Hepworth Wakefield – one of the largest purpose-built art attractions to open in the UK for around 50 years – has welcomed its first public visitors in West Yorkshire. Designed by David Chipperfield Architects, the £35m gallery is run by an independent trust and celebrates the work of local sculptor Barbara Hepworth. In addition to the 10 galleries and learning studios, Hepworth Wakefield features an archive; an auditorium; a shop; a café; a bar with outdoor terrace; and a play area.

**Surrey Canal plans moves forward**

PETE HAYMAN

Plans for a major new sports complex in Lewisham, South London, have moved forward with the formation of a new foundation to oversee the delivery of the project.

Former transport minister and mayoral candidate Steve Norris will chair the Surrey Canal Sports Foundation, which will ensure long-term sports provision for the site.

A regional centre of sporting excellence – Surrey Canal: London’s Sporting Village – is at the heart of plans drawn up by Studio Egret West.

Renewal is leading the project and is working with Sport England to secure financial support through the Iconic Facilities Fund.

Renewal director Mark Taylor said: “The appointment of Steve Norris and our partnership with Sport England highlight the calibre of our proposals. We hope to use the potential investment from Sport England as a springboard for gathering the additional funds needed to deliver this very special facility.”

**London River Park plans unveiled**

PETE HAYMAN

London mayor Boris Johnson has announced that up to £60m has been secured towards a new 1km (0.6-mile) floating promenade along the north bank of the Thames.

International design practice Gensler has drawn up designs for London River Park, which is to be financed by Venus Group of Singapore. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by Gensler and the mayor, which will see the capital benefit from 30 per cent of the project’s net revenues.

Subject to planning permission, the 12m (39.4ft)-wide pontoon is to run parallel to the existing pathways between Blackfriars Bridge and Customs House. Eight themed pavilions will be situated along the route to showcase London and host events.

The project is due for completion next summer, with Mace also working on the scheme.

**Sported to launch in three new regions**

TOM WALKER

Community sports charity Sported has announced that it is to launch in three new regions this July.

Regional managers have been appointed to help support initiatives in the North West, the North East and the East of England, with the latest additions increasing the number of regions in which it operates to nine.

Sported provides support to community sport organisations that work with young people in disadvantaged areas by offering business resources and financial assistance.
Think tank questions 2012 pledge

PETE HAYMAN

An independent think tank has raised questions over whether next summer’s Olympic and Paralympic Games will deliver any lasting benefits to the UK’s poorest young people.

In a new report, the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) said that the commitment to ensuring a sporting legacy from the event will be a “highly effective sales pitch that was never fully realised”.

The More than a Game: Harnessing the power of sport to transform the lives of disadvantaged young people study includes what the CSJ calls flaws in official plans to increase participation.

According to the report, there is no clear link between national sporting success and growth in activity, while many popular school sports will not feature at the Games.

It also criticises plans to invest £135m of Lottery funding in the Places People Play scheme. The report said: “The scale of the challenge that the Olympic organisers have set themselves is too high for the relatively limited amounts of funding and the programmes that have been promised, to deliver successfully.”

DC Leisure in line to deliver Gosport scheme

PETE HAYMAN

DC Leisure has been announced as Gosport Borough Council’s preferred bidder to build and run a new leisure complex for the town.

Gosport Leisure Park will be located on the site of the existing Holbrook Recreation Centre, with facilities to include a 25m swimming pool and a learner pool.

A 70-station gym; a sports hall; and a dance studio will also be among indoor facilities, with one seven-a-side and seven five-a-side floodlit artificial pitches also proposed.

June launch for £18.5m Billingham Forum

PETE HAYMAN

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and leisure operator Tees Active have announced that Billingham Forum is to reopen on 3 June, following an £18.5m overhaul.

Morgan Sindall, the scheme’s main contractor, completed work on site at the start of May, which has enabled preparations to start ahead of its reopening.

Facilities at the Devereux Architects-designed Billingham Forum include a six-lane, 25m swimming pool, with an additional training pool and the retained learner pool.

Refurbished changing rooms and spectator areas; an extended gym to accommodate 70 stations; a rejuvenated ice arena; and a new-look two-lane bowls are also included. Elsewhere, the four-court sports hall and squash courts have been upgraded and structural improvements made to the theatre area.
LOCOG unveils Torch Relay route

PETE HAYMAN

Nearly 75 locations across the UK have been revealed as forming part of the route for next summer’s Olympic Torch Relay by the organisers of the 2012 Games.

The itinerary – unveiled by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) – will also incorporate visits to the UK’s six island territories.

A 70-day tour presented by Coca-Cola, Lloyds TSB and Samsung is scheduled to kick-off once the Olympic Flame arrives from Greece on 18 May 2012.

The route will start at Land’s End, Cornwall, on 19 May and will move through Devon into South Wales within the first week. The relay will eventually end in London in late July. The itinerary will ensure that Guernsey, Jersey, the Isle of Man, the Shetland Islands, the Orkney Islands and the Isle of Lewis are also included in the Olympic Torch celebrations.

Meanwhile, LOCOG has also confirmed that discussions are underway between “relevant parties” with a view to including Dublin, Ireland, in the Olympic Flame’s itinerary.

£13.5m Sparkhill pool scheme moves forward

PETE HAYMAN

Birmingham City Council’s (BCC) cabinet has agreed to move forward with proposals for a new £13.5m swimming pool and leisure centre in the Sparkhill area.

Members backed the launch of a competitive procurement process for the design, build and management of the new facility – part of the council’s Pool Strategy.

Facilities will include a 25m, six-lane pool; a 13m x 8m learner pool; a 150sq m (1,615sq ft) dance studio; a 70-station adult fitness suite; and a 20-station junior gym.

£23m Dagenham facility opens its doors

PETE HAYMAN

A new £23m leisure centre being built in Dagenham, East London, by the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (LBBD) has opened to the public.

Becontree Heath Leisure Centre has been designed by S&P Architects and built by construction firm, the Leadbitter Group.

Facilities include a 95-station fitness suite and three workout studios with purpose-built changing areas, as well as 25m swimming pool and 13m learner pool.

A soft play area; a four-court sports hall; and a café are also included as part of the complex, which replaces the Wood Lane Sports Centre and Dagenham Pool facilities.

Work has started on site of the swimming centre

Work starts on £8.1m Tipton swimming pool

PETE HAYMAN

Sandwell Council has announced that work has now commenced at the site of a new £8.1m swimming pool complex to be developed in Tipton, West Midlands.

Work is being carried out to create a new access road to the new complex site from Alexandra Road and Thursfield Road. The project is to be completed by spring 2013.

The venue – designed by Sandwell Urban Design Architects, the council’s in-house service – will feature a 25m, six-lane swimming pool and a learner pool.

Big Splash swimming campaign launches

PETE HAYMAN

Big Splash, a campaign designed to increase the number of people swimming and boost the nation’s health, has been launched by British Swimming and the BBC.

The initiative aims to encourage the UK’s existing 13 million swimmers and inspire more to take up the sport, as well as helping to improve water safety and save lives.

A fifth of adults are currently unable to swim, while a fifth of children leave primary school without being able to swim – statistics that Big Splash aims to change.

FA to abstain in FIFA presidency vote

PETE HAYMAN

The Football Association (FA) will be abstaining in the forthcoming vote for the presidency of world body FIFA.

FA chair David Bernstein said its board had agreed to the proposal due to “a range of issues both recent and current” that prevented it from supporting either candidate.

Incumbent president Sepp Blatter is competing against challenger Mohamed Bin Hammam for the presidency, with the vote due to take place on 1 June.
Guidelines to assist GP referrals

TOM WALKER

The Fitness Industry Association (FIA) and the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) have published a new set of guidelines, aimed at helping GPs with their exercise referrals.

The new guidelines are based on the findings of a joint working party between FIA and CSP and have been designed to help GPs decide whether a patient’s schedule and rehabilitation should be managed by a physiotherapist or a fitness instructor.

Ann Green, chair of CSP said: “In the past there may have been some confusion as to what roles physiotherapists and fitness instructors can play in the process. “We believe these guidelines will be extremely useful for GPs and other health professionals as we all tackle this critical issue.”

The guidance suggests that a physiotherapist is best placed to manage exercise programmes where pain or decreased function limits activity and a fitness instructor should manage exercise programmes where the condition is under reasonable control and where further progress in function and fitness is likely.

Stars Gym, a new independently-owned facility with a focus on mixed martial arts (MMA), has opened its doors at the Albion Riverside, Battersea, London.

A boxing ring, a cage and a range of MMA equipment will be on offer at the venue, with boxing, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and Muay Thai among the disciplines to be taught.

The instructors at the new Stars Gym will feature ring sport specialist Mati Parks and current UK and European Thai boxing champion Alexis Rufus, as well as boxing coach Scott Poulton.

Other facilities will comprise a weights area and two studios to be used for Pilates and yoga classes, while a dedicated treatment room will provide physiotherapy and rehabilitation services. Beautician services and saunas will also be available, with a number of outdoor classes set to be held in nearby Battersea Park or along the banks of the River Thames.

High Peak Borough Council (HPBC) is on track to open new-look facilities at Glossop and New Mills Leisure Centres in June, following a £600,000 refurbishment.

The council has worked in partnership with operator DC Leisure to deliver improvements at the two venues, which will offer new gyms and exercise studios.

Glossop Leisure Centre’s new-look fitness facilities are due to open in early June, while improvements at New Mills will be completed towards the end of the month.

High Peak BC to unveil new-look facilities

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A study has found that the measures of strength in UK children have fallen “dramatically” in the past decade.

Researchers from London Metropolitan University (LMU) and the University of Essex (UE) reported a 27 per cent drop in the number of sit-ups that a 10-year-old person could perform and a 26 per cent fall in arm strength.

The study – published in Acta Paediatrica – also said that one in ten could not support their own weight on a wall bar, although researchers said that the full extent of the decline could be unknown.

Dr Gavin Sandercock led the UE research team and said that many kids refused to try and hold their weight on the wall bar. “This is probably due to changes in physical activity patterns among English 10-year-olds such as taking part less in activities like rope climbing in PE and tree climbing for fun,” he said.

Study author Daniel Cohen of LMU added: “Our findings underline the importance of including the assessment of muscular fitness in recommendations for the monitoring of health-related fitness in children.”

NLL reveals impact of leisure investment

A new report from North Lanarkshire Leisure (NLL) has revealed that its £10m investment in sports and leisure facilities has generated £41m for the local economy.

The Social Return on Investment Report – compiled by Baker Tilly – has examined the benefits of NLL’s range of fitness, health and social inclusion programmes.

NLL’s investment raised £25.5m in savings to the NHS and wider economy and has delivered £1.9m of benefits through its swimming initiative, while an NHS programme has contributed £6.4m.

Blane Dodds, chief executive of NLL, said: “North Lanarkshire is one of the UK’s most challenging areas in terms of health problems, many of them relating to obesity, poor diet and low levels of participation in exercise.

“It is against this backdrop that we set out to deliver real benefits to our local community through a range of progressive initiatives.”

Pure Gym to launch new Leicester club

Pure Gym is to open a new site in Leicester in June, following work to refurbish the city’s former Sturgis Land Rover garage.

The garage site is to be transformed into the chain’s latest location, which will feature 200 pieces of equipment such as the TRX Suspension Trainer and Bodycore platforms.

Lance Armstrong’s LIVESTRONG spin bikes – supplied by Matrix – will also form part of the new Pure Gym, along with more than 40 exercise classes.

Fife leisure trust plans £900,000 investment

Fife Sports and Leisure Trust (FSLT) has announced plans to invest £900,000 in upgrading facilities and services across its portfolio of 13 venues over the next year.

The trust is to spend £390,000 on new Technogym equipment at Duloch and Carnegie centres, following a similar project at seven other gyms in 2010.

Meanwhile, further investment is planned in the development of programmes across the 13 facilities; IT upgrades; and new self-service terminals at the Carnegie facility.

Sports centre invests in multi-sensory room

Concord Sports Centre in Shiregreen, Sheffield, has invested in a multi-sensory facility in which disabled children and adults can learn different colours and sounds, relax and stimulate their senses.

The introduction of the rooms is part of Concord’s strategy to cater better for disabled customers. Other initiatives include providing rebound therapy on trampolines for people with mobility problems and having Changing Places dressing rooms designed for disabled customers.

QHotels unveils new fitness offer in Hampshire

Hotel operator QHotels has completed an upgrade of the fitness offer at its Hampshire Court hotel in Basingstoke.

Equipment supplier Pulse has installed 67 stations at the hotel, following a £220,000 revamp that featured an overhaul of the gym and one of the three studios.

The gym boasts Pulse’s Fusion cv range featuring self powered technology that motivates the user to power the machines inbuilt audio visual package which includes an iPod docking station and TV screen.
Indisputably all leisure managers need to identify ways in which they can maximise their incomes from their customers by providing new facilities which will enhance enjoyment and encourage revisits.

A trip to AVEX at the NEC, Birmingham on Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 June will provide the perfect opportunity to see what vending and water dispense have to offer to the leisure market.

Of course vending is the ideal way to deliver chilled soft drinks, fruit juices and flavoured water to your customers – not just when the catering outlets are closed.

Talk to vending operators at AVEX and they will be happy to conduct an audit of your premises and identify other places where a strategically placed bank of vending machines can really drive revenue throughout opening hours. And don’t forget that maintenance crews and cleaners also need refreshment and will use the machines when the venue is closed.

Displaying your products

Hot drinks, cold drinks, confectionery, savoury snacks and sandwiches are familiar vending offerings but the range doesn’t end there. Vending can be used as a secure and unmanned way to sell high priced items – perhaps books of car park vouchers for members who attend a gym regularly and don’t always want to have to worry about bringing cash.

And then there is the range of specialised sports and exercise equipment. Most places don’t have room for an organised shop and end up with a ramshackle pile behind the reception desk. Goggles, swimming caps, baby swim nappies, even towels beautifully organised and displayed within a glass fronted vending machine will not only be safer they will generate more sales and thus potential profit.

Payment solutions

Remember too that payment systems – using coin, notes, cards – and cashless systems can be set up so that you can, for example, offer one discounted price to regular members and the standard price to the casual visitor.

Visiting AVEX provides the perfect opportunity to try out different options and to meet in one place on one day the machine manufacturers, payment system suppliers and operators who can help you to use vending to benefit your bottom line.

Individual conversations with exhibitors on their stands and participation in the FREE seminars, which are taking place within the exhibition hall throughout the exhibition, will help you add value to your business.

On each of the two days of the exhibition these FREE seminars will feature speakers from the Royal Mint and the European Vending Association as well as a dedicated sessions on water filters and the commercial benefits of being green plus individual exhibitors taking the opportunity to highlight new vending systems and applications.

For more information about AVEX, including a full list of exhibitors, transport, hotel details and to register for FREE entry and a FREE catalogue visit www.avex2011.co.uk and start to plan your visit to AVEX 2011.

AVEX 2011, organised by the Automatic Vending Association, contact Fiona@avex2011.co.uk 020 8661 1112
**New dinosaur exhibition unveiled at Thinktank**

**TOM WALKER**

A new exhibition exploring the dietary habits of dinosaurs is now open at Thinktank, Birmingham Science Museum.

The DINO JAWS Exhibition includes life-size moving models of dinosaurs, fossil evidence, interactive touch-screen displays and a virtual dinosaur dig.

Developed by London’s Natural History Museum, the exhibition will offer visitors the opportunity to learn how comparing modern animals with extinct ones is vital for understanding prehistoric life.

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**£10.3m Nickelodeon Land opens in Blackpool**

**PETE HAYMAN**

Nickelodeon Land, a new £10.3m attraction at Blackpool Pleasure Beach amusement park, has been officially unveiled by television personality David Hasselhoff.

The 6-acre (2.4-hectare) park is based on a number of popular Nickelodeon characters and shows, such as Dora the Explorer and SpongeBob SquarePants.

Among the rides and attractions designed to cater for the whole family is the Avatar Airbender, the Nickelodeon Streak roller-coaster and the Rugrats Lost River Ride.

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**April holidays boosts Historic Scotland visits**

**PETE HAYMAN**

Figures released by Historic Scotland have revealed a 29 per cent increase in the number of people visiting heritage attractions during the Royal Wedding weekend.

It compares with the same period last year, with visitor numbers on 29 April – the day of the wedding – up 45 per cent against figures for the same day in 2010.

Meanwhile, the number of people who visited Historic Scotland-operated sites on 30 April was up by 94 per cent, when compared with the same day last year.

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**Ben 10 coaster for Drayton Manor**

**TOM WALKER**

Staffordshire’s Drayton Manor Theme Park has opened its newest attraction – a themed junior coaster supplied by Dutch company Vekoma.

The ride is a smaller variation on Vekoma’s boomerang design and has been themed on the Ben 10 character. The design allows it to have a small footprint – it is located on a 60m x 22.5m (196.9ft x 73.8ft) plot in the Aerial Park section of the park – while enabling top speeds of 55kph (34.2mph) on a 180m (590.6ft)-long track which rises to 20.5m (67.3ft).

Guests will also be immersed in the storyline as they enter the main queue line area for the ride. Interactive screens provide information on the show and opportunities to play games while in the queuing area, as Asmuth also speaks to guests on TV monitors.

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**National Heritage List for England launched**

**PETE HAYMAN**

English Heritage has launched the new National Heritage List for England – a publicly-accessible online database of 400,000 listed properties.

Members of the public can now use the resource and search for heritage sites by locality or by grade of listing, which covers gardens, parks, battlefields and monuments.

It comes as English Heritage confirmed its programme for 2011-12 to 2014-15, which will be guided by the National Heritage Protection Plan to help shape the organisation’s future work.

Among some of the historic environment agency’s priorities over the next four years will be a focus on marine and coastal heritage and the protection of 20th century heritage.

**£520,800 HLF funding for Much Wenlock Museum**

**PETE HAYMAN**

Shropshire’s Much Wenlock Museum is to be revamped after the scheme was handed a confirmed Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant.

It is hoped the project will help the attraction to mark the town’s role in the development of the modern Olympic movement, with collections and facilities to be given an overhaul.

The museum includes the archives of William Penny Brookes, who is seen as a pioneer of the modern Games and founded the Wenlock Olympian Society in 1850.
Details have been revealed for the inaugural Buxton Spa Forum, which is being organised by the University of Derby.

The theme of the two-day event, which will be held on 23-24 June – the dates of the cancelled BISA Annual Conference – at the University of Derby campus in Buxton, will be Spa Responsibility and Sustainability.

Keynote sessions will include speeches by Elemis’ Noella Gabriel and Andrew Gibson, group director of spas at Mandarin Oriental.

Third Space spa for London hotel

TOM WALKER

Third Space, the independent UK-based health club operator, has launched its second site – at the The Marylebone Hotel in central London.

The club has rented out a 15,000sq ft (1,400sq m) space at the Doyle Collection-owned hotel. According to Third Space chief executive Eric Dunmore the club cost “around £2m” to set up.

Facilities include an 18m ozone-treated swimming pool and Third Space’s first full service spa – The spa@ThirdSpace, featuring a sauna and steamroom and a treatment menu supplied by Payot.

Meanwhile, the gym has been equipped with Technogym equipment and also includes a free weights studio and Powerplate Zone as well as a group exercise room offering activities such as combat, dance, Pilates and yoga.

Knowsley venue to open in September

PETE HAYMAN

Knowsley Leisure and Culture Park, a new £16.1m multi-purpose complex being developed in Huyton, Merseyside, is scheduled to open its doors to the public on 26 September.

Designed by Broadway Malyan, the 6,600sq m (71,042sq ft) complex will feature a wet spa area with steamroom, sauna and whirlpool, as well as treatment rooms and a relaxation area.

Two swimming pools; a six-court sports hall; a fitness suite with up to 120 stations; squash courts; and a 400m outdoor velodrome are among planned sports facilities. A BMX track and an adult activity base – offering a range of activities for disabled visitors – are also planned.

Center Parcs introduces new spa accommodation

TOM WALKER

UK-based Center Parcs is to add a new form of accommodation to its Elveden Forest park in Suffolk.

Adjacent to the park’s Aqua Sana spa, guests staying at the new Spa Suites will be able to enjoy private access to the spa.

The accommodation has a large open-plan living space and features a fireplace, twin beds or double bed and private balcony or terrace. To fit in with its woodland surroundings, the interior of the new style of accommodation will have natural forest tones throughout, with large windows and a terrace for guests to enjoy the views.

Aqua Sana Spas are found at each one of the Center Parcs Villages – Whinfell Forest in Cumbria; Sherwood Forest in Nottinghamshire; Elveden Forest in Suffolk; and Longleat Forest in Wiltshire.

Details of Buxton spa event revealed

TOM WALKER

Details have been revealed for the inaugural Buxton Spa Forum, which is being organised by the University of Derby.

The theme of the two-day event, which will be held on 23-24 June – the dates of the
early a fifth of all food eaten in the UK is provided by the hospitality sector, which serves 8.3 billion meals per year in more than 250,000 outlets. Food sales are currently valued at more than £31bn per year. The industry is therefore at the heart of the nation’s wellbeing.

The industry has already taken great strides to embrace the Government’s Responsibility Deal launched in March. The aim of the initiative is to reduce the use of salt and sugar and eliminate trans fats in dishes, as well increasing the availability of healthy options and educating employees and consumers in healthy eating.

This was the main message of the BHA’s recently-published report – *Health Works: a look inside eating-out* – that shows how far the industry has moved towards meeting the government’s healthy eating goals.

It includes the results of a BHA survey covering 10,000 establishments, in which 80 per cent of respondents revealed that they were already offering lighter meals, salads and other low calorie options, while nine out of ten were committed to reducing salt in line with the Food Standards Agency 2012 targets and eliminating trans fats from menu items within the next 12 months.

But one problem facing the UK is growing obesity levels. One of the government’s primary tools to tackle this is the Responsibility Deal in England. This voluntary scheme aims to encourage commercial companies and the public sector to develop core commitments and pledges for action on food, alcohol, behavioural change, physical activity and health at work.

The BHA supports a voluntary scheme in which those businesses that want to provide calorie information on their dishes are helped to do so. It is also backing members to provide clearly signposted healthy options and to monitor changes in consumer choices, sharing the findings.

But because behaviour change will not necessarily be achieved merely by providing calorie-counted dishes, it is perhaps more important for UK food service businesses to continue to offer consumers a wide range of healthy dining choices.
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*ABC audited
UK music tourism ‘worth £864m’

UK Music has called for the development of a national live music tourism strategy after it was revealed that major concerts and festivals are worth “at least” £864m each year.

Destination: Music is one of the first studies of its kind, exploring the impact of music events on the UK tourism sector, with events attracting at least 7.7 million people.

According to the study, 5 per cent of all music tourists come from overseas and contribute 18 per cent of total music tourist expenditure.

A national live music tourism strategy is among a number of recommendations now being made by UK Music in a bid to increase overseas music tourist numbers.

UK Music chief executive Feargal Sharkey said: “[The study’s] message is crystal clear: music provides a huge boost to UK tourism, it drives growth, it sustains thousands of jobs across all regions and it enhances our lives.”

Culture minister Ed Vaizey added: “This report demonstrates the world-wide reputation the UK music sector enjoys and the contribution it makes to our economy.”

Topping out for Watford Colosseum

A topping out ceremony has taken place to celebrate the latest milestone in a £5.5m scheme to overhaul Watford Colosseum, Hertfordshire.

Work has included the construction of a two-storey, glass-fronted foyer, which houses the venue’s new café bar and the Forum restaurant, as well as a customer lift.

A revamped auditorium with retractable, loose and fitted seating for up to 1,400 guests and the installation of new sound and lighting systems are also included in the scheme.

Four museums vying for Art Fund Prize

Bath’s Roman Baths Museum and the British Museum in London are among the four UK museums and galleries to be shortlisted for the £100,000 Art Fund Prize 2011.

The other two attractions to be confirmed as in the running are Alloway’s new Robert Burns Birthplace Museum and the Polar Museum at the University of Cambridge.

Meanwhile, five sites have been shortlisted for the inaugural £10,000 Clore Award for Museum Learning.

The British Museum is one of four attractions shortlisted for the award.
easyJet issues APD warning

PETE HAYMAN

Tourist spending in the UK would drop by £475m a year if a hike in Air Passenger Duty (APD) is pursued, according to budget airline easyJet.

Under the plans, APD will increase from £12 to as much as £16 per person on flights of up to 2,000 miles, with the rates and number of tax bands on long haul flights reduced.

The carrier has published the findings of an independent report that explores how proposed changes to aviation taxes – announced in March – would have a negative impact.

Frontier Economics compiled the research, which found that the proposals will see a drop in the number of UK airline passenger numbers by 3 million per year.

The overall impact of the proposals to the UK’s gross domestic product would be worth £2.6m a year, with up to 77,000 jobs expected to be put at risk, according to the report.

easyJet CEO Carolyn McCall said: “This provides convincing evidence that the government should not impose further increases in APD on short haul flights and should rethink its policy on aviation taxation.”

Cardiff reports growth in tourism numbers

PETE HAYMAN

New figures from Cardiff Council have found that visitor numbers to the city last year increased by a quarter to 18.3 million.

The Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor (STEAM) found that the first full year of trading at the St David’s Dewi Sant shopping centre had boosted the figures.

However, the study also revealed that visitor numbers had shown an increase compared with 2009, even when the impact of the shopping complex had been discounted.

Staycations worth £7.2bn to sector in 2011

PETE HAYMAN

Budget hotel chain Travelodge has published the findings of a new study, which has found that staycations are expected to be worth £7.2bn to the UK’s tourism industry this year.

The company surveyed 5,000 adults as part of its research, with more than a third planning to just holiday in the UK this summer – up 10 per cent on last year.

Cornwall was identified as the most popular destination, with other locations in the top three comprising the Lake District (2nd) and Devon (3rd). The study also found that a third of UK residents plan to take a seaside holiday, with 25 per cent eying a city break. A further 22 per cent will take a rural holiday.

Cornwall has been named as the most popular staycation destination

Travelodge spokesperson Shakila Ahmed said: “More Britons are opting for a staycation break this year, which is great news for the British tourism industry.”
Leisure projects awarded RIBA recognition

Pete Hayman

A number of leisure schemes have been included among the 97 UK and European projects to be named as winners of the 2011 Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Awards.

The RIBA Awards are designed to recognise "architectural excellence" and comprised 89 properties in the UK and a further eight across the European Union.

Among the 2011 winners is the new £112.8m home for the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-upon-Avon – designed by Bennetts Associates and opened late last year.

McManus Galleries in Dundee (Page Park Architects); Mostyn Gallery in Llandudno (Ellis Williams Architects); Marshland Discovery Zone, Purfleet, (Peter Beard_LANDROOM) and Creswell Crags Museum and Education Centre, Derbyshire (OMI Architects) were also named as winners of this year’s awards.

Next phase of Wembley City backed

Pete Hayman

Brent Council has resolved to approve plans for a 160,000sq m (1.7 million sq ft) mixed-use development at Wembley City in north west London.

Quintain Estates and Developments is behind the scheme, which is set to incorporate a 1-acre (0.4-hectare) public square; a multi-use games area; up to 20,000sq m (215,278sq ft) of hotel space; and 1,300 new homes.

Land along Olympic Way – the iconic route into Wembley Stadium – will be transformed as part of the Wembley City north west development, which will also feature a new shopping street and will surround Brent Civic Centre.

Designed by Make Architects, the latest plans will complement Quintain’s existing efforts to revitalise Wembley City, which will boast a new 361-room Hilton Hotel.

Quintain chief executive Adrian Wyatt said: “[This] reflects another important milestone in our major scheme at Wembley.”

Ben Giddens, the group’s commercial development director, added: “The activity on site already demonstrates Quintain’s commitment to the regeneration of Wembley.”

Council secures Leeds site for regeneration

Pete Hayman

Leeds City Council (LCC) has confirmed the acquisition of 7 acres (2.8 hectares) of land to the rear of Elland Road stadium in Beeston.

In total, the local authority is looking to develop 40 acres (16.2 hectares) of land around the home of Leeds United Football Club – currently used as a matchday car park.

It is hoped that in redeveloping the site, the scheme will provide a boost to the communities of Beeston and Holbeck. A masterplan for the area was published in 2007 by LCC.
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From Sandbanks to Branksome Dene Chine, Poole’s seafront beaches have remained virtually the same since the 1950s. In these changing times we know that we must review and improve services and facilities to be more responsive to the needs of residents and visitors. This means there are opportunities for you to get involved in delivering a sustainable future.

We are determined to get it right and we’d like your commercial experience to help guide us. We need to understand the level of interest and potential commercial viability of Poole’s beaches, as an all year round destination. Come with your ideas, there’ll be a chance to hear more and talk one-to-one with lead Council officers. We’ll ask you to fill out a short confidential questionnaire to explore your level of interest.

To declare an interest in attending this event on 23rd June 2011, 9:00am – 1.00pm, please email c.corbin@poole.gov.uk

**Redefining the Cinema Experience and Pub-Quiz style quiz**

at The Apollo Piccadilly Circus Cinema, 19 Regent Street, London SW1Y 4LR
Tuesday 7th June 2011, 6.15pm
Hosted by: Apollo Cinema

Cinemas can no longer consider themselves just a cinema chain, they’re entertainment venues with an ever broadening offer. We’ll analyze how this is being driven by developments in technology, flexible distribution, new types of content and local demand.

**Programme**
- 6.15pm - Registration
- 6.40pm - Introduction
- 6.45pm - Speakers
- 7.30pm - Panel Discussion with Q&As
- 7.45pm - Quiz
- 8.15pm - Refreshments
- 9.00pm - Close

**Speakers**
- Rob Arthur, Managing Director, Apollo Cinemas,
- Penny Nagle, Co-Founder, More2Screen.

**TO BOOK OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**
- Michael Emmerson, LPF Administration
  - E: info@leisurepropertyforum.org
  - T: 01462 471932
  - F: 01462 433909
  - W: www.leisurepropertyforum.org

**FOR SALE**
- Robin Hood View Caravan Park, Middle Plantation, Belle Eau Park, Kirklington, Nottinghamshire NG22 8TY
  - Freehold
  - 2.54 hectares (6.3 acres)
  - Unconditional offers invited

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST SOUGHT**

Wellesbourne Parish Council has recently acquired this local sports club building adjoining our sports fields. There is approximately 500 sq.m. of space over two floors and a large car park.

We are looking to modernise it sustainably, and to convert it to self-funding community use including some or all of these facilities:

- Gym or fitness suite
- Changing rooms and showers
- Exercise/dance space/meeting rooms
- Cafe/occasional bar
- Youth facilities/club

We hope there will be a second stage of development involving a sports hall, muga, skate park etc.

It will probably be structured as a Social Enterprise, and while some Parish funds are available, it is likely that more capital will need to be raised through grants, and perhaps from operating partners.

Any organisation or individual who might be interested in helping this project forward whether as a potential operating partner, consultant, contractor, or supplier is invited to contact:

Tony Copeland on 01789 840345 or email copeland1@talk21.com
Or write to Wellesbourne Parish Council at 2, School Rd, Wellesbourne, Warwick CV35 9NH.

**TO BOOK OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**
- Tony Copeland, Wellesbourne Parish Council
  - E: copeland1@talk21.com
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- James Gibson on 0121 609 8522 james.gibson@gva.co.uk
- gva.co.uk
Canada’s Merrithew partners with YMCAfit

TOM WALKER

Merrithew Health and Fitness Group, which is based in Toronto, Canada, has reached an agreement that will see the London-based provider YMCAfit join its international network of official Licensed Training Centers.

The agreement will result in the Merrithew program being taught at the London site. As part of the deal, YMCAfit has recently installed brand new Merrithew equipment at its Great Russell Street location.

Lindsay Merrithew, CEO of Merrithew said: “We’re very excited about this new partnership and look forward to furthering Merrithew education in the Central London area”.

Denise Page, director of YMCAfit, added: “It was a simple choice to work with Merrithew as a partner they share the same ethos for high standards. Pilates instructors are required to recognise the unique needs of their clients and to provide bespoke exercise programs; this requires professionalism and advanced skills.”

Woodhall Spa academy ‘opens to all’

PETE HAYMAN

The National Golf Centre Academy at Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire, has opened to the public in order to enhance the standard of teaching available to UK golfers.

Under the leadership of new head coach Neil Harvey, visitors are to have the opportunity to benefit from facilities previously only made available to elite players.

A series of new programmes have been created, which are specifically tailored for novices; juniors; and people looking for one-to-one tuition or residential breaks. A floodlit, 18-bay driving range is at the heart of the complex, which overlooks an area that replicates the challenges faced by golfers – including trees and woodland areas.

Facilities at the National Golf Centre Academy also include eight target greens to aim at, a large putting green, and individually-styled bunkers with differing grades of sand.

Harvey said: “This is fantastic news for people looking to sample the game for the first time or golfers seeking to improve their skills surrounded by some of the best practice facilities in the world.”

English Heritage launches education resource

PETE HAYMAN

English Heritage has launched a new resource to promote specialist craftsmanship used in construction techniques now under threat.

According to the historic environment agency, the skills used in such methods are at risk of dying out if they are not passed on to younger generations.

English Heritage’s Sandra Stancliffe said: “Less than one third of England’s building and construction workforce is made up of properly qualified, skilled craftspeople.”

YMCAfit will join Merrithew’s international network of training venues

Facilities at the Woodhall Spa venue have been opened up to all abilities

Young people often get a bad press and are seen in the news for all the wrong reasons. Very few of them get acknowledged for achieving an outstanding skill or attribute, but the hospitality industry recently celebrated such talent with the Acorn Awards; the Galvin’s Cup and the prestigious Savoy Gastronomes’ Olive Barnett Award.

On 23 May Assia Riccio, guest services manager at Oxfordshire’s Le Manoir Aux Quat’Saisons, was announced as the winner of The Savoy Gastronomes’ Olive Barnett Award 2011. Riccio said: “It has been very intense but the knowledge which I have gained from this experience is immense.”

The Savoy Gastronomes’ Olive Barnett Award is synonymous with excellence in hospitality. Throughout the 35 years of the Award, it still reflects this philosophy. It was created in recognition of Olive Barnett, a pioneer of the highest standards in the hotel industry and is organised by Springboard with principal sponsor, The Savoy Hotel.

The ceremony was held at The Savoy, A Fairmont Managed Hotel. More than 250 industry bodies attended the evening, which marked the end of an intense judging weekend for the eight finalists.

Riccio will now receive a career development grant worth £1,750 per year for two years – kindly donated by the Savoy Educational Trust. She will also spend a week on the Lausanne Executive Education Summer Programme, provided by the Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne, Switzerland.

The first and second runners up in the awards were Shankhanil Roy and Adam Beck respectively. Roy – assistant food and beverage manager at The London Marriott Hotel, Regents Park – will receive £1,250 per year for two years, while Beck – assistant restaurant manager at The Grove Hotel – will receive £750 per year for two years.

Terry Foreman, a member of The Savoy Gastronomes’ and a fellow judge said: “All of the finalists for the Award were equally deserving, presenting
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Sports Coach, Sir John Heron Primary School, London, UK

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Operations Manager, Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club, West Mids, UK

Full Time Personal Trainer/ Sports Therapist, Field of Fitness, Surrey, UK

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Project Manager, University of East London, London, UK

Senior Spa Receptionist, One Spa, City Centre Edinburgh

Swimming Teacher, Virgin Active, Wimbledon, UK

Leisure Attendant (Dry Site), Tine Leisure, Taunton, UK

Recreation Assistant, Tone Leisure, Jybridge, UK

Outdoor Facilities Manager, Solent University, Southampton, UK

Leisure Centre Manager, Derbyshire Dales District Council, Derbyshire, UK

Beauty Therapists, Sopwell House, St Albans, UK

Recreation Assistant, Greenwich Leisure Ltd, London, UK

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Administration Manager, University of East London, London, UK

Centre Manager, University of East London, London, UK

Lead Strength and Conditioning Coach, University of East London, London, UK

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Operations Manager (39hpw), Nexus Community, Carretton, UK

Duty Manager, Greenwich Leisure Ltd, North West London, UK

Graduate Fitness Officer (2 posts), University of Stirling, Stirling, UK

Community Development Officer - Part Time, Greenwich Leisure Ltd, Epsom and Ewell, UK

Recreation Assistant, Greenwich Leisure Ltd, Merton, London, UK

House and Visitor Experience Manager, National Trust, Ormskirk, Lancs, UK

Visitor Services Duty Manager, Welcome Collection, London, UK

General Manager/ Curator, Blue Reef Leisure Company, Hastings, UK

Chief Executive, The British Association of Leisure Parks, Piers & Attractions Limited, London, UK

Operations Manager, Edinburgh Leisure, Edinburgh, UK

Fitness Instructor, Horizons Health & Fitness Club, Woking, UK

Leisure Services Manager, Bluestone National Park Resort, Pembrokeshire, UK

Sports Development Officer (Activation), Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, North London, UK

Personal Trainers, The Gym Group, Nottingham, Birmingham, UK

League Operations Manager, Soccersixes, Nuneaton, UK

Trainee Tutor, The Training Room, Nationwide, UK

Membership Sales Advisor & Receptionist, Tone Leisure, Kingsbridge, UK

Spa Operations Manager, Glenloags Hotel, Perthshire, UK

Spa Operations, ESPA International, Farnham, Surrey, UK

Spa Director, SpaStaff.com Ltd, Hawaii, USA

Assistant Spa Manager, Greenwich Leisure Ltd, Epsom and Ewell, UK

Beauty Therapist, Virgin Active, Crouch End, Northampton, UK

International Training Managers, ESPA International, Farnham, Surrey, UK

Beauty Therapist, SpaStaff.com, London, UK

Weekend Beauty Therapist, Center Parcs, Penrith, Cambria, UK

Spa Receptionist, Coworth Park, Ascot

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Business Development Manager, Chuan Spa, London, UK

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Swimming Instructor, Virgin Active, Fulham, UK

Inclusive Activities Coordinator/ Membership Admin, YMCA London South West, London, UK

Operations Supervisor x 2 (39hpw), Nexus Community, Chesham / Beaconsfield, UK

Health Fitness Sports Manager, Prestige sports complex, Mid Essex, UK

Recreation Assistant, Greenwich Leisure Ltd, Highgrove, Hillsington, UK

Community Development Officer, Greenwich Leisure Ltd, SE London, UK

Swimming Instructor, Virgin Active, Canary Riverside, UK

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Tennis Development Officer, Swansea Tennis Centre, Swansea, UK

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Who Are the Country Club Group?
The Country Club Group are a privately owned group of golf & country clubs. We specialise in taking golf-only facilities and transforming them into premium-end, multi-faceted, country clubs by adding purpose-built gyms, fitness studios, swimming pools, spa facilities and food & beverage outlets.

The future is full of opportunity to grow and expand. As such, we’re inviting applicants for the positions of General Manager at properties we anticipate acquiring in the near future.

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The General Manager is the most important person in all our clubs. They are the person who set the standards, who lead from the front, who drive the business forward.

- To succeed, the General Manager must show a high level of entrepreneurial flair – the ability to think outside of the box and take calculated risks to improve profitability.
- As with any people-based business, the General Manager needs a big personality – comfortable and confident in face-to-face communication with customers and staff alike.
- A high level of attention-to-detail is also required.
- Someone who can divorce themselves from the day-to-day operations and look through fresh eyes to identify and then improve the small things that make such a big difference to the customer experience.
- Our business is membership-driven – through both sales and retention. The General Manager must take a pro-active involvement in both these areas to ensure continued growth in the subscription line.

How Do I Apply?
Applications are invited by submission of a full Curriculum Vitae to recruitment@ccgclubs.com

All applications will be dealt with in the strictest of confidence.

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For more information and to apply please visit www.leisureopportunities.co.uk/sirjohnheron
CLOSING DATE: 15th JUNE 2011
New resort to be built on Anglesey

PETE HAYMAN

Anglesey Aluminium Metal (AAM) has announced that it has joined forces with Land and Lakes to develop a new leisure resort on land near Holyhead, North Wales.

AAM, which will also work in partnership with the Isle of Anglesey County Council (IACC) and Welsh Assembly Government on the project, is seeking a "sustainable legacy" for the site and will work with Land and Lakes to develop Penrhos Country Park and surrounding areas.

Land and Lakes has also been in talks with Horizon Nuclear Power over the possibility of giving over some of the land to provide accommodation for nuclear construction workers. An AAM spokesperson said: "It is AAM's intention to work with Land & Lakes, IACC and the Welsh Government to develop the Coastal Park and its surrounding area as a holiday leisure resort."

Wagamama to pursue “aggressive” UK expansion

PETE HAYMAN

Cushman and Wakefield (C&W) has been retained by Wagamama as part of the restaurant chain’s "aggressive" expansion plans.

The Japanese-style noodle restaurant group – bought by Duke Street Capital in March – is looking to grow its UK estate from its current 71 locations to 300.

It is expected that Wagamama will achieve its expansion aims by opening 20 new sites each year, which will be led by Chris Warren – head of C&W’s leisure and restaurants team.

New paddock complex for Silverstone

PETE HAYMAN

Silverstone Circuits and the British Racing Drivers’ Club (BRDC) have opened the Silverstone Wing – a new pit, paddock and conference complex – at the venue.

The multi-million pound development boasts 41 garages; a race control building; a podium; a media centre; and hospitality and VIP spectator areas for motor racing events.

Facilities also include three large halls; conference space; a business centre; and a 100-seat auditorium, with the Silverstone Wing to be able to host other events. Work started on the building in April 2010, with the roof area covering 9,700sq m (104,410sq ft). Populous were behind the design of the complex.

BRDC president Damon Hill said: "The BRDC is extremely proud of this new building, but we acknowledge that none of it would have been possible without our superb and exceptional Silverstone team. Silverstone is a cornerstone of our industry and the BRDC will continue to develop the circuit to ensure that Britain has a world class home for motor sport and related technology.”