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Welcome to this month's NMDC newsletter which contains an update on our activities and the latest news from the museum sector in the UK and beyond. [www.nationalmuseums.org.uk](http://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk)

## NMDC News

### Free Admission to National Museums

A letter from NMDC Directors expressing support for free admission to National Museums was published in the Guardian on 21 June. The letter highlights the success of free admission, recognising government and Conservative support for the policy, but notes that it needs to be underpinned by adequate public funding to ensure continued success. The letter is at: [www.guardian.co.uk/letters/story/0,,2107569,00.html](http://www.guardian.co.uk/letters/story/0,,2107569,00.html)

An article that makes link with the spending review is at: [arts.guardian.co.uk/art/heritage/story/0,,2107819,00.html](http://arts.guardian.co.uk/art/heritage/story/0,,2107819,00.html)

This comes at the same time as news that visits to National Museums increased last year (see page 2) and questions asked in the House of Commons (page 7).

### NMDC Response Caring for Our Collections Report

NMDC has welcomed the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee's report *Caring for Our Collections*. [www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/caring\\_collections\\_select\\_commit.html](http://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/caring_collections_select_commit.html) Further information on page 6.

### NMDC Response to Museums Association Consultation on Code of Ethics

NMDC has responded to the Museums Association consultation on its code of ethics. Please see:

[www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/images/publications/NMDCresponse\\_MA\\_codeofethicschanges\\_Jun07.doc](http://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/images/publications/NMDCresponse_MA_codeofethicschanges_Jun07.doc)

## Members' News

### AirSpace Opens at Duxford

*AirSpace*, a major new £25 million project at Imperial War Museum Duxford, opens to the public on 12 July 2007. Covering over 12,000 sqm, *AirSpace* tells the story of Britain's civil and military aviation through displays of aircraft, ground-handling equipment, engines and other historic objects, alongside interactive exhibits using video, hands-on displays and computers. *AirSpace* also contains an area devoted to aircraft conservation, supporting exhibition and gallery spaces, purpose built classrooms and education workshops, a conference facility and a 200-seat lecture theatre. [www.airspaceduxford.org.uk/](http://www.airspaceduxford.org.uk/)

### Culture Minister Underlines Government Commitment to Promoting Science

In a speech at the Natural History Museum on 19 June, then Culture Minister David Lammy confirmed the Government's commitment to promoting science in the UK. He praised organisations such as the Science Museum and the Natural History Museum for the work they do in inspiring and nurturing the next generation of scientists and in engaging the public in discussion about science and society. He said "It's through museums and other institutions in civil society that interest, debate and trust can be built." He emphasised "the power, the potential and the responsibility of this sector to help engage, inspire and educate a generation of young people and an occasionally sceptical wider public".

Mr Lammy concluded by thanking staff and trustees of museums, as well as volunteers, funders and other partners, saying: "The future of science and our success as a society are becoming ever-more closely linked. And your role in binding the two together, for the good of both, is vital."

[www.culture.gov.uk/Reference\\_library/Minister\\_Speeches/Ministers\\_Speech\\_Archive/David\\_Lammy/DLspeech\\_scienceandeducationspeech\\_june2007.htm](http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Minister_Speeches/Ministers_Speech_Archive/David_Lammy/DLspeech_scienceandeducationspeech_june2007.htm)

### The National Archives Wins Jodi Award

The National Archives has won the Jodi award for excellence in website accessibility for the exhibition *Prisoner 4099*. The online exhibition resulted from a three year project between The National Archives, blind and visually impaired students across Britain and national organisations that promote and develop accessibility on the Internet. [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/news/stories/162.htm](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/news/stories/162.htm)

## Queen's Birthday Honours

Roy Clare, former director of the National Maritime Museum, was awarded a C.B.E for services to museums in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. [www.honours.gov.uk/lists/2007birthday.aspx](http://www.honours.gov.uk/lists/2007birthday.aspx)

## The National Gallery *Grand Tour* in London

*The Grand Tour*, an outdoor exhibition of 45 full size reproductions of paintings in the National Gallery in London's West End, aims to encourage people to visit the actual works in the Gallery. Reproduction masterpieces, hung in replica frames, each with an information plaque, are on display in the streets of Soho, Piccadilly and Covent Garden until September.

A map of *The Grand Tour*, information about the paintings, audio downloads and a picture gallery are available at [www.thegrandtour.org.uk](http://www.thegrandtour.org.uk). *The Grand Tour* is collaboration between the National Gallery, technology company Hewlett Packard and brand and design consultancy, The Partners.

## Funding Earmarked for *Imagine a Nation*

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has earmarked funding of £1.1million for *Imagine a Nation*, a programme of exhibitions, events and educational activities which will explore collections of British art that illuminate what it means to be British in the 21st century and include a special presentation at Tate Britain during the London 2012 Olympics.

The partnership is led by Tyne & Wear Museums and includes Tate Britain, Norfolk Museum and Archaeology Service and Sheffield Galleries & Museum Trust. A dedicated website, with access to about 80,000 works of art, will allow people to create their own online exhibition.

The partnership can now progress to Stage Two and submit a further application to HLF to secure the full grant. [www.hlf.org.uk/English/MediaCentre/Archive/Imagine+a+Nation.htm](http://www.hlf.org.uk/English/MediaCentre/Archive/Imagine+a+Nation.htm)

## New Galleries at the British Museum

The British Museum has opened three newly refurbished galleries devoted to Ancient Iran, Prehistoric Europe and the Middle East. Plant works and refurbishment also have taken place in the galleries of Iron Age and Roman Britain, where new finds such as the Ashwell Hoard (purchased with the help of the Art Fund) will go on display for the first time. The gallery improvement programme began with the Japanese Galleries and Prints and Drawings, which reopened in 2006, and will continue with the galleries dedicated to Medieval Europe and Clocks and Watches.

[www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/the\\_museum/news\\_and\\_debate/press\\_releases/2007/new\\_galleries\\_open.aspx](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/the_museum/news_and_debate/press_releases/2007/new_galleries_open.aspx)

## New Chairman of Victoria & Albert Museum

Sir John Tusa has been appointed Chairman of the Victoria and Albert Museum for a period of four years with effect from 1 November 2007. Sir John is Managing Director of the Barbican Centre and was previously Managing Director of the BBC World Service. He is currently Independent Chair of the Arts Policy Task Force, due to report to David Cameron in October 2007, when he will stand down.

[www.pm.gov.uk/output/Page11987.asp](http://www.pm.gov.uk/output/Page11987.asp)

## New Director of Modern and Contemporary Art at National Galleries of Scotland

Dr Simon Groom has been appointed Director of Modern and Contemporary Art for the National Galleries of Scotland. He will take up his post in autumn 2007. Simon is currently Head of Exhibitions and Collections at Tate Liverpool, where he curated "The Real Thing: Contemporary Art from China" and is curating the Turner Prize this year. He was previously Exhibitions Organiser at Kettle's Yard.

[www.nationalgalleries.org/media/files/director\\_of\\_mca\\_pr\\_1.pdf](http://www.nationalgalleries.org/media/files/director_of_mca_pr_1.pdf)

# Current Issues

## Visitor Numbers Up at National Museums

The number of visits to national museums and galleries has risen from 24 million in 1997-98 to 39 million last year. Last year was the most successful year for free admission, with nearly seven million extra visits to former charging museums, an increase of 87% on five years ago when the policy was introduced.

- Around half of all visits were by people who had not visited in the previous 12 months
- Visits to the V&A were up 139%, 126% at the Natural History Museum and 83% at the Science Museum
- In the regions the biggest increases are at National Museums Liverpool (up 139%), the Natural History Museum in Tring (up 91%) and the National Railway Museum in York (up 64%)

Visits to museums that have always been free have risen 8% over the same period.

[www.culture.gov.uk/Reference\\_library/Press\\_notices/archive\\_2007/nationalmuseumfigures\\_dcms73\\_07.htm](http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Press_notices/archive_2007/nationalmuseumfigures_dcms73_07.htm)

## **New Ministers**

Rt Hon James Purnell MP has been appointed Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, with overall ministerial responsibility for strategy, expenditure and organisation. James Purnell was previously Minister of State for Pensions Reform at the Department of Work and Pensions; Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and Parliamentary Private Secretary to Ruth Kelly MP in the Cabinet Office. James Purnell was Head of Corporate Planning at the BBC (1995-1997) and worked as a special adviser on culture, media, sport and the knowledge economy for Prime Minister Tony Blair, from 1997 to 2001.

Rt Hon Margaret Hodge MBE MP has been appointed Minister of State. Her responsibilities include: Arts, Museums & Galleries, Archives & Libraries, Creative Industries, Heritage, Architecture, Royal Parks, Tourism, Science and Sustainability, Volunteering and Human rights. Margaret Hodge was previously Minister of State for Industry, Minister of State for Employment and Welfare Reform (2005-6); Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families (2003-5); Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education, (2001-3) and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Employment and Equal Opportunities (1998-2001).

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Gerry Sutcliffe MP is responsible for Sport, Gambling and the National Lottery. [www.culture.gov.uk/about\\_us/our\\_ministers/](http://www.culture.gov.uk/about_us/our_ministers/)

Tessa Jowell is Olympics Minister, working out of the Cabinet Office. David Lammy is Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Skills at the new Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills.

A full list of ministers is available at: [www.pm.gov.uk/output/Page2988.asp](http://www.pm.gov.uk/output/Page2988.asp)

## **Speech by Secretary of State at the National Portrait Gallery**

In a speech at the National Portrait Gallery on 6 July, Culture Secretary James Purnell paid tribute to his predecessors and the success of the arts over the last ten years. Outlining his priorities, he said: "My goal is simple – I want us to be world class, from the grassroots to the top. But achieving that will mean we need to continue to take risks". Mr Purnell said "I want to keep the passion and throw away the packaging of targetolatry. Setting culture free to do what it does best".

He announced that Sir Brian McMaster, who has run the Edinburgh International Festival and is a member of Arts Council England, would lead a review of how the Government can promote excellence in the arts, in a light touch, non bureaucratic way. Sir Brian is due to report in the autumn.

[www.culture.gov.uk/Reference\\_library/Minister\\_Speeches/James\\_Purnell/jamespumellsos\\_speechcultureinthenexttenyrs.htm](http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Minister_Speeches/James_Purnell/jamespumellsos_speechcultureinthenexttenyrs.htm)

## **Report: *Staying ahead: the economic performance of the UK's creative industries***

The Work Foundation has published *Staying ahead: the economic performance of the UK's creative industries*, an economic analysis of the Creative Economy in the UK. The report was commissioned by the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) as part of the Creative Economy Programme.

In a foreword, Tessa Jowell says that the report puts the creative industries at the "heart of the UK economy" recognising their cultural influence and economic value, and that of "institutions like the Victoria and Albert Museum, the British Library, the BBC and the National Theatre".

According to the report: "The creative industries are important sources of employment and wealth generation, and...certain to become even more important in the future... But they are more than that. They are the means by which the nation displays expressive value – a source of pleasure, wellbeing and the replenishment of our collectively-created culture – and their growth demonstrates the increasing worth we attach to it."

The report calls for support for the creative industries to be seen in terms of investment, rather than subsidy, and concludes: "How the country approaches education and how the creative industries urgently broaden their diversity will be two great drivers of change. Societies that are tolerant, self-confident, diverse and articulate are the hand-maidens of such creativity. Thus are the creative economy and creative society indissolubly linked."

[www.culture.gov.uk/Reference\\_library/Publications/archive\\_2007/stayingahead\\_epukci.htm](http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Publications/archive_2007/stayingahead_epukci.htm)

A Green Paper will be published later this year, which will respond to many of the issues raised in the report.

## **DCMS Sustainable Development Action Plan Published**

DCMS' second Sustainable Development Action Plan for the period April 2007 to March 2010 updates the department's Sustainable Development Strategy and sets targets for DCMS and its sponsored bodies, including National Museums. The plan will be reviewed in spring 2008.

[DCMS Sustainable Development Action Plan 2007-2010](http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Publications/archive_2007/sustainabledevelopmentactionplan2007-2010.htm)

## **Collections of Scottish National Significance**

Ten unique collections from museums and galleries across Scotland have been recognised as being of national significance. The Recognition Scheme, funded by the Scottish Executive and managed by the Scottish Museums Council, celebrates, promotes and invests in nationally significant collections held outside the nationally run museums and galleries.

The ten recognised collections are held by local authorities, universities and independent trusts. To achieve Recognition status, applicants had to demonstrate the uniqueness, authenticity, comprehensiveness and national value of their collection. They will receive specially designed plaques and certificates and will have the opportunity to bid for a share of £1 million funding earmarked for the Recognition Scheme over the next two years. Round 2 of the Recognition Scheme is now open. Round 3 will open in December. [www.scottishmuseums.org.uk/news/2007/Recognition.asp](http://www.scottishmuseums.org.uk/news/2007/Recognition.asp)

## **London 2012 Outlines Vision for Cultural Olympiad**

London 2012 has outlined plans for the largest ever Cultural Olympiad. At the centre of the Cultural Olympiad are a UK-wide Cultural Festival and ten major projects created in partnership with the BBC, MLA, the UK Film Council and the Arts Councils of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The ten major projects are:

- **Film and Video Nation:** a UK-wide, four-year festival;
- **International Exhibitions Programme:** International curators will work with communities in the UK to re-discover and re-interpret existing collections;
- **Artists Taking the Lead:** twelve artists' commissions in unusual public spaces;
- **2012 Sounds!:** participative music projects for young people around the UK, from 2008-2012;
- **International Shakespeare Festival:** a range of new creative collaborations across the cultural sector;
- **Live Sites:** a network of permanent and temporary giant screens to show London 2012 across the UK;
- **Celebration of Disability Arts and Sports:** a festival celebrating Paralympic sport and disability arts
- **2012 Carnival:** bridging the closing of the 2012 Olympic Games and the opening of the Paralympics;
- **World Cultural Festival:** a celebration of the cultures of all Olympic nations;
- **World Festival of Youth Culture:** young people celebrating the Games through art, music and fashion.

Led by a network of Creative Programmers, the UK Cultural Festival will start in summer 2008 and encompass thousands of national, local and regional events as part of the nationwide celebrations to mark the 2012 Games. [main.london2012.com/en/ourvision/olympism+and+culture/TheCulturalOlympiad.htm](http://main.london2012.com/en/ourvision/olympism+and+culture/TheCulturalOlympiad.htm)

## **Lottery and London to be Repaid from Sale of Olympic Land**

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Government and the Mayor of London sets out how the Lottery and the London Development Agency (LDA) will be paid back for funds diverted to support the 2012 Olympics. The agreement formalises the commitment made by Tessa Jowell in March, that the National Lottery would be repaid from the financial benefit of increased land values in the Lower Lea Valley after 2012 and that the LDA would be reimbursed for land purchase and relocation costs to create the Olympic Park.

[View the full MOU](http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Press_notices/archive_2007/dcms077_07.htm) [www.culture.gov.uk/Reference\\_library/Press\\_notices/archive\\_2007/dcms077\\_07.htm](http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Press_notices/archive_2007/dcms077_07.htm)

## **Report on Olympic Legacy**

A new report commissioned by the London Assembly, *A Lasting Legacy for London? Assessing the legacy of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games*, examines the impact of previous Olympic Games and Paralympic Games in a number of areas - economic, social, cultural and environmental.

The report finds that outcomes have been mixed and concludes that the results suggest: "that a mega event's success lies in its capacity to be used to initiate further programmes of renewal and regeneration and achieve broad public support to do so; achieving what may be called *a legacy momentum*." The report is at: [www.london.gov.uk/assembly/reports/econsd/lasting-legacy-uel-research.pdf](http://www.london.gov.uk/assembly/reports/econsd/lasting-legacy-uel-research.pdf)

## **Gift Aid Consultation to 30 September**

The Treasury and Office of the Third Sector have launched a consultation on measures to increase the take-up of the Gift Aid tax relief. The consultation document and further information are at: [www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public\\_spending\\_reporting/charity\\_third\\_sector\\_finance/psr\\_charity\\_thirdsector\\_giftaid.cfm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_spending_reporting/charity_third_sector_finance/psr_charity_thirdsector_giftaid.cfm)

## **Framework for Evaluating Cultural Policy Investment**

This report, commissioned by the DCMS from Frontier Economics, examines the economic impact of public investment and intervention in culture and outlines a framework for assessing the impact of cultural interventions. The report also reviews existing research and suggests how research could be improved. [www.culture.gov.uk/Reference\\_library/Research/research\\_by\\_dcms/framework\\_ecpi.html](http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Research/research_by_dcms/framework_ecpi.html)

### **Evaluation of the Full Service Extended Schools Initiative: Final Report**

On 25 June, the Department for Education and Skills published the Final Report into the evaluation of the Full Service Extended Schools (FSES) initiative. The report finds that FSESs had a positive impact on the attainment of pupils, particularly pupils facing difficulties, and on engagement with learning, family stability and enhanced life chances and generated positive outcomes for families and local people.

The report is available at: [www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RR852.pdf](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RR852.pdf)

It is the Government's vision for all schools to offer to a core set of extended activities by 2010.

### **The Commission on Integration and Cohesion Report**

*Our Shared Future*, the report from the Commission on Integration, explores what can be done to support greater integration and interaction and to encourage people to play a more active role in society. The report recommends a nationally sponsored community week with a strong focus on celebrating local history and diversity and bringing people from different communities together.

The Commission would like to see a national programme of voluntary service for young people, after their GCSEs, and suggests that large employers consider allowing employees up to 3 days paid leave a year to participate in activities. [www.integrationandcohesion.org.uk/](http://www.integrationandcohesion.org.uk/)

### **Responses to the Consultation on Restitution of Objects Spoliated in the Nazi-Era**

A summary of responses to the DCMS consultation last year can be found at:

[Summary of Responses to the Consultation on the Restitution of Objects Spoliated in the Nazi-Era](#)

### **Design-London at RCA-Imperial**

The Royal College of Art (RCA) and Imperial College London have announced the creation of a £5.8 million multidisciplinary teaching and research centre: Design-London at RCA-Imperial. The centre will bring together the disciplines of design, engineering, technology and business to address the challenges of future innovation. [www.nesta.org.uk/news/media\\_centre/news\\_releases/release.aspx?id=5745](http://www.nesta.org.uk/news/media_centre/news_releases/release.aspx?id=5745)

### **Arts Council England Proposes Organisation Changes to Improve Service**

Arts Council England is consulting staff on proposed changes to support services - such as finance, grant management and human resources - including reducing the number of posts and moving some out of London. Final recommendations will be put to the Executive Board and National Council in September. The Arts Council is also considering bringing together the London regional office and the national office in a single location in London. [www.artscouncil.org.uk/pressnews/press\\_detail.php?id=10&id=889](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/pressnews/press_detail.php?id=10&id=889)

### **New at Collections Link**

Collections Link has recently introduced a number of new and updated facilities, including:

- Updated publications on Standards in Museum Care of Collections for Geological Collections and Musical Instruments [www.collectionslink.org.uk/conservate\\_objects/standards\\_colls\\_care](http://www.collectionslink.org.uk/conservate_objects/standards_colls_care);
- A new section on [Emergency Planning](#) highlights resources from outside the cultural sector;
- London's Screen Archives guide to [caring for moving image collections](#);
- The Collections Assessment Tool (CAT), a database developed by the Scottish Museums Council to enable heritage organisations to record information about the condition of objects in their collections and prioritise conservation work. [www.collectionslink.org.uk/conservate\\_objects/cat](http://www.collectionslink.org.uk/conservate_objects/cat)

### **Getting into the Past for Disadvantaged Young People**

*Getting into the Past* is a partnership between the National Trust and The Prince's Trust supported by a £1.2m grant from the Big Lottery Fund. The project will run until 2010 and involve nearly 700 disadvantaged young people across England who will be able to learn new skills, such as conservation and customer services, at heritage sites. Participants will attend a 12-week development course, after which they will have an opportunity to take a two-week training placement. Long-term placements will also be offered. Eleven National Trust properties across England will be participating in the first year.

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/webpack/bin/webpack.exe/livebase?object=LiveBase1&itemurn=2154&mode=wbFullItem](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/webpack/bin/webpack.exe/livebase?object=LiveBase1&itemurn=2154&mode=wbFullItem)

### **eBay Auction to Raise Funds**

Museums are invited to take part in a new fundraising scheme, the *TopLots* eBay auction. Rare experiences, unique events and special access to UK museums and heritage organisations will be auctioned on the internet site in October 2007. The closing date for submitting lots is **Monday 16 July**.

Organisations will receive 80% of the auction price achieved for their lot, after transaction charges. *TopLots* is organised by Development Partners, heritage fundraising consultants, in partnership with eBay and the Association of Independent Museums and is supported by VisitBritain.

Further information at: [devpartners.users30.donhost.co.uk/images/Participants%20information.doc](http://devpartners.users30.donhost.co.uk/images/Participants%20information.doc)

# Parliamentary Report

## Caring for Our Collections Report

The Commons Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee has published its 6<sup>th</sup> report: *Caring for our Collections*. The report calls for existing collections to be well cared for and developed, "so that they continue to be dynamic and relevant". It praises recent government investment in museums and galleries, which it says has had "impressive" results and calls for sustained and well-directed investment to be maintained. "At the very least" funding for Renaissance in the Regions should be sustained in the Spending Review "to enable museums to fulfil the promise and build on the achievements of the first phase". Concern is expressed about the decline in the collecting power of institutions and the report calls for more active encouragement of philanthropy through tax incentives.

The report concludes: "There is a general need for acknowledgment of, and support for, the ever-increasing contribution which the whole sector can make to the educational, social and economic welfare of the nation. Its value deserves better recognition across Government. The rich legacy from the past is held by us on trust for future generations. It must be nurtured, not lost."

[www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmselect/cmcmds/176/17602.htm](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmselect/cmcmds/176/17602.htm)

The report has been welcomed by organisations in the sector, including NMDC (see page 1).

MLA: [www.mla.gov.uk/webdav/harmonise?Page/@id=82&Section@stateId\\_eq\\_left\\_hand\\_root/@id=4289&Document/@id=28556](http://www.mla.gov.uk/webdav/harmonise?Page/@id=82&Section@stateId_eq_left_hand_root/@id=4289&Document/@id=28556)

Museums Association: [www.museumsassociation.org/14075&\\_IXPOS\\_ =manews1.1](http://www.museumsassociation.org/14075&_IXPOS_ =manews1.1)

## Commons Debates

### Museum Funding

On Wednesday 6 June MPs debated Museum funding. Opening the debate, Labour MP Sharon Hodgson stated that the "Government's brave decision to introduce free admission" had been a great success. She said: "the real heroes of this renaissance have been those who work day in, day out in museums and on other cultural projects" and that the government owed them "a commitment of continued support". She argued that more could be done to encourage donations to museum collections.

The then Sports Minister, Richard Caborn, said that museums play a crucial role in education, building communities and the renaissance of British culture. He stated that museums "reach across social and economic barriers" and that "The renaissance of the nation's museums is extremely positive, and we can be proud of it. I have no doubt that it will play a significant role in the launch of the 2012 Olympics."

[www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070606/halltext/70606h0004.htm#0706067300003](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070606/halltext/70606h0004.htm#0706067300003)

### Diversion of Lottery Funds to the 2012 Olympics

On 6 June MPs held a debate on the Diversion of Lottery Funds to the 2012 Olympic Games. Paul Holmes MP Liberal Democrat Spokesman for Art and Culture outlined the impact of the diversion and called for it to be debated in full by the House of Commons. There were a variety of suggestions from MPs for where alternative funding for the 2012 Olympics might be found.

Responding for the government, then Culture Minister David Lammy thanked MPs for their contributions and said that he was pleased to see the "passion...shown across the Chamber" and "that a consensus has emerged that arts and heritage are vital to the life of this country". He disagreed with those who objected to the diversion of lottery funds to the Olympic Games, saying: "I believe that lottery funding is appropriate for the Olympics precisely because of the problems in that part of London and the games' huge importance for the aspirations of young people in this country, and so that culture and arts in this country can go forward."

[www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070606/halltext/70606h0005.htm#0706067300004](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070606/halltext/70606h0005.htm#0706067300004)

## Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Bill 2006-07

This bill, which includes provision for Immunity from Seizure for works of art on loan to UK museums, is currently in report stage in the Commons. Amendments made in the Commons can be viewed at:

[www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/pabills/200607/tribunals\\_courts\\_and\\_enforcement.htm](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/pabills/200607/tribunals_courts_and_enforcement.htm)

The Commons debate on the bill is at: [House of Commons Hansard Debates for 27 Jun 2007 \(pt 0017\)](http://House.of.Commons.Hansard.Debates.for.27.Jun.2007.(pt.0017))

## New Inquiry into Creative Partnerships and the Curriculum

The Education and Skills Committee is undertaking an inquiry into Creative Partnerships and the Curriculum. Written submissions are invited for the inquiry by **Monday 16 July 2007**. Further information at: [www.parliament.uk/parliamentary\\_committees/education\\_and\\_skills\\_committee/espn040607.cfm](http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/education_and_skills_committee/espn040607.cfm)

## Parliamentary Questions

### Tax Incentives for Giving to Museums and Galleries

In response to a question on charitable giving to museums and galleries in the Lords on 7 June, Lord Evans of Temple Guiting said that a variety of tax concessions were available to encourage private and corporate giving and that the DCMS, in conjunction with the Treasury, is producing a booklet to explain the schemes available. [Lords Hansard text for 7 Jun 200707 Jun 2007 \(pt 0001\)](#)

### Response to the Goodison report

Conservative MPs asked questions about the Government's response to the Goodison Report, which recommended introducing tax incentives for donations to museums and galleries. In reply to a question from Hugo Swire MP on 11 June, David Lammy, then Minister for Culture, confirmed that 29 of the Goodison report's 45 recommendations had been addressed by the government and that it was "continuing to explore ways in which elements of the other proposals might be implemented to best effect". [House of Commons Hansard Written Answers for 11 Jun 2007 \(pt 0005\)](#)

[House of Commons Hansard Written Answers for 25 Jun 2007 \(pt 0012\)](#)

### Visitor Numbers to National Museums

John Robertson MP asked the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what additional measures she had considered to encourage more visitors to national museums and galleries.

David Lammy, then Minister for Culture replied: "Free admission has ensured that more people than ever have access to the national collections. The number of visits to national museums and galleries has risen from 24 million in 1997-98 to 39 million last year. What we need to do now, and have already been encouraging through our performance targets, is to increase participation from under-represented groups". [House of Commons Hansard Written Answers for 25 Jun 2007 \(pt 0011\)](#)

### Museum and Gallery Admission Charges

Liberal Democrat Vincent Cable MP asked what effect the removal of admission charges for museums and galleries had had on visitor numbers and what the department was doing to attract low-income visitors.

In response the then Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport Tessa Jowell outlined the success of the policy free admission and said that "is a practical way of giving expression to many of the big promises of politics—improving quality of life, giving people a better sense of their identity and a sense of place, and providing access to national treasures that belong to the people of this country."

Conservative Culture spokesman Hugo Swire stated his party's support for the continuation of the policy of free admission to museums. [House of Commons Hansard Debates for 25 Jun 2007 \(pt 0002\)](#)

### The Cultural Olympiad

On 25 June Mary Creagh MP asked what role the arts will play in the London 2012 Olympics and Philip Dunne MP asked about plans for the cultural Olympiad.

In response, the then Culture Minister, David Lammy outlined plans for the cultural Olympiad "to showcase our arts and cultural sectors to the world". He said that the government also wanted to see private investment coming in. [House of Commons Hansard Debates for 25 Jun 2007 \(pt 0001\)](#)

### Early Day Motion on Government Funding for Museums and Galleries

The following Early Day Motion was put down on 25 June:

"That this House believes the 28% real increase in funding for sponsored museums over the past 10 years, which has enabled free entry to many of our great national collections and a 40% increase in visitor numbers, shows clearly the Government's success in combining cultural excellence with social inclusion; welcomes in particular the commitment of the Big Lottery Fund and Heritage Lottery Fund in this respect; and would strongly deplore any move away from this successful formula". It has been signed by 49 MPs to date. <http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=33605&SESSION=885>

### Questions in the Scottish Parliament on Priorities for Culture

Former Culture Minister Patricia Ferguson MSP asked a number of questions about the new Executive's priorities and funding plans for arts and culture in Scotland.

The Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Culture, Linda Fabiani, responded that plans would be drawn up in the next few weeks. She said: "I will happily come back to the Parliament with ideas and plans. I hope that, on many issues, we can make progress together for the benefit of the arts and culture in Scotland". [www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-07/sor0607-02.htm#Col509](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-07/sor0607-02.htm#Col509)

# International Issues

## Metropolitan Museum Exhibitions Create \$377 Million Economic Impact for New York

The New York Metropolitan Museum of Art reports that its autumn 2006/winter 2007 exhibitions, seen by an estimated 594,000 unique visitors, generated \$377 million in spending by tourists.

The survey found that 74% of the visitors came from outside New York, of these 24% came from abroad. Visitors reported spending an average \$575 on accommodation, dining, sightseeing and entertainment, and a further \$282 on shopping during their stay in New York. They also participated in other cultural activities: 57% visited other museums, 39% saw a show and 16% attended an opera, ballet, or concert.

The median age for visitors surveyed was 55, with 31% over 65. 48% of visitors had a master's degree or higher and the median reported income was \$62,000, with 30% having an income over \$100,000.

[www.metmuseum.org/press\\_room/full\\_release.asp?prid={82C52FDE-42C6-45F1-BFCF-555713533368}](http://www.metmuseum.org/press_room/full_release.asp?prid={82C52FDE-42C6-45F1-BFCF-555713533368})

## Clark Art Institute Receives Donation of British Paintings

The Manton Foundation has donated a collection of British paintings, oil sketches, watercolours and works on paper by Turner, Constable, Gainsborough and others, to the Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, Massachusetts. Sir Edwin Manton, a former president and chairman of AIG, was a patron of the arts and established the American Patrons of the Tate in 1988. He died in 2005.

As part of the gift, the foundation has contributed \$50 million to endow the Clark's Research and Academic Programme in the visual arts. In recognition of the gift, the Clark will re-name the building that houses its research and academic programme the Sir Edwin and Lady Manton Research Center.

[www.clarkart.edu/make\\_a\\_visit/press\\_releases/content.cfm?ID=730](http://www.clarkart.edu/make_a_visit/press_releases/content.cfm?ID=730)

## Dresden Gallery in Second Life

The Old Masters Picture Gallery at the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden has opened a virtual counterpart in Second Life®, the virtual reality website in which people can interact and conduct real business transactions. The three dimensional reproduction of the Gallery displays all 750 works of art and the doors are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Visitors can view works of art and access information about them, chat with each other, participate in art education events and browse in the shop - all in real time. The museum claims to be the first of 'international rank' to put a 1:1 clone of itself on the internet. [www.dresdengallery.com/](http://www.dresdengallery.com/)

The July edition of the Art Newspaper has a report on art world activity in Second Life®.

[www.theartnewspaper.com/article01.asp?id=678](http://www.theartnewspaper.com/article01.asp?id=678)

## US Troops Get Archaeological Playing Cards

The Archaeological Institute of America reports that The Pentagon is sending decks of playing cards to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan to encourage them to preserve heritage. The cards, showing some of the countries' archaeological sites, aim to help prevent troops damaging historical sites or removing artefacts. [www.archaeology.org/0707/trenches/solitaire.html](http://www.archaeology.org/0707/trenches/solitaire.html)

## ICOM Invites Comments on Strategic Plan

The International Committee of Museums (ICOM) is inviting comments and questions from ICOM members on its draft Strategic Plan for 2008-10, by 15 July 2007. [icom.museum/strat\\_plan2\\_draft.html](http://icom.museum/strat_plan2_draft.html)

# Forthcoming NMDC Meetings

### PR Group

Thursday 12 July, 11am, Imperial War Museum

### NMDC Meeting

Friday 13 July, 11am, V&A

### Spoliation Advisory Committee

Thursday 19 July, 4.30pm, Tate Britain

If you have any comments on the NMDC Newsletter or would like to contribute to a future edition, please email the Editor, Zoë Nasatyr, at [news@nationalmuseums.org.uk](mailto:news@nationalmuseums.org.uk)

[www.nationalmuseums.org.uk](http://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk)

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