

Invest in Bristol News

April 2009

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New Broadmead Website launched

www.bristolbroadmead.co.uk - April

A new visitor information website for Bristol Broadmead has just been launched. The new website: www.bristolbroadmead.co.uk has information on everything you need to know about Broadmead shops, cafes and pubs as well as great ideas of things to do and places to visit.

Aardman begins production on Pirates! and Arthur Christmas

Aardman Animations press release (extract) - 29th April

Aardman, the world’s leading stop-frame animation studio, has begun production on their next two animated feature length motion-pictures, Arthur Christmas and Pirates!, it was jointly announced today by Michael Lynton, Chairman & CEO of Sony Pictures Entertainment, Amy Pascal, Co-Chairman of the studio, and David Sproxton and Peter Lord, co-founders of Aardman. Both films are to be released worldwide by Sony Pictures.

Commenting on the announcement, Lord said, “It’s incredibly exciting to be moving forward on these two movies, and I’m thrilled to be back in the director’s chair for Pirates! We love to work in different animation styles and techniques, so we’re producing Arthur Christmas in state-of-the-art CGI while for Pirates! we’re returning to our house style of hand-crafted modelling clay. The most important elements of any animated film are story and character, and we believe that in these films, we have characters to charm and stories to delight and engage.”

Aardman’s highly creative stop-motion style and creative sensibilities have proven popular with critics and audiences around the world. In 2000, Chicken Run, their debut feature, took in nearly \$225 million worldwide; since then, Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit grossed nearly \$200 million and Flushed Away, their first CG feature, earned \$176 million. All three films have achieved enormous critical acclaim, with the three films earning a total of 27 Annie Award nominations (the animation community’s highest

honor). In addition, Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit was honored with the Academy Award® for Best Animated Feature.

New shops for Bristol city centre

Evening Post (extract) - 23rd April

Three new shops have opened in Broadmead and two more firms open premises next month. It follows news of five store openings in Cabot Circus in March. Surfwear shop Animal has opened in Merchant Street and employs 20 people.

New M&S opens in Bristol today

Evening Post (extract) - 23rd April

A new Marks and Spencer department store opens in Longwell Green today. The 37,000 sq ft store at the Longwell Green retail park has created 146 much-needed full and part-time jobs. It has a full range of departments including clothing, homeware and a food hall. It has an in-store bakery as well as an 80-seat cafe which will serve a wide range of hot and cold refreshments including Fairtrade tea and coffee. The store has the usual M&S womenswear ranges including Per Una and the menswear section features the Autograph range.

Six Bristol schools in £100 million rebuilding programme

Bristol City Council press release (extract) - 22nd April

Thousands of secondary students in Bristol are to benefit from a massive development programme that will see five secondary schools rebuilt and a new special school constructed. Bristol Local Education Partnership (LEP) has signed contracts with Bristol City Council for the £100 million programme that will complete the transformation of the city’s schools for students aged 11 to 18.



OC Robotics receives Queen’s Award for Enterprise in Innovation

OC Robotics press release (extract) - 21st April

OC Robotics has received a Queen’s Award for Enterprise in the Innovation category. The award was presented to OC Robotics in recognition of the innovation that has gone into making snake-arm robots a commercial reality. Snake-arm robots are flexible robotic arms which have many joints so they can "follow their nose" into confined spaces. OC Robotics is the leading commercial manufacturer of snake-arm robots in the world.

OC Robotics was founded by Rob Buckingham and Andrew Graham. They first met in 1991 at the University of Bristol when Rob was a research assistant and Andy a third year engineering student.

In the last 8 years, OC Robotics has filed many patents and has grown to be a 17 person company delivering cutting-edge robotics to some of the world’s biggest companies. For the last 3 years both revenue and employee numbers have increased by 50% per year. Customers include UK Ministry of Defence, US Department of Defense, Airbus, Ontario Power Generation, Areva and others.

Builders finish work at new Colston Hall foyer

Bristol City Council press release (extract) - 21st April

Construction of the stunning new foyer building for Bristol's Colston Hall music and performance venue is complete - on budget and on time. The state-of-the-art building in the heart of the city centre was handed over to Bristol City Council by main contractors Willmott Dixon at a special ceremony on April 20th 2009.

The £20.3m building, with its distinctive copper-alloy metal cladding will transform Colston Hall as a city centre venue. It provides modern box office facilities, new performance and exhibition spaces, meeting rooms, rehearsal and recording studios, education and workshop areas, two cafe bars, improved disabled access and conference facilities.

Cabot Circus Jobs boost to Bristol economy

Invest in Bristol News - May 2009

Cabot Circus Jobs has contributed a significant boost to the Bristol economy delivering 3,780 new retail, leisure and hospitality jobs in 2008 according to initial results. Cabot Circus Jobs is the training and employment partnership for the new £500 million Cabot Circus retail and leisure development (one million sq ft) which opened in September 2008, delivered by the Bristol Alliance, a partnership between Land Securities and Hammerson.

The Cabot Circus Jobs team, set up by the Bristol Alliance and West at Work, provided local people with free training, advice and support to help them secure a position at Cabot Circus. This was delivered via a roving 'Jobs Bus' and community outreach points, which advised over 10,000 individuals. 1,400 individuals also took advantage of the free, specialist training on offer.

Young people have benefited significantly from the Cabot Circus Jobs initiative with 75% of those successful in securing a job aged between 16 and 25. Many of the jobs were also filled by people living in the city's target wards, indicating that the Cabot Circus Jobs campaign was successful in engaging with these communities and overcoming barriers to entering the workforce. Bristol City Council is a key partner of the West at Work partnership. Further jobs are expected to be created over the coming months, including the opening of the Cabot Circus hotel and new retail outlets such as Gant and Joules.



ITV Appoints Hotelscene

Hotelscene Press Release (extract) - 20th April

ITV, the largest commercial television network in the UK, has appointed hotel and meetings specialist Hotelscene to manage their accommodation needs. The contract includes both day-to-day hotel booking as well as conferences and meetings. Hotelscene is a Bristol based company providing out sourced lodging services for corporate organisations.

New Loan Fund For South West Businesses

SWRDA press release (extract) - 14th April

As part of the drive for economic recovery, the South West Regional Development Agency (RDA) has announced the launch of a new £10m South West Loans Fund, which is now available to help growth-oriented business with viable business plans. Of this £5m is available in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and £5m for the rest of the region. Interested businesses should contact Business Link who will take them through the first steps in the application process. Contact details: 0845 600 9966 or visit www.businesslink.gov.uk/southwest.

UWE wins funds to help the West during economic downturn

UWE press release (extract) - 9th April

The University of the West of England with its partners has put together a package of nearly £1m including winning almost £500,000 funding from the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE) Economic Challenge Investment Fund (ECIF) to find ways of helping businesses during the current economic downturn. The ECIF was introduced earlier this year to enable the Higher Education sector to respond rapidly to the skills development and retraining needs of employers and individuals.

Professor Stephen Hagen, Director of Research, Business and Innovation at UWE who led the bid, he said, "The University will work with organisations throughout the region, particularly the UWE Federation and those within the West-at-Work*

regional partnership, to ensure a coordinated support package for businesses and individuals. We expect almost 1500 people and businesses to benefit from the schemes that we will manage. UWE will focus on what it does best by working with others to provide relevant higher-skills development and retraining for individuals and high-level business support schemes."

Site will take us into the next generation

Evening Post (extract) - 8th April

Work began yesterday on the hi-tech plant near Bristol that will create 250 jobs and help keep the West at the forefront of the aviation industry over the next four decades.

Engineering firm GKN Aerospace started the conversion of an industrial unit at Easter Compton that will produce carbon fibre composite material – seen as the future of aircraft manufacturing – and use it to make key wing parts for Airbus planes. The site will produce spars – which are like a spine running the length of an aeroplane wing – and trailing edges, using the latest technology.

The new plant is part of GKN's £300-million investment in the aerospace sector in the West, which saw it take on the manufacturing operation and 1,500 employees at the Airbus site in Filton, north Bristol at the turn of the year. The centre will initially make parts for the new Airbus A350 – whose pre-orders of 478 aircraft from 28 customers around the world make it the fastest-selling commercial aircraft in the history of aviation.

All the signs are that workers at the Easter Compton operation will be kept busy for the foreseeable future – Airbus is predicting demand for more than 5,700 A350-type planes over the next 20 years.

The site, on the Western Approach Business Park, will be ready to start manufacturing in January, with about 50 people. As production is increased over two to three years to its peak output of 52 wing spars a month, the workforce will expand to 250.

