

Shoppingcentre

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An even keel

Steady as she goes, advocates Francis Salway



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Grand designs

Lofty aspirations at Belfast's Victoria Square

The impressive scale of Westfield and its high level of innovation has proved a big draw for the public



Overseas deal for John Lewis

John Lewis is to open its first department store outside the UK following a deal with Joe O'Reilly's Chartered Land to anchor its 1.7 million-sq ft Dublin Central scheme on O'Connell Street in Dublin city centre.

John Lewis will trade from a 250,000-sq ft space spread over five levels. The Dublin department store will form part of the partnership's existing expansion plans to double the size of its business in the next ten years.

Gareth Thomas, director of retail design and development at John Lewis said: "We are delighted to have the opportunity to open John Lewis in Dublin – a city full of vitality and vibrancy. We believe that we will add a fresh and new dimension to the Irish retail market."

Another John Lewis department store on the island of Ireland is planned for Westfield's Sprucefield site near Lisburn in Northern Ireland.

Premier League

Graham Parker looks at the latest rankings for shopping centres throughout the UK

The league table of the UK's top shopping centres has seen considerable change over the past year, according to the latest edition of *Going Shopping - The Definitive Guide to Shopping Centres*, recently published by Trevor Wood Associates.

The review ranks centres trading at the beginning of September 2008 by their overall attractiveness to shoppers, retailers and investors. This is achieved by factoring in tenant mix, lettable area, type of scheme, Sunday trading, parking provision, transport links, weekly footfall and other facilities on offer.

Going Shopping highlights the presence of a distinct Premier League of 24 leading shopping centres. To the previous list of 22 super-centres the researchers have added Westfield Derby and Highcross Leicester. Below these, there has been a considerable amount of activity, with 42 of the 500 leading schemes refurbished or extended in the last 18 months.

Key changes include the redevelopment of Westfield Derby, which saw the scheme break in to the top 10 and, following a major extension, Highcross Leicester jumped into the top 20 at 17.

New entries to the top 100 include Silverburn in Glasgow at 29 and Liverpool One which appears at 79, although this scheme will almost certainly chart much higher next year, once the phase two development has fully opened.

Following extensions, a number of schemes have risen more than 50 places, including Golden Square shopping centre in Warrington, now at 37, Eden shopping centre in High Wycombe rising to 60, Spindles Town Square in Oldham ranking at 73 and Hounds Hill shopping centre in Blackpool, currently sitting at 100.

Twenty-nine schemes have improved their ranking in the top 100, and other major risers include Canary Wharf in London, Drake Circus in Plymouth and Southside in Wandsworth, south-west London. **SC**

The Top 20 UK Shopping Centres 2008

2008 RANK	CHANGE	SCHEME	LOCATION
1	●	MetroCentre	Gateshead
2	●	Bluewater	Dartford - Greenhithe
3	●	Meadowhall	Sheffield
4	●	The Trafford Centre	Manchester - Trafford
5	●	Lakeside	Grays - Thurrock
6	●	Merry Hill Centre	Brierley Hill
7	▲	Manchester Arndale	Manchester
8	▼	the centre:mK	Milton Keynes
9	▼	East Kilbride	East Kilbride
10	▲	Westfield Derby	Derby
11	▲	Bullring	Birmingham
12	▲	The Telford Centre	Telford
13	▲	Festival Place	Basingstoke
14	▼	The Harlequin	Watford
15	▲	The Mall at Cribbs Causeway	Bristol - Cribbs Causeway
16	▲	Brent Cross	London - Hendon
17	▲	Highcross Leicester	Leicester
18	▼	Whitgift Centre	Croydon
19	▼	Eldon Square	Newcastle-upon-Tyne
20	▲	Kingfisher Centre	Redditch

Source: Trevor Wood Associates