

Shopping CENTRE

The business monthly for retail property executives

In this issue:
30-page parking feature

Whitefriars' Next

New clutch of retailers joins line-up at Land Sec Canterbury scheme

Next is among a list of retailers that have signed recently for Land Securities' Whitefriars open retail/residential scheme in Canterbury.

Ernest Jones, Ottakars and Carphone Warehouse have also joined the line-up at the development, which will offer 405,000 sq ft of retail space and a 430,000 sq ft residential element.

M&S, H&M, Boots and Zara had already signed.

Next is increasing its Canterbury presence, having signed for 35,000 sq ft. It will relocate from its existing store to trade from a three-level building fronting Whitefriars Square, St Georges Lane and a redesigned transport interchange.

The scheme's 6-8 Rose Lane, an 18,000 sq ft building, is 75 per cent pre-let, said Land Sec.

"The Whitefriars quarter has received an enthusiastic response from the national retailers, enforcing Canterbury as a new major retail destination in the UK," said retail leasing director John Grimes.

"We have a huge catchment in east Kent, second only to Venice in terms of



Whitefriars: each phase is on target for full occupation

day visitors, and a student population of 25,000."

On completion in 2005, Whitefriars will offer three new large stores – for Fenwick's, Boots and Tesco Metro – with provision for up to 39 other units.

The development will have a public square at its heart, with two new streets connecting the scheme to the public transport interchange.

Cushman & Wakefield/Healey & Baker and Leslie Furness are the scheme's letting agents.

Bluewater top Specsavers eyes 40 UK stores

Bluewater has retained its title as the UK's leading shopping centre in TW Research Associates' and Churston Heard's new Definitive Guide to Shopping Centres.

The 1.7 million sq ft centre has topped the retail rankings since 1999.

Gateshead's MetroCentre was runner-up in the rankings but Lakeside dropped from third place to fourth.

Third place was claimed by British Land's Meadowhall in Sheffield.

The biggest new entrant to the top 10 was Festival Place in Basingstoke, which shot up the rankings from 91st place in 2000 to number 10.

The report is available from TW Research Associates (01494 715846; retail@twresearch.co.uk) for \$295.

● Read Shopping Centre July for rankings of the top shopping centres, tenants, agents and investors.

Forty new Specsavers stores are on the way this year as the optical retailer capitalises on record sales figures.

The group smashed its own growth targets, reporting turnover of over \$500m and achieving an 8.8 per cent like-for-like sales increase.

As well as the new UK stores, the company plans to double the number of its recently-acquired Blic outlets in Sweden in the next three to five years, and open 10 stores in the Netherlands.

Chairman Doug Perkins said: "The purchase of Blic is a fantastic achievement and another step towards achieving our five-year vision of 1,000 stores and \$1bn turnover."

Specsavers, which has benefited from a successful "Should have gone to Specsavers" ad campaign, currently has 559 stores across the UK, Ireland and the Netherlands.



Specsavers: vision of 1,000 stores



Without 'React' from Comgenic, are you in danger of been caught out?

React from Comgenic allows your organisation to respond quickly and effectively to all kinds of security situations. The software enables real-time delivery and acknowledgement of security messages between the management team, security personnel and targeted retailers. Whether it's a lost child, credit card fraud or even a bomb alert, React helps you communicate and work together to help create a safer centre environment.

 comgenic
www.comgenic.com

THIS MONTH

NEWS Service charge fall 2 Trafford ski slope plan 3 Retailers to watch 4 SCEPTRE AWARDS Big day nears 22 FEATURES Wales & the west country 12 Cleaning & maintenance feature 23 30-page parking special 32 REGULARS Opinion/Listen 'ere 7 Retailer of the month: Julian Graves/Food feedback 8 One to one: Graham Hatfield 18 Along the malls 31 Data 62 People 67

Bluewater top

Bluewater has retained its title as the UK's leading shopping centre in TW Research Associates' and Churston Heard's new Definitive Guide to Shopping Centres.

The 1.7 million sq ft centre has topped the retail rankings since 1999.

Gateshead's MetroCentre was runner-up in the rankings but Lakeside dropped from third place to fourth.

Third place was claimed by British Land's Meadowhall in Sheffield.

The biggest new entrant to the top 10 was Festival Place in Basingstoke, which shot up the rankings from 91st place in 2000 to number 10.

The report is available from TW Research Associates (01494 715846; retail@twresearch.co.uk) for £295.

● Read Shopping Centre July for rankings of the top shopping centres, tenants, agents and investors.