



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

NMDC News

Values and Vision: The Contribution of Culture

On Thursday June 8th, the National Museum Directors' Conference, Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and the Arts Council joined together to launch *Values and Vision: The Contribution of Culture*, setting out a new agenda that will place culture at the centre of government policy making and enable Britain to maintain its position as a centre of world-class culture.

Values and Vision: The Contribution of Culture argues that a thriving cultural sector is not a luxury, but essential to Britain's future. The document celebrates the sector's achievements over the last decade but acknowledges that there is still a great deal more to be done to fully realise its contribution to public life. In return, the cultural sector is seeking a commitment from government that it values the contribution culture makes to learning and education, creativity and economic vitality, social regeneration, health and community cohesion.

Leading figures from the cultural world came together for the launch at Tate Modern and the speakers included: Tony Hall, Executive Director, Royal Opera House, Nicholas Hytner, Artistic Director, National Theatre, Judy Kelly, Artistic Director South Bank Centre and Chair of Arts, Culture and Education, London 2012, Nicholas Serota, Director, Tate and Virginia Tandy, Director, Manchester City Galleries and Vice-President, Museums Association.

Values and Vision argues that the London Olympic and Paralympic Games present an exceptional opportunity to celebrate the health and vigour of Britain's cultural sector, and that the sector will be key to delivering a lasting legacy for the Games. The document concludes "Give us the tools and we will deliver a world-class culture to welcome the Olympic Games in 2012...To achieve the potential of what we have to offer, and to make the best of the assets that we have created, the role of the cultural sector in helping to create a better society needs political recognition; support for what the cultural sector has to offer needs to be at the centre of public policy."

The document includes list of "20 things you didn't know about culture in this country" including:

- Seven of Britain's top 10 attractions are museums or galleries
- 85% of foreign tourists visit the UK for its museums
- 66% of the population attended at least one cultural event in the past 12 months.

Values and Vision: The Contribution of Culture is available at: www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/values_and_vision.html

Identity, Culture and the Challenge of Diversity

NMDC is a partner in an IPPR research project looking at the role of museums, heritage and arts policy might play in enabling people to explore and shape notions of identity and belonging. Tessa Jowell was among the speakers at a seminar for this project, hosted by the National Portrait Gallery, on 6 June. Jon Snow chaired the lively debate with contributions from Baroness Lola Young, Professor Miles Hewitstone of the University of Oxford and the playwright, David Edgar. Tessa Jowell spoke about the importance of shared experiences in developing a sense of belonging, and the role of festivals, including the Open House weekend, in providing shared experiences. She mooted the idea of a similar festival for all cultural institutions - an annual open culture weekend. Miles Hewitstone spoke about the complex nature of identity, pointing out that people do not belong to single group categories, and emphasising the importance of bringing together people from different communities. For more details visit: www.ippr.org

Members News

Understanding Slavery Website Launched

An innovative website designed as a tool-kit for teaching the history of the transatlantic slave trade was launched in June at the National Maritime Museum by the Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott, and the Minister for Culture, David Lammy.

www.understandingslavery.com is a free resource, offering ideas, methods and resources for teaching the history of the transatlantic slave trade through museum collections, with background information and practical activities for use in the classroom. The site is rich in primary material and includes visual images, video clips, sound and readings from original sources to support teaching of the National Curriculum, particularly in History and Citizenship at Key Stages 3 and 4.

The website has been produced by Understanding Slavery, a national education project developed by the National Maritime Museum, National Museums Liverpool, the British Empire and Commonwealth Museum, Bristol City's Museums, Galleries and Archives, and Hull Museums and Art Gallery. The object of the partnership is to promote and support the effective teaching of the history of the transatlantic slave trade in schools and communities. Understanding Slavery is sponsored jointly by DCMS and DfES through the Strategic Commissioning Museums Education Programme.

The website has been developed in consultation with cultural, formal learning and community sectors to reflect different perspectives on the subject. Over the next two years Understanding Slavery will continue to develop its programme with a particular focus on the Bicentenary of the Abolition of the slave trade in the British Empire in 2007.

Funding for Commemoration of the Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade

The Heritage Lottery Fund has produced a leaflet to promote the funding opportunities through its grant programmes for projects to mark the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade in 2007 and a booklet of project ideas and resources: *Remembering slavery in 2007*.

Visit www.hlf.org.uk/English/PublicationsAndInfo/AccessingPublications/OtherPublications.htm or order from enquiries@hlf.org.uk or the Helpline on 020 7591 6042 (Textphone 020 7591 6255)

Big Lottery Gives £4 million to *Their Past Your Future*

The Big Lottery Fund has announced £4 million of funding to give young people the chance to meet veterans, work with original documents and other artefacts, and visit historic sites, memorials and cemeteries to ensure that the sacrifice of the nation's war veterans will be remembered.

Working in partnership with the Imperial War Museum, the Fund will build upon the success of its *Their Past Your Future* (TPYF) programme, dedicated to giving young people the opportunity to talk with veterans and listen to their stories to learn about the enduring impact of the Second World War.

Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, spoke at an event at the Imperial War Museum to celebrate the success of *Veterans Reunited* and *Their Past Your Future*. He described the Museum as "a national institution that defines our country" and welcomed the funding announcement, saying: "I believe it is vital that today's young people talk to our veterans, listen to their memories and learn the lessons from our history, and I hope every young person will have that opportunity."

The Big Lottery Fund has also published the evaluation of its *Veterans Reunited* programme, which details key findings and highlights the impact on communities, partnerships and learning. The *Their Past Your Future* programme included 9 touring exhibitions which visited 70 venues UK-wide, attracting over 1.9m visitors. Diverse projects and activities took place in 117 museums, libraries and archives and 148 local authorities undertook supporting activities in over 730 schools.

The full report for the *Veterans Reunited* evaluation and further information about the programme can found at: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk and www.theirpast-yourfuture.org.uk

The Chancellor's speech is at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/speeches/chancellor/exchequer/speech_chx_220606.cfm

British Library Wins Public Reporting and Accountability Award

The British Library's 2004-05 Annual Report has won an award for the second year running at the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and PricewaterhouseCoopers 2006 Public Reporting and Accountability Awards. www.bl.uk/news/2006/pressrelease20060615.html

The Office of Public Sector Information and the National Archives to Merge

The National Archives and The Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI), which is currently attached to the Cabinet Office, are to merge in October 2006. The merger will create a stronger centre for information management in the public sector, enabling a more responsive approach to the challenges of new technology.

Under the name of The National Archives, the combined organisation will lead on information policy and support effective delivery of records and information management across government and the public sector. There will be no job losses as a result of the merger.

A strategy statement, to be published in October 2006, will outline plans for the next five years. www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documents/21jun06.pdf

Natural History Museum Acquires Kohler Darwin Collection

The Kohler Darwin Collection, which includes most of the works published by Darwin from 1829 and the first edition of *On the Origin of Species*, has been acquired by the Natural History Museum. The Collection, assembled by antiquarian booksellers Chris and Michele Kohler over 20 years, joins Darwin specimens already held by the Museum, as well as a library of books by Darwin's contemporaries, to form an exceptional resource on the theory of evolution.

The £985,000 acquisition, the most expensive in the museum's history, was made possible by a £712,000 grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund and contributions from individual donors, trusts and charities. www.nhm.ac.uk/about-us/news/2006/june/news_8325.html

National Conservation Centre Reopens

The National Conservation Centre in Liverpool has reopened following a £1 million refurbishment of the public areas. The refurbishment, which took nine months, includes a new temporary exhibition space and a dedicated learning resource for schools and groups.

A new permanent exhibition explaining techniques used by conservators to explore objects, allows visitors to examine a mummy without touching it, using a CT scan.

The work of conservators will be show-cased in a new glass-walled science laboratory, which houses a digital x-ray processing machine, a scanning electron microscope and other equipment. www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/about/news/newsarticle.asp?id=555&venue=0

Sporting Scotland Gallery Opens at the Museum of Scotland

National Museum of Scotland has opened a new gallery, Sporting Scotland, which celebrates sport in Scotland in the 20th and 21st century, explores the role of sport in Scotland's cultural heritage and pays tribute to Scotland's sporting heroes.

The Sporting Scotland gallery will be part of a larger Modern Scotland gallery currently being developed by NMS, which is due to open in spring 2008. Modern Scotland will explore modern Scottish identity, focusing on Scots, their self-perceptions and the environments which have shaped them across the 20th and 21st centuries. www.nms.ac.uk/nms/docs/media/2006/June/sporting_scotland.pdf

Unique Medals for Royal Marines Museum

The Royal Marines Museum has added a Distinguished Service Medal and Bar medal group to its collections. The medals were awarded to Sergeant James Robert Kettlewell, who is the only Royal Marine to have been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, for acts of Bravery at Sea, twice.

Born in 1922, 'Bob' Kettlewell was awarded his first Distinguished Service Medal for his action in Naval Operations off the coast of Norway in 1940. He was awarded a bar to his Distinguished Service Medal for his part in the successful landings on the Italian mainland in 1944. The medals were bequeathed to the Museum following his death earlier this year. www.royalmarinesmuseum.co.uk

RIBA Awards for National Museums

The National Gallery and National Waterfront Museum, Swansea have received the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Award for high architectural standards, design excellence and contribution to the local environment.

National Waterfront Museum, Swansea by Wilkinson Eyre Architects was recognised for the way the building engages with the site's historic setting in Swansea's docks.

The National Gallery's East Wing and Central Portico Phase 1, by Dixon Jones Ltd with Purcell Miller Tritton, was awarded an RIBA Conservation Award. www.riba.org/go/RIBA/News/Press_5490.html

Science Museum Launches UK Smart Toy of the Year Award

The Science Museum has announced the first annual Science Museum Smart Toy of the Year Awards, designed to provide an informative guide to choosing the most fun, educational and intelligent toys.

The awards reflect the Museum's commitment to encouraging learning through interaction and play. The panel of judges will include a representative from the Science Museum's education and learning department, science experts, media personalities and children.

Closing date for entries is Friday 7 July 2006. Winners will be announced in October.

www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/corporate_commercial/press/ShowPressRelease.asp?Show=404

National Waterfront Museum Short-listed for Family Friendly Museum Award

The museums and galleries short-listed for the Guardian's 2006 Family Friendly Museum award have been announced. The short-listed museums are: Falmouth Art Gallery, Horniman Museum, Livesey Museum, National Waterfront Museum and North Somerset Museum. The winner will be announced next month. <http://lifeandhealth.guardian.co.uk/family/story/0,,1804606,00.html>

Stamps Celebrate National Portrait Gallery 150th Anniversary

The Royal Mail is issuing a set of ten Special Stamps, featuring portraits of celebrated figures from the National Portrait Gallery's Collection that together characterise the Nation. The stamps will be released on 18th July 2006. www.royalmail.com/stamps

Japanese Arms and Armour Conference at Royal Armouries

The Royal Armouries is organising an International Conference from 28-30 October 2006 on Japanese Arms and Armour. The conference will offer a platform for the exchange of information on the Japanese sword, its mountings and armour, and the opportunity for delegates to hear leading experts in these fields and to handle and examine related items from the Royal Armouries' collection.

A booking form and further details at www.royalarmouries.org/extsite/view.jsp?sectionId=2633

or contact: Jon Copley Jon.copley@armouries.org.uk or by post Jon Copley, Events Department, Royal Armouries Museum, Armouries Drive, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS10 1LT

National Museums Northern Ireland wins Marketing Excellence Award

The National Museums Northern Ireland has been awarded the Marketing Excellence Award (Large Company) for International Marketing at the NI Tourism Awards 2006 in Belfast. Judges were impressed by the National Museum's comprehensive and extensive International Marketing Strategy. "Great energy and enthusiasm comes across...as well as pride in the product and a desire to showcase it at its very best. This is showing good dividends through impressive growth and visitor numbers".

www.magni.org.uk/newsroom/?article=486

Current Issues

Cultural Leadership Programme Unveiled

The Cultural Leadership Programme, a two-year, £12 million initiative to promote excellence in management and leadership in the cultural sector was officially launched on 19 June. Initiated by the Chancellor in last year's Budget statement, the programme is being delivered by Arts Council England, Creative & Cultural Skills (Sector Skills Council) and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), and follows a public consultation on the priorities for leadership in our sector. The delivery partnership aims to develop leadership which is dynamic, diverse and genuinely world-class. The two-year programme aims to contribute to:

- More diverse leadership and representative leadership
- A higher profile for the sector with stronger links across the economy
- A step change in the impact of the cultural sector.

Gordon Brown MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer hosted a breakfast to celebrate the launch of the programme and said: "Culture in the UK helps to define and shape and deepen our lives as individuals. It also makes a significant contribution to our nation's prosperity. If this significant part of our economy is to prosper and grow, we must recognise the role of our cultural leaders in delivering that success and ensure the emergence of a talented and diverse group of future leaders...The Cultural Leadership Programme will create new opportunities for collaboration across the public and business sectors. I am convinced that such interaction will enrich the cultural sector, the wider economy – and the nation as a whole – for generations to come."

It is anticipated that over the next two years around 2,000 people working in the cultural sector will benefit directly from leadership development opportunities through this programme. The Cultural Leadership Programme will focus on the following areas:

- Ensuring that the skills base and support networks for creative leaders are fit for purpose
- Enabling a more diverse range of people to be leaders
- Providing development opportunities for current and prospective leaders at different stages of their careers
- Securing a long-term legacy for cultural leadership by connecting the programme to other major skills developments.

Opportunities will be open to people throughout the UK working in crafts; libraries and archives; museums and galleries; music and the performing, literary and visual arts – as well as those working in the wider creative and cultural industries. Delivery partnerships will be developed across the arts and business sectors to share ideas and resources and create new opportunities for collaboration.

Further information about the programme at: www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/culturalleadership.php
www.artscouncil.org.uk/documents/press/introculturalleadershipprogramme_php0tyfi.pdf

National Lottery Shares 2009 Consultation Results

DCMS has published results of the National Lottery Shares 2009 consultation, which sought views on what proportion of Lottery money is allocated to the arts and film, sport and heritage after 2009, and how Lottery money is spent in each of these good causes.

The consultation, which received over 11,000 responses, showed that:

- there is overwhelming support for what Lottery money is used for in the arts, film, heritage and sport;
- there is very strong support for the existing share balance;
- people believe very strongly that each cause is important and wants stability and continuity.

In response, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, announced that:

- current Lottery shares for arts and film, sport and heritage will be retained for ten years from 2009-2019.
- the Olympic funding package will remain: £750m from new Lottery games and £410m from existing games after 2009.
- that there is no case for changing the current, population based, arrangement for Lottery funding for arts and sport between the home countries of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- the UK Film Council will in future take on all film funding from Arts Council England with the same budget (£3 million a year).

The main priorities for lottery distributing bodies from 2009 to 2019 will include:

- *Increasing participation for those who don't currently benefit from the rich cultural and sporting life of the country.*
- *Inspiring young people.* Awakenning their interest, involvement with an emphasis on activity and health.
- *Involving local communities.* Fostering local community initiatives which bring people together and enrich the public realm.
- *Supporting volunteers* who do so much for the good causes.
- *Encouraging new talent and developing new skills.* Reaching out to those who have creative talent and sporting gifts who might otherwise not develop them to the full.

The public will get a say in where Lottery grants are awarded in a pilot voting scheme *Your Pound, Your Choice*. Lottery players will be able to tick boxes to vote for which local projects should get Lottery money. The pilot is expected to run in August, with up to five projects in two regions competing for Lottery grants of up to £50,000.

The results of the public consultation are available at: www.lottery2009.culture.gov.uk/takepart_results.html

Tessa Jowell's speech to the 10th Annual Lottery Monitor conference can be read at: www.culture.gov.uk/global/press_notices/archive_2006/jowell_lottery_monitor_speech.htm

Collections Link Project Director

MDA has appointed Peter Winsor to the post of Project Director for Collections Link, the national collections management advisory service funded through Renaissance in the Regions.

Peter was previously Senior Collections Adviser at the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA). His responsibilities as Project Director will include managing service delivery, building strategic partnerships and commissioning new content and resources for Collections Link. www.mda.org.uk

Director of Olympic Cultural Programme Announced

The London 2012 Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games has appointed Bill Morris as Culture, Ceremonies and Education Director for the 2012 Games.

Mr Morris is currently Project Director of Live Events for the BBC, where he helped to organise music events around the UK, including the 2005 Live 8 concert and concerts at Buckingham Palace during the Golden Jubilee celebrations.

Mr Morris described the Games as a "a very special opportunity to invest in lasting benefits to our national life" and he stated that "the culture programme for the London Games will celebrate the artists as well as the athletes, people, places and cultures of London, the UK and the world".

www.london2012.com/en/news/archive/2006/June/2006-06-21-12-44.htm

Arts Council Strategy for Contemporary Visual Arts

Arts Council England has launched *Turning Point* a ten-year strategy for the contemporary visual arts, following a review of the visual arts in England.

This long-term strategy builds on existing investment and the success and impact of the contemporary visual arts, which have attracted growing participation across the country. It argues that further investment is needed to give all areas of the country access to contemporary art and develop a workforce that reflects the diversity of the country. The priorities are:

- audiences, participation and education
- support for the artists
- innovation and risk
- diversity and leadership
- places, spaces, and partnerships

The strategy proposes stronger links between contemporary art and the art of the past, and highlights the need for closer partnerships and new regional planning and investment to build on success for the future. Arts Council England is working with Tate, the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and the Contemporary Arts Society to develop the first national online database of contemporary art in public collections in the UK.

An action plan to support the strategy to 2008 and beyond will be developed with partners and the visual arts sector. www.artscouncil.org.uk/turningpoint

History Matters Campaign Launch

The History Matters campaign is designed to raise awareness of the importance of history in our lives and to encourage involvement in heritage. The campaign was launched on Sunday 2nd July at the Tower of London, with a celebrity debate on the value of history and heritage to contemporary society, featuring Tony Benn, Boris Johnston, David Starkey, Tristram Hunt and Shami Chakrabarti.

The website www.historymatters.org.uk has gone live. The website invites nominations for your favourite historic site, your latest 'history moment' and why history matters to you.

History Matters aims to show that history and heritage is a popular cause worth investing in for the future. The campaign is supported by a consortium of heritage groups, including Heritage Link, Heritage Lottery Fund, National Heritage Memorial Fund, National Trust, English Heritage, Historic Houses Association, Civic Trust and the Council for British Archaeology.

Connecting Culture and Commerce: Getting the Right Balance

The Museums Copyright Group and Kings College London will be hosting *Connecting Culture and Commerce: Getting the Right Balance* at the National Gallery on 26 January 2007. The conference will provide a forum for experts and representatives from the cultural, education, Government and other interested sectors to debate how to balance cultural and commercial interests.

The conference will address the challenges facing suppliers of cultural content who are using technology to widen public access to their collections, balanced against the need to protect rights, emerging business and licensing models, technological change and the legislative framework.

The day will conclude with a reception to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the formation of the Museums Copyright Group. More information at: www.kdcs.kcl.ac.uk/mcq2007/

Consultation on Alternative to Research Assessment Exercise

Higher Education Minister Bill Rammell has published proposals for a new system to replace the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) in England, based largely on metrics that are routinely collected to assess research, with a view to reducing bureaucracy and increasing efficiency.

The consultation document is available at: www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/

Responses to the consultation are requested by Friday 13 October 2006.

'Vocational' History GCSE Encourages Pupils to Consider Museum Perspective

OCR Qualifications is piloting a history GCSE which aims to motivate and interest students by forging closer links between school history and the wider world. This includes a focus on representations and interpretations of history, particularly those found in the heritage and tourist sectors. Teaching for the pilot will begin in September 2006 in 70 schools. The new GCSE has been developed in response to the QCA Geography and History Curriculum Project, which showed a need for new thinking about history for 14-16 year olds.

Referring to the pilot in the House of Lords, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools Lord Adonis said that GCSE students would be able to "consider history from the viewpoint of running a museum, curating a collection, or presenting to the public a National Trust Property".

www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/GCSEHistoryPilot.html Lord Adonis' speech is at: [Lords Hansard text for 5 Jun 2006 \(60605-20\)](#)

Parliamentary Report

Lords Question on Acquisitions

Lord Sheldon has tabled a question in the House of Lords 'To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to increase funding for the acquisition of works of art by both the public and private sectors'. Lord Evans of Temple Guiting (DCMS) will respond on 24 July 2006.

Progress of Bills

On 28 June the House of Commons considered amendments made in the House of Lords to the National Lottery Bill. The Commons agreed to most of the Lords' changes, including an amendment requiring lottery distributors to report on 'additionality'. Other amendments were rejected or an alternative proposed. The Bill will reform the National Lottery, establish the Big Lottery Fund (BLF) as the new body to distribute funds and give distributors the powers to consult stakeholders and test public opinion before taking a decision.

Further information at: www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/pabills.htm#n

The Charities bill, which is designed to overhaul the way the third sector operates, is due for its second reading in the House of Commons.

The text of the Bill is at: www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmbills/083/2006083.htm

Report into Research Council Support for Knowledge Transfer

The Science and Technology Select Committee has published its report into Research Council Support for Knowledge Transfer. www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmsctech.htm

International Issues

Debate on Admission Charge to 9/11 Museum

The New York state Senate has approved a bill barring state money from going to the World Trade Center Memorial Foundation if an entry fee is charged to the ground-zero museum. The museum, which will commemorate those who died on 11 September 2001, is due to open in 2009.

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg said that the city probably can't afford to build, run and maintain the memorial without charging an entrance fee and urged the governor to veto the bill. It is estimated that half the \$500 million cost of building the museum will come from public funds.

The World Trade Center Memorial Foundation has stated that admission to the outdoor memorial will be free and that entry to the museum will be free for relatives of those who died on 9/11. Foundation officials have objected to the Senate bill, saying that it "threatens to undermine the long-term care and operations of the memorial and museum at ground zero."

www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/06/23/AR2006062301545.html?nav=rss_politics

Neue Galerie Buys Klimt Portrait

A portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer by Gustav Klimt that was looted by the Nazis during World War II has been bought by Ronald Lauder for the Neue Galerie, New York, for a record price in excess of \$104 million.

The portrait is one of five paintings by Klimt that were stolen from Ferdinand Bloch-Bauer by the Nazis in 1938 and then displayed at the Austrian National Gallery. Earlier this year an Austrian court of arbitration ruled that the paintings should be returned to Mr Bloch-Bauer's heirs.

The paintings will go on display at the Neue Galerie of German and Austrian modern art, founded by Mr Lauder, next month. www.theartnewspaper.com/article01.asp?id=313

Rijksmuseum Painting Vandalised

A painting in the Rijksmuseum, 'The Celebration of the Peace of Münster' (1648) by Bartholomeus van der Helst was damaged by man using an unknown chemical substance. The man has been arrested.

The painting has been removed for restoration. The damage is not thought to be serious and appears to have affected just the layer of varnish. The museum closed for the morning following the attack and has now reopened. <http://rijksmuseum.nl/pers/algemeen/vanderhelst?lang=en>

Reporter Returns Looted Portrait

BBC correspondent Charles Wheeler has returned a painting by Florentine artist Alessandro Allori to the Gemaeldegalerie in Berlin, after discovering that it was looted during World War II.

He was given the 16th Century portrait of Eleonora of Toledo by a German farmer in 1952 and assumed that it was a copy. On discovering that the painting was an original, Mr Wheeler contacted the Commission for Looted Art in Europe, which sent photographs of the picture to galleries in Germany. The Gemaeldegalerie, Berlin's state museum, faxed back a photograph of the painting from its records. The Gemaeldegalerie is believed to have lost around 400 works of art during World War II. news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/entertainment/5037002.stm

Timetable for Culture 2007 Funding

The timetable for the call for applications for funding from the European Union's Culture 2007 programme has been delayed and is likely to be as follows:

- Announcement in February 2007
- Deadline in April 2007
- Announcement of successful projects in September / October 2007 (meaning that 2007 projects could not start before 1 October 2007 at the earliest)

It is understood that the programme may be announced as "Culture" or "Culture for Europe", rather than Culture 2007. www.euclid.info

Forthcoming Meetings

NMDC meeting

Friday 7 July, 11am, Imperial War Museum

Advocacy Committee

Thursday 14 September, 11am, Imperial War Museum

PR Group

Friday 14 July, 11am, Museum in Docklands

Learning and Access Committee

Thursday 28 September, 2.30pm,
National Portrait Gallery

HR Forum

Friday 8 September, 11am,
Tower of London

Marketing Group

Monday 23 October, 2pm, National Gallery

If you have any comments on the NMDC Newsletter or would like to contribute to a future edition, please email Zoë Nasatyr at nmdcnews@iwm.org.uk

www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

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