



Welcome to this month's newsletter containing information about the Arts Council's consultation on cultural leadership, the Mayor's Commission on African and Asian Heritage report and an important request for participation in a survey by the Museum Copyright Group to assist their work to establish a blanket licensing scheme with DACS.

NMDC experienced problems with emails during 8-10 August. If you sent something to us during this period and did not receive a response please re-send your message.

NMDC News

Lindsay Sharp

Lindsay Sharp has stepped down from his position as Director of the National Museums of Science and Industry (NMSI). Lindsay has informed the Trustees that, with his five-year term as Director coming to a close on 30 June 2005, he felt it to be an appropriate opportunity to seek out another challenge and to pass on the leadership of NMSI to others.

Lindsay has made a substantial contribution to the work and deliberations of NMDC as an active member of the Executive Committee over the last two years, and as chair of the working group that produced the *Creative Engagement* report (www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/creative_engagement.html). We wish him all the very best for the future.

Jon Tucker, head of the Science Museum, has taken on the role of Acting Director

Marketing Group

The Marketing Group met at the Museum of London on 11 July. Visit London's Chief Executive James Bidwell joined the meeting to discuss ways of working with the national museums in London and the potential impact of the London terrorist attacks on tourism in the capital. The Campaign for Museum's Ylva French also joined the meeting to discuss the national museums contribution to Museums and Galleries Month.

The Group agreed to set up a working group looking into research on non-visitors as part of the wider group's overall strategy to streamline visitor research undertaken at the nationals.

PR Group

The PR Group met at the National Archives, Kew on Friday 29 July. The group discussed crisis PR strategies following the terrorist attacks on London in July. Ways of promoting museums' core collections were also discussed. The next meeting will be held on 28 October at the Museum of London, Docklands.

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Members News

Major Grants For National Museums

Ulster Museum

Plans for a £12 million refurbishment for one of Northern Ireland's leading museums have been announced. Work on the project at the Ulster Museum in Belfast is scheduled to begin late next year and is expected to take two years to complete. Northern Ireland's Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure is to provide £7million while the Heritage Lottery Fund has approved the first stage of a £4.7 million grant – its largest planned award in Northern Ireland to date.

The money will be used to create new permanent exhibitions, transform the central courtyard, create new learning zones and improve visitor facilities.

David Hanson MP, the Minister for Culture in Northern Ireland, said the investment would also help economic regeneration.

For further information go to www.ulstermuseum.org.uk/newsroom/?article=370

Museum of London

The Museum of London (www.museumoflondon.org.uk) is to receive 10.6m from HLF. MOL will use its grant to help pay for its Capital City project, aimed at revamping its lower ground floor galleries and updating its learning centre. It will also be able to find space for its post-1914 collection of objects, including the Olympic torch from the 1948 Games, which have not been on public display. Its concrete facade will be replaced by a transparent front, which will display the lord mayor's gold-leafed coach.

Victoria and Albert Museum

The V&A (www.vam.ac.uk) are to receive £9.7m from HLF to transform its medieval and Renaissance galleries, and to establish two "discovery areas" - a film theatre and a study centre - which will attract an estimated 250,000 additional visitors.

Edinburgh's Royal Museum

Royal Museum (www.nms.ac.uk/royal), which has more than 3m items in storage, will be able to double the number of objects on display after it redevelops 16 of its 28 galleries with a £15.8m HLF grant.

Tessa Jowell described the awards to the Edinburgh and London museums as "precisely the kind of cultural legacy that we hoped for from the London Olympic and Paralympic Games". HLF chair Liz Forgan said that London's rich heritage would play an important role in the cultural programme that would support the games and that visitors would be offered 'the finest museum experiences' as part of their Olympic visit.

To view the HLF press release go to: www.hlf.org.uk/English/MediaCentre/Archive/2012+Olympics.htm

National Maritime Museum to Host Olympic Events

The National Maritime Museum (including the Queen's House and Royal Observatory Greenwich sites) in Greenwich Park has been chosen to provide a spectacular backdrop for spectators to enjoy the Equestrian and Modern Pentathlon events in 2012.

The National Maritime Museum and Queen's House will host the show jumping and dressage arena, Athletes' and 'Olympic Family' areas and lounges, management offices and media areas.

Greenwich Park, which houses the Royal Observatory, the home of Greenwich Mean Time and the Prime Meridian of the World, will host the Equestrian cross-country and Pentathlon course.

www.nmm.ac.uk

www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

Highland 2007

Highland 2007 will be the year that Scotland celebrates highland culture. The project is a partnership between The Highland Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and The Scottish Executive to promote the Highlands as a great place to live and visit, by showcasing the unique and special nature of Highland culture in the past, present and future.. The National Museums of Scotland (www.nms.ac.uk/royal), the National Galleries of Scotland (www.natgalscot.ac.uk) and the National Library of Scotland (www.nls.ac.uk) have forged a partnership to develop a collaborative exhibition called *Fonn 's Duthchas - Land and Heritage* as part of the Highland 2007 programme. Celebrating aspects of Highland cultural life past and present, the exhibition will receive £402,000 from the Scottish Executive as part of their commitment to Highland 2007.

For further information about the award and the Highland 2007 programme go to: www.highland2007.com/news.html

Rosalind Savill wins European Women of Achievement Award

Rosalind Savill CBE was one of six winners of the European Women of Achievement Awards (EWAA). Ros, who has been at the Wallace Collection (www.wallacecollection.org) since 1974 and Director since 1992 won the award under the Arts & Media category.

Ros is a world authority on Sèvres porcelain and in 2000 she received a CBE for her service to the study of ceramics.

For further information about the EWAA go to: www.ewaa.org

Wolfson Foundation grants £4m to English Museums and Galleries

Six NMDC member institutions are among forty museums and galleries throughout England to benefit from grants totaling £4m. Funded jointly by DCMS (www.culture.gov.uk) and the Wolfson Foundation, the grants will help improve the quality of museums' displays, public spaces, disabled access and environmental controls.

Grants include £150,000 to the British Museum for physical improvements to galleries 90-94, £25,384 to the National Maritime Museum for provision of environmental controls at the Queen's House, £225,000 to the National Museums Liverpool – Lady Lever Art Gallery for a new entrance, reception and learning suite, £142,890 to the Royal Armouries for their 'Hands on History' project, £50,000 to the Sir John Soane's Museum for study centre furniture and £155,000 for the V&A Museum of Childhood for their Creativity & Imagination Gallery.

Greatest Painting in Britain

The nomination stage for the BBC/National Gallery (NG) *Greatest Painting in Britain* Poll is now over. The shortlist is to be announced on 15 August and members of the public will be able to vote on a winner at: www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/today/vote/greatestpainting/index.shtml

NG Director Charles Saumarez Smith said that the search for 'The Greatest Painting in Britain' will tell us a great deal about how 21st century, multicultural Britain sees itself and NG wants the event to 'raise the profile of Britain's arts heritage - across the length and breadth of the country'. For further information go to: www.nationalgallery.org.uk/what/news/gpib.htm

NWDA Approve Museum of Liverpool Plans

The Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) announced last month their approval of plans for the development of the Mann Island site, Liverpool, which will include a new Museum of Liverpool. The plans for the site, which is at the core of the World Heritage Site at the waterfront also include an extension of the Leeds-Liverpool Canal, a mixed-use development and a new open space around the canal basin. Subject to government approval and support from other partners the NWDA will award £32.7 million to National Museums Liverpool for the new museum and a further £7.57 for the canal link.

David Fleming, Director of National Museums Liverpool said:

"This is an amazing boost for the city and the region and it signals take off for European Capital of Culture in 2008. We are delighted that NWDA have demonstrated such foresight in supporting the Museum of Liverpool and that they are confident that we can deliver a world-class visitor attraction as a legacy to 2008."

For further information go to www.nwda.co.uk

NPG Chairman & Deputy Chair

The Board of Trustees of the National Portrait Gallery (www.npg.org.uk) has elected Professor David Cannadine FBA FRSL as Chairman in succession to Sir David Scholey, and Amelia Fawcett CBE as Deputy Chairman in succession to Professor Cannadine. Both appointments take effect from 14 July.

Professor David Cannadine is the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Professor of British History at the Institute of Historical Research, University of London. He is a graduate of Cambridge, Oxford and Princeton Universities. From 1998 to 2003, he was Director of the Institute of Historical Research, University of London. He has been a Trustee of the National Portrait Gallery since 2000 and a member of the Gallery's Publishing Advisory Group.

Amelia Fawcett, a Trustee since 2003, is Vice Chairman and Chief Operating Officer of Morgan Stanley's European operations. She joined Morgan Stanley in London in 1987, was appointed Vice President in 1990, an Executive Director in 1992 and Managing Director and Chief Administrative Officer in 1996. In 2002 she was appointed Vice Chairman. Prior to joining Morgan Stanley, Ms Fawcett worked for the US law firm Sullivan and Cromwell, first in New York and then in Paris. She has been Chairman of the Gallery's Development Board since 2002.

Walpole inventory discovered at the National Archives

A long forgotten list of the possessions of Sir Robert Walpole, Britain's first Prime Minister, has been discovered by a University of Surrey student at The National Archives in Kew. Penny Winstanley discovered the document while cataloguing Chancery records. The document reveals that Walpole had expensive tastes, including a love of pineapple plants, fine wine and Italian art. The inventory of Britain's longest serving Prime Minister can be accessed free at The National Archives, Kew.

For further information go to: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Every Object Tells a Story Website Launched

Every Object Tells a Story is a new website from the V&A, Channel 4, Ultralab, and Culture Online that seeks to enable new ways of understanding objects. Through the site, visitors can access a virtual collection that includes contributions from the public, celebrities, curators, writers, and designers.

The site can be viewed at www.everyobject.net

Museums Welcome Chinese Tourists

Following the UK's achievement of Approved Destination Status (ADS) by the Chinese Government, London welcomed the first leisure tour from China at the end of July. The group's visit started with a breakfast hosted by chairman of VisitBritain Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge at the V&A (www.vam.ac.uk) followed by a tour of the V&A's China collection. A whirlwind tour of the British Museum (www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk) included the Great Court, Parthenon Sculptures Gallery, Jade Gallery and Oriental Antiquities Gallery. They went on to sites such as the Tower of London, the BA London Eye and Madame Tussauds and then to attractions in Oxford, Liverpool, Manchester the Lake District and Edinburgh.

Visit Britain is in the process of producing advisory publications for the trade about the Chinese market. They have produced a 'Market Profile' which provides advice to trade organisations considering developing a presence in China at: [http://www.tourismtrade.org.uk/Images/China June 2005 - Market Profile tcm12-11788.doc](http://www.tourismtrade.org.uk/Images/China%20June%202005%20-%20Market%20Profile%20tcm12-11788.doc)

If you have any comments on the NMDC Newsletter or would like to contribute to a future edition, please contact Claire Henry – chenry@iwm.org.uk

Current Issues

Important Request for Participation **Museum Copyright Licensing Scheme**

The Museums Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) has funded the Museums Copyright Group (MCG) to explore with the Design and Artists Copyright Society (DACS) the possibility of a blanket licensing scheme. This would allow digitisation of artistic works in collections and digital copies to be made available to staff, students and the public. MLA, the MCG and DACS need your help in providing information to take those discussions forward. A simple questionnaire has been designed which is accessible for on-line completion.

MCG would be enormously grateful if the relevant person in each museum could spare a little time to complete the questionnaire, which will be available for completion until 30th September 2005. This will provide extremely valuable information about digital copyright management issues in the cultural sector that will inform the development of schemes and policies to make life easier for museums, galleries, archives and libraries.

For further information, and to fill in the questionnaire go to: www.museumscopyright.org.uk/question.htm

Comprehensive Spending Review

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury laid a statement before Parliament on 19 July saying that "the government proposes to launch a second Comprehensive Spending Review examining what investments and reforms initiated to date have delivered and what further steps must be taken to ensure that Britain is fully equipped to meet the challenges of the decade ahead".

The review will:

- take a zero based approach to assessing the effectiveness of Departments' existing spending in delivering the outputs to which they are committed;
- examine the key long-term trends and challenges that will shape the next decade and assess how public services will need to respond; and
- look at how the public expenditure framework can best embed and extend ongoing efficiency improvements and support the long-term investments needed to meet these challenges.

A report is to be made on public spending challenges in 2006 and announcement on the next three-year Spending Review covering 2008-11 will be made in 2007. Departmental allocations will be held to the figure already announced for 2007-08 in the last spending review.

To view the full statement go to: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2005/press_65_05.cfm

VAT Refunds for University Museums

Following the Government's announcement during the last spending review to extend its free access policy to the collections held in university museums and galleries, as of 10 August 2005 these institutions will be eligible to reclaim the VAT they have paid on their running costs. The National Football Museum in Preston and the People's History museum in Manchester have also recently benefited from the scheme to claim back VAT.

For further information and the list of eligible university museums and galleries go to:

www.culture.gov.uk/global/press_notices/archive_2005/dcs_m108_2005.htm

Cox Review

HM Treasury has commissioned a review led by Sir George Cox, Chairman of the Design Council, into how best to enhance the role of creativity in raising the productivity performance of SMEs in the UK. The Cox Review will report to HM Treasury by the end of September 2005. A document designed to gather important evidence, information and views to inform the review has been produced and can be downloaded at: http://213.219.8.102/pdfs/dti/innovation/cox_review.pdf

The closing date for responses is 31 August 2005.

Call For Ideas - Arts Council Consultation on Cultural Leadership

In response to the Government's commitment of £12 million to promote leadership skills within the cultural sector, the Arts Council is developing a cultural leadership programme. Working with sector partners, it has published *Cultural Leadership Programme – A call for ideas*. The document outlines the scope of the proposed programme and signals the start of a consultation process that will inform its further development.

The Cultural Leadership Programme has two overarching aims:

- Creating a culture of strong leadership, embedding a culture of support and development for leaders in the sector and addressing current gaps in provision
- Diversity in leadership - enhancing the diversity of current and future leaders, with a particular focus on leaders from Black and minority ethnic backgrounds.

The programme will comprise a series of strategic interventions in three areas of leadership development:

- Current leaders

Supporting the development of existing cultural leaders, both senior and mid-career, ensuring they have the skills to achieve maximum impact for themselves and their organisations.

- Future and emerging leaders

Promoting the development of future leaders so that they can augment existing creative ability with business and entrepreneurial skills.

- Boards and trustees as cultural leaders

Improving the development and training of board members and trustees

The funding for the Cultural Leadership Programme will be allocated across three areas:

- Infrastructure: Creating a strategic framework for the future whereby pilot initiatives will be tested and long-term funding sought.
- Innovation: Building on existing best practice and seedfunding ideas in development
- Individuals: Developing personal potential, allowing individuals to shape their own future development with individual funding and access to professional advice and support.

The NMDC are preparing a response through the Leadership Working Party chaired by the National Maritime Museum's Director Roy Clare, but individual museums, museum leaders and aspiring leaders are encouraged to respond individually to ensure the full range of issues affecting museums and libraries are effectively demonstrated.

The consultation period will run until 14 October 2005.

For further information and to download the publication go to:

www.artscouncil.org.uk/information/publication_detail.php?browse=recent&id=473

Library Review Recommends Single Purchasing Agency

In their report published last month, the accountants and business advisors PFK made recommendations to review library services. The recommendations are to examine a case for national purchasing agency, streamline processes and extend opening hours, and pledge to work with the sector to help deliver these points. DCMS and MLA, who commissioned the report, have supported the recommendations

For further information and to view the report go to: www.mla.gov.uk/action/framework/framework_04b.asp

Mayor's Commission on African and Asian Heritage

London Mayor Ken Livingstone has published *Delivering Shared Heritage*, the first report from the Mayor's Commission on African and Asian Heritage (MCAAH).

The Commission's nine key recommendations are; a strong commitment from leadership within the sector to champion cultural diversity policy; the diversification of governing-body appointments; equitable partnerships between mainstream heritage institutions and the community; the diversification of audiences; sharing best practice to embed sustainable, inclusive programming, collections development improving accessibility for London's diverse communities; African and Asian infrastructure and commemoration backed-up by a programme of investment; access to heritage careers for African and Asian descent communities and a programme of action to develop a more inclusive education system and curriculum that embraces and supports the histories, cultures and identities of African and Asian communities.

NMDC Chair Robert Crawford said "The National Museum Directors' Conferences welcomes the Mayor's Commission Report. It is of great importance that the diversity of our cultures is reflected in the contents, staffing and visitors to our national collections. We look forward to helping in the implementation of the recommendations of the Report."

For further information about the report and its nine key recommendations go to: www.london.gov.uk/view_press_release.jsp?releaseid=5346

National Archives Scheme to foster Asian, African and Caribbean Talent

At the launch of the report the National Archives announced a new scheme to woo Asian, African and Caribbean talent through a pilot project to entice budding archivists from these communities to participate in an archival internship that will begin in November 2005. The scheme is being run in association with the School of Library, Archive and Information Studies at University College London (UCL) and will provide pre-course experience to graduates planning to apply for a postgraduate course in archives and records management at UCL.

For further information go to: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/news/press/pdf/18jul2005.pdf

Green Paper – Youth Matters

The Government published their Youth Green Paper, Youth Matters on 18 July. The consultation sets out a comprehensive package aimed at improving outcomes for all young people, with a particular emphasis on those who are disadvantaged.

A key aim of the paper is to ensure that young people have more things to do and places to go in their local area. National standards will be set for the activities available to young people and local authorities will receive £40m over two years to develop innovative approaches to facilities for young people. Proposed national standards include 'access to two hours per week of other constructive activities in clubs, youth groups and classes' and 'opportunities to make a positive contribution to their community through volunteering' along with 'a wide range of other recreational, cultural, sporting and enriching experiences'

At the end of the document a series of structured questions are presented for the consultation such as 'do you know of any projects or initiatives which have been outstandingly successful in tackling the challenges covered in this document?' and 'Do the proposed national standards on activities cover the right areas?'

The consultation runs until 4 November 2005.

Further information and a copy of the paper can be downloaded at: www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/youth/

Pleasures and Pressures of Income Generation

The latest issues and trends in funding and income generation will be tackled at a one day Campaign for Museums' conference on 14 September at English Heritage in Savile Row, London.

This conference is inspired by last year's National Audit Office report and will consider the issues of income generation in terms of pressures as well as successes. Speakers will include Richard Hartman, Head of Museums Sponsorship DCMS, Julie McGuinness, Audit Manager, National Audit Office and Tom Morgan, Head of Rights and Reproduction, National Portrait Gallery. The conference will include audience discussions chaired by the Wallace Collection's Director Rosalind Savill, among others.

The full delegate rate is £145; confirmed bookings before 15 August will be charged at £130. A limited number of places for students and volunteers at £65 are available. For further information and to book a place go to: www.campaignformuseums.org.uk

DCMS Participation survey

"Taking Part", the national survey of culture, leisure and sport went live on Monday 18 July 2005. It is an unprecedented piece of work commissioned by the DCMS and its partner NDPBs, which aims to gather robust information on participation and non-participation in our sectors.

This survey will be conducted by the British Market Research Bureau: Social (BMRB Social Research). It is a continuous national survey, comprising of 27,000 in house interviews with adults, plus a 1,500 boost amongst black and minority ethnic groups. In addition to information on levels of participation and attendance across our sectors, the survey will collect vital information on what helps or hinders people from taking part.

A copy of the questionnaire and a timetable of quarterly release dates will be available on the DCMS website soon at: www.culture.gov.uk/global/research/takingpart_survey.htm

The first quarter results will be published on this site by the end of the year.

Acceptance in Lieu Report 2004/05

MLA have published the 2004/05 Acceptance in Lieu (AIL) report. Last year 28 cases, comprising several hundred items, were accepted under the scheme, which included the Luis Melendes, *Still Life with Lemons and Oranges* now at the National Gallery and a pencil drawing of Isaac Newton by William Blake, the only known preparatory study for Blake's famous work, which formed the basis for the Paolozzi sculpture in the courtyard of the British Library.

Announcing the objects last month MLA Chairman Mark Wood called on DCMS and Treasury to 'build on the good work of AIL in creating a more favourable tax regime to encourage individual and corporate giving.'

To view the report go to: www.mla.gov.uk/documents/ail_report2005.pdf

£4 million boost for Public Libraries

DCMS has announced a £4 million boost for public library improvements following the Culture Select Committee's report on public libraries. A programme will be developed by MLA, who will manage the total funding, to provide £2 million a year up to 2007-08. The funding will build on improvements already made under MLA's Framework for the Future development programme.

For further information go to: www.mla.gov.uk/action/framework/framework.asp

What Comes After: Cities, Art and Recovery

The Lower Manhattan Cultural Council is holding the first of two international summits focused on the arts and culture after a catastrophe. Artists, performers, writers, architects, lawyers, scholars, activists, community and political leaders from a range of contexts that have been directly affected and transformed by violence will gather in downtown Manhattan in a public exchange of stories, strategies, ideas and memories. Over three days of roundtable discussions starting 8 September, performances, films, and arts installations in all media, Cities, Art and Recovery will consider how people remember and rebuild after tragedy and how the arts have been crucial to such recovery.

Registration information is to be announced on August 22, 2005. For details and additional programming, visit www.lmcc.net/recovery

NMDC would be interested to hear from any readers planning to attend this event. Please contact Claire Henry at chenry@iwm.org.uk

Hadrian's Wall becomes part of a Trans-National World Heritage Site

Hadrian's Wall has become the first part of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site, following a decision by the World Heritage Committee.

Hadrian's Wall, a UK World Heritage Site in its own right since 1987, has been joined by the Upper German-Raetian Limes to form the first section of a major trans-national World Heritage Site, Frontiers of the Roman Empire, newly inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th Session in Durban last month.

For further information go to: www.culture.gov.uk/global/press_notices/archive_2005/dcms095_05.htm

EU Culture 2000 Projects

The 2006 call for Culture 2000 is now out. Deadlines are 17 October (1 year projects and translation projects) and 28 October (2-3 year projects and third countries projects).

Culture 2000 projects must seek to address at least one of the following three themes:

- Addressing the Citizen
- New technology/media addressing creativity (the applied and creative use of new technology)
- -Tradition and innovation; linking the past and the future

Particular attention will be given to projects bringing together cultural operators from the EU/EEA, the acceding countries and the candidate country. Applicants must be public or private cultural organisations with legal status, whose main activity lies in the cultural sphere. The applicant must contribute at least 5% of the total budget.

Full information on the call is available from the EC's official web site at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/how_particip2000/pract_info/appel_2006_en.html.

Euclid, the UK cultural contact point, are planning workshops and surgeries for Culture 2000 applicants in September. For further information go to: www.euclid.info/uk/seminars

Jude Kelly appointed as Artistic Director of South Bank Centre

The South Bank Centre has announced the appointment of Jude Kelly as Artistic Director. Theatre director Jude Kelly is also Chair of the Arts, Education and Culture Committee for London 2012, responsible for the cultural and education programme for the Olympics and founder of the Metal art spaces. She will take up her post at the South Bank Centre in September.

In this new post Jude will work alongside Chief Executive, Michael Lynch, and be responsible for creating the artistic vision for the whole South Bank Centre – the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery.

For further details go to: www.rfh.org.uk/main/generalinformation/press.asp

Export bar - Anglo-Saxon Coin

Culture Minister David Lammy has placed a temporary export bar on a gold coin, issued during the reign of Coenwulf, king of Mercia (796-821). This will provide a last chance to raise the money to keep the coin in the United Kingdom. The coin has been deferred at the recommended price of £357,832 (excluding VAT), until after 2nd October 2005 with the possibility of an extension until after 2nd February 2006 if there is a serious intention to raise funds with a view to making an offer to purchase.

For further information go to: www.culture.gov.uk/global/press_notices/archive_2005/dcms107_05.htm

New INTERCOM Website

A new INTERCOM website is now live on www.intercom.museum. INTERCOM is the International Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM), concerned with museum management. It focuses on ideas, issues and practices relating to the management of museums, within an international context. David Fleming is chair of INTERCOM and the new website is now hosted by National Museums Liverpool.

When you visit the site you will see 6 categories on the homepage with a box giving you up to date news. Currently, you can find further information about the forthcoming annual conference in Prague in November. The category entitled 'Conferences' provides links to the conference programmes and papers since 2001.

Parliamentary Report

New Parliamentary Committees Elected

Culture Media and Sport Committee

John Whittingdale OBE, Conservative MP for Maldon and Chelmsford East, has been elected as chair of the committee. Mr Whittingdale has been Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in 2002-2003 and 2004-2005. His political interests are broadcasting and media.

Committee Homepage: www.parliament.uk/commons/selcom/cmshome.htm

Education and Skills Committee

Barry Sheerman MP was re-elected as chair of the Education and Skills Committee. Mr Sheerman is the Labour/Co-operative MP for Huddersfield. He was the opposition spokesperson for disabled people's rights 1992-1994. He has been a member or chair of the Education and Employment and Education and Skills committees since 1999. His political interests included Trade, Industry, Finance, Further Education, Education and Economy.

Committee Homepage: www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/education_and_skills_committee.cfm

Committee on Science and Technology

Mr Phil Willis Liberal Democrat MP for Harrogate and Knaresborough has been elected as committee chair. Mr Willis has previously been a member of the Education and Employment Committee and his political interests are inclusive education, health, local and Regional Government, Northern Ireland and Gibraltar.

Committee Homepage: www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/science_and_technology_committee.cfm

For information about all other parliamentary committees go to:

www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees

Violent Crime Reduction Bill

The Violent Crime Reduction Bill currently going through Parliament, may affect museums in Great Britain with collections that include weapons. NMDC is currently consulting DCMS on this matter.

To view the latest version of the bill go to: www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmbills/010/2006010.htm

Olympics Bill gets second Reading

A London Olympics Bill was published on 15 July and had its second reading in the house on 19 July. The main provision of the bill is to set up the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) to manage the public sector involvement in the Games. To view the bill go to:

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmbills/045/2006045.pdf

To view the transcript of the second reading go to:

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmhansrd/cm050721/debtext/50721-14.htm#50721-14_head3

Forthcoming Meetings

National Museum Directors' Conference Executive Committee

Friday, 16 September, 11am, Imperial War Museum

HR Forum

Friday, 23 September, 11am, Royal Armouries (with an overnight stay in Leeds on 22 September)

UK Affairs Committee

Wednesday, 28 September, 1.30pm, National Portrait Gallery

Learning & Access Group

Thursday, 29 September, 2pm, National Portrait Gallery

Spoilation Working Group

Tuesday 20 September, 4.30pm, Tate Britain

Cultural Diversity Working Group

Thursday 6 October, 12 noon, DCMS