

leisure opportunities

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£12.2m pool opens in Birmingham

Birmingham City Council (BCC) and DC Leisure have launched the new £12.2m Harborne Pool and Fitness Centre, which has been developed on the site of the city's former Harborne Baths.

The facility is the first new public swimming pool built in Birmingham for more than 20 years. Wates Construction delivered the new venue and architects Saunders Boston were behind the design.

Harborne Pool and Fitness Centre boasts a 25m, six-lane swimming pool and a learner pool – in addition to a 70-station adult fitness suite that has been equipped by Pulse, PowerPlate and Trixter.

Facilities also include a large dance and aerobics studio and a smaller gym for young people aged between eight- and 16-years old. An official opening is planned for 28 January.



DC Leisure has been appointed to operate the £12.2m leisure complex

DC Leisure was appointed by the local authority to operate the venue in December as part of a 10-year management contract, which includes the option of a five-year extension.



The spa features a total of seven treatment rooms

February unveiling for Fletcher's Cottage spa

A 750sq m (8,000sq ft) day spa is to open in February at the Archerfield Links championship golf course near Edinburgh.

Facilities at the spa, which were designed and supplied by Nola 7, include a marine salt steam room, a herbal aroma sauna and contrast adventure showers.

The spa also boasts a total of seven treatment rooms – including a double treatment room and a salt brick inhalation room – as well as a large relaxation lounge with a wood burning oven and a secret walled garden with two seaweed bathing houses.

NGB opposes Handball Arena name change

British Handball has announced the launch of a campaign to retain the name of London's Olympic Handball Arena, following a decision to rebrand it as The Copper Box.

The 7,000-seat arena has been given the new name to reflect the materials used in its creation, but the national governing body said it could hinder the sport's continued growth.

British Handball chief executive Paul Goodwin said the 2012 Games provided the chance for handball to increase its popularity in the UK.

Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=Q2Z7P>

GLL launches new budget gym

Leisure trust GLL has opened its first standalone budget gym in Bexleyheath, London.

Gym Bexleyheath houses 92 pieces of the Technogym cardiovascular and resistance equipment, a dedicated free weights and stretch area, plus modern changing facilities.

In order to keep costs to a minimum the reception area is self-service – although the gym will be staffed at all times. The cost of membership has been set at £19.95 a month.

GLL initially entered the budget club sector with its Gym-London brand in 2008 but so far the concept has worked mainly as an option for members to gain limited, gym-only access at full-service centres operated by GLL.



The new standalone budget health club is GLL's first

GLL operations director Andy McCabe said: "The concept behind Gym Bexleyheath sits well with our corporate commitment to making high quality leisure facilities more accessible." Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=Y7f2p>

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SPORT

Mace submits Derby arena plans

Plans for the development of a new multi-sports arena adjacent to Pride Park Stadium in Derby have been submitted by Derby City Council's (DCC) project manager, Mace.

FaulknerBrowns Architects have designed the 14,500sq m (156,077sq ft) complex, which features a 250m indoor cycling track and a 1.5km (0.9-mile) outdoor closed cycle trail.

A sports infield capable of accommodating 12 badminton courts and hospitality facilities are also proposed, while the new arena will have a capacity of 5,000 for cultural events, such as concerts.

The complex is to be built on the site of the existing park and ride facility, which will lead to 600 new spaces being created between the new arena and the football stadium.

Mace project director David Grose said: "We have designed an iconic building which will



The complex is to be developed adjacent to Derby's Pride Park stadium

compliment Pride Park Stadium, but will also function as a stand-alone facility.

"The sculptured form will be very striking, exhibiting fluidity and movement to reflect the activities taking place inside."

DCC director of leisure and culture Claire Davenport added: "The arena will provide the city with modern facilities to be proud of."

Glasgow swimming centre work reaches landmark

Work on the £13.7m Tollcross International Swimming Centre has reached a landmark stage with the installation of a truss.

The truss forms the framework of an extension for the new six-lane 50m warm-up pool at Tollcross, which will add to an existing

10-lane 50 metre competition pool, providing a dedicated venue for swimming events at the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

The design was carried out by Glasgow City Council's in-house design team. Construction work is being delivered by Barr Holdings.

New multi-sports facility opens in Bexley

The new multi-sport Europa Centre, which is to be used as a London 2012 Games Time Training Venue, has opened in Bexley, south east London.

Olympic and Paralympic volleyball teams will use the new 3,460sq m (37,243sq ft) facility, which was designed by Formation Architects and Whitecode Design.

ISG Construction and Stace were also involved with the scheme, which also provides a new home for Europa Gym Club, Europa Weightlifting Club and Nemesis Boxing Club.

Facilities include a gymnastic hall; a weightlifting and fitness studio; and physiotherapy and treatment rooms, as well as a mezzanine floor with multi-use space for functions, dance and martial arts, as well as a boxing studio.



A gymnastic hall is among the facilities at Bexley's new Europa Centre

Bexley Council leader Teresa O'Neill said: "This has secured a future for this important community sports club as well as being chosen as a London 2012 Games Time Training Venue for the Olympic and Paralympic volleyball team." Read more: <http://lei.sr7a=W9M5E>

£9m Horley Leisure Centre opens

Reigate and Banstead Borough Council's (RBBC) new £9m Horley Leisure Centre has opened on the site of the former Court Lodge School.

S&P Architects designed the new complex, which has replaced the former Horley Anderson Centre and boasts a 25m, six-lane swimming pool and a training pool.

Built by Netherlands-based Pellikaan Construction, the centre also features a 45-station gym with free weights area; a four-court sports hall; and an exercise studio.

The facility offers separate male, female, family, group and disabled changing areas, while a cycle and car park is to be shared with the neighbouring Horley Town Football Club.

Greenwich Leisure Limited will operate Horley Leisure Centre on behalf of the council, which incorporates a number of eco-friendly



S&P Architects are behind the design of the new Horley Leisure Centre

measure such as a biomass heating system and aims to be accessible to all users.

RBBC executive member for healthy communities Adam De Save said: "The centre looks amazing and provides fantastic new facilities to help people of all ages and abilities keep healthy and active."

£30m for national sports medicine centre

Health secretary Andrew Lansley has announced £30m of funding towards a new National Sports and Exercise Medicine Centre of Excellence across three UK locations.

Loughborough, Sheffield and London are the planned sites of three hubs that comprise the new facility, which is one of the government's main legacy commitments from the 2012 Games this summer.

The Centre of Excellence will help more people become active and treat injuries caused by exercise and conditions that are associated with a lack of physical activity.

It is hoped the facility will help people suffering from existing conditions such as diabetes benefit from exercise, while returning injured people to physical health and work quickly.



The centre is to share research findings and best practice with the NHS

Lansley said: "The Olympics are a once in a life-time opportunity for Britain and it provides a great opportunity for the NHS too."

"It will share research findings and best practice with the entire NHS so the whole country benefits." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=B8egA>

Manchester in line for £18m leisure facilities investment

Three swimming pools in Manchester that offer "poor value for money" could be replaced with new facilities as part an £18m investment strategy announced by the local authority.

Manchester City Council's communities and neighbourhoods overview and scrutiny

committee backed the proposals before they went before the executive on 18 January.

A report discussed by the council said there is a "compelling case" to replace three outdated buildings at Levenshulme, Miles Platting and Chorlton, which are expensive to run.

Gloucestershire CCC ground plans rejected

Plans drawn up by Gloucestershire County Cricket Club (GCCC) and Linden Homes for a revamp of the County Ground have been rejected by Bristol City Council.

The decision has been described as a "massive disappointment" by GCCC chief executive Tom Richardson and means that international cricket matches will no longer take place at the venue.

Richardson also said the council's failure to approve the development proposals had placed the club's future in Bristol in doubt, hinting at a possible move to Gloucester.



Work is set to start on the £8.3m centre this year

£8.3m Pwllheli sailing centre plans put on show

Members of the public have been given the opportunity to comment on initial plans for the development of a new £8.3m National Sailing and Academy Centre, which will be located in Pwllheli, North Wales.

Gwynedd Council held a consultation day on 17 January to display the plans, which have been drawn up by Ellis Williams Architects and Dobson:Owen Architects.

Construction work is due to commence later this year, with the new facility scheduled to open its doors in 2013. It is hoped the scheme will enable Pwllheli to attract larger and more frequent sailing events.

Liverpool FC to opt for original stadium plans

Initial plans for a new Liverpool Football Club (LFC) stadium at Stanley Park, which were drawn up nine years ago, are to be pursued by US-based owner John Henry.

The decision is likely to see alternative plans drawn up by previous owners Tom Hicks and George Gillett ditched and will revive the original plans, drawn up by architects AFL in 2002.

LFC already has planning permission for the AFL plans, which would see the creation of a 60,000-seater "New Anfield" stadium at Grade II-listed Stanley Park.

Survey reveals cost of 'poor' phone response

A survey by Leisure-net Solutions has found that fitness operators could be losing out on potential members by failing to handle telephone enquiries properly.

The *National call-Focus Survey* tests membership enquiries against sector standards and this year's results saw the national average score decline by 8 per cent.

It is the worst score in the survey's five-year history and Leisure-net's Mike Hill said that it was "reasonable to assume" through the results that telephone responses had got worse. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=B2cij>



Simon Harrison was one of the four interviewed

Fitness experts predict 2012 industry trends

The low-cost sector will continue to drive the growth of the UK's fitness industry during 2012, according to a panel of experts offering their predictions for the year.

Health Club Management spoke to four industry leaders and most agreed that, while economic pressures will continue, increasing public awareness of health and fitness will act as a compensatory factor.

Deloitte director of corporate finance Simon Harrison said operators also need to focus on innovative membership packages. Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=G5M1G>

Sandown leisure centre renovation underway

Isle of Wight Council (IWC) has started work on a two-stage refurbishment of The Heights Leisure Centre in Sandown to help improve provision and reduce costs.

The project was given the green light by councillors in March last year, with phase one set to include the construction of a new Tone Zone fitness suite at the rear.

A new activity room and a revamped pool also form part of the first stage of work, which is due for completion in June. The second phase of the project will see the health suite given a new-look.

truGym to open fourth facility

Independently-owned budget health club chain truGym is to open its fourth health and fitness club in Bromley, Kent, at the end of February.

The 14,000sq ft (1,300sq m) club will join sites in Maidstone, Peterborough and Plymouth. The equipment at each club has been supplied by Evolution Fitness.

All sites are open from 6am to 10pm and are manned during opening hours. Monthly memberships begin at £12.99, which includes a selected range of group classes such as body pump. Yoga and Zumba are also available for extra cost. According to truGym director and owner Parm Singh, the company is looking to expand aggressively and will also look to add franchising services.

"So far all clubs have been company-owned but we are looking to open our first franchised



The new Bromley venue will join the operator's portfolio of three clubs

club later this year," Singh told *Health Club Management*. "In fact we've very recently recruited our first franchisee so we're actively looking for a site for him to operate."

Singh added that he is currently looking to add seven further sites during 2012, bringing the number of truGym locations to 11.

Work starts on £15.3m Kirkcaldy facility

A turf-cutting ceremony has taken place to mark the start of work on a new £15.3m leisure centre in Kirkcaldy, which is one of three facilities to be developed across Fife.

Graham Construction has been selected by Fife Council and Fife Sports and Leisure Trust to deliver the project, which is scheduled for completion in summer 2013.

B3 Architects are lead consultant and joint architects with Cre8 Architecture on the project, with facilities at the new Kirkcaldy leisure centre to include a 25m, six-lane swimming pool and a training pool with moveable floor.

The venue, which is expected to attract 200,000 visitors a year once open, will also comprise a health suite with a sauna and



A 60-station fitness suite will form part of Kirkcaldy's £15.3m complex

steamroom; and a 60-station fitness suite; an aerobics studio; and a four-court sports hall.

The new Kirkcaldy facility is part of Fife Council's £55m Future of Leisure programme to improve local provision.

Freedom Leisure nets Wealden leisure contract

Freedom Leisure has announced that it has secured a new 10-year management agreement to operate local facilities on behalf of Wealden District Council from 1 April.

The contract covers four centres across the East Sussex district, with the non-profit trust

planning to invest a total of £7m in undertaking "major improvements" to facilities.

Spending plans include £1.8m on new equipment, which will help ensure each of the four leisure centres are able to compete with rival privately-operated sites.

Roll-out for Shropshire chain

Independently-owned health club business Bodytech is to roll-out its affordable fitness concept throughout the UK by offering franchise opportunities to potential partners.

Jeff Anderson founded the Shropshire-based Bodytech chain in 1998 in Shrewsbury, before opening a second site in Market Drayton with business partner Peter Metcalfe in 2006. Further sites opened in Whitchurch and Chester (2007) and Oswestry (2009).

Each Bodytech club has a floorspace of between 8,000-10,000sq ft (743-929sq m) and offer a personal approach to their customers.

Anderson now believes that the model can be replicated across other small market towns and said that the concept is an alternative to "impersonal" budget gyms as the populations in those locations are too small.



Jeff Anderson (right): "We have created a powerful, well-known brand"

"We have created a powerful, well-known brand and have accumulated a great deal of experience," said Anderson.

"Our success is down to offering a unique service to a specific market and we are excited about sharing that formula with others who have the same beliefs and motivation."

Fitness4less to open new Southend gym

Low-cost health club operator Fitness4less has announced it has secured a lease for a new 20,000sq ft (1,858sq m) gym at a Southend shopping centre, which is to open in May.

Located on the first floor of the Victoria Shopping Centre, the club will provide membership at a flat fee of £14.99 per month and inclusive of all facilities and classes.

The new Fitness4less site will be equipped with at least 150 pieces of equipment and include a unisex and ladies-only gym; a large free weights area; a class studio; and a spinning studio.

A Powerzone nightclub themed area with large screen will also form part of the new club.

Victoria Shopping Centre managing director Bill Harkness said: "Customers can now



Southend's Fitness4less is to comprise at least 150 pieces of equipment

plan their fitness regime around their shopping, or on their way home from work."

Southend is one of three clubs expected to join the Fitness4less portfolio in May, with clubs in Cardiff and Sutton also to be added.

£800,000 funding boost for new Yeovil facility

A joint partnership scheme between leisure trust 1610, South Somerset District Council and a local school will result in the launch of a new leisure centre in Yeovil.

Following a £800,000 funding boost for the project, building work is expected to begin at

Preston School in February. Facilities will include a new health club, reception area and a multi-purpose dance studio as well as a sports hall and changing rooms.

The new dual-use facilities are due to open in September and will be managed by 1610.

February launch event for Holt Park project

A groundbreaking ceremony is due to take place in February to mark the start of work on the construction of a major new £27m wellbeing complex at Holt Park, Leeds.

Leeds City Council is inviting local residents to come forward with names for the complex, which will open in December 2013 and will feature a 25m swimming pool.

Holt Park's facilities will also include a hydrotherapy pool; a teaching pool; a multi-activity room; and a Bodyline gym, as well as hubs for both older people and those with learning difficulties.



Cybox equipment has been installed at the venue

New leisure centre unveiled in Telford

The new Abraham Darby Sports and Leisure Centre, part of a wider sports and learning community for Telford, Shropshire, has been unveiled by the local authority.

Facilities include the Aspirations fitness suite with 44 pieces of Cybox equipment, including Total and Lower Body Arc Trainers, as well as two Power Plates.

A separate spinning studio at the new leisure centre includes 12 Precor team bikes, while the facilities also comprise a 25m swimming pool with moveable floor, a sports hall and an aerobics studio.

New-look fitness suite for Chichester leisure centre

Chichester District Council has announced the launch of a new-look fitness suite at the West Sussex town's Westgate Leisure Centre following a £288,000 refurbishment.

Funded by the council, work included the installation of 78 pieces of new Technogym equipment across six categories – shape, power, balance, sport, move and fun.

The fitness suite at Westgate Leisure Centre now comprises four zones, including a functional training zone; a free weights zone; a cardiovascular zone; and a fixed resistance zone.

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Merlin bids for Living and Leisure

A recommended takeover bid for Asia-Pacific operator, the Living and Leisure Australia Group (LLA), has been submitted by Merlin Entertainments Group.

Merlin, one of the world's largest attractions operator, has made a bid that values LLA at around AU\$140m (£90m, EUR107m, US\$139m) on an equity value basis.

LLA directors have backed the offer, which will continue the expansion of Merlin's existing Asia-Pacific operations subject to the approval of LLA security holders.

Nine destinations are owned and operated by LLA through three divisions, which feature the Oceanis Group aquariums and the Australia Alpine Enterprises ski fields.

The Australia Treetop Adventures attractions are also part of LLA's portfolio, with the



Sydney Aquarium is one of the attractions owned and operated by LLA

deal set to follow Merlin's acquisition of Sydney Attractions Group earlier in 2011.

Merlin CEO Nick Varney said: "The acquisition would open up new markets to us and facilitate the continuing roll out of the Sea Life, Madame Tussauds, Eye and Legoland brands in the Asia Pacific region."

Milestone for Cheltenham museum project

A £6.3m redevelopment of Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum has moved forward with the completion of ground and foundation works for its new town centre building.

It means that work can now start on constructing the main concrete frame on the museum's new extension, while some existing galleries are to undergo a refurbishment.

Due to relaunch in 2013, Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum will offer additional galleries; new open access stores/study facilities; and dedicated spaces for lifelong learning.

A larger events/performance space is proposed as part of the scheme, which has received a £750,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards the overall cost.



The new-look Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum will launch in 2013

A Cheltenham Borough Council spokesperson said: "Building for a New Future will transform Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum by greatly increasing its exhibition, display and other facilities."

RBC calls for Magna Carta project backing

Runnymede Borough Council (RBC) has met with local residents and groups to discuss a project that would mark the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta.

A permanent visitor centre with interpretation area and facilities for community use

feature as part of the council's plans for the scheme, which is due for completion in 2015.

RBC chief executive Paul Turrell said a "solid business case" is needed to secure the necessary funding, with community involvement a key component in the project's success.

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HOTELS

Hotels 'losing billions' to fraud

New research from PKF and the University of Portsmouth has found that fraud could be costing the hotel industry in excess of £2bn each year.

Findings from *The Resilience to Fraud of the UK Hotel Sector* were combined with results of a separate study – both of which were undertaken by the two institutions.

The Resilience to Fraud of the UK Hotel Sector examined how the UK's hotel industry is currently protecting itself against fraudulent activity and identified areas which required more action.

Using a 50-point scale, the sector was found to be less resilient than other industries. It had an average score of 25.4 points, compared with 30.6 points for the private sector as a whole.

However, the sector did perform strongly in some areas – 88 per cent of respondents have a



The UK's hotel sector was one of the worst for protecting against fraud

zero-tolerance approach to fraud, while 85 per cent promptly reported suspected activity.

PKF's Stuart Collins said: "Given the challenging business environment, with the possibility of a double dip recession, hoteliers are advised to strengthen their protection against fraud." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=k6poW>

'Record year' for Small Luxury Hotels of the World

Small Luxury Hotels of the World (SLH) has reported record results for the year ending 31 December 2011, with reservations revenue up by nearly a quarter compared with 2010.

The business, which now has a portfolio of 523 hotels across more than 70 countries, saw

a 71 per cent increase in bookings through its slh.com website for the 12-month period.

Online bookings now account for 20 per cent of SLH's business, while membership of its loyalty programme – The Club – grew by 144 per cent to 140,000 members in 2011.

Malmaison; De Vere reveal appointments

Former chief executive of De Vere Village, Gary Davis, has been named as the new CEO of Malmaison and Hotel du Vin, with predecessor Robert Barclay Cook moving in the opposite direction.

Davis has left the De Vere Group after more than four years heading the Village Hotels arm, where he oversaw the brand's expansion and a 55 per cent growth in sales.

"It is a privilege to take over [Robert's] mantle, cast a fresh eye over the brands and take the business on to the next stage of its development," said Davis.

Meanwhile, former Malmaison and Hotel du Vin chief executive Robert Barclay Cook has succeeded Davis at the helm of De Vere



Robert Barclay Cook (above) succeeded Gary Davis at De Vere Village

Village. De Vere also named executive director Nicholas Bull as its non-executive chair. He replaces Andrew Coppel, who will focus on his role as chief executive.



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Wales to have single environment agency

Plans to bring the Countryside Council for Wales; Environment Agency Wales; and Forestry Commission Wales together into one single environment organisation for Wales have been approved.

Welsh environment minister John Griffiths agreed to the plans following nine months of scoping work undertaken by representatives of the three organisations.

It is thought the move will result in savings of up to £158m over 10-years, with a consultation into the role and functions of the new body to be undertaken.



The path is to run around the entire Welsh coast

May launch for new Wales Coast Path

A path providing a continuous 870-mile (1,400km) route around the entire coast of Wales, from Chepstow in the south to Chester in the north, is to open in May.

The Welsh Assembly Government has led the scheme through the Coastal Access Improvement Programme, while European Union funding has also been provided.

It is expected that the Wales Coast Path will establish itself a "significant" asset for the Welsh tourism industry, while also leading to the creation of circular routes heading inland to towns and villages.

Park planned for Twickenham pool site

A new riverside park and public space will be created on the site of a former swimming pool in Twickenham, London, under plans revealed by Richmond Council.

The Jubilee Gardens project will include a grassed area behind Café Sunshine and parkland in front of the old diving board, which is to be retained to mark long-running efforts to reopen the facility.

Meanwhile, a section close to the old changing rooms is to be paved to create a public square. The council's plans have been shaped by local people and businesses.

Two options for Sussex scheme

Eastbourne Borough Council's (EBC) cabinet has agreed to draw up detailed business cases for two of the potential redevelopment options for the town's Devonshire Park.

A number of designs for the scheme were drawn up by London-based Marks Barfield Architects and the local authority has said it will now explore Options Two and Four in further detail.

Proposals being considered by EBC incorporate improved facilities for the international tennis tournament, which could also see the possible relocation of centre court within the park.

New cafés, restaurants and visitors spaces; an exhibition/conference venue; improvements to the Congress Theatre and Winter Gardens; and upgraded seaford links are also mooted. It is anticipated that the capital cost of the



Improved tennis facilities are among the proposals for Devonshire Park

schemes will range between £30m and £43m, with the fourth option currently deemed to be the most expensive.

EBC leader David Tutt said: "We now have two options that will be subject to further analysis to establish the long term benefits and viability." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=h8h4y>

£1.15m boost for Belfast Hills LP plans

Nearly 30 individual projects that form part of the Belfast Hills Landscape Partnership (LP) scheme will benefit from £1.15m from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

In 2010, the partnership's proposals were awarded initial support and have now secured a full grant from the funding agency, following 12 months of detailed planning.

The Belfast Hills LP scheme comprises more than 5,000 hectares (12,355 acres) of hills that surround Belfast, Lisburn, Newtonabbey and Antrim, including a number of public sites.

A total of 29 projects involving the conservation and restoration of built and natural heritage features are proposed, along with new and upgraded access routes.



Belfast Hills' Landscape Partnership incorporates a total of 29 projects

Belfast Hills development manager Dr Lizzy Pinkerton said: "The LP scheme will be the impetus for an ongoing process of growth and development that will result in a sustainable legacy for our landscape and its people."

Lake District announces new management plan

A consortium of partner organisations and local councils have published a "radical" management plan for the Lake District National Park, which covers the next two decades.

The Lake District National Park Partnership comprises more than 20 agencies and is one

of the first organisations of its kind that have come together as part of a joint approach.

Among the main areas of focus for the new plan is sustainable tourism and visitor facilities, as well as farming and forestry; transport and movement; and employment and business.

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Sun 25 March

Theatre Royal Plymouth revamp plans submitted

Plymouth's Theatre Royal is to benefit from an extensive programme of work to modernise and upgrade facilities after plans were submitted to the local authority.

Andrzej Blonski Architects are behind the proposals, which include five main elements and include the creation of a new learning space in the existing basement.

Theatre Royal chief executive Adrian Vinken said: "Our aim is to modernise and make major improvements to the theatre to ensure it remains Plymouth's cultural centre of excellence for the next 50 years."



IMAGE: © CHARLES HENRI

A Room for London is located on the South Bank

New 'boat hotel' opens on London's South Bank

A one-bedroom, maritime-themed 'hotel' installation – part of the London 2012 Festival – has opened at the Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall in London.

Located on the roof of the South Bank venue, *A Room for London* has been designed by David Kohn Architects in conjunction with artist Fiona Banner following an international design contest.

The winning boat-shape design offers panoramic views of the River Thames from Big Ben to St Paul's Cathedral, and boasts a bedroom, a kitchenette and a library.

£1.2m for new creative opportunities in Scotland

Creative Scotland is to invest more than £1.2m to help people enjoy or take part in creative activities through a range of new First in a Lifetime opportunities.

A total of 10 projects stretching from the Shetland Islands to Dumfries are in line to receive financial support as part of a strategy to provide "unique inspirational experiences" across the country.

Creative Scotland chief executive Andrew Dixon said: "The programme will offer many more people the opportunity to see, explore and enjoy a rich cultural life."

Chichester venue plans backed

Chichester Festival Theatre (CFT) has been given the green light for a £22m redevelopment after local councillors approved planning consent and funding support.

The venue is to demolish all extensions added to the Grade II-listed building after 1962 and revamp the original hexagonal auditorium; as well as adding new foyer-side extensions. A back-of-house extension and a new outdoor piazza are also included in plans approved by Chichester District Council's (CDC) area development control committee (south).

Meanwhile, CDC also pledged to support CFT in its bid to secure funding for the plans, with an investment of £500,000 to complement £1.5m from West Sussex County Council.

The local authority capital funding from both the district and county councils will also



IMAGE: BETHE THOMAS

The iconic Chichester Festival Theatre will receive an extensive revamp

help support the theatre's application for support from Arts Council England.

CDC deputy leader Myles Cullen said: "Not only will this directly and indirectly support around 350 local full-time equivalent jobs, but it will help to maintain the theatre's position as a leading international venue."

Council to review Felixstowe theatre's future

Suffolk Coastal District Council (SCDC) will review the future of Felixstowe's Spa Theatre, having revealed in December that it can no longer afford to subsidise the venue.

The cabinet has been asked to look again at its decision to invite proposals from local

groups or leisure operators following a meeting of the council's scrutiny committee.

Members of the cabinet will now discuss the theatre's future on 7 February, which currently receives £250,000 a year and requires at least £3m to be spent on upgrading its facilities.

RSC to launch 'major' touring partnership

The Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) is to launch a major new touring and education partnership involving five leading regional theatres from April until 2015.

Hall for Cornwall; Hull Truck Theatre Company; Newcastle Theatre Royal; Southampton's Nuffield Theatre; and York Theatre Royal will partner with the RSC from April this year.

The RSC said the partnerships will expand its Learning and Performance Network, which is already reaching nearly 400 schools. Partner venues will use the 'hub school and cluster' approach to run initiatives in Cornwall; Kingston-upon Hull; Middlesbrough; Southampton; and York respectively.



IMAGE: ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

The RSC touring partnerships will take Shakespeare into more schools

RSC artistic director Michael Boyd said: "We will be able to take the RSC right into the heart of communities who wouldn't ordinarily have easy access to our work."

ONS reports inbound growth

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) has reported that the total number of visitors by overseas residents to the UK grew by 2 per cent in the year to November 2011.

Visitor numbers from other parts of the world and North America increased by 10 per cent and 6 per cent respectively, although European visitor numbers remained broadly flat. However, there was a 1 per cent drop in the estimated overseas visitor numbers for the three months ending November 2011, compared with figures for the previous quarter.

Meanwhile, statistics have shown an 8 per cent increase in visitor numbers to Scotland in the first nine months of the year, while expenditure for the period was up 11 per cent.

The domestic market generated a 10 per cent increase for the Scottish market, although



More overseas residents came to the UK in the year to November 2011

there was a 4 per cent decline in the number of overseas visitors despite an 18 per cent increase from North America.

Scottish tourism minister Fergus Ewing said: "These figures are an excellent demonstration of the resilience of Scotland's tourism industry." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=v6Boz>

Further details of GREAT campaign revealed

The government has announced further details of how it plans to capitalise on the potential of the 2012 Games and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee through the GREAT campaign.

A number of government and non-government agencies have been brought together as

part of the campaign focussing on nine target countries and 17 key cities across the world.

Launch events are planned for locations such as Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Delhi, India. Target countries include China, Germany and Australia. Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=b8W8H>

Tourism Alliance unveils new president

Tourism Alliance has unveiled Sir David Michels – the president of the British Hospitality Association (BHA) and a former group chief executive at Hilton International – as the organisation's new president.

In addition to his role with the BHA, the hospitality sector veteran is also a board member at Strategic Hotels and Resorts and Jumeirah Hotels, while also chairing London and Capital.

Sir David said of his latest appointment: "The government has rightly identified tourism as one of the few industries that can quickly provide much needed growth and employment.

"Our task will be to ensure that this acknowledgement is translated into policies



Sir David will lead the Tourism Alliance at a crucial time for the sector

that make the UK a more competitive tourism destination."

Sir David was knighted in 2006 for his services to the hospitality and catering sector.

Time for the tourism sector to deliver



KURT JANSON
is policy director of
Tourism Alliance

One of the main areas in which the Tourism Alliance has been campaigning for the last 5 years is for the government to increase funding for the national tourism boards – VisitBritain and VisitEngland.

While most other Government agencies benefitted from increased public funding under the previous government (DCMS funding as a whole increased by more than 65 per cent between 2000 and 2007), there was no increase in the tourism budget.

With the economic downturn, the budget for VisitBritain and VisitEngland was cut by more than 30 per cent, meaning that since 2000 the government funding fell by more than 60 per cent in real terms. However, in the last few months there has been a significant reversal in approach.

First, VisitEngland has received £3m of unsent Olympic funding in order to boost domestic tourism and maximise the Olympic legacy. VisitBritain was then handed £27m of the £39m to be invested in the GREAT campaign, which will be used to attract 4.6 million more visitors from UK's most important existing markets and emerging ones, such as China and India.

In addition to these direct allocations, a further £19.8m has been allocated through VisitEngland for regional tourism development as part of the Regional Growth Fund bidding process, making the total investment in tourism over the last three months just under £50m. While this is extremely welcome, they are only one-off allocations rather than additions to annual grants.

This means the government will only consider further grants if VisitBritain and VisitEngland campaigns are shown to be successful. And to be successful, the industry needs to engage with the campaigns, which both rely on the private sector for funding, product offers and promotion if they are to achieve the targets set in terms of revenue growth and employment.

This is the challenge to the industry. If it wants the government to allocate funding to the national tourism boards in future, it must help make the VisitBritain and VisitEngland campaigns a success now.



Stevenage town centre is to undergo a makeover

Green light for £250m Stevenage regeneration

A major £250m mixed-use regeneration of Stevenage town centre in Hertfordshire, which is to include a number of leisure facilities, has been given the green light.

Stevenage Borough Council's planning and development committee has resolved to grant planning permission for the scheme, subject to legal agreements.

Restaurants and public spaces are included among the proposals, although the council said the timetable for delivering the project is "unclear" due to ongoing economic uncertainty.

Bromley South Central proposals submitted

London-based developer, The Cathedral Group, has submitted plans for a multi-million pound regeneration scheme, which will transform part of Bromley town centre.

The £80m Bromley South Central project will act as a catalyst for further regeneration at the southern end of the town and create a new residential and leisure quarter.

Facilities such as a nine-screen multiplex cinema and 25,000sq ft (2,323sq m) of cafes and restaurants feature among the proposals, along with a 130-bedroom business hotel and 200 apartments.

New vision unveiled for central Southampton

Southampton city centre is to undergo a radical transformation over the next 25 years under a new vision drawn up by David Lock Associates and unveiled by the local authority.

Proposals include a new Station Quarter and a revitalised Fruit and Vegetable Market area, as well as a new business district and a "world-class waterfront".

Southampton City Council's vision also highlights the city's £175m Cultural Quarter plans, which are centred around the newly-repaved Guildhall Square.

Green light for £600m Canning Town plans

Bouygues Development and One Housing Group have been given the green light for a £600m regeneration project in Canning Town, London.

It forms part of the wider £3.7bn Canning Town and Custom House Regeneration Programme led by Newham Council, which is scheduled for completion by 2023.

The group anticipates that work will now start during the last quarter of 2012 following approval from the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation's planning committee.

The 6-hectare (14.8-acre) development is to boast more than 30,000sq m (322,917sq ft) of leisure and retail space and more than 5,000sq m (53,820sq ft) of community facilities.



Christie + Co said the low-cost health sector was one of the most robust

Newham mayor Sir Robin Wales said: "This scheme is the real game-changer for Canning Town, and illustrates the scale of our ambition when it comes to delivering regeneration."

£659m 'Airport City' for Manchester

Chancellor George Osborne has announced plans for the establishment of the UK's first 'Airport City', a £659m mixed-use development to be located at Manchester Airport.

Manchester Airports Group is behind the proposals for the scheme, which comes after the government confirmed the area as a new Enterprise Zone in March 2011.

The 150-acre (60.7-hectare) development is centred on Manchester Airport's international links and will feature 2,500 hotel beds and 100,000 sq ft (9,290sq m) of retail and leisure.

A two-stage masterplan will see two core Airport City zones developed, the first adjacent to the airport's railway station and including hotel, office and retail uses among others.

The second zone will be located next to the existing cargo centre and will focus on logistics



'Airport City' will be developed in two phases near Manchester Airport

and freight. The development is expected to be undertaken over a 12- to 15-year period.

A Central Park stretching more than 800m (2,625ft) will act as the centrepiece to the development and incorporate pavilions and event space, while linking with existing local green spaces. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=j329k>

Leisure facilities part of Uxbridge RAF base scheme

A 1,200-seat theatre and a 90-bedroom hotel are to be created as part of a major mixed-use redevelopment of a former Royal Air Force (RAF) base at Uxbridge, London.

The scheme will transform the base, which was the headquarters of No 11 Group RAF

and was on the front line during the Battle of Britain during the Second World War.

Plans also feature the preservation of the Grade II-listed Hillingdon House and the Battle of Britain bunker, while a new 14-hectare (34.6-acre) district park is also proposed.

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SUKI KALIRAI
is interim chief
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In a week where politicians expressed 'deep concern' over Forces job cuts and youth unemployment rising to 1.04 million, it's easy to feel like burying one's head in the sand. Despite this depressing news, it has never been more timely to forge ahead with innovative solutions.

As the sector skills council for active leisure, learning and well-being SkillsActive is well placed to deliver such solutions, drawing on our expertise, contacts and government connections. We remain dedicated to finding ways of increasing the prospects of young people seeking jobs, helping those leaving the armed forces, directing employers to skilled and work-ready employees and ensuring affordable and useful training is available to everyone in our sector.

We're working with employers, training providers and the armed forces on our Change Gear programme (see right) set-up to offer specific support to ensure those leaving the services are empowered to make informed decisions about the opportunities available to them. To find out how you can get involved visit <http://lei.sr?a=c1GoG>.

SkillsActive is able to help get more young people on the road to a fulfilling career. Starting with National Apprenticeship Week (6-10 February), we're sending out a challenge to employers to get staff trained via apprenticeships. Employers can access thousands of pounds a year in funded training. SkillsActive can help you identify how much your staff are eligible for and negotiate training to meet your requirements.

SkillsActive's Group Training Association can offer partnership networks to small or medium enterprises in England to help them access match funding for training – see <http://lei.sr?a=L2p3a>. We can also help businesses meet statutory requirements. Not only are we offering traditional methods of training, but we aim to work with providers to produce innovative delivery.

This helps make training provision easy, industry specific and cost efficient (<http://lei.sr?a=u08V>). Now is the time to seize the nettle and meet challenges head-on.

TRAINING

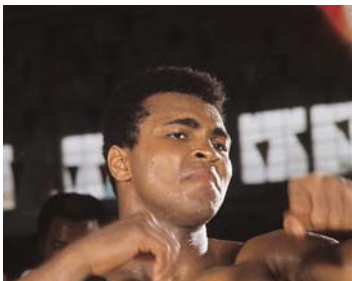
Boxercise launches Ali-inspired course

Boxercise has acquired rights from California, US-based Muhammad Ali Enterprises to launch a new training course bearing the name of the legendary boxer.

The Muhammad Ali Boxing Trainer course launched in January in order to coincide with wider celebrations marking Ali's 70th birthday.

Instructors who complete the training course will be able to use Ali's name to promote classes, personal training sessions or boot-camps. The course focuses on "unorthodox" methods, including rotational footwork while crossing the feet; and the "Ali shuffle".

Andy Wake, director of Boxercise, said: "Boxercise is recognised as the world leader



Those who pass the course will be able to use Muhammad Ali's name

in boxing-related fitness, with the result being a collaboration between the biggest name in boxing fitness and the biggest name in world boxing." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=9h5T6>

Change Gear programme to launch

SkillsActive, the sector skills council for active learning and leisure, is set to launch a new initiative to help Armed Forces personnel pursue a career within the sector.

An employment and training fair scheduled to take place at Guildford's Surrey Sports Park on 8 March will mark the launch of the Change Gear programme.

The programme will offer specific career change support for those leaving the services, with the event to provide information on employment opportunities across the industry.

Other components of the initiative will include the Explore Sport workshop to help those new to the sector and Train to Change, which will deliver the right qualifications.

Julie Evans, head of programmes at SkillsActive said: "What we are hoping to



SkillsActive is looking to help service personnel enter the leisure sector

achieve with Change Gear Employment and Training Fair is to look past the uniform to the person within.

"Our sector has massive potential for growth and career development and therefore offers a wealth of opportunity for those entering it." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=c1GoG>

Active IQ unveils new up-skill qualification

A new qualification designed to up-skill health and fitness industry professionals, and help them achieve practitioner status, has been launched by Active IQ.

The Active IQ Level 3 Award in Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF) is

now available at Levels 3 and 4 and is endorsed by the Institute for Learning.

Mandatory units include the roles, responsibilities and relationships in lifelong learning and the use of inclusive learning and teaching approaches. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=X1X4k>



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Fitness Instructor, *Énergie Group, Liverpool, UK*
Membership Sales Advisor, *Énergie Group, Liverpool, UK*
General Manager – Norwich, *The Gym Group, Norwich, UK*
Assistant General Manager, *The Gym Group, Swansea, UK*
Personal Trainer, *Pure Gym Limited, Walton on Thames, UK*
Personal Trainer, *Pure Gym Limited, Gateshead, UK*
Lifeguard, *Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, UK*
Fitness Instructors, *Newark & Sherwood District Council, Newark, UK*
Sales Manager / Sales and Marketing Manager, *Eden Fitness, London, UK*
General Manager, *Continuum, Portsmouth, UK*
General Manager, *Bootcamp Pilates, Fulham, London, UK*
Chief Executive, *Boccia England, Nottingham, UK*
Corporate Wellness Manager, *The Tonic, London, UK*
Group Training and Development Co-Ordinator, *Impulse Leisure, Thurrock, Essex, UK*
Centre Manager, *Impulse Leisure, Thurrock, Essex, UK*
IOS Quality and Subcontracting Manager, *Institute of Swimming, Loughborough, UK*
Lecturer in Sport, *Myerscough College, Preston, UK*
Temporary Pre Sales Club Promoter/Sales Consultant, *énergie group, Harlow, UK*
Temporary Club Promotion Staff, *énergie group, Nationwide, UK*
Fitness Instructor / Personal Trainer, *Énergie Group, Milton Keynes, UK*
Fitness Instructors and Sales Promoter / Advisor, *énergie group, Bracknell, Berkshire, UK*
Membership sales advisors, *Énergie Group, Harrow, London, UK*
Programming Development Manager, *Dacorum Sportspace, Hertfordshire, UK*
Duty Manager - Kentish Town, *Greenwich Leisure Ltd, Kentish Town - Borough of Camden, UK*
Relief Duty Manager, *Everyone Active, Shipston / Stratford Upon Avon / Warwickshire, UK*
Dual Fitness Instructor and Sales Promoter/Advisor
Salary: £13,000-14,000 Company: *Énergie Group, Inverness, UK*
Membership Consultant, *Everyone Active, Shipston / Stratford Upon Avon / Warwickshire, UK*
Recreation Attendant, *Everyone Active, Shipston / Stratford Upon Avon / Warwickshire, UK*
Gymnastic and Trampoline Coaches, *Everyone Active, Fareham, UK*
Dual Fitness Instructor & Sales Promoter/Advisor, *énergie group, Redditch, UK*
Membership sales advisors, *Énergie Group, Harrow, London, UK*
Fitness Instructor / Membership Advisor, *énergie group, Guildford, UK*
Fitness and Sales Manager, *Hertsme Leisure, Potters Bar, UK*
Part Time Fitness Instructor, *Hertsme Leisure, Borehamwood, UK*
Personal Trainers, *Hertsme Leisure, Hertsme, Milton Keynes and Three Rivers areas, UK*

Duty Officer, *Ashford Leisure Trust, Ashford, Kent, UK*
Fitness Instructor, *Fairmont St Andrews, St Andrews, Fife, UK*
Pool and Leisure Attendant, *Fairmont St Andrews, St Andrews, Fife, UK*
Personal Trainers, *Kirklees Active Leisure, West Yorkshire, UK*
Business Sales Manager, *Greenwich Leisure Ltd, London, UK*
Assistant Manager, *RFC Recreation Club, London, UK*
Sports Centre Duty Manager (Full time), *Abingdon School, Abingdon, UK*
Fitness Instructors (Full and Part Time), *Valley Leisure Ltd, Andover, UK*
Personal Trainer, *Énergie Group, Various locations, UK*
Sales Advisor, *Énergie Group, Epsom, UK*
Sales and Marketing Manager, *Bannatyne Fitness Ltd, Darlington, UK*
Brand Operations Manager, *énergie group, Altrincham, Cheshire, UK*
Spa Therapist Coordinator, *Orient-Express, Italy*
Spa Therapist, *Orient-Express, Italy*
Front of House Manager (Environment), *Central YMCA, Central London, UK*
Recreation Assistant, *Kingston College, Kingston-upon-Thames, UK*
Director of Spa and Leisure, *Fairmont St Andrews, St Andrews, Scotland, UK*
Sports Massage Therapist, *Ten Pilates, London, UK*
Experienced Health / Fitness professionals wanted, *Ten Pilates, Central London, UK*
Sports Development Officer, *Rugby Borough Council, Rugby, UK*
Customer Support Coordinator, *GramercyOne, New York, United States*
Sports Development Officer (East), *Wiltshire Council, Devizes, UK*
Health and Fitness Manager, *North West Leicestershire Council, UK*
Part Time Cafe Assistant, *Jubilee Hall Trust, Covent Garden, UK*
General Manager, *The Gym Group, Various locations, UK*
General Manager – Rivermead, *Greenwich Leisure Ltd, Berkshire, UK*
Recreation Assistant, *London South Bank University, London, UK*
Duty Manager, *Greenwich Leisure Ltd, London, UK*
Fitness Instructor (39hpw), *Nexus Community, Beaconsfield, UK*
Recreation Assistant (Lifeguard), *Greenwich Leisure Ltd, Various, UK*
General Manager, *Greenwich Leisure Ltd, Kentish Town - Borough of Camden*
Human Resources Advisor, *Greenwich Leisure Ltd, Woolwich, London, UK*
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Football Strategy Officer, *Leicestershire and Rutland County FA, UK*
Coaches Wanted, *Bury FC Community Trust, Bury, UK*
Personal Trainer, *The Gym Group, Wood Green, UK*
General Manager, *The Gym Group, Various locations, UK*
Operations / Commercial Manager, *Blackpool Zoo, Blackpool, UK*
Operations Manager, *Bristol Aquarium, Bristol, UK*
Visitor Services Manager, *National Museums Scotland, Scotland, UK*
Assistant General Manager, *The Gym Group, Various locations, UK*
International Business Development – Asia, *GramercyOne, Singapore*
Client Retention Manager, *SpaBooker/ GramercyOne, New York, United States*
Senior Recreation Assistant, *Greenwich Leisure Ltd, Barnet / Harrow / Lambeth, UK*
Client Services Manager, *Asia, GramercyOne, Singapore*

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- Qualifications - minimum of 1 year experience in fitness-wellness fields. Qualified in REPS level 2 or equivalent. Personal Training qualification would be an asset
- Experience instructing and leading exercise in an adult fitness setting, using appropriate form and sporting techniques. Experience in administering PAR-Q, health risk and history, fitness assessments, and client consultation.

Pool & Leisure Attendant

- Ensure the spa facility and pool area are in peak condition at all times (operations and cleanliness).
- Carry out all pool plant requirements
- Strong English communication skills
- Service guest's and members needs to ensure 5 star standards are met
- Qualification - Pool Plant Operator Certificate or lifeguard training would be an asset

Please apply with CV to
Carol Ann Hibbert at
Fairmont St Andrews
St Andrews, Fife
KY16 8PN, Scotland



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ASSISTANT MANAGER

(Membership, Marketing and Administration)

Full time (Shiftwork) Salary £22,798 - £26,158

We are a members only Club for staff at the Royal Free Hospital and its partners and are part of the Royal Free Charity. Facilities include swimming pool, sports hall, fitness room, studios.

We are looking for a versatile person, able to combine a Duty Manager role with responsibility for administration, marketing and memberships. You should be computer literate (excel, SAGE) and able to develop the use of databases to maximise marketing to members.

The job is 'hands-on' so a practical attitude is essential. This is an excellent opportunity to gain management experience in a small, friendly Club.



PLEASE SEND CV TO caroline.crisp@nhs.net by 15 /2/12

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Fitness & Sales Manager

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We are seeking to appoint a Fitness & Sales Manager, to complement our existing management team at the Furze Field Centre, Potters Bar, Herts

Reporting to the General Manager, you will be responsible for the day-to-day management of Beaumonts Health Club. This key role will include, amongst other things, deputising the General Manager as and when required; and the line management of the fitness, customer retention, reception and sales teams.

You will have previous management experience in a leisure environment and hold a current First Aid at Work certificate and NPLQ qualification or have the ability to gain these once appointed. The ideal candidate will also have knowledge and experience in sales, including generating leads, marketing, and sales processes.

This post includes shifts and weekend working.

Part Time Fitness Instructor

£7.40 per hour*

We are seeking an enthusiastic and dynamic individual to join our fitness team at The Venue, Borehamwood.

As a Fitness Instructor at Beaumonts Health Club you will need excellent communication skills, confidence interacting with members and sound programme design knowledge.

A REPS level 2 fitness qualification and experience in exercise prescription and fitness assessment is required.

Personal Trainers

We are looking for talented & focussed individuals who are looking to pursue a career as a Personal Trainer within the Hertsmere, Milton Keynes and Three Rivers areas.

Working on a Self Employed basis you will have the opportunity to build your own highly successful business, with the flexibility to work the hours that suit you and still retain the potential for significant earnings. Successful candidates will have a friendly, outgoing personality with a passion for health & fitness and the ability to inspire others.

For a competitive, fixed licence fee you will have access to a range of first class facilities along with a substantial membership base for you to market your services to.

All Personal Trainers must retain REPS (Register of Exercise Professionals) registration, hold a REPS level 3 qualification or equivalent, and have a current enhanced CRB clearance.

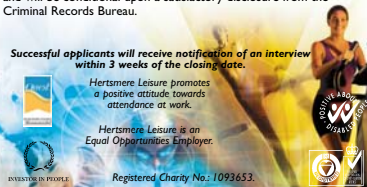
Closing Date: Friday 10th February 2012

* Dependent on successful completion of a 6 month probation period.

For an application pack for these positions please visit our website www.hertsmereleisure.co.uk, telephone Hertsmere Leisure on 01727 744250

or email at recruitment@hertsmereleisure.co.uk

This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and will be conditional upon a satisfactory disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau.



Successful applicants will receive notification of an interview within 3 weeks of the closing date.

Hertsmere Leisure promotes a positive attitude towards attendance at work.

Hertsmere Leisure is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

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Bannatyne Fitness Ltd. is the largest independently owned health club operator in the UK, offering state of the art facilities in 61 convenient locations to over 180,000 members.

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Sales & Marketing Manager

Darlington

Salary £21,000-£23,000 OTE per Annum

We require a Sales and Marketing Manager for our prestigious Health and Fitness club in Darlington.

This is a key role within the club and requires a highly motivated individual possessing excellent leadership skills and the ability to create effective promotional campaigns and increase membership levels.

The successful candidate will have a proven track record in sales and marketing, however not necessarily in the Health Club sector.

You will be required to market the club both internally and externally, develop relationships within the local business and residential community establishing Bannatyne's as the market leader in the area.

Getting the most out of your team is essential for success, you will have to lead from the front, deliver results and motivate your team to follow.

To apply please send a cover letter with your CV to the General Manager at Bannatyne Fitness, Houghton Road, Darlington, DL1 1SS or email gm.darlington@bannatyne.co.uk

Impulse Leisure is an ambitious and innovative organisation that operates a number of Charitable Leisure Trusts. We only seek the most highly motivated, skilled and professional people to join our teams.



CENTRE MANAGER

Location: Corringham Leisure Centre, Thurrock, Essex
Salary up to £30,406 per annum (inclusive of 2011/2012 pay award)

Corringham Leisure Centre was completely refurbished in 2005 and has recently undergone yet further upgrading to its facilities. This is an exciting opportunity for a highly ambitious, seasoned manager to re-launch this fantastic facility. The post requires a financially astute individual with strong leadership skills and the flair to maximise this site's potential.

Closing date for return of completed applications:
Monday, 13th February 2012

Interviews scheduled to take place on:-
Wednesday, 22nd February 2012

Previous applicants need not apply

GROUP TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR

Location: Head Office, currently Blackshots Leisure Centre, Thurrock, Essex
£20,000 - £25,000 per annum (inclusive of 2011/2012 pay award)
Full time, permanent

Impulse Leisure requires a Group Training & Development Co-ordinator to co-ordinate and implement training programmes across the Group, developing all levels of staff in order that basic minimum training standards and a customer focus is achieved.

The successful candidate will be an enthusiastic and committed individual, with strong financial management and interpersonal skills. Previous experience of working within a learning and development/ training environment, including planning, organising and overseeing training courses would be advantageous.

Closing date for return of completed applications:
Monday, 6th February 2012

Application packs and further information can be downloaded direct from our website
www.impulseleisure.co.uk/vacancies

Alternatively, you may request an application pack by telephoning the recruitment line on 01375 411267. Please leave a message clearly stating which position you are interested in applying for, together with your name, address and telephone number.

We are an equal opportunities employer, and we welcome applications from all sections of the community, especially those from black and minority ethnic groups who are currently under-represented in our workforce.

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Recreation Assistant

Coral Reef Water World
39 hours per week (worked on a shift rota) Salary £17,385 pa

A reliable, enthusiastic individual with a National Pool Lifeguard Qualification is required to carry out lifeguarding duties and to assist the Duty Manager in the day to day operation of Bracknell's Coral Reef Water World. With excellent customer care skills and a sense of responsibility, you'll help to maintain a high standard of service and ensure the safety and wellbeing of our customers by supervising their behaviour and carrying out aquatic rescues and first aid as necessary. You'll also be responsible for maintaining a high standard of cleanliness throughout the Centre. Flexibility is essential, as your shifts will cover days, evenings and weekends.

In return, the successful applicant will enjoy benefits which include the opportunity to develop new skills, free use of the facilities, subsidised meals when on duty and the opportunity to join the Local Government pension scheme.

For an informal discussion please contact
the Duty Manager, on 01344 862525.

For further information and to
apply for this job please email :
Nicola.Cook@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Closing date: 12 February 2012 - midnight
Interview date: 21 February 2012



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To apply please visit the GLL web site on gll.org/careers
If you have any questions please email recruitment@gll.org
We have a number of fitness, sales, reception and management opportunities.



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We are an equal opportunities employer and applications are encouraged from all sections of the community. GLL is a non-smoking organisation.

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www.gll.org

More leisure insolvencies in 2011

New corporate insolvency data from PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) has shown a growth in the number of hospitality and leisure sector businesses failing over the last 12 months.

The number of insolvencies for the fourth quarter of 2011 was up by 30 per cent compared with Q4 2010. PwC said a total of 375 firms across the sector collapsed in Q4 2011.

David Chubb, business recovery partner and hospitality and leisure specialist at PwC, said Q4 data was a concern given the usual positive impact of Christmas period.

"It is worrying that both these sectors saw a marked increase in insolvencies," he said.

"We would expect to see more casualties in the post-Christmas period and we will have to



375 leisure businesses collapsed in Q4 2011 - up 30 per cent on Q4 2010

wait to see whether this does occur or whether the early Christmas gloom resulted in some businesses failing earlier than would normally be the case." Details: <http://leisure.a=Ev9S>

Verdant Leisure lands Northumberland holiday park

Verdant Leisure, the East Lothian-based operator of UK holiday parks, has announced it has completed the acquisition of Riverside Country Park near Wooller, Northumberland.

Located on an 80-acre (32.4-hectare) woodland site adjacent to Northumbria National

Park, the holiday park is the second bought by the company in the last four months.

RJD Partners, a lower middle market private equity investor that first acquired an interest in Verdant in September 2010, has backed the acquisition of Riverside Country Park.

Goals postpones openings in 2012

Goals Soccer Centres has announced it has postponed the opening of additional five-a-side football facilities in 2012 after switching its focus to "strong cash generation".

The East Kilbride-based group said that its first modular build venue in Chester – due to open in March – will be the only launch this year, with the postponement also allowing for full evaluation of the concept.

It follows the announcement that Goals had seen trading for the year to 31 December 2011 fall into line with market expectations, as overall sales increased by 9 per cent to £30.3m.

Like-for-like sales grew 1 per cent over the 12-month period, although a dispute over VAT on block bookings by teams saw overall like-for-like sales decrease by 2 per cent.

A Goals spokesperson said: "While 2011 was one of the most challenging years the



Goals will open its first modular build venue in 2012

consumer has faced, it looks likely that 2012 will continue in much the same vein.

"Goals operates in a resilient market place with a favourable price point and our market leading position provides us with the necessary scale to cope with the challenges ahead."

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