delivering and monitoring of coaching activities.

Qualified in at least one National Governing Body sport (at Level 2 standard), you are looking for individuals who can illustrate two years’ or equivalent experience working with young people in the community, club and school settings. For both posts, experience of working with challenging young people would be beneficial. You will be able to deliver leadership opportunities and lead a small team of assistant coaches.

The above two posts are for contracts from 1st March 2010.

These posts are subject to a satisfactory disclosure check.

These posts are one of a number of programmes that will be working to increase participation in sport and physical activity as part of Wigan Borough’s SHAPE Policy Action Plans (2007 - 2012). You can obtain an application form and further details online at www.wigan.gov.uk/jobs or by telephone on 01942 828514 (24 hour answering service). Completed application forms can be submitted online by post to MUC, Wigan Sports Development Trust, Indoor Sports Complex, Linole Drive, Robin Park, Wigan M3 7UL. Closing date: 9th June 2009. Proposel Proposal interview date is: 22nd June 2009.

WIGAN LEISURE & CULTURE TRUST
www.wlct.org
**Leisure Officer**

**£19,487 p.a. (incl. of fringe)**

36.25 hours per week

Basildon District Council’s Cultural Services operates three sports centres across the district; you will be part of the Duty Management Team at Markhams Chase and Basildon Sports Centre.

You will assist with the development of a varied activity programme and promotion of the facilities to all groups within the community. You will be responsible for the supervision of staff and assess performance and training needs. You will also be required to carry out daily safety checks and respond effectively to any problems that are identified, ensuring that the building and the equipment are secure and safe to use.

You will need to have experience within the leisure industry with excellent verbal and written communication skills, and have a good understanding of health and safety within the workplace. Computer literacy will be an advantage. A Sports Coaching Qualification and a First Aid Certificate are essential. Weekend, evenings and bank holiday working will be required on a rota basis. Ref: 430

For further details and an application form, please telephone our 24 hour recruitment line on 01268 294289 (answeringphone) or visit www.basildon.gov.uk/jobs

Please quote the appropriate reference number. We are registered with the TypsTalk. The pack is available in alternative formats.

Closing date for both posts: 11 June 2009.

**Working towards quality and equality**
**Physical Activity Advisor**

**Walsall Community Health**

**AIC Band 5 £20,710 – £26,839**

**37.5 hours per week**

**Fixed term for 12 months**

**Job ref:** 777-09.1455

Do you have the drive and ambition to encourage others to increase their physical activity levels through the development and delivery of physical activity sessions? If so, then this is the job for you!

**NHS Walsall Community Health is looking to recruit a Physical Activity Advisor who will:**

- develop evidence based, appropriate and tailor made physical activity sessions
- co-ordinate the delivery of safe, effective and evidence based physical activity sessions within different locations
- support schools, to deliver an effective programme of support to children and their families in relation to physical activity
- support the delivery of physical activity sessions across Walsall, including supporting the childhood obesity programme, when required
- interact with referred clients, recording details, monitoring adherence, providing individual support and advice, ensuring that all sessions and activities are monitored in line with set targets
- assist in the development of referral criteria for all relevant care pathways
- act as an advisor to health professionals on matters relating to physical activity
- signpost people to other appropriate services

**Key requirements are:**

- a relevant first degree (health related discipline) or equivalent, an Exercise to Music qualification (YMCA, Level 2) and experience of working with children and young people.
- You have experience of developing physical activity sessions to a range of audiences, the skills to co-ordinate the successful delivery of those sessions and effective communication skills to help motivate people to become more physically active, then we want you to hear from us.
- For further information please contact: Hannah Williams, Acting Head of Children’s and Families Lifestyle Services, Telephone 01922 444044 or email hannah.williams@walsall.nhs.uk
- The successful applicant will be asked to apply for a Disclosure (criminal record check).
- NHS Walsall Community Health is committed to operating flexible working practices wherever possible.
- Further details or to apply please visit www.jobs.nhs.uk and quote the above job reference number.

**Closing date for applications:** 9th June 2009.

This post will be subject to the terms and conditions of the new NHS pay system “Agenda for Change”.

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### Events and Conferencing Manager
**Salary up to £23,000 + bonus, depending on experience**

Coventry Transport Museum displays the largest collection of British road transport in the world. Its collection includes over 500 cars, motorcycles and bicycles, 25,000 models and around a million ephemera items that represents Coventry’s unique heritage as the birthplace of British road transport. With everything from bone rattling cycles to thrilling land speed record breakers, the Museum is regarded as one of the leading visitor attractions in the West Midlands, welcoming over 360,000 visitors a year.

This is no ordinary transport museum though...

The Museum is also a centre and unusual conference and events venue, with unrivalled impact for a successful event and a truly memorable experience. This is an exciting opportunity for a self-motivated and forward thinking person to join our team to develop our events and conferencing offer. You will be responsible for sales, marketing and service provision.

- Leading on sales pitches and quotations for a wide range of internal and external client enquiries, maximising conversion rates.
- Driving conference sales through personal selling, networking and other sales development techniques to meet targets.
- Creating an annual programme of high profile on-site temporary exhibitions and activities, taking into account overall business objectives, and external developments and opportunities.
- Managing the planning, delivery and promotion of all internal and partnership events and activities to the highest standards.

You will have personal drive, excellent communication skills, enthusiasm and a commitment to customer care.

Previous experience in the planning and delivery of events and conferencing is essential.

Further details and application forms are available from Coventry Transport Museum’s website or email anne.dooey@transport-museum.co.uk

Closing date for Applications: 2nd June 2009
Interview Date: 9th June 2009

### Development Manager
(Preston Hall & Park)
**Grade L – £29,714 to £32,475 Post ref: (0001)**

With experience of managing projects, people, and budgets, you will oversee the delivery and operation of the Preston redevelopment and Park improvements, to deliver a seamless visitor experience. You will have a relevant degree or equivalent, an appropriate professional or technical qualification, good communication and IT skills, plus experience of delivering services in a heritage or leisure visitor facility.

This post is for an initial term of five years, 2009-2014. The successful applicant will be subject to an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Application packs are available to download from www.stockton.gov.uk/jobs. Alternatively you can contact the Recruitment Team, Tel: (01642) 526992 or email recruitment@stockton.gov.uk

Closing date: Friday 19 June 2009
Interviews will be held the week beginning 13 July 2009.
Green light for £1bn Kidbrooke regeneration plans

Leisure facilities and public open space included in Greenwich Council-approved masterplan for former estate

By Caroline Wilkinson

Plans for the £1bn transformation of the former Ferrier Estate and neighbouring Kidbrooke area have been given the go-ahead by Greenwich Council.

As part of the Kidbrooke Vision masterplan, Thomas Tallis secondary school will be redeveloped to include a dual-use gymnastics centre, martial arts dojo, a floodlit all-weather pitch and a six-court sports hall, designed for county and regional level basketball competitions, along with theatre and performing arts spaces, music facilities and classrooms for adult education.

Designed by Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands, the plans also comprise 300,000sq ft (27,870sq m) of commercial and retail space, as well as eight hectares (19.7-acres) of public open space, designed by landscape architects Gillespies.

The scheme will be centred around a new park with a series of outdoor 'rooms', each with a dedicated use – such as sport, cultural activities, bio-diverse planting and wildlife.

Four Scottish sports in line for £1m funding boost

By Luke Tuchscherer

Four Commonwealth Games sports, including cycling and triathlon have received £1m funding from sportscotland.

Scottish Cycling was awarded £235,030, while £228,500 and £148,000 was awarded to target shooting and wrestling respectively.

Louise Martin, chair of Scottish Cycling, said: “With the selection period for 2010 underway it is more important than ever to ensure that Scottish sports receive the funding and support they need to deliver on the world stage.

"However, our investment will also ensure that this key group of sports continues to develop towards 2014, and beyond. The programmes supported through our investment will provide more opportunities for Scots to participate in healthy, active lifestyles and to realise their own potential, up to the highest level."

Scottish artists net £1m funding

The Edinburgh Fringe festival has been given a £1m boost by the Scottish Government to help showcase homegrown dance and theatre artists over the next two years.

The ‘Made in Scotland’ initiative was launched by the government last year with a £200,000 grant through the Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund.