leisureopportunities

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énergie set for 'biggest growth ever' in 2015

énergie Group chair and chief executive Jan Spaticchia has set his sights on leading the fitness franchise company through its biggest growth phase yet, with a raft of new gym openings planned in the UK and Europe during 2015.

Due to conclude 2014 with around 90 clubs open or in presale, the group aims to open 36 clubs between January and December next year, across its three core brands: Fitaless, énergie Fitness for Women and énergie Fitness Clubs.

In the first three months of 2015, énergie will open two clubs per month, which will increase to

three per month from April and four from October. The first quarter will see openings of low cost brand Fit4less in Preston, West Ealing, Epsom, Manchester, Aylesbury and Bedford.

"The fitness franchise market is at a confident high as we enter 2015," said Spaticchia, whose group reports a network turnover of £26m per annum. "The énergie Group has



énergie chief Jan Spaticchia started the fitness franchise in 2003

invested considerably in improving services, training and systems right across the board, which has put us in a strong position as the market leader. Next year is set to be a pivotal year for the group as its looks to create a platform for unprecedented growth."

énergie will also extend its international portfolio in the New Year, as well as

continuing its expansion in the Irish market. Having opened its third Fitness for Women franchise in Latvia in October, énergie will open its first Fit4less clubs in Plavnieki, Latvia, and Gadansk, Poland in Q1 of 2015.

"We have mainly been focusing on ensuring that our existing clubs are well supported, introducing a new support structure and management team," added Spaticchia. "Next year, we will continue to build on this, but with additional personnel we will also be able to focus on growth abroad."

Meanwhile, énergie recently unveiled its latest Fit4less club in Lincoln – the 34th gym in the brand portfolio and the first to occupy a purpose-built new premise. The 7,500sq ft (697sq m) building features all the latest Precor equipment, a large free weights section, a Hampton training rig and a spacious studio that offers a wide range of classes. Details: http://lei.sr?a=y9X4M

Marketing and ops top agenda at Spa Life UK

The fifth annual Spa Life UK event took place recently at Center Parcs Woburn Forest, featuring a jampacked schedule of expert talks.

The event comprised three main parts: the Conference; the Spa Life Forum; and the invitation-only CEO Summit, where BBC business guru Dr Paul Thomas provided insights into increasing effectivity in the workplace without losing front-line staff.

The Good Spa Awards were also incorporated into this year's event, with a live ceremony held for the first time. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=8p2S7*

Business boom for suppliers at IAAPA

"Big starts here" was the official theme for this year's IAAPA Attractions Expo in Orlando, Florida, and big was certainly what was delivered as millions of pounds worth of contracts were signed at the event last month.

Many UK suppliers were present as attendees shared insight, sparked new relations and viewed new innovations on the trade floor.

This year's event saw more than 1,000 companies exhibiting products, 225 educational speakers giving talks and more than 27,000 people from all over the world in attendance.

Some of the more notable unveils from the trade floor included Sally's £64,000 Joker animatronic for the upcoming ride Justice



Sally Corp won a Brass Ring award for its booth $\,$

League: Battle for Metropolis 4D, while Triotech offered new details on the Voyage to the Iron Reef dark ride and US Thrill Rides unveiled its record-breaking Polercoaster. *Details:* http://lei.sr?a=K5W4A

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SPORT

IOC explores future of the Olympics

The International Olympic Committee has published its long-awaited Olympic Agenda 2020 report - a strategic roadmap for the future of the Olympic Movement.

The report consists of 40 proposals aimed at transforming and "future proofing" the IOC and its operations.

Varying from changes to the bidding process and improving ethics to the launch of a new Olympic TV Channel, the proposals will be discussed and voted on by the full IOC membership at the 127th IOC Session on 9 December in Monaco.



The report has 40 recommendations to future proof the Olympics

One of the key suggestions is to make the initial stages of the bidding process for Summer and Winter Olympic Games more attractive by adding an "invitational phase."

During the new process, first phase cities considering a bid will be advised about the opportunities an official bid offers - in particular to legacy and sustainability.

Speaking at the launch of the Agenda 2020 document, IOC president Thomas Bach called it the "culmination of a year of open, transparent and widespread debate and discussion".

He added: "These 40 recommendations are like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. When you put them together, a picture emerges that shows the IOC safeguarding the uniqueness of the Olympic Games and strengthening sport in society." To read the full report and recommendations, follow the link below. Details: http://lei.sr?a=N3z4h

SNI launches mental health programme

Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) has launched a Mental Health and Wellbeing pilot programme, aiming to increase awareness of the importance of mental health among the region's sports operators.

The scheme will "target all aspects of positive mental health" from grassroots to high performance level and also help sports clubs and governing bodies build a mental health support structure and education programme.

Building on the success of the Sport Northern Ireland Mental Health Awareness initiative delivered in partnership with the Public Health Agency, the SNI pilot will deliver programmes that will have a direct impact on the coaching and playing population of sports clubs. SNI will work with a number of partners on the initiative, such as the charity Sporting Chance, founded by former Arsenal and England football captain Tony Adams.

CEO Antoinette McKeown said: "To strengthen mental health resilience in the



The scheme will be supported by ex-Arsenal captain Tony Adams (far right)

sporting community is an essential building block, but when a time comes that an individual asks for help, they need to receive this as quickly as possibly. Sport is a vital component in building resilience, both personally as well as within the club setting. Our programme aims to build mental resilience in our athletes and provide support when it is needed."

The initiative will be rolled out in phases, with the first starting in November 2014. Details: http://lei.sr?a=G2y7f



UK Sport chair hails lottery fund

UK Sport chair Rod Carr has warned of complacency over Team GB's recent Olympic successes and called for continued investment in elite sport using National Lottery money.

Describing lottery funding as "the fuel that feeds the engine", Carr said that the decision to set up UK Sport and to invest in the system in 1997 has transformed the fortunes of British sport.

"Since National Lottery funding began it has turbocharged the sporting system in Great Britain to such an extent

we are now among the sporting super powers at the Olympic and Paralympic Games," he said.

"The funding has supported more than 4,500 athletes on UK Sport's World Class Programme and between them they have won a staggering 633 Olympic and Paralympic medals.

"The sustained investment has allowed this country to attract and retain some of the world's best coaches and support staff. It has help develop elite training centres and deliver,



Rod Carr became UK Sport chair in 2013

alongside our science medicine and technology arm, the English institute of Sport, the talent ID campaigns that have fast-tracked athletes like Helen Glover, Lutalo Muhammad and Lizzy Yarnold to Olympic glory."

Carr added that Team GB's transformation has been nothing short of remarkable since the introduction of lottery funding, with the nation coming 3rd at London 2012, as opposed to 36th at Atlanta 1996. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=e8w4s*

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Grimsby confirms £200m stadium plans

Grimsby Town Football Club (GTFC) is hoping to take proposals for a new community stadium to the next level by securing a lease for the Peaks Parkway site south of the town.

The ambitious plans include a 14,000-capacity community stadium as well as housing and retail developments worth around £200m.

GTFC director John Fenty said that while the five-year lease on the site was not a green light for development, it

would be a clear statement of intent and would allow the club to have further talks with businesses that could help underpin the plan and offer financial backing. The move comes as a year-long exclusivity agreement with North East Lincolnshire Council runs out.

The council and GTFC had the agreement in place so the club could do initial assessments on the viability of the site. The club had previously planned a new stadium for the Great Coates area in the town, but failed to secure council backing for the scheme.

Fenty added that after more than 115 years at Blundell Park, the club is desperate to provide

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The club has played at Blundell Park for more than 115 years

the new facility that will be a springboard for the club to re-enter the Football League.

Grimsby was relegated from the Football League in 2010 for the first time in 100 years and has so far failed to gain promotion back.

Fenty said: "If successful, this project will leave a lasting legacy, deliver a flagship project, the first for generations. It would also secure the vast array of community schemes currently being delivered by Grimsby Town Sports and Education Trust, the club's delivery arm, all of which are as at much risk as the club itself. should this scheme not come to fruition." Details: http://lei.sr?a=e2y3U

Exercise to be used to help manage blood pressure

New figures from Public Health England (PHE) reveal that diseases caused by high blood pressure are estimated to cost the NHS more than £2bn a year, and exercise could prove to be part of the solution.

A collaboration between a number of health agencies in the UK will result in people being urged to get a blood pressure check and take preventative measures.

According to Professor Huon Gray, national clinical director for heart disease for NHS England, lifestyle plays a large part in managing blood pressure: "Over half of all strokes and many heart attacks could be prevented by ensuring people take steps to get their blood pressure into the normal range, but unfortunately, high blood pressure often goes unrecognised."

Dubbed the silent killer, more than five million people are not aware that they have high blood pressure. It affects one in four adults and is one of the biggest risk factors for premature death and disability in England and accounts for 12 per cent of visits to GPs. Details: http://lei.sr?a=q6E6U



Roger Millward (right) and his son Theo

STA appoints new CEO as Roger Millward steps down

Swimming Teachers' Association (STA) CEO Roger Millward has announced that he will retire next summer, with his son Theo set to take over the reigns.

Millward senior announced that he would be stepping down at the STA's recent national conference, having spent 20 years at the helm. He will continue to play an active part in STA, working in particular on an international level with IFSTA members.

Millward junior joined STA full-time in 2011 and is the current operations director and said it was an "enormous honour" to be appointed CEO of the world's largest swimming teaching and lifesaving organisation. Details: http://lei.sr?a=r2Y3a

LA fitness 'premiumising' London

LA fitness has outlined plans for growth and potential future investment as the operator confirms it is near the end of its CVA process.

Speaking exclusively to Leisure Opportunities, LA fitness CEO Martin Long confirmed that, of the 33 clubs originally earmarked for disposal, 18 have since been sold and an additional five landlords have found new tenants, including the site in Chester which is now trading under the Nuffield brand. An agreement was due to be reached on the final nine or 10 clubs by the end of November, with some due to transfer to new owners.

The remaining clubs – of which there were to be "approaching 50 once everything is tied up by the end of the month" - will be predominantly in London and the south-east. The core group of clubs has performed well, in spite of "significant disruption" to the estate since the CVA was announced in March, with joiners up 10 per cent and revenues up 4 per cent.

Capital will begin to be released to the entire estate towards the end of Q1 2015, with all clubs due to receive investment.

In addition, throughout the course of 2015, a further seven of the 13 central London clubs will be upgraded and rebranded to the LAX by LA fitness brand - the operator's premium offering. These will join the existing three LAX



LA fitness CEO Martin Long is targeting London

clubs - St Botolph's, South Kensington, and London Wall, which is due to be relaunched as LAX in the first half of December.

"We're 'premiumising' our offering in London," confirmed Long. "At this stage I don't plan for any more than 10 LAX clubs in total, all in prime London locations. However, even those clubs that remain under the LA fitness brand will be brought up a level in terms of their offering. "In 2015 most of the investment will be within the M25, but the entire estate will have received a facelift by January 2016." Details: http://lei.sr?a=c3A5R

Serco to sell leisure arm during restructure

Up to 70 UK leisure and sports facilities face an uncertain future after operator Serco announced plans to sell its leisure arm.

Services giant Serco is looking to offload several of its 'non-core' businesses as part of a strategy overhaul, ahead of a planned £550m rights issue. One of these businesses is Serco Leisure, which manages 70 UK locations including Bisham Abbey and Lilleshall National Sports Centres, the National Water

Sports Centre and Manchester Aquatics Centre. Livingstone Partners is understood to be

handling the sale of the leisure unit, which has more than 66,000 members across its facilities. A Serco Leisure spokesperson told Leisure Opportunities that the process is ongoing and that it "wouldn't be appropriate" to outline a timescale for the completion of the sale at this stage.

Serco recently cut its profit forecast for 2014/15, and wrote off £1.5bn from the the value of the business following a review by new group



Bisham Abbey is among the leisure sites operated by Serco

CEO Rupert Soames, who is the grandson of Winston Churchill. The move prompted a negative response from investors and the company's share price has almost halved in recent weeks.

In a statement, Soames said that his review had encompassed "much turning over of stones" as he bids to bring long-terms stability to the ailing business, adding: "There are a tough couple of years ahead as we make this transition, but it will be worth it." Details: http://lei.sr?a=Q8j4M

MPs pledge to tackle inactivity

MPs attending the first ever Parliamentary Debate on physical activity have agreed that the government has a large role to play in kickstarting a reversal of the current trend towards inactivity.

The well attended debate took place on 18 Novemberand was the first time Parliament has talked about inactivity in its 800 year history.

ukactive, whose latest report, Steps to solving inactivity, was referred to throughout, has campaigned tirelessly to get physical inactivity onto the public health agenda and is buoyed by the debate.

CEO, David Stalker, said: "Parliament is now on board with the physical inactivity narrative - that's a clear indication of how far the pendulum has swung. We look forward to driving focus further in 2015 and beyond."

Minister for Public Health Jane Ellison said physical activity is now "more important than obesity" and that physical inactivity should cease to be "seen in the narrow prism of obesity." Nick Smith said there has been great success



Research has shown that physical inactivity is as dangerous as smoking

in turning the tide on smoking and the same priority should now be given to inactivity. We must "walk, dance and play our way to wellbeing," now he said, rather than maintain such a strong focus on competitive sport.

MPs also highlighted that the government has to respond to lifestyle disease if the NHS is to remain financially viable, that not enough usable open space for activity is available and that PE confident teachers in primary schools are lacking. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=X4R8V*

JD Gyms poised for growth during 2015

Retail megabrand JD Sports, which announced its entry into the gym market with the launch of its new JD Gyms brand in early 2014, has outlined plans for expansion in 2015.

The chain is due to launch its second club in December 2014 in Liverpool city centre within a Grade II listed three-storey property.

"We're looking to roll out further sites for the next year. However, we're also open to expansion through acquisition," said JD Gyms MD Alun Peacock. JD Gyms will generally be

15,000 to 35,000sq ft sites located in high population centres, with a variety of equipment from different manufacturers rather than a reliance on one as part of a 'best in class' strategy.

"For the time being, the gyms will not be located within JD Sports stores, but this is not ruled out," added Peacock, Memberships will cost between £15 and £20 a month, with innovative décor using retail shop fitting experience, and a big emphasis on group exercise." Details: http://lei.sr?a=k8D2n

Is it time to go Danish in childhood obesity battle?

A pioneering Danish health scheme that enforces a series of strict lifestyle changes is being touted as a potential solution to the global childhood obesity epidemic.

The programme, being rolled out across Denmark, sees overweight children designated with a personalised treatment plan targeting 15-20 daily habits in a bid to transform their lifestyle. Exercise in the form of walking or cycling to school, in addition to regular organised physical activity, forms a central tenet of the scheme, To ensure the lifestyle changes stick, the child's family is also required to follow the regime. Details: http://lei.sr?a=n4r6k



Southampton Solent senior lecturer James Fisher

Weekly strength training sessions can reverse ageing

Research from Southampton Solent University has found that just two 15-minute strength training sessions a week can take decades off our biological age, reversing the most debilitating effects of ageing.

Southampton Solent senior lecturer James Fisher and his team found that regular strength training led to participants enjoying increased bone mineral density - reducing the risk of the brittle bone syndrome. As one might expect, the sessions also led to muscle mass gains and higher cardiovascular levels. Details: http://lei.sr?a=n4r6k



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MATRIX



An exciting year ahead for hospitality and tourism



UFI IBRAHIM is chief executive of the British Hospitality Association

he arrival of a New Year inevitably heralds a period of reflection and retrospection but more importantly a series of new beginnings. 2015 will bring with it opportunity aplenty for both the industry and the BHA. In January, Nick Varney from Merlin Entertainments will become the new BHA chair, bringing with him a wealth of experience and new resolve which will strengthen our remit to focus on building the hospitality and tourism community beyond expectation.

Looking back over 2014, it is clear that this has been a pivotal 12 months for the hospitality and tourism industry, and the BHA has seen greater involvement from its members than ever before. A particular high point was the launch of the Tourism Council at the 2014 Hospitality & Tourism Summit. A partnership between government and industry to focus on improving skills, increasing the quality and quantity of jobs and boosting enterprise, the council is a demonstrable commitment from both parties that hospitality and tourism are important to the economic and social foundation of our society. This collaborative partnership will surely provide fresh impetus and gravitas for our work in 2015, especially important with the general election just around the corner.

Underpinning all our work is the need to attract talent towards hospitality and tourism careers. 2014 has seen real progress in job creation thanks to the collaborative actions of industry leaders. Now in its second year, the BHA's Big Hospitality Conversation continues to establish hospitality and tourism as the driver of growth, and 2014 has seen the creation of over 35,000 work placements, apprenticeships and jobs across 22 regional events. With a target of 60,000 by 2016, there is still some way to go but our industry knows that proactive action is a necessity for growth. It is no longer enough to expect that young people will naturally gravitate towards a career in hospitality and tourism; we have to find ways to demonstrate career paths which develop these future stars.

HOTELS

London a hot ticket among investors: study

London is the most attractive hotel investment destination in Europe according to a Deloitte study, published ahead of the Deloitte European Hotel Investment Conference last month.

A survey of senior hospitality figures by Deloitte found more than half (51 per cent) rank London ahead of Paris (33 per cent) in terms of appeal for investment, followed by Barcelona (30 per cent) and Amsterdam (23 per cent). In terms of value, opinions are mixed. 52 per cent believe London is over-

valued and 45 per cent said it was fairly valued. North American, Chinese and Middle Eastern investors are set to show strong interest in the European hotel sector in 2015.

Outside of London, respondents favoured Scottish cities as those of most interest in the UK next year. Edinburgh is the most favoured (60 per cent), followed by Aberdeen (38 per cent), then the English cities of Manchester (33 per cent) and Bath (19 per cent).



London is Europe's 'most attractive' hotel investment destination

"There is significant appetite for hotels in Europe and the UK in particular," said Deloitte's global head of hospitality Nick van Marken. "In recent months, US private equity buyers have taken advantage of low interest rates and a strong uptick in sentiment. After the trough of 2009, a number of deals were done, in the UK in particular, and some of these may well come back to the market." Details: http://lei.sr?a=G9A3h

Ramside Hall to add new £18m spa

The Ramside Hall Hotel in Durham has unveiled artists' impressions of spa facilities that will be added to the estate as part of an £18m investment plan to upscale the offering.

£3m of the total has already been used to create an 18-hole golf course, which was launched earlier this year. The remaining £15m will be spent on the construction of 47 additional luxury guestrooms - taking the total number of hotel rooms to 128 – plus the development of a spa.

Expected to be officially opened in May 2015, the spa will feature a wide range of wet facilities, including a 25m swimming pool, hydrotherapy pool, saunas and a range of steamrooms. Plans for the project include an outdoor balcony with an infinity pool, a caldarium and a rasul mud chamber.

The newly-designed spa will offer 12 treatment rooms. Other leisure facilities to be developed include a gym, dance studio, hair salon and an Asian-style restaurant and bar.

"This is a huge development for the hotel and will be a massive boost for the north east,"



A new spa is due to open in May 2015, offering 12 treatment rooms

Tim Boyd, general manager at Ramside Hall Hotel, told local newspaper The Northern Echo. "We're creating an amazing state-ofthe-art leisure facility which will be suited to everyone, from visitors who want to get fit and keep in shape, to anyone who just wants some rest and relaxation." He added: "At the same time, the addition of the extra rooms give the hotel even more capacity to cope with leisure and business travellers. This investment will cement our reputation as one of the most exciting destinations in the region." Details: http://lei.sr?a=8u9e3



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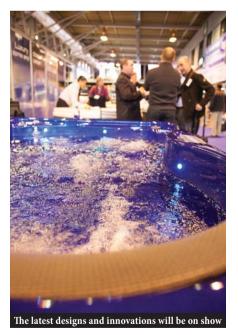
The UK Pool & Spa Expo 2015

The countdown has begun to next year's edition of the UK's fastest growing Pool & Spa show

he UK Pool & Spa Expo at Hall 10 of the NEC, Birmingham will commence on Thursday 22 January. The doors will be open for business from 10am to welcome national and international trade visitors to come and see over 100 exhibitors showcasing their new product lines, best sellers and most competitive pricing structures. The next two days will be filled with technical content seminars, a new product zone entry way display, networking opportunities for visitors and exhibitors alike, on the stands, in the central hub and at the end of day one drinks party. On the second night, there will be the prestigious Pool & Spa Awards Ceremony.

On the third day, the event will be opened up to consumers, and with non trade magazines and prime time TV documentaries telling us that the market is still very much alive and growing, UK Pool & Spa Expo will be the place for these savvy consumers to see the best of the industry, with products from around the world and a host of new launches.

The New Product Zone will have a new home at the 2015 show in the entrance foyer to the event and every visitor will be met by the latest designs and innovations being brought to market. L.A. Spas, GMT International, Groundscare Products, Wellis and Darlly Europe are some of the many big exhibitors that will be showcasing here.



Registration is now open for the event and both trade and consumers can apply for their free tickets now by visiting www.ukpoolspa-expo.co.uk

The NEC Birmingham is a venue that works perfectly for our formula and we are sticking with it, with great access by rail, road and air, it makes it the ideal choice to attract as many visitors as possible. With

parties, bars and hotels all on-site, this really allows us to blend a strong business platform with the important social and more relaxed side of the event. The networking opportunities are priceless and never will buyers or sellers get to speak to so many people in one setting at one time - it is truly an invaluable prospect for signing business.

The location and venue also make the arrangements for our international visitors and exhibitors much more accessible.

From its conception, UK Pool & Spa Expo wanted to open the UK wet leisure industry to the world, offering an independent and professional event for global buyers and companies to develop relationships - and this has worked. In 2014 we had visitors from over 49 countries from every continent making up almost 20 per cent of our visitor list.

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Operators 'key' to wellness tourism

John Bevan, managing director of Spafinder's European division, has outlined his vision for the future of the wellness tourism sector and believes that tour operators have a key role to play in promoting it to the wider market.

According to the Global Wellness Tourism Economy Monitor Report – conducted by the Global Wellness Institute (GWI) and research partners SRI International – annual wellness tourism expenditure in Europe is expected to grow by 7.3 per cent over the next three years.

Globally, the projected annual growth is 9.1 per cent through to 2017 – a growth rate that is nearly 50 per cent higher than that of overall global tourism. Bevan, however, believes the wellness tourism market can be grown.

"I believe wellness tourism can be expanded beyond the organic growth led by consumers who are already fans of holistic health trips," said Bevan, speaking exclusively to *Leisure Opportunities*. "Tour operators can be the starting point of this growth. They need to



Spafinder's John Bevan has high hopes for wellness tourism

provide advice to people who are enquiring about what holiday to take that year.

"It is my wish that 'wellness holidays' become a category of their own in tour operators' and travel agencies' vacation brochures," said Bevan. "I intend to provide training for travel tour operators, via Spafinder, to help them understand that 'wellness' feeds into all sorts of holidays – that they need to start marketing." Details: http://lei.sr?a=c8H4E

Photo media vital to drive business: ISPA

Spa treatment discounts have the biggest influence on the decision of spa-goers to visit a spa, according to the latest Consumer Snapshot study conducted by the International Spa Association (ISPA) Foundation in collaboration with PwC.

The fifth volume of ISPA's Consumer Snapshot study focuses on social media usage trends and preferences among today's consumers – including insights into spagoers and how they use social media to research spas and share experiences.

The study involved 1,014 responses from a sample of US consumers representative of the age, income and regional distributions of the population as a whole. The study defined 'spa-goers' as people who have visited a spa at least once in the past 12 months. A 'non-spagoer' is defined as either an 'inactive spa-goer' – a person who has visited before but has not been to a spa in the past 12 months – or a 'non-spa-goer' – a person who has never visited.

"The ISPA Foundation commissioned PwC to take a deeper look into social media usage trends and preferences among today's consumer, covering a variety of topics from popular social media platforms, peak usage times to



The survey was released at ISPA's Las Vegas Conference

advertising and marketing on social media," ISPA president Lynne McNees told *Leisure Opportunities*. "This report provides exciting insights into today's social media user that can help strengthen the global spa industry."

A significantly higher percentage of spagoers frequently interact with the main social media sites against non-spa-goers and some social media platforms appear to be particularly appealing to spa-goers, the study found. Instagram and Pinterest are more than three times more popular with spa-goers than non-spa-goers. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=M6r7T*



Huge tourist attraction abandoned by Fife Council

A pipe dream of turning a former opencast coal site in Kelty, Scotland, into an iconic landscaped art project headed up by Charles Jencks, has been scrapped.

The multi-million pound scheme, the 'Fife Earth Project', would have seen the former mining site transformed into a major tourist attraction explaining Scottish history and diaspora. Four different landscaped mounds across the 665 acre park would have been used to represent the continents that Scotland had influenced.

The attraction would also have featured approximately six miles of walkways, a large open body of water acting as a Scotland shaped loch, and would have been a major tourism driver for the area. Details: http://lei.sr?a=b5g6C



The museum is embracing a range of technologies

British Museum releases first 'downloadable collection'

The British Museum is allowing people with 3D printers to bring its artefacts to life using an online platform to print them at home.

Working in collaboration with online 3D model hoster Sketchfab, the museum has released 14 pieces of its collection available for anyone with the capability to download and print them off anywhere in the world. The museum's first downloadable collection features models of busts, statues and sarcophagi, including a first century bust of Zeus, a marble head of Julius Caesar and the head of Egyptian pharaoh Amenemhat III from 1800 BC.

The British Museum has recently been looking at ways to expand towards new technological horizons, with another endeavour aimed at rebuilding the entire museum inside the videogame Minecraft. Prior to that, the institution started a Wikipedia-esque crowd-sourcing project to transcribe a handwritten catalogue dating back to the 18th century. Details: http://lei.sr?a=z4v5T

Paramount resort team hits IAAPA

London Resort Company Holdings (LRCH) - the company behind the proposed £2bn entertainment resort in the south east of England - is hoping to drive the project forward after its debut at the recently-held 2014 IAAPA Expo in Orlando, Florida.

The resort – scheduled to open in 2020 and currently moving through the planning process having been classified as a project of national significance by the government - will feature a theme park, waterpark,

sports facilities, an entertainment street, staff training academy and 5,000 hotel rooms.

Speaking exclusively to Leisure Opportunities, LRCH director Fenlon Dunphy said the company delegation - also comprising director David Testa and IP expert Teri Ruffley - would use its week at IAAPA to have a small number of meetings with potential suppliers, exchange ideas and continue to build momentum behind the fast moving project. Dunphy added that the week would provide



The Paramount Park is expected to feature plenty of themed attractions

the ideal opportunity to showcase the project to the rest of the attractions industry and provide an overview of its progression.

"We have received nationally significant status from the government and are pressing ahead with our planning application for the project, to be submitted in autumn of next year," he said. "We've also progressed discussions with prospective commercial partners, in addition to Paramount Pictures." Details: http://lei.sr?a=V5n2N

3D animal scans bring new opportunities

With scanning technology becoming ever easier and more comprehensive, the potential for 3D-scanned interactive models of live animals in zoos and aquariums is wide open, according to research firm Swedish ICT.

Swedish ICT has previously worked with the British Museum for a major exhibition on mummies, which saw mummified remains dating back more than 4,000 years scanned to reveal previously unknown secrets. The exhi-

bition then used that data on installations featuring state of the art 3D x-ray CT scans, captured by the museum's science imaging team combined with expert 3D technology to create virtual specimens that can be explored interactively using zoom, pan, rotate and peel functions on an interactive touch screen.

While scanning on live animals has been done for medical purposes, nothing has ever been released for public appreciation and with the move of CT scanning technology



Swedish ICT recently collaborated with Kolmården Zoo in Sweden

from analogue to digital, capabilities for safely scanning live subjects in more detail is at a much more advanced level, according to David Hughes, manager of solutions at Swedish ICT.

"The technology is moving on quite rapidly, certainly in regards to reducing radiation dosages that allow you to get better images," said Hughes. "If you reduce the signal to noise ratio, you can use lower dosages because you don't have to turn the signal up." Details: http://lei.sr?a=d9S9n

£10m tourism boost for the north

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg has announced £10m of additional funding for tourism in the north of England.

Speaking on the eve of the recent Northern Futures Summit in Leeds, Clegg said: "It's absurd that our great north is missing out on visitors, when it boasts such stunning countryside, history and culture. I'm putting funding in place for there to be a clear strategy for tourism."

The announcement comes on the back of Clegg's Northern Futures Project – an economic consultation

which was launched in July to deal with a range of issues from transport to technology and training. The £10m will be used to "bring harmony" to the 29 individual tourism bodies of the north to enable them to more effectively market the region and its cities.

The money will come from the Regional Growth Fund and will be channelled through VisitEngland via the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. VisitEngland chief executive James Berresford said he welcomed the additional boost which comes on the back



Liverpool's Beatles Story is one of many popular northern attractions

of £19.8m from the Regional Growth Fund in 2012, saying: "This programme has generated £527m in additional tourism spend and a record number of 9,800 jobs."

Berresford added the new initiative "clearly demonstrates tourism is being recognised as a key driver of the economy which creates important jobs throughout the country."

The Northern Futures Summit called for ideas to build a strong economic core in the heart of the region, with tourism one of nine themes chosen. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=P7R7W*

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Tourists to follow Paddington London trail

As part of Visit London and StudioCanal's campaign for the new Paddington Bear film, out on the 28th November, 50 statues of 'the world's most adventurous bear' have been unveiled across London. Each bear has been individually designed by a celebrity or architect.

From 4 November to 30 December, tourists can follow in the footsteps of Paddington via a series of trails – leading to statues situated in famous locations such as museums, parks and shops – showcasing the best of London.

As part of the initiative, architect Zaha Hadid has created 'R;G;B' Paddington, with a stripy design, located outside the Royal Exchange.

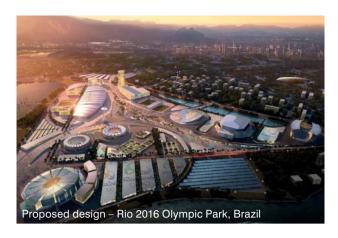
In keeping with the architectural theme, London-based firm Robin Partington & Partners have masterminded a brick-covered bear, showcasing London's ability to create international icons with local materials.

Architects and designers are not the only people involved with the Paddington Trail.



Mayor Boris Johnson poses with his 'Bear of London'

The mayor of London, Boris Johnson and supermodel Kate Moss are among the 50 celebrities and architects who have lent their design talent to the trail. The bears will be auctioned off throughout December and January, with all proceeds going to the NSPCC. Details: http://lei.sr?a=s7B8B









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Shortlist announced for £90m Bristol Arena

A shortlist has been announced consisting of five top architectural firms to design the Bristol Arena, a £90m venue on an old oil depot site near Temple Meads Station.

Following the announcement of a design competition from the RIBA and Bristol City Council, a shortlist has been released.

The following multi-disciplinary design teams have been shortlisted:

- A consortium of: Grimshaw, MANICA Architecture, Thornton Tomasetti, M-E Engineers and Neil Woodger Acoustics
- · A consortium of; Populous /Feilden Clegg Bradley/Buro Happold/Vanguardia
- White Arkitekter with Arup
- Wilkinson Eyre with Arup
- IDOM (in collaboration with Foreman Roberts and Nagata Acoustics)

Bristol's mayor, the former architect George Ferguson, said: "We now have five very capable and talented design teams, with a wealth of experience between them, drawing up



An initial rendering of the proposed Bristol Arena

proposals for an arena that will contribute to the regeneration of the Bristol Temple Quarter."

The Arena is part of a wider Allies and Morrison masterplan for the area. When complete, it will be a multi-entertainment venue with 12,000 seats. The winning team will be announced in February 2015, with the opening planned for 2017. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=x7h5T*



The glass walkway offers an unusual perspective

Glass walkways give bird's eye view of Tower Bridge

Two giant glass floors 42m (138ft) above the Thames have opened at Tower Bridge for an attraction marking its 120th birthday.

The scheme by Purcell Architects took a year to implement and now offers visitors a completely new view of the bridge, the river and the lifting process from highlevel walkways across the Thames.

The reinforced glass will allow visitors a 'bird's eye view' down onto the road and river beneath, but the bigger draw will be at lifting times, when they will get the chance to see the bridge raise up beneath their feet to allow ships up and down river. Details: http://lei.sr?a=t2M8K

Wasps complete Ricoh takeover deal

Wasps Rugby Club has completed a deal to become the sole owner of Arena Coventry, the company that owns the Ricoh Arena in Coventry.

The club secured the remaining 50 per cent stake from the Alan Edward Higgs Charity, having already acquired the other 50 per cent of ACL from Coventry City Council in a deal last month.

The deal is part of Wasps move from current home Adams Park in

Buckinghamshire to Ricoh Arena. The club has shared Adams Park with Wycombe Wanderers Football Club since 2002 and had in recent years been looking to build its own stadium.

After Wasps' plans to build a permanent home ground at Wycombe Air Park were turned down by the council, however, the club was forced to look for alternative locations for its new home - and a decision to acquire Ricoh



Wasps skipper James Haskell at the Ricoh Arena

Arena was made earlier this year. Speaking to Leisure Opportunities, Wasps CEO Nick Eastwood said the club faced a "move or go bust" situation, with annual losses at around £3m. He added that the move to Ricoh would mean that Wasps will own the most extensive club rugby facility in Europe and help it to "re-establish itself as one of the best clubs in world rugby". *Details: http://lei.sr?a=J5G3k*

Adventure operator launches £2m urban sports park

A £2m indoor urban sports and trampoline park has opened in East Kilbride.

AirSpace, a 'spring loaded urban playground' will be a second brand for growing adventure high wire experience company Go Ape, and Scotland's first indoor facility of this type.

Set to be the largest freestyle jumping arena in Europe, the centre will feature more than 100 interconnected, wall to wall trampolines. The operators also plan to introduce 'team sports with a twist' including dodgeball, basketball and football. Details: http://lei.sr?a=R5B8k

£9m double transformation of leisure centres underway

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council is to invest £9m into improvement works for two leisure centres as part of a drive to boost participation levels across all ages and abilities in the region.

Parklands Leisure Centre, in Oadby, and Wigston Pool and Fitness Centre will receive facelifts, with AFLS+P Architects overseeing both projects. The council's cash injection comes after awarding Everyone Active a 20-year contract to operate both.

Parklands Leisure Centre will benefit from more than £4m worth of refurbishment work. This will include an enlarged 115-station gym with the latest interactive Precor CV equipment, WattBikes, Lateral Ellipticals from Octane Fitness, plus dedicated stretching and free weights areas. There will also be an outdoor training zone with a functional rig on the courtyard based in the centre of the building.

Meanwhile, Wigston Pool was demolished in October and a new six lane swimming pool is replacing it. There will also be a 60-station gym with Precor CV equipment and functional training kit. Both sites are to be complete by autumn 2015. Details: http://lei.sr?a=9p5g9



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Making the most of child activity delivery



IAN TAYLOR is chief executive at SkillsActive

ere at SkillsActive we are passionate about children's physical activity and the need to learn and develop motor skills that will help them throughout their lives. We are not talking just about the small amount of time that they may participate in sport or other activities at leisure centres. Consider sport and PE lessons at school, the Playwork groups, dancing in the studio, out in the park and in the great outdoors - whether structured under a PGL type activity or just out with family and friends. Getting fit, healthy and developing their wellbeing for the decades ahead should be something all children can access.

All these sectors, (of the seven we cover), come under SkillsActive as the government licenced Sector Skills Council for Active leisure, learning and wellbeing. The key to any of these activities is the people delivering the activity; coaches, sports activators, playworkers, leaders and activity providers.

One example where SkillsActive can demonstrate a positive contribution is the creation of Children's Activity Providers (CAPRE) and Playwork Registers. These professional Registers show a head teacher, a facility manager or a club leader that the individual, whether as an employee or as a volunteer, has the right qualifications, experience and DBS checks to deliver positive outcomes for children of all ages.

Head teachers and leisure centre managers in particular should use the professional registers such as CAPRE to ensure the outcomes they are looking for are achieved by ensuring that they have the right individuals with the right qualifications and skills. Here at SkillsActive, we are trying to make this process as easy as possible by providing a government backed professional register so that both the public and the industry can be sure that the safest and best possible experiences are being delivered to children.

What else would you want to see implemented? To share your thoughts and suggestions, visit www.capregister.org and www.playworkregister.org

TRAINING

Active Training Awards winners announced

The physical activity sector's leading training providers gathered in Marlow at the end of November to celebrate 2014's top achievers at the Active Training Awards.

More than 150 of the industry's top training companies, employers, higher education providers and commercial vocational providers were on hand to hail exceptional performance and commitment to vocational training and development.

There was a rigorous three stage assessment process for the awards, initially comprising a submission and then feedback stage from employers and learners. The final stage included a presentation to a panel of experts. "Training and development is rapidly changing to meet demands to today's workforce," said ukactive CEO and CIMSPA chair David Stalker.

"We've focused this year on driving a discernible shift in training standards and it's great to be able to recognise top players across the breadth of the industry as they continue to deliver the best-in-class vocational training that is the bedrock of our sector."



Representatives from Schwinn Cycling (front) collect their award

Full List of Winners:

- Programme of the Year Future Fit Training
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- Small Provider of the Year Piloxing
- Employer of the Year GLL
- Special Populations Programme of the Year
- Aspire / InstructAbility
- Supplier of the Year Schwinn Cycling
- Apprenticeships & Traineeships Provider of the Year - Lifetime Training
- · Most Inspiring Physical Activity Professional - Gary Paish, Everyone Active Details: http://lei.sr?a=5X4f3

Fitness firms urged to upskill young staff

Active leisure employers are being urged to grasp the opportunity to improve the skills and expertise of more young people in the sector through a free scheme provided by Focus Training.

The health and fitness training provider now has funding available for modern apprenticeships in Instructing Exercise and Fitness via its Staff Academy and is offering to help young employees successfully attain Level 2 or Level 3 qualifications.

Training is delivered through distance learning sup-

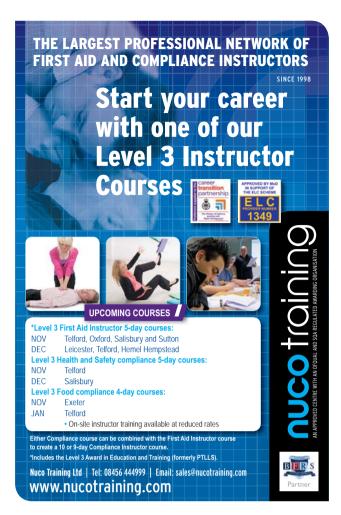
ported by Focus Training tutors and workshop attendance at one of its many UK venues. With the Modern Apprenticeship scheme, this training is free to employers and can be applied to existing and new staff aged 16 to 18 years old.

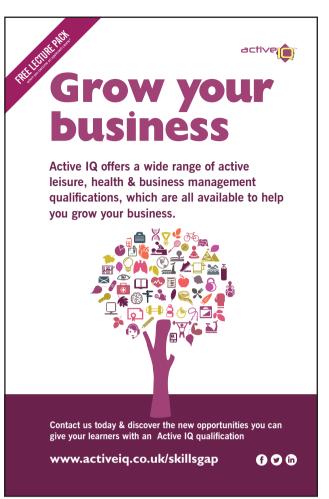
Focus spokesperson Darren Chadwick said: "We would urge employers to upskill their young members of staff and recruit new



Training is delivered through distance learning and workshops

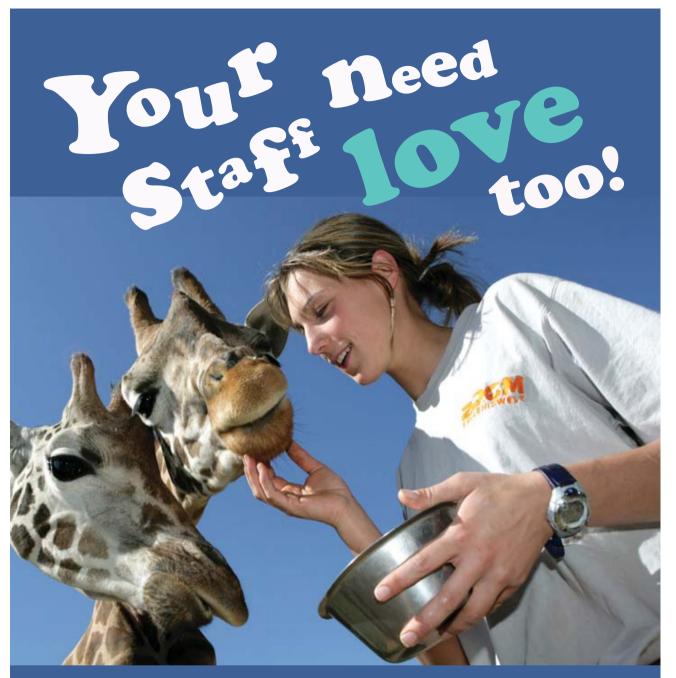
starters to take advantage of this funding opportunity." Physical activity apprenticeships recently received a welcome shot in the arm as the industry secured trailblazer status, meaning active leisure employers can tailor apprenticeships to streamline training pathways and proactively address skills shortages. Details: http://lei.sr?a=n8y8r











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You will be responsible for coordinating consultants, contractors and partners as the programme develops over 2 years. You will work alongside the Head of Cultural Services the Programme Board and the Councillor Working Group to ensure appropriate engagement throughout the process.

You will be confident working at strategic level and have a background that includes successful delivery of large scale programmes of work. Experience of engaging with a range of funding bodies would be beneficial, as would experience of using RIBA and Prince 2 framework.

The successful candidate will possess excellent communication, consultation and negotiating skills, all of which will be tested as this programme develops.

For an informal discussion about the post please contact Rose Winship, Head of Cultural Services on 01926 456223. For further information or an application pack please download from our website www.warwickdc.gov.uk

If you are unable to download the job details please contact the Customer Services Centre on (01926) 412656 (24 hour voicemail) or email contactus@warwickdc.gov.uk

Closing date: 7 January 2015 | Interviews: w/c 19 January 2015

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2 x Leisure Assistant

Company: Chesterton Community Coll Location: Cambridge, UK

Duty Manager

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Company: Paul Jennings Fitness Location: London and Home Counties

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Company: Everyone Active Location: Ealing, UK

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Company: Fusion Lifestyle Location: Surrey, England

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Location: London, UK

Casual Leisure Assistants

Company: London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Location: London. UK

Gvm Instructor

Company: Achieve Lifestyle Location: Surrey, UK

Senior Recreation Assistant

Company: GLL Location: Hackney, UK

Recreation Assistant

Company: Achieve Lifestyle Location: Surrey, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: Everyone Active Location: Hertfordshire, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Bexleyheath, UK

Tours Manager

Company: MCC

Location: St John's Wood, London, UK

Fitness Motivator

Company: Everyone Active Location: Various locations, UK

Fitness Instructor

Company: Malvern St James School Location: Worcestershire, UK

Membership Sales Consultant

Company: Ènergie Group Location: Wilmslow, UK

Membership Sales Consultant

Company: Ènergie Group Location: Forest Hill, UK

Personal Trainer & Nutrition Coach

Company: G14

Location: Chiswick, West London

General Manager

Company: Fusion Lifestyle Location: Essex, England

Team Leader

Company: Everyone Active Location: Waltham Abbey, Essex, UK

Fitness Coach

Company: King's College London Location: London, UK

Senior Recreation Assistant

Company: GLL Location: London , UK

Swimming Teacher

Company: Everyone Active Location: Warwickshire, UK

Senior Recreation Assistant

Company: GLL Location: London, UK

Receptionist

Company: Hertfordshire Sports Village Location: Hertfordshire, UK

Health and Fitness Coach

Company: Hertfordshire Sports Village Location: Hertfordshire, UK

2 x Sports Administrator

Company: The Royal Parks Location: Regents Park, London, UK

Trainee Duty Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Portsmouth, UK

Swimming Teacher

Company: Edge Hill University

Fitness Motivator

Company: Everyone Active Location: North Wembley, London, UK

Duty Officer

Company: Redditch Borough Council

Location: Redditch, UK Assistant Manager

Company: énergie group Location: Maidstone, UK

Leisure Assistant

Company: South Norfolk Council Location: Wymondham, UK

Promotional Staff

Company: énergie group Location: Greater London, UK

Team Leader

Company: Fusion Lifestyle Location: Buckinghamshire, England

Assistant Manager

Company: énergie group Location: Preston, UK

Area Managers

Company: Club Training Location: Various locations, UK

Personal Trainers

Company: Fusion Lifestyle Location: , England

Recreation Assistant x2

Company: Scarborough Borough Council Location: Whitby and Scarborough, UK

Lifeguard

Company: Everyone Active Location: Hertford, Herts, UK

Group Health & Fitness Manager

Company: Trafford Community Leisure Location: South Manchester, UK

Team Leader - Lifeguard

Company: Fusion Lifestyle Location: London, England

General Manager

Company: Fusion Lifestyle Location: London, England

Sales Manager

Company: Fusion Lifestyle Location: London, England

Sports Activity Apprentice

Company: Everyone Active Location: Melton Mowbray, UK

Fitness Apprenticeship

Company: énergie group Location: Greater London, UK

Fitness Apprenticeship

Company: énergie group Location: Preston, UK

Fitness Apprenticeship

Company: énergie group Location: Wallington, UK

Account Manager

Company: Zoggs Location: Central/South West, UK

CrossFit coach position

Company: CrossFit Flare Location: Kuwait

Fitness Apprentice

Company: énergie group Location: Fit4Less Cheadle, UK

Principal Consultant

Company: Max Associates Location: Nationwide, UK

Membership Consultant

Company: Everyone Active Location: Watford, UK

Aztec Manager

Company: TLH Leisure Resort Location: Torquay

Club Manager

Company: The Gym Way Location: Kensington, London, UK

General Manager

Company: Xercise 4 Less Location: Nationwide, UK

Sales and Marketing Manager

Company: Xercise 4 Less Location: Nationwide, UK

Receptionist

Company: Xercise 4 Less Location: Nationwide, UK

Housekeeper

Company: Xercise 4 Less Location: Nationwide, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: Xercise 4 Less Location: Nationwide, UK

Membership Consultant

Company: Xercise 4 Less Location: Nationwide, UK

Swim Teachers

Company: Everyone Active Location: Nuneaton, UK

Member Services Advisor

Company: Pure Gym Limited Location: Leeds, UK

General Manager -Southeast London

Company: Fusion Lifestyle Location: London, England

Sports and Community Development Manager

Company: Fusion Lifestyle Location: London, England

Customer Relations/Sales

Company: Fusion Lifestyle Location: London, England

Programme Manager

Company: Warwick District Council Location: Warwick, UK

General Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Bristol, UK

Assistant Health and Fitness Manager

Company: University of Nottingham Location: Nottingham, UK

Impact Sales Consultant

Company: Xercise 4 Less Location: Various - Field based, UK

Fitness First Middle East

Company: Premier Training Int. Ltd Location: Middle East

Personal Trainers

Company: Everyone Active Location: Nuneaton, Warwickshire, UK

Spa Manager

Company: Thanos Hotels Ltd Location: Polis, Paphos, Cyprus

Spa Manager

Company: Gomersal Park Hotel Location: West Yorkshire UK

Spa Manager - Full Time

Company: Sopwell House Location: St Albans, UK

Sales Manager

Company: Whitewater West Location: Barcelona, Spain

Hotel Resident Manager

Company: Gardaland Resort Location: Castelnuovo del Garda, Italy

Internal Sales Representative

Company: Gardaland Resort Location: Castelnuovo del Garda, Italy

Hotel Operations Manager

Company: LEGOLAND Florida Location: Florida-Winter Haven, US

Marketing Coordinator

Company: Sea Life Location: Minnesota-Bloomington, US

General Manager

Company: Sea Life Location: Missouri-Kansas City, US

Operations Manager

Company: Legoland Discovery Center Location: Georgia-Atlanta, US

Duty Manager

Company: The Orlando Eye Location: Florida-Orlando, US

Visitor Welcome / Sales Manager

Company: National Trust Location: Sevenoaks, Kent, UK

Maintenance Manager

Company: The Dreamland Trust Location: Margate, UK

UK sales agent

Company: ROCAS & DESIGN Location: Nationwide

Addetti Front Office.

Company: Gardaland Resort Location: Castelnuovo del Garda,, Italy

Internal Sales Representative

Company: Gardaland Resort Location: Castelnuovo del Garda, Italy

Attractions Supervisor Company: Legoland Malaysia

Location: Johor, Malaysia Intership - Marketing

Company: Legoland Malaysia Location: Johor, Malaysia

E-Commerce Executive

Company: Legoland Malaysia Location: Johor, Malaysia

Trade Sales and **Marketing Coordinator**

Company: Legoland, Discovery Centre Location: Ontario, Canada

Hotel Operations Manager

Company: Merlin Location: Florida-Winter Haven, US

Studio Wax Assistant

Company: Madame Tussauds Orlando Location: Florida-Orlando, UK

Guest Service Liaison

Company: LEGOLAND Florida Location: Florida-Winter Haven, US

Company: Grosvenor Casinos Location: London UK

Catering Assistant

Company: GLL Location: Manchester, UK

Area Sales Manager

Company: Grosvenor Casinos Location: Regional, UK

Sales Consultant

Company: Grosvenor Casinos Location: Glasgow, UK

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£3.2m surfing reef 'a laughing stock'

Boscombe's £3.2m man-made surfing reef has been branded a 'laughing stock,' with the surfers it was built for having long since abandoned it, say local practitioners.

The reef was built in 2009 in an attempt to double the number of good surfing days Boscombe offered. Surfers say the quality of the waves it generates do not meet their needs. "No one has surfed on the reef for a couple of years. I can't speak for everyone but it seems they're giving up on it as a surf venue," said coach

Tom Hatcher. Aside from a group of dedicated body boarders, who enjoy the shorter, steeper waves the reef creates, it is largely unused.

"The new wave on the reef was significantly different to the waves that are available on the natural beach around Boscombe Pier," said Plymouth University's Mark Davidson, who carried out an independent report on it in 2010. "It was consistently shorter than the design criteria, which promised rides of around 65m."

The beleaguered reef, which opened in 2009, was forced to close two years later after being damaged by a boat's propeller.



The reef is now being marketed for kite surfing and other water sports

It reopened in April 2014, after delays while Bournemouth Borough Council waited for insurance money to fund repair work. New Zealand based ASR Ltd, which built the project and similar sites in Mount Maunganui, New Zealand, and Narrowneck, Australia, was due to repair it, but missed its deadlines and then subsequently went into liquidation.

In April this year, the council rebranded the reef as part of a £700,000 Coastal Activity Park which runs one mile along the seafront from Alum Chine to Southbourne. Details: http://lei.sr?a=B4D8Z

UK architect receives top IOC honour

Geraint John, an established senior advisor at architecture practice Populous, has been awarded the Pierre de Coubertin medal for outstanding services to the Olympic Movement.

Populous is a global sports design and architecture firm that has worked on several Olympic projects including Sydney 2000, London 2012 and Sochi 2014.

John is the first architect, and indeed Briton, to ever receive the Pierre de Coubertin medal. Named in honour of the man who founded the modern Olympic Games, the medal is awarded by the IOC to individuals who have demonstrated an outstanding contribution to sport and the legacy of the Olympics.

This is more than the case for John, who has made a "significant contribution to the IOC's promotion of environmental and sustainable sports facilities that deliver lasting Olympic and Paralympic legacies" according to a statement. Commenting on the award, Geraint

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Populous senior adviser Geraint John

John said: "Architecture has and will continue to provide exceptional service to the Olympic Movement and I accept this award on behalf of all the talented people from so many countries that I have been fortunate to work alongside." Details: http://lei.sr?a=Q3N4M

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