General Retail News

**British Land** the property giant has revealed that a number of independent retailers will trade alongside the high street’s biggest names such as Topshop and Next at the Whiteley shopping centre. The 320,000 sq ft scheme in Fareham, Hampshire was more than 90% pre-let when it opened this week.

**LK Bennett** the premium footwear and clothing retailer is thought to be plotting a launch in China, and could open its first store there by the summer.

**Hong Kong** has ranked first amongst the world’s ‘hottest’ retail markets by attracting 51 new retailers last year. Kiev and Berlin followed, with Singapore sharing the fourth place with Dubai in attracting 25 new retailers.

**Urban Outfitters** a leading lifestyle specialty retailer announced a net income of circa £31 million for the three months ending April 2013. Total company net sales for the first quarter of fiscal 2014 increased to a record £428 million, 14% over the same quarter last year.

**House of Fraser** the British premium department store reported annual profits of £403.8m this week.

**Tesco’s** the supermarket giant is set to expand the F&F clothing brand overseas. They plan to open up to 50 franchise stores over the coming five years. The brand is targeting new and emerging markets, it will open stores across the Middle East and in Kazakhstan, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

**Burberry** the British luxury group posted a 14% rise in full-year pre-tax profit for the year to £428m. Burberry has opened 23 mainline stores and 22 concessions over the year. Its store opening strategy for 2014 will remain consistent with this year and continue to be biased towards China and Latin America.

**John Lewis** the department store group has unveiled plans to open a three-storey shop in Oxford in 2017. It will be a joint venture between Land Securities and the Crown Estate to deliver the 100,000 sq ft store.

**Trinity Leeds** the shopping centre which is the only major UK scheme to open this year, has attracted 4 million visitors since opening in March 2013.

**Miss Patina** the young fashion label is to open its first standalone store in China on the back of strong demand. The fashion label, which operates from 112 Topshop concessions in the UK, is to open a 1,830 sq ft outlet on 7 June in Hangzhou.

**Boots** the health and beauty operator plans to double its Chinese operations within two years, becoming a nationwide operator in the country. Boots already operates in 17 Chinese provinces and want to expand to all 34.

**Marks and Spencer** the high street retailer has reported a 3.2% fall in pre-tax profit to £665.2 million in its full year despite a rise in sales. However they have opened another international store in Bahrain City Centre, the store totals 27,630 sq ft.

**Arthur Morrice - Knightsbridge**

The Knight Frank Retail team has acquired 2B Hans Road, London for the luxury opticians Arthur Morrice in Knightsbridge. Arthur Morrice have assigned the existing lease from Rupert Sanderson occupying 301 sq ft on a rent of £27,500 per annum and adds to their current London stores in Marylebone, Hampstead and Chelsea.

**Tweet of the Week**

@KFRetail: We’re on our way to @ICSC_RECon in Las Vegas.

@KFRetail with #NGKFRetail #RECon13 #ICSC#Vega.
Retailer Optimism

Saint Laurent

The fashion brand formally known as Yves Saint Laurent opened its doors to a new 9,687 sq ft flagship store in Paris on Avenue Montaigne near the Champs-Elysees this month. Saint Laurent is also set to open a concept store on Sloane Square, London in the autumn as well as stores in Greene Street, New York and Alexandra House, Hong Kong.

Giorgio Armani

The luxury fashion house saw sales rise 16% to circa £1.3m in 2012, faster than a year earlier thanks to growth in all geographical regions and after the opening of 104 new shops worldwide.

Tom's Kitchen

The innovative brasserie concept in British food has signed a lease with Union Investment for its fourth London restaurant. Tom’s Kitchen has taken two units at 11 Westferry Circus, Canary Wharf, London with unit 1 totaling 6,850 sq ft and unit 2 totaling 1,044 sq ft. Their first restaurant was opened in 2003 in Chelsea which received its Michelin star in 2004. This was followed by the opening of its second restaurant in London’s historic Somerset House in 2009.

The Nightjar

The old-school glamour speakeasy is located on the fringes of Shoreditch and was voted third in the World’s 50 best bars in 2012. The Nightjar are now looking to expand into London’s West End with a requirement of 2,000 sq ft with an A4 use class.

Did You Know?

Starbucks is named after the first mate in Herman Melville’s Moby Dick. The logo is also inspired by the sea, featuring a twin-tailed siren from Greek mythology.

Market Sentiment

British high streets were significantly busier than either out-of-town retail parks or shopping centres last month, providing hope for a retail industry that has been shaken by a series of corporate collapses. Helped by the warmer weather, footfall on the high-street Rose 3.4% year-on-year in April, the biggest increase since the run-up to Christmas in 2011. It compared with a 0.3% rise at out-of-town sites and a 3% drop in shopping centres, according to the latest British Retail Consortium (BRC) and springboard monitor. Britain’s main shopping streets also benefitted from their much broader night-time economy of bars and restaurants, with footfall recorded after 6pm rising 4.9% in April compared with a year earlier.

Despite overall shopper numbers rising 1% year-on-year in April, compared with the 5.2% drop measured in March, the number of empty shops in town centres jumped to 11.9% last month, the highest level for almost two years.

CONTACT US

AGENCY
Oliver Langston, Associate
+44 (0)20 7861 1569
oliver.langston@knightfrank.com

DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANCY
Ian Barbour, Partner
+44 (0)20 7861 1223
ian.barbour@knightfrank.com

LEASE ADVISORY
Jeremy Elphick, Partner
+44 (0)20 7861 1590
jeremy.elphick@knightfrank.com

The above information is sourced from Property Week, Estates Gazette, Retail Week, Drapers, The Times and the BBC and does not necessarily represent the view of Knight Frank LLP in relation to particular properties or projects and must not be relied on in any way. No legal responsibility can be accepted by Knight Frank LLP for any loss or damage resultant from the contents of this document.