



Welcome to this month's NMDC newsletter which contains an update on our activities and the latest news from the museum sector in the UK and beyond. [www.nationalmuseums.org.uk](http://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk)

## NMDC News

### Values & Vision: The Contribution of Culture

Cultural institutions across the country – representing the visual arts, music, dance, theatre, literature, museums, galleries, libraries and archives – are joining together for the first time to launch *Values and Vision: the Contribution of Culture* outlining the contribution that the cultural sector can make to life in Britain over the next 10 years. The press conference on Thursday 8 June has been jointly organised by NMDC, Arts Council England and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, with support from the Museums Association, University Museums Group, Association of Independent Museums and Group for Large Local Authority Museums.

### Email problems

The NMDC office has been experiencing email problems over the past month. In particular, emails sent between 18-20 April and from 12-18 May might have been lost or delayed. If you have sent an email and not received a response, please resend it.

## Members News

### Naval Heritage Strategy "Preserving the Past... Promoting the Present"

The Naval Heritage Committee, led by the Second Sea Lord Vice Admiral A J Johns, CBE, ADC has published the Naval Heritage Strategy setting out key objectives designed to ensure that Naval heritage promotes the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, is properly conserved, maintained and made widely accessible to the public. A key aspect of the strategy is the creation of a National Museum of the Royal Navy, bringing together the four Royal Naval museums to "provide a clear focus and to enable synergies and efficiencies to be harnessed for the wider benefit and utility of Naval Heritage."

The strategy document says "the Royal Naval museums distinctively represent the character and ethos of the four Fighting Arms of the Royal Navy but, taken together, comprise our largest single repository of heritage material. Work to realise the creation of National Museum of the Royal Navy, underpinned by the development of a strong brand identity founded on "Preserving the past ...promoting the Future", will be taken forward in close consultation and partnership with the four Royal Naval museums.

The strategy sets out key activities to be undertaken in 2006-10, which include to:

- Develop the concept of the National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN)
- Establish the National Museum of the Royal Navy as a corporate entity by 2010
- Encourage and improve access by schools and educational groups
- Establish Naval Heritage as an integral part of RN/RM Recruiting Strategies and in-Service training and education programmes
- Achieve improvement in stakeholders' perception of, and access to, Naval Heritage assets
- Contribute to wider Government policy in respect of the use of Naval Heritage assets to foster social inclusion.

The Naval Heritage Strategy can be read at: [www.royal-navy.mod.uk/server/show/nav.5482](http://www.royal-navy.mod.uk/server/show/nav.5482)

### **Refurbishment of National Museum Cardiff**

Work has started on the refurbishment of the art galleries at National Museum Cardiff, as part of Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales's 2007 centenary project, which includes developments at National Museum Cardiff and St Fagans: National History Museum.

Over the next eighteen months some of the art galleries will be closed to the public while refurbishment work is carried out, to provide additional display space and better access to the collections. The galleries are due to reopen in 2007, with the whole of the first floor of National Museum Cardiff dedicated to the display of fine and applied art. [www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/centenary/](http://www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/centenary/)

During the refurbishment six paintings by European old masters will be loaned to the National Gallery, London. [www.nationalgallery.org.uk/about/press/2006/welsh\\_loans.htm](http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/about/press/2006/welsh_loans.htm)

### **Work to Start on Darwin Centre Phase Two at Natural History Museum**

Work is due to start in June on phase two of the Natural History Museum's new Darwin Centre. The eight storey building, designed by Danish firm CF Moller Architects, will feature a sprayed-concrete 'cocoon' structure, the largest of its kind in the UK. It will house the museum's unique collections of insects and plants, research facilities and state-of-the-art laboratories.

The building is due to be finished in 2008. Phase one of the Darwin Centre, which houses the museum's zoological specimens, opened in September 2002.

[www.nhm.ac.uk](http://www.nhm.ac.uk) [www.24hourmuseum.org.uk/nwh\\_gfx\\_en/ART37500.html](http://www.24hourmuseum.org.uk/nwh_gfx_en/ART37500.html)

### **The Royal Air Force Museum Collections Online**

Navigator, a new system launched by the Royal Air Force Museum, provides online access to information about more than 25,000 items from the Museum's collection and allows users to view many objects that are not currently on display. Users can search, browse selected highlights and view items in different layouts.

Navigator has been developed from the Museum's electronic collections management database, which enables information to be readily shared. The Museum will continue to develop Navigator, adding and updating records and responding to user feedback. <http://navigator.rafmuseum.org>

### **Museum of London launches £18 million development**

The Museum of London has unveiled plans for an £18 million development, which will include expanded galleries telling the story of London from the Great Fire in 1666 to the present day and a new learning centre, designed by Wilkinson Eyre Architects. The development will provide increased display space and will position the Museum to accommodate a growing number of visitors – visits to the Museum have increased by 67% since 1995. Work on the development is due to complete in 2009.

The new development has raised £14 million to date, including an £11.5 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Further funds will be raised from the proceeds of a major public appeal, which includes an opportunity for donors to sponsor a year of London's history.

[www.mol.gov.uk/English/NewsRoom/Current/18MillPoundDevelop.htm](http://www.mol.gov.uk/English/NewsRoom/Current/18MillPoundDevelop.htm)

### **Portrait of John Donne Secured**

A celebrated portrait of the poet and writer John Donne (1572-1631) has been secured for the National Portrait Gallery. The Gallery was given until the end of June to raise the £1.4m needed to acquire the portrait, which was mentioned in the writer's will. The campaign to secure the painting was launched in January with a £200,000 grant from The Art Fund, followed by £750,000 from the National Heritage Memorial Fund. Donors and gallery visitors contributed the remaining funds.

[www.npg.org.uk/live/preljohndonnesecured.asp](http://www.npg.org.uk/live/preljohndonnesecured.asp)

### **90th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme**

The Imperial War Museum has launched an online exhibition to mark the 90th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. Items from the Museum's First World War collection have been digitised and are available in an online display covering the battle itself, the stories of the people involved and the battlefields today. This is part of a series of events and activities at the Imperial War Museum to mark the anniversary. [www.iwm.org.uk/thesomme](http://www.iwm.org.uk/thesomme)

The exhibition, *The Somme*, opening at the National Army Museum on 1 July, and related events, will explore the different ways in which the Somme has been viewed, at the time and since.

[www.national-army-museum.ac.uk/exhibitions/theSomme/](http://www.national-army-museum.ac.uk/exhibitions/theSomme/)

### **New Search Facility on National Archives Website**

The National Archives Global Search, which allows users to access eleven catalogues and databases on the website through one easy search, has gone live. National Archives users can now start their research from a single point, rather than having to search each catalogue and database separately in order to retrieve information. [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/search](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/search)

### **Currency Converter**

The National Archives' new online currency converter allows users to convert old money into current equivalent values and to see the relative buying power of money in the past.

In 1680 employing a craftsman for 13 days would cost you the equivalent of just one hour with a modern plumber. The £50 left by Jane Austen in her will in 1817 would be approximately equal to the spending power of £2,096 today, and could have bought the beneficiary 318 days of craftsman labour. The currency converter can be found at: [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency/)

### **Family Zone at Tate Modern**

To coincide with the unveiling of its rehang, Tate Modern has introduced *UBS Openings: Family Zone*, an interactive family area that offers imaginative ways to introduce children to modern art and encourage them to think about materials, meanings and ideas. Families can choose from a range of Collection-based games including board and card games, toolboxes, jigsaws and sketching activities.

*Start*, a free programme for families, has been extended to run on all weekends and throughout school holidays, and a British Sign Language interpreter is available on the first Sunday of every month.

Artist-designed timelines, wall graphics, touch screens, and wall captions written by renowned figures have been introduced to help set the rehang in context for visitors.

[www.tate.org.uk/modern/eventseducation/families/ubsopeningsfamilyzone5509.htm](http://www.tate.org.uk/modern/eventseducation/families/ubsopeningsfamilyzone5509.htm)

### **Debating Amgueddfa Cymru-National Museum Wales' Vision**

Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales is holding a series of public events to discuss its Vision for the next ten years and its aspiration to become a World Class Museum of Learning:

**A National History Museum: Who Needs it?** *Thursday 16 June 16.00–19.30, St Fagans: National History Museum*  
A discussion on the construction of national and personal identities and histories and how such issues might be represented through the development of a National History Museum for Wales.

**Global Issues: Global Museums?** *Tuesday 27 June 15.30–19.00, National Museum Cardiff*  
The panel will discuss the role of natural history collections in the 21st Century. How might they help raise awareness of threats to the environment and how can they contribute to research and development in the academic and public sphere?

**Future Museums: Future Forms?** *Thursday 29 June 16.30–20.00, National Museum Cardiff*  
A panel will discuss the art museum of the future and whether forms of art are influenced by museum spaces, or whether museums evolve as a result of developments in the art forms that they display.

In ***The Role of the Museum in the 21st Century*** at National Slate Museum in Llanberis on 21 July, a panel will discuss the role of the museum, touching on all three topics discussed at the other events.

If you would like to attend, please contact Kay Hanson at Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales on 029 2057 3328, or email [rsvp@museumwales.ac.uk](mailto:rsvp@museumwales.ac.uk). Places are limited, so booking is essential.

## **Current Issues**

### **SS Great Britain Wins Gulbenkian Prize**

Brunel's SS Great Britain, the world's first iron-hulled, ocean-going ship, has won the £100,000 Gulbenkian Prize for museums and galleries, in Brunel's bicentenary year.

Robert Winston, Chairman of the judges, said: "SS Great Britain got our unanimous vote for being outstanding at every level. It combines a truly groundbreaking piece of conservation, remarkable engineering and fascinating social history plus a visually stunning ship above and below the water line. Most importantly, the SS Great Britain is accessible and highly engaging for people of all ages."

[www.thegulbenkianprize.org.uk/2006/winner.htm](http://www.thegulbenkianprize.org.uk/2006/winner.htm)

### **Art Fund Report on Collecting**

Research published by The Art Fund shows that many museums and galleries in the UK are not actively adding to their collections, with 70% of museums acquiring objects mainly or solely by gift, and 60% allocating no funds for adding to their collections.

Most museums say that collecting is vital for museums to survive and prosper, but that it has moved down their list of priorities in the last five years, with only 13% feeling that their collecting matches their aspirations. While the shortage of funding emerged as the over-whelming concern for museums, lack of space and shortage of experienced or specialist staff were also identified as obstacles to collecting.

The report highlights differences between types of museums and across regions: last year National Museums purchased more than three times as many objects as all other museums put together and museums in London collected more actively than museums in other regions.

The research identifies additional implications from this trend, including

- A loss of curatorial skill and stagnant museum collections
- Museums losing out on significant objects and resources being diverted away from collecting

The Art Fund will announce a new grant-giving scheme to promote active collecting in the autumn. [www.artfund.org/news/pdf/Collecting%20Challenge.pdf](http://www.artfund.org/news/pdf/Collecting%20Challenge.pdf)

There has been coverage of and reaction to the report in the media, including an exchange of letters between David Lammy and David Barrie in The Times. [www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,59-2183532.html](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,59-2183532.html)

### **Priorities for DCMS**

The Prime Minister has written to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Tessa Jowell, setting out his priorities for the department in the coming years. These are:

1. 2012 Olympics
2. BBC Charter and BBC licence fee
3. Digital switchover
4. Creative economy, with a focus on the regulatory environment, incentives and skills
5. Developing a strategy to maximise sporting participation and fitness
6. The culture sector.
7. Supporting victims of terrorist attacks and major emergencies.

Regarding culture, the Prime Minister wrote: "I want you to continue your vigorous stewardship of the culture sector in this country, so that our museums, galleries, theatres and artists can continue to be the best in the world and contribute to the quality of life of our citizens, our attractiveness as a visitor destination, and continue to be at the heart of a thriving cultural and creative economy. In particular, I would like you to continue to champion the role culture can play in national identity and our image of ourselves at home and abroad, and to maximise the part culture can play in a successful London Olympics in 2012. I would like you to continue to work closely with the Home Office, FCO, DCLG and others to ensure that next year's bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade in the former British Empire is commemorated in the most appropriate way".

The Prime Minister requested a preliminary assessment of the key challenges across DCMS and the actions proposed to meet these challenges from the Secretary of State by the end of June. He added that plans need to be "set against the background of lower growth in funding than in recent years".

In her response, Tessa Jowell said the Olympic Games "will be more than just 29 days of sport in 2012. There will be transformational benefits in the run-up to 2012, in a lasting legacy and real benefits for our cultural and tourism sectors." She went on to say "Our creative economy continues to be world-leading in the face of both new opportunities and challenges, bringing both financial and cultural benefits" and that DCMS's "support for the cultural sector is a significant part of the bedrock on which we build the creative economy."

The Prime Minister's letter and the Secretary of State's response can be read at: [www.culture.gov.uk](http://www.culture.gov.uk)

### **Ministerial Changes**

In the recent ministerial reshuffle James Purnell MP, former Minister for Creative Industries and Tourism at DCMS, moved to become Minister of State for Work and Pensions. His successor is Shaun Woodward MP, previously Minister in the Northern Ireland Office with responsibilities for health, the police and regional development.

Hilary Armstrong has been appointed Chancellor for the Duchy of Lancaster and the Cabinet Minister for Social Exclusion. In this new role she will co-ordinate the Government's agenda to tackle social exclusion and be responsible for the third sector. Supported by Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ed Miliband, the department will bring together the different parts of Whitehall that currently deal with voluntary and community sector organisations and social enterprises.

Ruth Kelly, MP has been appointed Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and Minister for Women. Phil Woolas MP is Minister for Local Government and Community Cohesion, with responsibility for Neighbourhood Renewal, Community Cohesion and Faith, and Cities.

[www.pm.gov.uk/output/Page9393.asp](http://www.pm.gov.uk/output/Page9393.asp)

### **Priorities for the Department for Communities and Local Government**

The Prime Minister has set out his priorities for the new Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), which brings together for the first time responsibility for communities, race, faith and equalities with local government, social exclusion and neighbourhood renewal. Its priorities are:

- Social mobility and economic inclusion
- Local government reform
- Response to the Barker review of housing supply
- Reform of the planning system.

The letter from the Prime Minister can be read at [www.pm.gov.uk/output/page9429.asp](http://www.pm.gov.uk/output/page9429.asp)

### **Clore Leadership Short Courses**

Applications are invited for the new Clore Leadership Short Courses. The intensive two-week residential courses are being run in association with leading universities and business schools across England.

These innovative courses, based on the successful residential element of the Clore Fellowship Programme, will develop and promote the skills of emerging leaders in the cultural sector. They are designed for people in the middle ranks of larger cultural organisations or those at or near the top of smaller ones, who have a minimum of 5 years' work experience.

The Clore short courses were made possible by the provision of £12 million over two years by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to help raise management and leadership skills in the cultural sector.

The deadline for applications is **Friday 25 August 2006** for the 8-20 October 2006 Course at near York and **Friday 13 October 2006** for the 26 November-8 December 2006 course at Nottingham University.

[www.cloreleadership.org/shortcourses.htm](http://www.cloreleadership.org/shortcourses.htm)

### **Human Tissue Authority Consultation on Code of Practice**

Establishments displaying human bodies, body parts and human tissue less than 100 years old will require a licence from the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) to operate lawfully after 1 September 2006. The HTA is consulting on its draft Code of Practice on the public display of human bodies, body parts and human tissue, which will provide guidance for the sector on compliance with the requirements.

The draft Code of Practice is available online at: [www.hta.gov.uk/consult/](http://www.hta.gov.uk/consult/). The consultation will close on **28 June**. HTA is planning a consultation event in London on 22 June.

A Guide to licensing for Designated Individuals (DI) and Licence Holders is also available online, as is the Compliance report, which includes the standards required. For more general information on the HTA, visit: [www.hta.gov.uk/download/HTA%20leaflet%20final.pdf](http://www.hta.gov.uk/download/HTA%20leaflet%20final.pdf)

### **Out of Classroom Learning for Every Child**

Out-of-classroom learning experiences should be the right of every British child, the Real World Learning Campaign said at the launch of a new guide for schools and teachers.

The report *Out-of-Classroom Learning: practical information and guidance for schools and teachers* offers advice on a wide range of educational experiences away from the classroom.

The report is being sent to 25,000 schools and outdoor education providers. Copies are available from the RSPB website at: [www.rspb.org.uk/policy/education/outofclassroom.asp](http://www.rspb.org.uk/policy/education/outofclassroom.asp)

### **Collections Link Website Live**

Collections Link is the new national advisory service for collections management, run by MDA in partnership with the Institute of Conservation (ICON) and the National Preservation Office (NPO). It provides access to current best practice in collections management and advice and support to museums, archives, libraries and other collections-holding organisations. [www.collectionslink.org.uk/](http://www.collectionslink.org.uk/)

### **Funding for Youth Volunteer Projects**

The new 'v' charity, launched on 8 May, will take forward the Russell Commission agenda to inspire one million young people aged 16 to 25 to volunteer by 2010. It is backed by funding from the Chancellor of the Exchequer and business.

Established national and local voluntary and community organisations (individually or in partnerships) are invited to bid for two grant programmes: the **Youth Volunteering Opportunities** programme provides grants to organisations seeking to develop volunteering activity:

- *short-term*: 'taster' opportunities that give young people a flavour of volunteering. The deadline for organisations seeking funding to develop *short-term* activities is **23 June**, to allow some activities to take place during August 2006.
- *part-time*: at least one hour a week for not less than eight weeks
- *full-time*: at least 30 hours per week for 13+ weeks

There is a two-stage process for organisations seeking funding to develop *part-time* or *full-time* opportunities (for up to two years). Expressions of interest should be submitted by **9 June** and full applications by **28 July**. It is intended that projects should begin in September or October 2006.

A second programme will fund 20 two-person teams of youth volunteer development managers and youth volunteer advisers. Grants will be made for two years, with the possibility of extension to a third year. Expressions of interest should be submitted by **9 June** and full applications by **28 July**. Projects should start in September or October 2006. More information at: [www.wearev.com/grants/index.php](http://www.wearev.com/grants/index.php)

### **History Matters Campaign**

*History Matters - pass it on* is a campaign to raise awareness, build support and encourage involvement in history and heritage in England and Wales. It is a joint venture between heritage organisations, including the National Trust, English Heritage and Heritage Lottery Fund.

Organisations can support the campaign by running special events, badging existing activities, using the logo and encouraging visitors to take badges and postcards. Heritage events will be listed on the History Matters on-line calendar. [www.historymatters.org.uk](http://www.historymatters.org.uk) (website live from 2 July).

For further information, to list heritage events and for order forms for Campaign Packs, contact the Campaign Co-ordinator, Marie Moller, Tel.: 020 7799 4546 Email: [marie.moller@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:marie.moller@nationaltrust.org.uk)

### **Conservation Training**

The Institute of Conservation (Icon) is offering 17 work-based internships starting this September as part of a 4-year scheme supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Many of these placements are aimed at new entrants to conservation from arts, crafts or wider arts or heritage-related backgrounds.

Venues include private and public sector conservation workshops across the UK, offering experience in the conservation of a wide range of materials. The closing date for applications is **12 June 2006**. Further Information: [www.icon.org.uk](http://www.icon.org.uk)

### **Report on Intellectual Property**

Digitisation of collections provides opportunities for widening access, especially to unique, rare and fragile material and enables preservation by creating a surrogate and thus reducing handling of originals. However, the legal status of such activity is unclear. *Preservation, Access and Intellectual Property Rights: Challenges for libraries in the digital environment*, due to be published by IPPR on 5 June, will point the way towards a common set of rights or principles to equip libraries with the tools they need to operate effectively and legally in digital environments. [www.ippr.org](http://www.ippr.org)

### **Canaletto Paintings to Remain in UK**

The Art Newspaper reports that two Canaletto paintings have been purchased by Sir Peter Moores for £6m, for Compton Verney in Warwickshire. The export licence for the paintings, View of the Grand Walk, Vauxhall Gardens and The Interior of the Rotunda, Ranelagh, was deferred to allow the money to be raised to keep the works in the UK. [www.theartnewspaper.com/article01.asp?id=286](http://www.theartnewspaper.com/article01.asp?id=286)

### **Wenlok Jug on Display**

The Wenlok Jug, which was bought by Luton Borough Council Museums Service following a temporary export ban, has gone on display at Wardown Park Museum in Luton. The bronze jug has been examined using non-invasive techniques at the British Museum laboratories, together with the British Museum's Asante ewer and the Victoria and Albert Museum's ewer, which have similarities.

[www.mla.gov.uk/webdav/hamonise?Page/@id=82&Section\[@stateld\\_eq\\_left\\_hand\\_roof\]/@id=4289&Document/@id=24972](http://www.mla.gov.uk/webdav/hamonise?Page/@id=82&Section[@stateld_eq_left_hand_roof]/@id=4289&Document/@id=24972)

### **Romantic Museums**

According to a 24 Hour Museum survey commissioned for Museums and Galleries Month, the Victoria and Albert Museum is the most romantic museum in the UK, followed by Manchester Art Gallery, Tate St Ives, National Portrait Gallery and the Tower of London. 65% of respondents said that they would take someone on a date to a museum or gallery and 24% said they had made a life changing decision whilst on a visit. [www.24hourmuseum.org.uk](http://www.24hourmuseum.org.uk)

### **Architecture Week: 16 – 25 June**

The 10th Architecture Week, the annual celebration of historical and contemporary architecture in the UK, will take place from 16 – 25 June. The week aims to explore architecture and the built environment via the arts and culture, with a schedule of activities organised and co-ordinated through Arts Council England, Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and architecture centres across the country. [www.architectureweek.org.uk](http://www.architectureweek.org.uk)

## **Parliamentary Report**

### **Debate on Arts in the Lords**

On 11 May the Lords held a debate, initiated by Lord Bragg, on the contribution of the arts to the economy and the well-being of society. In a wide ranging discussion, the Lords praised increased funding for the arts and initiatives such as free admission to National Museums and called, amongst other things, for a continued increase in government funding of the arts in England.

[www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld199900/ldhansrd/pdvn/lds06/text/60511-04.htm#60511-04\\_head4](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld199900/ldhansrd/pdvn/lds06/text/60511-04.htm#60511-04_head4)

### **National Lottery Bill**

The National Lottery Bill has passed its third reading in the Lords and returned to the Commons with amendments.

Following amendments made in the Lords, the Government has indicated that the principle of additionality will be upheld in the next stage of the Lottery Bill and that Lottery distributors will have to report on how their funding to the voluntary sector is free from political interference and distinct from government expenditure.

The bill and amendments can be read at: [www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/pabills.htm#n](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/pabills.htm#n)

### **National Assembly for Wales Debate**

On 10 May the National Assembly for Wales held a debate on Local Museums, Archives and Libraries in Community Life. The following motion was proposed:

The National Assembly for Wales:

1. affirms the important educational and cultural roles of local museum, archive and library services in community life;
2. notes the development of strategic partnerships by key stakeholders to deliver improved services for all users;
3. notes the Welsh Assembly Government's support for innovative services which extend access to the rich cultural heritage of Wales.

The motion was carried with no amendments. [www.wales.gov.uk/keypubrecordproceedings/index.htm](http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubrecordproceedings/index.htm)

### **Government of Wales Bill**

The Government of Wales Bill is in the Lords Committee stage. During the debate Lord Temple-Morris tabled an amendment to restrict the ability of the National Assembly of Wales to abolish cultural organisations established by royal charter or warrant, such as the Arts Council of Wales. The amendment was withdrawn. [Lords Hansard text for 3 May 2006 \(60503-13\)](#)

### **Inquiry into Science Teaching in Schools**

The House of Lords Science and Technology Committee has begun a short inquiry to examine science teaching in schools. The Select Committee is particularly concerned with the decline in the number of A-level entries in the sciences; this inquiry will focus on the role that teachers and teaching methods can play in reversing the decline. In particular the Committee will consider the teaching of physics, biology, chemistry and mathematics from Key Stage 3 to A-level in state schools. The Committee is inviting evidence, to be received by **19 June 2006**.

For details visit: [www.parliament.uk/parliamentary\\_committees/lords\\_s\\_t\\_select/teaching.cfm](http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/lords_s_t_select/teaching.cfm)

# International Issues

## Culture 2007

Culture 2007 is a European Union funding programme, which replaces Culture 2000. Its objectives are "to promote the transnational mobility of people working in the cultural sector; to encourage the transnational circulation of works and cultural and artistic products; and to encourage intercultural dialogue".

The first call for funding bids for Culture 2007 is likely to be launched in autumn 2006. To be eligible for support from Culture 2007 projects must meet the following criteria:

- Projects can cover any cultural area, or can link different arts to create innovative projects
- There must be something uniquely European about the project (i.e. not just a tour of a UK event)
- Projects must be developed and implemented by at least 3 partner organisations from 3 different eligible countries (currently the 25 Member States, plus Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Bulgaria and Romania, as well as candidate countries such as Croatia and Turkey)
- Projects can last either for 1-2 years or, in exceptional cases, for 3-5 years
- Maximum Culture 2007 funding will be €50-200,000 for 1 year projects or up to €500,000 per year for 3-5 year projects
- Culture 2007 can fund a maximum of 50% of the total project budget
- Project funds cannot be spent on buildings or buying new equipment.

Organisations thinking of making an application are advised to start planning projects and finding partners, as the first call for applications may have a short deadline. [www.culture2007.info](http://www.culture2007.info)

Euclid is running a special conference in London on 5 July to provide a detailed update on the new Structural Funds 2007-2013. [www.euclid.info](http://www.euclid.info)

## European Museum of the Year

CosmoCaixa Barcelona in Spain has received the 2006 European Museum of the Year Award. The science museum, which includes a simulation of an Amazonian rainforest, opened in 2004.

The European Museum of the Year Award was created in 1977 and is given to new or renovated museums. The jury commented on the 'great creativity and intelligence' in presentation and groundbreaking interpretation at CosmoCaixa. [www.europeanmuseumforum.org/press.htm](http://www.europeanmuseumforum.org/press.htm)

## Musée du Quai Branly

The Musée du Quai Branly in Paris is due to open to the public on 23 June 2006. The museum will display non-European ethnographic collections in four permanent exhibition spaces dedicated to Africa, Asia, Oceania and the Americas. It is situated on the Left Bank in a new building designed by Jean Nouvel. [www.quaibrantly.fr](http://www.quaibrantly.fr)

# Forthcoming Meetings

### HR Forum

Friday 9 June, 9.30am, Museum of Scotland

### UK Affairs Committee

Tuesday 4 July, 2pm - tbc

### Operations Committee

Friday 16 June, 11am, Science Museum

### NMDC meeting

Friday 7 July, 11am, Imperial War Museum

### Marketing Group

Wednesday 21 June, 2pm, V&A

### PR Group

Friday 14 July, 11am, Museum in Docklands

### Museum Copyright Group Wider Group meeting

Friday 23 June, 1pm National Portrait Gallery

### HR Forum

Friday 8 September, time TBC, National Maritime Museum

If you have any comments on the NMDC Newsletter or would like to contribute to a future edition, please email: [nmdcnews@iwm.org.uk](mailto:nmdcnews@iwm.org.uk)

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

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