

Invest in Bristol News

June 2009

Environment Agency revealed as greenest public sector organisation

Environment Agency Press Release – June 2009

Bristol Bucks UK Retail Trend

BDO Stoy Hayward Press Release – June 2009

Property companies merge to build on success

Evening Post (extract) - 30th June

Bristol more popular than Blackpool

Evening Post – 29th June

Banksy show draws 40,000 to Bristol in first week

Evening Post – 20th June

Office Response cleans up at Bristol Evening Post Business Awards

Evening Post - 12th June

Work takes off at Bristol International Airport

Bristol Airport Press Release – 10th June

225 Healthcare Jobs Boost For The South West

UKSH Press Release – 9th June

£600,000 investment to improve facilities at Bristol International

Bristol Airport Press Release – 9th June

Gva Grimley Moves Into Eagerly Awaited Office Development

GVA Grimley Press Release - 8th June

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Environment Agency revealed as greenest public sector organisation in 2009 Green List –

Environment Agency Press Release (extract) – June 2009

The Environment Agency has been ranked as 8th in The Sunday Times' annual Green List, due to its work on reducing transport emissions, energy and water use as well as office waste.

Carbon emissions reduced by 14 per cent as organisation urges public sector to follow its lead

The Environment Agency has been ranked as the top green UK public sector organisation in the Sunday Times' annual Green List, published today.

In 2010, the Environment Agency will move to a new green head office building in Bristol. The building will be constructed to meet the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Appraisal Method (BREEAM) 'excellent' criteria, making it one of the greenest office buildings in the UK.

Bristol Bucks UK Retail Trend

BDO Stoy Hayward Press Release (extract) - June 2009

Cabot Circus has seen a recent increase in footfall, despite national figures from the latest edition of the *BDO Stoy Hayward High Street Sales Tracker* showing that national trading conditions weakened in May.

Following a better than expected March and April, like-for-like sales fell in May by 1.5 per cent nationally according to BDO Stoy Hayward.

Commenting on the national picture, Simon Girling, partner at BDO Stoy Hayward in Bristol, said:

“Given the current economic environment, even a 1.5 per cent fall is a relatively strong perform-

ance and indicates that consumer spending is still holding-up surprisingly well. However, retailers are clearly still finding life on the high street especially tough - particularly as concerns about unemployment continue unabated.

“There are particular highlights though, as Cabot Circus has shown. Strong products, coupled with the weather have meant that many retailers are continuing to outperform the poor expectations assumed at the start of the year. Although we still believe demand may fall back again in the coming months and would caution against calling the bottom of the market, these results offer some encouragement for the remainder of 2009.”

Cabot Circus Centre Director Richard Belt said: “May has been a positive month for Cabot Circus - during the last week in May we achieved the highest footfall so far this year. Indeed, footfall was very strong around both bank holidays, with visitor numbers up by over 30 per cent’...

Property companies merge to build on Success

Evening Post (extract) - 30th June

During the recent economic climate there are still positives within the commercial property sector, especially in Bristol.

During the past 12 months the city has been one of the most active cities in the country when it comes to the construction of new offices.

One such success story concerns East Bristol Enterprise Ltd. The award-winning operator of Easton Business Centre has recently announced that it is merging its operations with those of BEST (Bristol East Side Traders).

Both organisations have sensibly priced commercial property available to rent in east Bristol on easy in, easy out terms and have been involved in delivering major regeneration schemes and innovative enterprise support services within Bristol's Eastside over many years.



Jill Humphrey, director of BEST, said: "I believe that in economic times like this, business people trust organisations that operate as social enterprises."

"Despite the recession, we have had so much interest in these new buildings that they are already some two-thirds full, but we do still have some stunning offices available from just 350 to 2,400 sq ft."

Chris Chapman, chief executive of EBE, agreed, and said: "Our social economy business model and the fact that we offer advice and support to our tenants goes a long way towards explaining why, even in times of recession, we operate at 95 per cent occupancy."

Neil Pirie, chairman and founder of EBE, was delighted at the success of the merger negotiations.

He said: "Joining forces will create an organisation with expertise not only in property management, but also in providing excellent business support services, which is so important to the whole community in the current economic climate."

Bristol more popular than Blackpool

Evening Post (extract) - 29th June

Bristol is more popular than Blackpool as a short-break destination for UK tourists.

Figures revealed today by the tourism organisation VisitEngland show that our city is the fourth most popular place for overnight stays, with about 1.6 million visitors.

Bristol, which has seen new hotels including Ibis at Harbourside and Temple Quay, Holland House in Redcliffe and Future Inns in Temple Quay open in recent years, and will soon also have the Radisson Blu on the Centre, looks well placed to see a rise in figures for 2009.

They will reflect the full year's effect of the Cabot Circus shopping centre, which opened in September 2008, and the expected spike in overnight visitors thanks to the Banksy exhibition at

the City Museum.

The league table of the top 10 most-visited English cities and towns was based on UK residents staying for at least one night.

Bristol is also set to benefit from its listing in a 2009 travel guide as one of the top 10 cities in the world to visit.

The city rubs shoulders with Buenos Aires, Cape Town and Washington DC in DK Eyewitness Travel.

The publication recommends a short break in Bristol, the only UK city in the top 10, for its shopping facilities, "green" appeal, and charming neighbourhoods.

Other Bristol highlights mentioned in the book are Georgian architecture and historical attractions – including Brunel's Suspension Bridge and the ss Great Britain, the Arnolfini arts gallery and Watershed media centre at Harbourside.

John Hallett, managing director of Destination Bristol, said of the guidebook entry: "Bristol is an exciting city to visit right now. It is one of the most talked about places in the UK."

Banksy show draws 40,000 to Bristol in first week

Evening Post (extract) - 20th June

The "Banksy effect" has given traders a much-needed boost as 40,000 people visited the Bristol exhibition in its first week.

Businesses around Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery, in Queen's Road, said they have definitely felt the benefits of having the biggest ever exhibition given by the elusive artist on their doorstep.

The exhibition, *Banksy versus Bristol Museum*, opened Saturday 13th June and saw a staggering 10,000 people through its doors on the weekend alone.

Enthusiasm for the graffiti artist showed no signs of slowing down as people from as far a field as



New York and Tokyo travelled to the city to see over 100 works on display.

Yesterday workers at cafes, shops and bars around the museum said it had definitely had a positive effect in the tills.

The exhibition is open daily from 10am until 5pm and is free to enter.

Office Response cleans up at Bristol Evening Post Business Awards

Evening Post - 12th June

Bristol call centre firm Office Response scooped the top honour in this year's *Evening Post* Business Awards.

The firm, which answers more than one million calls for other firms every year, won the Business of the Year and best firm with a turnover of under £5 million awards.

More than 200 people attended a gala ceremony last night at the Marriott city centre hotel in Bristol, hosted by author and entrepreneur Mike Southon.

Office Response will be celebrating its tenth anniversary this September and was founded by directors Iain McGregor and Martin Blain.

Last year their business reported a turnover of £3.6 million.

Iain said: "We're delighted to be honoured like this.

"As young entrepreneurs with other small business interests, we noticed that the dramatic increase in call centres across the UK in the Nineties was mainly focused on servicing large blue chip companies with huge call handling requirements.

"We realised that there was a need for small and medium-sized enterprises requiring virtual receptionists, people to respond to advertising, customer service and to have someone on the end of a phone who could represent them outside of normal business hours."

Work takes off at Bristol International Airport

Bristol Airport Press Release (extract) - 10th June

Building Contractor Kier Western and Bristol International Airport celebrated the beginning of an important new venture for the Airport today (Wednesday 10 June).

Kier Western operations director Martyn Osborne joined Bristol International's Chief Executive Officer, Robert Sinclair, and Head of Development, Andrew Goodenough, to mark the start of the £7.5m western walkway project – a major investment to improve facilities for airlines and passengers using the airport.

The new 450m walkway, which will include facilities for passengers with reduced mobility, will enable passengers to walk to its eight new embarkation pre-boarding zones without using buses, improving customer service and reducing emissions from airport vehicles.

225 Healthcare Jobs Boost For The South West

UKSH Press Release (extract) - 9th June

UK Specialist Hospitals has announced the launch of a recruitment programme for its three new NHS Treatment Centres in Bristol, Devizes and Cirencester, due to open in November this year. The new NHS Treatment Centres will create approximately 225 new jobs in the South West region.

UK Specialist Hospitals (UKSH) is contracted to deliver NHS funded treatment to NHS patients.

UKSH is launching a recruitment drive to fill the new positions which comprise approximately 60 management and administrative opportunities as well as some 140 nursing and clinical roles and 25 full and part time roles in catering, cleaning and maintenance.

UKSH currently employs over 200 people, the majority of whom are health professionals, and is



now looking to recruit consultant surgeons, nurse managers, nursing staff with a wide range of specialities and rehabilitation staff including physiotherapists for its new treatment centres. UKSH will also be recruiting for reception, bookings and patient administration roles within its non-clinical support teams.

The new facilities will be located at Emersons Green near Bristol, in Devizes, and within a refurbished section of the existing Cirencester Hospital. The majority of staff at the new Cirencester NHS Treatment Centre will be seconding over from the existing team at Cirencester Hospital.

UKSH is looking to recruit highly motivated staff that are focused on delivering high levels of patient care to support its growth.

UKSH CEO Fiona Calnan, said: “We are delighted to announce the opening of these three new NHS Treatment Centres. Our goal is to provide top class patient care as well as greater choice and access to healthcare for NHS patients in the South West, and we are looking for staff to help us to deliver this vision.”

£600,000 investment to improve facilities at Bristol International

Bristol Airport Press Release (extract) - 9th June

Bristol International is investing £600,000 in improving its customer car parking facilities ahead of the busy summer season. The project includes the resurfacing of 62,000 square metres in the Silver Zone car park, making it easier and more convenient for customers using this facility.

The reception building in the Silver Zone car park – the first experience of the airport for many passengers – will also be refurbished, as will the customer service and payment facility in the long stay area on the north side of the airport site.

An additional 84 spaces were also added to the Long Stay car park in February this year.

Tom Hack, Commercial Manager for the Ground Transportation team at Bristol International Airport, said:

“Convenient, cost-effective and secure car parking can help get a holiday or business trip off to a good start. By investing over half a million pounds in improving our car parks, we hope to further enhance the airport experience for passengers, providing a parking product to suit all needs and budgets.”

All car parks at Bristol International have been awarded *Park Mark* Safer Parking status, providing peace of mind for passengers while on holiday or travelling on business.

GVA Grimley Moves Into Eagerly Awaited Office Development

GVA Grimley Press Release (extract) - 8th June

GVA Grimley has become the first occupier of Clifton’s newest office building. The firm of commercial property advisers has taken two floors of St Catherine’s Court, Berkeley Place, and has now moved in following practical completion of the new development.

The 31,000 sq ft St Catherine’s Court has been developed by Ashfield Land, and is the first new office development in Clifton for twenty years. The £15 million grade A building on the Clifton Triangle has already been awarded the first BREEAM “Excellent” environmental rating in Clifton.

“This is a significant move for GVA Grimley in Bristol,” says David Mace, regional senior director. “As well as providing additional space for future growth, we are upgrading our facilities to give us improved visitor and staff areas, meeting rooms and a marketing suite for client events and seminars.

“Clifton is the hub of Bristol’s commercial property sector and it is important for us to remain in this location,” he continues. “Without doubt St Catherine’s Court is the best office building in Clifton and leads the way in terms of specification and sustainability, which fits perfectly with our corporate strategy. For us, it is the ideal location to carry out business effectively throughout

