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Bid creates new jobs for young people

Bristol City Council Press Release (extract)

29th October

Young unemployed people in the West will be able to gain new skills through paid employment, thanks to a successful bid to the government's Future Jobs Fund.

More than 25 local employers are on board to create 189 new opportunities for young people, through a £1.3 million grant won by West of England local authorities and partners.

Rolls-Royce secure \$90m deal to keep US jets flying

Evening Post (extract) - 29th October

Defence giant Rolls-Royce has been awarded a \$90 million contract by the US Department of Defense to provide support for the engines that power the US Navy's T-45 training aircraft.

This contract exercises the first of four option years to the base contract which was signed last year.

The F405-RR-401 (Adour) engines for the T-45 fleet have all been assembled and tested at Rolls in Patchway and the fleet is supported from the site's operations centre.

The contract provides services to more than 200 aircraft, operating at three main Naval Air Stations – Kingsville, Texas, Meridian, Missouri and Pensacola, Florida.

David Waggoner, President of Rolls-Royce Defence Services, said: "This contract demonstrates the customer's satisfaction with our performance.

"We are very proud of our partnership with the US Navy and look forward to the opportunity to continue providing engine readiness and availability which allows the US Navy to accomplish their critical training mission."

Ryanair points the way to winter sun

Bristol International Airport Press Release (extract)

28th October

The first of four new flights to winter sun destinations took off from Bristol International today (28th October) as part of Ryanair's new look winter programme at the airport.

The first of the airline's two weekly flights to Tenerife South was swiftly followed by the inaugural departure to Lanzarote. Winter services to Gran Canaria and Malaga also begin this week.

In addition to the four new destinations, Ryanair passengers can also take advantage of low fares to other winter sun destinations including Alicante, Marrakesh and Malta.

University scoops top international award

University of Bristol press Release (extract) - 26th October

Bristol University has won a top international award for its Positive Working Environment (PWE) initiative, which aims to make work life at the University more productive, rewarding, enjoyable and healthy.

At a ceremony in Toronto, Canada, the University has been declared the overall winner in the 2009 Global Human Resource Development Awards from the International Federation of Training and Development Organisations Ltd (IFTDO).

Bristol was selected from 22 entries from nine countries, beating a number of major corporate players with a global profile.

The PWE initiative also won the Outstanding Human Resource Initiative Award at the 2009 Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Awards.

In addition, the University holds the Employer of



the Year award given by local training providers for its commitment to apprentice development. This is part of a wider commitment to the training and development of all staff as part of the PWE initiative.

Cafe gives new lease of life to oldest building in Bristol's Broadmead

Evening Post (extract) - 22nd October

The oldest building still standing in Broadmead has had a new lease of life as a cafe.

The Merchant Taylors' Almshouse, at the entrance to The Mall Bristol on Merchant Street, has reopened after lying empty for more than two years.

The historic building dates from 1701 when it was built as a home for tailors who had fallen on hard times.

Until 1955, the building was Bristol's weights and measures office. Lloyds bank occupied it from this time until 1990 and after that it briefly became a French restaurant and a pub called The Almshouses.

Now Azuza cafe, it has had a £200,000 refurbishment inside, which has retained many original features, including fireplaces, staircases and a stunning wooden vaulted timber ceiling upstairs.

Its new owner is Mark Gent, 46, originally from Yate but now living in Iron Acton. Formerly a supermarket bakery manager, Mr Gent and his business partner Andrew Moyes opened the first Azuza in Marlborough in 2004, with the second Azuza opening in Hungerford just a year later.

Mr Gent said that being able to open the third Azuza in the former almshouse was "an unbelievable opportunity".

Marks & Spencer announce hundreds of new Bristol jobs for Christmas

Evening Post—17th October

Around 370 jobs will be created in Marks & Spencer stores across Bristol this Christmas.

The store has announced plans to recruit 1,364 people across the West to cope with festive demand from shoppers.

The chain has four stores in Bristol, including The Mall at Cribbs Causeway, Broadmead, Longwell Green and Weston.

KPMG Private Client wins "Accountancy Team of the Year" at the STEP Awards 2009

KPMG Press Release—16th October

KPMG's Private Client team has been named "Accountancy Team of the Year" at the STEP (Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners) Awards 2009. The award was presented in London this week at an event attended by 600 professionals in trusts, estates and private client work.

STEP commented: "The judges found KPMG had, in a challenging year, demonstrated best all -round leadership. They have a broad range of high class tax advisors nationally and their structure and ambition helps support both their staff and the wider community."

KPMG's Private Client team for Bristol is part of the 80-strong practice in the South of England. Paul Spicer, head of KPMG's tax practice for Bristol, said: "Our Private Client team has worked closely with clients in the regional market place to understand the impact of the issues presented by the economic downturn and to provide the highest quality advice, tailored to personal circumstances and financial constraints. I'm therefore delighted this award recognises our strength."

Online legal support in Bristol

Evening Post—15th October

Bristol Media has launched an online employment hub for members in conjunction with



legal suppliers Thring Townsend Lee & Pembertons. The online service provides legal support on employment issues via a library of downloadable documents. Members can have immediate, free access through the Bristol Media website to relevant documents.

Mike Bennett, chief executive officer of Bristol Media, said: "We know how important it is to help members get employment issues right – from the start."

Kerrie Hunt, partner and head of employment at Thring Townsend said: "Through the employment hub on the Bristol Media website, members can have immediate access to the latest employment law advice and all the relevant documents, plus regular updates on future legislation to keep members one step ahead."

2008 proves to be a very successful year for Bristol's tourism economy

Destination Bristol Press Release (extract) - 14th October

With media attention firmly focused on the recovery from the deepest recession in living memory, figures just released by Britain's tourism chief's show that Bristol's position in England's ranking of top visitor destinations rose to its highest level ever.

The UK Tourism Survey, which measures the number of overnight staying visitors to all of England's main destinations, saw Bristol's rise to 4th place, with visitor numbers only exceeded by London, Manchester and Birmingham, and placed ahead of traditional rivals Leeds, Blackpool, Liverpool and Newcastle.

And while the number of leisure trips to the city dropped by 100,000 in 2008, this was compensated for by an increase in business trips to the city, during a year when the total number of trips taken in the UK, according to VisitBritain, dropped by over 4.6% and the number of UK residents travelling abroad dropped by 1.2%

The International Passenger Survey undertaken by the Office for National Statistics which measured the number of international visitors to the UK during 2008 also showed how strong Bristol's tourism economy has become.

The survey which was published in September showed that the number of overseas visitors to Bristol in 2008 was the highest ever recorded at 492,000, a figure which contributed towards an increase of 24% in two years, and in a year when rivals Manchester, Glasgow and Newcastle all saw fewer overseas visitor numbers, and overall international visits to the UK dropped by 2.6%.

BBC and key Bristol players form first city partnership as BBC director-general pledges South West will be a world leader in natural history for generations to come

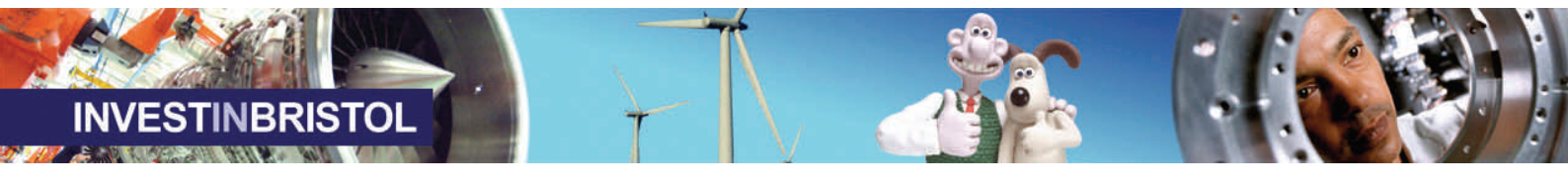
SWRDA Press Release (extract) - 9th October

Today, BBC Director-General Mark Thompson has announced the first-ever BBC city partnership as part of a new drive to work with local agencies to boost the regional creative economies across the UK.

The BBC has signed a three year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a number of key Bristol agencies and organisations to help ensure Bristol and the South West remains at the forefront of digital media production.

Today's agreement commits the BBC to partner and work with local agencies in areas such as boosting local TV production and film-making, tackling the digital divide, digital skills and media literacy and collaborating on digital and connectivity projects.

The Partnership includes Bristol City Council, South West England's Regional Development Agency, South West Screen - and an alliance of creative industries, community organisations and academic institutions in the city including Bristol Media, the University of Bristol, UWE and Futurelab.



Mark Thompson, who visited the region today, said the agreement is the first of what could be many partnerships with cities across the UK. He also pledged that the South West could be a world leader in natural history programming for decades to come. The forthcoming 'Life' series, which starts on BBC One next week, showed that the 'creative brilliance of programme makers in the region goes from strength to strength'.

Helping Bristol family businesses flourish

Evening Post (extract) - 9th October

Bristol Business School, Veale Wasbrough and the International Centre for Families in Business (ICFiB) have launched the Bristol Family Business Forum, which is dedicated to helping family businesses flourish.

The Bristol Family Business Forum brings together experts in family business in a supportive and dynamic community and is the first multi-disciplinary alliance that is solely dedicated to helping family businesses.

The forum will provide thought leadership in family business professional practice. It will also share good practice, knowledge, skills and expertise between family businesses and practitioners.

Bristol's economy in good position

SWRDA Press Release—7th October

Bristol is well-placed to recover from the recession, say the region's leading economists.

Research by economists from the South West RDA and the South West Observatory shows that although the city has suffered in the short term because of its dependence on financial services and specialised engineering, in future these sectors are predicted to grow.

The research also shows that nearly 10 per cent of the city's population is self-employed, suggesting a

relatively high level of entrepreneurship.

The report - the South West Regional Economic Profile - has focused on Bristol, Plymouth and Cornwall to assess the underlying structure of the economy and to see how those areas have fared during the downturn.

Eleanor Field, senior economist at the South West RDA, said: "It's been a painful time for Bristol of late, and although the city is highly productive in certain areas there are still pockets of deprivation which indicate those benefits are not trickling down to all parts of the community. But the signs are good for Bristol's recovery, and before the financial crisis the city had enjoyed a long period of growth. Our research shows that its strengths in the longer term should largely outweigh its short-term difficulties, and it also tells us where bodies like the RDA can most usefully play a role."

Opening of Friska in Bristol

Friska Press Release (extract) - 7th October

Recent graduates, Ed Brown and Griff Holland are bringing Feel Good (fast) Food to Bristol with the opening of Friska; Victoria Street on the 15th of October 2009.

Friska's concept of Feel Good (fast) Food will offer visitors healthy, fresh, ethically and regionally sourced dishes inspired from countries and cultures around the world.

Griff has taken the lead on the food side of the business. "Our locally sourced and globally inspired menu has been great to plan and has allowed us to meet some fantastic growers, suppliers and food artisans. What excites me the most about Friska is the opportunity to bring people together through food in a way which supports quality, ethical local growers and producers while offering our visitors the chance to sample some of the worlds most exciting, healthy dishes and treats."



Aardman's Bristol HQ wins architecture awards

Evening Post—1st October

Aardman's Bristol HQ wins architecture awards Evening Post 1st October It was a cracking night for Bristol-based Aardman Animations as the home of Wallace & Gromit scooped two awards for architecture. The building was among several in the area celebrated for quality of design and use at the annual Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) South West Town and Country Design Awards. Bristol City Lord Mayor Chris Davies was among a packed audience at Cabot Circus'

Future Inn as Chief Executive of the UK Green Building Council Paul King hosted the awards, given in recognition of architectural excellence in the South West. The new £8 million Gas Ferry Road headquarters of Aardman, the company behind hit animations such as The Wrong Trousers, Chicken Run and Flushed Away, was designed by city-based Alec French Architects. It won the overall Istock Premier Award as well as the Workspace category.

Airport hotel ready for take-off

Bristol International Airport Press Release (extract)

1st October

Bristol International Airport (BIA) has signed an agreement with Pedersen Airport Hotels for the development of an on-site hotel. The agreement is the first step towards the construction of a hotel of up to 250 rooms adjacent to the terminal building.

The proposed hotel would be positioned approximately 100 metres from the terminal building, roviding passengers departing on early morning flights or arriving late in the evening with a convenient location for an overnight stay. Facilities will include meeting rooms, a licensed bar and full service restaurant, as well as dedicated car parking. Pedersen expects to select an internationally recognised brand over the course of the next few months.

The £20m development will generate around 25 full time equivalent jobs in the construction industry, and lead to the creation of around 140 jobs in total.

