

# leisureopportunities

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Daily news & jobs: [www.leisureopportunities.co.uk](http://www.leisureopportunities.co.uk)

## Battle of budget chains heats up

Low cost fitness chain The Gym Group has secured £50m of venture capital to expand its club portfolio – less than a month after rival Pure Gym announced it too would be spending £50m on new sites.

The Gym Group now has the backing of two private equity investors – Bridges Ventures and Phoenix Equity Partners. While it is the first time Phoenix has invested in the company, Bridges Ventures has supported the chain since its inception in 2007. It is the latest sign that competition between the UK's low-cost gym operators is heating up.

Just weeks ago, in May, Pure Gym announced it would spend £50m on new sites following its takeover by US private equity firm CCMP Capital Advisors.

Pure Gym currently has 45 locations in the UK and has plans to add 40 new sites over the



The Gym Group announced plans to open 20 to 30 new clubs each year

next 12 months, including 15 in London alone.

The Gym Group operates 36 sites with plans to open 20 to 30 new gyms each year. John Treharne, CEO of The Gym Group, said: "This combination will allow us to fully capitalise on the opportunities in the rapidly growing low-cost gym sector." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=B5U3h>



The hotel looks to preserve historical aspects

## Ian Schrager to open Edition hotel in London

The latest Edition hotel is set to open in London, under the management of renowned hotelier Ian Schrager.

The London Edition, conceived in partnership with Marriott International, looks to preserve the historical aspects of the former Berners Hotel – a Georgian building made up of five town houses. The hotel's ethos is to combine the historical aspects with modern touches and the 173-room hotel features a dance club, two bars, a 24-hour fitness facility and a fully restored atrium. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=w1aoG>

## 'Story-telling' platform Gymtopia launches

The altruistic capacity of the fitness industry is being harnessed to help the wider community with the launch of Gymtopia. The digital story-telling platform is designed to capture the social impact of projects powered by gyms and gym-goers world-wide.

Gymtopia encourages health clubs to collaborate with their members in fundraising, collecting food, donating shoes and clothing, and many other projects that create a positive social impact. It is the brainchild of health club industry consultant, Ray Algar. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Y5G6Y>

## Fitness sector worth £3.92bn

The market value of the UK's fitness sector has been estimated at £3.92bn – an increase of 1.5 per cent from the year before.

According to the 2013 State of the Fitness Industry Report from The Leisure Database Company (TLDC), the industry has experienced improved growth in the last twelve months with increases of two per cent in the number of fitness facilities and a 4.5 per cent rise in the number of members.

The sector is expanding despite the economic slowdown. Since 2009, the fitness industry has grown its market value by four per cent, the member base by 8.3 per cent and the number of fitness facilities by 3.9 per cent.



The sector is expanding despite the economic slowdown

David Minton, director of TLDC, said: "Despite another year of economic slowdown the fitness industry is continuing to stand strong with both private and public fitness sectors." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=6i3A4>

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## SPORT

# 15m take part in sport each week

New figures from Sport England reveal that 15.3m people now play sport at least once a week.

According to the figures – for the first four months of 2013 – the number of young people aged between 16 and 25 playing sport regularly has reached 3.86m.

This is an increase of nearly 63,000 on the previous 12 months, with strong advances in sports such as basketball and swimming. Among women, boosts in boxing and netball have helped to drive a year-on-year increase of 89,900, further narrowing the gender gap in sport.

Although there is still a gap – dubbed “unacceptable” by Sport England – between the number of disabled people and non-disabled people playing sport, the figures for disabled people have been rising steadily since 2005.



More than 3.8m young people aged between 16-25 play sport regularly

The latest figures show an increase of 46,600 over the past year with Paralympic sports like equestrianism and athletics growing in popularity.

According to minister for sport and tourism, Hugh Robertson, the 2012 Games have had a significant affect on the increases in participation numbers. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=6s4S3>*

## New Orkney swimming pool to open this month

A new pool is set to open to the public on 22 June on the island of Orkney.

The new Pickaquoy Centre in Kirkwell will include a six lane, 25-metre pool, fitted with a moveable floor as well as a teaching pool, toddler pool, sauna/steamroom, three

squash courts and changing/spectating areas.

“The pool and the other new additions, really are superb facilities, which will serve the community well for many years to come,” said Council convener Steven Heddle. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=a5YoN>*

## Asda and Sports Leaders join forces

A new partnership between supermarket chain Asda and community sports organisation Sports Leaders UK aims to improve the health and employment prospects of young people, supporting 150,000 annually to get qualifications in sports leadership.

The initiative has already received the Inspired by 2012 brand, launched by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport in April.

During the summer of 2013, the scheme will see more than 400 free sports days being organised in primary schools across the UK, designed to help inspire the next generation of children to get active. Asda will be providing free healthy refreshments for all of the events and the Community Life Champions will be



Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson at the launch of the partnership

asked to support their local event on the day.

Linda Plowright, CEO of Sports Leaders said: “Working with ASDA will help us deliver awards and qualifications that help young people gain skills for life.” *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=P8W8R>*



## More kids joining sports clubs

New research results have revealed that of all the school pupils who participated in National School Sports Week 2012, 1.8 million (49 per cent) children have been inspired to join a new sports club or team. The research, conducted by the Centre for Sport, Physical Education & Activity Research (SPEAR) at Canterbury Christ Church University and using a sample size of 2,944 pupils revealed that last year, more than 4.3 million young people across 11,000 schools in the UK participated in National School Week.

More than three million (79 per cent) of the 3.8 million from England and Wales are now playing more sport than before with 1.8 million (49 per cent) joining clubs or teams outside of school and 2.1 million (55 per cent) joining a new club or team in school.



In 2012 4.3m young people in the UK joined in National School Week

57 per cent of pupils had joined a club outside of school because they tried a sport and liked it while 42 per cent joined a club because they wanted to win and 67 per cent wanted to play for fun. Since 2009, almost nine million pupils have taken part in National School Sports Week. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=V7P10>

## Sport centre aims to prevent osteoarthritis

Arthritis Research UK has launched a new £11m research centre initiative aiming to reduce the impact of sports injuries incurred by elite and recreational players and understand why some sport and exercise injuries develop into debilitating osteoarthritis in later life.

The centre, which is based over multiple sites, is led by Nottingham University Hospitals and the Universities of Nottingham and Oxford. Also participating will be the Universities of Southampton, Bath, Loughborough, Leeds and University College London.

The project, which has seen Arthritis Research UK invest £3m, will be significantly bolstered by an additional £8m investment



The centre aims to reduce the impact of sport injuries of elite players

being pledged as in-kind support by the seven participating universities. Centre director professor Mark Batt said: "Sports medicine and osteoarthritis are combining their expertise to understand why some sports injuries lead to osteoarthritis." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=a6P3A>

## National Volleyball Centre in Kettering gets £40,000 boost

Kettering Borough Council will invest £40,000 over a four-year period to help run the National Volleyball Centre (NVC) in Kettering, Northamptonshire.

Kettering has become recognised as the official home of volleyball, thanks to the success

of the NVC, which is the home of the English National Squads and several national competitions. The centre has also been recognised by volleyball's Federation International de Volleyball (FIVB) as a world development centre. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=r4I2W>

## Edinburgh bid for national centre gets MSPs' backing

Edinburgh's bid to host the proposed £25m National Performance Centre for Sport has secured the backing of 22 MSPs (members of Scottish parliament).

Previously, Olympic champion cyclist Sir Chris Hoy offered his support for the GO Edinburgh 2016 campaign, which is spearheaded by Heriot-Watt and the city council.

Plans for the new facility were first announced by sports minister Shona Robison in 2012. It will feature a multi-sports performance centre including a National Football Academy.



Enhancing high performance is the focus

## UK Sport and Japan Sport Council sign MOU

UK Sport and the Japan Sport Council have signed an agreement of collaboration to reinforce their commitment to work together in an effort to enhance high performance in their respective countries.

With a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) it creates further opportunities to exchange ideas and co-operate on projects including the funding of major events, managing elite training centres, high performance evaluation and coaching. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=p5I5d>

## World Cup 2018 costs to 'more than double'

The cost of the 2018 football World Cup in Russia could be more than double original estimates, according to the country's Prime Minister.

Dmitry Medvedev told his cabinet in a meeting that hosting the World Cup will now cost 660bn rubles (£13.21bn, US\$20.59bn, €15.41bn) with 336bn rubles (£6.72bn, US\$10.48bn, €7.84bn) coming from the federal budget. Where the remaining funding will come from has not yet been made clear.

Russia controversially won the bidding for the 2018 World Cup in 2010 ahead of England. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=O7Z3G>

### Leisure Connection announces £1m investment

Fitness and leisure provider, and facilities management company, Leisure Connection, has announced an investment of more than £1m in improvements and upgrades on 11 UK leisure centres.

In addition to a full overhaul of gyms at Downham and Willesden, Leisure Connection is also refurbishing gyms in Bourne, Peele, Grantham, Carnival Pool, St Crispin, Mountfitchet, North Kesteven, Worcester and Perdiswell. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=BouIT>



Both of the two centres have fitness facilities

### Two leisure centres in Worcester saved from cuts

Two leisure centres in Worcester, England have been saved from cuts after being handed over to a county-based trust to run their affairs. If given council approval, The Wychavon Leisure Trust will take over from Wychavon District Council this October in a two-year deal, with an option to extend for an additional year on top.

Under Government rules, trusts get an 80 per cent discount on rates, meaning the running costs of St John's Sports Centre and Nunnery Wood Sports Complex would fall by £89,000. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=I5V5r>

### SLM secures Cotswold leisure and culture contract

Sports Leisure Management (SLM) has won the contract to run leisure and cultural services owned by Cotswold District Council. The 10-year deal includes leisure centres at Cirencester, Chipping Campden and Bourton on the Water, plus cultural services at the Corinium Museum in Cirencester and a resource centre in Northleach.

To be operated under SLM's Everyone Active brand, the new additions bring the number of venues managed by SLM to 81. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=9l4r4>

## CIMSPA plans business review

The Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA) has announced new plans for a business review of the Institute, in preparation for its new governance structure as required by its new charter.

CIMSPA, the professional development body for the UK's sport and physical activity sector, has been looking at ways of sustaining the institute financially, originally looking at a tender to procure an organisation capable of delivering an aspect of the institute's operations.

The tender plans were later scrapped after the trustees of CIMSPA decided that the long-term interests of the institute would be best served by launching an internal review.

CIMSPA trustee David Stalker, will conduct a review of CIMSPA's function and ambition,



CIMSPA is currently based at SportPark, Loughborough University

aiming to build a sustainable three-year business plan. The review will last initially for three months, during which time Stalker will also put in a series of measures to improve service to current members. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=P1w6Z>

## Sunderland looking to appoint contractor

The £11m redevelopment of a leisure centre in Sunderland, England is a step closer with council bosses considering the appointment of a new contractor for the scheme.

Pellikaan Construction, who specialise in designing and building sports facilities, are the preferred bidder for the replacement leisure centre, who councillors will be asked to appoint during a meeting on 19 June.

The proposed £11m construction, which will be built next to the current centre (which will be demolished upon completion of the new centre in 2015) will feature a six-lane 25m pool and a learner pool with two water slides, a four-court sports hall as well as sauna and steam rooms.



Plans for the £11m leisure centre include a 25m swimming pool

The funding was initially announced as part of a £60m capital programme by Sunderland City Council earlier this year, which has seen investment in new and improved sport and leisure centres. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=C3K3E>

## £14.2m health and leisure centre for West Norwood

Lambeth council has announced a new £14.2m health and leisure centre, which will be the third complex to gain a new swimming pool in the Lambeth area.

Scheduled to be completed by spring next year, Lambeth council is aiming to deliver

three pools in the space of two years. One opened in Clapham last year while another is part of the Streatham Hub development, which will see the opening of a new ice rink, 250 homes and a supermarket in November. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=v507s>





One of the health club changing rooms at Barnet Football Club



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The London Club



St Neots Leisure Centre, male changing room

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## HEALTH & FITNESS

### Sharp increase in child obesity

There has been a four-fold increase in the number of children admitted to hospital for problems related to obesity in England and Wales between 2000 and 2009.

According to research conducted by Imperial College London, nearly three quarters of the admissions were to deal with problems complicated by obesity such as asthma, breathing difficulties during sleep, and complications of pregnancy, rather than obesity itself being the primary reason.

In 2009 there were 3,806 children admitted to hospital for obesity-related conditions – compared with a mere 872 in 2000.

Imperial College's Dr Sonia Saxena, who led the study, said: "The burden of obesity is usually thought to have its serious consequences in adulthood, but we now see it



The number of kids with obesity-related issues has quadrupled since 2000

manifesting earlier, in childhood.

"It's clear that rising obesity levels are causing more medical problems in children, but the rise we observed probably also reflects increasing awareness among clinicians, who have become better at recognising obesity."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=A5g2d>

### Woking centre unveils £2m redevelopment

Woking Leisure Centre in Surrey has opened its doors following an eight month multi-million pound transformation of its facilities.

The £2m project was funded by Woking Borough and the centre is operated by Freedom Leisure in partnership with the council.

The gym, which was relocated to give users views over Woking Park, has been completely refitted with 131 stations. The new equipment includes 45 new cardio machines including tread-



The gym has 131 stations and offers views overlooking Working Park

mills, cross trainers, crossovers and steppers.

An extensive range of plate loaded and free weights equipment, including Olympic benches and Smith machines, have also been added alongside other weight resistance

machines. The project also seen two new studios been developed to hold classes of up to 35 people including Les Mills Body Pump and Body Balance, Zumba, Kettlercise and JustJhoom. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=j5J9o>

### Leisure centre in Ellesmere Port given the go-ahead

The first images of a £15m leisure centre in Ellesmere Port, Cheshire have been revealed after plans were given the go ahead.

The project was given unanimous backing by members of the Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC) Council, along with a similar

project, which is set to be built in Northwich. However, Labour group leader at CWaC, Justin Madders, questioned whether the authority was getting value for money after reports that Crewe is getting a 50m pool and lifestyle centre for just £10m. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=c8G8r>





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UBM

## Government failing to support hospitality industry and tourism



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

**M**ore than 500 senior leaders from across the industry attended the BHA's annual Tourism and Hospitality Summit. Delegates were united in calling on government to better support growth opportunities in our sector. As yet, our calls seem to have fallen on deaf ears. This week we learned that the Government is considering yet another cut to the UK's tourism budget. This is one cut too far.

In 1997 the government made 50 per cent cuts to the Visit Britain budget, followed by a 34 per cent budget cut in 2010. Visit Britain is facing a further 8 per cent of cuts which means its budget has been cut by 56.5 per cent in real terms over the past decade – despite every £1 spent on tourism marketing producing an extra £18 in additional spend by visitors. Cutting the tourism budget yet again shows it is just an easy target rather than one which is fair or properly thought through. We are writing to the Prime Minister to express the industry's dismay at this development.

As an established and successful industry, hospitality and tourism can be a massive driver of quality jobs growth throughout the UK. Hospitality currently employs 2.68m people and is a key driver of national as well as local and micro UK economies – creating over a quarter of all new jobs between 2010 and 2012.

The BHA has coordinated, with the charity Springboard, the industry's biggest job creation drive which aims to offer opportunities to unemployed young people in the UK. During the Summit announced that the industry will create more than 30,000 new job opportunities for young people by 2015 (for more, see top story on this page).

These job opportunity pledges were made at a series of Big Hospitality Conversation events which took place over the last 12 months across the UK from Scotland to the South West. The more that colleagues across the industry can get involved in these types of initiatives, the clearer the message to government that we can deliver on our promises and contribute to driving real economic jobs and growth.

## HOTELS

# Sector to create 30,000 jobs

The British Hospitality Association (BHA) has announced that the UK's hospitality and tourism industries are set to generate more than 30,000 job opportunities for young people by 2015.

Pledges were made at a series of nine Big Hospitality Conversation events which have taken place over the past year across the UK with in excess of 1,200 industry representatives present.

More than 14,800 permanent roles will be created, with 11,103 apprenticeships and 5,157 paid university work placements also on offer.

The hospitality industry currently employs 10 per cent of the national workforce with the BHA coordinating the job creation drive aiming to offer young unemployed people in the UK job opportunities.



**BHA said that more than 14,800 permanent roles will be created**

Simon Vincent, EMEA president for Hilton Worldwide said: "Increasing the competitiveness of the UK's hospitality and tourism industry is key to sustained recovery. With relatively low barriers to entry, we are ideally placed to help tackle youth unemployment." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=L1doN>

## Guoman Hotel Management UK rebrand

Guoman Hotel Management UK, a subsidiary of Singapore-based company GuocoLeisure Limited, has changed its name to GLH Hotels Management UK (GLH).

The launch of the new brand GLH was spearheaded by CEO, Mike DeNoma, who said

it signalled his intent and long-term ambition to lead the transformation of the company. He said the new business model would provide an alternative to the current hotel industry business model by giving autonomy to its individual hotels. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=z4V1X>

## £700m Chinese hotel for South Bank

Details have been released for a new 160-bedroom, £700m hotel development in London's South Bank – the first luxury Chinese hotel ever to be launched overseas.

Wanda Hotels & Resorts - the hospitality sector of the Dalian Wanda Group - will develop the 160-bedroom hotel as part of the £700m development, which will also include 63,000sq m (678,126sq ft) of apartments.

Wanda chair, Wang Jianlin revealed that Wanda will announce a luxury hotel project to be built in New York later this year.

The company plans will see them expand with between eight and 10 new hotels built in major cities over the next decade. The Chinese company, which currently operates 38 five-star hotels across China and has assets of £30bn (US\$46.4bn, €35.1bn, ¥284.5bn), is looking to target Chinese citizens interested in overseas investments or travelling abroad.

Outbound travelers from China have become a critical growth market for global



**The hotel will overlook The Thames on the South Bank**

tourism with China's outbound spending last year coming in at US\$102m, a 40 per cent increase from 2011.

The London development, which already has full planning consent, overlooks the River Thames. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=O4k3V>



## New £4m King Richard III centre

Detailed plans have been unveiled for a new multi-million pound King Richard III visitor centre in the heart of Leicester's Old Town.

The former Leicester Grammar School building at St Martin's Place will be transformed to house a new exhibition, entitled 'Richard III: Dynasty, Death and Discovery' which will guide visitors through the story of the king's life, brutal death at Bosworth Field in 1485, and the story of his rediscovery.

The centre, which is due to open in March 2014, is expected to attract 100,000 visitors and bring in over £4.5m to the city's economy in its first year.

Designed by Architects Maber and design company Studio MB, the project will transform both the inside and outside of the Victorian Gothic building. Two floors of exhibition space



The centre is designed by Architects Maber and design firm Studio MB

will be created and a new covered area allowing visitors access to the grave in which Richard's remains were discovered last summer.

There will also be a new courtyard garden, glass entrance hall, viewing balcony, cafe and visitor entry from Peacock Lane. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Y8F1E>

## Kirkcaldy Galleries reopens after £2.5m revamp

A single venue museum, library and art gallery in Kirkcaldy, Scotland, has reopened after a £2.5m, 18-month refurbishment.

The Kirkcaldy Galleries now houses a refurbished art gallery, museum, library, café and Visit Scotland information centre.

The building was reopened by former Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, who said: "The modernisation of the library will be of as much benefit to today's younger generation as the library was to me when I was growing up in Kirkcaldy." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=6i3A4>

## Bath creative arts centre gets green light

Bath and North East Somerset Council have given the go-ahead for a new Centre for the Arts at Bath University.

Set to open its doors by the end of 2014, the four-storey building will feature a number of dance studios, a full-size theatre, a range of performance spaces and orchestra-sized rehearsal studios. The centre, which is part of a larger £100m campus improvement programme, will also house the city's only dedicated contemporary art exhibition space.

Construction firm Leadbitter has been appointed as the building contractors and work will begin on site in mid-June. The centre will be open to students and the public and a range of classes,



The four-storey building is set to open to students and the public in 2014

workshops, performances and exhibitions will be on offer. An education suite will host executive training and development from the School of Management. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=S6gr>

## Southampton's Arts complex making headway

The city of Southampton may have its new arts complex by 2015 according to the Southampton Cultural Development Trust, which is spearheading the project.

The trust says around 90 per cent of the funding required for the £21m project has already been secured with the remaining funds expected to come from private donors.

Project developer Grosvenor has selected CZWG to design the mixed-use cultural scheme which will encompass 100,000 sq ft (9,290 sq m) of space fronting onto Guildhall Square.

It will house the John Hansard Gallery, a community-focussed video and film resource centre known as City Eye and flexible performance spaces.

The arts complex forms part of the Southampton City Council's vision for a Cultural Quarter which is estimated will cost the city around £175m. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=K5f3B>



Winner: The MAC, Belfast, Northern Ireland

## Arts centres feature on annual RIBA list of winners

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) has revealed the winners of its 2013 awards in recognition of architectural achievement. There were 52 winners in all, 43 from the UK and nine from the EU.

Winners included architects Hackett Hall McKnight for the new contemporary arts centre MAC in Belfast, Northern Ireland and HAT Projects for its work on the Jerwood Gallery in Hastings.

The winners will make the shortlist for the prestigious Stirling Prize for best building of the year. The prize will be presented on 26 September 2013 at Central St Martins in London. For the full list of the 2013 winners, see: <http://lei.sr?a=j6k7H>

### Lightwater park unveils £1m Angry Birds attraction

Lightwater Valley theme park in Yorkshire has launched a new Angry Birds attraction - the largest in the UK.

Covering more than 30,000sq ft, the £1m facility includes indoor and outdoor play areas. The attraction was designed and supplied by the UK arm of Finland-based play equipment group Lappset.

Lappset teamed up with Finnish mobile game developer Rovio Entertainment to produce the official Angry Birds parks that play and feature activity equipment. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=c2A5i>



The attraction will give an insight into air travel

### Emirates to launch aviation attraction in London

Dubai-based airline Emirates has announced plans to open an aviation-themed visitor attraction in central London, UK. The indoor Emirates Aviation Experience is due to open in July and will be located close to the existing Emirates Air Line - a cable car service across the River Thames. It will provide an insight into the operations and modern achievements of commercial air travel.

Spread over 300sq m (3,200sq ft), the attraction will feature a number of interactive exhibits and the first public-facing commercial flight simulators.

### Design Museum delivers new technology exhibition

Design Museum and the Technology Strategy Board have collaborated to deliver a new exhibition about the changes in the manufacturing industry.

The Design Museum will house the first 'factory' of its kind, when visitors can learn how 3D printing works and witness a live production line. The new exhibition - The Future is Here, looks at what inspires and drives innovation and how it can lead to increased productivity and economic growth in the 'new' industrial revolution. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=o8goi>

## 'Mini Titanic' opens as museum

Over the past seven years, around £9m has been spent renovating and restoring the SS Nomadic to how it looked in 1912 when it ferried passengers to the Titanic on their doomed voyage.

The ship, which is exactly quarter the size of the Titanic, is also the last remaining White Star Line vessel - a shipping company that operated until 1934 before merging with Cunard Line.

The Nomadic was saved by a campaign in 2005 and was bought at auction in 2006 by the Northern Ireland Department for Social Development for £213,423.

Tourism Minister, Arlene Foster, said: The Nomadic is another important dimension to the huge Titanic success story and it provides a real opportunity for tourists to



The historic auxiliary ship is exactly a quarter the size of the Titanic

stay longer and explore more of Belfast."

The Nomadic is now docked in Belfast's new Titanic quarter, near the close by Titanic visitor's centre, which has had more than 650,000 people come through its doors since it opened nine months ago. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=s3g2a>

## Wakefield gallery introduces new exhibition

Two years after opening to the public, The Hepworth Wakefield art gallery in West Yorkshire has announced a significant development as the ground floor of the Caddies Wainwright Mill has been transformed into a new contemporary art space.

The gallery has attracted more than 850,000 visitors to date - more than five times the original target. The £35m museum contains works by sculptor Barbara Hepworth and a series of changing displays of modern art.

"We have created an inspirational new space in a historic building that will compliment and enhance what we currently offer as the wider site develops here," said Simon Walis, Director of The Hepworth Wakefield. "This



The new development enhances the regeneration of the waterfront

new development enhances the regeneration of the waterfront by animating these exceptional historic mill buildings."

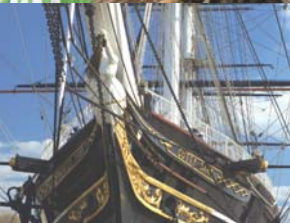
The new space adds about 6,500sq ft (600sq m) of floor space. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=R4G1Z>

## Plans scrapped for £3m Northampton museum

Plans to build a £3m museum to celebrate the battle of Naseby in Northamptonshire have been scrapped after a group of volunteers failed to raise enough money to buy the section of battlefield the museum would have been built on.

Jenny Tarry - chair of the Naseby Battlefield project said the group had altered their plans and now planned to open a museum in Naseby's 13th-century church instead. She added that they are now revising their ideas. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=i3J5V>





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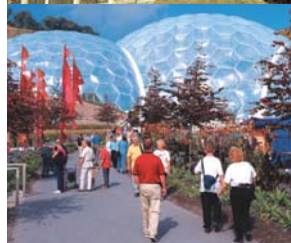
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Line Marking	£ 2,500	£ 2,500	£ 2,500
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\* For illustration purposes. Based on 594SqM Hall with current surface of composite block. Please enquire for full written quotation.

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## Skin Health Spa opens new clinic

Skin Health Spa, which has its head office in Cheshire, has launched its new flagship clinic at St. James Square in Manchester. Located in the centre of the Financial District and near Albert Square, the new 1,500sq ft (139sq m) Skin Health Spa offers advanced skin care and non-invasive laser treatments.

The spa specialises in permanent hair removal and hair reduction, laser treatment for acne and acne scarring, skin rejuvenation, muscle relaxing injections and dermal fillers and rollers.

Maxine Chambers managing director said: "Our main focus is to help people feel better about what nature has given them through the improvement of their appearance and by taking better care of their health." The facility is staffed with doctors, nurses and aestheticians



The spa specialises in non-invasive laser treatments and skin care

offers injectable and aesthetic procedures along with a range of beauty treatments.

Skincare products include Aromatherapy Associates, Cosmeceuticals, DermaQuest, Jan Marini, Neo Strata, Obagi and Sun Protection. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=e9R7E>

## More spas and hotels wanted in Wales

Tourism chiefs in Wales want more luxury, spa and heritage hotels as part of a strategy to boost earnings and bring in another £1bn a year by targeting the US, Germany and Ireland.

About £4.5bn a year is generated in revenue through tourism in Wales every year.

Partnership for Growth, the Welsh government strategy for tourism up to 2020, has called for more focus to be put on heritage hotels that use historic and distinctive buildings, more luxury and branded hotels as well as more wellbeing facilities such as spas.

The strategy is also looking to bring in more all year-round attractions and experiences. Between 2009 and 2011, while domestic visitors



Partnership for Growth has called for more luxury and branded hotels

to Wales increased from 8.89m to 9.69m, visitors travelling from overseas dropped from 991,000 to 879,000. Minister Edwina Hart described the target as "challenging yet realistic." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=f3T3H>

## Falmouth's health club and spa reveals £250,000 revamp

St Michael's Hotel Health Club & Spa in Falmouth has undergone a redevelopment of its fitness facilities, which included doubling the size of its existing gym.

The £250,000 investment by owners Nigel and Julie Carpenter includes a new large fitness

studio and dedicated spin studio. Cybex and Technogym cardio and resistance machines have been installed in the gym. The 70sq m (753sq ft) fitness studio will host a new fitness classes, including Les Mills group exercise programmes. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Z8B2U>



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## The benefits of tourism employment



**KURT JANSON**  
is policy director of  
Tourism Alliance

**T**here is view in government that the tourism industry only provides “low skill, low pay” jobs that are either part-time or temporary in nature and that tourism businesses do not employ British people. However, a new analysis of tourism employment data by the Tourism Alliance indicates that there are considerable misconceptions over employment in the sector.

Take, for example the view that employment in the tourism industry is dominated by foreigners. In reality, 80 per cent of employees are British, with foreign workers concentrated in cosmopolitan cities such as London. And while temporary employment is greater in the tourism industry than in the workforce as a whole, the difference is a lot less than people imagine – tourism makes up 9.1 per cent of all UK employment and 13 per cent of all temporary employment.

Rather than just providing low skilled employment, 20 per cent of the people are self-employed compared to the average of 14 per cent for all industries. As such tourism is an incubator for much needed entrepreneurs to provide growth for the economy.

Tourism businesses also have a vital role in reducing youth unemployment – one of the Government’s main problem areas. Almost 45 per cent of all people who work in the tourism industry are aged under 30, compared to just 24 per cent of workers in other sectors of the economy. It’s therefore no surprise that the tourism industry accounts for 30 per cent of all student employment, helping students through university and into jobs in other sectors.

Finally, even with the higher than average levels of turnover in the industry, it’s notable that 60 per cent of tourism employees have been with their present company for at least two years while 40 per cent of tourism employees have been with their current employer at least five years.

So, with the tourism industry growing by 6.9 per cent in 2012 and revenue in the first three months of 2013 being 11 per cent ahead of last year, the tourism industry is one of the few large industries that can help lower employment in the UK.

## TOURISM

# £27bn spent on summer trips

People above the age of 25 in the UK are predicted to spend £27bn (US\$42.3bn, €31.7bn) on hotel stays this summer in England or further abroad.

According to a survey conducted by online hotel rate aggregator roomkey.com, the average traveller books a room for 10 nights during the main summer holiday period and of those people nearly three-quarters (74 per cent) said price would drive their decision into choosing a hotel, while more than half (52 per cent) said that available facilities would play a significant role in their decision.

Taking it easy is the big holiday plan for the summer as 68 per cent of those surveyed said they planned to relax on a beach, island or spa.

Those from the UK who are planning to stay in a hotel between May and August are



The average traveller books a room for 10 nights during the summer

expected to spend £1,116 which translates to an estimated national spend of £27bn. The survey, conducted online, was made up of 1,000 UK travellers over the age of 25, who had travelled two or more nights in the past six months and were planning to travel again this summer.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=B6r8U>

## Inbound tourism figures still on the increase

The number of foreign tourists arriving to the UK has increased during 2013 - with analysts attributing the growth to increased interest in Britain as a destination following the 2012 Olympic Games. A report from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) shows that Visits to

the UK from countries outside of Europe and North America continue to rise in line with the pattern seen in 2011 and 2012.

To date there has been a nine per cent increase in visits from these countries.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=q8B4a>

## Britain’s gardens bring in £7.8bn revenue

New research released this month has revealed that £7.8bn is spent by tourists enjoying parks and gardens in the UK each year.

The study, conducted by VisitBritain, identified that of the 31 million visitors that come to Britain every year, around a third (11.1m) visit a park or garden.

More than 40 per cent of those under-35 are likely to visit a park or garden, compared to 33 per cent of visits coming from those aged over 35. People are much more likely to visit gardens, unsurprisingly, during the summer months, with four million of the annual tally coming between the months of July and September.

Recent post-2012 Olympic Games research also shows that 75 per cent of respondents



More than 40 per cent of visitors under-35 are likely to visit a park

across the world said that the Games coverage made them want to venture out to visit other parts of the country.

In a separate question, 70 per cent of people said that following the Olympics, they agreed that Britain had a ‘lovely countryside’.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=O1V4M>



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## Keele Golf Centre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire

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Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council is proposing to grant a new lease of its Keele Golf Centre and is seeking expressions of interest from suitable partners who will work with the Council to not only manage and maintain its Keele Golf Centre but also develop and enhance the broader golfing and associated leisure offer in this location.

The Council is seeking a partner to develop the longer term potential of development opportunities of the facility. In order to assess the market interest it is proposed in the first instance to grant a new F.R. leasehold interest, for a period of 10 years of the golf facilities, including 9 & 18 hole courses, golf shop and bar/restaurant with options to put forward longer term development options for the facility

It is intended as the first stage (in a two stage marketing process) to invite interested parties to complete an 'Expression of Interest Questionnaire' (E.I.Q.)

Requests for the Expression of Interest Questionnaire should be addressed to [jackie.phillips@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk](mailto:jackie.phillips@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk) or Tel: 01782 742377.

The closing date for the return of completed E.I.Q. documents is noon Friday 12th July 2013.



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A 25m pool and splash leisure will feature

## Leisure centre in Coventry set for £7.5m extension

Building work has started on a £7.5m extension of a leisure centre in Coventry.

The new plans for Centre AT7 will see a new 25m swimming pool, splash leisure pool and slides as well as a health suite featuring a spa pool, sauna and steam room.

The extension will also feature new changing rooms and a refurbished reception area. Modifications will be made to existing buildings to create new function rooms and offices and there will also be an additional 216 parking spaces at the centre, which is under the ownership of the Coventry and Warwickshire Award Trust.

The work will be undertaken by contractor Willmott Dixon and is scheduled to be completed by August 2014.

The extension to the current AT7 comes after a somewhat controversial decision to close the nearby Foleshill Leisure Centre, which was in need of major refurbishment work, however the money has been instead invested into the AT7 extension.

The centre was originally built in 1987. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=A7K2M>

## West Park Leisure Centre major upgrade complete

The £235,000 refurbished West Park leisure centre in Long Eaton, Derbyshire has been officially opened.

The refurbishment, which started in December, was funded by Erewash Borough Council and has seen the centre double its gym size, equipped with 75 pieces of Technogym gym equipment.

The facility has seen a large-scale make-over including a new toilet and shower area, changing cubicles, replacement wall and floor tiles and a refurbishment of the sauna.

The centre's Cavendish and Harrington Suite has also been redecorated. The new fitness suite offers three zoned areas - cardio, free weights and resistance equipment, with additional space for a dance studio. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=loi3S>

## Elephant and Castle leisure centre underway

The foundations for a new leisure centre at Elephant and Castle, London have been laid this week, following delays to construction dating back to 2012.

The new leisure centre was approved last November but the discovery of human remains on the site pushed back development with the expected opening date pushed back from 2014 to 2015.

Construction company, Balfour Beatty, is currently preparing the ground for the next steps in construction with S&P architects working in partnership with John McAslan in the design of the new centre. The facilities will feature a six-lane, 25m swimming pool, learner pool, four-court sports hall, gym, exercise

studios, crèche and café. Councillor Fiona Colley at Southwark Council said: "There is significant demand for improved leisure facilities in the area." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=c3I5f>



Cabinet members (from left) Fiona Colley, Veronica Ward and Peter John

## Cardiff City FC considers expansion

Cardiff City Football Club is considering expanding the Cardiff City Stadium by 11,172 seats, bringing the eventual capacity to 38,000.

According to Wales Online supporters have been consulted on potential plans that would see the first stage of development begin as early as September or October this year. The first phase of expansion would see the ground's Ninian Stand gain an additional tier - with the current roof on the stand being removed before the end of the upcoming season.

Following the end of the 2013/2014 season, 5,000 seats would be installed in time for the kick-off of the 2014/2015 season.

Following that, 2,500 to 3,000 seats would be added to both the Canton and Grange ends of the ground respectively.



The first phase of the expansion is expected to start as early as September

The club is yet to confirm the plans. A club representative told Leisure Opportunities that "at this stage, the club will be making no official comment on proposed stadium expansion. Should developments happen then we will advise in due course." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=W7N4Z>

## Colliers appointed to West Country Leisure Sale

The £10m property portfolio of leisure properties owned by Martyn Harrison - who died in April 2012, will be sold by Colliers International, who has been instructed to conduct the sale on behalf of the trustees of Martyn Leisure.

The groups a portfolio includes Pontins holiday park in Weston-super-Mare on the market along with three other hotels - The Hotel Prince Regent & Russell Hotels in Weymouth and another in Sherbourne. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=goI5G>





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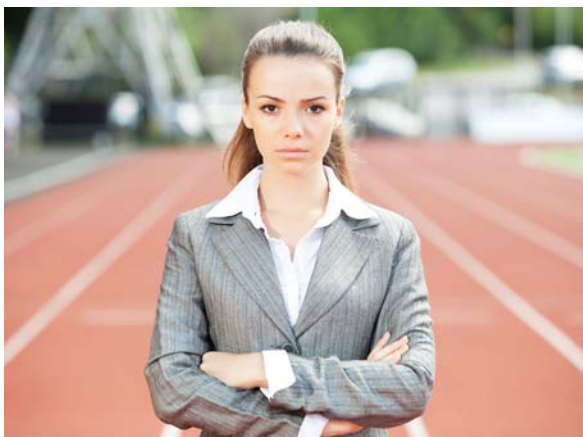
# UK sports clubs to become 'best in world'

The Sport and Recreation Alliance has partnered with the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSA) as part of its strategy to help sports organisations in the UK to become "the best run in the world".

The Alliance and ICSA will provide training, qualifications and professional advice and guidance, for company secretaries and those tasked with leading governance and compliance in sport.

The partnership has ambitious plans to help sports put more effective governance policies, processes and systems in place and to ensure sports chiefs make better decisions which reduce risk and make their organisations more sustainable.

A reference group with representatives from some of the biggest governing bodies in sport is being set up to design the qualifications, training and guidance so that it is tailored to meet the sector's needs. To encourage openness and information sharing, a 'Chatham House Rule' forum will also be established where members can discuss their issues and concerns



The deal will provide training and support for sports administrators

with fellow sports leaders in confidence. The services provided by the partnership will help every funded sport to meet Sports Councils' governance requirements that were brought into effect in 2013.

Andy Reed, chair of the Sport and Recreation Alliance said: "Through this new partnership, people tasked with improving governance in sports organisations will have an impartial place to turn to so that we can make coordinated, visible and measurable long-term improvements to the way they run and manage their sports."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=t9t7z>

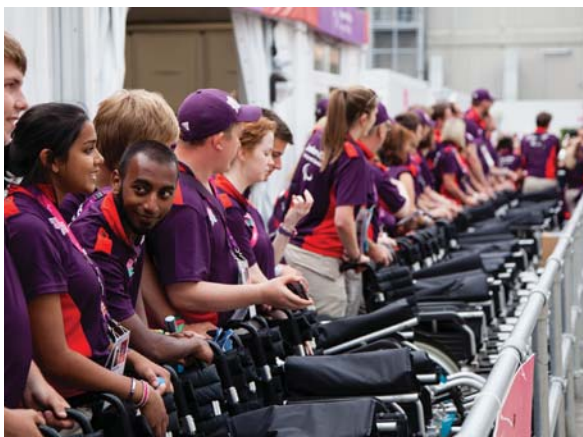
## Hospitality qualification for Games Makers

Thousands of people who took part in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games as volunteers have been recognised with a formal qualification created specifically for them.

The qualification for the 2012 Games Makers was created and funded by fast food chain McDonald's to help prepare and recognise volunteers with quality training before, during and after the games.

Almost 3,000 people - three times more than expected - have completed the level two City & Guilds award in the principles of customer service, directly resulting from their involvement in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. In order to achieve the qualification, games makers completed an online learning module and sat an exam.

British Olympic Association chair, Lord Coe, said: "The games makers showed Britain how the high combination of high quality



The London 2012 Games Makers will benefit from a City & Guilds award

training, a strong work ethic and a desire to do the best job possible can lift British hospitality to a world-class standard.

"Following their show stealing performance during London 2012, it's fantastic to see thousands of games makers going a step further and formalising their skills with the national qualification that McDonald's created and funded."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=s6V9g>



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Dianne Eade, Newquay Zoo  
Head of Finance, Human Resources and Administration



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For further information visit [www.tandridgetrust.co.uk/jobs](http://www.tandridgetrust.co.uk/jobs). To apply, complete the relevant recruitment form plus an equal opportunities form and forward to Karen Hurrell, Personnel & Payroll Officer, de Stafford Sports Centre, Burntwood Lane, Caterham, Surrey CR3 5YX or email [khurrell@tandridgetrust.co.uk](mailto:khurrell@tandridgetrust.co.uk)

Closing date for all positions 3.7.13 Interviews to be completed w/c 8.7.13



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## Queen's honours list announced

A number of people working in the leisure industry have been given awards in the annual Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Sculptor Anish Kapoor, designer of the ArcelorMittal Orbit in the Olympic Park, has been given a knighthood as has Howard Panter, co-founder of the Ambassador Theatre Group. Alison Moore-Gwyn, former CEO of the National Playing Fields has also been knighted, as has director of Tate, Nicholas Serota and Diana Margaret Ellis, executive chair of British Rowing.

A large number of awards were given to people who worked on delivering the successful London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. These included CBEs to both Dennis Hone, CEO of the Olympic Delivery Authority and Christopher Allison, the National Olympic Security Coordinator.

There were also CBEs for Richard Lewis, chair of Sport England; Dr Jennifer Dixon, chief executive of Nuffield Trust; Nicholas



Sport England chair Richard Lewis received an CBE

Starr, executive director of the National Theatre; and Oliver Stocken, chair of trustees at the Natural History Museum.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=O3b1M>

## Centre Parcs reveals subtropical area plans for Woburn

Centre Parcs has revealed designs for the new Subtropical Swimming Paradise, which will be part of the new Woburn Forest village in Bedfordshire, set to open in spring 2014.

Woburn Forest will have the largest of Centre Parcs' Subtropical Swimming Paradises,

with features that include water rapids, a wave pool, toddler pool, family play area, Lazy River and three new water rides.

The area will be heated all year round to 29.5C in order to house tropical plants which would not survive at lower temperatures.

## UK City of Culture finalists revealed

Dundee, Hull, Leicester and Swansea Bay have all made the final shortlist to name the 2017 UK City of Culture.

The four cities beat off competition from Chester, East Kent, Hastings, and Bexhill on Sea, Plymouth, Portsmouth and Southampton, and Southend-on-Sea.

The final cities in contention will discover whether or not they have been selected come November when the winner will be announced. The chosen area will succeed Londonderry, which is UK City of Culture 2013 and the first place to be awarded the title.

UK Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries, Ed Vaizey, said "I want to congratulate the four short-listed cities who have made it this far, and indeed all 11 cities who put time and great effort into submitting bids.



The Curve Theatre in Leicester - one of the four cities

"The events in Derry~Londonderry over recent weeks highlight just how much of an impact being 'City of Culture' can have. It brings together communities, encourages economic growth, and inspires social change."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=w3F9k>

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