

# leisureopportunities

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## PureGym to roll out 24 new sites across the UK

Budget gym operator PureGym has reached agreements to open 24 new fitness centres in key locations throughout the UK.

The announcement follows the news in May of a £50m investment in Pure Gym following its acquisition by affiliates of CCMP Capital Advisors LLC.

The group has used the investment to acquire six sites in London, five in Manchester, and two each in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds and Liverpool, as well as others to be announced.

The first of the new sites is set to open in Leeds in September with the rest following in a few months. Founder Peter Roberts, who was re-appointed chief executive of PureGym last December, said that in addition to the 24 new sites



The group is aggressively expanding with plans to have 150 operating clubs by 2016

the group plans to open a further 20 gyms throughout the UK by the end of 2014.

"We are delighted to have acquired a further 24 sites. With an equity base of £135m and a profitable and thriving business PureGym

offers the best covenant to landlords."

The PureGym concept is based on affordable fitness and offers users 24/7 opening hours, more than 40 fitness classes a week, low monthly membership rates, and no fixed contract.

Earlier this year, as a result of its expansion plans, the company appointed Stephen Rought Whitta group acquisitions director.

Peter Roberts, PureGym Founder added: "With the continuing demand for affordable gym membership, PureGym has big expansion plans over the next three years. We

are forecasting that we will have 150 operating clubs by 2016".

PureGym currently has over 50 locations and more than 260,000 members. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=U6Voi>

### EFDS launches 'Active for Life' strategy

The English Federation of Disability Sport has launched a strategic plan to guide its work through to 2017.

'Active for Life' aims to increase positive participation in sport so disabled people are able to enjoy regular sport and physical activity in any field they wish to.

Funded by SportEngland, the initiative looks to develop an effective sports system, which will engage with disabled people. The strategic focus will give disabled people key roles as volunteers, leaders and coaches.

### Heritage tourism worth £26.4bn

Heritage-based tourism is worth £26.4bn to the UK economy – £5.8bn higher than the previous estimate published in 2010 according to recent research from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

The new report also suggests that heritage is playing an increasingly important part in the choices of Brits who decide to stay in the UK for their holiday – over a quarter of all UK holiday activities undertaken by UK residents now involve heritage.

HLF published its first report on heritage tourism, Investing in Success, compiled by Oxford Economics, in 2010, based on data from 2007. The report analysed the impact of



A quarter of UK holiday activities involve culture

the heritage-based visitor economy and established that the sector made an even bigger contribution to UK GDP than the advertising, car manufacturing or film industries. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Y4f2o>

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## SPORT

# ECB to survey recreational cricketers

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has launched the first ever national survey of recreational cricket throughout England and Wales.

The survey will give club cricketers the opportunity to have their say on all aspects of the recreational game and influence its future development.

Devised as part of the ECB's new strategic plan, Champion Counties, the survey is designed to give ECB a greater understanding of how best to serve the needs of recreational and grassroots cricketers at all levels.

The findings will support ECB's plans to invest more than £96m into community cricket over the next four years across all of its 39 County Cricket Boards in England and Wales.

ECB chief executive David Collier said: "It's



The survey will be the first of recreational cricket on a national level

vital that our recreational game continues to grow so we can nurture the next generation of potential England stars and maintain cricket's position as the nation's number one summer sport. There's never been a better time to be involved in cricket with more opportunities to play the game than ever." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=T3V3V>

## Andy Reed re-elected as Alliance chair for two years

Andy Reed has been re-elected as the Sport and Recreation Alliance chair for the next two years up until the Alliance's annual general meeting in 2015.

Reed, who was awarded an OBE in 2012 for services to sport and the community,

said: "The Alliance has made great strides in the past two years – introducing constitutional reforms, leading the sector into exciting new policy areas and providing more valuable services to our members." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=uship>

## Schools physical activity programme launches

Sports coaching company, Premier Sport, has revealed plans for a new schools physical activity programme aimed at giving more young people the chance to be active and stay active. The Inspire programme consists of six parts, which are carried out between key stages: Inspire to Nurture; Achieve; Excel; Compete; Engage; and Feel Good.

The programme will measure pupil progress and attainment, based on agreed outcomes with each school, allowing staff to easily measure progress.

By working with teachers rather than replacing them, Premier Sport is looking to increase the provision of PE, physical activity and school sport. Premier Sport is a founding member of The Compass Association (TCA), a



Premier Sport are looking to increase the provision of PE in schools

trade body that supports and promotes physical activity and sports providers working with schools and local communities.

The aim of the programme is to promote sport in a fun and positive environment. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=U4x7v>



## Scotland to capitalise on Murray

SportScotland and Tennis Scotland have launched a four-year investment stream aimed at capitalising on Andy Murray's Wimbledon win and the increased interest towards the sport.

SportScotland is investing £5.8m into tennis in Scotland over the next four years to help modernise and develop the sport's structure by improving facilities and widening access.

The objectives are to grow participation rates, increase the sport's accessibility, and provide suitable environments to develop athletes performance levels on the court.

The new investment will improve tennis facilities in Scotland – both in clubs and courts in public parks – and increase the sport's accessibility for those looking to emulate Scotland's Wimbledon and multiple Grand



Scotland Tennis wants to capitalise on Murray's success at Wimbledon

Slam champion. In addition, the new money will enhance the regional development team at Tennis Scotland, which will help to further increase participation, develop closer links between schools and places to play tennis, opening up better pathways for the sport. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=E5Aob>

## British Cycling to rebrand and re-energise

British Cycling is looking to re-energise its Social Cycling Groups initiative by rebranding it and by launching a new social media campaign to support it.

The online Social Cycling Groups scheme aims to improve grassroots participation by connecting cyclists to each other and enable them to create and join groups and rides in their own geographical areas.

Launched in June 2012, the social network has so far attracted around 19,000 people to sign up and British Cycling estimates that more than 2,500 bike rides have been organised using the site ([www.goskyride.com/social](http://www.goskyride.com/social)).

The governing body has appointed marketing agency Ear to the Ground to devise



The rebranding scheme aims to improve cycling at a grassroots level

the new brand and campaign for the service.

Ear to the Ground is currently undertaking a research project which will be used as a basis for a brand refresh and campaign that will be promoted across the social media channels. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=A5L8Q>

## Deputy PM backs bid to bring 2018 Gay Games to UK

Deputy prime minister Nick Clegg is backing a bid to host the 2018 Gay Games in London.

Founded in 1982, the Gay Games attracts around 10,000 athletes, artists and activists from across the world to participate in more than 30 sport and culture events.

"We've shown what we can do with the Olympics in 2012, but it's through events such as the Gay Games that the legacy of the Olympics will live on for London," said the deputy prime minister. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=k517b>

## Welsh communities receive £1.5m injection for sport

Sport Wales has announced a £1.5m injection of National Lottery funding into communities across Wales in some of the most deprived areas in an attempt to increase the opportunity for people to lead a more active and healthy lifestyle.

Children living in areas of poverty, those living with disabilities and those in areas identified as having low areas of income, will be among those to benefit from the new funding, which will come via the Sports Wales Calls for Action programme. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=z6L2V>



The plans would bring the capacity to 60,000

## Man City planning major expansion of Etihad

Manchester City football club has revealed multi-million pound plans to expand the Etihad Stadium by up to 12,000 seats.

The club had an average capacity of 99.1 per cent in its Premier League games last season and the investment into the stadium expansion is thought to be around £50m.

The plans will see the south stand increased by 6,000 seats, then depending on public reaction and ticket sales next season, the north end could also be expanded by the same number, bringing the total capacity to 60,000 seats. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=R8C8B>

## Stadium and bowls greens in Rotherham to remain open

Rotherham Stadium and several bowling greens are set to stay open following a council rethink.

The Herringthorpe Stadium and four bowling greens across the borough will remain open following council consultations with users and other interested people to find a solution to avoid closure.

The clubs – Valley Park, Barkers Park, Greasbrough Park and Maltby Coronation Park – will continue to run after indicating a willingness to continue to maintain their own greens. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=s1P6L>

### Obesity still rising despite increase in exercise

New research shows that American people have become more active over the last decade, although these improvements have done little to stem the nation's obesity problem.

In more than two-thirds of the nation's counties, men and women have both increased their exercise levels according to a report by the University of Washington. However, for every 1 per cent increase in physical activity, prevalence of obesity fell by just 0.11 per cent.



The revamp will double the size of the fitness suite

### Farnworth Leisure Centre to get £1m revamp

A leisure centre in Farnworth, Bolton is getting a £1m revamp following a grant of £278,000 from SportEngland.

The additional funds will be added to the £700,000 being invested by the Brackley Street Leisure Centre Trust.

The revamp will see the development of a new almost double-size fitness suite and changing rooms. The fitness suite is set to feature house 59 workstations, all of which will be fitted with new equipment.

Work is expected to start in September. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=P9E8k>

### Sefton Council launches new outdoor gyms

A collection of 37 new outdoor gyms have been launched across the borough of Sefton in Southport.

The new gyms, manufactured by Caloo, are free to use and are intended to encourage residents to use outdoor spaces in addition to improving health, wellbeing and the amount of physical activity.

The gyms were funded by NHS Sefton and have been installed and maintained by Sefton Council's Parks and Greenspaces team. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=x5B5o>

## £3m revamp for Cheam site

A leisure centre in Cheam, Sutton, is set to get a £3m upgrade.

As part of the upgrades, the boilers, heat exchangers and the main pumps and filtration system for the pool will be replaced.

Almost £600,000 will also be spent on an upgrade to the main reception area, better lighting, new decoration and improved disability access.

The works will add 25 years to the life of the centre, which will close for up to six months during the revamp.

A large cut of the funding will be spent fitting a new roof as the current one is leaking.

The investment will also see new guttering and rainwater pipes installed as well as repairs being made to the brick and plasterwork for a new air ventilation system.



Planned work will add 25 years to the life of the leisure centre

The centre has been in operation since 1938 and is currently run by Everyone Active.

It is estimated that work will be complete by May 2016. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=B9G9x>

## Hove leisure centre plans four years away

The start of construction on a new £40m leisure centre planned for Hove, East Sussex, is at least four years away, according to a new council report.

A project board said that the current King Alfred Leisure Centre is currently outdated and suggested that the council moved plans forward to build a new centre, not necessarily in the same location as the current facility.

New facilities at the proposed centre will include a 25 or 50 metre pool, large teaching pool and leisure pool.

Both the Coral greyhound racetrack and a site on Ellen Road, Hove, have been suggested as other possible sites for the new centre. By moving site, the council has said it would



The centre will include a 50m pool, a teaching pool and a leisure pool

mean no gap in leisure centre provision and a reduced cost of around £7m.

A planning application is to be submitted in April 2015 with work starting on construction between April 2017 and July 2018. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=P9d2Z>

## Tottenham sports centre to be refurbished

The White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre in Tottenham, London, is set to be refurbished after Haringey Borough Council (HBC) secured a deal with a charity, which is estimated to save the council £478,000 a year. HBC has appointed an independent charity to

manage the facility, which has just secured a council-approved 50-year lease.

Proposed refurbishments include ten new five-a-side and one full size football pitches, new indoor and outdoor tennis courts and a fitness suite. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=w3S6m>





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# £13.5m complex for Blackburn

Planning permission has now been submitted for a new £13.5m sports and swimming complex in Blackburn town centre that will replace the Waves Water Fun Centre, which is partly based on the Darwen Leisure Centre Site.

The joint project between Blackburn with Darwen Council and Blackburn College will provide swimming pools but also a larger 80-station fitness suite, a dance/aerobics studio, sauna and steamroom and two multi-purpose sports halls.

The scheme aims to reduce the running costs of the existing outdated Waves complex and reduce the subsidy.

Building will start by October 2013 with the sports halls ready for September 2014 and the swimming pools are set to open in the second quarter of 2015.



The project will provide new swimming pools and a larger fitness suite

The 26-year-old Waves will be demolished and the site sold for development by the council.

Blackburn with Darwen borough's executive board approved its £8.5m share of the cost in April 2013, with the college providing in excess of £5m. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=zon7y>

## New plans for Selby Lesiure Centre after fire

Selby District Council has revealed plans for the replacement Abbey Leisure centre complex - which was destroyed by fire last year.

The new facilities will take around 30 months to complete with the old centre in the process old being demolished. The plans will have a footprint of 1,851sq ms (19,900sq ft) nearly half that of the previous building.

The new centre will feature a larger gym, six-lane swimming pool and an outdoor all-weather sports pitch.

The construction, which will reportedly cost around £9m will resemble "a simple, crisp box", with large windows around the building. It will also include a seven-metre-high window



New facilities will take around 30 months to complete and will cost £9m

looking into the pool. Plans for a replacement centre are subject to planning application, which is to be considered on 31 July. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=M1W1b>

## Goodwood Health Club upgrades gym facilities

The Goodwood Hotel and Health Club in West Sussex, England, has announced an upgrade of its 1,725sq ft (160sq m) gym facilities to include the latest Precor equipment.

The health club has a membership capacity of 2,000 people and is also used by

hotel residents. Other facilities include the Waterbeach Treatment rooms - offering both traditional and holistic treatments, a swimming pool, sauna, steam room, whirlpool spa and gym. PGA championship golf courses are also available. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=u2u1U>

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## The Importance of reputation management



### UFI IBRAHIM

is chief executive officer of the British Hospitality Association

"The restaurant secrets all diners should know" scream the headlines. An author has written a new book about the food industry. The latest in a long line of scandals to hit the hospitality industry, this so called 'real life expose' is everywhere – in the press, online, tweeted and re-tweeted, the list is endless. Coupled with the horsemeat scandal which caused mayhem for hotels and restaurants across the land with its daily revelations and headlines like "we've been eating horse for months" and "horsemeat scandal breathtaking" have become far too familiar for those of us in the hospitality industry.

While there's absolutely no doubt that the health of our customers and the integrity of our member hotels and restaurants remains the number one priority, explosive headlines and 'insider secrets' do little for the credibility of our industry. For every restaurant or hotel bar keeping a "blacklist for rude customers" and "deliberately adding extra items to the bill" (we're not aware of any!) there are a hundred more working hard to go the extra mile; to offer great value and make all the difference between an average and outstanding experience.

With the proliferation of social media, every mouthful being tweeted about, every experience being ranked and rated, the importance of reputation management in our industry cannot be overestimated. We're not talking about manipulation, we're talking about communication – using authentic conversations to successfully market online (and offline) reputation.

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- Get vocal and respond to feedback
- Beef up your social platforms. Are you connecting with guests on social platforms?

For more information on TrustYou, visit [www.trustyou.com](http://www.trustyou.com)

## HOTELS

# Olympic Park hotel for Stratford

Starboard Hotels has made the first commercial deal with Lend Lease and London & Continental Railways (LCR) at The International Quarter in Stratford City, which will result in the development of a new hotel complex.

Starboard Atlantic Hotels, a joint venture between Starboard Hotels and Union Hanover Securities, is to build a 275,000sq ft (25,548sq m) hotel. It will feature up to 500 bedrooms comprising the design-led Urban Villa extended stay hotel and an upmarket internationally branded hotel.

The complex, which is scheduled to open in 2016, will overlook the former 2012 Athletes Village, now known as East Village.

It is also directly adjacent to Westfield Stratford City, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and Stratford International station.



The complex, overlooking the 2012 Athletes Village, will open in 2016

Kristy Lansdown, Lend Lease's project director, said: "The new commercial hub is set to capitalise on the world-class infrastructure which was put in place for the London 2012 Olympics and is one of the best connected places in London." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=n6iuc>

## England's 'oldest purpose-built hotel' up for sale

The Grade II-listed Red Lion Hotel in Salisbury, Wiltshire – claimed to be the oldest purpose-built hotel in England – has been put up for sale.

The historic coaching inn dates back to the 13th century and has been brought to the

market by property adviser Christie + Co at an asking price of just under £3m.

The town centre hotel has 51 individually-designed guestrooms, restaurant, bar, and five conference and banqueting rooms with capacities up to 120. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=E6u1e>

## Menzies Hotels Group goes on the market

Menzies Hotels Group is looking for a new owner after its parent company Cordial Hotels entered administration.

A price close to £100m has been put on the 15-hotel chain, which has locations across Britain.

Christie + Co is handling the sale, which includes properties ranging from 18 to 212 bedroom locations.

Six of the hotels are operated through leasehold, while the rest operate through freehold. KPMG took control of Cordial Hotels in May after the company defaulted on a £165m loan. In July 2011, underwent a management buyout when its previous parent company – Piccadilly Hotels – also went into administration.



The Menzies Stratford upon Avon Hotel is available as part of the bid

Any potential buyer would receive the entire hotel chain although offers will be considered for individual hotels or groups of hotels. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=m7z3c>



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## Visitor numbers surge at Mary Rose Museum

The Mary Rose Museum in Portsmouth has welcomed more than 52,000 visitors since opening on 31 May this year.

The new museum was built around the hull of the ship and is being designed by led by Wilkinson Eyre Architects and Pringle Brandon Perkins+Will.

The boat-shaped museum showcases 19,000 artefacts associated with it.

In June, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard has hosted 80,000 national and international guests visiting the HMS Victory, The National Museum of the Royal Navy, Action Stations, HMS Warrior 1860 and addition to the family – The Mary Rose.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=u5l9x>

## Futuristic centre for Dudley Zoo

Dudley Zoo has revealed design plans of the proposed Trilobite building – a futuristic education and conference centre with a nod to the site's ancient history.

The new building, which is being designed to recreate the historic Dudley Bug fossil – the fossilized outer shell of a creature famous to the region that is similar to a modern day horse shoe crab.

It will incorporate a centre for zoology, geology and education with a link to the limestone Stores Cavern beneath the zoo site.

The centre will showcase Castle Hill's history as part of a prehistoric seabed, educating visitors about the trilobite, also known as the Dudley Bug, while linking to animals and conservation work, and explaining how limestone and coal are key



The Trilobite building will replicate the Dudley Bug fossil

minerals to the region's industrial heritage.

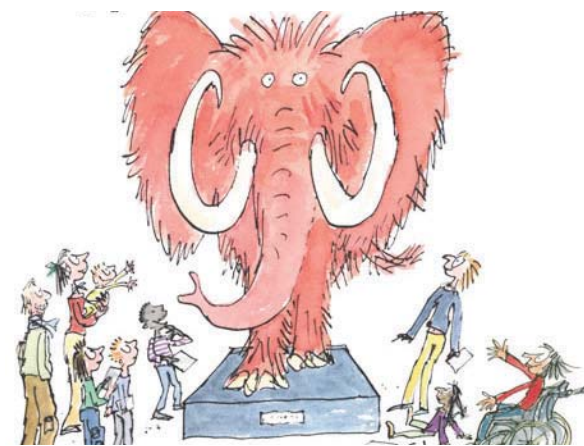
Major £10m plans for Castle Hill are already under way with a new visitor entrance in the pipeline to transform the lower levels of the zoo's 40-acre site to link with the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Canal Trust. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=q2C6u>

## Family friendly museum shortlist revealed

Six museums have been announced on the shortlist for the Telegraph Family Friendly Museum Award.

Picked from 20 possible candidates, the finalists has been selected by a panel of judges led by Jenny Abramsky, Heritage Lottery Fund's chair, alongside BBC arts editor Will Gompertz, Telegraph head of arts and entertainment Andrew Pettie and director of kids in museums, Dea Birkett.

The six shortlisted museums are; Brixham Heritage Museum, Devon; Horniman Museum and Gardens, London; National Maritime Museum, Cornwall; Nature in Art, Gloucester; North Lincolnshire Museum; and Nottingham Contemporary Gallery.



Anonymous families will test the six museums over the summer

Over the Summer, anonymous families, acting as undercover judges, will test the shortlisted museums. The winner will be announced by judges in September. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=o6q2a>

## Scottish Museum of Flight secures funding from HLF

The Heritage Lottery Fund has announced its support for the next phase of a development plan to transform the National Museum of Flight in East Lothian, Scotland.

The £3.6m project will see National Museums Scotland restore two nationally significant

Second World War hangars and create new exhibitions within them.

The project will conserve the original building fabric and will also restore the hangars to their original condition. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=toD5f>

IMAGE: LITS ARCHITECTS AND DESIGNERS



The 2,000sq m will host exhibitions and events

## Major new Science Gallery to launch at King's College

King's College London has outlined its intention to open an innovative venue for science and art collaboration in London Bridge following two capital funding awards totalling £7m.

The college intends to open a science gallery at its Guy's Campus, a centre for biomedical research, in 2015 following confirmation of funding of £3m from the Wellcome Trust and £4m from Guy's and St Thomas' Charity towards a funding target of £12m.

A potential site of 2,000sq m (21,530sq ft) in London Bridge, opposite The Shard, has been identified as the site that will include exhibition galleries, a theatre, café, courtyard and informal meeting spaces to create a new London creative space.

The gallery will host exhibitions, events, performances and festivals that bring "science, technology and health into dialogue with the arts and design in an unprecedented way, inspiring new thinking and driving innovation". Details: <http://lei.sr?a=z4Z6V>



## No domestic tourism cuts: DCMS

The Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) has announced details of funding for all its bodies - including a five percent slice to international tourism, with no cut to domestic tourism.

The zero per cent cut to VisitEngland's core grant-in-aid has been met with great positivity from the organisation, which said that it was "reassured" by the government's commitment to tourism in England.

A spokesperson from VisitEngland said: "We recognise the public purse is under ever increasing pressure so we are delighted that tourism's significant contribution to the economy has been recognised by the Secretary of State, Maria Miller, and Tourism Minister, Hugh Robertson, in securing this settlement." Tourism in the UK is worth an estimated



Tourism in the UK is on the rise and is worth an estimated £97bn

£97bn. Growth in the sector has seen a steady rise across the country thanks to various campaigns promoting Britain overseas combined with successes of international events such as the London 2012 Olympic Games. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=g7j4G>

## London hits record numbers for overseas tourism

Visits from overseas tourists to London have hit record numbers, according to the latest International Passenger Survey figures.

During the first quarter of 2013, 3.4m tourists came to London, a 4.2 per cent boost on the same period in 2012.

Expenditure over the same period saw a significant increase - reaching £2.1bn during the quarter - meaning London has seen increased expenditure from overseas visitors for seven consecutive quarters. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Eoa5A>

## Scotland sees increase in visitor-spending

While visitors to Scotland have decreased over the past year, spending has seen a sharp increase, according to official figures.

The Office of National Statistics has reported that spending by overseas visitors was up by 22 per cent, while visitor numbers saw a decrease of nine per cent.

Domestic visits to the country saw an increase of 10 per cent on the start of 2012, with domestic spending also seeing a slight increase.

Visitors from North America and Europe both fell, however, visits from emerging markets such as India are beginning to rise.

Scotland's Tourism Development Agency has started an online and social marketing campaign linked to broadcasting, which began



Visitor numbers from markets such as India are beginning to rise

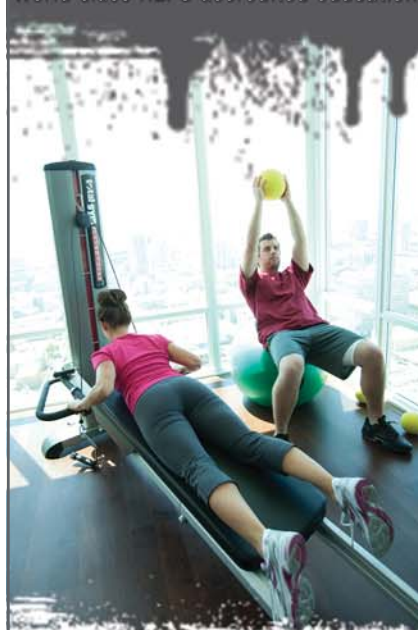
with the airing of BBC Scotland's Hebrides nature programmes.

The agency is also spending £400,000 on TV advertisements to be aired in both the USA and in the UK, showcasing Scottish golf. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=ooG8g>

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## ARTS & CULTURE

### Cultural funding scheme launches

The government has launched a new funding initiative aimed at boosting cultural tourism across England.

The Cultural Destinations scheme will offer grants between £250,000 and £350,000 to projects that look to develop cultural offerings and attract tourism on a local level.

Arts Council England (ACE) is investing £3m into the programme, which will run from March 2014 for up to three years.

Cultural Destinations looks to develop new arts events and festivals; holiday packages and cultural experiences; as well as training, audience and visitor research and familiarisation visits.

ACE will operate the fund in partnership with Visit England and up to 15 consortia could benefit from it.

Minister for Tourism Hugh Robertson said: "This partnership will provide a boost for local arts organisations, help the tourism sector build on 2012 and make a strong contribution to economic growth."

Culture Minister Ed Vaizey added: "Bringing together the culture and tourism sectors in a scheme like this is an inspired concept."



The Cultural Destinations scheme will offer grants of up to £250,000

"Thousands of brilliant cultural events are staged in cities, towns and villages across the UK each year and this fund will be instrumental in promoting them to the 26 million overseas tourists who visit England annually, and the 104 million Britons who venture out on 'staycations' each year.

"Our fantastic cultural sector is one of the top reasons why tourists choose to holiday here, and is key in attracting the £97bn contribution that tourism makes to the British economy each year."

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=L3h6q>

### Queen re-opens historic Abbotsford House

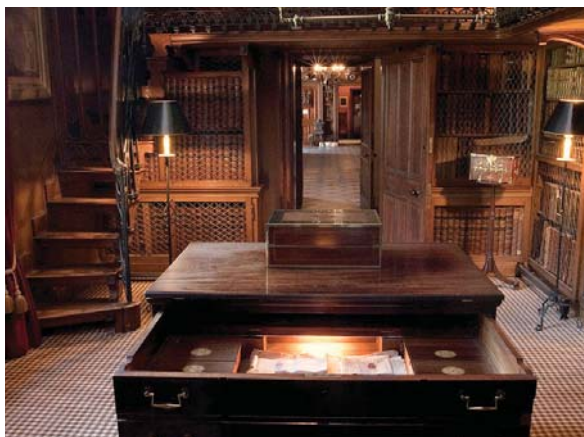
The Queen has reopened the historic Abbotsford House in the Scottish Borders following a 22-month transformation of the 180-year old building.

The reopening follows a five-year campaign to save the property and its collections following the death of Dame Jean Maxwell Scott, the last of Scott's descendants to live in the historic house.

The Abbotsford Trust has since raised over £12m to redevelop Abbotsford into a world-class visitor attraction.

Two new rooms have been added to the public tour and modern interpretation techniques have been used to appeal to a new generation of visitors. Nearby the historic house, a modern visitor centre now stands, featuring an exhibition showcasing the author Walter Scott's life, work and global legacy.

The work has been funded by grants and donations from private and public sources. Major funders include the Heritage Lottery



The Abbotsford Trust has raised over £12m for the 180-year-old building

Fund, The Scottish Government and Historic Scotland, Scottish Borders Council, Scottish Enterprise, private individuals and a number of charitable trusts.

Fundraising for Abbotsford remains ongoing as an additional £2.5m is still required to create an endowment to secure the attraction's future running costs.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=l2t6k>





The cinema lies in the centre of Leicester Square

## Leicester Square's Vue Cinema sold for £23.46m

Cordea Savills, the property investment company, has purchased the Vue Cinema in London's Leicester Square for £23.46m on behalf of a UK pension fund client.

The nine-screen cinema, seating 2,500 people, lies in the heart of London's West End. It was rebuilt behind the Art Deco façade in 1993 and is the only remaining multiplex on Leicester Square.

The asset is the first to be purchased as part of a new mandate of £100m to be invested in properties with Retail Prices Index or fixed rental increases.

The property comprises a 22-year leasehold interest from freeholders Gascoyne Estates and is being acquired at an initial yield of over 8.25 per cent with fixed annual rental increases of 2 per cent.

Lucy Winterburn, director of investment, said: "The robust fundamentals of the location and covenant plus the attractive leasing structure should make this asset a strong performer relative to our client's performance objective."

Cordea Savills was advised by Cortex Partners, with Fineman Ross acting on behalf of the vendor, Helix Property Advisors. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=m7V4E>

## Welsh museum looking for £900,000 investment

The Greenfield Valley Trust (GVT) has been awarded £60,000 and a 'first round pass' to finalise plans before submitting a bid for £900,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to finance a proposed museum. The trust is planning to open a centre themed around the Greenfield Valley Heritage Park, near Holywell in north Wales.

GVT is looking to create a museum to explore the history of the site, which dates back to the 18th century. The trust has said that if museum plans go ahead there would be a "tremendous positive impact" on local businesses and the wider community. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=W1R9E>

## St Helena looking to develop tourism projects

The island of St Helena is undergoing a historical change as it attempts to kick-start its tourism industry following the recent announcement that the island's first airport will be operational by 2016.

The 47sq m (121sq km) island has seen major reforms to its immigration, land development and tax regulations in an attempt to attract foreign investors to the island.

Plans have already been announced for a £70m hotel, villa and golf course project by UK-based architecture firm Purcell. Now further investment being sought for the island - one of the most remote locations in the world with the only way at present to get there being a five day journey by



The island has seen major reforms in an attempt to bring in investment

ferry. Also announced is the Jamestown Hotel initiative - a 70-bedroom, £7.5m hotel that will be made up of five converted historic buildings. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=fim6q>

## £280m race track for South Wales

A new £280m race track in Blaenau Gwent, south Wales, will be built after receiving approval from local councillors.

The development, which will be built near Ebbw Vale, will generate an estimated £50m annually for the economy and was given unanimous backing during a meeting of the county borough council.

The project covers 830 acres (335 hectares) of land and will be built by the Heads of the Valleys development Company (HVDC).

The track will be one of the largest ever privately led investment programmes in the history of UK motor sport and will create around 3,000 new jobs during the construction phase. The first phase of development will see the construction of the race



The race track is expected to generate around £50m for the economy

circuit in addition to a hotel and commercial and retail complexes.

The track will be 3.5m (5.6km) long and will also feature a karting track and off-road driving facilities. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=d9K2G>

## Plans resubmitted for Bolton sports club project

Developers have resubmitted plans for a £1.3m relocation of Lostock Sports Club in Bolton, Greater Manchester, after the initial time frame for planning permission expired.

The proposed development has seen bowling facilities, which were initially approved,

removed from the plans while two rugby pitches, a cricket pitch, a clubhouse, car park and equipment storage container are included.

The developer, Persimmon has bought an additional strip of land to accommodate the needs of the club. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Q8von>

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## Sports Facility Management

The University are inviting Expressions of Interest for a leisure partner to provide operational and management services for their indoor sports facilities on its Southwark Campus.

Applicants ideally will have the experience in both the educational and public sector to deliver an appropriate public facing leisure programme whilst catering for the needs of the University's students and staff. The preferred partner will share a passion for delivering a relevant, high standard level of activity with exemplary levels of customer service.

More details regarding this tendering opportunity are available to view within London South Bank University's e-tendering system.

Details on how to register and express interest can be found at: [www.lsbu.bravosolution.co.uk](http://www.lsbu.bravosolution.co.uk)

The closing date for Expressions of Interest is the 26th August 2013.



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## Views sought from potential partners for the development of the leisure and tourism offer in the Portrush area



Coleraine Borough Council owns and manages two leisure sites within the town of Portrush, which are both under utilised and have potential for redevelopment.

### The sites are:

- **Portrush Recreation Grounds** – a traditional mix of outdoor sports facilities
- **Dunluce Centre** - family entertainment centre

The Council is seeking views from organisations which may have a role to play in the development of the land and facilities – either as funders or developers/operators. The aim is to provide a complementary blend of facilities and activities that meet the needs of the resident community and can also optimise the appeal of the area to attract more domestic and international tourism. Portrush is only 50 minutes from Belfast by car and ten miles from the Giant's Causeway, which attracts 700,000 visitors per year.

Initial considerations have been given to the type of facilities and activities that would fit within the area which is a traditional family resort and flanked by an area of outstanding natural beauty.

### The Council is seeking initial views and innovative ideas which will:

- Enhance the regeneration opportunities in Portrush by increasing the number and duration of stay by visitors.
- Bring inward investment from the commercial sector (the Council will consider asset - based propositions and schemes that will result in an overall improvement in land use).
- Provide improved facilities and activities that meet the leisure needs of local people.

A Business Opportunity Prospectus and questionnaire can be downloaded on: <http://www.colerainebc.gov.uk/tenders/>

Your views will be used to help formulate an Open Day or further market engagement. Deadline for feedback is Monday 2 September 2013

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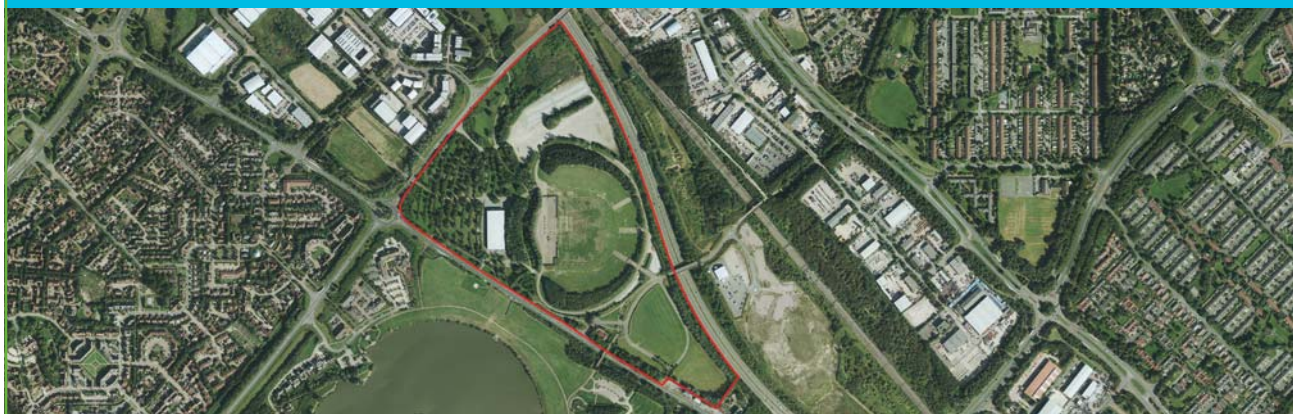
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### Sport Makers hit landmark figure

Lord Sebastian Coe has praised the dedication of the thousands who have signed up as sports volunteers through sport makers - Sport England's Olympic and Paralympic volunteering legacy programme.

Speaking after meeting the 50,000th sport maker - 24-year-old Scott Preece - Lord Coe said: "It's wonderful to see how these sport makers are fuelling the legacy of the Games by getting out there and helping others in the community play sport.

"The games makers really opened our eyes to the contribution volunteers make to sports and it's inspiring to hear how sport makers are making a difference in communities."

Preece is one of 38,000 out of the 50,000 sport makers who have dedicated at least 10 hours of volunteering in sport. Sport Makers was launched in October 2011 with the aim of signing up 40,000 people to do at least 10 hours of volunteer work - a milestone predicted to be passed around the anniversary of



Seb Coe (right) with 50,000th Sport Maker - 24-year-old Scott Preece

the Olympic opening ceremony. Every Sport Maker who signs up is trained shown the opportunities to get involved in sport locally.

Preece added: "The birth of my daughter and overcoming my heart problem really gave me the motivation to make changes in my life. As well as becoming a sport maker I've gone back to college to gain a qualification that will help me get a job that matches my healthy lifestyle." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=n1Gol>

### SkillsActive partners with 1st4Sport

SkillsActive, the Sector Skills Council for active leisure, learning and well-being has announced a partnership with 1st4Sport Qualifications, a developer of award qualifications in the same sectors.

1st4Sport has been heavily involved in the sector, engaging in partnerships with the FA, RFU, ECB and LTA to build qualifications that aim to strengthen the industry.

SkillsActive CEO, Ian Taylor, said: "Our work with awarding organisations goes a long way to maintaining the high levels set by the industry, to ensure its employees are fully qualified and competent, and 1st4sport Qualifications is the perfect organisation to partner this work."

1st4Sport Qualifications education director, Tony Dallimore, added: "We look forward



The groups will work on qualifications that meet the needs of the industry

to working with SkillsActive on a variety of qualifications."

In a statement SkillsActive also said that 1st4Sport's consistent levels of excellence will ensure that standards remain relevant to the employers. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=v4ig9>



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2013 has been one of our most exciting years so far, so if you want to progress your career in



The Future of Fitness: new Everyone Active colleagues embarking on long, exciting careers in the leisure industry

the leisure, sports and fitness industry, Everyone Active is the first choice. We have over 90 centres operated on behalf of 34 local authorities across England, so log on to [www.everyoneactive.com](http://www.everyoneactive.com) to search our latest vacancies.

### Everyone Active embraces Change4Life

Everyone Active has seized the opportunity to align its annual open event, which invites people into centres every year for free taster sessions and access to facilities, and capitalise on the national impact of the Public Health England's Change4Life campaign. There are 67 Leisure Centres operated by Everyone Active participating in the open day to mark the one year anniversary of the London 2012 Olympics Opening Ceremony.

"Everyone Active and Change4Life have a shared message: adults should be aiming for a minimum of 150 minutes of activity per week for the benefits of a healthy lifestyle," said David Bibby, Managing Director at Everyone Active. "We constantly strive to offer exciting, inclusive sports and leisure activities at great value, so we are always keen to invite local communities into our centres and help them stay active in daily life."

## FLAME Leisure Centre of the Year Award

Fareham Leisure Centre was crowned Leisure Centre of the Year for the second time at the ukactive FLAME Awards. The competition was fierce especially with five other centres managed by Everyone Active on the shortlist.

Ian Cook, Leisure Centre Manager said, "We are delighted to have been named Leisure Centre of the Year 2013. Our staff have shown a dedication to our customers that is second to none and this commitment has been recognised with this national award for a second time. It's testament to all the hard work that we have put in for many years and the fantastic team of colleagues working throughout the centre delivering the Everyone Active experience."

Everyone Active has previously been awarded



The Everyone Active team from Fareham Leisure Centre with ukactive Chairman Fred Turok (right) accepting the FLAME Centre of the Year Award 2013

FLAME's Leisure Operator of the Year award for three years running, in 2010, 2011 and 2012, as well as the Amateur Swimming Association's Operator of the Year in 2009, 2010 and 2012, and numerous QUEST Awards, National Fitness Awards and Health Club Awards.

### Everyone Active secures new contracts to manage leisure services

The biggest local authority contract in the leisure industry has recently been won by Everyone Active, adding 14 centres in Brent, Ealing and Harrow to its management portfolio. Contracts have also been secured with Cotswold District Council, Aylesbury Vale District Council and Redcar & Cleveland

Borough Council in 2013, bringing the total number of local authority partners up to 34. With the addition of the Brent, Ealing and Harrow centres, for which management is being transferred in the coming months on a centre by centre basis, the total number of centres Everyone Active operate will be 94.



Beth Tweddle gives out medals to children at the Legacy Games

### Everyone Active legacy pledge to get half a million kids active

Everyone Active and Fit For Sport have joined forces with schools in Sutton, Sutton County Council and nearby London boroughs to create a legacy of sport, competition and community engagement. GB Olympic athletes - gymnast Beth Tweddle and swimmer Steve Parry - helped inspire 1,000 7-11 year olds in an exciting day of sport and activity at the Everyone Active David Weir Leisure Centre in Sutton, called the Legacy Games.

Fit for Sport, the UK's leading provider of children's activities, and Everyone Active have pledged to work together to engage 500,000 children across the UK in sport and activity to encourage a healthy, active lifestyle.

To find out more about Everyone Active and how you could join the best activity team in the country visit [www.leisureopportunities.com/everyoneactive](http://www.leisureopportunities.com/everyoneactive)



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Minicom: 01242 264264. For an informal discussion about the role please contact Jane Lillystone (Museum, Arts & Tourism Manager) on 01242 775706. Closing date: 5pm on Friday 2nd August 2013

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**Fixed term contract until 31 July 2016**

Developing stronger community sport is an essential part of creating a sporting habit for life for all young people. Your role will be to support clubs, coaches and other partners to offer a high quality sporting experience to the young people of our city.

#### Sport Participation Officer (Club Development)

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#### Older peoples Activity Officer (Communities)

Ref: CANS112

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Building on our work of getting more older people active you will be working with care settings and various health agencies to offer more opportunities those who are less active. You will have strong communication skills and the ability to create, maintain and develop new partnerships with organisations whose aims match ours.

#### HEAL Project Officer

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## National Lottery Awards shortlist

The National Lottery Good Causes has revealed a list of 49 projects that will compete in this year's National Lottery Awards.

Over 900 lottery-funded programmes had entered this year's awards with a panel of judges coming up with a shortlist of 49 split over seven categories reflecting the different areas that receive National Lottery Funding: arts, sport, heritage, health, environment, education and voluntary/charity.

The winners will now be decided by public vote with those chosen receiving an award trophy and £2,000 towards their project.

In the sport category, three Sport England projects are among the seven finalists to feature.

The Active Villages project in Devon, works with small communities across the region, giving people in rural areas the chance to participate in sport. Us Girls creates sporting opportunities for ladies in disadvantaged communities. Ping! brings



More than 900 programmes entered this year's awards

table tennis to communities across England in fun and unique ways, by putting tables in unusual locations such as cathedrals, zoos and train stations, engaging more than 600,000 people since the programme began in 2010. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=L3c7R>

## Center Parcs unveils Venture Cove at Elveden Forest

Center Parcs has announced the opening of Venture Cove – a £3m family water playground located in its indoor Subtropical Swimming Paradise at its Elveden Forest location.

Venture Cove is split into two areas – Venture Bay, which will feature a shallow pool

heated to 30 degrees centigrade, a two-lane multi-slide, spraying fish, slide and water fountains, and Venture Harbour, which will have a mix of open and enclosed slides, water spouts, water cannons and giant tipping 'fishing' buckets. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=b2p6b>

## QE2 set to become all-suite hotel

The QE2 is set to leave Dubai and travel to Asia to begin its transformation into a 400-bed-room floating hotel on 18 October.

Launched more than 40 years ago by Britain's Queen Elizabeth, the QE2 was sold to the UAE real estate developer Nakheel in 2009.

When the QE2 left Southampton in November 2008 plans were revealed to bring the vessel to Dubai, where it would be moored in Palm Jumeirah to become a 500-bed-room luxury hotel and entertainment complex.

Plans were put on hold until 2009 when it was revealed that the QE2 would find a new home in Cape Town, South Africa to act as a hotel for the FIFA 2010 World Cup.

These plans also didn't come to fruition and now the ship's ownership is being transferred to a consortium of investors under a Dubai-based entity called QE2 Shipping.



The QE2 will travel to an unnamed location in Asia

Dubai shipbuilder Drydocks World and Oceanic Group, an Asian cruise company, will be carrying out repairs to enable the voyage.

The final destination of the vessel has not yet been revealed. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=00R7z>

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