

# leisure opportunities

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## NAO in 2012 Games cost warning

The National Audit Office (NAO) has warned there is a "real risk" that more public money may be needed to fund the 2012 London Games.

In its latest progress report, the NAO found that nearly the entire £9.298bn budget will be required, with little scope to cover any unforeseen costs.

The study welcomed "good progress" in almost all main areas but identified challenges relating to the provision of security and "some elements" of transport planning.

NAO head Amyas Morse said: "The programme to deliver the venues and infrastructure for the 2012 Games remains on course, so it looks as if value for money will be achieved in this area.

"But, in my view, the likelihood that the Games can still be funded within the existing £9.3bn public sector funding package is so



IMAGE: ANTHONY CHARLTON/OPA

The report said nearly the entire public sector budget will be needed

finely balanced that there is a real risk more money will be needed."

The publication of the NAO's report came a day after a government report into preparations for the 2012 Games said the event will be delivered "on time and within budget".



IMAGE: ROB MCNEILL/OPA

Edinburgh Zoo will host the pandas for 10 years

## Giant pandas arrive at Edinburgh Zoo

The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland has announced that two breeding giant pandas, Tian Tian and Yang Guang, have arrived at Edinburgh Zoo from China.

Edinburgh Zoo is home to the pandas for the next 10 years under an agreement with China Wildlife Conservation Association, which visited the city in October.

The zoo will also be working alongside national tourism agency VisitScotland on a number of promotions that will help create "money-can't-buy experiences" relating to the giant pandas' arrival in Edinburgh.

## Multi-sports facility launches in Birtley

Birtley Young People's Club, a new £1.2m multi-sports facility in Tyne and Wear, which received more than £573,000 of National Lottery funding, has now opened.

The complex includes facilities for boxing, judo and football and secured the cash as part of Sport England's Iconic Facilities fund to establish a legacy from the 2012 Games.

Two gyms; three boxing rings; two junior grass pitches; and office and classroom space are on offer at the new Birtley centre, in addition to an education/conference room.

## Lenders move in on Battersea owner

A planned £5.5bn redevelopment of London's Battersea Power Station site has been thrown into doubt after lenders applied for its holding company to be placed into administration.

Lloyds Banking Group and Ireland-based National Asset Management Agency (NAMA) are now poised to take control of the site, with a court hearing to take place on 12 December.

Battersea Power Station Shareholder Vehicle (BPS) was set up in April "for the purposes of restructuring", but is now facing a demand for repayment totalling more than £500m.

Real Estate Opportunities (REO) owns 54 per cent of BPS and said in a statement that "certain subsidiaries" of the holding company



The ex-industrial site again faces an uncertain future

were not able to "satisfy those demands". It had been reported that REO had failed to secure a development partner, with Chelsea Football Club now thought to be eyeing the site for a potential stadium scheme (see page 3).

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## SPORT

# Snowsports centre set for upgrade

Midlothian Council has provided a first look at how the Midlothian Snowsports Centre at Hillend could look after a £500,000 upgrade.

The local authority, which owns and operates the centre, drew up plans alongside a team of expert designers to improve the experience for beginners and regular users.

Plans feature an additional 210m (689ft) slope on the hill; a new 80m (262ft) nursery slope; and extension and improvement work to existing nursery slopes with safer matting. New snow-tubing runs and the installation of two new traveller uplift systems will also be among the sportsotland-funded improvements.

Midlothian Council leader Derek Milligan said: "This impression shows the exciting potential for development at Midlothian Snowsports Centre at Hillend.



The proposals comprise new slopes and an upgrade of existing facilities

"If the plans get the necessary planning consents we expect customers to be able to use the existing facilities and slopes as normal throughout the winter."

Stewart Harris, chief executive of sportsotland, added: "Seeing the plans for this project demonstrates the real potential of Midlothian Snowsports Centre."

## RFU reports 'record' group revenues for 2010-11

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) has posted "record" group revenues of £136.3m for the year ending 30 June 2011, following an increase of £24.3m on the previous 12 months.

According to the national governing body for rugby union, the growth was "largely

driven" by the match programme in addition to increases in "most other" income streams.

Marriott Hotel Twickenham and the Virgin Active Classic Health Club, which are both sited at London's Twickenham Stadium, saw revenues grow by £2.3m to £8.7m in 2010-11.

## Dundee eyes Scottish football facility bid

Members of Dundee City Council's (DCC) policy and resources committee have backed a proposal to establish a steering group as part of efforts to bring Scotland's proposed new national football academy to the city.

The committee was asked at its meeting on 28 November, to approve a recommendation to set up the group to oversee a bid under the auspices of the Dundee Partnership.

It is hoped creating the new group before criteria for the national football academy bidding process is published will strengthen the city's efforts to be selected as the venue's preferred location.

Policy and resources convener Ken Guild said: "Dundee has a very strong case to put forward for the indoor centre and academy and I



IMAGE: LAMIO TRENTHAM/STOCK.COM

The criteria for the new academy bidding process is yet to be published

want to make sure we are ready to put our case forward quickly when the time comes.

"We are keen to use the working partnerships that already exist across the city to promote a strong case for Dundee to be the location for these facilities."

## Chelsea eyeing Battersea move?

Chelsea Football Club (CFC) is looking into the possibility of developing a new stadium at the Battersea Power Station site, which has laid derelict since the early 1980s.

It follows the recent news that CFC had failed in a bid to acquire the freehold land on which its existing Stamford Bridge venue is located from Chelsea Pitch Owners.

The Premier League club has made no decision on whether to leave its current ground, but is aiming to take advantage of the Battersea site if it is seen as a viable option.

According to reports, Almacantar chief executive Mike Hussey has been appointed as development partner, while Kohn Pedersen Fox will draw up plans for the site.

A CFC spokesperson said: "In the past we've talked to various people with interests



IMAGE: DAVID H. SAMUEL

The club hasn't yet decided to leave its current Stamford Bridge ground

in Battersea Power Station, but we haven't had any substantive discussions with anyone regarding that site for several months.

"However, in light of current developments we now think it prudent to look again at the feasibility and potential for the site to be developed for a football stadium."

## Trust invests £52m in grassroots cricket

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has revealed that the England and Wales Cricket Trust invested more than £52m in capital grassroots projects during the last financial year.

The trust, in conjunction with Sport England, directly invested more than £11.6m during the period, with more than £40m of partnership funding helping to benefit nearly 700 projects located across the country.

Meanwhile, the trust was also responsible for contributing nearly £6m worth of revenue funding towards grassroots cricket through the work of 39 county cricket boards throughout England.

The ECB said the funding had helped deliver progress in four key development areas, such



IMAGE: JACOB VAN BUREN/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Nearly 700 schemes across the country benefited during the past year

as women and girls; disabilities projects; and initiatives to grow adult participation.

ECB chief executive David Collier said: "Assisting communities to maintain and develop their people and cricket facilities is key to sustaining and increasing participation."

## Mayor announces £1m more funding for London facilities

London mayor Boris Johnson has announced that 20 projects at sports clubs, playing fields and recreation grounds across the capital are to benefit from a further £1m of funding.

The support forms part of the £15.5m Sports Legacy Fund, which has attracted a

combination of match funding and private sector backing to stand at more than £30m.

The latest awards include £100,000 to the London Playing Fields Foundation for a revamp of all-weather football pitches at Douglas Eyre Sports Centre in Waltham Forest.

## ECB secures new Investec sponsorship deal

International bank and asset manager Investec has signed a new agreement with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) to sponsor England Test matches for the next 10 years.

It is the longest sponsorship deal signed by the ECB and will include three home Ashes series and tours by the West Indies, India, Pakistan and South Africa.

The deal allows Investec, which succeeds npower as Test sponsor, to benefit from "comprehensive" rights, such as ticketing, hospitality and access to England players.



IMAGE: DAVID H. SAMUEL/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Two clubs challenged the OPLC's bidding process

## OPLC's stadium legal costs revealed

The Olympic Park Legacy Company (OPLC) has spent £1.05m defending legal claims from two football clubs over the future of London's Olympic Stadium.

According to the *Telegraph*, the cost of solicitors fees and barristers in relation to the judicial review claims launched by both Tottenham Hotspur and Leyton Orient football clubs was more than those from the initial bid process.

The newspaper said the figure had been released after a Freedom of Information request, which was confirmed to *Leisure Opportunities* by a spokesperson.

## AFC Bournemouth plans new training facility

AFC Bournemouth intends to establish a training facility close to its Seward Stadium in Kings Park, which will be available for use by the club and the community.

The npower League One club is proposing the development of two full-size training pitches and two 3G pitches, which will become a new training base for its professional and youth squads.

Meanwhile, members of the community would be able to use the 3G pitches, while top local league matches will also be played at the new complex when complete.

### York's Energise gym set for £540k extension

York's Energise gym facility is to benefit from a £540,000 expansion on an "invest to save" basis after the plans were given the go ahead by councillors on 6 December.

A report presenting a business case for the investment on behalf of York High School was put before the City of York Council's cabinet for its approval.

The 60-station gym facility will now be expanded from 195sq m (2,099sq ft) by a further 219sq m (2,357sq ft) in a bid to allow more residents to use it, either on a membership or a pay-as-you-go basis.



A former office was transformed into Power Vibe

### Power Vibe opens in former Tonyrefail office

Power Vibe, a new independently-owned Power Plate studio, has been unveiled in Tonyrefail, South Wales, by Helen and Paul Hoare following the conversion of a former office in the town.

The pair invested £40,000 into the new studio, which is equipped with five Power Plate pro machines and will offer 25-minute classes that start every half an hour.

Different classes will be held on each day to allow members to select a programme that meets their needs, with the timetable including legs; and upper body workouts.

### OCL and Link4Life secure new strategic alliance

Oldham Community Leisure (OCL) and Link4Life have announced a new strategic alliance in a bid to deliver local leisure and cultural services "more economically".

The deal will see the social enterprises join forces to seek best value opportunities and identify where joint schemes can generate savings and enhance effectiveness.

Among the priority areas to be targeted are health improvement; marketing; and the procurement of central service contracts, such as cash collection, in addition to reciprocal gym membership.

## FIA names new board members

New board members have been appointed to the Fitness Industry Association (FIA) for a three-year period to 2015.

A total of 10 people have been added to the board, all of whom will attend four board meetings a year and be FIA ambassadors at FIA events and media opportunities.

The new members are: Scott Lloyd, David Lloyd Leisure; Martin Long, LA Fitness; Malcolm McPhail, Stockport Sports Trust; John Oxley, Active Nation; and David Bibby, Sports and Leisure Management.

Pete Todd, Pontefract Leisure Club; Neil Mosley, Imperial College; Dave Pugh, St Helen's Council; James Preece, British Military Fitness; and Sue Anstiss, Promote PR have also been named as new FIA board members.

FIA CEO David Stalker said: "Looking ahead, we are faced with the prospect of



David Lloyd Leisure's Scott Lloyd is one of the new FIA board members

increasing our influence on public health delivery, where we are partnering with some of the world's biggest brands and a whole host of other equally profound and far reaching initiatives, and of course the 2012 Games.

"FIA board members have the unique opportunity to make a valuable contribution to the future of our industry."

## Denise Lewis opens DLL's Farnham club

David Lloyd Leisure's (DLL) new £12m sports and health club in Farnham, Surrey, has been opened by Olympic gold medalist Denise Lewis.

Facilities at the 6,000sq m (64,583sq ft) venue include the group's largest Amida Spa, which spans more than 1,000sq m (10,764sq ft) and has six treatment rooms.

Four relaxation rooms; a nail studio; a spa plunge pool; a spray tanning salon; and steam experience rooms also form part of the spa, while an outdoor area features sauna cabins and a hydro spa pool.

A new agreement signed by DLL last month will see Aromatherapy Associates, Rodial and Alpha-H supply products for treatments and therapies at Farnham's Amida Spa.



DLL's Farnham club was opened by Olympic champion Denise Lewis

Elsewhere, a 25m swimming pool and separate children's pool; a 1,337sq m (14,391sq ft) gym with cv and resistance machines; a 470sq m (5,059sq ft) DL Kids area; and a physiotherapy and osteopathy clinic are also available.

## Pendle facilities in line for investment

Members of Pendle Borough Council's executive have backed plans to invest £160,000 in a refurbishment and replacement programme for leisure facilities across the area.

Full council has been urged to approve the proposal, with additional capital expenditure

to be funded using windfall income from a successful claim for overpaid VAT.

If the investment is approved on at a meeting scheduled for 15 December, it is thought work could commence in early 2012 and will be undertaken on a phased basis.

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### Dispute over Sheffield leisure investment

A Sheffield City councillor has criticised a decision by the ruling administration to reallocate some of the cash earmarked for a leisure centre revamp to other facilities.

Stocksbridge Leisure Centre had been due to benefit from £300,000 worth of improvements, but £200,000 has now been reallocated to three other venues as well.

Local councillor Jack Clarkson urged the local authority to reverse the decision and to seek funding for the other three schemes from other sources, but his motion was rejected at a meeting held last month.



The new Harborne facility is nearing completion

### DC Leisure to run new Birmingham pool

DC Leisure has been chosen by Birmingham City Council (BCC) to operate and manage the city's first new public swimming pool to be built for more than 20 years.

The £12.2m Harborne Pool and Fitness Centre will remain under BCC ownership, with facilities to include a 25m main pool; a learner pool; and a 60-station adult gym.

An interactive children's fitness suite and an aerobics and dance studio are also proposed as part of the facility, which is scheduled to open on 3 January and is currently £600,000 under budget.

### Pole dancing and vibrations at new Manchester club

A new Manchester-based independent health club is targeting students and young professional women by offering a mix of pole dancing and vibration training.

Pole Plates Studios was established with an investment of around £44,000 and is located in a refurbished office space.

The space features a large pole dancing area and Power Plate studio with four pro machines. Customers can buy one-off sessions from £15 per Power Plate class and £12 for pole dancing, with membership and session package options also available.

## Ashington consultation starts

Local residents are being asked for their opinions on the best location for a planned new £20m Ashington Leisure Centre in Northumberland.

Northumberland County Council (NCC) has identified two potential sites for the proposed new development – the former Asda supermarket site in the centre of town and a former hospital site in Ashington's West View area.

The local authority is planning to develop a multi-use centre with leisure facilities including a swimming pool, a gym and studio space. Other proposed facilities will feature a registrars office, a library service, a café and meeting space. The council is also considering a GP surgery on-site.

NCC executive member for customer services and culture Neil Bradbury, said: "We're proposing to invest £20m in this new facility



A group exercise studio is among the plans for the new Ashington centre

but to make the project the best it can be, we need the ideas and opinions of local people. We particularly welcome thoughts about the sort of activities and services we could add and opinions on the choice of location."

The public consultation is due to last for eight weeks from 5 December.

## Newcastle's Jubilee 2 centre set to open

The new £10m Jubilee 2 leisure complex in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, is to open its doors later this month.

Lead contractor Morgan Sindall is due to hand over the keys to the new development to Newcastle Borough Council (NBC) on 9 December, with the venue's opening scheduled for 12 December.

Facilities are to include a 25m, eight-lane swimming pool; a 12m training pool with moveable floor and aqua gym equipment; a 90-station fitness suite; and a sauna area with steamrooms and feature showers.

A 12m climbing wall; a 4m bouldering and traverse wall; and an interactive children's activity zone also form part of the Wm Saunders Partnership-designed building, which has been



The new Jubilee 2 facility will feature a 90-station gym and a sauna area

built by NBC in partnership with NHS North Staffordshire and Sport England.

The new centre features eco-friendly measures, including using wood from sustainable Scandinavian forests in its glulam beams.

## January opening for new Telford facility

Telford and Wrekin Council has revealed that the new Abraham Darby Sports and Leisure Centre, part of the Abraham Darby Learning Community, will open in January.

The new facility will open along with the Woodlands Primary School, with the handover

of the buildings from contractor Kier to the local authority to take place on 9 December.

Leisure facilities will be available to the public from 9 January, which are to comprise a 25m, five-lane swimming pool with moveable floor and a 70-station fitness suite.

## APD plans queried by industry

The government's thinking towards the UK tourism industry is "confused", according to Tourism Alliance.

It follows chancellor George Osborne's Autumn Statement, which confirmed an increase in Air Passenger Duty (APD) at double the rate of inflation – effective from April – will be pursued, with details to be outlined on 6 December.

However, Tourism Alliance questioned the government's vision for the sector when the announcement came three weeks after VisitBritain was allocated £27m worth of additional funding to help increase overseas visitors numbers by 4.6 million, which would be worth at least £2.6bn to the UK economy.

Tourism Alliance said pursuing the APD increase showed 'inconsistency'. Chair Brigid Simmonds said: "The chancellor himself



Tourism Alliance said the APD hike showed government 'inconsistency'

stated in his speech that now was not a time to increase environmental taxes to the detriment of creating jobs in UK businesses.

"Yet tourism is already one of the UK's biggest export industries contributing £19bn per annum in revenue for the UK economy and supporting 380,000 jobs."

## New marketing company to be created for Blackpool

Blackpool Council has formally agreed to establish a new marketing company designed to maximise private sector involvement in the promotion of the famous Lancashire resort.

Members of the full council have backed the creation of Marketing Blackpool, which will

result in staff from visitBlackpool being seconded into the new organisation.

With a budget of £1.9m, the new Marketing Blackpool company will be responsible for promoting the resort to potential visitors and the provision of a visitor information service.

## UK delegation targets Chinese potential

A "high-powered" UK delegation has embarked on a trip to China in a bid to capitalise on one of the world's most valuable source markets.

VisitBritain is heading up the delegation, which incorporates national and regional tourist boards; tourist and city attraction organisations; hotel chains; and tour operators.

The mission includes stops in Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong, with business-to-business appointments scheduled in a bid to capture business.

VisitBritain strategy and communications director Patricia Yates said: "The recent Nation Brands Index shows that the UK is the number one 'aspirational' destination for Chinese travellers, driven here by our rich culture and heritage.



The delegation is looking to capitalise on Far Eastern growth markets

"[It] allows us to showcase the range of experiences that Britain has to offer and are essential if Britain is to compete effectively for the growing number of affluent Chinese travellers."



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## The future is bright for the UK industry



**UFI IBRAHIM**  
is chief executive  
officer of British  
Hospitality Association

Despite the recession, the UK hotel industry is continuing to expand with 106 hotels opening in 2011 (11,883 rooms) and a further 160 hotels (21,000 rooms) to launch in 2012. That's good news – it means that, since the present building boom started in 2003, more than 105,000 rooms have been added to UK hotel stock. Just over half (55 per cent) of new-builds are in the budget sector.

These figures appear in the 2011 edition of the BHA's publication - *British Hospitality: Trends and Developments, 2011*, sponsored by American Express, RBS/NatWest and Christie + Co – which is published this month. It covers a wide range of topics and is a mine of information about tourism, hotels, restaurants and timeshare, with upfront articles on the state of the industry now and how it might look in the future.

The impact of the recession has been noticeable not only in the performance of the industry generally (London continues to outperform the regional sector) but in the rate of construction. In fact, postponements or cancellations due to the recession or planning delays can be measured in the 18,838 rooms which we forecast would open in 2011 in last year's *Trends and Developments*.

However, only some of these projects have been lost; our forecast for 2012 – 21,084 – includes many of the projects postponed from 2011 with some even moving to 2013. And in the catering sector, figures show that, despite the recession, the number of meals served in 2010 continued to increase in all commercial sectors, except pubs and this improvement is continuing into 2011.

However, the fact that the industry has survived in reasonable shape does not mean there are no barriers to future growth. The primary one is the high VAT rate on hotels, attractions and restaurants, compared with other EU member states. This is making the UK uncompetitive with much of Europe.

The BHA is the only organisation leading discussions on this with the government and we believe they will bear fruit in the long-term. Certainly, only through reasoned argument and discussion will the hospitality industry's case be considered.

## HOTELS

# Hilton reveals job creation plan

Hilton Worldwide is planning to create more than 8,500 new jobs across Europe by 2014, with the UK named among a number of key growth markets poised to benefit most.

The operator has more than 110 properties under development across the continent and has confirmed it is looking to focus on strategic areas such as the UK, Poland, Russia, Turkey and Germany.

Forthcoming new openings scheduled for the UK include DoubleTree by Hilton Lincoln (Q4 2011) and two hotels at the Football Association's new St George's Park project in Burton-upon-Trent (Q3 2012).

Around 1,500 new opportunities will be established in the UK with 20 properties opening, with a further 1,900 jobs secured through 10 conversion projects. Elsewhere in Europe, there are more than 25 hotels to open in Russia



Hilton Worldwide named the UK as one of its strategic growth markets

over the coming three years, such as the Hilton Garden Inn Krasnodar (Q2 2012).

Hilton Worldwide's Ben Bengougam said: "We are seeking passionate people interested in hospitality careers with a range of experiences as well as transferable skills from backgrounds outside the hospitality industry."

## New joint schemes for Travelodge and Waitrose

Low-cost hotel chain Travelodge has confirmed that it is currently working on three mixed-use developments across England in partnership with supermarket group Waitrose.

The new schemes are located in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire; Sidcup; and Vauxhall,

London, and represent an investment of £27m, with a further 25 other sites being explored.

Travelodge chief executive officer Guy Parsons said: "Having a Travelodge and Waitrose on site offers an attractive proposition for consumers, developers and investors."

## The Cube opens its doors in Birmingham

A new 52-bedroom Hotel Indigo and Marco Pierre White eatery spanning a 1,319sq m (14,198sq ft) have opened as part of The Cube, a £13m development located in the heart of Birmingham.

Sanguine Hospitality is behind the flagship scheme and will operate the new restaurant and hotel, with the 25-storey building designed to provide a "stunning addition" to the city skyline.

Located on the 25th floor, the 300-seat Marco Pierre White Steakhouse Bar and Grill offers panoramic views of Birmingham and an open-air terrace, as well as a private lounge. The top floor of The Cube also houses a Laurent Perrier's first UK champagne bar, with Hotel Indigo occupying the 23rd and 24th floors.



The Marco Pierre White eatery is located on the 25th floor of the venue

Sanguine Hospitality managing director Nick Taplin said: "I was astounded to discover that Birmingham did not already have a sky bar or rooftop restaurant, given the range of magnificent buildings in the city. We have definitely redressed this now."





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# spa business 2012 handbook

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### { Operator information }

- Industry movers and shakers
- Key industry statistics and research
- A 2012 diary highlighting events, shows and networking opportunities
- Predictions and trends for 2012
- A development pipeline
- Trends and research
- Fitness

### { Supplier information }

- Company profiles including key information, contact details, images of products and a picture of a key contact
- A-Z listing of trade associations

The *Spa Business Handbook* is the ultimate reference guide for the international spa market. Published in 2012 as a comprehensive resource for operators and suppliers worldwide, it will be distributed to key decision makers including leading hotel and spa operators, suppliers, developers, consultants and other experts. It will also be distributed at key spa events, making it a must to be seen in.



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## Spa planned for Notts college

A new 170sq m (1,830sq ft) health spa is to be included as part of a £11m complex to be built at Vision West Notts (VWN) in Mansfield, after the plans were given the green light by the local authority.

Mansfield District Council backed the proposals, which will lead to the creation of a new home for college students involved in hair, beauty and complementary therapy courses among others.

The spa will be operated by students as part of their vocational training and will be sited next to hair and beauty salons, with facilities including three treatment rooms.

One will be a large open-plan room offering couch-based treatments, while the other two smaller rooms will offer the spa bed 'Jouvence' and Rasul mud bath treatment. Other facilities will include sauna; a steamroom; an ice



The £11m complex is the latest development to be undertaken by VWN

feature; a spa pool; a Monsoon feature shower and enclosure; heated loungers; and a foot spa in order to offer the "very best facilities".

A VWN spokesperson said: "By opening [the spa] up to the public, it will provide students with real-life vocational experience that prepares them for the world of work."

## Milestone for St Albans leisure scheme

Work on the new £24m Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre in St Albans, Hertfordshire, has reached a milestone after the large wooden beams to support the roof were installed.

Due for completion in summer 2012, facilities at the leisure centre will comprise a 500sq

m (5,382sq ft) spa area with a 60sq m (646sq ft) terrace overlooking the nearby abbey.

It will take Willmott Dixon three weeks to complete the installation of all sections of the beams in the concrete and steel frame of the S&P Architects-designed complex.

## Hilton retail site to sell eforea products

Hilton Hotels and Resorts' (HHR) hiltontohome.com retail website is now offering skincare and beauty products from its global spa concept, eforea: spa at Hilton.

Peter Thomas Roth; Kerstin Florian; LI'TYA; and VitaMan products, which are used across Hilton's eforea estate, went on sale to consumers through the site last month.

eforea: spa at Hilton launched in October 2010 and has seven locations at hotels around the world, with a further 90 sites in development.

Tyra Lowman, senior director global spa brands, luxury and full service, Hilton Worldwide, said: "The start of the holiday gift-giving season is a perfect time to share our most popular eforea products.



The eforea: spa at Hilton concept has seven locations around the world

"We hope our carefully curated product collection helps shoppers bring what they love about eforea: spa at Hilton into their everyday lives," added Lowman.

## New £2m spa planned for Burnley sports venue

Crow Wood Leisure (CWL) has submitted plans for a new spa and wellness centre at its Burnley sports and leisure complex, which is expected to cost around £2m.

The new 20,000sq ft (1,858sq m) spa facility at Crow Wood will spread over two floors and comprise a dedicated lounge and bar and a number of relaxation areas when complete. Barrowford-based Andrew Parker Architecture are working with CWL on the plans, while G McGuigan has been appointed as the main contractor.

An outdoor terrace with beach hut and hot tub experience; two indoor pools, including one hydrotherapy pool; and an outdoor salt water lagoon are also proposed, with the spa due to open in 2013.

The project marks a "major expansion" of Crow Wood's facilities, which unveiled the Soccer Burnley facility and a £1.5m equestrian centre earlier this year. CWL, which also owns The Woodland Spa as part of its business, expects the new spa to attract customers from a radius of 35 miles (56km).



The hotel was formerly part of von Essen's estate

## Eden acquires The Mount Somerset hotel

The Mount Somerset hotel in Lower Henlade near Taunton, Somerset, has become the latest to be acquired out of the administration of the von Essen group by Eden Hotel Collection.

Christie + Co completed the deal on behalf of von Essen's administrators, with the 19-room property following the Greenway Hotel and Spa near Cheltenham into the Eden portfolio.

Facilities at The Mount Somerset include a spa spanning two floors, which incorporates a fitness suite equipped by Technogym and two treatment rooms that offer [comfort zone] services.

The other level of the spa comprises a hydrotherapy pool; a sauna; a steamroom; foot spas; and experience showers, while a spa terrace overlooking the property's gardens is also among the facilities.

## Bournemouth trust reports operating surplus

BH Live, the operator of leisure and cultural facilities in Bournemouth, has reported a surplus of nearly £120,000 for its first 11 months of trading to 31 March 2011.

In its first annual review, the trust said it had held nearly 450 major events and generated nearly £61m for the local economy, while posting a gross income of £20.8m.

BH Live chief executive Peter Gunn said: "Our successes are a testament to the hard work and commitment of all those dedicated to improving the leisure, cultural and event offer within Bournemouth."



The building will be converted into an arts venue

## Arts venue planned for Wakefield building

Wakefield College is to operate a performing arts venue at the city's Grade II-listed museum building under new proposals for the historic property on Wood Street.

The museum service has now been suspended to enable staff to prepare for the relocation of collections to Wakefield Council's new Wakefield One complex.

Wakefield One will offer a single point for local council-run services, including a museum. The college will then undertake a £1m refurbishment of the Wood Street site as part of its plans for the new arts venue.

## ACW unveils new development programme

Creative Steps, a development programme designed to support artists and groups from a range of backgrounds, has been launched by the Arts Council of Wales (ACW).

The initiative aims to ensure individuals and organisations across Wales have a "fair" chance to create, develop and share their work and celebrate different cultures.

ACW said that, while Creative Steps is available to all artists and groups based in Wales, it is looking to expand the range of projects that receive funding from the agency through the new programme.

# Mall Galleries set for makeover

The Mall Galleries at the Grade I-listed Carlton House Terrace on The Mall, London, are to open up its historic brick vaults for the first time following restoration work.

A £166,500 Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant will support the scheme, which will transform the underground vaults into a new Heritage Learning Centre for the gallery.

The project will also see the introduction of a learning programme for people of all ages, such as Key Stage 2 and GCSE/A Level school workshops on architecture and the Victorian era.

Work is due to start in early 2012 and take four months to complete, while the Federation of British Artists is continuing its bid to raise a further £120,000 in match-funding.

Mall Galleries director Lewis McNaught said: "This project will transform our organisation



The Mall Galleries are sited at the Grade I-listed Carlton House Terrace

and will help us deliver huge returns by way of free arts and heritage education."

Sue Bowers, head of the HLF, London, added: "This wonderful project will not only conserve the historic vaults of one of London's grandest terraces, but will also see them open to the public for the first time in 11 years."

## London Live planned for 2012 Games

Three open-air locations across London are to play host to a major "celebration" of sports and entertainment during the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Hyde Park, Victoria Park and Trafalgar Square have been unveiled as the venues for London Live, which will be delivered by international promoters Live Nation.

Live Nation is working with the mayor of London; the Royal Parks; and the London Borough of Tower Hamlets on the scheme, which will provide outdoor screenings of 2012 events.

In addition to allowing crowds to watch live sporting action from the Games, entertainment and attractions such as live music and arts performances are also planned.



Three locations across the capital are to be transformed by London Live

London mayor Boris Johnson said: "We are creating a jam-packed programme of exciting events that will show the city at its very best and ensure as many people as possible across the capital feel a part of the celebrations."

## HLF investment for Merthyr Tydfil project

Plans to transform Merthyr Tydfil's Grade II\*-listed Old Town Hall into a new cultural and creative centre for the South Wales town has received a £2m funding boost.

Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association secured the grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund

(HLF) to safeguard the future of the building, which has been derelict for a decade.

Part of wider efforts to regenerate the town centre, the Old Town Hall is set to benefit from an extensive overhaul and adaptation and will offer new education spaces when complete.





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### No Olympic rings for Edinburgh Castle

Historic Scotland has announced that plans to display the Olympic rings on the ramparts of Edinburgh Castle to mark the 2012 Games have been rejected.

A Historic Scotland spokesperson said: "Following careful consideration it is clear that the proposal would not be suitable for the successful operation of Scotland's most popular heritage attraction."

"The Scottish Government will work with LOCOG and The City Edinburgh of Council to do what we can to assist with the consideration of alternatives."



IMAGE: RICHARD HENSTY/ARND BRONKHORST

Collections are displayed under six main themes

### Ashmolean Museum launches new galleries

Oxford's Ashmolean Museum has unveiled six new galleries for its Ancient Egypt and Nubia collections after a £5m revamp.

The new facilities have been built by the Oxford-based contractor, Beard, and designed by Rick Mather Architects to present the attraction's extensive collections under six broad themes.

The themes are: Egypt at its Origins; Dynastic Egypt and Nubia; Life after Death in Ancient Egypt; the Armarna Revolution; Egypt in the Age of Empires; and Egypt meets Greece and Rome.

### Merlin strengthens Midway rollout team

UK-based operator Merlin Entertainments has created a new role within its Midway Operating Group in order to cater for an accelerated roll out of new attractions.

Scott Williamson, currently the global head of marketing for the Sea Life and Dungeons attractions, has been appointed marketing director of Midway Openings.

Williamson will be tasked with putting greater focus on new attractions during their opening months, before handing over responsibility to the respective regional operating and brand teams.

## New-look Scottish gallery opens

National Galleries Scotland has reopened the Scottish National Portrait Gallery after completing a £17.6m revamp of Edinburgh attraction.

Originally designed by Sir Robert Rowand Anderson, the attraction was one of the first purpose-built portrait galleries in the world when it opened its doors in 1889.

Work has been carried out by BAM Construction to provide new education facilities, including a multi-purpose teaching suite and a resource centre. Spaces that had been closed to the public have been opened up, while there has also been an increase in exhibition space as part of the refurbishment.

Meanwhile, displays at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery are now based around broad 'Key Areas' and the attraction has joined the new Robert Burns Birthplace Museum and



IMAGE: NATIONAL GALLERIES SCOTLAND/CHRIS SMYTH

The Scottish National Portrait Gallery first opened to the public in 1889

revamped National Museum of Scotland as a major attraction to open or benefit from a completed renovation this year.

First Minister Alex Salmond said: "In a matter of one year, we have seen some of our most important treasure houses reinstated as world-leaders in their field."

## Initial support for York museum scheme

York Museums Trust's (YMT) plans for a £2.4m transformation project at York Castle Museum have been awarded initial support by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

The trust has submitted an application for a £1.3m grant towards its plans, which will lead to an overhaul of the upper levels of the Debtors' Prison area of the attraction.

YMT has secured £73,000 of development funding in order to help it develop a bid for the full grant, with a decision expected to be made by the HLF in January 2013.

The plans comprise a new five-year exhibition to mark the centenary of the First World War, which will "change and refresh" for each centenary between 2014 and 2018.



IMAGE: ITHA FARRINGTON

An exhibition to mark the centenary of the First World War is planned

If the application for a full grant is successful, renovation work is to commence immediately at the museum and will result in the upper two floors of the Debtors' side of the prison being shut for 12 months.

## New-look Museum of Lancashire unveiled

The Museum of Lancashire at Preston's Quarter Sessions House has reopened following a £1.7m refurbishment and has revealed it will be offering free admission for the next 12 months.

A number of new interactive galleries have been added to the attraction, including

Lancashire Goes to War and Lancashire at Play. Disabled access was also improved.

More than £900,000 was provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund, while £800,000 was invested by Lancashire County Council. Conlon Construction was the main contractor.

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Granite Web (above) is one of two chosen visions

## Two designs chosen for Aberdeen scheme

Two designs for Aberdeen's City Garden Project will face further scrutiny by the jury of an international contest organised by Malcolm Reading Consultants before a winning option is selected.

Six entries were shortlisted earlier this year by the jury, which is chaired by the former principal of the University of Aberdeen, Sir Duncan Rice.

The designs chosen to be "explored further" are Granite Web and Winter Garden, which were numbers one and two in a public exhibition respectively.

## Newham Council to propose stadium deal

Newham Council has voted in favour of approaching the Olympic Park Legacy Company with an offer of public-public ownership of the Olympic Stadium.

The local authority is prepared to invest up to £40m under the partnership in a bid to secure benefits for the local community, subject to an "appropriate" return.

Meanwhile, Newham Council also confirmed that it would play no role in selecting an anchor tenant for the venue after the 2012 Games in order to reduce the risk of delay in a future procurement process.

## LGP completes Leisure Fund refinancing

Legal and General Property (LGP) has successfully refinanced its Leisure Fund, after reaching agreement with Royal Bank of Scotland over a new £71m facility.

The deal will run for a further five years, with an additional £40m facility that can be drawn down for future investment opportunities within the leisure industry.

Established in 2002, the Leisure Fund is currently held in a Jersey Property Unit Trust and has more than £250m worth of assets under management, including seven prime leisure developments.

## York stadium proposals move forward

Plans for a community sports stadium development in York, which is set to provide a minimum capacity of 6,000 seats, have moved forward.

The City of York Council's cabinet approved the release of £200,000 from the £4m allocated towards the project for the next phase, which involves the development of proposals for the delivery and operation of the new venue.

A business case has already been produced to show that sufficient funding is in place for the stadium and county-standard athletics facilities.

The venue will establish a centre of community activity and provide a new home ground for both York City Football Club and York City Knights rugby league team.



York City FC will move to the new stadium from Bootham Crescent

Following the approval, the next stage of the business plan will also allow the public and key stakeholders to help shape the design and range of facilities as part of the development.

## Gloucester Quays plans submitted

The Peel Group has announced it has submitted detailed plans for the development of a new leisure quarter in Gloucester, which will involve a £60m expansion of the Gloucester Quays Outlet Centre.

Gloucester City Council will now decide the fate of the Manchester-based developer's proposals for the site, which is centred on the city's historic docks area and will create The Quayside leisure and shopping destination.

Plans incorporate 11 restaurants; a 10-screen cinema with seating for 1,600 people; and new retail units. It is anticipated that construction work will begin on site early next year.

Due for completion in autumn 2013, an existing cinema at the Peel Centre retail park would then be converted into additional retail space as part of the Peel Group's proposals.



The proposed scheme is to include a 10-screen cinema and restaurants

Alison Tennant, the public relations and marketing manager for Gloucester Quays Outlet Centre, said: "We don't want people in Gloucester to feel like they have to leave the city for a good night out or to go to the cinema. The Quayside will give them fantastic facilities right on their doorstep."

## TWL delays renovation of Nottingham's Soccerdome

The Weather Lottery (TWL) has delayed a revamp of Nottingham's Soccerdome after the local authority revealed its plans for the redevelopment of a nearby sports complex.

It had been intended that an upgrade of the five-a-side football facility would be carried out

during the summer, following TWL's acquisition of the venue's owner and operator.

TWL received cost estimates in August with a view to starting work in October, but delayed the project after learning of the council's plans for the Harvey Hadden Sports Complex.

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Plus there are more than 70 other companies represented by individuals.



## Marriott signs up for Women 1st scheme

Marriott Hotels has become the first hospitality operator in Scotland to join forces with Women 1st and provide its key female staff with career enhancing training.

The group will offer the Step Up scheme, which aims to ensure junior female managers are given the skills needed to become the senior managers, chief executives and board members of the future.

A unique leadership mentoring network will also be created, matching candidates to senior figures so junior staff can benefit from expert advice and guidance to progress their careers.

The initiative will be available in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dumfries and has also secured a government subsidy to part fund the training.



The scheme aims to ease the path from junior to senior management

The project is the brainchild of sector skills council People 1st which found that while 56 per cent of the workforce is female, only 6 per cent of board directors are women.

## Pubs can improve local economies



**GARETH EDWARDS**  
is education director of  
The Springboard  
Charity and  
Springboard UK

According to the British Bar and Pub Association, UK pubs employ around 1 million people and generate £12.6bn in taxes each year. Meanwhile, the Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers shows that pubs provide a turnover of £21bn a year.

Despite these figures, more than 5,000 pubs have closed in the past five years – many of them in rural locations. In addition to the social and economic decay it causes, such closures mean that the total amount of tax raised is also in decline and the method by which pubs and the hospitality industry are taxed requires urgent attention.

An extensive study by Jacques Borel, who successfully lobbied for 5.5 per cent VAT for the French hospitality industry sector – which has created 21,000 jobs in its first year – suggests up to 320,000 jobs could be created in the UK under a similar scheme. VAT at 5 per cent would see more people eating and drinking in a responsible, supervised environment; encourage more tourists into the country; and offer a highly cost-effective method of job creation.

Borel argues that the Treasury will gain additional revenues in the long term from higher sector turnover, higher corporation tax receipts and higher income tax and national insurance payments through increased employment. More than 30 operators have already signed up to the campaign to cut VAT to 5 per cent, including JD Wetherspoons and Travelodge. The sector is increasingly beginning to voice this and similar key arguments as one.

Speaking of voicing key arguments, singer-songwriter Will Francis has captured the main issues facing pubs with his new single *Pubs Hold The Answer*. During British Pub Week, Will performed to various audiences including a room full of MPs at The Red Lion in Westminster and ensured that all MPs got a copy of the single and the message. Apparently the clip was also aired at the Future of the British Pub debate at the House of Commons earlier this year. Nice work Will!

## Deputy PM unveils Youth Contract

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg has announced details of the government's new Youth Contract, a £1bn programme that is designed to help young people into employment.

The initiative, which will launch next April, will cover a three-year period and includes wage subsidies worth £2,275 per year for employers who recruit 18-to-24-year-olds.

It is hoped the programme will help at least 410,000 young people into employment, with a focus on getting the most "disengaged" 16-



Launching in April, the initiative will target out-of-work young people

and 17-year-olds into school or college. Extra funding for apprenticeships and £50m to help people "persistently" not in education, employment or training will also be available.

Clegg said: "This is a £1bn package and what's different about it is it gets young people into proper, lasting jobs in the private sector.

But it's a contract, a two-way street: if you sign up for the job, they'll be no signing on for the dole. You have to stick with it."

Dr Adam Marshall, director of policy at the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "The Youth Contract will help provide a much-needed jobs boost for the young."

## ACE and CCS publish new arts internship guide

Arts Council England (ACE) and Creative and Cultural Skills (CCS), the industry's sector skills council, have announced the publication of a new guide on arts internships.

*Internships in the arts - a guide for arts organisations* outlines how to develop high-quality

and mutually beneficial opportunities, while also setting out legal obligations.

The guide has issued recommendations for successful schemes, which include a fair, open and transparent recruitment process and the provision of "meaningful experiences".



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Please reply with a detailed CV to Human Resources, Parkwood Leisure, Attwood House, Perdiswell Park, Droitwich Road, Worcester, WR3 7NW. Alternatively email: [recruit@parkwood-leisure.co.uk](mailto:recruit@parkwood-leisure.co.uk) or visit our website and apply online. Applications to be received by: 9th January 2012

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Exercise and Fitness Distance Learning Tutors,  
*Loughborough College, Loughborough, UK*  
Outdoor Activities Manager, *Berkshire College of Agriculture, Maidenhead, UK*  
Operations Support Manager, *TED Leisure, Luton, UK*  
Food and Beverage Manager, *Everyone Active, Malvern, UK*  
Duty Manager, *Loughborough University, Loughborough, UK*  
General Manager, *Fusion, Enfield, UK*  
Regional Officer (full-time), *Badminton England, Sussex, UK*  
Sports Assistants x 2, *University of East London, London, UK*  
Sports Centre Assistant, *University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK*  
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Previous applicants need not apply.

Further details and an application form may be obtained from Mrs Jacqui Boles at: Stamford Endowed Schools HR Office, Stamford High School, St Martin's, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 2LL. Telephone 01780 484273, Fax 01780 484205, e-mail: [jboles@ses.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:jboles@ses.lincs.sch.uk) Website: [ses.lincs.sch.uk](http://ses.lincs.sch.uk)

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For more details and/or to apply on-line please access: <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/jobs/CurrentVacancies/ref/PR04608>. If you are unable to apply on-line please contact the Human Resources Department, tel: 0115 846 6172. Please quote ref. PR/04608. Closing date: 14 December 2011. Interview date: 19 December 2011.

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## PwC publishes gaming analysis

Asia Pacific will be the "growth machine" for the global casino and online gaming market in the next five years, according to PricewaterhouseCoopers' (PwC) latest analysis.

*Casino and Online Gaming Global Outlook* has predicted there will be a 9.2 per cent revenue growth for the online gaming sector across the US; Europe, Middle East and Africa; Asia Pacific; Latin America; and Canada.

The UK was identified as one of the few countries to post an increase in revenues for 2010, with gaming machines accounting for more than US\$3bn (£1.9bn, €2.2bn).

PwC lead gaming partner David Trunkfield said: "Looking ahead, growth in the UK over the period should also be supported by the



The UK casino sector was among the few to post an increase in revenue

opening of the eight large, and eight small, new casinos permitted under the 2005 Act.

"However, with the current pressures on UK consumer spending, we forecast a decrease in casino revenue in 2011 and a modest 0.6 per cent advance in 2012."

## Next phase of Scarborough plans put on display

Plans for the next phase of the Sands development in Scarborough's North Bay, which will include a new waterpark, holiday homes and a family restaurant, have been put on display.

Benchmark Leisure submitted its proposals for the latest stage of the scheme after it

secured an extension to a development agreement with Scarborough Borough Council.

The extension also required receipt of payment for costs of the Open Air Theatre, as well as a signed agreement with Alpacare (UK), which will operate the waterpark.

## Aspers opens London super casino

Aspers Group has opened the UK's first super casino at London's Westfield Stratford City.

Facilities at the 65,000sq ft (6,000sq m) venue include 40 gaming tables, 150 slot machines, a 150-seat poker room and 92 electronic betting terminals as well as a restaurant and two bars. According to a spokesperson, each area of the casino has been designed to appeal to different types of customers, to cater for experienced gamers as well as recreational gamers and sports enthusiasts.

Aspers Westfield will be open 24 hours for 364 days a year – only closing from midnight to midnight on Christmas Day.

It is estimated that the casino will provide up to 440 new jobs. Aspers has also teamed up with Newham Workplace to maximise the employment opportunities for Newham residents. As part of the scheme, Aspers will pay



The 24-hour casino will be open 364 days a year

£50,000 per annum for five years to Newham Workplace to fund its work.

Aspers Casino is a major anchor at Westfield Stratford City, which also features an all-digital Vue cinema with 14 screens, a 14-lane bowling alley and 617 rooms across three hotels.

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[www.ieap.co.uk](http://www.ieap.co.uk)
- Institute of Hospitality +44 (0)20 8661 4900  
[www.instituteofhospitality.org.uk](http://www.instituteofhospitality.org.uk)
- ISPAL +44 (0)845 603 8734  
[www.ispal.org.uk](http://www.ispal.org.uk)
- LPE +44 (0)1462 471932  
[www.leisureprop.com](http://www.leisureprop.com)
- LMCA +44 (0)1278 436910  
[www.lmca.info](http://www.lmca.info)
- MLA +44 (0)20 7273 1444  
[www.mla.gov.uk](http://www.mla.gov.uk)
- NPFA +44 (0)20 7833 5360  
[www.playing-fields.com](http://www.playing-fields.com)
- People 1st +44 (0)870 060 2550  
[www.people1st.co.uk](http://www.people1st.co.uk)
- REPS +44 (0)20 8686 6464  
[www.exerciseregister.org](http://www.exerciseregister.org)
- SAPCA +44 (0)24 7641 6316  
[www.sapca.org.uk](http://www.sapca.org.uk)
- Sports Aid +44 (0)20 7273 1975  
[www.sportsaid.org.uk](http://www.sportsaid.org.uk)
- Sport England +44 (0)8458 508 508  
[www.sportengland.org](http://www.sportengland.org)
- Springboard +44 (0)20 7497 8654  
[www.springboarduk.org.uk](http://www.springboarduk.org.uk)
- SkillsActive +44 (0)20 7632 2000  
[www.skillsactive.com](http://www.skillsactive.com)
- Tourism Management Institute +44 (0)1926 641506  
[www.tmi.org.uk](http://www.tmi.org.uk)
- Tourism Society +44 (0)20 8661 4636  
[www.tourismsociety.org](http://www.tourismsociety.org)
- VisitBritain +44 (0)20 7578 1000  
[www.visitbritain.com](http://www.visitbritain.com)
- World Leisure +1 250 497 6578  
[www.worldleisure.org](http://www.worldleisure.org)