



January 2009

Welcome to this month's NMDC newsletter, a briefing on our activities and developments in the museum sector in the UK and beyond. This edition includes a summary of some of the highlights of 2009 including exhibitions, new galleries and major events.

www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

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NMDC News

Captain Dr Colin White

With great sadness we report the death of our member, Colin White, Director of the Royal Naval Museum, who died peacefully on Christmas Day in Rowans Hospice. Colin, who was 57, joined the Royal Naval Museum in 1975 and became Director in 2006. He was one of the country's leading experts on Nelson and author of several publications. In 2001 he was seconded to the National Maritime Museum as Director of Trafalgar 200 and as Chair of the Official Nelson Celebrations Committee was responsible for co-ordinating The Trafalgar Festival in 2005.

A memorial service will be held in Portsmouth Cathedral on 2 March.

An obituary has been published in The Times www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/obituaries/article5429419.ece
www.royalnavalmuseum.org/new.htm

NMDC Vacancy - Administrative Assistant (part-time)

An exciting opportunity has arisen within the staff team of the National Museum Directors' Conference. NMDC is seeking someone to provide effective administrative support in managing meetings, projects, campaigns and working groups, which will involve regular contact with staff from across the UK's national museums and related organisations. The postholder will gain an excellent understanding of the UK's national museums and galleries

We are looking for someone with demonstrable experience in a similar administrative role involving organising meetings and events and managing electronic diaries and contact databases. Knowledge of and an interest in museum and cultural sector issues would be an advantage. The working hours are 21 hours a week and the salary is £19,376 - £23,289 pro rata. The deadline for applications is 30 January. Full details can be found on the NMDC jobs website www.nationalmuseumjobs.org.uk/job/715/

National Museum Jobs

The NMDC jobs website has details of vacancies in museums, libraries and archives around the UK, including:

- Loans Officer, National Museums Scotland
- Curator: Photography, Tate
- Schools Officer, National Gallery
- Art Handling Technician, National Galleries of Scotland
- Web Developer, Victoria & Albert Museum

For details of all the current vacancies visit www.nationalmuseumjobs.org.uk

Directors in the News

New Year Honours - Dame Rosalind Savill

Congratulations to Dr Rosalind Savill, Director of the Wallace Collection, who was awarded a DBE in the New Year's Honours List for services to the arts. Dame Rosalind was awarded a CBE in 2000 for her service to the study of ceramics.

Other honours in the cultural sector include knighthoods for Professor David Cannadine, Chair of the National Portrait Gallery and for John Madejski, a generous donor to museums who was given a knighthood for his charitable services. Jenny Abramsky, chair of the Heritage Lottery Fund, also becomes a Dame. The art critic Lady Marina Vaizey, who has been a trustee of many museums and arts organisations, was awarded a CBE. Raymond Smith, lately Senior Carpenter at St Fagans National History Museum, and Erwin Bottomley, lately Deputy Mine Manager at the National Coal Mining Museum, received MBEs.

Briton of the Year - Neil MacGregor

The Times has declared Neil MacGregor its first "Briton in of the Year", and says he has "not only turned the British Museum into the country's most popular attraction, he has made it perhaps the best museum in the world."

Leader Article: www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/leading_article/article5400796.ece (27 December 2008).

Feature article http://entertainment.timesonline.co.uk/tol/arts_and_entertainment/visual_arts/article5400493.ece

Tax Incentives - Mark Jones

NMDC Chair, Mark Jones, was quoted in an article in *The Guardian* on the need for tax incentives for donations of cultural objects. Maeve Kennedy's piece, citing the example of the Titians from the Bridgewater Collection, focused on the risk that an increasing number of objects that have been on long term loan to national museums, sometimes for several generations, may be put up for sale. Mark said: "To me the real relationships with private collectors are made through gifts of art objects, rather than money - and so it doesn't seem to me very sensible that if you give a gift of £1m to a museum the tax concessions mean it only costs you £600,000, whereas if you give an object worth £1m it costs you the full amount."

www.guardian.co.uk/artanddesign/2008/dec/29/tax-breaks-art-loans-titian

Small is Beautiful - Nicholas Penny

In an interview with *The Independent*, Dr Nicholas Penny, Director of the National Gallery describes the virtues of smaller exhibitions, focused, for example, on one or two paintings. The Gallery's display of the two Bridgewater Titians last autumn demonstrated the benefit of enabling visitors to concentrate on two pictures in isolation. Smaller exhibitions could have admission fees as low as £1. Nicholas said: "We have to find new ways of staging exhibitions, especially in the present economic climate".

www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/art/news/small-is-beautiful-in-this-age-of-austerity-1216233.html

Current Issues

Government Emphasises Culture's Role in Economic Recovery

The Prime Minister and Culture Secretary have insisted that the cultural sector and tourism have a role to play in Britain's economic recovery. During the Cabinet's visit to Liverpool, the Prime Minister visited the Museum of Liverpool, currently under construction, saw the effects of regeneration at the Albert Dock and spoke a national tourism summit about the tourism industry's role in delivering Britain's great cultural heritage.

Speaking at Liverpool University, Andy Burnham said: "Culture and creativity are part of the answer to tough economic times." He went on to say: "Investment in a strong cultural base should be maintained - more so, not less, in tough economic times. But more can and should be done to unlock the full value around Britain of the investment the country already makes in its cultural organisations." Mr Burnham said "national cultural organisations need to be clear about their national role and purpose, and what they can do to work with culturally ambitious cities". He cited the V&A's discussions with Blackpool as an example of the activity the Government is encouraging. Andy Burnham also announced the launch of a permanent British City of Culture prize, beginning in 2011. He has invited Phil Redmond, Chair of National Museums Liverpool, to chair a panel to develop the prize.

Andy Burnham's full speech can be found at: www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/minister_speeches/5730.aspx

Liverpool Capital of Culture £800m Boost for Economy and Record Visitor Figures

Visits to national museums in Liverpool increased dramatically during Liverpool's year as Capital of Culture: up 68 per cent at Tate Liverpool to 1,088,000. National Museums Liverpool (NML) had 2,668,000 visits, more than any year in its history and an increase of 33 per cent on the previous year. Merseyside Maritime Museum became the first NML venue to attract a million annual visitors since the organisation was set up in 1986. Visits to the Merseyside Maritime Museum have increased by 66 per cent since last year.

According to research released by the Liverpool Culture Company:

- Capital of Culture 2008 has generated an £800 million boost to the regional economy.
- The city welcomed 3.5 million first time visitors in 2008 -25% of all tourists-generating £176 million alone in tourism spend.
- The Liverpool '08 Events Programme, which included The Turner Prize, the Liverpool Biennial, exhibitions on Gustav Klimt and Le Corbusier, attracted 5.2 million people to the city.

www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/media_releases/5703.aspx

Museums Exceed Targets for Increasing Participation

England's museums and galleries have exceeded Government targets for increasing visits by people from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) background and those from lower socio-economic groups. Visits by all adults have also increased, with the latest data from the Taking Part Survey showing that 43.6% of adults visiting a museum in the last twelve months for leisure purposes. A second survey, the Active People Survey found that 54% of adults have visited museums, including visits for informal learning, studying and private research as well as leisure visits.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has published the latest data from the Taking Part Survey providing assessment of the Public Service Agreement (PSA) 3 target for 2005/6-2007/8.

- 39.3% of BME adults visited museums, an increase of almost 4%.
- 30.6% of adults from lower socio-economic groups visited museums, an increase of 2.3%
- Participation by adults with limiting disabilities also rose, but fell short of the Government's target of a 2% increase.

The Active People Survey, which is part funded by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), details levels of participation by local authority for the first time. The highest use of museums is in the London Borough of Camden with 81% of those surveyed having visited a museum or gallery in the past 12 months. Five other London boroughs also recorded more than 70% participation. The Wirral, Liverpool, York, Oxfordshire and Stockport also have significantly higher levels of participation than the national average. The lowest levels of participation were in Barking & Dagenham, Torbay and Blackpool. Roy Clare, MLA Chief Executive said "We have invested in this new research to give us a base to develop more sophisticated tools to work out how and where resources should be directed."

Taking Part Survey www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5653.aspx

Active People Survey www.mla.gov.uk/news/press/releases/2008/active_people_stats

£500,000 for Cultural Heritage Workforce Development

MLA has committed £500,000 to fund 50 new Creative Apprenticeships across England, predominantly in the museum sector. A new action plan, *The Cultural Heritage Blueprint: A workforce development plan for cultural heritage in the UK* has been launched by MLA, Creative & Cultural and the Museums Association. One key finding is the need to increase entry-routes into the sector and ensure the workforce reflects the diversity of the UK. Over 50 per cent of those currently working in cultural heritage have a higher qualification, for example an MA or PhD. As well as funding the Apprenticeships, MLA is making available tuition fees for up to 20 candidates to undertake Foundation Degrees to assist people already working in the sector.

www.mla.gov.uk/news/press/releases/2008/cultural_workforce_launch

Culture and Learning: New Agenda for Advocacy and Action

Culture and Learning: a New Agenda for Advocacy and Action has been published by the Cultural Learning Consortium. The report, which is based on consultation and investigation, makes ten recommendations and calls for joint action from the cultural and learning sectors, at national, regional and local level, backed-up by commitment and resources from central government. The report concludes that a Cultural Learning Alliance should be formed, for an initial period of three years, to develop and advocate for a coherent national strategy for cultural learning drawing on this report's recommendations. The Cultural Learning Consortium represents MLA, Arts Council England, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Clore Duffield Foundation, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Foyle Foundation, Heritage Lottery Fund, Northern Rock Foundation and Paul Hamlyn Foundation.

www.cultureandlearning.org.uk/

Cultural Objects Saved from Export

The Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest has published its latest annual report and expressed its support for the *Private Giving for the Public Good* campaign, led by NMDC and partners. The campaign calls for the introduction of more incentives for people who give to museums and other cultural institutions to ensure that all parts of the country benefit from cultural philanthropy. The Committee makes a series of recommendations for aiding acquisitions including extending the advantages for museums and galleries of private treaty sales to auctions and a system of advance payments to ensure the Heritage Lottery Fund is able to continue supporting acquisitions before the sale of Olympic Assets.

Following recommendations from the Reviewing Committee, Ministers placed temporary bars on the export of sixteen objects of outstanding significance during the period 1 May 2007 to 30 April 2008. Eight of these items, worth just over £1.4 million, will remain in the UK and have been acquired by the National Army Museum, Royal Armouries, British Museum, British Library and National Museums of Scotland, Lambeth Palace and Lancashire County Museum. All three of the 'starred' items of outstanding importance were kept in the UK. However seven items, valued at 12.4m, on which export was deferred, have now been exported.

Introducing the report, Culture Secretary, Andy Burnham, expressed the Government's gratitude to the funding bodies and individuals who have made acquisitions possible and said he hoped that "generous individuals, businesses, trusts and foundations will continue to support the acquisition of Waverley quality objects, despite the difficult financial climate."

www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5649.aspx

£15m Objects Accepted in Lieu of Inheritance Tax

The 2007-8 annual report on the Acceptance in Lieu (AIL) scheme reveals that paintings, furniture and archives worth more than £15m came into public ownership through the scheme. The AIL scheme, administered by the MLA, on behalf of the Government, enables items deemed to be of historical or artistic importance to be given in place of inheritance tax. In the 2007-8 tax year, 32 separate transfers to the nation were completed, with a value of £15.2m, writing off £10.3 m of tax. The material has been allocated to 19 museums, archives and historic houses across the UK, including 8 NMDC members, and ranges from an Iranian gold enamelled bowl and saucer to one of Nelson's undershirts. The report emphasised the Committee's strong support for NMDC and partners' advocacy of tax incentives to encourage private giving and philanthropy.

www.mla.gov.uk/news/press/releases/2008/15m_cultural%20treasures

Bridgewater Collection Titians

An announcement on the National Gallery and National Galleries of Scotland's current campaign to acquire *Diana and Actaeon* for the nation is expected shortly. Meanwhile, this month's edition of *The Art Newspaper* includes fascinating revelations about previous attempts by the National Gallery to acquire Titian's *Diana and Actaeon* and *Diana and Callisto*, as well as *Venus Anadyomene* from the Bridgewater Collection in 1916. Research on archives at the National Gallery, Glasgow University Library, the Frick Collection and the Getty has revealed a complicated story that included proposals to sell items from the National Gallery collection, including part of the Turner Bequest, and re-sell the *Diana and Callisto* to a syndicate of American art dealers for a profit, to finance the acquisition.

www.theartnewspaper.com/article.asp?id=16692

For the latest information on the Titian campaign visit:

www.nationalgallery.org.uk/campaign-titians.htm

A Guide to Giving

Philanthropy UK, with the support of private bank Coutts & Co, has published an updated edition of the *Guide to Giving* handbook. The handbook provides a valuable resource for both philanthropists and their advisors. The new edition includes advice on including charity impact evaluation, sustainable finance and donor advised funds as well as a section on family business and philanthropy and advice on developing a framework for developing a charitable giving strategy.

www.philanthropyuk.org/AGuidetoGiving

Heritage Lottery Fund Major Grants

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has announced its latest round of confirmed awards totalling £15.6m. Competition for HLF grants remains fierce and this set of first-round applications was more than three times over-subscribed. The successful projects are the Canterbury Beaney in Kent; City Varieties Music Hall in Leeds; Antrim Castle Gardens in Northern Ireland; and Preston Hall Museum in Stockton-on-Tees.

HLF also announced a first-round pass for **Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery's** (BMAG) £4.7m application for *Birmingham - A City in the Making*, the refurbishment and renovation of 1000 square metres of gallery space and the reinterpretation of their Birmingham history collections. This initial support means that BMAG can now move on to the next stage of their development plans before a final funding decision is made by HLF.

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The **Sir John Soane's Museum** has been awarded a development grant of £196,000 by the London Committee of the Heritage Lottery Fund to advance the Museum's plans for a £6m development project, *Opening up the Soane*. The Museum now has up to two years to submit more detailed plans and apply for a further £804,000 from the London HLF. Last summer the Museum was disappointed in a bid for £3.3m from the main Heritage Lottery Fund grants. www.hlf.org.uk

£4.3m for Museums, Libraries and Archives in Wales

Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Heritage, Alun Ffred Jones, has announced that over £4.3 million in grants will be available for museums, archives and libraries services next year. Within these grants, public libraries in particular will benefit from an additional £1.5 million capital funding, which will allow for the expansion of the scheme to upgrade the library network as part of the Libraries for Life programme. The grants will be awarded through CyMAL: Museums Archives and Libraries Wales, a division of the Welsh Assembly Government. The closing date for applications is 23 January.

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/topic/culture/2008/2815240/?lang=en>

DCMS/Wolfson Museums & Galleries Improvement Fund - Round 8

The DCMS/Wolfson Museums & Galleries Improvement Fund 2009-10 is now accepting bids for the next round of funding. Museums funded by DCMS, museums with designated collections, designated university museum collections and Regional Hub museums are eligible to apply. Grants of up to £300,000 are available towards the cost of improvements to displays, interpretation, facilities, access and environmental conditions. A total of £4m is available, funded jointly by DCMS and the Wolfson Foundation. The closing date for applications is Friday 13 February.

www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5641.aspx

Conservative Party's Heritage Policy

The Conservative Party have set out their views on heritage policy. In a report entitled, *History of Neglect*, Shadow Culture Secretary, Jeremy Hunt MP, criticises the Labour Government's record on heritage and pledges that a Conservative government would increase the share of Lottery funding for heritage, providing an estimated £40m more per year after 2012. He says, "A wider understanding of our cultural heritage and history would help foster a sense of social cohesion and pride and teach old and young alike about the history of the rights, responsibilities and environment we all enjoy today." www.shadowdcms.co.uk/pdf/HistoryofNeglect.pdf

A Time to Build - Andrew Motion Introduces 'New MLA' Website

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council has launched a new website and published its first annual report. The website now includes case studies of best practice as well as information on MLA's range of activities. In a comment piece entitled *Culture in the Recession*, Andrew Motion, Chair of MLA, welcomed users to the new website of the "new MLA", which he said has emerged "leaner, fitter and more agile" following the major restructuring over the last year. He emphasised the importance of the cultural sector as a resource for lifting spirits and supporting hopes and aspirations in a time of economic downturn, and concluded that "a time of recession is a time to build."

www.mla.gov.uk/news/comment/andrew_motion_4_Dec_08

The Annual Report can be found at:

www.mla.gov.uk/about/corporate/~media/Files/pdf/2008/mla-annual-report-2008-v04.ashx

National Family Week

MLA is encouraging museums, libraries and archives to get involved in National Family Week (25-31 May) to celebrate and promote the social and personal benefits of family life. MLA says the week is a great opportunity for museums, libraries and archives to showcase their own family-friendly work and services, including family learning, and to encourage families to spend time together in their venues.

www.nationalfamilyweek.co.uk/

MLA has also published *Families, Learning and Culture: Inspiring Families Through Museums, Libraries and Archives*, which provides a number of ideas and examples for family learning activities.

www.mla.gov.uk/what/policy_development/learning/~media/Files/pdf/2008/Families_learning_culture

Museums Association Conference, London, 5-7 October 2009

The deadline for proposals for this year's Museums Association Conference is 13 February. The three conference themes are: formal and informal learning, digital change and sustainability.

www.museumsassociation.org/17360&IXPOS=manews1.2

Public Support for London 2012 Legacy

DCMS has published the latest research data on public opinion across the UK about the legacy of the London 2012 Games. 75% of people believe the benefits from London 2012 should be wider than just sport. The top-ranked objective for the legacy of the Games increasing involvement of young people in their local communities - ahead of creating jobs, boosting tourism and business and increasing participation in sport. Only 7% thought a key objective of the Games' legacy should be greater cultural participation, a fall of 4 percentage points from the previous survey.

Public awareness of the Cultural Olympiad has risen since last year, with one in four people now saying they are aware of it, however it is still the least known of the Government's twelve legacy aims. 5% of adults questioned said that they believe that London 2012 will make them much more likely to do more cultural activities, and 25% a little more likely. Of these, the vast majority say they already regularly participate in cultural activities.

www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/media_releases/5667.aspx

LOCOG is currently recruiting a Head of Cultural Olympiad, reporting to the Director of Culture, Ceremonies and Education. They are looking for a senior professional from the arts, heritage or cultural sectors for the post, which is reported to come with a six figure package.

www.london2012.com/get-involved/work-for-2012/jobs-at-locog/head-of-cultural-olympiad.php

21st Century Arts Investment in Scotland

The Creative Scotland Transition Project, the Scottish Arts Council and Scottish Screen, in partnership with the Scottish Government, is commissioning a review of financial investment mechanisms needed for investment in the arts and creative industries in Scotland in the 21st century. The principal aim of the study is to recommend evidence-based options that, if pursued, would be likely to improve significantly the financing available to the arts and creative industries in Scotland and underpin sustainable growth.

www.scottisharts.org.uk/1/professional/tendersandproposals.aspx

Arts Funding In Northern Ireland

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland has published its Annual Review 2007/8 revealing that more than half the Council's main funding goes directly to the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland and there is a wide geographical spread of other funding streams outside Belfast.

www.artscouncil-ni.org/news/2008/new17122008.html

National Heritage Science Strategy Update

The steering group for the National Heritage Science Strategy has launched a website. Over the next few months, work will be taking place to produce three reports which will provide the evidence base for drawing up the strategy. The first report will detail the current use of science in preserving and protecting cultural heritage (available April in 2009). The second will assess the use of science in enhancing our understanding of the past (available at the end of May 2009). The final report will address issues of sector skills and consider practitioner and institutional capacity to deliver improvements in the application of heritage science (available in July 2009). Each of these reports will be available on the website, with a one month consultation period to ensure that the views of the heritage sector are fully represented and integrated in the final strategy.

www.heritagesciencestrategy.org.uk

Latest Museum News on iGoogle

Culture 24 has teamed up with Google to develop a new iGoogle gadget which enables users to view the latest museum and exhibition news on their search engine homepage. The gadget is being promoted as part of Google's response to the economic downturn: free visits to museums and galleries providing a distraction from money worries. It brings users exhibition news and reviews from the 24 Hour Museum website straight to users desktop. New exhibitions and events were added to the 24 Hour Museum and available via the iGoogle gadget throughout the Christmas period. Discussions are ongoing about ways to develop the gadget into 2009.

www.24hourmuseum.org.uk/nwh_gfx_en/ART63572.html
www.google.co.uk/intl/en_uk/landing/festive08/

Museum Studies Top UK Research Rating

The 2008 National Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) data published last month reveals that Leicester University's Department of Museum Studies has the highest proportion (65%) of world leading researchers compared to any subject at any university in the UK. The Department, which offers post graduate courses in museums, galleries and heritage studies, has trained more than 3,000 students from over 40 countries since it was established in 1966. 2008 was the sixth and final round of the RAE, which is being replaced by the Research Excellence Framework.

www2.le.ac.uk/ebulletin/news/press-releases/2000-2009/2008/12/nparticle.2008-12-17.4723737130

Copyright 'Orphans Works' Research

The Collections Trust and The Strategic Content Alliance are carrying out research to examine the impact of 'orphan works' (works for which the copyright owner is unknown or cannot be traced) on the delivery of services to library, archive, museum and information service users in the UK and other European countries. It is hoped the research will provide evidence to inform the campaign to ensure orphan works are addressed in the European Commission's Green Paper on Copyright and the Knowledge Economy. Museums, libraries and archives are being asked to complete a short online questionnaire by 16 January.

<http://surveys.omni-web.co.uk/start.aspx?sid=5DZ6VD>

Copyright Consultation

David Lammy MP, Minister for Higher Education and Intellectual Property, has launched a Government consultation on the future direction of copyright. The review will consider how the copyright framework can best support the creative industries in making their content available to the public without risking the infringement of rights. It will also look at issues such as the rights given to content creators, rights clearance processes and the enforcement of copyright law.

Dame Lynne Brindley, Chief Executive of the British Library has welcomed the consultation but expressed concern that recent debate on copyright has focused too heavily teenagers, music and the consumer industries. She said she hoped this review "will also cover issues of huge importance to education and to the knowledge economy - and only consider views based on evidence not anecdote. Outstanding issues such as digital exceptions to copyright law, contracts overriding copyright, format shifting, technological protection measures and orphan works all currently stand in the way of creativity and innovation in the UK and beyond."

The deadline for responses to the consultation is 6 February.

www.ipo.gov.uk/pro-types/pro-copy/c-policy/c-policy-consultation.htm
www.bl.uk/news/2008/pressrelease20081218.html

Free Professional Development for Education Professionals

The Imperial War Museum, as part of the *Their Past Your Future* project, is offering teachers, museum educators, and other education professionals the opportunity to take part in InSite 2009, a free, year-long professional development programme, which includes all-expenses-paid study visits to Germany, the Czech Republic and Hungary. The InSite immersive learning programme focuses on exploring the legacy of the Second World War in Europe and its effect on the events of the Cold War after 1945. The deadline for applications is 27 February.

www.theirpast-yourfuture.org.uk/server/show/nav.00n00v

New Arts Programmes for British Council

The British Council has announced that it is developing five priority programmes for the arts and creative economy. These are: showcasing, cultural leadership, development of the Council's creative economy network, creative capacity building and introduction of a relevant arts element into the Council's existing education, science and governance programmes. The announcement comes in response to an internal review of the Council's arts and creative economy work. The British Council has also announced the appointment of Rebecca Walton as Director Arts. She is continuing the role that she has held in an interim capacity since April 2008 and will work alongside the future Chair of the Council's newly formed Arts Advisory Committee. www.britishcouncil.org/new/press-office/

Public Appointments

Daniel Harvey has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Board of **National Museums Northern Ireland (NMNI)** for a period of five years from 1 January 2009. Dan Harvey has been a Board member of NMNI since 2002 and is a former Chief Executive of the First Trust Bank. www.northernireland.gov.uk/news/news-dcal-171208-appointment-of-chair

The Prime Minister has re-appointed playwright and author **Bonnie Greer** and financier **Francis Finlay** as Trustees of the **British Museum**. www.number10.gov.uk/Page17742

Dame Liz Forgan has been appointed as Chair of **Arts Council England**. Dame Liz Forgan, who was previously Chair of the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the Heritage Lottery Fund, will take up her four-year post on 1 February 2009, replacing current Chair Sir Christopher Frayling.

www.dcms.gov.uk/reference_library/media_releases/5693.aspx

Lady Cobham has been appointed as the new chair of **VisitEngland**. She will take up the post from 1 April 2009 when the current chair, Hugh Taylor, steps down after six years in the role. Lady Cobham chairs the British Casino Association as well as the Art Fund Prize for museums and galleries and is a board member, trustee or consultant to a number of public bodies and private businesses.

www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/media_releases/5704.aspx

In Parliament

Wallace Collection Visitor Figures

In the last edition of the NMDC Newsletter, we quoted figures published in a Parliamentary Written Answer showing several national museums had more than doubled their visitor figures since 1991. We omitted the Wallace Collection from this list and apologise sincerely for this. The Wallace Collections visitor figures have increased by 166% since 1991-2, with a record 346,980 visitors in 2007-8.

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081117/text/81117w0004.htm#0811174001851

Heritage Protection Bill Dropped

The Queen's Speech on 3 December confirmed expectations that the Heritage Protection Bill will not now be introduced in this parliament, despite extensive consultation on the draft bill. In a joint Ministerial Statement, Andy Burnham, Barbara Follett and Baroness Kay Andrews reiterated the Government's commitment to preserving our historic environment but said The Queen's speech "reflects the Government's immediate priorities in these difficult times." Instead of the bill, the Ministers announced that a new Planning Policy Statement (PPS) will be introduced to bring together planning policy on all aspects of the historic environment and underline their essential place in the planning context. The Government will also publish a statement of its vision and priorities for the historic environment this year. www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/historic_environment/5644.aspx

In Scotland, Culture Minister, Linda Fabiani has announced a consultation on a draft Bill to amend existing heritage legislation. Historic Scotland, on behalf of Scottish Ministers, will consult on a draft Bill this year. The Agency will be looking to involve the public, heritage bodies, charities, local authorities, businesses and individuals in discussions about the proposed changes. www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/news/news_article.htm?articleid=21233

Opportunity Cost of Olympics for Cultural Sector

During the Lords Debate on The Queen's speech, Lord Brooke of Sutton Mandeville raised concerns about the "opportunity cost" of the London 2012 Olympics for the cultural sector. He used the example of Sir John Soane's Museum's major grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund which was unsuccessful because the HLFs funds were over-stretched, and said the cultural sector "remains a prisoner of the Government's need to use lottery funding as the drip feed for the Olympics." He also expressed disappointment at the loss of the Heritage Protection Bill and Cultural Property (Armed Conflicts) Bill.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/81211-0007.htm#08121141000239>

Open to All - Mental Health and Social Inclusion

The *Open to All* training package has been cited by Health Minister, Phil Hope MP, as a key example of recent progress on mental health and social inclusion objectives. *Open to All*, a programme to help museums and galleries become more inclusive for people with mental health problems was developed by a partnership between the National Social Inclusion Programme, the Wallace Collection, MLA, the V&A and Tate, and was launched by Health Secretary, Alan Johnson MP, last year.

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081216/text/81216w0034.htm#08121714005072

The National Archives

In response to a question from Tim Boswell MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Archives, Michael Wills MP, Minister of Justice, described the work of the The National Archives to improve standards and awareness of the archives sector.

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081211/text/81211w0022.htm#08121164001442

International Issues

100m Euro Investment in Culture to Revive French Economy

As part of his economic plan to revive the French economy, President Nicolas Sarkozy has announced an additional €100m investment in heritage. This represents 2.5% of the €4bn additional investment that will be mobilised by the French Government in 2009 and is an increase of nearly 25% on the capital budget of the Ministry of Culture. The additional funding will fund restoration of historic monuments across the Country and accelerate implementation of major cultural projects such as the Musée des civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée.

www.culture.gouv.fr/culture/actualites/index.htm

Finding Calm in Crisis: A Museum Survival Guide

The American Association of Museums has pulled together a range of resources on its website to provide information and ideas for museums on weathering the financial crisis.

www.aam-us.org/survivalguide.cfm

UNESCO Mission Finds No Evidence of Recent Looting

The Art Newspaper reports that a UNESCO mission to Northern Iraq in November found no evidence of recent looting at four heritage sites - Nimrud, Ninevah, Ashur and Hatra - and only minor damage caused by wilful destruction and criminal activity since 2003. The UNESCO inspectors did however highlight evidence of damage and neglect dating from the 1980s and 1990s and reported that "many of the exposed antiquities are deteriorating due to a lack of conservation maintenance and site stewardship." The findings echo those of a team led by the British Museum team which visited sites in Southern Iraq in June 2008.

www.theartnewspaper.com/article.asp?id=16688

Lord Renfrew Criticises Met's Acquisition Policy

British Archaeologist, Lord Renfrew of Kaimform is creating headlines in the United States with a lecture entitled *Combating the Illicit Antiquities Trade: The 1970 Rule as a Turning Point (or How the Metropolitan Museum lags behind the Getty)*. *The Los Angeles Times* said Colin Renfrew was "poised to come down on the Metropolitan Museum of Art like a ton of Travertine" for its ten-year cut off point for provenance of ancient antiquities, rather than the internationally adopted 1970 UNESCO Convention.

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/culturemonster/2009/01/gettys-antiquit.html>

European Year of Creativity and Innovation

The European Commission has launched the communication campaign for the European Year of Creativity and Innovation 2009 with the slogan "Imagine. Create. Innovate". The objectives of the year are to: raise awareness of the importance of creativity and innovation for personal, social and economic development; to disseminate good practices; to stimulate education and research; and promote policy debate and development. The key message is that "creativity and innovation contribute to economic prosperity as well as to social and individual wellbeing." There will be a Europe-wide programme of activities throughout the year aimed in particular at young people, educators, companies and policy makers as well as the general public.

www.create2009.europa.eu

Culture in Motion

The new brochure of the EU's Culture Programme *Culture in Motion* has been published. It offers examples of projects promoting the mobility of artists, the mobility of works, access by young people to culture and synergies with education. It includes a case study on *Inside Installations*, a project co-organised by Tate. The EU's Culture Programme has a budget of €400m for the 2007-2013 period.

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/key-documents/doc/EAC_brochureculture081117_WEB.pdf

Online Gaming to Boost Heritage Awareness

The National Heritage Board of Singapore has launched an online gaming competition to boost heritage-awareness among young people. *Mission Darkstar - Heritage Gaming Redefined* is challenging competitors aged 17-35 to develop an 'edutainment gaming product' incorporating parts of Singapore's history and heritage. Through this initiative, the National Heritage Board hopes to use young Singaporeans' passion for web gaming to "help foster a sense of community, national identity and rootedness" among the younger generation." The competition winners will be judged by a panel along with votes from the public.

www.nhb.gov.sg/WWW/pr/Dec08/Darkstar%20Press%20Release%20FINAL.pdf

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2009 Exhibitions and Events

There will over a hundred exhibitions opening at national museums around the UK this year and some of the highlights are described in the following pages. Major events in 2009 include the opening of the Darwin Centre at the Natural History Museum, the Medieval and Renaissance Galleries at the V&A, the Great North Museum and the reopening of the Ashmolean Museum and the Ulster Museum. Throughout the year museums, libraries and archives also have a range of events to celebrate the bicentenary of the birth of Charles Darwin, the 500th anniversary of Henry VIII's accession to the throne and the International Year of Astronomy.

Ashmolean Museum: The Museum will reopen in November following its £61m redevelopment. The new building, designed by Rick Mather, will increase the previous display space by 100%. It will provide the Museum with 39 new galleries, a new education centre, conservation studios, a walkthrough between the Museum and the Cast Gallery and Oxford's first rooftop café. An innovative approach to displaying the collections, *Crossing Cultures Crossing Time*, will tell the story of each object by tracing the journey of ideas and influences across continents.

www.ashmolean.org

Amgueddfa Cymru: National Museum Wales: *Turner to Cezanne: Masterpieces from the Davies Collection*, *National Museum Wales* is a touring exhibition organised by the American Federation of Arts and Amgueddfa Cymru which will travel to five venues across America starting at the Columbia Museum of Art in March. *Sisley in England and Wales* opens at National Museum Cardiff in March and there will also be a series of exhibitions concentrating on contemporary art, including the work of children's author and illustrator Lauren Child. There will also be a competition for art, fashion and design students in Wales will be running at the National Wool Museum with winners announced in October. www.museumwales.org.uk

Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery: *Sun, Wind and Rain: The Art of David Cox*, an exhibition developed in partnership between BMAG and the Yale Center for British Art, Connecticut, which will showcase the Museum's collection of works by Cox - the largest in the world - alongside loans from public and private collections in the UK and the United States. *The Story of the Supremes* comes on tour from the V&A Museum, and *Matthew Boulton: selling what All the World Desires*, explores the achievements of the great Birmingham industrialist.

www.bmag.org.uk

British Museum: *Shah 'Abbas and the Remaking of Iran*, opening in February will explore the reign and legacy of the Iranian king Shah 'Abbas (r1587-1629). The exhibition will embody his social, religious and artistic influence on Iran through the gifts he endowed to major shrines and his magnificent new capital at Isfahan. *Gardens and Cosmos: The Royal Paintings of Jodhpur*, opening in May, feature around 70 paintings from the royal household which have never left India before. The Museum's major exhibition in the autumn, *Moctezuma*, will explore the divine, military and political role of the Aztec emperor Moctezuma II (reigned AD 1502-1521). The British Museum is also opening a new Ancient Egyptian gallery centered round the spectacular painted tomb-chapel of Nebamun. A new Ancient Egyptian gallery centered round the spectacular painted tomb-chapel of Nebamun will open in January. A new Medieval Gallery opens in March and the Percival David Collection of Chinese Art will go on a permanent public display in a specially designed new gallery in the Sir Joseph Hotung Centre for Ceramic Studies in April.

www.britishmuseum.org

British Library: Dr David Starkey will guest-curate *Henry VII: Man and Monarch*, a major exhibition offering new insights into Henry VIII's way of thinking and the huge changes that took place during his reign. *Twinkle, Twinkly Little Bat!*, opening in April, will celebrate four hundred years of poetry for children using early editions with beautiful illustrations and material from the Opies' sound archive. www.bl.uk

Glasgow Museums: 2009 will see the opening of a major new visual arts resource for the city of Glasgow - Trongate 103. Developed by Glasgow City Council and visual arts organizations, the £7m development will include galleries, workshops, artists studios and production spaces. Trongate 103, for which Mark O'Neill is responsible as Head of Arts and Museums, has strong links with the outreach and education & access services within Glasgow Museums and will complement the Museums' work with contemporary artists. www.trongate103.com

www.glasgowmuseums.com

Imperial War Museum: A new Children's Gallery will open at the [Imperial War Museum London](#) in July, and in September a major exhibition commemorates seventy years since the start of the Second World War. Major exhibitions at [Imperial War Museum North](#) include *Witness: Women War Artists*, exploring artists' responses to conflict as eyewitnesses, participants and commentators. In May, IWM North opens the Museum's first major exhibition examining the experience of *Prisoners of War* and the lasting impact of the experiences on those who survived. In June the Museum has an exhibition developed by young people in the *Moving Minds* project, which aims to empower young people to become 'cultural leaders'. www.iwm.org.uk

Museum of London: Work will continue throughout the year on the £20.5m redevelopment of the lower galleries of [Museum of London](#) which will open in 2010. Meanwhile at the [Museum of London Docklands](#), *Landfall*, opening in February will explore the Atlantic Ocean as a natural phenomenon and transporter of dreams and people. www.museumoflondon.org.uk

National Galleries of Scotland: Major exhibitions at the [National Gallery](#) complex include *Turner in Italy*, opening in March, the largest Turner show ever held in Scotland. *Imagining Spain*, opening in July will be the first exhibition on this scale devoted to Spain and the impact it has had on British Art. The [Scottish National Portrait Gallery](#) will close to the public in spring 2009 when building work commences on the Portrait of the Nation redevelopment project. www.nationalgalleries.org

National Gallery: *Picasso: Challenging the Past*, opening in February, with some 60 works by the artist will invite visitors to re-explore the National Gallery's permanent collection in light of Picasso's fascination with the Old Masters. *The Sacred Made Real: Spanish Painting and Sculpture 1600-1700*, opening in October will explore relationship between hyper-realist wooden sculptures and the development of Spanish art. At the end of the year, *The Hoerengracht' (1983-8)*, by American artists Ed and Nancy Kienholz, will transform the Gallery's Sunley Room into a walk-through evocation of Amsterdam's red-light district. www.nationalgallery.org.uk

National Maritime Museum [The Royal Observatory, Greenwich](#) will be marking The International Year of Astronomy in 2009 with a programme of special events that will include Astronomy Photographer of the Year 2009, a new competition powered by Flickr and run with BBC Sky at Night Magazine as media partners. Major exhibitions include *Renée Green: Endless Dreams and Water Between*, the first solo UK exhibition of African-American artist Renée Green featuring a new commission in the Museum's largest temporary galleries. www.nmm.ac.uk

National Museums Liverpool: *French Impressionists at Lady Lever Art Gallery* is an international exchange between NML and Nationalmuseum Stockholm. Exhibitions at the [Walker Art Gallery](#) include *George Always: Portraits of George Melly by Maggi Hambling* in February, *New Radicals: From Sickert to Freud* opening in July and *Flashback: Bridget Riley* in September, the first in a new series of monographic exhibitions from the Arts Council Collection. *The Beat Goes On* at the [World Museum Liverpool](#) until November showcases Merseyside's vibrant music scenes that have played a major part in the city's life over the past 60 years. *Shoot Nations*, opening at the [International Slavery Museum](#) in January is a collection of images taken by young people for a competition on the theme 'Young People in a Changing Climate'. www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

National Museums Northern Ireland: [The Ulster Museum](#) is reopening in summer 2009 following a major redevelopment which includes a new history and science exhibitions, a new gallery for applied arts, spaces for learning and discovery and improved visitor facilities. At [Ulster Folk and Transport Museum](#), *The Fighting Irishmen* exhibition, opening in May, tells the story of Irish emigration through the sport of boxing. *A Song From the Wood*, opening at the [Armagh County Museum](#) in February features the sculpture of Owen Crawford. www.nmni.com

National Museum of Science and Industry: At the [Science Museum](#), 2009 will see the launch of a brand new programme of adult-only evening events, Science Museum Lates, that will take place monthly from January; and major new family exhibition 'Wallace & Gromit present...A World of Cracking Ideas' which opens in March. On 26 June 2009 the Science Museum celebrates its 100th anniversary and starts its centenary year with a series of special events and new exhibitions including 'Cosmos & Culture', opening in July. www.sciencemuseum.org.uk

The *Gerry Troyna Media Exhibition*, opening at the [National Railway Museum](#) in March will in photography commissioned by Gerry Troyna and two award winning BBC documentaries Monsoon Railways and Bombay Railways. www.nrm.org.uk

Baby, Picturing the Ideal Human 1840s - Now, opening at the [National Media Museum](#), in February, explores how parents, advertisers and consumers in each era preferred to see idealised ideas of babies. Bradford Babies will show photographs of new immigrant families in the 1950s and 60s alongside baby photos contributed by Bradford residents. www.nationalmediamuseum.org.uk

National Museums Scotland: In the spring, two major new permanent exhibitions will open at the [National Museum of Flight](#). *Fantastic Flight* will see a former WWII RAF workshop restored as an interactive exhibition all about flight. *Fortunes of War* will explore the dramatic history of the East Fortune airfield. A new family-focused interactive exhibition at the [National Museum of Scotland](#) will enable visitors to explore a range of garden habitats inspired by the observation techniques that Darwin used in his own back garden. *Helmand: Faces of Conflict* at the [National War Museum](#) features the photography of Robert Wilson, war artist with Edinburgh's 52 Infantry Brigade. In October, as part of the year of Homecoming, the [National Museum of Scotland](#) will present *Salt of the Earth*, an exhibition of photographic portraits featuring people who have contributed something unique to the international image of Scotland. Work on the £46.4 million Royal Museum Project will also continue apace as construction work begins to transform the Victorian building and its facilities. www.nms.ac.uk

National Museum of the Royal Navy will be formally launched on 12 February, bringing together the four national naval museums sponsored by the Ministry of Defence. Dr Dominic Tweddle took up his post as Director General of NMRM on 5 January. He is based at the Royal Marines Museum. [Fleet Air Arm Museum's](#) major new exhibition *Fly Navy 100* will open in July portraying 100 years of naval aviation, focusing on the efforts, achievements and sacrifices of the men and women involved. [Royal Marines Museum's](#) capital development programme will be completed in the next few months with improvements including a re-modelled reception area, a new gift shop, a new introductory audio-visual presentation and a re-hang of the Museum's portrait collection. There will also be a new gallery for special exhibitions and the first exhibition in this new facility will be about Royal Marines in Afghanistan.

National Portrait Gallery: *Gerhard Richter Portraits* will be a landmark exhibition of Richter's portraits and figures, including a special installation of 48 Portraits, Richter's celebrate series of historic figures. *The BP Portrait Award* and *Gay Icons* opening in June and July are followed by *Beatles to Bowie: The 60s Exposed* in October and the *Taylor Wessing Photographic Prize* in November. www.npg.org.uk

Sir John Soane's Museum: *George Scharf: From Regency Street to the Modern Metropolis*, opening in March, is the first ever exhibition of London watercolours and drawings by the artist and illustrator who has been described as the pictorial equivalent of Dickens. The exhibition with the British Museum and will include drawings that have never been on public display before. www.soane.org

Tate: *Van Dyck and Britain* opening at [Tate Britain](#) in February will bring together some of the finest and most magnificent paintings that van Dyck produced during his years in Britain. *Turner and the Masters*, opening in September will juxtapose Turner's greatest paintings alongside the works by the old Master and contemporaries that he hoped to imitate, rival and surpass. Tate Modern's major *Futurism* exhibition opening in June will be the first large-scale showing of Futurism in Britain for 30 years. *Sold Out*, at Tate Modern in October will propose a radical re-reading of Pop Art and its legacy. [Tate Liverpool's](#) exhibitions include a mid-career retrospective of British painter *Glenn Brown*, and *Colour Chart: Reinventing Colour, 1950 to Today* taking a thematic look at the profound shift from colour as scientific or expressive to the notion of colour as manufactured and 'readymade.' www.tate.org.uk

Tyne and Wear Museums: [The Great North Museum](#) will open in April 2009, following a £26m project to transform the Hancock Museum and incorporating collections from the Hancock Museum and Newcastle University's Museum of Antiquities, the Shefton Museum and the Hatton Gallery. Highlights of the new museum will include a large-scale, interactive model of Hadrian's Wall and the Bio-Wall, a major display integrating live animal tanks and aquaria with touch screen technology and hands on investigation. Exhibitions at other Tyne and Wear Museums this year include *Seventy Years of Penguin Design*, opening at the [Shipley Art Gallery](#), opening in January, created in collaboration with the V&A Museum in London, exploring how the publisher has responded to and influenced changing trends in British culture. www.twmuseums.org.uk

Victoria & Albert Museum: The new Medieval and Renaissance Galleries, opening in November, is the biggest project the V&A has undertaken since the British Galleries opened in 2001. With 10 new galleries occupying a whole wing of the museum will for the first time tell the story of European art and design from 300-1600 in continuous displays. Other galleries during the year include new Theatre and Performance Galleries, The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Gallery displaying Asian Buddhist Sculpture. The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Galleries, showing highlights from the Gilbert Collection, and Ceramics Galleries redisplaying 3000 objects from its ceramics collection for the first time in a century. Major exhibitions include *Baroque 1620-1800: Style in the Age of Magnificence* opening in April and *Maharaja: the Splendours of India's Royal Courts* in the autumn. www.vam.ac.uk

Wallace Collection: *Treasures from the Black Death*, opening in February, is a moving exhibition of two medieval hoards of gold and silver buried at the time of the Black Death in the middle of the fourteenth century, almost certainly by Jewish families who were expelled or murdered because the Jews were blamed for spreading the disease. In the autumn, there will be an exhibition of gold boxes from the Thyssen Collection www.wallacecollection.org