newsletter

Issue 48

September 2005

Welcome to this month's NMDC newsletter which contains details of two new Directors at Member Institutions and information about the DCMS consultation on the ratification of the Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed conflict.

www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

NMDC News

New Chief Executive of The National Archives

Natalie Ceeney has been appointed the new Chief Executive of The National Archives. Ms Ceeney is currently director of operations and services at the British Library, where she manages all of the British Library's services, including both its famous reading rooms and its remote delivery services. She has previously managed clinical services in the NHS, and has led strategic consultancy projects across a range of industries at McKinsey and company. She takes up her new post on October 17 and we look forward to welcoming her to NMDC.

Ms Ceeney replaces Sarah Tyake who is retiring after more than thirteen years in the post. During her time as a member of NMDC, Sarah made valuable contributions as Chair of the Learning & Access Committee and as a member of the Executive Committee. We would like to wish her the very best for the future.

New Director-General of the National Galleries of Scotland

The Board of Trustees of the National Galleries of Scotland has announced the appointment of John Leighton as the new Director-General of the National Galleries of Scotland. He will begin his position at the NGS in March 2006.

John Leighton has been the Director of the Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam since 1997 and he was previously Curator of 19th-Century Paintings at the National Gallery in London. He has strong connections with Scotland as he is a graduate (1982) of the Fine Arts course organised jointly by the University of Edinburgh and Edinburgh College of Art and later worked as a tutor in both these institutions. John Leighton has published widely in his specialist area of 19th-century art and has curated many international exhibitions, including most recently, shows on the French painters Paul Signac (2001) and Edouard Manet (2004). Fluent in Dutch, he has served on numerous commissions and advisory boards in the Netherlands. John Leighton is currently working with the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam on a major exhibition opening in February 2006, which will bring together the works of Rembrandt and Caravaggio. www.nationalgalleries.org

Lunch Meeting of Directors' P.A.s

NMDC arranged a lunch meeting of the Personal Assistants to the Directors of the national museums and galleries last month. The lunch provided an excellent opportunity to put names to faces, update each other on the work of their organisation and to strengthen working ties. Many present commented that although they had been conducting business via the 'phone and email for several years they had never actually met. A thoroughly good time was had by all and NMDC is arranging another meeting in December.

Historical research: the role of the national museum collections

This year's Royal Historical Society and National Archives Gerald Aylmer Seminar is being delivered in partnership with the NMDC at the Imperial War Museum. In the light of the government's Green Paper on museums *Understanding the Future*, and with major developments affecting the collections in some of our national institutions, the seminar will look at the future of our national museums' collections (of objects, archives and books) in sustaining and promoting historical research and the role of historical research in forming, sustaining and interpreting the collections. This year's Gerald Aylmer Seminar seeks to bring together historians, curators, archivists and librarians to discuss the issues. The seminar is open to all those involved with or interested in the National Collections. Attendance is free of charge but places must be reserved as the numbers are limited. If you would like to attend, please book a place by informing Claire Henry (chenry@iwm.org.uk).

New UK cultural engagement in China -The British Museum and the V&A in historic partnerships with museums across China

The British Museum and the Victoria & Albert Museum (V&A) have announced an unprecedented programme of collaboration with museums across China. Initiatives unveiled by both museums will enable objects from their unparalleled world collections to be seen in China and for masterpieces of Chinese culture to be loaned to the UK. It will also involve curatorial exchanges, skills sharing and joint projects which will benefit the museums and their audiences in both countries.

The British Museum has signed an historic agreement with the National Museum of China in Beijing, the first cultural agreement between a British institution and the National Museum of China. BM Director Neil MacGregor, who accompanied the Prime Minister Tony Blair's delegation to Beijing, signed the agreement with Pan Zhenzhou, vice-minister of Culture and the Director of the National Museum of China in the presence of the Prime Minister and the Chinese Premier Wen. It will guarantee a significant programme of collaboration between the British Museum and its Chinese counterparts. The first fruits of the agreement will be a series of loan exhibitions on world cultures not currently represented in museums in China, which will run from 2008 onwards.

The V&A is engaged in a series of Anglo-Chinese collaborations to 2010 drawing on its curatorial expertise in ancient Chinese art and encouraging an exchange of new design ideas between China and the UK. V&A Director, Mark Jones, who also accompanied the Prime Minister's delegation to Beijing, announced that in 2008, to coincide with the Beijing Olympics, the V&A will host a major exhibition, China Design Now, showing the best of contemporary Chinese design. He also unveiled a loan exhibition of 17th century Chinese porcelain from the Shanghai Museum to the V&A in 2006. A collaborative exhibition in Shanghai to celebrate the Shanghai Expo in 2010 is planned, while the V&A's retrospective of fashion designer Vivienne Westwood has just been staged in Shanghai in July 2005. An exhibition of contemporary Chinese photography and video will be at the V&A in London in September 2005.

For further details at events at both museums go to: www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/newsroom/current2005/china.doc

Reynold's The Archers saved for the nation

Tate has announced that it has acquired Joshua Reynolds' *Colonel Acland and Lord Sydney: The Archers*. The work was saved from going abroad through recent donations by Sir Harry Djanogly and an anonymous donor. Additional funding was allocated for the first time from Tate's newly formed Collection Fund, launched last year as part of the gallery's major collection initiative Building the Tate Collection. The National Heritage Memorial Fund made a generous grant of £1.6m towards the campaign, Tate Members gave £500,000 and The National Art Collections Fund (Art Fund) awarded a grant of £400,000.

For further information go to: <u>www.tate.org.uk/home/press/2005/archers_saved_06-09-05.htm</u>

Greatest Painting in Britain Poll

The winner of the National Gallery/BBC Radio 4 Today Programme Greatest Painting in Britain Poll, has been announced as Turner's *The Fighting Temeraire* on display at the National Gallery (www.nationalgallery.org.uk). Second place went to Constable's *Hay Wain* also on display at the National Gallery, followed by Manet's *A Bar at the Folies-Bergère* which can be seen at the Courtauld Institute of Art Gallery (www.courtauld.ac.uk/gallery).

NG Director, Charles Saumarez Smith said ,"I was very delighted that Turner's great painting of *The Fighting Temeraire* won the BBC poll of Greatest Painting in Britain, and I hope that it will encourage as many people as possible to come and see the painting, hanging in the same gallery as Constable's *Hay Wain*, which came second. The poll has helped stimulate public discussion about art over the breakfast tables of the United Kingdom and has encouraged people to rediscover great art throughout the country".

Deborah Swallow, Director of the Courtauld Institute of Art, said "I would like to thank everyone who voted for A Bar at the Folies-Bergère. We are delighted that the British public supported this outstanding painting and we hope that our visitors will continue to enjoy and explore Manet's masterpiece." For further information about the poll go to: www.nationalgallery.org.uk/what/news/gpib.htm

Tate Launches Carousel Website

Tate Online have announced the launch of a new visual search interface, based on technology developed by BT. Called Carousel, it presents a shuffled selection of some 2000 artworks from Tate's Collection which evolves as the visitor engages with individual pieces. It is intended to complement the range of text based search options offered at www.tate.org.uk, and help visitors who know what they like but not necessarily what it is called. To visit the site go to: www.tate.org.uk/collection/carousel

New Royal Marines Museum Outstation

The Royal Marines Museum has helped to create a new Heritage Centre at the Commando Training Centre (CTC) at Lympstone near Exeter. It was opened recently by Lieutenant General Sir Henry Beverley KCB OBE, Chairman of the Museum's Trustees and a former Commandant of CTC.

The Heritage Centre will provide Instructors at CTC with an ideal medium in which to teach young officers and recruits essential Corps history. Additionally, visitors to CTC, including the parents of new recruits, will have the opportunity to visit the Heritage Centre in order to gain an insight into the Royal Marines and how the Corps has developed over more than 300 years.

Using a £21,000 grant from the local Learning & Skills Council, and additional investment from the CTC Wider Market Initiative, the Heritage Centre has been achieved by renovating three old storerooms into a modern facility. It contains a series of highly illustrated graphic panels that carry the main storyline, plus models, film presentations and a small selection of artifacts in showcases that have been lent by the Museum. Further development of the Heritage Centre is already being discussed. www.royalmarinesmuseum.co.uk/

New Director at Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

Dawn Austwick is leaving her post as Deputy Director of the British Museum to become Director of the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation in succession to Margaret Hyde. Dawn will oversee charitable spending of £28 million per year across four programmes: Arts & Heritage, Education, Environment and Social Change: Enterprise and Independence. Dawn will take up the post by the end of the year. For further information on the Foundation's work, go to www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk.

Vistor Milestones for IWM

The Imperial War Museum marked two visitor milestones last month, welcoming their 1 millionth visitor at IWM North (<u>http://north.iwm.org.uk/</u>) and their 10 millionth visitor at IWM Duxford (http://duxford.iwm.org.uk/).

Michael Worthington, aged 9, from Flixton was welcomed as the 1 millionth visitor at IWM North with his father Phil Worthington. Michael was made an honorary patron of the museum's forthcoming Big Picture Show, which will transform the main exhibition space of IWM North into a giant light and sound experience every hour using images and sound from the Imperial War Museum's collections. The museum is currently developing the show to open in January 2006 as a legacy of the current landmark exhibition The North At War.

Mrs Biggs, who was visiting Duxford with her husband and daughter, was stunned to learn that she was the 10 millionth person to visit Duxford since it opened to the public on a daily basis in June 1976. As part of a very special prize package, Mrs Biggs took a flight in the elegant 1930s Dragon Rapide vintage airliner, was presented with a luxury picnic hamper, champagne, flowers and her own platinum pass which will allow her entry to Duxford free of charge for the next twelve months.

Shortlist announced for the 2005 AXA Art/The Art Newspaper exhibition catalogue awards

Twenty-four exhibition catalogues have been shortlisted for the fourth annual prize for the best UK exhibition catalogue, sponsored by The Art Newspaper and AXA Art Insurance. The winners will be announced at a ceremony on 17 October at the National Portrait Gallery. The first prize, awarded for an exhibition held between 1 July in 2004 and 30 June 2005 by a non-profit making UK institution, is £5,000. Many catalogues for exhibitions at national museums and galleries are on the shortlist including the National Gallery of Scotland's *Francis Bacon: Portraits and Heads*, the British Museum's *Sudan: Ancient Treasures* and Tate Liverpool's *Summer of Love: Art of the Psychedelic Era*. To view this shortlist go to: www.theartnewspaper.com/news/axa.asp

Albie Sachs to deliver the inaugural National Archives Lecture

World renowned human rights advocate and South African constitutional judge, Justice Albie Sachs, will deliver the inaugural National Archives Lecture on Monday, 24 October, at Beveridge Hall in London.With the theme: Archives, Truth and Reconciliation, Justice Sachs' presentation will address the role archives play in preserving democratic values and human rights and in unearthing the truth about oppressive regimes.

Justice Albie Sachs was a leader in the struggle for human rights in South Africa and a freedom fighter with the African National Congress. Twice he was jailed without trial by the security police under the Apartheid regime in the 1960s.

The free public lecture will be held from 5.30pm, following a multi-disciplinary seminar on the theme Secrecy, Openness and Reconciliation: archives in an international perspective for invited participants.

The lecture and seminar are sponsored by the National Archives and London University's School of Advanced Study (<u>www.sas.ac.uk/Events</u>) and supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (<u>www.ahrc.ac.uk</u>)

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

Current Issues

Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict

DCMS have launched a consultation on the 1954 Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols of 1954 and 1999. The consultation follows the Government's announcement last year of their intention to ratify the Convention.

In the forward to the consultation Minister for Culture David Lammy says 'The 1954 Hague Convention upholds the principle that damage to cultural property belonging to any country results in damage to the cultural heritage of all humanity, since every people makes its contribution to the culture of the world. Ratification of the Convention will strengthen the UK's commitment to the protection of our own heritage; highlight our civic duty as part of an international community to respect the cultural property of other nations; and demonstrate that the UK takes seriously its commitments in the area of international humanitarian law.'

DCMS is now asking for views on the most suitable way for the UK to meet its obligations under the Hague Convention. A draft list of museums and galleries that should receive general protection under the Convention has been proposed in the consultation document under the following three categories: Museums and Galleries funded by DCMS, MOD and the Devolved Administrations which are NDPBs or ASPBs, Designated University-Based Collections and Other Museums with Designated/Important Collections.

The Convention provides for a system of general and special protection of cultural property in situations of international and non-international armed conflict. Cultural property for this purpose is defined as "movable and immovable property of great importance to the cultural heritage of every people".

A copy of the Convention and the two Protocols can be downloaded from the website of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) at www.unesco.org/culture/laws/hague/html_eng/page1.shtml.

The deadline for responses to the consultation is 2 December 2005. For further information and to download the consultation go to:

www.culture.gov.uk/global/consultations/2005+current+consultations/hauge_convention.htm

Payout ends US spoliation claim

The owner of a \$12m Picasso painting has agreed to pay \$6.5m to the grandson of a Jewish woman who lost it to the Nazis according to a report from the BBC last month. The heir of the painting's original owner took legal action to retrieve it from the owner who said she bought it in good faith from a reputable New York dealer. The current owner said she would rather pay the claimant than continue the costly legal dispute. To view the full story go to: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/arts/4141230.stm

Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Cultural World

The American Association of Museums has set up a page with reports of the impact of Hurricane Katrina on cultural institutions. The page can be viewed at: www.aamus.org./aamlatest/news/HurricaneFirstReports.cfmThe ArtsJournal have also set up a page of links and resources relating to the cultural world and the aftermath of the hurricane. The page includes an email from Kristin Sosnowsky, Managing Director of Louisiana State University's Swine Palace Productions, who is helping to set up an Arts United for Hurricane Relief program. In the meantime she has a plea: "We would like to appeal to our fellow arts organizations across the country to participate in what we are calling the Arts United for Hurricane Relief program. We are asking that organizations consider ways to solicit hurricane relief donations. Some of the ways that they might participate is by placing a donation jar in the their lobby, including an insert or ad in the program, including a link on their website or possibly donating the proceeds of a special performance. There are a variety of funds to which the proceeds can be donated..."

You can see the full text here: <u>www.artsjournal.com/ajnews/20050902-18845.shtml</u>

New Style Museums and Galleries Month

Speaking at the launch to MGM 2006 Lloyd Grossman announced a new style for the month, asking museums to use the month and particularly the opening 'Welcome Weekend' to attract 'those elusive new and lapsed visitors' with a dynamic marketing programme as well as special events and activities. The 'month' will run from 29 April to 4 June, incorporating all of May plus a weekend at each end, with the theme 'Making connections: past, present and future...'.The MLA has confirmed its continuing support for MGM for the next three years.

For further information go to <u>www.mgm.org.uk</u>.

Changes at DCMS

Nigel Pittman is retiring from his role as Head of Museum Policy at DCMS. He is to be replaced by Paul Kirkman on 19 September. Mr Kirkman has previously worked as Head of Savings & Investments at HM Treasury and as policy and planning coordinator at the Natural History Museum.

Richard Hartman, currently Head of Museums and Libraries Sponsorship is moving to the role of Finance Director on the Olympics team on 13 September.

Chancellor launches memorial VAT refund scheme

On the sixtieth anniversary of VJ Day, the Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown announced a new scheme for UK charities which will refund the VAT costs incurred in the construction, renovation and maintenance of memorials. The refund scheme, proposed in Budget 2005, recognises the social value of memorials as a means of commemoration. It will apply to statues, monuments and similar constructions, and will work alongside the existing VAT zero rate for memorial buildings.

The scheme will be administered by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport alongside the existing VAT refund scheme for listed places of worship, which was announced in Budget 2004.

For further information go to:<u>www.hm-treasury.gov.uk./newsroom_and_speeches/press/2005/press_74_05.cfm</u>

Private Finance Initiative for Library and Sports Projects

Six local authority projects have been chosen to go forward for public funding of £130 million towards the cost of library and sport projects under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI). Bristol, Worcestershire, Newcastle, Leeds, Liverpool and Wigan Councils now have to make an outline business case to qualify for their allocated share of the money.

Proposed library projects include £33.4 million to Worcestershire City Council for an integrated public and university library facility, £13.2 million to Newcastle City Council for a new city centre library, £13.6 million to Liverpool City Council for the redevelopment of the central library and archive and £64.6 million to Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council towards the development of a multi-service centre providing a range of services including library and sports.

The schemes in Wigan and Worcestershire will be jointly funded with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

For further information go to:www.culture.gov.uk/global/press_notices/archive_2005/dcms113_05.htm

Citizens' Day

The Home Office has launched a new website giving details of events taking place around Citizens' Days being held on the 17 October in Hull and 18 October in Birmingham, Stoke and Southwark. Citizens' Day is a chance for people to learn about what is on offer in their local communities and get involved. For further information about events taking place on Citizens' Day and to include information about events at your organisation go to www.citizensday.org.uk

ALM London will be publishing *Exploring Citizenship* on 22 September, a new handbook for teachers and learners, detailing creative ways to support citizenship education through visits to museums, libraries and archives. <u>www.almlondon.org.uk</u>

Scottish Executive Legislative Programme Announced

The Scottish Executive has announced its legislative programme to 2007. In his statement to parliament First Minister Jack McConnel announced a new Tourism Bill as part of the programme 'to complete the winding up of area tourist boards and set up the VisitScotland network as a single legal entity'.McConnel said that 'by establishing VisitScotland in this way, we will help our tourism industry flourish well into the future in our ambition to grow tourism revenues by 50% over the next decade'. To view the full statement go to: www.scotland.gov.uk/News/News-Extras/legprog2005

New Honours Committees Announced

The Government has announced membership of the eight new honours committees. It is the first time Government has published details of committee membership and all appointments of independent members have been made through open competition. The new committees follow a review of the honours system by Sir Hayden Phillips. The change is intended to improve transparency and accountability in the honours system. The new Arts and Media Committee is composed as follows:

Chair:

Lord Rothschild, OM, GBE Chairman of J Rothschild group of companies, first Chairman of the Heritage Lottery Fund and Deputy Chairman of BSkyB

Independent Members:

Jenny Abramsky CBE Director of Radio and Music for the BBC, Chair of the Hampstead Theatre John Gross Author, former Editor of the Times Literary Supplement and former theatre critic of the Sunday Telegraph

Ben Okri OBE Novelist and poet

Andreas Whittam Smith CBE Journalist and former Editor of the Independent, Former President of the British Board of Film Classification

Civil Servants:

Dame Sue Street DCB Permanent Secretary, Department for Culture, Media and Sport John Elvidge Permanent Secretary, Scottish Executive William Chapman Appointments, Secretary to the Prime Minister

For further information and to view a full list of committees go to: <u>www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ceremonial/documents/pdf/full_membership_08sep05.pdf</u>

PRISM Fund report 2004/2005

The MLA have published their 2004/2005 PRISM Fund report, giving details of the 38 grants awarded in the past year to support the conservation and acquisition of objects of outstanding scientific or technological importance. The PRISM fund awards grants worth £250,000 to various museums and projects. Last year's mix included £3,500 to the Institution of Civil Engineers in order for them to acquire notebooks and diaries written by Richard Beamish, one of Brunel's assistant engineers, including some letters from Brunel himself and an award of £3,454 to the Royal College of Surgeons of England for the conservation of two paintings by Jan van Rymsdyk showing the embryology of the chick.

To view the report go to: www.mla.gov.uk/action/prism.asp

March 2004

Impact of London Bombings on Tourism

VisitBritain reported last month research on the Impact of the London Incidents prepared by Oxford Economic Forecasting (OEF) and the Tourism Industry Emergency Response (TIER) group. The research confirms that, following the 7 and 21 July incidents in the capital, London's and the UK's visitor economies are still expected to see growth in the long term but there is real concern for forward bookings and revenues for the rest of the year. There is also evidence of dispersal of visitors from London to the rest of the UK. The research indicates that although the industry expected recovery to be relatively quick following 7 July, the impact following 21 July is clearly deeper and lasting longer. For further details of the report go to:

http://na.visitlondon.com/corporate/press_centre/press_releases/050722_tier.html

The latest research from TIER shows that spending by international visitors in 2005 is predicted to be £750 million less than previously forecast. £500m of this loss will be felt in London. This compares with an earlier estimate of losses of £300m (UK) / £150m (London) made after 7 July but before the incident on 21 July.Early indications from the London Travel Monitor suggest overall attendance figures in central London have fallen by 20-25%.

To view data for May-July go to: www.visitlondon.com/ems/downloads/9754attractionmontiorsept05.pdf

Action plan for central London

The Mayor's Tourism Plan for Greater London is currently being reviewed. To inform the review organisations are being asked "What would improve your visitors' experience of London?" The answers to this question will form the basis of a Strategic Framework and Action Plan for Central London. To contribute go to: www.lda.gov.uk/tourism. All relevant comments will be fed in to the consultation process on the Mayor's Tourism Plan for Greater London and should be submitted by 30th September.

New Website: Icons-A Portrait of England

A new preview site has been produced introducing a new website guide to all aspects of England's culture to be launched late in 2005 by Icons Online working with Cognitive Applications and DCMS's Culture Online. Icons Online will be working with educational advisors and cultural and heritage institutions to help develop content and to stage events in December to publicise the project. For further information, or to nominate an icon go to www.icons.org.uk

MDA Launches Online Forum

MDA has launched a free online Forum to help museum professionals find information and share expertise. The Forum enables museum staff to ask questions, discuss current issues and find out more about the work of MDA. Topics covered by the Forum include general documentation, the SPECTRUM standard, Museum Accreditation and Copyright. There is also a members only section that provides direct access to MDA experts through the AdvicePoint advisory service. The Forum will also host discussions relating to MDA's 'Collections for All' campaign: www.collectionsforall.org.uk

To view the Forum go to www.mda.org.uk/forum.htm

MDA Wins Contract to Develop Collections Description Manual

MDA has been awarded a contract by the MLA to develop a Collections Description Manual for MICHAEL, a project that will create the first multilingual inventory of collections in museums, libraries and archives across Europe. MLA is the UK partner in the European MICHAEL consortium, which also includes representatives from France and Italy. In the UK, MLA has been working to develop the Collections Description Service, a unique set of tools, which will draw together descriptions of physical and digital collections. The manual will be launched in October 2005 as an online browsable resource providing guidance and case studies illustrating best practice in describing collections. For further information go to: www.mda.org.uk/pr050818.htm

AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award Scheme

A second round of the Collaborative Doctoral Awards Scheme, for awards to begin in October 2006, will be offered by the AHRC this autumn. The closing date for applications will be Friday 9th December and outcomes will be announced in March. Application forms and guidance will be available on the AHRC website later in September (www.ahrc.ac.uk) To view details of collaborations in the first round go to: www.ahrc.ac.uk) To view details of collaborations in the first round go to: www.ahrc.ac.uk) To view details of collaborations in the first round go to: www.ahrc.ac.uk) To view details of collaborations in the first round go to: www.ahrc.ac.uk) To view details of collaborations in the first round go to: www.ahrc.ac.uk) To view details of collaborations in the first round go to: www.ahrc.ac.uk) To view details of collaborations in the first round go to: www.ahrc.ac.uk) To view details of collaborations in the first round go to: www.ahrc.ac.uk) To view details of collaborations in the first round go to: www.ahrc.ac.uk) To view details of collaborations in the first round go to: www.ahrc.ac.uk) To view details of collaborations in the first round go to: www.ahrc.ac.uk) To view details of collaborations in the first round go to: www.ahrc.ac.uk) To view details of collaborations in the first round go to: www.ahrc.ac.uk) To view details of collaborations in the first round go to: www.ahrc.ac.uk) To view details of collaborations round go to: www.ahrc.ac.uk</a

MA Publish Annual Report

The Museums Association has published its 2004/5 report. In his introduction to the report, MA Director Mark Taylor said 'The 2005 Museums Association (MA) report, Collections for the Future, epitomises a new-found confidence. After years of prioritising access, learning and social inclusion the museum community is realising that, important though these concepts are, they do not have to be at the expense of collections'.

To download the report go to: <u>www.museumsassociation.org/asset_arena/text/-5/annualreport2004-5.pdf</u>

New engage Director Announced

Following the departure of Christopher Naylor engage has announced that Jane Sillis joins as Director from September (initially part time). Jane has spent over 20 years working in the arts, principally working with audiences new to the arts. Jane is currently Arts Manager at Look Ahead Housing and Care, where she has developed an arts programme for vulnerable people in London and the South East. Jane says 'I'm excited to join the staff of engage at a time of ongoing growth and development in the visual arts - and in access and education. www.engage.org

Forthcoming Meetings

Spoliation Working Group

Friday, 16 September, 4.30pm, Tate Britain

HR Forum

Friday, 23 September, 11am, Royal Armouries

UK Affairs Committee

Wednesday, 28 September, 1.30pm, National Portrait Gallery

Learning & Access Group

Thursday, 29 September, 2pm, National Portrait Gallery

NMDC Director's Away Day 2005

Monday, 3 October, 9.30am, National Maritime Museum (Queen's House)

Valuing Museums

Thursday, 27 October, 1pm, IWM

PR Group Meeting

Friday, 28 October, 11.30am, Docklands Museum

Executive Committee Friday, 4 November, 11am, Imperial War Museum

www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

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