



Welcome to this month's NMDC newsletter, which contains information on the newly published *Guidance for the Care of Human Remains in Museums* and a feature on the events taking place at NMDC member institutions for Black History Month 2005.

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

## NMDC News

### NMDC Directors' Away Day

The NMDC Directors had their annual away day on 3 October, hosted by Roy Clare in the Queen's House at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich.

The Conference discussed issues that would be affecting museums over the next few years including the upcoming comprehensive spending review, the review of lottery good causes and London2012.

Following the meeting Directors toured the National Maritime Museum's *Nelson & Napoleon* exhibition.

[www.nmm.ac.uk](http://www.nmm.ac.uk)

### Cultural Diversity Working Group

David Lammy, Minister for Culture, met NMDC's Cultural Diversity Working Group on 6 October.

The group discussed the priorities for cultural diversity work in national museums and galleries with regard to staffing and governance, collections and programmes and audience development. The discussion also touched on the issue of targets and objectives, the Mayor's Commission Report on African and Asian Heritage and the role of DCMS in relation to diversity.

### Learning & Access

The Learning & Access Committee met at the National Portrait Gallery (NPG) on 29 September.

Keith Nichol, Head of Museum Education at DCMS, joined the meeting and gave an update on DCMS and DfES museum education policy, including Strategic Commissioning. The Committee also discussed a proposal for research into the evidence of museum learning.

### UK Affairs Committee

NMDC's UK Affairs Committee met at the NPG on 28 September. The membership of the Committee is drawn from across the UK, from regional agencies, Hubs and national museums. The Committee discussed a UK strategy for museums and research into partnerships between national and regional museums.

### Leadership Working Party

The Leadership Working Party met on 27 September at the Imperial War Museum and discussed the Arts Council Cultural Leadership Programme consultation, working with Creative and Cultural Skills (the Sector Skills Council for Advertising, Crafts, Cultural heritage, Design, Music, Performing, Literary and Visual Arts) and the MLA leadership programme *Leading Archives and Museums*.

### HR Forum

The HR Forum had their annual away day on 23 September, hosted by Jan Bruce at the Royal Armouries in Leeds. Issues discussed included the MLA's new leadership programme, due to start this autumn, working with Creative and Cultural Skills and the impact of upcoming age discrimination legislation.

The Forum also took the opportunity to watch a sword fight and meet the horses and ferrets used by the Armouries in their historical interpretation events! [www.royalarmouries.org](http://www.royalarmouries.org)

## **Gerald Aylmer Seminar 2005**

### **Historical Research: the role of the national museum collections**

NMDC partnered with the Royal Historical Society and the National Archives for this year's Gerald Aylmer Seminar - Historical Research: the role of the national museum collections - on 6 October.

Introducing the seminar, NMDC Chair Robert Crawford welcomed the opportunity for dialogue between historical researchers and the museum sector saying that scholarship and research are at the heart of national museums' purpose. Professor Martin Daunton, President of the Royal Historical Society, chaired the proceedings which included talks from Dr Margarete Lincoln, Director of Research at the National Maritime Museum, speaking on the role of national museum collections in historical research, Dr Carolyn Sargentson, Head of Research at the V&A, speaking on collaborative work between museums and HEIs within the framework of Academic Analogue Status, and Professor Ludmilla Jordanova, Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and the Humanities, Cambridge University and a trustee of the National Portrait Gallery.

During the talks, and in the lively panel and audience discussion that followed, issues explored included the need for historians to be encouraged to use objects in their research as well as text, the need for a system of peer review for museum-led research such as exhibitions and catalogues, and the importance of ensuring the continued flow of ideas between the museum sector and HEIs and maintaining academic excellence in curatorship.

The annual Gerald Aylmer seminar is jointly sponsored by The Royal Historical Society and The National Archives in memory of the late Gerald Aylmer who (among other things) was President of the Royal Historical Society and a Historical Manuscripts Commissioner. The seminar aims to bring together historians and the custodians of the research resources which historians use.

## **Members' News**

### **Tate Modern Announces First Major Rehang**

For the first time since it opened in 2000, all 48 galleries devoted to the display of the permanent collection at Tate Modern will be rehung around an entirely new concept to be unveiled in May 2006.

The rehang will feature four wings (on Levels 3 and 5 of Tate Modern) each of which will revolve around a central display that focuses on a key moment in the history of twentieth century art. The periods chosen spring from Minimalism, Cubism, Surrealism and Abstract Expressionism. Over 40% of the works in the new displays will never have been shown at Tate Modern before and some 20% of works on display will be newly acquired. The rehang has been made possible thanks to a significant three-year partnership between Tate Modern and the leading financial firm UBS.

For further information go to: [www.tate.org.uk/home/press/2005/tm\\_collection\\_rehang\\_29-09-05.htm](http://www.tate.org.uk/home/press/2005/tm_collection_rehang_29-09-05.htm)

### **Themed Collections at Tate Britain**

Last month, Tate Britain launched its new presentation of the BP British Art Displays, including twenty newly installed galleries telling the story of British art from 1500 to the present. To mark the launch of the displays, Tate has launched a new campaign, which identifies a range of themed 'Collections' suggesting for visitors a number of personal journeys through the galleries, reflecting different moods and enthusiasms. These include the 'I come here all the time' collection, introducing a range of new acquisitions and the 'I haven't been here for ages' collection, which reintroduces some of the iconic works in the display. To view some of these tours online, and to enter a competition by creating your own tour, go to: [www.tate.org.uk/britain/yourcollection/](http://www.tate.org.uk/britain/yourcollection/)

## **New Science and Technology Gallery at Royal Museum Edinburgh**

A 36-foot rocket, a Formula 1 racing car and the worlds first thinking robot were among objects to be lifted into the National Museums of Scotland's Royal Museum last month as the first major step in the creation of *Connect* - a major new interactive science and technology gallery due to open in February 2006.

*Connect* will enhance the position of the National Museums of Scotland (NMS) as a key focal point for public engagement with science and technology in Scotland. It will highlight creativity, discovery and innovation through the display of significant historic objects, accompanied by over 25 specially designed interactives.

The gallery is being realised thanks to generous funding from the ReDiscover Fund. Other support has come from charitable trusts and an individual donor from the US.

For further information go to: [www.nms.ac.uk/masterplan/](http://www.nms.ac.uk/masterplan/)

## **The National Gallery's Portico re-opens**

After a year's closure, the National Gallery's Main Portico Entrance on Trafalgar Square officially re-opened to the public on Saturday 24 September 2005, marking the completion of the Gallery's East Wing project.

The occasion followed extensive redevelopment of the Portico Entrance Hall, including restoration of the magnificent 19th-century decorative ceiling by J.D. Crace in the Staircase Hall

The East Wing development was designed by architects Dixon Jones, and involved a specialised team of conservation experts, including Purcell Miller Tritton as historical consultants, and interior designer David Mlinaric who advised on decoration and the use of colour.

For further information go to : [www.nationalgallery.org.uk/what/news/portico.htm](http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/what/news/portico.htm)

## **Current Issues**

### **UK National Museums Get New Powers To Return Human Remains**

Nine national UK museums have acquired powers to move human remains out of their collections as the Government brought section 47 of the *Human Tissue Act 2004* into force.

This follows the publication of DCMS *Guidance for the Care of Human Remains in Museums*. The Guidance has been endorsed by NMDC, MLA, MA, the UK Government and the Welsh Assembly. It sets out a framework for responding to claims for the return of human remains in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and gives guidance on keeping human remains in collections.

The nine national museums listed in section 47 now have the power to move out of their collections human remains that are reasonably believed to be under 1,000 years in age. This means that the Trustees of these national museums can now consider claims for the return of human remains.

*Guidance for the Care of Human Remains in Museums* can be downloaded from:

[www.culture.gov.uk/cultural\\_property/hr\\_uk\\_institutions](http://www.culture.gov.uk/cultural_property/hr_uk_institutions)

Section 47 of the Human Tissues Act can be viewed at: [www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2004/40030--d.htm#47](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2004/40030--d.htm#47)

### **Scottish Human Tissue Bill**

Under the Human Tissue Bill currently going through the Scottish Parliament, with certain exceptions, the public display of human tissue will be prohibited without a government licence or prior permission from the subject.

To view details of the bill go to: [www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/bills/billsInProgress/humantissue.htm](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/bills/billsInProgress/humantissue.htm)

### **Museum Computer Group AGM**

Registration is now open for the Museum Computer Group's AGM taking place on Thursday 3 November at the World Museum and the County Sessions House in Liverpool. For further information and to book go to:

[www.museumscomputergroup.org.uk/meetings.htm](http://www.museumscomputergroup.org.uk/meetings.htm)

## **BIG Announces New Programmes**

The Big Lottery Fund has announced its new list of programmes in England to be launched between autumn 2005 and spring 2006. The Fund is to give out more than £2.3 billion between 2006 and 2009.

The programmes divide into two broad areas: demand led, which will encourage groups to bring their own ideas and local solutions to Big for funding, and strategic, which will focus more on the types of outcomes Big wants their funding to achieve.

The context for all programmes is Big's mission to improve communities and the lives of people most in need. Each programme has three key themes:

- supporting community learning and creating opportunity
- promoting community safety and cohesion
- promoting well-being

These themes are supported by four outcomes:

- people having better chances in life, with better access to training and development to improve their life skills
- stronger communities, with more active citizens working together to tackle their problems
- improved rural and urban environments, which communities are better able to access and enjoy
- healthier and more active people and communities.

More detailed announcements about programmes in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are to be announced later in the year.

For further information go to: [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/assets/new\\_programmes.pdf](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/assets/new_programmes.pdf)

## **Gulbenkian Prize**

Applications are invited by 1 November for this year's Gulbenkian Prize for museums.

The single award of £100,000 will be presented during Museums and Galleries Month, May 2006, to the museum or gallery whose entry, in the opinion of the judges:

- best demonstrates originality, imagination and excellence through work mainly undertaken during the calendar year 2005
- has the capacity to promote wider public appreciation of the role of museums and galleries
- has clearly won the support and enthusiasm of its visitors and users.

Previous winners of the award, which began in 2003, are Big Pit: The National Mining Museum of Wales in 2005, the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art in 2004, and the National Centre for Citizenship and Law in the Galleries of Justice in Nottingham in 2003.

For further information and details of how to apply go to: [www.thegulbenkianprize.org.uk](http://www.thegulbenkianprize.org.uk)

## **Museums and Galleries on Top for Visitor Satisfaction**

A recent report from the National Consumer Council revealed that museums and galleries have the highest visitor satisfaction rating of all public services. *A Playlist for Public Services* found that 95% of visitors to museums and galleries are satisfied with their experience. The figures come from DCMS statistics. Museums and galleries scored higher than the DVLA with a 92% satisfaction rate and further education with 90%. Sport and Leisure came at the bottom of the ratings with only 54%.

[www.ncc.org.uk/publicservices/playlist.pdf](http://www.ncc.org.uk/publicservices/playlist.pdf)

## **Archives Prepare for UK's Biggest Archive Promotion**

Archives across the UK and Ireland are gearing up for the annual Archive Awareness Campaign. This autumn the theme of the campaign is *Beginnings* and hundreds of organisations will be unveiling the treasures of their archives and inviting the public in. For more details about these events and many more across the UK and Ireland log on to [www.archiveawareness.com](http://www.archiveawareness.com).

## **Museum Copyright Licensing Scheme**

### **\*Important Request for Participation - Deadline Extended\***

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. The deadline for completion of the questionnaire has been extended to 31 October 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](http://www.museumscopyright.org.uk/question.htm)

## **Director of the Hermitage Museum to lecture in London**

To mark the new alliance between the State Hermitage Museum and the Courtauld Institute of Art (which now manages the Hermitage Rooms in Somerset House), Professor Mikhail Piotrovsky, Director of The State Hermitage Museum, will give the first in a new series of Hermitage Rooms lectures on 17 November at 6.30pm. His lecture is entitled *The Hermitage Style of Collecting* and offers an insight into the history of the museum and its collections. For tickets, which are priced £10, please call 020 7420 9406 or email:

[education@somerset-house.org.uk](mailto:education@somerset-house.org.uk).

## **New Television Series - The People's Museum**

In a new 15 part series being planned for BBC2 in conjunction with Museums and Galleries month, viewers will be invited to vote on 'hidden treasures' from regional museums, galleries, churches and stately homes around the country, to be displayed in a virtual People's Museum.

Whilst the programmes to be hosted by a main presenter from a central location such as a national museum, the individual regional museums will be shot with an almost live, fresh news-hound quality. The organisers are particularly interested in treasures currently not on public display.

This highly interactive regional-focused project in partnership with Museums and Galleries Month which will re-ignite interest in local museums and galleries, and will give the public a chance to see and learn about treasures they never will have seen or even known existed.

If your museum would like to take part, or for further information please email [museum@reeftv.com](mailto:museum@reeftv.com) or ring Mona Hamed on 0207 836 8595 for further information.

## **MLA report calls for Additional Funding for Museum Development Officers**

The MLA have produced a new report, *The Mapping of Museum Development Officers in England*, which provides a comprehensive picture of the support available to the museum sector, reveals how that support is funded and identifies gaps in provision. It summarises research conducted on behalf of MLA and the Association of Independent Museums (AIM).

The report recommends increased, sustained funding for Museum Development Officers, and the creation of new posts or the extension of existing services in areas of need. It also points out that MDOs are overstretched with an expanding remit and client base, and calls for activity to be more clearly prioritised.

The full report with all the recommendations is available on the MLA website at:

<http://www.mla.gov.uk/action/regional/00renaiss.asp#4>.

## **Gift-Aid Guidance**

The Treasury have produced detailed guidance on the application of Gift Aid to charity visitor admissions and memberships after legislation comes into force on 6 April 2006. The guidance covers Gift Aid on donations that are made in place of an admission fee to charities that open to the public for the viewing of property.

Charities that open to the public free of charge but seek voluntary donations from visitors are not subject to the legislation. To view the guidelines go to: [www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/chapter3-insert.htm](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/chapter3-insert.htm)



## CCS Launches Creative Apprenticeship

Creative and Cultural Skills announced the launch of the first ever industry-wide Creative Apprenticeship task force and a specially commissioned pamphlet, *Creative Apprenticeship*, written by the economist Will Hutton.

In the pamphlet Hutton calls on the sector to become more diverse by opening up its employee base, in part by opening up different routes to entry.

Speaking at the launch, Minister for Culture David Lammy welcomed 'this first step towards developing a Creative Apprenticeship' as a signal that vocational education and training is just as important as the graduate route to employment.

For further information and to download the Creative Apprenticeship Report go to:

[www.ccskills.org.uk/staging/media/cms/documents/pdf/280905CreativeApprenticeshipfinal.pdf](http://www.ccskills.org.uk/staging/media/cms/documents/pdf/280905CreativeApprenticeshipfinal.pdf)

## Collections for All Campaign

NMDC are pleased to support the MDA advocacy campaign 'Collections for All' launched last month. The aim of the campaign, also supported by the MA and MLA, is to highlight the impact of good collections management in museums in the following key areas:

- Social - MDA will be undertaking a research exercise to gather together evidence of the impact of collections information management on the ability of museums to engage with wider social agendas.
- Economic - MDA will be undertaking a research and evidence-gathering exercise aimed at providing quantitative data which demonstrates the economic impact of information & knowledge management in museum collections
- Professional - MDA will be working with partners to gather statistical information about the proportion of museum staff involved in collections information management
- Knowledge - MDA will be working with key partners to define knowledge management in a museum context, and to establish clear evidence of its benefits.

For further information and details of how to get involved, go to the campaign website at:

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

## Art Fund to Undertake Acquisition Research

The National Art Collections Fund (Art Fund) will this month begin what is probably the most comprehensive survey of museum and gallery acquisitions ever carried out in the UK. The UK-wide survey aims to paint a detailed picture of the acquisitions landscape in the 21st century, identify the problems that museums may have with acquisitions, and provide a benchmark for the sector. The results will be published in spring 2006, and the Art Fund intends to repeat the research in future years to identify trends.

The study is designed to determine the level of current collecting activity in the UK – in all fields, not just art - and will explore regional variations in terms of budget, funding and policy. A sample of 300 museums – including some national collections - will be approached in the coming weeks and asked to complete an online or e-mail questionnaire, which should take no more than 10-15 minutes.

The survey will be carried out by FreshMinds, a London-based research company with a proven track record in public sector practice. The Art Fund intends to supplement the survey with qualitative data gathered from a series of one-to-one interviews with museum professionals.

David Barrie, Director, National Art Collections Fund, said: 'This is an area in which proper research is badly needed - for too long we have relied mainly on anecdote. Busy as they are, I very much hope that everyone we approach will find time to complete the questionnaire so we can build a really comprehensive picture of the state of acquisitions in the UK.'

[www.artfund.org](http://www.artfund.org)

## **Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund**

A new fund has been launched as part of the Government's 'Improving Opportunity and Strengthening Society' strategy. The fund will support the Government's aim to help faith communities promote understanding and dialogue. The Community Development Foundation is administering the new Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund on behalf of the Cohesion and Faith Unit of the Home Office.

The fund is open for applications between now and 2 December 2005 for large grants of up to £50,000 and small grants of up to £5000.

The fund has two key priorities:

- capacity building - to strengthen groups' organisational capabilities to enable them to sustain themselves in order to play a fuller part in civil society and community cohesion, and engage more effectively with public authorities.
- inter faith activity - involving programmes designed to bring people of different faiths together to promote mutual understanding, respect and co-operation.

Proposals that have a significant focus on women and/or young people in any of the areas of work identified will be given particular consideration.

For further information go to: [www.cdf.org.uk](http://www.cdf.org.uk)

## **Government Streamlines Sporting Bodies**

Last month DCMS announced plans to restructure two of its NDPBs, Sport England and UK Sport. The changes are intended to streamline the way sport is organised, clarify the responsibilities of sporting bodies and greatly improve the chances of Britain's medal hopefuls for the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

Following detailed development and planning with Lord Carter, Chair of Sport England, and Sue Campbell, Chair of UK Sport, Sport England will in future focus on encouraging greater participation in sport and the development of grassroots sport through increasingly efficient regional sports boards.

UK Sport will lead on delivering success in high performance sport, developing elite athletes from the early stages of their careers through to the podium for sports that compete at a UK and England level.

Responsibility for the World Class Potential Programmes for Olympic and Paralympic sports, the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS), the TASS 2012 Scholarships and the funding and directing of the work of the English Institute of Sport (EIS), will transfer from Sport England to UK Sport with effect from 1 April next year. UK Sport will also be responsible for the performance element of non-Olympic sports.

For further information go to: [www.culture.gov.uk/global/press\\_notices/archive\\_2005/dcms118\\_05.htm?](http://www.culture.gov.uk/global/press_notices/archive_2005/dcms118_05.htm?)

## **Creative Economy Conference**

In a speech to the Creative Economy conference in London, Culture secretary Tessa Jowell affirmed that education, enforcement and consumer choice are the essential tools which will help to protect our creative industries from intellectual property theft and secure the future prosperity of our creative economy. Jowell warned that 'Good ideas developed into high quality creative content are the lynchpin of a knowledge economy. Used wisely, they can lead us towards economic prosperity and success. But if we allow them to be squandered, stifled or stolen, we won't just lose our economic edge; we are also risk losing our raison d'etre'.

For further information about the Creative Economy Conference go to:

<http://www.creativeeconomyconference.org/>

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](mailto:chenry@iwm.org.uk)

# Parliamentary Report

## Scottish Parliament Debate Cultural Commission Report

The Scottish Parliament debated the findings of the Cultural Commission's report last month, described by Patricia Ferguson, Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport as the last part of the 'listening stage' before she would return to Parliament later this year to announce the plan of action for the sector.

The Commission delivered their final report earlier in the year. It contains 124 recommendations including the introduction of two limited companies with charitable status, Culture Scotland to oversee cultural policy and Culture Fund to oversee funding.

Conservative and SNP MPs raised concerns that the introduction of the companies would increase bureaucracy and some suggested that more national organisations should receive direct government funding.

Rounding up the debate Ferguson said 'Culture matters, art matters, heritage matters, and architecture and design matter, too. We are investing in them for their own intrinsic worth and because they affect so many aspects of our lives'.

To view a transcription of the debate go to:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-05/sor0922-02.htm#Col19432>

For further information about the Cultural Commission and to download the report go to:

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

## Forthcoming Meetings

### PR Group

Friday, 28 October, 11.30am, Museum in Docklands

### Marketing Group

Tuesday, 1 November, 11am, Imperial War Museum

### Cultural Diversity Working Group

Wednesday, 23 November, National Portrait Gallery

### Learning & Access Committee

Friday, 25 November, 2.30pm, National Portrait Gallery

### HR Forum

Friday, 2 December, 10am, Museum in Docklands

### National Museum Directors' Conference

Friday, 9 December, 11 am, Imperial War Museum

### UK Affairs Committee

Friday, 9 December, 2.30pm, National Portrait Gallery

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

Contact details for the NMDC Secretariat:

Emily Candler, Secretary, tel: 020 7416 5202, email: [ecandler@iwm.org.uk](mailto:ecandler@iwm.org.uk)  
Claire Henry, Research & Communication Manager, tel: 020 7416 5208, [chenry@iwm.org.uk](mailto:chenry@iwm.org.uk)  
Rachel Francis, Executive Administrator, tel: 020 7416 5203, email: [rfrancis@iwm.org.uk](mailto:rfrancis@iwm.org.uk)



# Black History Month

Black History Month (BHM) is held every October in Britain and aims to promote knowledge of Black History and experience, disseminate information on positive Black contributions to British Society and heighten the confidence and awareness of Black people in their cultural heritage. For more details visit: [www.black-history-month.co.uk](http://www.black-history-month.co.uk). Here are examples of just some of the events taking place during Black History Month at the national museums. For many of the national museums BHM provides an opportunity to highlight events that are just part of a year-round programme representing the diversity of their collections and audiences.

## British Museum

British Museum events this year have come under the Africa 05 umbrella for which they have been a lead partner. Events include a range of films, workshops, The Big Draw, family days and much more, all detailed on their website.

In addition, the Throne of Weapons, recently displayed in the BM Great Court will be on display at the Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery from 1 - 30 October as part of their celebrations of Black History Month. [www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk)

## Imperial War Museum

The Imperial War Museum is hosting a series of talks and events throughout October.

In *St Lucia at War* on 16 October Ben Bousquet will look at the impact of the Second World War upon the Caribbean Island of St Lucia and at the contribution made by its people. In *Mafeking/Mafikeng* on 24 October actors will read and sing songs from Marion Baraitser's Play *Mafeking/Mafikeng*, which focuses on Sol Plaatje, a translator for Baden-Powell during the siege of Mafeking in the Boer War.

IWM North have marked Black History Month every year since opening. Their events will include a celebration of black culture in the north of England every Sunday throughout October with performances by invited musicians.

HMS Belfast hold a Commonwealth Month in October with activities exploring family history, African storytelling and dance, Indian storytelling and much more. For further details of all IWM events go to:

[www.iwm.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.3082](http://www.iwm.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.3082)

## The Natural History Museum

The Natural History Museum is well known for celebrating the diversity of nature; this October it is also celebrating ethnic diversity with a series of Black History Month events. From discovering the botany of Brixton market to creating a nature-themed carnival mask, there promises to be something for everyone. The Natural History Museum's Black History Month celebrations form part of its Diverse City Season, a programme of free cultural events that runs from October to December. For further information go to: [www.nhm.ac.uk/about-us/news/2005/oct/news\\_6662.html](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/about-us/news/2005/oct/news_6662.html)

## Museum of London

The Museum of London is hosting an exhibition, *Roots to Reckoning*, which displays photographs by three Jamaican born Londoners, Armet Francis, Charlie Phillips and Neil Kenlock, of London's black communities, from the 1960s to the present. The images include Black Panther demonstrations, Bob Marley's visits to London, portraits of international stars and everyday life in London, from the streets of Brixton to the pubs of Notting Hill. The exhibition is accompanied by a number of events and talks. For details go to:

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

## National Museums Liverpool

Throughout the month National Museums Liverpool is running a series of activities and talks. All are free, although some require pre-booking. In a free study day on 19 October, *Connections: Black History and the Slave Trade*, at Merseyside Maritime Museum, participants will be able to take a glimpse at the realities of Liverpool's black history and slave trade and be guided on how to trace their own family history. Also at Merseyside Maritime Museum on 22 October, local historian and researcher Dorothy Kuya will be presenting *African Slaves in Britain*, an illustrated lecture that provides a historical background to the presence of African people in Britain. For further information about these and other events go to:

[www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/whatsonnet/eventseries.aspx?sid=7](http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/whatsonnet/eventseries.aspx?sid=7)

## National Gallery

The National Gallery offers a black history resource year-round via their website: a trail that explores the Black presence in a range of National Gallery paintings. Visitors can either follow it online, using the zoom facilities on the website to look at paintings in detail as they consider the information and questions raised by the text, or they can print it off and bring it into the Gallery to accompany their visit:

[www.nationalgallery.org.uk/collection/features/black\\_presence/default.htm](http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/collection/features/black_presence/default.htm). The Gallery is also running a series of free lunchtime talks every Tuesday in October, which open up discussion on different representations of black people and their histories. For further details go to: [www.nationalgallery.org.uk/what/news/black\\_history.htm](http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/what/news/black_history.htm)

## British Library

As the climax of the Africa05 literature season of events touring the UK, the British Library will be hosting a two-day festival over the weekend of October 15 exploring some of the best new writing in Africa today. There will be sessions on current affairs, workshops with writers for children and teenagers and workshops looking at the publishing situation regarding African, Caribbean and Black British writers and readers. For more information go to: [www.africacentre.org.uk/africanvisions2005.htm](http://www.africacentre.org.uk/africanvisions2005.htm)

## National Maritime Museum

Passenger ships have carried countless millions to new lives across the oceans of the world. During Black History Month NMM will be celebrating cultural diversity through journeys, including *Exodus: Postcards Home*, where participants discover the stories of immigrants and émigrés in the *Passengers* and *Trade and Empire* galleries. For details of NMM events go to: [www.nmm.ac.uk/server/show/nav.005001002](http://www.nmm.ac.uk/server/show/nav.005001002)

## V&A

The V&A kicked off Black history month with an Africa Fashion Day on 1 October, where visitors could take to the cat walk and model their African inspired outfits, bring along their favourite object for a Samuel Fosso inspired portrait, listen to stories from Ethiopia and much more. Upcoming events include Africa 05 Music Day, celebrating and exploring the culture and tradition of African music, on 22 October. For further details go to: [www.vam.ac.uk/cgi-bin/whatson/events\\_mgr.pl?](http://www.vam.ac.uk/cgi-bin/whatson/events_mgr.pl?)

## National Archives

The National Archives hold their Black History Month in November to complement a series of year-round events of interest to black and minority ethnic audiences. Events in November will include a Caribbean Family History Day providing hands-on guidance for individuals starting to trace their Caribbean heritage and a community-led exhibition depicting photographs and reminiscences of life in the Caribbean in 1950's and 1960's. For further information go to: [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/)

## Science Museum

During Black History Month the Science Museum is presenting a range of fun events for schools and families, and a debate especially for adults, to celebrate the contribution to science and technology made by black scientists and inventors. Events include a chance to meet drama characters portraying Mary Seacole, the nurse who famously helped to save many soldiers in the Crimean War and Lewis Latimer, one of America's most successful black inventors. For further information go to: [www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/education/bhmevents.asp](http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/education/bhmevents.asp)

## National Portrait Gallery

The National Portrait Gallery is hosting several talks and events including *Celebrating Black History: The Anti-Slavery Society Convention 1840 by Benjamin Robert Haydon (1841)* on 13 October. They have also lent works to Manchester Art Gallery for the exhibition *Benjamin's Britain*, showing a group of photographs chosen by poet and author Benjamin Zephaniah on the themes of Reggae and Punk musicians from the 1970's, portraits of animals, portraits of people with facial disfigurements and photographs of British Muslims, accompanied by his poetry and text. More details of NPG events are available at: [www.npg.org.uk/live/exdispla.asp](http://www.npg.org.uk/live/exdispla.asp)

## Horniman Museum

The Horniman Museum have opened a new exhibition to coincide with the launch of Black History Month – Amazon to Caribbean: Early Peoples of the Rainforest - revealing the cultural links between early Amazonian cultures and the flourishing of Caribbean art and identity. For further information go to: [www.horniman.ac.uk/exhibitions/current\\_exhibition.php?exhib\\_id=54](http://www.horniman.ac.uk/exhibitions/current_exhibition.php?exhib_id=54)