



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

## NMDC News

### NMDC Secretary

Kate Bellamy will be taking over as NMDC Secretary while Emily Candler is on maternity leave. Kate is currently Senior Policy Officer at the Fawcett Society, with strong experience of policy and advocacy. She has also been on secondment to HM Treasury and IPPR. Kate will be starting on Monday 12 March, and Emily's last day will be Friday 16 March.

Kate's contact details will be:

Tel: 020 7942 2817

Email: [k.bellamy@vam.ac.uk](mailto:k.bellamy@vam.ac.uk)

### Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Bill

The Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Bill, which includes legislation to protect cultural property on loan to temporary exhibitions in the UK, had its Second Reading in the House of Commons on 5 March. The provisions in Part 6 of the Bill (clauses 129-133) are essential to enable the UK public to continue to benefit from world-class exhibitions in the UK and will bring the UK into line with other countries, including France, Switzerland, Germany and the USA. This Bill will enable a guarantee to be given to lenders that treasures loaned to temporary exhibitions in UK museums and galleries will be returned. The Bill was subjected to detailed scrutiny in the House of Lords, leading to Government amendments which were supported by the national museums.

NMDC has produced a background brief outlining our support for this legislation and summarising the UK national museums' commitments regarding spoliation and combating illicit trade in cultural property. It can be found at: [www.nationalmuseums.org.uk](http://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk) A research paper summarising the current status of the Bill is at: [www.parliament.uk/commons/lib/research/rp2007/rp07-022.pdf](http://www.parliament.uk/commons/lib/research/rp2007/rp07-022.pdf) and the latest text of the Bill is at: [www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/pabills/200607/tribunals\\_courts\\_and\\_enforcement.htm](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/pabills/200607/tribunals_courts_and_enforcement.htm)

## Members' News

### Record Visits to National Museums

The Association of Leading Visitor Attractions has published 2006 visitor figures for its members. Seven of the top ten venues by visitor numbers were national museums. The National Galleries of Scotland, V&A and National Portrait Gallery all reported record numbers of visitors in 2006 and many national museums received more visits than they did in 2005, with visitors to the Natural History Museum up 22%, up 21% at Tate Modern, nearly 20% up at the Science Museum and large increases at National Museums Liverpool. [www.alva.org.uk/visitor\\_statistics](http://www.alva.org.uk/visitor_statistics)

The **National Portrait Gallery** received 1,601,448 visitors in 2006, its highest ever number of visitors and an increase of 4% on 2005. 2006, the Gallery's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, also saw the highest number of visitors for the annual *BP Portrait Award* exhibition (197,687); the Gallery's highest-ever attendance for a ticketed painting exhibition with 151,555 visitors for *David Hockney Portraits* and the largest average daily attendance figure in the Gallery's history. [www.npg.org.uk/live/prelvisitors2006.asp](http://www.npg.org.uk/live/prelvisitors2006.asp)

The **National Gallery** had its busiest December in 2006 with 472,936 visits. There were 4.6 million visitors to the Gallery in 2006, up from 4.2 million in 2005. *Manet to Picasso: A Rediscovery of Modern Masters from the National Gallery Collection* has become the most popular free display in National Gallery history, with 590,433 visitors since it opened in September 2006, beating the previous record of 572,244 visitors to *London's Monets* in 1996. The exhibition *Velázquez* had 302,520 visitors, the largest attendance for a National Gallery exhibition with an admission charge. The previous record was 283,000 visitors for *Degas: Beyond Impressionism* in 1996. [www.nationalgallery.org.uk/about/press/2007/record\\_breaking\\_attendance.htm](http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/about/press/2007/record_breaking_attendance.htm)

On Wednesday 14 February **World Museum Liverpool** staff welcomed the Museum's one millionth visitor. World Museum Liverpool opened less than two years ago, on 29 April 2005.

[www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/about/news/newsarticle.asp?id=603&venue=0](http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/about/news/newsarticle.asp?id=603&venue=0)

The **RAF Museum, Cosford** welcomed over 17,000 visitors within the first week of opening the National Cold War Exhibition. The exhibition was officially opened by HRH The Princess Royal on Wednesday 7 February. [www.rafmuseum.org/cosford/cold-war](http://www.rafmuseum.org/cosford/cold-war)

### **Demos Report on Cultural Diplomacy**

The think tank Demos, in partnership with the British Council, the British Library, the British Museum, the Natural History Museum, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the Royal Opera House and the Victoria and Albert Museum, has published a new report on cultural diplomacy. The report argues that culture plays an important role in building and sustaining relationships between countries, but often these activities are under-valued, under-resourced and are not integrated into the work of the government. The report sets out a series of policy recommendations in the following areas:

- *Effective governance systems*: including the formation of a Cultural Diplomacy Working Group run by the Public Diplomacy Group at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.
- *Political leadership*: addressing the need to invest in maintaining the UK's global cultural standing and to capitalise on the expertise of cultural professionals in policy-making.
- *The Olympic offering*: including the creation of a group of cultural ambassadors for the Olympic Games and making cultural diplomacy a central theme of a public diplomacy strategy for 2012.
- *Cultural literacy*: recommendations to ensure that the next generation will have the cultural literacy skills to deal with a new era of global relations and ways in which diaspora communities can play a greater role in foreign policy.
- *New technological challenges*: using new technologies as the basis for innovative new working strategies and online strategies to reflect the full range of contributions to cultural diplomacy.

The report asserts that the value of cultural activity comes from its independence and the fact that it represents and connects people, rather than governments. It calls for cultural institutions to retain their independence and be brought into the policy-making process. [www.demos.co.uk/publications/culturaldiplomacy](http://www.demos.co.uk/publications/culturaldiplomacy)

### **Imperial War Museum Acquires Italian Jewish WWII Archive**

The Collezione Gianfranco Moscati, a collection of letters and memorabilia documenting the Nazi persecution of Jews during the Second World War, has been donated to the Imperial War Museum. The collection comprises nearly 1500 items collected by Signor Moscati, who has chosen to deposit the collection at the Imperial War Museum to ensure its long-term preservation and to make it available to the general public, historians and students. [www.iwm.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.4539](http://www.iwm.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.4539)

### **Jobseekers Learn Skills at Museum of London**

A group of long term unemployed young adults from Hackney have been gaining work experience at the Museum of London, as part of *City Senses*, an HLF funded project to create multi-sensory activity bags for school groups with special educational needs (SEN) to use at the museum. The contents of the activity bags, one Roman and one Medieval, were developed with SEN teachers.

During the three month project, the young adults carried out a variety of tasks to compile the contents, including: researching ideas; working with a sound engineer to evoke the sounds of the times; crafts such as sewing, modelling, drawing, painting; and purchasing materials. A drop in day was held at the end of the project to help the group update their CVs and the official handover of the activity bags took place in February. [www.mol.gov.uk/English/NewsRoom/Current/CitySenses.htm](http://www.mol.gov.uk/English/NewsRoom/Current/CitySenses.htm)

### **Museum of London Archaeology Service and University of London Win Grant**

Queen Mary, University of London and the Museum of London Archaeology Service have been awarded a grant by the Arts and Humanities Research Council to pilot a study of the archaeology of Victorian households. *Living in Victorian London: Material Histories of Everyday Life in the Nineteenth-Century Metropolis* will evaluate and develop new ways of researching Victorian Londoners' lives, combining archaeological and documentary evidence from three London sites. The nine-month project will start in the summer and will produce a short CD of each site, which will be sent to local schools. [www.mol.gov.uk/English/NewsRoom/Current/MoLASAHRCAward.htm](http://www.mol.gov.uk/English/NewsRoom/Current/MoLASAHRCAward.htm)

### **Tate Acquires *Blue Rigi***

Tate has acquired Turner's *The Blue Rigi*, with the help of £500,000 donated by over 11,000 people and a grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

[www.tate.org.uk/about/pressoffice/pressreleases/2007/8781.htm](http://www.tate.org.uk/about/pressoffice/pressreleases/2007/8781.htm)

### Parents and Science Engineering Ambassadors as Outreach Presenters

The Science Museum is a partner in one of five projects that have received funding, from the Office of Science and Innovation and the Department for Education and Skills, to deliver pilot enrichment activities to encourage children to develop and maintain an interest in science.

The project, run by a consortium of the Observatory Science Centre, the Science Museum and Technquest, will develop a model to identify, recruit, train and evaluate science show presenters and create a new Key Stage 2 outreach show, to be presented by parents and science and engineering ambassadors drawn from local schools and businesses. [Find out more on the Ecsite-uk project pages.](#)

### The National Archives Awarded Grant to Digitise UK Cabinet Papers 1917-1975

The National Archives has been awarded a grant of nearly £800,000 for a new project, *British Governance in the 20th Century*, by the Joint Information Systems Committee, which supports pioneering information technology programmes in education.

The award will fund a two year project to create online resources and information to illustrate how British governments dealt with major events in the twentieth century. It will digitise over 500,000 papers from files that are already open at The National Archives and are over 30 years old, including cabinet minutes and memoranda from the War Cabinet Meeting of 27 May 1940 at which Winston Churchill sanctioned the withdrawal of British Forces in France. [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/news/stories/149.htm](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/news/stories/149.htm)

### British Army World War One Service and Pension Records Online

[www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) in partnership with The National Archives has launched the first phase of the online War Office service and pension records collections for approximately 2.5 million British soldiers who served from 1914 to 1920. The collections will be released in phases, starting with the early pension records, and the project will complete by the end of 2008. Searching the name index will be free and pages from the original files will be available for viewing by subscribed members or with Pay per View. [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/news/stories/150.htm](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/news/stories/150.htm)

### Leonardo Notebooks Reunited Online

Leonardo da Vinci's Codex Arundel and Codex Leicester have been united online, for the first time since the dispersal of Leonardo's manuscripts in the sixteenth-century. Codex Arundel, which is in the British Library, and Codex Leicester, owned by Bill Gates, are compilations of notes, diagrams and sketches made by Leonardo. *Turning the Pages 2.0*, enhanced by Windows Vista, allows users to browse online versions of both texts, compare them side-by-side and magnify and rotate the pages.

The reunited Codex Arundel and Codex Leicester will be displayed on the British Library website for six months for users of Windows Vista. [www.bl.uk/news/2007/pressrelease20070130.html](http://www.bl.uk/news/2007/pressrelease20070130.html)

The British Library has also announced a competition for four UK public libraries to make *Turning the Pages* versions of their own treasures available online. [www.bl.uk/news/2007/pressrelease20070130a.html](http://www.bl.uk/news/2007/pressrelease20070130a.html)

### National Army Museum Exhibitions

Two new exhibitions will open at the National Army Museum this spring. *Task Force Falklands*, opening 2 April, is an exhibition of photographs of the Falklands conflict by *Soldier Magazine* held to mark the 25th anniversary of the Argentine invasion. The exhibition *India and Independence*, which opens on 10 May, charts the route from the sepoy rebellion 150 years ago to independence in 1947.

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

### Trustees Appointed

Richard Burns and James Knox have been appointed to the Board of Trustees of the **National Galleries of Scotland**. Richard Burns was head of the pension fund department at Baillie Gifford, an independent investment manager. He was a Governor of Donaldson's College, for children with hearing, speech and language difficulties and a member of the Court of the University of Dundee. James Knox is managing director of The Art Newspaper. He ran a consultancy advising on commissioning contemporary art and is an author and director of a writers' charity. The appointments run until December 31, 2009. [www.nationalgalleries.org/pdf\\_files/Trustee%20Appointments%202007.pdf](http://www.nationalgalleries.org/pdf_files/Trustee%20Appointments%202007.pdf)

Mark Palmer Edgecumbe has been appointed a Governor of the **Museum of London**. His term will run from 29 January 2007 to 28 January 2010. [www.pm.gov.uk/output/page10900.asp?fq=d&tp=n&dt=20070202](http://www.pm.gov.uk/output/page10900.asp?fq=d&tp=n&dt=20070202)

### Work Starts at the Museum of London

From 7 March 2007 the lower galleries at the Museum of London will be closed to allow work on the Museum's major new development, which will create new galleries and visitor facilities. During the works the upper galleries will remain open and there will be a full exhibition and events programme. [www.mol.gov.uk](http://www.mol.gov.uk)

# Current Issues

## Arts Debate Launched

The arts debate, Arts Council England's first-ever public value inquiry, has been launched. A major programme to explore how people value the arts, the arts debate combines in-depth research with wider consultation and debate, and will bring together members of the public, artists, arts organisations and other stakeholders to share their opinions and set expectations for public investment in the arts. The Arts Council is inviting everyone to have their say about the value of the arts and the role of public funding. [www.artsdebate.co.uk](http://www.artsdebate.co.uk)

## Online Cultural Property Advice Portal

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) has created the Cultural Property Advice website, a source of information and guidance on cultural property to help private collectors, trade organisations and public collections to collect, buy and sell art, antiques and antiquities legitimately.

The website includes: information on exporting and importing cultural objects; current legislation; news on stolen and illicitly traded objects; and checklists and fact sheets. It offers information on the rules and regulations surrounding the purchase of art, antiques and antiquities, case studies and links to conservation advice.

The website also incorporates the reports on 1933-45 provenance research previously published on the NMDC website, bringing key resources on spoliation together in one place. Museums with data published on the site will now be able to update their data directly. Hopkins Van Mil, who were commissioned by MLA and DCMS to create the website, will provide training on the new function. [www.culturalpropertyadvice.gov.uk](http://www.culturalpropertyadvice.gov.uk)

## Consultation on New Secondary Curriculum

The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority is running a public consultation on proposed changes to the curriculum at Key Stages 3 and 4. The consultation runs until **30 April 2007**.

The proposals are outlined and responses invited at [www.qca.org.uk/secondarycurriculumreview](http://www.qca.org.uk/secondarycurriculumreview)

## Diversity and Citizen Curriculum Review

This independent review makes recommendations for promoting diversity across the schools curriculum. The key proposal is that the secondary curriculum for Citizenship Education should include a new compulsory element *Identity and Diversity: Living Together in the UK*, so that all pupils would be taught about shared values and life in the UK. This will be informed by an understanding of contemporary issues and historical context and be supported by a range of measures to ensure that all curriculum subjects reflect the diversity of modern Britain.

[publications.teachernet.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DFES-00045-2007](http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DFES-00045-2007)

## IPPR Papers on Identity

IPPR has published two papers on identity in the UK. *Who Are We? Identities in the UK* explores recent trends in geographical, ethnic, class, political and religious identities in Britain and draws out what these trends imply for public policy and for recent debates around 'Britishness' and community cohesion. [www.ippr.org.uk/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=525](http://www.ippr.org.uk/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=525)

*The New Identity Politics* charts the rise of concern among politicians and policymakers about how to foster shared identities at national and community level. It assesses how such shared identities might contribute to community cohesion and explores the implications for public policy.

[www.ippr.org.uk/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=524](http://www.ippr.org.uk/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=524)

## Conservative Party Arts Task Force

The Conservative Party is to establish an independent task force to explore ways of improving quality and widening the appeal of the arts throughout society and across generations. Sir John Tusa, Chief Executive of the Barbican Centre, will chair the taskforce when he steps down in August and the deputy chairman will be Wilf Weeks, chairman of Weber Shandwick. The task force will take evidence from across the arts world, with public and closed hearings and contributors will also be able to make written submissions. The task force will conclude with a policy paper which will inform the Conservative Party manifesto. [www.hugoswire.org.uk/record.jsp?ID=94&type=cchPress](http://www.hugoswire.org.uk/record.jsp?ID=94&type=cchPress)

## Access for Deaf People to Museums and Galleries: A Review of Good Practice in London

This free guide has advice on how to make a venue more welcoming to deaf people, with examples, recommendations and quality standards. For a free copy email: [general@deafworks.co.uk](mailto:general@deafworks.co.uk).

### **New Arts & Business Investment Programme**

Arts & Business (A&B), the national charity dedicated to creating sustainable arts and business relationships, has announced changes to its investment programme. From 1 April 2007 the programme will consist of two separate strands of investment: *Reach* and *Invest*. *Reach* is an open application scheme which encourages business to try something new with the arts, or to broaden and deepen an existing arts partnership. The *Invest* scheme is a new strand designed to enable A&B to initiate relationships between business, the arts and public sector bodies and will be by invitation. [www.aandb.org.uk/render.aspx?siteID=1&navIDs=1,184,1016](http://www.aandb.org.uk/render.aspx?siteID=1&navIDs=1,184,1016)

### **Glasgow City Council to Transfer Cultural Facilities to a New Company**

Glasgow City Council's Executive Committee has approved the formation of a new charitable company, Culture and Sport Glasgow, to deliver culture and sport services, including museums and galleries, to the city. It is hoped that the new company will be able to attract investment in ways which the Council cannot and so improve services. The new company will be established on 1 April and fully operational by 31 May 2007. [www.glasgowmuseums.com/showNews.cfm?venueid=0&itemid=544](http://www.glasgowmuseums.com/showNews.cfm?venueid=0&itemid=544)

### **MLA Response to Local Government White Paper**

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) has published a report, *Localism, Governance and the Public Realm: Issues for the local cultural sector*, in response to the local government White Paper *Sustainable and Prosperous Communities*. The report was commissioned to look at culture in the context of civil renewal, community cohesion and localism and governance. Through interviews with museum, library and archive professionals and policy analysts, the report shows that the cultural sector can play a vital part in engaging citizens in civic life at the local level. [www.mla.gov.uk/resources/assets/L/localism\\_governance\\_public\\_realm\\_11107.pdf](http://www.mla.gov.uk/resources/assets/L/localism_governance_public_realm_11107.pdf)

### **Second Stage Consultation on English Heritage Conservation Principles**

English Heritage is developing *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance* to inform and advise all those involved with the sustainable management of England's historic environment. It has published the second stage of its consultation, following consultation on the draft *Conservation Principles* last year. English Heritage invites comments on the document, particularly on the proposed Policies and Guidance and whether the document is understandable and useful to the sector. The second stage of the consultation will run until 11 May 2007. [www.english-heritage.org.uk/conservationprinciples](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/conservationprinciples)

### **Heritage Funding Directory**

A new online *Heritage Funding Directory* brings together sources of heritage funding for historic landscapes, parks and gardens, industrial, transport and maritime heritage, archives, archaeology, heritage skills and conservation, and heritage interpretation and education. The Directory details organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors that offer grants, loans, scholarships, bursaries, education and in kind assistance. Feedback and new entries are invited. The Directory is available, free, at [www.heritagelink.org.uk](http://www.heritagelink.org.uk)

### **MLA South East Funding Information Service Launched**

MLA South East has commissioned j4b's Open4Funding service to provide museums, libraries and archives in the South East with free access to information on funding schemes available. The service contains over 7500 schemes covering grants and soft loans for public sector, community groups, social enterprises and business, from the EU, UK Government, Lottery and Trust Funds. [MLA South East Funding and Fundraising webpages](http://www.mla.gov.uk/south-east/funding).

### **NCVO London Olympics Lottery Campaign**

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) is campaigning to stop additional Lottery funding being diverted to pay for the 2012 Olympics shortfall. It believes that the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games 'are an exciting opportunity for the capital and the rest of the country, providing thousands of volunteering opportunities and the potential for urban and environmental regeneration of local communities'. However, it is concerned about the impact of the Olympics on lottery proceeds for good causes.

Details of the campaign can be found at: [www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/policy/index.asp?id=3852](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/policy/index.asp?id=3852)

### **International Visitors to the UK Increased in 2006**

Provisional data from the Office for National Statistics for 2006 indicates that overseas residents made 32.17 million visits to the UK, a 7% increase on 2005, and spent £15.4 billion (up 8%). Both are new highs for Britain's inbound visitor economy. [www.visitbritain.com/corporate/presscentrebritain/pressreleasesoverseasmrkt/jan-mar2007/ips2006.aspx](http://www.visitbritain.com/corporate/presscentrebritain/pressreleasesoverseasmrkt/jan-mar2007/ips2006.aspx)

### **London's Listed Buildings in Public Ownership: Consultation**

The London Assembly's Planning Committee is investigating listed public buildings in London to ascertain what factors affect the management, protection and adaptability of listed buildings in public ownership; to share best practice across London; and to make recommendations to improve the protection and continued viability of London's listed buildings. Written responses are requested by 19 March. [www.london.gov.uk/assembly/scrutiny/planning\\_listed\\_bdgs.jsp](http://www.london.gov.uk/assembly/scrutiny/planning_listed_bdgs.jsp)

### **New MDA Board Members**

MDA, the UK focus for standards and expertise in Collections Management, has appointed six new Trustees to its Board. The new trustees are: Jack Gilbert, Director, Proud Heritage; Dr Paul Davis, Registrar, Natural History Museum; Michael Cooke, Learning and Social Policy Director, MLA West Midlands; Margaret Greeves, Assistant Director, Central Services, Fitzwilliam Museum; Dr Suzanne Keene, Director of Museum Studies, UCL Institute of Archaeology and Gareth Salway, Documentation Officer, Bristol's Museums, Galleries and Archives.

They join Chair Mike Houlihan, from the National Museums and Galleries of Wales, Prof May Cassar of the UCL Centre for Sustainable Heritage and Peter Wienand, Partner in Intellectual Property at law firm Farrer & Co. The new Board will be responsible for driving the organisation as it moves to adopt a new identity and remit, and for ensuring the delivery of services. [www.mda.org.uk/about.htm](http://www.mda.org.uk/about.htm)

### **Netherlands and Belgium Adopt SPECTRUM Standard**

Cultural bodies in the Netherlands and Belgium have agreed to adopt SPECTRUM, the UK industry standard for information management, to help Dutch and Belgian museums manage knowledge and information more effectively and support greater mobility of collections between the Netherlands, Belgium and the UK. Organisations in the UK, Netherlands and Belgium will join a European Documentation Standards Development Community and work is underway to identify additional partner states in Europe. [www.mda.org.uk/index.htm](http://www.mda.org.uk/index.htm)

### **Online Petitions against VAT on Listed Buildings and Cuts at British Library**

There is an online petition on the Prime Minister's website calling for the abolition of VAT on repairs to listed buildings (more than 1600 signatures to date). To sign, visit [petitions.pm.gov.uk/NoVAToldBuildngs/](http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/NoVAToldBuildngs/)

There is also a petition against potential cuts at the British Library (with over 12,000 signatures so far) at: [petitions.pm.gov.uk/library/](http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/library/) The British Library website for the campaign is [www.bl.uk/spendingreview.html](http://www.bl.uk/spendingreview.html)

### **Acevo Inquiry to End Complacency on Governance**

Acevo (Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations) is launching an inquiry into standards of governance in the voluntary sector. The inquiry aims to raise the overall level of board performance and to ensure greater accountability. According to Acevo, 81% of large charities rely on word-of-mouth to find new talent. The findings of the inquiry will be published in November. [www.acevo.org.uk/main/index.php?content=newsitem&news\\_id=282](http://www.acevo.org.uk/main/index.php?content=newsitem&news_id=282)

### **Reminder: Museums Diversify Bursaries: Call for Applications 2007-08**

The MA, in conjunction with the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, is offering ethnic minority candidates bursaries for a postgraduate museums studies course and a placement at a regional museum. The deadline for applications is **Friday 9 March**.

[www.museumsassociation.org/13418&\\_IXSESSION\\_=TxOgNmZKMks&\\_IXPOS\\_=manews1.2](http://www.museumsassociation.org/13418&_IXSESSION_=TxOgNmZKMks&_IXPOS_=manews1.2)

### **Museums and Art Galleries: Making Existing Buildings Accessible**

A new book *Museums and Art Galleries: Making Existing Buildings Accessible*, published by the RIBA and the Centre for Accessible Environments, addresses issues in making historic buildings more inclusive and conforming to access standards and regulations. Sponsored by the MLA's Renaissance programme and the Access Audit Corporation, it examines evidence from case studies and outlines guidelines for museums and art galleries. Copies are available to purchase from: [www.ribabookshops.com](http://www.ribabookshops.com)

### **Free Seminar Programme at the Museums & Heritage Show**

**9–10 May 2007**

The Museums & Heritage Show, at Earl's Court in London is hosting a free seminar programme covering: Design & Interpretation, Curatorial & Conservation Services, Education & Careers, Marketing & Audience Development and Funding & Income Generation.

Speakers include: Dr. Alexandra Burch (Senior Visitor Researcher, Science Museum), Professor Christian Heath (Kings College London), Jeremy Ensor (Head of Retail Strategy & Operations, Natural History Museum), Martin Williams CVO OBE (United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust), David Souden (Head of Access & Learning, Historic Royal Palaces) and Alistair McCapra (Chief Executive of ICON). [www.museumsandheritage.com](http://www.museumsandheritage.com)

# Parliamentary Report

## Question in the Lords on School visits to Museums and Galleries

Baroness Walmsley expressed concern that primary schools are deterred from visits to heritage sites and museums, because of the cost and risk assessments involved. In response, Education Minister Lord Adonis said that the administrative elements involved in school trips had been simplified and that the number of schools trips was rising. He praised museums, galleries and other institutions for being more proactive in their work with schools and said that the government wanted to see an increase in school visits. [Lords Hansard text for 21 Feb 2007 21 Feb 2007 \(pt 0002\)](#)

## Request for Debate on the British Library

Ahead of the Comprehensive Spending Review David Heath MP requested a debate on the British Library, which he described as "one of our greatest cultural institutions". He called for the House to ensure that it is properly maintained. In response, Mr. Straw, Speaker of the House said that the government had "increased the resources for the British Library, as well as museums, significantly" and that "the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport would not do anything to damage the services provided by the British Library". [House of Commons Hansard Debates for 31 Jan 2007 \(pt 0004\)](#)

## Question and Early Day Motion on the Closure of Wandsworth Museum

In response to a comment by Sadiq Khan MP on the closure of Wandsworth Museum, the Prime Minister said that the government had substantially increased the grant to local government and that there "is absolutely no cause for the closure of museums and arts centres that perform such a good local role". [House of Commons Hansard Debates for 31 Jan 2007 \(pt 0002\)](#)

An Early Day Motion, regretting Wandsworth Council's decision to close the Museum and urging it to reconsider other options, was put down on 1 February 2007 by Martin Linton MP.

# International Issues

## International Exhibition Figures 2006

The Art Newspaper has published its annual survey of visitor figures for major exhibitions. The figures suggest that London is at risk of falling behind as a major international exhibition venue. While from 2001-2005 total exhibition attendance in London was second only to New York, in 2006 total visit figures in London fell behind Paris, Washington, San Francisco and Toyko for the first time. There was just one London exhibition in the top 50 by daily attendance: *Kandinsky: The Path to Abstraction* at Tate Modern, compared to at least 3 top 50 exhibitions in each of the past 6 years. [www.theartnewspaper.com](http://www.theartnewspaper.com)

## Interim Report on Russian Museums

The Art Newspaper reports that an initial report by the Russian Culture Ministry's Museum Inspection Commission, which was established in September 2006 and has inspected 200 Russian museums, reveals that the Ministry does not know how many museums there are in Russia; that conditions in many museums are 'catastrophic', with inadequate security systems; and that thefts by museum staff are increasing. The review is due to be completed by the end of 2008. [www.theartnewspaper.com](http://www.theartnewspaper.com)

## European Archaeological Heritage Prize 2007: Call for Nominations

The European Association of Archaeologists is inviting nominations for its annual prize for an outstanding contribution to the protection and presentation of the European archaeological heritage. The closing date for nominations is **1 May** and the prize will be awarded during the Annual Meeting of the EAA in Croatia, in September. [www.e-a-a.org/herprizeform.htm](http://www.e-a-a.org/herprizeform.htm)

## Recovered Artworks to be Auctioned

About 170 old master paintings returned to the heirs of Jacques Goudstikker, an art dealer who fled Nazi persecution in 1940, are to be auctioned by Christie's. Many of the works were restituted by the Dutch government last year. A touring exhibition of works from the collection is being organised. [www.nytimes.com/2007/02/22/arts/design/22heir.html?\\_r=1&ref=arts&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/02/22/arts/design/22heir.html?_r=1&ref=arts&oref=slogin)

## Louvre Staff Strike Over Stress from Increased Visitors

The BBC reports that attendants at the Louvre, Paris went on strike to demand a bonus they said other staff have been offered and because they suffer stress from the large number of visitors. Visitors to the Louvre increased to 7.5 million in 2005 and 8.3 million in 2006, but, according to union officials, there has been no increase in the number of attendants. [www.news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/6362303.stm](http://www.news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/6362303.stm)

### UNESCO Debate Webcast Available

A public debate, *Memory and Universality: New Challenges Facing Museums*, was held on 5 February at UNESCO, to explore confrontation between the universal mission of museums and transfers of cultural property over the course of history. The panel included: Henri Loyrette, Musée du Louvre, Neil MacGregor, British Museum, Mikhail Piotrovsky, State Hermitage Museum and representatives from ICOM and museums in UNESCO member countries. The webcast of the debate is available at:

[portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=32655&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=32655&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

### European Parliament to Establish New Visitors' Centre

The European Parliament has announced its intention to establish a new public Visitors' Centre in Brussels, to explain the significance of the European Parliament in shaping European policies and representing citizens and to inform visitors about the history of the Parliament and the impact of European integration on European societies and daily life.

Two procurement tenders (29179 and 29178) have been issued: to provide background information and source material for the exhibition programme; and for interior and exhibit design, including multimedia development and a multimodal role-play game. Further information at [ted.europa.eu/](http://ted.europa.eu/)

### Albright-Knox Lists Art to be Auctioned

The Albright-Knox Art Gallery, in Buffalo, New York, has released a list of 196 artworks that will be sold this spring at Sotheby's. The gallery's board voted to sell works that 'are not central to the Gallery's mission' which is 'to acquire, exhibit, and preserve modern and contemporary art'. Works to be sold include 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century European art and works from Africa, Asia and pre-Columbian North America. There has been opposition to the sale by supporters of the museum and local people.

[www.albrightknox.org/Newsroom/release\\_021207.html](http://www.albrightknox.org/Newsroom/release_021207.html)

### US Museum Directors' Pay in the News

The New York Times reports that Trustees of the Museum of Modern Art in New York set up a charitable trust that paid the director Glenn Lowry millions of dollars between 1995 and 2003, in addition to his salary. The payments were not reported in the museum's tax returns, which are required to detail the pay of top executives. They were disclosed in response to questions from the New York State attorney general's office. [select.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=F60F1FFF3F5A0C758DDDAB0894DF404482](http://select.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=F60F1FFF3F5A0C758DDDAB0894DF404482)

The Art Newspaper reports that the Smithsonian's acting inspector general has issued a report on the salaries of top executives, in response to a request by the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. The report shows that three Smithsonian administrators earned the same as, or more than, President Bush (\$400,000) in 2006, with Smithsonian Chief Executive Lawrence Small earning over \$800,000. A bill before the US House Appropriations Committee for 2007 would cap Smithsonian salaries at the level of the US President's pay. A 2006 study found directors of the Smithsonian museums, who earn between \$145,000 and \$ 268,555, are paid 12.9% below the market rate. [www.theartnewspaper.com](http://www.theartnewspaper.com)

### Drop in Visits to Smithsonian

Visitors to the Smithsonian fell to 23.2 million in 2006, from 24 million in 2005. Overall attendance has fallen 27 per cent since 2001. In 2003 the museums changed from counting people as they enter, where security checkpoints create bottlenecks, to counting as they leave. [newsdesk.si.edu/visits/default.htm](http://newsdesk.si.edu/visits/default.htm)

## Forthcoming Meetings

#### Operations Committee

Tuesday 6 March, 1pm, Science Museum

#### HR Forum

Friday 9 March, 11am, National Waterfront Museum, Swansea

#### NMDC Meeting

Friday 16 March, 11am, V&A

#### PR Group

Wednesday 7 March, 2pm, V&A

#### Spoliation Advisory Committee

Monday 12 March, 4.30pm, Tate Britain

#### UK Affairs Committee

Friday 16 March, 2pm, V&A

If you have any comments on the NMDC Newsletter or would like to contribute to a future edition, please email the Editor, Zoë Nasatyr, at [news@nationalmuseums.org.uk](mailto:news@nationalmuseums.org.uk)

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## Events to Mark the 200th Anniversary of the Parliamentary Abolition of the Slave Trade

The following is a selection of events and exhibitions taking place at national museums to mark the bicentenary of the Act for the Abolition of the Slave Trade on **25 March 1807**, which prohibited the transport of slaves in British ships and gave the Royal Navy licence to stop and search the ships of other nations. Museums are also marking the *UNESCO International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition* on **23 August**, which commemorates the Santo Domingo slave uprising in 1791.

The **National Maritime Museum** will host programme of free public events to mark the bicentenary, as well as study days and conferences. The conference *Exploring and being explored: Africa in the nineteenth century*, on 30-31 March, will focus on the representation of Africa, abolition and geographical exploration, and *The Transatlantic Slave Trade*, a nine-week course (from 15 March) aims to provide a historical narrative, contextualizing Britain's involvement in the slave trade. *Commemoration Weekend* on 24-25 March will mark the passing of the Slave Trade Abolition Bill with poetry readings, artists' responses, music and family activities to remember the people who suffered and pay tribute to those who campaigned for abolition. *Freedom festival: Contemporary commemoration* on 23 August will explore themes around the heritage of enslavement through creative programmes and performances. The Museum's slavery-related collections will be highlighted in October with the opening of a new gallery, *Atlantic Worlds*, which explores 300 years of transatlantic connections that have shaped the Atlantic World. [www.nmm.ac.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.21415](http://www.nmm.ac.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.21415)

*Understanding Slavery* is a national education project developed by the National Maritime Museum, the National Museums Liverpool, the British Empire and Commonwealth Museum, Bristol City's Museums, Galleries and Archives, and Hull Museums and Art Gallery. It is co-ordinated by the National Maritime Museum and funded by the DCMS and DfES. It has developed [www.understandingslavery.com](http://www.understandingslavery.com) a free resource for teachers and educators for teaching the history of the transatlantic slave trade and its legacies.

**National Museums Liverpool** will mark the bicentenary of the parliamentary abolition of the slave trade with a year-long programme of events and the opening of the **International Slavery Museum**, which will tell the story of the transatlantic slave trade, on August 23, Slavery Remembrance Day. The museum aims to address ignorance and misunderstanding by looking at the impact of slavery and the slave trade on Africa, South America, the USA, the Caribbean and Western Europe.

The programme of events includes a series of lectures and debates, two multi-faith cathedral services and a family history event. A debate on 14 March will explore the abolition of the British Slave Trade and the abolitionists and the lecture programme will examine topics ranging from the economic impact of abolition to contemporary slavery. In August the Merseyside Maritime Museum will host *La Bouche du Roi*, by Romauld Hazoumé on tour from the British Museum, and Slavery Remembrance Day commemorations on 23 August will feature a memorial lecture, performances, children's activities and a libation ceremony. [www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/about/news/newsarticle.asp?id=605&venue=0](http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/about/news/newsarticle.asp?id=605&venue=0)

At the beginning of February, the **Royal Naval Museum** in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard opened *Chasing Freedom: The Royal Navy and the Suppression of the Transatlantic Slave Trade*, presenting the Royal Navy's role in combating the trade and its continuing work defending human rights. A programme of schools workshops and community events will include *Chasing Freedom Community Day* on 25 March, with activities and free entry for local residents, *African Legacy Week* 9-13 July, celebrating the rich and diverse cultural legacy of Africa with music, food, storytelling and dance and special activities to mark International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition on 23 August. A conference on the exhibition will be held in October. [www.royalnavalmuseum.org](http://www.royalnavalmuseum.org)

The **Museum of London** is planning a series of events and projects to mark the anniversary: *Hands Up for Freedom*, a temporary exhibition developed by Anti-Slavery International, opens on 16 March, highlighting contemporary forms of slavery, such as trafficking in human beings. In October 2007, **Museum in Docklands** will open a new permanent gallery *London, Sugar and Slavery*, which will examine the central role that London played in the enslavement and forced transportation of Africans to the Caribbean and the abolition movement. It will also explore the trade's legacy in the capital and the contribution of African descendants to British history and culture. The gallery will be accompanied by a catalogue, learning materials and an on-line resource. A play commissioned by the Museum, *Turning the tables* by African playwright, John Matshikiza, will be performed in Africa, the Caribbean and Britain – the three corners of the triangular slave trade.

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

At the **Victoria and Albert Museum** *Uncomfortable Truths – the shadow of slave trading on contemporary art and design*, from February, looks at how the legacy of slave trading informs contemporary art and design, and seeks to reassess the human cost of slavery. Recent and specially commissioned works by eleven contemporary artists from Europe, Africa and America are displayed as a series of interventions throughout the museum. Five new gallery trails highlight objects currently on display with hidden and often unexpected links to slavery. The trails show how art and design were affected by the slave trade and include commentaries by prominent Black Britons. On 4 May *The Poetry of Resistance* will feature poetry on the subject of slavery and on 11 May, former Bristol MP Tony Benn will give a wide-ranging lecture on the history and legacy of the slave trade in Britain. Proceeds from these two events will go to Anti-Slavery International. [www.vam.ac.uk/uncomfortable\\_truths/index.html](http://www.vam.ac.uk/uncomfortable_truths/index.html)

*Scratch the Surface* at the **National Gallery** from 20 July will bring together Zoffany's *Mrs Oswald* (1763–4) and Reynolds's *Colonel Tarleton* (1782) to explore the complex relationship between sitters and slavery. New work by artist Yinka Shonibare MBE will also be on display. [www.nationalgallery.org.uk](http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk)

The **Natural History Museum** will mark the bicentenary by hosting a series of interactive discussion-based events, bringing science, history and visitor perspectives together to commemorate and explore the science, natural world and naturalists of the time. [www.nhm.ac.uk](http://www.nhm.ac.uk)

From 22 March, the **British Museum** will exhibit *La Bouche du Roi* by Romauld Hazoumé, a multi-media artwork comprising over 300 masks (made from petrol cans used by motorcyclists who run black market fuel between Benin and Nigeria) and other objects arranged to recall the famous 18th-century print of the British slave ship the *Brookes*, which was used to further the abolitionist cause. A powerful memorial to the horrors of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, the work will tour to other UK venues, including Merseyside Maritime Museum. Opening in May, *The Business of Slavery* will look at the Transatlantic Slave Trade, how it functioned and how it was ended, examining the commodities involved and the way in which it linked Africa, Europe, the Americas, and Asia, into a global trade network. The exhibitions will be accompanied by talks and events. [www.thebritishmuseum.org.uk](http://www.thebritishmuseum.org.uk)

*Freedom and Liberty: The Archive Awareness Campaign 2007* will commemorate the bicentenary with showcases, open days, workshops and other events at archives across the country. These will take place in the autumn and throughout the year, telling the story of abolitionism and highlighting original documents from the period. [www.archiveawareness.com](http://www.archiveawareness.com)

A new interpretation trail at the **Science Museum** will explore objects in the Museum's collection in the context of the slave trade and its abolition. The bicentenary will also be marked with a series of audience-led events in the Dana Centre. [www.nmsi.ac.uk](http://www.nmsi.ac.uk)

The **National Portrait Gallery** has organised a special programme of events *The British Slave Trade: People, Portraits and Abolition* to mark the anniversary. The programme includes a week, 19-25 March, of gallery talks, lectures, music, family and young people's activities, and films. A new Gallery Trail has been developed, highlighting prominent figures connected with the history of slavery throughout the collection and *Arguing Abolition*, a debate featuring costumed actors re-enacting the arguments for and against abolition, will be held on 30 March. The exhibition *Between Worlds: Voyagers to Britain 1700-1850*, which explores the complexities and ambiguities of encounters between non-European visitors and their British contemporaries, will be accompanied by conferences and talks. [www.npg.org.uk](http://www.npg.org.uk)

**Tate** will mark the bicentenary with a programme of displays, discussions and events exploring links between the slave trade and works in the collection and the Gallery's founder, Henry Tate. *1807: Blake, Slavery and the Radical Mind* at Tate Britain from 30 April, will evoke the atmosphere of radical debate that helped shape Blake's thought and which gave impetus to the abolition movement. *The Tate Collection: Tracks of Slavery* is a series of changing displays of works from the British Collection at Tate Britain and Tate Liverpool, starting in May and running throughout the year. Featured works will be accompanied by information highlighting links between the collection and the events and issues of 1807. On 28 June, Tate St Ives will host a discussion *1807: The Coast, Trade and Cornish Culture*, led by writer and broadcaster Mike Phillips, looking at the link between Cornish maritime traditions, the slave trade and settlement in the Caribbean. Tate is also lending works from its Collection to support bicentenary events, including The Oludah Equiano Project in Birmingham.

[www.tate.org.uk/1807/events.htm](http://www.tate.org.uk/1807/events.htm)

Further information at [www.direct.gov.uk/en/slavery/DG\\_065915](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/slavery/DG_065915)

and [www.culture.gov.uk/what\\_we\\_do/Museums\\_galleries/bicentenary\\_abolition\\_slave\\_trade.htm](http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/Museums_galleries/bicentenary_abolition_slave_trade.htm)