



What's New for 2010 *(and beyond)*

Discover What's New for 2010 in the East of England - attractions, events, special anniversaries and accommodation. *Plus a sneak peek at future years to come...*

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General

• Battle of Britain - 70th Anniversary

2010 marks the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. In 1940, participating aircraft came from former RAF airfields in the region, such as *North Weald* (nr. Epping) in Essex, and *Martlesham Heath* (nr. Ipswich) in Suffolk. The *Imperial War Museum Duxford* (nr. Cambridge) in Cambridgeshire has a brand new photographic exhibition called 'Duxford in the Battle of Britain' - from the 19 April to 31 December. This provides a unique insight into life at a fighter station during the Second World War. Look out also for the Battle of Britain Air Show on the 4 and 5 September, alongside a 'Special Interest Day' dedicated to the famous battle on the 11 September. *Further information:* +44 (0)1223 835000. www.iwm.org.uk/duxford

Bedfordshire

• Bedford Museum and Cecil Higgins Art Gallery

Castle Lane

The Bedford Gallery opened in April 2009. A grant of £2.5 million enabled the refurbishment of this historic building (along with the neighbouring Hexagon). These works form 'phase 1' of the overall vision to refurbish the museums. The next phase (estimated at £6.7 million) includes new galleries, collection stories, learning spaces, a reception, shop and café. Subject to the success of the fundraising programme, it is anticipated that Bedford Museum will close at the end of 2010, with the refurbished facilities expected to re-open in late 2012. *Further information:* +44 (0)1234 353323. www.bedfordmuseum.org

• Bedford River Valley Park

Bedford to Willington area

An ambitious regeneration project to create a vast new country park for Bedfordshire. Situated across the flood plain of the River Great Ouse, the project will unlock more than 3.5 square miles of land to establish expanses of riverside landscape for the enjoyment of all. Spanning 2,145 acres it will form a natural link between Bedford (Priory Country Park) and the wider countryside around the village of Willington to the east. April 2008 saw the official release of the Framework document that will create a vision for what the area will become. Visitors can already discover parts of the developing park on a series of cycling and walking routes. *Further information:* +44 (0)1234 767037. www.bedfordrivervalleypark.org

• Bodyflight

Building 36, Twinwoods Business Park, Twinwoods Road, Clapham (nr. Bedford)

The centre is opening the UK's first 'Flow House' in May 2010. Known as 'Flow Rider' this exciting interactive board sports/skills ride mixes surfing, skateboarding and wake boarding all in one thrilling experience. Gallons of water are blasted over a soft wave shaped surface, creating a continuous wave about seven inches deep. The surface of the 'Flow Rider' is soft like a trampoline, so if riders fall off they can just pick themselves up and try again. *Further information:* +44 (0)845 200 2960. www.bodyflight.co.uk

• Center Parcs: Warren Wood

Warren Wood (nr. Woburn)

The fifth Center Parcs village will be constructed at Warren Wood - an area currently managed for commercial forestry use. The company will be investing £200 million, comprising 700 forest villas, a 75 bed hotel and spa, indoor sports, a swimming pool, restaurants and retail outlets. At this stage there is no firm timetable for the construction and opening of the village, however it is not anticipated that on-site work will commence until late 2010/early 2011. *Further information:* +44 (0)8448 267723. www.centerparcs.co.uk

• Nirah

Marston Moretaine area (nr. Bedford)

An ambitious new project that aims to promote the understanding of the connection between freshwater and life. Features include a tropical biotope with freshwater and ornamental gardens, a water adventure park, 4D cinema, hotels, plant/aquatic centre and spa. Construction is due to start in 2010 - with an expected opening date in 2012. *Further information:* www.nirah.org

• ZSL Whipsnade Zoo

Whipsnade (nr. Dunstable)

New for 2010 is 'Wild Wild Whipsnade'. Visitors can travel back to a time when wild beasts walked this land. See close-up the mystical wolverine, the majestic moose, the enchanting lynx and the devilish wild boar - that were once commonplace in Britain. There will be interactive learning activities, special talks and photo opportunities. *Further information:* +44 (0)1582 872171. www.zsl.org/zsl-whipsnade-zoo

• Woburn Abbey and Woburn Safari Park

2010 is the 200th anniversary of the completion of landscape designer Humphrey Repton's plans at Woburn Abbey. The official opening of the restoration of his original Pleasure Grounds, and a season of special events will commemorate this exceptional occasion. This will include a new exhibition on Repton, opening a section of the private gardens and entry to the 19th C. Hornbeam Labyrinth. The adjacent Safari Park is also celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2010, and visitors will be able to celebrate with a series of special events. *Further information:* +44 (0)1525 290333. www.woburn.co.uk

• Wrest Park Gardens

Silsoe (nr. Luton)

English Heritage has unveiled plans (*September 2008*) to restore this site - one of Britain's finest landscape gardens to its original splendour. It's treasures have been obliterated, overgrown and ignored for decades - but after gaining ownership of the estate in 2006, £2 million has been spent on conservation work (including a generous grant from the Wolfson Foundation). Now, following a detailed appraisal, English Heritage has announced a 20 year plan to re-establish Wrest Park as one of the pre-eminent gardens in England. Plans include restoring/opening the Countess' Sitting Room and Conservatory; repairing Capability Brown's lakes; refurnishing some of the garden 'rooms'; creating a sculpture display in the former dairy; replanting the Italian Garden; and increasing visitor access within the mansion. *Further information:* +44 (0)870 333 1181. www.english-heritage.org.uk

Cambridgeshire

- **Fitzwilliam Museum**

Trumpington Street, Cambridge

New for 2010 - visitors can experience the museum's collection of Greek and Roman antiquities in a completely new light, thanks to a 18 month, £950,000 gallery refurbishment. From sculpture and sarcophagi to figurines and funerary items, as well as the Fitzwilliam's superb collection of Greek vases - these treasures are now displayed in a modern setting that complements the gallery's 19th C. architecture. *Further information:* +44 (0)1223 332900. www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk

- **Imperial War Museum Duxford**

(nr. Cambridge)

Please refer to the Battle of Britain - 70th Anniversary information on page 1.

- **Peckover House and Garden**

North Brink, Wisbech

Owned by The National Trust, this classic Georgian merchant's townhouse is holding a special exhibition throughout August 2010. Entitled 'Austen Attired', it brings together key character costumes from the popular film and TV productions of Jane Austen novels - including, 'Pride and Prejudice', 'Sense and Sensibility', 'Mansfield Park' and 'Emma'. *Further information:* +44 (0)1945 583463. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/peckover

- **Shepreth Wildlife Park**

Station Road, Shepreth (nr. Royston)

The park has opened the new Ringo's Play Barn for 2010. Children can enjoy the ample play equipment, whilst adults can take advantage of a drink and snack in the new cafeteria, complete with added toilet facilities. *Further information:* +44 (0)1763 262226. www.sheprethwildlifepark.co.uk

Essex

- **Adventure Island**

Sunken Gardens, Western Esplanade, Southend-on-Sea

A new seafront arcade has opened at the park for 2010 - replacing the former 'Lucky Strike' building. It is more than twice the size of its predecessor. In addition, the 'Mighty Mini Mega Roller Coaster' has being moved to the top of the building, adding an extra five metres to its height. *Further information:* +44 (0)1702 443400. www.adventureisland.co.uk

- **Audley End House and Gardens**

Audley End (nr. Saffron Walden)

The previously unseen stables at this Jacobean stately home will be opening to the public for the first time in May 2010. The Grade I listed stables were built in the 17th C. and are among the finest in the country. A new exhibition will highlight the importance of horses to Audley End's noble residents. It will also tell the story of the coachman, grooms, gamekeepers and gardeners who have worked on the estate. With the addition of live horses, visitors will be able to experience the life of a Victorian stable. In addition, there will be a new café and children's play area. *Further information:* +44 (0)1799 522842. www.english-heritage.org.uk/audleyend

- **Beth Chatto Gardens**

Elmstead Market (nr. Colchester)

One of the region's most famous gardens is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2010. The Beth Chatto Gardens were began in 1960 - and from an overgrown wasteland with poor gravel soil and boggy hollows has been transformed into an informal garden harmonising with the surrounding countryside. *Further information:* +44 (0)1206 822007. www.bethchatto.co.uk

• Chelmsford Museum

Oaklands Park, Moulsham Street

New for 2010 - a £5 million extension has opened at Chelmsford Museum. This two-storey contemporary building has doubled the size of the museum. Features include a new entrance, a gallery devoted to the town's unique industrial heritage, the Essex Regiment Museum, community life galleries, art displays and a large temporary exhibition space. Parts of the old museum have also had a facelift, with new lighting, cases and carpets. *Further information:* +44 (0)1245 605700. www.chelmsford.gov.uk

• Colchester Castle Museum

Castle Park

The Heritage Lottery Fund has given the green light to work up plans to reinterpret and re-display Colchester Castle Museum. Stage one development funding of £265,300 has been awarded to help progress the plans. Work will now get underway to reach the second stage of the HLF application process. The planned transformation will safeguard the internationally important collection, plus tell the story of the town from Roman times to the present day. *Further information:* +44 (0)1206 282927. www.colchestermuseums.org.uk

• Colchester Zoo

Stanway (nr. Colchester)

The zoo has opened its new Amur Leopard enclosure for 2010. Entitled 'Leopards at Ussuri Falls' this £100,000 project has nearly tripled the size of the leopard's current home. There is lots of height and areas for climbing, plus better viewing for visitors too. Due to open in Summer 2010, a new nature area is being developed to the south of the zoo site - enabling visitors to see a range of native wildlife species (such as damselflies and song thrush). The boardwalk will run through riverside marshland, with close up views of the Roman River. *Further information:* +44 (0)1206 331292. www.colchester-zoo.co.uk

• Dedham Vale AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)

(nr. Colchester)

Designated as an 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' - the Dedham Vale sits on the borders of Essex and Suffolk, and has become famous worldwide through the paintings of Britain's greatest landscape artist John Constable (1776-1837). The area is characterised by some of the finest lowland landscape in England - the River Stour winding its way past scattered woodland, water meadows, hedgerows, sunken rural lanes and pretty villages. 2010 is the 40th anniversary of the Dedham Vale - and there will be special events and activities to celebrate. *Further information:* +44 (0)1473 264263. www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org

• Epping Ongar Railway

Station House, High Street, Ongar

This railway was originally part of a 10 kilometre stretch of the end of the Great Eastern (latterly LNER and London Central) line that runs through beautiful Essex countryside. After closure in 1994, the line was preserved for use as a heritage railway. Work has been underway to upgrade the infrastructure, buildings, track, signals and also the rolling stock that will allow a locomotive hauled train for both visitors and locals, within an authentic heritage railway atmosphere. It is hoped that services will begin in 2010.

Further information: +44 (0)1277 365200. www.eorailway.co.uk

• firstsite

High Street, Colchester

A new innovative cultural and social space, with contemporary art at its heart. Designed by the award-winning architect Rafael Vinoly, this crescent-shaped building has been clad in a unique gold alloy. It will house a vibrant programme of changing exhibitions, workshops, lectures and community events. Features include presentation spaces for exhibitions of contemporary visual arts, a daytime café/evening restaurant, artists' spaces and a 200 seat auditorium. It is scheduled to open in 2011. *Further information:* +44 (0)1206 577067. www.firstsite.uk.net

• The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games - Cycling (Mountain Bike)

A 550 acre site situated close to the village of Hadleigh (nr. Benfleet). It encompasses the grassland and woodland of Hadleigh Farm (land owned by The Salvation Army) and the surrounding countryside of Hadleigh Castle Country Park. The terrain is hilly with open grass land covered by low shrubbery - offering fantastic gradients. *Further information:* +44 (0)203 201 2000. www.london2012.com

- **Mountfitchet Castle**

Stansted Mountfitchet

New for 2010 - The Haunted Manor (part of the existing House on the Hill Toy Museum) is a high-tech/interactive experience for the family, where you will come face-to-face with spooky happenings. *Further information:* +44 (0)1279 813237. www.mountfitchetcastle.com

- **Park Inn Palace**

Church Road, Southend-on-Sea

Opened in March 2010 - this new stylish hotel overlooks the River Thames. It has 137 well-equipped guestrooms - the majority with sea views. There is also a spacious all-day dining bar/grill, six meeting rooms and a gymnasium. The hotel is set in the former Palace Hotel, a landmark Edwardian building. *Further information:* +44 (0)1702 455100. www.southend-on-sea.parkinn.co.uk

- **Prittlewell Priory Museum**

Priory Park, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea

The museum has been given a £1.3 million grant award for its refurbishment. It will include a complete re-display of the exhibits, major structural repairs and improved accessibility. Once complete, it will tell the story of the priory from its monastic days to its life as a Victorian house. Work is due to start in 2010, with a re-opening in 2012. *Further information:* +44 (0)1702 342878. www.southendmuseums.co.uk

- **Sea-Life Adventure**

Eastern Esplanade, Southend-on-Sea

New for 2010 - this popular attraction has undergone a £1 million refurbishment, featuring a new tropical shark tank holding more than 195 tonnes of water, home to black tip reef sharks and an array of colourful fish. Visitors can walk through an eight-metre long tunnel beneath the tank. Alongside this the restaurant has been extended, together with a new entrance area and gift shop. *Further information:* +44 (0)1702 442211. www.sealifeadventure.co.uk

- **Stena Line**

Harwich to the Hook of Holland (The Netherlands) ferry route

To meet increasing demand on the Harwich to the Hook of Holland route, Stena Line is investing over £375 million in two brand new superferries. The new 'Stena Britannica' and 'Stena Hollandica' will join the route in 2010, offering 30% more capacity and exciting new features for passengers and cars - two restaurants, bars, internet corner, shop and kids playroom. *Further information:* +44 (0)8448 470008. www.stenaline.co.uk

- **Wilkin and Sons**

Tiptree (nr. Colchester)

One of the most famous food brands of the East of England is Wilkin and Sons - producer of preserves. Celebrating their 125th anniversary in 2010 - the first jams were made here in 1885, and today you can visit their little museum, then try the unique 'Little Scarlet' in the tearoom. A series of events will be held throughout the year to celebrate. *Further information:* +44 (0)1621 815407. www.tiptree.com

Hertfordshire

- **British Schools Museum**

41/42 Queen Street, Hitchin

The museum is celebrating a bicentenary in 2010. It is 200 years since local landowner and philanthropist William Wilshere opened the first Monitorial School in Hertfordshire for the children of the working poor. The original old malthouse that housed the school is long gone - it burnt down in 1845 - but today the site holds a unique cluster of old school buildings. The 1837 Lancasterian Schoolroom is the only survivor anywhere in the world of its type. *Further information:* +44 (0)1462 420144. www.hitchinbritishschools.org.uk

• Butterfly World

London Colney (nr. St. Albans)

Building work began on this world-class visitor attraction in September 2008. Once completed in summer 2011, it will incorporate the world's largest biome filled with over 10,000 tropical butterflies, waterfalls and reproduced Mayan-style ruins - a living rainforest. Outside walkways will lead through spectacular gardens and meadows rich in wildflowers. The site is designed in the shape of a giant butterfly. 'Phase 1' of the project is now open, featuring a butterfly breeding house, inspirational 'designer' gardens and a chrysalis shaped lake. *Further information:* +44 (0)1727 869203. www.butterfly-world.org

• Hatfield House

New for 2010 - Hatfield House has opened its newly restored Victorian kitchen. Visitors can see how the staff prepared a banquet for Queen Victoria's visit in 1846, learn about everyday life (using touch-screens) and experience the atmosphere of the period. Completed in 1611, Hatfield House will be celebrating its 400th anniversary in 2011. One of the highlights of the year will be a major exhibition of outdoor sculpture by British artist Henry Moore. Monumental bronze works will be placed in the gardens and woodland at Hatfield, from the 23 April to 30 September. *Further information:* +44 (0)1707 287010. www.hatfield-house.co.uk

• Hertford Museum

18 Bull Plain

The museum re-opened in February 2010 following a major development project. Improvements include a new lift, displays, shop and resource room. *Further information:* +44 (0)1992 582686. www.hertfordmuseum.org

• The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games - Canoe Slalom

Lee Valley Regional Park, Broxbourne

The London 2012 White Water Canoe Centre is being built in the heart of the Lee Valley Regional Park. This world class centre will be the only brand new London 2012 venue available for use before the games, opening to the public in Spring 2011. The two courses - a 300m competition course and a 160m training course will allow users of all abilities to experience the thrill of white water. The course will host four days of competition, hosting 12,000 spectators each day. After the games the centre will re-open to the public. *Further information:* +44 (0)203 201 2000. www.london2012.com

• Myddleton House Gardens

Enfield

The gardens have been awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to complete elements of the Conservation Management Plan. This includes re-instating the kitchen garden and creating a visitor/heritage centre displaying artefacts found in the garden. The project is to be completed by 2011. *Further information:* +44 (0)8456 770600. www.leevalleypark.org.uk

Norfolk

• The Bridewell Museum

Bridewell Alley, Norwich

The Bridewell tells the story of Norwich and its people. Currently closed, it has been awarded a £1 million Heritage Lottery grant to help improve access to the building for disabled visitors, as well as a welcoming new entrance and shop. New displays in the museum will feature paintings of the city, dress and textiles, everyday furniture and household possessions. The building is expected to re-open in Summer 2011. *Further information:* +44 (0)1603 629127. www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk

• Great Yarmouth Pleasure Beach

Seafront

This popular attraction is adding a new 4D Cinema - due to open in June 2010. The 30-seat building will show two different films, together with moving seats, water spray, air blasts and other effects. *Further information:* +44 (0)1493 844585. www.pleasure-beach.co.uk

- **Holkham Hall**

Nr. Wells-next-the-Sea

An exciting project is underway at Holkham to restore the 6½ acres of walled gardens which were originally laid out by Samuel Wyatt during the late 1700s. The gardens have been closed to the public since 2005, and the project is estimated to take four to five years to complete. For the first time this year (2010) visitors will be able to see how it is developing. *Further information:* +44 (0)1328 710227. www.holkham.co.uk

- **Huff and Puff Cycles**

Holkham Hall (nr. Wells-next-the-Sea)

A new cycle hire centre has opened at Holkham Hall (nr. Wells-next-the-Sea). Operating from the inner courtyard (alongside the tearoom and Bygones Museum), there is a series of routes available. *Further information:* +44 (0)1328 713811. www.cyclenorfolk.co.uk

- **Merrivale Model Village**

Seafront, Great Yarmouth

The model village has installed several new models for 2010. Look out for the Manor Farm Riding Stables, Kip Down Hotel and Merrivale Police Headquarters. A traditional 9 hole crazy golf course has also opened. *Further information:* +44 (0)1493 842097. www.greatyarmouthmodelvillage.co.uk

- **The Mo, Sheringham Museum**

Seafront

New for 2010 - this £1.1 million project has seen the conversion of 'The Mo', a modern building with a viewing tower on Sheringham seafront, into a smart new museum billed as 'a place of people and boats'. It brings together collections relating to the town and its development as a holiday resort. Three of the town's original lifeboats - the JC Madge, the Forester's Centenary and the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows provide a centrepiece. *Further information:* +44 (0)1263 824482. www.sheringhammuseum.co.uk

- **Norfolk Lavender**

Caley Mill, Heacham (nr. Hunstanton)

This popular attraction has opened a new rare breeds animal centre for 2010 - featuring wallabies, alpacas and prairie dogs. In addition, over 50 varieties of bamboo have been added to the garden. *Further information:* +44 (0)1485 570384. www.norfolk-lavender.co.uk

- **North Norfolk Railway**

Sheringham Station, Station Approach, Sheringham

New for 2010 - the railway has been re-connected to the national rail network by means of an "occasional use" tramway-style level crossing at Sheringham. The crossing allows the heritage railway to bring in steam-hauled charter trains from London, and also allow bigger visiting steam engines to come to the line. *Further information:* +44 (0)1263 820800. www.nnrailway.co.uk

- **Norwich Backpackers**

King Street

Opening in the city centre in 2011, this new eco-friendly backpackers hostel will offer private en-suite rooms (doubles, twins, triples, quads and family rooms), alongside traditional dorms. The plans also include a café, canoe and cycle hire too. *Further information:* +44 (0)1485 210256. www.norwichbackpackers.co.uk

- **Norwich Castle Museum**

Castle Meadow

The museum has been awarded £70,000 to add new displays focusing on its 500 years as a county jail. It will enable a more in-depth and interactive experience for visitors, providing information on the memorable characters - from those hanged at the castle to those transported to Australia. Reconstructed cells will be built showing how attitudes to punishment and imprisonment have changed over the centuries. The project is scheduled to open in Summer 2010. *Further information:* +44 (0)1603 493625. www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk

- **Norwich Cathedral**

A visitor and education centre opened in late 2009/early 2010. It forms the new main entrance into the cathedral, housing historical displays and exhibition spaces. The building is constructed on the medieval footprints of the original 'hostry' destroyed in the 16th C. It incorporates the surviving arch and ancient walls uncovered during archaeological digs - and complement the neighbouring award-winning refectory in its look and materials. *Further information:* +44 (0)1603 218300. www.cathedral.org.uk

- **The Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist (Norwich)**

Earlham Road

New for 2010 - the cathedral has opened 'The Narthex'. This new building adds some 400 square metres to the complex, providing much-needed social, educational and interpretative space - plus a new, level access. The overall cost of the project was £2.85 million. *Further information:* +44 (0)1603 728936. www.sjbcathedral.org.uk

- **True's Yard Fisherfolk Museum**

North Street, King's Lynn

New for 2010 - the museum has extended into 3-5 St. Ann's Street - using a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £294,000. The new area includes the site of the only remaining smokehouse in King's Lynn. Other additions include a properly equipped education room and sound archive. *Further information:* +44 (0)1553 770479. www.truesyard.co.uk

Suffolk

- **The Brudenell Hotel**

The Parade, Aldeburgh

The hotel re-opened in April 2010 - following a complete refurbishment of the bedrooms. They are now distinctly decorated, incorporating vibrant colours so often associated with Aldeburgh and Suffolk. The public areas of the hotel (restaurant, lounges and entrance) have also undergo significant changes. *Further information:* +44 (0)1728 452071. www.brudenellhotel.co.uk

- **Ickworth House, Park and Gardens**

Horringer (nr. Bury St. Edmunds)

This National Trust property is refurbishing its basement area to create an interactive exhibition about the lives of the servants. Visitors will be able to take part in activities such as bread-making. This new area is due to open in June 2011. *Further information:* +44 (0)1284 735270. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ickworth

- **Ipswich Museum**

High Street

The museum has secured a grant for £50,000 towards a brand new Egyptian Gallery. Visitors will be able to take a trip along the Nile, following a person from life to death. There will be new display cases, plus some of the most important Egyptian objects from the museum's collection. A variety of interactive and tactile activities will enable visitors of all ages to appreciate and enjoy the exhibition. The new gallery is due to open in late 2010. *Further information:* +44 (0)1206 282927. www.colchestermuseums.org

- **Melford Hall**

Long Melford (nr. Sudbury)

2010 marks the 50th anniversary of The National Trust's involvement with Melford Hall. Throughout the year there will be special exhibitions charting the developments of the last 50 years, and the incredible role that the Hyde Parker family have had in saving their family home for the nation. *Further information:* +44 (0)1787 376395. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/melfordhall

- **Museum of East Anglian Life**

Stowmarket

The museum is to undergo a major revamp followed a successful fundraising campaign and bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund. The work will see Abbot's Hall, the 18th C. Queen Anne country house at the heart of the site transformed into a nine gallery display space. A new entrance will also be created to link the museum with the town's market place. The new developments are due to be completed by 2012. *Further information:* +44 (0)1449 612229. www.eastanglianlife.org.uk

- **St. Edmundsbury Cathedral**

Angel Hill, Bury St. Edmunds

The new fan-vaulted ceiling on the Millennium Tower was finally revealed in March 2010. The oak vault weighs six tonnes, and is painted in vivid blue, green and red colours. A new art gallery - 'Edmund Gallery' also opened in February 2010, and is available to artists who are looking for an exhibition space. *Further information:* +44 (0)1284 748720. www.stedscathedral.co.uk

- **SnOasis**

(nr. Ipswich)

The world's first winter sports resort, offering a totally new concept in family activity holidays. At the heart of the complex will be Europe's largest indoor ski slope, measuring 415 metres long by 70 metres wide, with a 100 metre vertical drop - giving an exhilarating run to both dedicated and fun seeking skiers. Altogether 14 different winter sports will be available, plus an extensive array of other activities, all housed in superb surroundings. Work is underway on this 350 acre, £350 million, privately-funded development, with an expected opening date in 2012. *Further information:* www.snoasis.co.uk

- **Southwold Pier**

Seafront

The pier is to construct the UK's first 'Pier Hotel'. The existing pavilion will be transformed into a contemporary 4 star hotel with 30 bedrooms. The plans will also allow the create of a central kitchen to cater for all three eateries on the pier, a brighter amusement arcade and more restaurant seating and toilets. Work should hopefully start in October, with completion in January 2011. *Further information:* +44 (0)1502 722015. www.southwoldpier.co.uk



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