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Yorkshire Wildlife Park's £50m expansion

Yorkshire Wildlife Park in Doncaster is planning an ambitious £50m expansion, which will bring in new animals and double the attraction's existing workforce.

The park has secured 150 acres (61 hectares) of new land next to its existing site, which will be used to turn it into one of the UK's leading leisure destinations. Plans include new reserves and the introduction of new species to continue conservation and welfare work conducted at the park.

The expansion will also feature a new entrance to the zoo, complete with a visitor

hub which could include a hotel and support restaurants and leisure shopping. These facilities will be available before visitors enter the park.

"The expansion and proximity of Doncaster airport means the potential is there to take the park from a regional attraction to a national



John Minion said the project would be a 'game changer' for the wildlife park

and even international destination," said Neville Williams, Yorkshire Wildlife Park director.

The project is in the early stages of development, with the zoo entering preapplication discussions with Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council. Outline planning permission for development will be submitted in the next few months.

CEO John Minion said the development would be a "game changer", adding: "Since opening we have been able to contribute hugely to protecting endangered species such as Amur tigers, leopards and African painted dogs. Our visitors share our passion to cherish wildlife and ensure its survival. This expansion will allow us to take our conservation work to another level. Providing an excellent visitor experience is also key to what we do."

The park, which opened in 2009, is one of the UK's most popular zoos, welcoming a record 761,000 visitors in 2016. It is home to more than 400 animals across 80 species and employs 300 members of staff, this number doubling to 600 on completion of the project. Details: http://lei.sr?a=z7b1q

DLL acquires The Park Club in west London

David Lloyd Leisure (DLL) has acquired The Park Club – one of the most exclusive health clubs in London – and spent £5.5m transforming its Kensington site into a 'Harbour Club'.

Following its acquisition of the club, DLL will plough £8m into its refurbishment with the intention of making it "west London's leading health and racquet club".

The Park Club previously offered a range of activities, from swimming and tennis, to yoga and spa treatment. Continued on back cover

Surrey CCC puts forward Oval plan

London's Oval stadium is set to become the largest cricket ground in the UK as a result of an large-scale redevelopment plan.

Surrey County Cricket Club, the occupier of the venue, is submitting plans that would see the ground's capacity increase to 40,000 – larger than the 30,000-seat Lord's Cricket Ground. The club already has planning permission for a large development next to the Pavilion, named 1 Oval Square, which will carry some of the extra capacity and additional facilities.

Work could begin at the end of 2019 and be ready in time for the 2023 Ashes Series against Australia. Adam Architecture is the



The venue will have an increased capacity of 40,000

design studio behind the plans. Richard Gould, Surrey CCC chief executive, said the plans for the development were driven by the popularity of T20 cricket and an increase in non-matchday business. Details: http://lei.sr?a=x9s5I

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SPORT

Kelly Holmes Trust CEO exits

Emma Atkins, the chief executive of the Dame Kelly Holmes Trust, is leaving the organisation for the newlyrebranded UK Coaching.

Atkins will become director of the company – formerly known as Sports Coach UK and will work alongside chief executive Mark Gannon.

She will be replaced, in the interim, by Tracey Fletcher, who was the trust's vice-chair between 2011 and 2017.

The Dame Kelly Holmes Trust expects to make a permanent appointment

for the role by early August 2017. Atkins spent nine years with the trust, helping to support 300,000 disadvantaged young people and 500 athletes over that period.

"This is an incredibly exciting period for UK Coaching and for coaching and I am thrilled to be joining the organisation at a pivotal point in its history," said Atkins.

Earlier this month the organisation changed its name and brand, and launched a strategy with a mission of putting coaching at the heart of physical activity and sport.



Emma Atkins joined the Dame Kelly Holmes Trust nine years ago

Of Fletcher's interim appointment, Dame Kelly Holmes Trust Board of Trustees chair Michael Kelly, said: "Until we recruit a permanent replacement, Tracey will help ensure the continued success and growth of the charity.

"With her sector experience and vast knowledge of the trust's model, the board is confident that the organisation will undergo a smooth transition until we find a permanent replacement." Details: http://lei.sr?a=h4r9r

Riverside sports park for Cork

Work is underway on a vast new riverside sports park in Cork, Ireland, which will surround the city's regenerated Páirc Uí Chaoimh Gaelic games stadium.

Demolition has begun to clear space for phase one of Marina Park - a £17.4m development created around the stadium and the adjoining agricultural Munster Showgrounds. The phase one masterplan published by the city council is focused on the area to the west of the stadium

and the near Cork's Atlantic Pond.

Leisure amenities will include a tree nursery and play zone, a boat club, meandering pathways and a water course, and a cultural pavilion and food and drinks space in one of the showgrounds' former cow sheds.

Detailed designs for phase one should be finalised by the end of July when the demolition work is complete, and in time for a tender process to begin before the end of the year. Construction is due to



The development will be built around the city's Gaelic stadium

start in early 2018, and the first part of the park is scheduled to open the following year.

Once phase one is done, the council expects funding to be released for phase two. This will feature several children's play areas, public sports pitches and courts, an adventure water park, various gardens and an outdoor events space for up to 1,800 people. There will be a central plaza for cultural events and concerts, and a western plaza for smaller street performances. Details: http://lei.sr?a=j3W8e

Baseball festival coming to London

Governing bodies Major League Baseball (MLB) and BaseballSoftballUK will host a Fourth of July festival in London's Hyde Park in an attempt to boost local interest in the sport.

Called MLB Battlegrounds, the festival will feature a 'Home Run Derby' featuring former MLB stars from the Boston Red Sox and Los Angeles Dodgers franchises, including Carlos Pena, Cliff Floyd and Shawn Green.

A Home Run Derby is a traditional feature of MLB All-Star Weekend where participants compete against each other to try to hit the most home runs against the clock. The free event will also feature street food and traditional American music.

John Boyd, chief executive of BaseballSoftballUK, said the festival was an "opportunity" for the sport to reach the general public and British-based fans.

MLB has been trying to arrange a regular season game in the UK to accommodate



Former MLB star Carlos Pena will take part in the festival

a growing fanbase in Europe in a similar fashion to National Football League (NFL) matches being played in London at Wembley Stadium and Twickenham.

Charlie Hill, managing director of MLB Europe, said: "This represents an exciting statement of intent to grow Major League Baseball in Europe.

"Hyde Park is the perfect location to bring a flavour of our game to London."

Details: http://lei.sr?a=j2l9x

Ex-Harlequins chief gets Stadium for Cornwall job

Mark Evans, Harlequins' CEO when it rebuilt its Twickenham Stoop stadium, has been appointed as the project leader for the Stadium for Cornwall project.

Construction on the stadium is expected to begin next spring, and will cost around £10m. Championship Rugby club the Cornish Pirates will share the 6,000-capacity ground with non-league football club Truro City FC.

It is likely to be built in time for the 2019/20 season. Evans, who was also director of rugby at Saracens, said his focus was on "providing extra resource and experience" to the project. Details: http://lei.sr?a=z9s6t



United fans' tribute at the Europa League final

Manchester clubs donate to Arena attack fund

Premier League football clubs Manchester United and Manchester City clubbed together to donate £1m to the emergency fund set up in the wake of last month's fatal suicide bombing in the city.

Under the banner #ACityUnited, the clubs have supported the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund and "continue to explore opportunities" to support the city.

The fund was set up by the Lord Mayor and British Red Cross following the terrorist attack at the Manchester Arena on 22 May, which saw 22 people killed and several dozen injured, many of whom were children. Contributions made by the clubs saw the total fund swell to £3m in just over 24 hours.

Manchester United, who won the UEFA Europa League on 24 May, dedicated the victory to the memories of those who lost their lives.

Local Super League club Salford Red Devils also donated all the proceeds received during the match against the Catalan Dragons on Friday 26 May – which totalled £29,000 – to the families of the victims. Details: http://lei.sr?a=I5EoW

Fine dining at new Spurs stadium

World-renowned chefs the Roux family will create fine dining experiences for spectators at Tottenham Hotspur's new-look White Hart Lane stadium when it opens next year.

While football fans in Britain are accustomed to enjoying a pie and a pint of beer during a game, Tottenham wants to offer a rather more high-end alternative for those with an appetite for luxury cuisine.

For 12 matches per season, Albert, Michel Jr and Emily Roux will design selected menus for the club's On Four range of lounges and suites, while other "celebrated and upcoming" chefs will fill in on other match days.

The dining spaces, spread across the fourth floor of the 61,559-capacity venue, have been designed by London practice F3 architects. They include The H Club brasserie-style restaurant – in which fans can enjoy a meal with former players for £525 per person, not including the five-figure membership fee – and customisable Super Suites, which can be hired for £420 per person per event.

Andy O'Sullivan, Tottenham's director of hospitality, said: "This agreement with the Roux family is the latest example of



The new H Club is one venue where the menu can be sampled

the commitment the club is showing in delivering what will be London's best sports and entertainment venue in every aspect from general admission to premium.

"Our range of premium packages will redefine hospitality within sport and make a Tottenham Hotspur match one of the most sought-after experiences in the capital."

Other food and beverage amenities at the new stadium will include a cheese room, a microbrewery and a tunnel club restaurant. Details: http://lei.sr?a=E516n

Barrecore to open eighth **London studio in July**

Boutique fitness operator Barrecore is planning to open its 12th UK studio next month in the London borough of Wandsworth.

Opposite Wandsworth Town tube station, the 2,000 sq ft (186sq m) studio will be the second London location south of the River Thames and eighth in the capital city.

The facility will include a 25-person barre fitness studio, changing rooms and a retail area. Classes, which will be available morning, lunchtime, evening and weekends, cost £28 each, with class packages also available. As well as London, Barrecore has sites in Alderley Edge, Bristol, Harrogate and Leeds. Details: http://lei.sr?a=y6T4A



Matthew Pengelly will begin his role on 7 June

Matrix Fitness UK appoints new managing director

Matrix Fitness UK has named Matthew Pengelly as its new managing director.

Pengelly, who has 23 years of experience in the fitness industry, will replace Jon Johnston, who is stepping down after serving almost 10 years in the role.

He began his fitness career with Holmes Place, a premium health, fitness and wellness brand. He moved to Star Trac UK in 2004 where he held roles, including UK and Ireland sales manager, managing director of UK, and managing director of Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

For the past four years, Pengelly has served as the senior vice president at Performance Health Systems, working on the Power Plate brand.

On his appointment, Pengelly said: "With its comprehensive, innovative product portfolio and unwavering commitment to its customers, Matrix Fitness is really helping to shape the future of the fitness industry."

Pengelly began his role on 7 June, with Johnston staying on during a transition period until September. Details: http://lei.sr?a=Y9g1A

IHRSA: Global gym revenues grow

The health club industry generated £64.4bn in revenue worldwide in 2016, slightly up on the previous year, according to an International Health, Racquet and Sportsclub Association (IHRSA) report.

The 2017 IHRSA Global Report: The State of the Health Club Industry shows that revenues increased from £62.81bn in 2015. Despite the rise, the latest figure was lower than the £65.1bn in 2014.

The document also shows that 201,000 health clubs served 162.1m members in 2016, up from 187,000 clubs that provided services for 151.5m people in 2015.

The top 10 markets across the globe accounted for roughly two out of three health clubs and nearly three out of four members worldwide.

The UK generated the second-highest revenue (£4.7bn) from its gym sector, with the US (£21.5bn) and Germany (£4.4bn) first and third respectively.

UK membership also hit the 9.7m mark - the highest number ever recorded and up from the 9.3m recorded last year. Those members belong to the 6,728 facilities used in the UK for health and fitness.



201,000 health clubs served 162.1m members in 2016

While the US leads all markets in club count and memberships at 57.2m and 36,540 respectively, Brazil is second in club count at 34,509, and Germany is second in terms of numbers of members at 10.1m.

Health club performance is also strong in Latin America, the report said. Based on data gathered, 18 countries in Latin America attracted 19.9m members at more than 65,000 health clubs last year. Opportunities for growth remain in the region as member penetration rates remain low in comparison with developed health club markets worldwide. Details: http://lei.sr?a=y4soV

Xercise4Less expands rewards

Budget gym chain Xercise4Less is planning to expand its Xercise4Perks initiative to include discounts at high street shops so the scheme appeals to an even wider proportion of its member base.

The operator has released figures from its Xercise4Perks programme - a points-based system which incentivises members to exercise more and also to get more people active.

The Xercise4Perks app, which was launched in the summer of 2014, encourages members to visit the gym more regularly, refer friends and family, as

well as engage with the gym on social media in return for rewards like courtesy membership, personal training sessions, protein bundles and discounted fitness gear.

Xercise4Less boasts 47 clubs across the UK with more than 325,000 members. A total of 193,102 people have signed up to the scheme. Of these, 14,613 regularly post on their Facebook wall about their visit to the gym, 12,309 people tweet Xercise4Less directly from their Xercise4Perks account and 3,333 people upload pictures



Xercise4Perks was launched in the summer of 2014

to Facebook. The gym chain has had 8,080 referrals directly from members on the scheme.

A total of 16,491 day pass offers have been claimed through Xercise4Perks and 2,016 people have earned free personal training sessions.

Joe Hall, Xercise4Less head of customer engagement, said: "The Xercise4Perks programme benefits us as the operator by increasing our ancillary revenue but also the end consumer as products are available at discount." Details: http://lei.sr?a=l4Z2e







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Boutique fitness gym for Salford

FORM - a boutique gym and personal training facility that will focus on exercise and nutrition has opened on the banks of the River Irwell in Salford, Greater Manchester.

Personal trainers Libby Smith and Ben Wood are behind the project, which will boast 14 pieces of equipment, battle ropes, kettlebells, a Jacobs Ladder and a Concept Rower among other kit in its 2,200 sq ft (204sq m) gym. There is also an outdoor astroturf training area.



The facility, in a complex called Riverside, will offer personalised nutrition and training programmes as well as oneto-one and group classes. Clients will also have access to online coaching via a private members' section on its website.

Lunchtime sessions will include 30-minute HIIT classes, yoga and kettlebell training for nearby workers.

Didsbury-based healthy food restaurant Bosu Body Bar has been commissioned to provide a range of freshly-prepared, highprotein meals for clients.

Smith said: "At FORM we believe in breaking negative training habits and educating people on nutrition so that they better understand their own bodies, enabling them to reach their potential. To reinforce the quality of our online education and coaching it was critical for us to find the right physical space for our members." Details: http://lei.sr?a=g3m6K

GLL gets involved with data initiative

Social enterprise Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) has teamed up with the Open Data Institute to share leisure activity information as it attempts to broaden community reach and participation opportunities across its 250-plus sites.

As part of the OpenActive initiative, data on GLL activities, facilities, timetables and opening times can be searched in real time and by geographical proximity.

OpenActive brings together sports and physical activity

organisations to make information on what, where and when sessions happen available through open data.

Customers can check for activities in both their area and within time slots throughout the day - enabling them to get exercise or physical activity into their working routine when it suits them.

Other mediums can share the OpenActive data, such as exercise aggregator websites, to help expand customer choice and manage demand. Steve Ward, GLL's



Customers can check for fitness activities in their local area

associate director and head of marketing communications and sales, said: "The potential for data sharing in the leisure industry as in the travel industry – is transformative.

"The OpenActive partnership is an important one for GLL with our social enterprise being the largest data set in the current scope. This additional resource will take us to the next level, allowing us to reach more customers and in doing so, help communities get more active, more often." Details: http://lei.sr?a=S1K6X



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Paul Schmidt steps down from Green Spa Network

Paul Schmidt has left nonprofit trade association Green Spa Network after three years of service as executive director.

The sustainability organisation's board of directors announced his departure with "saddness and gratitude", adding: "During his three-year tenure, Paul provided our organisation with dedicated service, which involved many significant accomplishments, including growing the network to over 1400 members."

Green Spa Network is searching to identify a new executive director. In the interim, the immediate point of contact is membership coordinator Kate Sornson. Details: http://lei.sr?a=x5A7y



The event is a conference and meeting place

Spa Life UK moves from **Telford to Birmingham**

Spa Life has announced a change of venue for this year's UK networking event for spa professionals, moving from the Telford International Centre to the Hilton Birmingham Metropole.

"The Metropole is a superb venue offering the perfect ambience and ideal layout for a professional networking event," said event director Mike Fitch.

"The inter-connectivity of the internal spaces ensure that this year's event will be much more compact, with ease of access between the activity areas."

Spa Life UK attracts around 500 spa professionals and will occupy the whole of the Metropole's Monarch Suite, which also has its own dedicated entrance.

The Birmingham Metropole is adjacent to the National Exhibition Centre (NEC) and enjoys close transport links, with the local rail station and Birmingham International Airport both less than 15 minutes away. This year's event takes place 14-15 November. Details: http://lei.sr?a=t1V5l

Hatherley Manor spa ready in 2018

Hatherley Manor hotel in Gloucester will open a new luxury day spa in early 2018 as part of plans to transform the hotel into a wellness destination.

The new £3m spa will include six luxury treatment rooms, a swimming pool with garden views, a vitality pool, a thermal suite, sensory showers, a sauna, steam-heated loungers, a relaxation room and a fitness club.

The spa will also boast its own private relaxation lounge, a rooftop terrace, an exclusive champagne bar and five luxury spa bedrooms with private balconies.

Once the spa has launched, Hatherley Manor will intensify its focus on wellness in its marketing. As part of the push, the hotel will begin offering spa staycation breaks.

Stephen Trowbridge, the hotel's general manager, said: "We're all really excited about the launch of the spa, seeing the last couple years of planning now physically taking shape is fantastic for us.



The spa has its own private relaxation lounge and rooftop terrace

"We believe that the addition of the spa will be a great addition to the hotel, our visitors but also the local residents and businesses that we serve."

The independently owned, 51-bedroom Hatherley Manor is set in 37 acres of maintained grounds. The 17th century manor house is understood to have been originally built for the illegitimate son of Oliver Cromwell, the famous republican and former Lord Protector of the Commonwealth. Details: http://lei.sr?a=P8p6T_O

Cliveden House prepares Garden Spa

Boutique UK hotel Cliveden House in Taplow, Berkshire, will add a luxury spa to its offering later this year.

The Garden Spa will include seven treatment rooms, dedicated relaxation areas, an indoor pool and a large wet area with saunas and steamrooms.

As well as massages, facials and body treatments, the spa will offer a wide range of beauty therapies at a specialist manicure and pedicure salon.

Other wellness facilities include a new restaurant

and lounge area overlooking a Spa Garden, where spa guests can opt for al fresco service.

A full treatment menu is yet to be confirmed, but the spa will use British products and take inspiration from the surrounding gardens.

The spa's opening will mark the final chapter of the property's four-year, multi-million pound refurbishment.



The entrance to the Cliveden House spa will be adjacent to the garden

Cliveden House was acquired by hotelier brothers Ian and Richard Livingstone in 2012, when the property came on the market as its previous owner, the von Essen group, went into administration.

It is part of the Relais & Châteaux group, a chain of independently-owned and operated luxury hotels and restaurants. Details: http://lei.sr?a=S5k6P

Boutique hotel for fire station site

Developer Allied London and architecture studio Levitt Bernstein have submitted design proposals to reinvigorate Manchester's abandoned London Road Fire Station as a new leisure destination for the city.

The Grade II listed Edwardian Baroque style building had fallen into disrepair when it was bought by Allied London in 2015. Now the company wishes to refurbish and expand the site to house a boutique hotel, bars, restaurants, workspace and apartments.

The historic structure and its courtyard will be protected and preserved, with a new hotel wing extension designed to reference this heritage. The old firemen's flats will be adapted to create a series of workspaces and apartments, with many original design details retained. Bars, restaurants and a spa will also be added. Further leisure amenities will feature within a new pavilion



Develop Allied London wishes to refurbish and expanded the site

in the central courtyard. A glass prism is proposed - reflecting the surroundings in daytime and being illuminated by lights within in the evening like a beacon.

A grand sweeping staircase will feature within, descending into an underground space.

The project is currently in the planning stage, with renovations and construction work expected to begin later in the year. Details: http://lei.sr?a=O7z9F

Cornish prison could become hotel

The transformation of a famous former prison into a visitor centre and 63-bedroom hotel is making tracks in Bodmin, Cornwall.

A team consisting of Sarner International, Twelve Architects, Montagu Evans, Arup, Turner & Townsend and Astute Fire was put together to change the use of the Grade II-listed building and propose new designs, as well as reinvent the guest experience to better cater to the modern visitor.

Cornwall Council will now review Mallino

Development's planning application and decide whether to approve the ambitious hotel and extension plans.

According to Sarner, the cell blocks will be converted into hotel accommodation and museum space, while a Dark Walk experience - including a state-of-the-art immersive theatre - will take guests on an interactive journey through the prison's storied past, plunging them into what life was like inside a Bodmin Moor jail



Bodmin Jail seen from Cardell Road, Bodmin, Cornwall

some 200 years ago. The attraction itself is expected to cost £12m of the £30m wider scheme. It's expected to open by 2019.

Bodmin Jail was built in 1779 and operated through to 1927, hosting 50 public hangings during that time.

The prison complex, most of it now in ruins, has been used as a site for ghost walks and other visitor activities and exhibitions for a number of years. Details: http://lei.sr?a=J4iow

Hospitality sector must be vigilant in the face of terror



PETER DUCKER is chief executive of the Institute of Hospitality

he prospect of terrorists rampaging through your premises while stabbing at will doesn't bear thinking about, but the horrific facts speak for themselves. In Amman, Jakarta, Mumbai, Paris, London and other locations, hotels and restaurants have been the target of choice for terrorists in recent years.

The right reaction during the first ten minutes of such an attack is crucial. The minimum that can be done is to train staff on how help customers get out of the range of the attackers. There are several training initiatives around this topic and the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NACTSO) Run, Hide, Tell video is a useful example.

Following the London Bridge attack, NACTSO has issued updated crowded places guidance. This has been written to help those charged with security at crowded places (shopping centres, sports stadia, bars, pubs and clubs, hotels and restaurants) to mitigate the threat and help make the UK less vulnerable to an attack.

NACTSO accepts that the concept of absolute security is almost impossible to achieve but it is possible, through training and guidance, to reduce the risk to as low as reasonably practicable. There is a need to maintain a friendly and welcoming atmosphere within hotels and restaurant environments. We do not want to have to create a 'fortress mentality' like that adopted by hoteliers in Afghanistan and Pakistan. However, a balance must be struck and proportionate protective security measures introduced, for example, protection from flying glass and vehicle access controls into crowded areas, goods and service yards.

Methods of attack are not just physical, says the new guidance. Some attacks may be through the interference with vital information or communication systems, others may be enabled by an 'insider' or by someone with specialist knowledge or access to your venue. If your hotel or restaurant is to be safe and secure, it is essential that all the work you undertake on protective security is undertaken in partnership with the police, other authorities (as appropriate) and your neighbours.

The rise of tourism



KURT JANSON is director of the Tourism Alliance

y the time this column is published, the 2017 snap election will be a distant memory and the main focus of public attention will be on the start of the Brexit negotiations between the government and the EU and trying to determine what type of deal looks likely.

However, there is one thing of note from the election. In 2010, there was no mention of tourism in any of the main parties' manifestos. It was almost as if the tourism industry, the £125bn it provided for the UK economy and it's 3.1m employees, didn't register with any political party.

For the 2015 general election, the Tourism Alliance decided to address this and held a series of meetings with each political party, lobbying hard for tourism to be included in their manifesto. This work was highly successful with tourism being included in every manifesto. Indeed, there was even one party that simply "Cut and Pasted" a Tourism Alliance briefing into their manifesto.

As a result of this lobbying work, tourism ended up higher on the government agenda after the election and, even after the referendum, one of the first things that the Theresa May government did was to launch a new Tourism Action Plan.

This increase in profile has had two other noticeable consequences. First, when the government launched its new Industrial Strategy, the tourism industry was asked to come together and produce an industry deal for negotiation with government.

The second consequence can be seen in the manifestos for the Snap Election. For this election, the Tourism Alliance decided that it would not lobby for the inclusion of tourism in party manifestos.

However, as it turned-out, tourism was included in manifestos of all the main parties, even without the lobbying activity. And again, one party included a Tourism Alliance policy in their manifesto. This suggests that the tourism industry really is finding it's place on the political agenda.

TOURISM

Varney's plea to the government

Merlin Entertainments chief Nick Varney has said the next UK government must hand over responsibility for promoting tourism to a new department, saying the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) had made it a "second-tier priority".

Varney, who is also chair of the British Hospitality Association, was speaking at the body's annual summit, where he outlined the association's agenda for the new government following the General Election.

According to Varney, the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy should take up Britain's tourism remit, as the sector "would not be regarded as a serious industry" within government until that happens.

Varney called again on the government to reduce VAT on tourism-related industries including visitor attractions, accommodation and restaurants – something he said was a "silver bullet solution" to tackle rising costs within the sector and competition from overseas.

"Reducing VAT will lock in the competitive advantage, allow the industry to better absorb cost pressures and be the much needed tonic



Varney is chair of the British Hospitality Association and Merlin

to drive the revival of depressed parts of the UK, such as coastal communities," he said.

"Our industry has for too long been underappreciated and undervalued. We need to change this because the policy issues before us are existential for many of our members and of prime importance for our country's future, not least in the vital area of job creation."

2016 was a record-breaking year for inbound tourism to the UK, with 37.3 million visits, up 3.4 per cent on 2015. Visitors spent £22.2bn, matching 2015's record spend. Details: http://lei.sr?a=o8x8D

Tourism Ireland appoints GB chief

With a weakened pound keeping British visitors away from Ireland, the country's national tourism body has announced the appointment Julie Wakely to oversee its UK offices.

Taking up the role of head of Great Britain for Tourism Ireland, Wakley moves up from her position as deputy head covering consumer marketing, a role she had held since January 2016.

Prior to her time with Tourism Ireland, Wakley held positions as marketing manager for BBC Politics and Current Affairs between 2013 and 2016, and was

part of the team responsible for the government's 'GREAT Britain' campaign in 2012.

Official statistics show that inbound figures from Britain to Ireland have dropped 6.5 per cent year-on-year in the first quarter of 2017, something heavily linked to the weakened economy caused by Brexit, with the drop in the value of the pound meaning trips abroad are more expensive for British visitors.

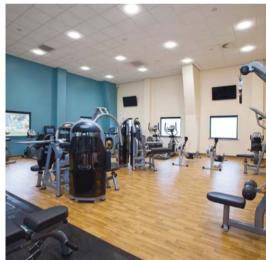


Wakley moves up from her position in consumer marketing

"Julie joins at a time when we are facing a number of challenges, not least Brexit and its impact on travel," said Niall Gibbons, Tourism Ireland CEO. "Julie brings with her a wealth of experience in international marketing and a very strong track record of achievement. She will play a pivotal role in implementing our strategy in the important British market." Details: http://lei.sr?a=t3R90



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Accommodation inside tiger enclosure at Kent zoo

A Kent zoo is giving visitors the chance to come face-to-face with tigers via accommodation nestled within the animals' enclosure.

Port Lympne Wild Animal and Safari Reserve launched its new Tiger Lodge - said to be the first of its kind in the UK - in May, which gives guest visual access to the cats via large picture windows and overseeing balconies.

The four-person luxury lodges feature two bedrooms and offer guests exclusive park access with their own golf buggy, useable both before the gates open in the morning and after the park closes in the evening. Night goggles are also available. Details: http://lei.sr?a=NoF5v



The new attraction was revealed with a trailer

Immersive Alien experience for Madame Tussauds

Madame Tussauds is teaming up with entertainment giant Fox to create an interactive experience at its London attraction based on the Alien film franchise.

Launching this summer shortly after the release of the latest film, Alien: Covenant, Alien: Escape will be a multi-sensory attraction, which allows visitors to experience the terror of being on-board the Covenant ship surrounded by xenomorphs - the alien species depicted in the movies.

This is the second time in recent weeks that the cult franchise has been courted by the attractions industry, with Fox's interactive entertainment division also announcing plans to develop a freeroaming multiplayer virtual reality game based on iconic sci-fi horror franchise, with the 2,000sq ft (185sq m)experience to be open to the public before the end of 2017.

Madame Tussauds first revealed the new addition with a teaser trailer, showing a member of staff at the museum coming across an alien in the attraction. Details: http://lei.sr?a=8y409

TEA chief eyes European events

David Willrich, president of the Themed Entertainment Association (TEA), wants to grow the organisation's presence in Europe, the Middle East and Asia by hosting more events outside North America.

The TEA currently has around 1,300 members, with just under 200 located in Europe. While the majority of members come from the North American region (800), Willrich said there was enough "momentum" across the rest

of the world to justify hosting TEA events elsewhere, keeping "flagship" events in the US.

For example, Willrich has spearheaded the launch of SATE Academy Days, an educational event based on showing inner workings of several attraction.

The first SATE conference in Europe was held in May at the National Motor Museum in Beaulieu, Hampshire, and Willrich said "around six" of these types of events would be held in Europe and the Middle East this year.

"All the flagship events were happening in the US. There were 800 members there



David Willrich became TEA president in November following a vote

so it's completely understandable that prime events were held in the US, but we needed something in the UK and Europe," Willrich told *Leisure Opportunities*.

"During my presidency I am aiming to make the TEA more international, meaning we want to move from being an association with a global outreach to being a truly global association. This means giving more support to the European and Asian divisions."

Willrich succeeded Steve Birket as president of the TEA in November 2016. Details: http://lei.sr?a=D1fof

Titanic Belfast's expansion plans

The operator of Northern Ireland's popular Titanic Belfast attraction has submitted plans to expand the facility, with a focus on boosting its hospitality credentials.

Included in the plan is the transformation of retail space to create additional conferencing facilities. A new entrance will be built as well as an external events area. The conferencing facility and the events area, previously unconnected, will be joined together as part of the work.

In addition, the work will encompass the extension, integration and alteration of Titanic pavilions, with a single storey

extension of pavilions three and four.

Titanic Belfast sits within the city's Titanic Quarter, a mixed-use waterside development which also includes the Odyssey Pavilion. Titanic Island Ltd, the company carrying out the development on site, is currently seeking developers to build a 244-bedroom hotel.

Plans are also underway to construct a £26.5m office development for up to 1,500 people.



The attraction's plans will be deliberated by Belfast City Council

A spokesperson for the attraction told Leisure Opportunities that there was no chance to "rest on our laurels", adding: "We are continuously looking at ways to enhance our five-star facilities for the thousands of local, national and international tourists we welcome on an annual basis. As the business continues to go from strength to strength, there is a need to continually develop our offering." Details: http://lei.sr?a=F7Z2O





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PROPERTY

Google reveals Kings Cross HQ

Google has submitted an application for planning permission to Camden Council for its proposed King's Cross HQ designed by Heatherwick Studio and Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG).

Leisure lies at the heart of the dramatic 'landscraper' proposal, which features a vast rooftop garden across multiple storeys; a sports hall; a 200m-long running track for employees; a promenade looking out towards the station; and a wellness centre containing gyms and massage rooms and a swimming pool.

Construction of the purpose-built 11-storey building – the first wholly owned and designed Google building outside the US - is set to begin next year. In total, the complex will be more than 1 million sq ft (92,000sq m), of which Google will occupy 650,000sq ft. It will run in parallel to a number of platforms at the station, dominating the

landscape as trains pull into King's Cross. A Google Campus – formed of the new building alongside Wilmotte & Associés'



The building, located near Kings Cross train station, has a garden roof

recently-completed 6 Pancras Square and a forthcoming 11-storey office designed by Mossessian Architecture - could one day house as many as 7,000 company employees.

Google's King's Cross project, a centrepiece of the wider regeneration taking place in the area, which includes the new German Gymnasium restaurant by Conran and Partners and a forthcoming plaza, also designed by Heatherwick, integrated around two Victorian coal drop buildings. Details: http://lei.sr?a=2h1Y3

Chimneys for Battersea Power Station

Work has been completed on the rebuilding of Battersea Power Station's iconic chimneys; the architectural centrepiece of the ongoing 42-acre regeneration of southwest London.

The two pairs of original chimneys, built in the 1930s and the 1950s respectively and depicted on the cover of Pink Floyd's 1977 album Animals, had to be demolished in 2014 as they were deemed unsafe.

WilkinsonEyre are leading the redevelopment of the Power Station building and

have overseen their reconstruction.

Battersea Power Station is one of central London's largest new developments. Roughly half the project comprises retail, shops, restaurants and office space. There will also be a six-acre public park, town square and a new tube station. In early 2017, new home owners started moving into the first phase, Circus West Village, designed by architects SimpsonHaugh. The £9bn



25,000 wheelbarrow loads of concrete were poured into the chimneys

project is being developed in six phases and will include schemes designed by Frank Gehry, Foster + Partners and Bjarke Ingels. It has been masterplanned by Rafael Viñoly.

"It has been an honour to restore this iconic symbol to the London skyline so that it can be enjoyed by generations to come," said Rob Tincknell, CEO of the Battersea Power Station Development Company. Details: http://lei.sr?a=a3Y9V

Walsall Council would like to explore interest in partnering with another operator to expand and develop the delivery of outdoor pursuits activities from its two centres:



1) Aldridge Airport Outdoor Pursuits Centre:

Dry side centre with facilities including high and low ropes courses, climbing and abseiling wall, wheelchair ropes course and abseiling wall, with associated changing and classroom.

2) Sneyd Water Activity Centre:

Lake with associated changing equipment and storage for a range of water-based activities including canoeing, kayaking, sailing windsurfing and power-boating.

The existing in-house service focuses on curriculum-time delivery to mainstream and special schools during term-time, and some holiday schemes. This delivery creates significant periods where the centres are idle. The Council is initially looking to explore the opportunity to partner with another operator to make better use of the centres during these idle times: evenings, weekends and school holidays.

The council are keen to talk to experienced providers with a previous track record of delivering services such as these.

This advert has been issued by the Council to assess the market available for the service described above and to determine whether there is a sufficient market to require a competitive procurement process to be carried out.

For an informal discussion please contact Paul Wicker on paul.wicker@walsall.gov.uk before 4pm on 7 July



Expressions of Interest for the provision of leisure management services at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, Avlesbury

WheelPower welcomes expressions of interest from experienced providers to operate, maintain and possibly invest in future development of Stoke Mandeville Stadium, the National Centre for Disability Sport

WheelPower is a trading name of the British Wheelchair Sports Foundation Limited, a charitable company limited by guarantee, based at Stoke Mandeville Stadium. WheelPower is seeking to procure an operator to manage the facilities, develop the services and contribute strongly to the achievement of their vision for wheelchair sport.

An Invitation to Tender (ITT) document has been developed, which explains the project and the requirements, sets out the procurement process being followed and seeks tender submissions from interested parties in relation to the management of the site.

Instructions for the procurement process, including the timetable and formal evaluation process are set out in the Invitation to Tender. A bidders open day is scheduled for Wednesday 21st June 2017. Closing date for submission of tenders is 29th August 2017.

Further information, including requests for the Invitation to Tender documentation, can be obtained from Andy Farr -

andyfarr@fmgconsulting.co.uk

WheelPower reserves the right to cancel this process at any stage and is not obliged to accept any offer.

www.wheelpower.org.uk



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Before we finalise the procurement process, we are seeking the views of interested leisure management operators.

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For further information regarding this opportunity and a copy of the prospectus, please register on our eProcurement portal: www.csw-jets.co.uk

You can find the relevant information, including the prospectus, once registered by searching for 'SOL - Leisure Concessionaire Market Engagement Event' under the tenders tab.





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Older lifeguards trained by GLL

Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) has launched a campaign to recruit older people to help tackle the national shortage of lifeguards.

With up to 20 per cent of its lifeguarding roles unfilled and around 90 vacancies, the charitable social enterprise hopes the initiative will counter misconceptions around lifeguarding and encourage a wider demographic to apply.

Gerry Kendrick, head of HR operational services at GLL, said: "You don't need to be body beautiful to save lives, nor do you need to be in

your teens or twenties. Of course a good level of fitness and swimming ability is key, but we currently employ around 40 lifeguards who are in their 50s, 60s and 70s and they are all valued and well respected members of our business."

The national lifeguard shortage can be attributed to a number of factors, according to Kendrick: "A decline in school swimming means there are less people with the necessary skills to take on the roles. Secondly, these are jobs that are often not considered long-term career options.



Kendrick said lifeguard shortages could be attributed to several factors

Thirdly, with the closure of public swimming pools across the UK over recent decades, aquatics-related jobs are often less visible."

The Royal Life Saving Society UK launched a campaign last year to recruit more lifeguards. Martin Symcox, director of IQL UK, the society's trading subsidiary, said: "Lifeguarding is accessible to all ages and backgrounds and we support GLL in their drive to recruit a wider demographic of employees into their workforce." Details: http://lei.sr?a=G1m7k



The new advanced certification consists of two learning units

Advanced PT course launched Fitness professionals can now

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It will be assessed through a series of presentations and Q&A sessions which can

be conducted 'face-to-face' on site or remotely through scheduled web meetings. These presentations allow PTs to present and discuss the progress they are making with their clients.

Jenny Patrickson, Active IQ managing director, said: "The PT market is becoming increasingly competitive and fitness professionals need a wider skill set and modern approach to differentiate themselves. Details: http://lei.sr?a=X7O9T



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Alternatively, please send your CV and covering letter to: operations@redlandgreen.co.uk.

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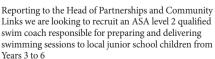
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The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants must therefore be willing to undergo child protection screening and safer recruitment checks appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Application forms should be submitted online at w.st-albans.herts.sch.uk by 30 June 2017. The School reserves the right to make an appointment before the closing date, so early applications are encouraged.

For more details on the following jobs visit www.leisureopportunities.co.uk or to advertise call +44 (0)1462 431385



Receptionist

Company: Jubilee Hall Trust Location: Hampstead, London, UK

Recreation Assistant (Lifeguard)

Company: GLL

Location: Various locations, UK

Assistant Manager (Sport and Leisure)

Company: Littleport Leisure Location: Cambridgeshire, UK

Sports Leader

Company: Everyone Active Location: Enderby, Leicester, UK

Assistant Manager

Company: Littleport Leisure Location: Cambridgeshire, UK

Aquazone Swim Instructors

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Cardiff, UK

Group Exercise Instructors

Company: Everyone Active Location: Stowmarket, UK

Assistant General Managers

Company: The Gym Group Location: Various locations, UK

Recreation Assistant

Company: Legacy Leisure Location: Windsor, UK

Personal Trainers

Company: The Gym Group Location: Various locations, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Bexleyheath, UK

Business Dev Manager Company: Parkwood Leisure

Location: Worcester, UK

Fitness Instructor

Company: fit4less Location: Preston, UK

Leisure and Technical Services Manager

Company: Swale Borough Council Location: Sittingbourne, UK

Regional Sales Manager

Company: Origin Fitness Location: South East, UK

Lifeguard

Company: Cotswold Country Park Location: Cirencester, UK

Paddle Sports Instructor

Company: Cotswold Country Park and Beach

Location: Cirencester, UK

Studio Coach

Company: truGym Location: Bromley, UK

Group exercise instructor

Company: Jump Arena Location: Gateshead, UK

Sport Facilities Manager

Company: Reading Bluecoat School Location: Reading, UK

Crew Member / Fitness Instructor

Company: fit4less Location: Kettering, UK

Promotions Manager

Company: énergie group Location: East London , UK

Head of Business Dev

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Worcester, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: Hertfordshire Sports Village Location: Hertfordshire, UK

Lifeguard/Duty Assistant (Apprenticeship)

Company: Hertfordshire Sports Village Location: Hatfield, UK

Swimming Coach

Company: Wildern School Location: Southampton, UK

Class Instructors

Company: Wildern School Location: Southampton, UK

Gym Instructor (Fixed Term)

Company: The Hurlingham Club Location: Fulham, London, UK

Front of House Receptionist

Company: Everyone Active Location: London, UK

Assistant Duty Manager

Company: Impulse Leisure Location: Thurrock, Essex, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: The Hurlingham Club Location: Fulham, London, UK

General Manager

Company: Everyone Active Location: Stratford-upon-Avon, UK

Group Exercise Co-ordinator

Company: Impulse Leisure Location: Thurrock, Essex, UK

Front of House Colleagues

Company: Everyone Active Location: Stratford-On-Avon, UK

Membership Sales Consultant

Company: énergie group Location: Cambuslang, UK

Trainee Duty Manager

Company: Legacy Leisure Location: Windsor, UK

Fitness Instructor (part time)

Company: énergie group Location: Cambuslang, UK

Team Leaders

Company: Everyone Active Location: Alton, UK

Lifeguards

Company: Everyone Active Location: Various locations, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Everyone Active Location: Alton, UK

Regional Coordinator

Company: Becky Adlington's Swim Stars Location: Various locations, UK

Youth & Sports Officer

Company: The Access to Sports Project Location: London, UK

Swimming Instructors Company: Parkwood Leisure

Location: Nottingham, UK

Level 2 Fitness Apprentice

Company: énergie group Location: Kettering , UK

Swimming Teachers

Company: Everyone Active Location: Sutton, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Everyone Active Location: Fleet, Hampshire, UK

Duty Manager

Company: University of London Location: London, UK

Recreation Assistant

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Bristol, UK

Sway Dance Activity Leader

Company: Legacy Leisure

Sway Dance Co-ordinator

Company: Legacy Leisure Location: Towcester, UK

Sales Manager

Company: Body Bike UK Location: Nationwide, UK

Assistant General Manager

Company: The Gym Group Location: Huddersfield, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Jump Arena Location: Luton, UK

SwimStars Co-ordinator

Company: Becky Adlington's Swim Stars Location: Midlands, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Everyone Active Location: Ware, Herts, UK

Sales Manager

Company: fit4less Location: Southwark, London, UK

Duty Supervisors

Company: Sport Aberdeen Location: Aberdeen, UK

Deputy Sports Club Manager

Company: Trinity School Location: Croydon, UK

Swimming teachers

Company: Everyone Active Location: Bedworth, UK

Swimming Instructor

Company: Swimming Nature Location: Edinburgh, UK

Exercise Class Instructors

Company: Legacy Leisure Location: Kidlington, UK

Club Manager

Company: Redland Green Club Location: Bristol, UK

Swimming Instructors

Company: Swimming Nature Location: Various locations, UK

Sports Assistant

Company: St Mary's School Ascot Location: Ascot, UK

Swimming Teachers

Company: BH Live Location: Bournemouth, UK

Sports Assistants

Company: Everyone Active Location: Horfield, Bristol, UK

Outdoor Education Centre Manager

Company: Carmarthenshire CC Location: Carmarthenshire, UK

Assistant General Manager

Company: The Gym Group Location: Newport, Wales, UK

Cafeteria Vacancies

Company: Everyone Active Location: Stowmarket, UK

Fitness Instructor

Company: énergie group Location: Camberwell, UK

Sport Events Coordinator Company: The Independent Association of Prep Schools (IAPS) Location: Leamington Spa, UK

Sales Manager

Company: Beaverbrook Hotel Location: Leatherhead, Surrey, UK

Customer Advisor

Company: Legacy Leisure Location: Weston Super Mare, UK

Operations Manager Company: St John Bosco College

Location: London, UK

Membership Sales Advisor

Company: energie group Location: Camberwell, UK Customer Service

Team Manager Company: Hertfordshire Sports Village

Location: Hatfield, UK Personal Trainer

Company: fit4less Location: Dundee, UK

Female Personal Trainer

Company: énergie group Location: Basildon, Essex, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Everybody Sport and Rec Location: Knutsford, UK

Senior Recreation Assistant

Company: Northampton Leisure Trust Location: Northampton, UK

Team Leaders

Company: Everyone Active Location: Fleet, UK

Lifeguard

Company: Everyone Active Location: Various locations, UK

Sports Party Leaders

Company: Everyone Active Location: Fleet, UK

Gymnastics Coach

Company: Everyone Active Location: Hampshire, UK

Fitness Motivators

Company: Everyone Active Location: Petersfield, UK

Membership consultants

Company: Everyone Active Location: Various locations, UK

Sales manager

Company: Everyone Active Location: Carshalton, UK

Personal Trainers

Company: énergie group Location: Various locations, UK

Junior Activities Manager (Maternity cover)

Company: Kings Fitness and Leisure Location: Somerset, UK

Swim Instructor

Company: Everyone Active Location: Sutton, UK

Activity for Health **Promotions Officer**

Company: Legacy Leisure Location: Newbury, UK

Customer Services and Operations Manager

Company: Sport Wales Location: Cardiff, UK

Swimming Coach

Contractor (Part Time)

Company: St Albans School Location: St Albans, UK

Camp Adventure Leaders

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Cardiff, UK

Operations Director

Company: Halo Leisure Location: Herefordshire, UK

Casual Climbing Instructor

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Bristol, UK

Recreation Assistant

(Lifeguard) Permanent

Company: Coral Reef (Bracknell Forest) Location: Bracknell, UK

Swimming Instructors

Company: Legacy Leisure Location: Nationwide, UK

Swimming Instructor

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Nationwide, UK

Front of House Colleagues

Company: Everyone Active Location: Southwark, London, UK

Leisure & Spa Operations Supervisor (Maternity Cover)

Company: Hanbury Manor Hotel and Country Club Location: Ware, Hertfordshire, UK

Team Leader

Company: Everyone Active Location: Ware, Herts, UK

Operations Assistants

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Ollerton, Nottingham, UK

Summer Lifeguards

Company: GLL Location: Nationwide, UK

Catering Assistant

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Ollerton, Nottingham, UK

Fitness Motivator

Company: Everyone Active Location: Sutton, UK

Self-Employed

Personal Trainers

Company: Everyone Active Location: London, UK

Camp Adventure Staff

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: North Devon, UK

Apprenticeships

Company: Everyone Active Location: Nationwide, UK

Personal Trainers

Company: Matt Roberts Personal Training Company Location: London, UK, UK

Swimming Teachers

Company: Everyone Active Location: Nationwide

Sales and Marketing Manager

Company: Xercise4Less Location: Harlow, Hartlepool , Milton Keynes UK

Personal Trainer

Company: Xercise4Less Location: Nationwide, UK

Impact Sales Consultant

Company: Xercise4Less Location: National role . UK

Membership Consultant

Company: Xercise4Less Location: Various locations, UK

General Manager

Company: Xercise4Less Location: Various

Personal Trainer

Company: Xercise4Less Location: Nationwide, UK

Swimming Teachers

Company: Everyone Active Location: Various locations, UK

Beauty Therapists

Company: Center Parcs Ltd Location: Longleat Forest, Wiltshire, UK

Beauty Therapists

Company: Aqua Sana Location: Woburn Forest, Beds, UK,

Beauty Therapists (Full & Part-time)

Company: Aqua Sana Location: Elveden Forest, Suffolk, UK

Assistant Spa Manager

Company: Aqua Sana Location: Whinfell Forest, Cumbria, UK

Spa Therapists

Company: Cliveden House Location: Berkshire, UK

Spa Operations Manager

Company: Cliveden House Location: Berkshire, UK

Senior Spa Receptionist Company: Cliveden House

Location: Berkshire, UK

Training and Compliance Manager

Company: Legoland Location: Windsor, UK

Hotel Food and

Beverage Supervisor Company: Legoland

Location: Windsor, UK

Arcades Manager

Company: HB Leisure Location: Tamworth, UK

Group Product Excellence Manager

Company: Merlin Entertainments Grp

Location: Poole, UK

Commercial Manager Company: Bath and North East Somerset Council

Location: Bath, UK

Technical Services Technician

Company: Warner Bros. Studios Location: Leavesden, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Legoland Location: Michigan, United States

Social Media Specialist

Company: Madame Tussauds Location: New York NY, United States

Marketing Coordinator

Company: Madame Tussauds Location: New York NY, United States

Operations Manager

Company: The Eye Brand Location: Orlando, United States

Retail Manager

Company: The Eye Brand Location: Orlando, United States

Maintenance Engineer

Company: Alton Towers Theme Park Location: Stoke-on-Trent, UK

Maintenance Director

Company: Legoland Location: California, United States

VIP Unit Lead

Company: Legoland Location: California, United States

Rides Operations Manager

Company: Legoland Location: Florida, United States

Catering Assistant (casual)

Company: Coral Reef (Bracknell Forest) Location: Bracknell, UK Executive

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National Fitness Day plans revealed

ukactive has kicked off its countdown to National Fitness Day 2017 with the launch of a renewed focus on taking activity into schools, workplaces and high streets.

The not-for-profit body has launched a website that will provide information on events taking place around the country. Operators can register activities on the site and users can then search for events in their area.

The National Fitness Day '#Fitness2Me' social media campaign will be expanded this year to demonstrate the

positive impact that physical activity has on people in terms of mental and physical health. ukactive members will be encouraged to get customers to share their own Fitness2Me stories.

The event, which takes place on 27 September, will include free sessions at fitness sites, with exercise programmes, virtual classes and tailored public workouts. Fitness operators will go into workplaces and schools to provide sessions to office workers and schoolchildren across Britain.

ukactive will work alongside two brand partners - retailer Argos and health



ukactive's National Fitness Day takes place on 27 September this year

insurer AXA PPP healthcare - as it attempts to reach more people and build on the 18,000 free events hosted last year.

"Bringing activity to the public in their schools, workplaces and high streets helps promote the fantastic benefits of activity first hand. National Fitness Day is a wonderful opportunity to engage directly with the nation and demonstrate the value of physical activity in building a healthier society," said Steven Ward, ukactive chief executive. Details: http://lei.sr?a=CoP2B

DLL Kensington gets premium revamp

Continued from front cover

Separately, DLL's Kensington club has been refurbished as a premium Harbour Club facility - the company's luxury brand. It is the third Harbour Club opened by DLL after fellow west London sites Notting Hill and Chelsea.

DLL recently completed the acquisition of 14 Virgin Active clubs, although a further two clubs that were originally part of the deal were handed back to Virgin after the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) expressed concerns.

However, the acquisition takes the number of clubs owned by DLL up to 109 and chief executive Glenn Earlam said both moves the company's "ambitious commitment to growth" and making DLL "the number one health and fitness brand in the whole of Europe".

"An organisation like DLL with such ambitious growth and development plans depends

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Earlam said work demonstrated DLL's growth plans

upon the skill and dedication of so many people working on projects from identifying and developing new sites to acquiring and refurbishing existing clubs and to training of club teams to deliver the skills and levels of service that DLL is known for," he added. Details: http://lei.sr?a=J8U1K

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