



The NMDC newsletter is three years old this month! It is now directly emailed to over 500 people across the museum sector and a further 500 copies are downloaded from our website each month. In addition, our user evaluation revealed that recipients forward it to an average of ten people each.

Thank you to everyone who continues to send news for us to include. If you have any comments or suggestions that you think would make the newsletter more useful to you, please do contact Emily Adams (eadams@iwm.org.uk)

The month's newsletter contains details on the Spending Review announcement, the consultation on Human Remains and Culture 2007 and also news of what national museums are doing to celebrate the Olympics. This newsletter can also be found at www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

NMDC News

Spending Review 2004

The Chancellor published his Spending Review on 12 July and the Efficiency Review by Sir Peter Gershon was published by the Treasury on the same day. Allocations for individual museums are not expected to be announced until October. Meanwhile, the NMDC and our partners across the museum sector are continuing to make the case for additional funding for museums. A full report can be found on page 5.

Electronic Records Management

The ERM group met again on 22 July. They discussed a model file plan for museums and galleries, as well as training materials and technological issues.

NMDC are also arranging another meeting of the Freedom of Information Working Group in September in preparation for the full implementation of the Act in January 2005.

UK Affairs Committee

David Fleming, Director of National Museums Liverpool, has agreed to chair NMDC's UK Affairs Committee. He is hosting an initial meeting this month to discuss the membership and remit of the Committee, which will include take forward work begun with the National Dimensions report.

London 2012 Bid

The Directors of the national museums met Jude Kelly, Executive Chair of the London 2012 Olympic bid's Arts, Culture and Education Advisory Committee on 9 July to discuss ways in which national museums might contribute to the bid to bring the Olympics to London in 2012. The rules relating to the Olympic Games require that the Organising Committee must organise a programme of cultural events, including a 4 year Cultural Olympiad in the run up to the Games. Jude Kelly is responsible for producing the 3 page Culture and Education chapter of the Bid Book, a comprehensive document giving details of the technical aspects of their plans to host the Games, to be submitted to the IOC in November 2004. If this stage is successful, the IOC will be visiting London in February 2005 on an assessment trip and national museums may be able to contribute to the programme for their visit.

It was agreed that Jack Lohman, Director of the Museum of London, should lead on this issue for NMDC and he will join London 2012 Arts, Culture and Education Advisory Committee.

Meanwhile, many national museums are planning events to mark the 2004 Athens Olympic Games, which open on 13 August – see next page

Members News

Olympic Events at National Museums

The **British Museum** has a special display on the ancient Olympics, *Olympia Re-visited*, which looks at past, present and future Games. The focus is a large model of the site of ancient Olympia in western Greece where the Games were held throughout their first thousand years. The site is reconstructed as it was about 100 BC, with its temples, altars and statues alongside its sports facilities, including a stadium, gymnasium, racetrack for horses and chariots - and even a swimming pool. The events programme includes gallery talks and films. For more information visit: www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

John Lessore's major portrait of six gold medal winning Paralympic sportsmen and women including, Tanni Grey Thompson and Simon Jackson, is the centrepiece of the **National Portrait Gallery's** display to celebrate the 2004 Olympics and Paralympics. The painting is displayed alongside 11 photographs of fellow Olympians including Sir Steve Redgrave and Denise Lewis by Sheila Rock and eight newly acquired photographs by Anderson & Low and Michael Birt. For details visit: www.npg.org.uk

The **Science Museum** is offering two tickets for the price of one for its energetic and educational *Science of Sport* exhibition - to celebrate the Athens Games. Vouchers can be downloaded from www.sciencemuseum.org.uk *Science of Sport* immerses visitors in sport, from coordination and reactions, to diet, exercise and the technology of equipment. The Museum is also running a series of special demonstrations of popular sports including table tennis, gymnastics, fencing and cricket throughout the summer holidays.

The **National Maritime Museum Cornwall** has a new exhibition called *Will to Win*, dedicated to exploring the spirit of competition. the maritime museum celebrates the heroes and heroines of the Sydney 2000 Games and offers immediate access to the Athens 2004 Games. Visitors will be able to get in the thick of the action, minute by minute, with a newly developed Olympic podium with direct internet access to the Games. For details visit: www.nmmc.co.uk

Imperial War Museum North has the first major exhibition to look at sport in wartime *The Greater Game: Sport, War and Peace*. The exhibition focuses on the stories of eleven sporting heroes from Britain and the Commonwealth who fought for their country in the First and Second World Wars. It also considers the servicemen and women who have used sport to build team spirit. For details visit: www.iwm.org.uk

The Cloud has a Silver Lining

Plans for The Cloud, a 10-storey landmark building on the Pier Head in Liverpool have been scrapped. The building designed by Will Alsop was intended to be the city's "Fourth Grace". The development would have included residential accommodation, plus commercial and leisure attractions, including combining the Museum of Liverpool Life with the Merseyside Maritime Museum to establish a new attraction exploring urban history of the city.

The public sector partners of the Fourth Grace project, including National Museums Liverpool, the North West Development Agency and the City Council, announced last month that they have concluded that the project is no longer viable because of increasing costs and fundamental changes from the original scheme. The partners issued a statement saying they had heard that the estimated cost of the scheme had now risen to £324m from £228m at the original proof concept stage in July 2003. The changes included a massive increase in the residential element of the scheme.

However, the North West Development Agency has said their funding provision for the site remains in place and the public sector partners are now reviewing options for a new development on the area at the Pier Head. The development of a new city history museum has long been a major part of National Museums Liverpool's plans for the current maritime site and they are still keen to deliver a new Museum of Liverpool of world-class quality.

Whilst the new public sector development, which could include a theatre, quality public open space, a canal link plus commercial and leisure elements, will be more modest in scale than the Fourth Grace, National Museums Liverpool believe it will provide a valuable new addition to Liverpool's cultural landscape, and could be completed by 2008.

Artefacts Seized in Australia

The Dja Dja Wurrung Native Title Group in Australia has secured an emergency order to prevent the return of Aboriginal artefacts that were on loan Museum Victoria from the British Museum and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The artefacts, two bark etchings and an Aboriginal ceremonial headdress, were lent to the Museum as part of its 150th anniversary exhibition *Etched on Bark 1854*, and were due to be returned last month. Members of the Dja Dja tribe from western Victoria sought an emergency declaration under an aboriginal heritage protection law. The order can be renewed indefinitely. *The Sydney Morning Herald* reports that Gary Murray, spokesperson for the Dja Dja Wurrung Native Title Group said his people were determined to retain the objects, which had "our spiritual and physical DNA from our ancestors all over them".

Joint Statement issued by the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and the British Museum:

The Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and the British Museum are committed to exercising their stewardship of the collections for the benefit of a worldwide public now and in future generations. Lending objects to exhibitions around the world is a central part of their aim of sharing the collections with the widest possible audience. The objects lent by the British Museum and Kew to the Museum Victoria exhibition 'Etched on Bark' are part of a growing programme of worldwide loans from both institutions.

While seeking to work closely with Aboriginal communities, Museum Victoria is also eager to fulfil its obligations under its loan agreements with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and the British Museum, and to return the objects to London. A certificate from the Commonwealth Government Canberra authorises this return.

All of the objects lent by Kew and the British Museum to this exhibition are made of organic materials, and thus cannot be on permanent display whether in London or Australia. Exhibitions of this kind, bringing rare material from collections throughout the world, provide invaluable opportunities to make available to the world public the latest research and interpretations of the objects and the human cultures that produced them.

The Emergency Declaration puts at risk the very legal framework that allows such exhibitions to take place drawing on loans from Europe and America. In Britain as in Australia and North America, Trustees' legal responsibilities prevent them from lending objects if there is any risk of damage or that they might not be returned upon completion of the term of the loan.

It is in the interests of everyone that objects of cultural and artistic significance such as these continue to be able to move around the world and be seen by many different publics.

This matter is being resolved by the Museum Victoria and the Australian State and Federal authorities. The Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and the British Museum await the outcome.

Royal Opening of Weston Link

HRH Duke of Edinburgh opened the Weston Link, the final stage of the National Galleries of Scotland's Playfair Project on 4 August. The Weston Link, named in recognition of generous support received by the Weston Family, is an underground link between the National Gallery of Scotland and the Royal Scottish Academy, which houses a range of world-class education and access facilities, as well as a restaurant, café, IT Gallery and shop. The Weston Link completes a £30m scheme, which has already seen the restoration and refurbishment of the RSA Building, including 1500m of exhibition space to house major international exhibitions. The project received £10m from the Scottish Executive, £7m from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and over £12m has been raised from other private and public sources.

The Weston Link was originally due for completion in Spring 2005 and is opening to the public eight months ahead of schedule, and coinciding with the National Galleries festival exhibition *The Age of Titian*. Highlights of the exhibition include Titian's *Venus Rising from the Sea (Venus Anadyomene)*, which was acquired by the Gallery in February 2003, from Trustees of the Duke of Sutherland. For further details visit: www.nationalgalleries.org

Frozen Ark

The Natural History has launched a "Frozen Ark" to collect, preserve and store DNA and tissue samples from animals in danger of extinction. It will be the world's first DNA bank dedicated to all the world's endangered animals and is intended to be a global reference collection for research and conservation.

Within the next 30 years 1,130 species (24%) of mammals and 1,183 species (12%) of birds are expected to disappear and along with them their genetic material and any chance of future scientific research. This new project will collect DNA samples from all kinds of species and freeze them at minus 80 degrees Celsius. Priority will be given to species most in danger of extinction and the first seriously endangered animals to enter the Frozen Ark last month were the Yellow seahorse, Scimitar horned oryx, Socorro dove and Polynesian tree snails. The Frozen Ark is supported by the Natural History Museum, the Zoological Society of London and the Institute of Genetics at the University of Nottingham, and will have duplicate specimens located in other institutions across the world as an insurance against damage or loss. For more details visit:

www.nhm.ac.uk

If you have any comments on the NMDC Newsletter or would like to contribute to a future edition, please contact Emily Adams - eadams@iwm.org.uk

Major HLF Grants Announced

The Heritage Lottery Fund announced grants totally of £31m last month. The largest of these was £15m for the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, for a state-of-the-art six-storey extension designed by architect Rick Mather.

The Natural History Museum has been awarded a further £5m for the Darwin Centre Phase Two. Phase Two, a £65m project due to open in 2008, will provide a secure home for the millions of scientifically and historically unique insect and plant specimens. It builds on the success of Phase One which houses 22m specimens stored in spirit and provides behind the scenes access for visitors, including opportunities to question Museum scientists about their work. The £5m grant announced last month is in addition to an initial £15m granted by the HLF in 2001.

The Victoria and Albert Museum's application for £15m towards the Spiral project was turned down. In a statement, Carole Souter, Director of the HLF, said: "There is no doubt that Daniel Libeskind's vision for the V&A's Spiral is both imaginative and technically impressive but it did not deliver well against our key requirements of conservation, education and enjoyment of the UK's heritage." A statement from the V&A said: "the Trustees will now review the situation in the autumn. However, this decision seriously jeopardises the future of the Spiral." The decision does not affect the wider plans for the future of the museum, including the £25m Medieval and Renaissance Galleries and a new Islamic Gallery, which is due to open in 2006.

The decision about the National Library of Scotland's £22m application to enable them to acquire the John Murray Archive has been deferred until January. The archive has been offered to the Library for just over £33m, almost £12m below its estimated market price, in order that it is kept in the UK. It comprises private letters, manuscripts and other correspondence from figures including Jane Austen, Lord Byron, Sir Walter Scott, Benjamin Disraeli and Charles Darwin.

A decision about a £20m application from the National Trust for the restoration of Tyntesfield, the Victorian estate near Bristol, has also been deferred. In a statement, The HLF said the importance of Tyntesfield to our heritage was recognised in June 2002 when the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the fund of last resort.

£11m was also set aside for British Waterways project to resort and reopen a 9.5mile stretch of the Cotswolds Canals.

For further details visit: www.hlf.org.uk

Royal Armouries Partnership

The Royal Armouries and Harewood House, near Leeds, have announced a new collaborative partnership. The two organisations hope that sharing their particular strengths will help be able to reach a wider audience. As part of the ongoing arrangement, the museum will be using its specialist knowledge to advise Harewood House on the conservation of items in its collection, with a special emphasis being placed on the care of swords and copperware. This will enable Harewood House Trust to extent their display of objects at the House. The Royal Armouries will be staging a two-day medieval spectacular *Timezones: Tournaments of Kings* will at Harewood House in September. For more information visit www.armouries.org.uk

World Museum Liverpool

National Museums Liverpool have announced that the Liverpool Museum is to be renamed *World Museum Liverpool* when it reopens in spring 2005. The new name is intended to reflect the amazing and diverse collections on show. The museum is undergoing a £35m expansion that will double its size of its iconic building, which was built in 1860. The project will include a new family-friendly ground level entrance with a six-storey glass-topped atrium. Among the attractions will be the World Cultures Gallery, including objects that have never been on public display before, and the Weston Discovery Centre, where visitors will be able to handle object helped by expert demonstrators. For more details visit: www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Cousins Reunited by Moving Here

Two long lost cousins have made contact with each other for the first time in 27 years using the Moving Here website. Eddie Silverman who grew up in London's East End, posted his childhood reminiscences on www.movinghere.org.uk, which traces 200 years of migration history to England through personal stories. This was found by his cousin Gerald Silver, a doctor from Queensland. Eddie Silverman's testimony is just one of 400 personal accounts that have been added to the site, which celebrated its first birthday at the end of July, and has had over 1 million visitors. Moving Here is a NOF Digitisation Fund project, led by The National Archives in partnership with 30 museums, libraries and archives. For more details visit: www.movinghere.org.uk

Museum of London Merger

The Museum of London has been given authority to operate outside the City of London for the first time, enabling the Museum to take over the running of the Museum in Docklands. The change in Museum of London's remit required a Regulatory Reform Order and this received parliamentary approval in July 2004. For details visit: www.museumoflondon.org.uk

Current Issues

Spending Review 2004

The Chancellor announced the results of the 2004 Spending Review on 12 July, setting the budgets for all Government departments for 2006-07 and 2007-08, and confirmed the spending plans for 2005-06. With regard to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Chancellor announced that 2004 Spending Review:

- increases the budget for these sectors, so that it is £230 million higher by 2007-08 than in 2004-05, equivalent to an average annual increase of 2.3 per cent in real terms;
- provides a universal opportunity for school children to take part in high quality school sport;
- renews the Government's commitment to the Football Foundation, providing sports facilities and opportunities for young people and communities, and provides an equivalent amount of funding for other sports facilities, participation and volunteering
- extends the Renaissance in the Regions museums programme to all nine English regions, boosts spending on the national museums and galleries' capital assets, enabling them to maintain their commitment to free access, and doubles the annual funding for the National Heritage Memorial Fund by 2007-08, compared to 2004-05;
- enables children in 36 deprived areas to take part in Creative Partnerships;
- gives security of funding for arts organisations

The Government also announced its intention to extend the policy of promoting free access, and the Value Added Tax (VAT) refund scheme that helps deliver it, to university museums. This will allow eligible university museums to reclaim their input VAT, as they would be able to do if they charged output VAT on admission charges. DCMS will publish a full list of eligible institutions, and legislation to amend the VAT scheme will be brought forward by the end of 2004.

Although the Chancellor's report said this Spending Review says it provides for national museums to maintain free access and extends the Renaissance in the Regions programme for regional museums to all nine English regions, it is not yet clear what this will mean in practice. Information about how funding is likely to be split between DCMS sectors is not expected until after the summer and funding allocations for individual institutions are expected to be announced in October, and are likely to reflect the efficiency savings DCMS is required to produce. Meanwhile, the NMDC and partners across the museum sector are continuing to make the case for additional funding for museums.

The Spending Review announcement also included the Government's response to the Efficiency Review, undertaken by Sir Peter Gershon. The Chancellor's report said DCMS would realise total annual efficiency gains of at least £260 million by 2007-08, of which at least half will be cashable, releasing resources for front-line activities. As part of this programme of efficiencies, the DCMS plans, by 2007-08, to:

- achieve a total reduction of just under 30 civil service posts and be on course to relocate 600 posts in sponsored bodies out of London and the South East by 2010;
- secure annual efficiency gains of around £115 million through an efficiency programme which will include cutting the core department's administration costs, rationalising the back office functions and accommodation of sponsored bodies, and sharing specialist services such as ticket booking, art storage and transport, while protecting and enhancing front-line services;
- facilitate the delivery of annual efficiency gains of £146 million within local government expenditure on culture and leisure services, for example by promoting best practice and by streamlining performance regimes, particularly for library services; and
- work with its sponsored bodies, local authorities, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, and the Improvement and Development Agency to facilitate the delivery of these and other efficiency gains.

DCMS Budget (£m)

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Resource Budget	1,455	1,542	1,595	1,644
<i>Of which Administration Budget</i>	46	49	48	47
Capital Budget	82	97	117	132
Total Departmental Expenditure Limit1	1,444	1,543	1,614	1,674

The Government also published a ten-year investment framework for science and innovation alongside the 2004 Spending Review. Full details of the Spending Review, Efficiency Review and PSA targets and Science investment framework can be found at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/spending_review/spend_sr04/spend_sr04_index.cfm

New Public Sector Agreement Targets

Revised PSA targets for DCMS were announced as part of the Spending Review. These are:

1. Enhance the take-up of sporting opportunities by 5 to 16 year olds so that the percentage of school children in England who spend a minimum of two hours each week on high quality PE and school sport within and beyond the curriculum increases from 25% in 2002 to 75% by 2006 and to 85% by 2008, and to at least 75% in each School Sport Partnership by 2008. (Joint with the Department for Education and Skills.)
2. Halt the year-on-year rise in obesity among children under 11 by 2010, in the context of a broader strategy to tackle obesity in the population as a whole. Joint with the Department for Education and Skills and the Department of Health.
3. By 2008, increase the take-up of cultural and sporting opportunities by adults and young people aged 16 and above from priority groups by:
 - increasing the number who participate in active sports at least twelve times a year, by 3%, and increasing the number who engage in at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity level sport at least three times a week, by 3%;
 - increasing the number who participate in an arts activity at least twice a year by 2%, and increasing the number who attend arts events at least twice a year by 3%;
 - increasing the number accessing museums and galleries collections by 2%; and
 - increasing the number visiting designated historic environment sites by 3%.
4. By 2008, improve the productivity of the tourism, creative and leisure industries.

On 30 July, DCMS published a Technical Note on the PSA targets setting out in more detail how they will be measured. For PSA Target 3, "Priority groups" are defined as: Those people with a physical or mental disability; those people from black or minority ethnic groups. And those people in socio-economic groups C2, D and E. "Accessing Museums and galleries" is defined as taking part in any activity organised by a national or regional museum or gallery including outreach or a visit to a national or regional museum or gallery.

The Technical Note goes on to say that: DCMS, in partnership with target delivery bodies, will collect information on participation and attendance for priority groups and the whole population. It will be collected on a rolling basis and analysed by a new independent household survey (DCMS Cross sectoral survey of participation and attendance). Target levels represent percentage point increases above the baseline. "Number of people" will be presented as a percentage of the whole population. The data will be reported in tables showing the percentage point change in participation in sports, arts, museums and galleries and, the Historic Environment, for each year to the next. Trends will also be presented graphically. Data for the whole population will be presented as a comparator. For details visit:

<http://www.culture.gov.uk/global/research/default.htm>

Consultation on Human Remains

DCMS, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure in Northern Ireland have jointly published a consultation on the status of human remains in museums in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. 'Care of Historic Human Remains' is based on the recommendations of the Working Group on Human Remains published in 2003. The document also examines the statement of dissent submitted by Sir Neil Chalmers, then Director of the Natural History Museum, and asks whether the alternatives proposed in that statement are more appropriate to the proposals which form the majority conclusion.

The main points of the consultation are:

- Whether current laws relating to the holding of human remains by UK museums, taken together with the new provisions of the Human Tissues Bill, are sufficient;
- Whether museums holding human remains should be subject to some form of Code of Practice or regulation;
- Whether the Government should establish a Human Remains Advisory Panel to mediate claims for repatriation; and
- How museums should handle claims for restitution of human remains and what model of consent should be adopted in dealing with any claims.

The paper contains a total of 19 consultation questions and seeks views on ten main implementation options (Chapter 10), setting out the risks, benefits and associated costs of each option.

The consultation runs until Friday 29 October 2004. For further details visit

www.culture.gov.uk/global/consultations/2004+current+consultations/cons_historic_human_remains.htm

Self-Generated Income

The Public Accounts Committee has published its report *Income Generated by the Museums and Galleries*, which follows the National Audit Office's report last year. The report focuses on the 17 museums and galleries funded by DCMS. The report found that these museums and galleries have achieved a creditable performance in generation their own income, generating £108m from fundraising, trading activities and admission charges in 2002-3, excluding funds from the National Lottery. However, the Committee said there was an unreleased potential, with scope for growth across a wide range of activities including catering, shops, mail order and e-commerce. The conclusions and recommendations of the report include:

- Museums and galleries need a better understanding of the costs they incur in generating income
- The museums and galleries need to be more entrepreneurial, and DCMS should appoint more entrepreneurs as trustees, and encourage boards to appoint entrepreneurial Directors. Sue Street, DCMS Permanent Secretary, told the Committee they were exploring whether a lead commercial director, either from the Office of Government Commerce or from one of the museums and galleries could take on the task of helping the museums and galleries share knowledge
- The museums and galleries need to develop their skills for income generation across most of the core areas, such as retailing and fundraising. DCMS should promote greater sharing of knowledge and skills, which might include including pooling staff resources, staff exchange programmes and events and training
- The Committee noted the concern expressed by eight museums that their inability to borrow was a constraint on their ability to generate income. The committee recommended that DCMS should explore with Partnerships UK how to make investment for income generation schemes more accessible to museums
- Charges for special exhibitions should not exclude people on low incomes from seeing the best of what the museums offer
- Museums and galleries should collect data on the socioeconomic status of visitors to paying exhibitions as well as to the museum in general. If people on low incomes tend not to visit special exhibitions, the Department, in conjunction with the museums and galleries, should review pricing policies - in particular the use of concessions - and the targeting of audiences in the way exhibitions are promoted

The report can be found at:

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200304/cmselect/cmpublic/430/43002.htm

Museums & Galleries Improvement Fund

Estelle Morris has announced £2.75m of grants from the DCMS/Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund 2004/5. The grants are for projects that will help to improve the quality of their displays, access for disabled visitor and environmental controls. Grants have been awarded to 26 museums across eight English regions, including £187,000 for National Museums Liverpool for improvements to Sudley House and £185,000 for Tate St Ives to provide sun-screening and lighting controls. The awards are part of a £4m package joint funded by DCMS and the Wolfson Fund. Awards for the London region are expected to be announced shortly.

For further details visit:

www.culture.gov.uk/museums_and_galleries/default.htm

Strategy for Children and Learners

The Department for Education and Skills has published its Five Year Strategy for Children and Learners. Although the focus is on school governance and funding arrangements, it also emphasises the importance of out-of-school activities. The strategy sets out plans for 'a new, integrated youth offer', giving young people more to do and places to go in their communities, including access to exciting and enjoyable activities in and out of school that enhance young people's personal, social and education development and reflect what they want to do; opportunities for volunteering and mentoring and the chance for young people to have a say in local service delivery. The strategy to provide a richer secondary curriculum also includes widening opportunities beyond the classroom, stating: "Often, these provide some of the most memorable experiences at school – the school trip, the drama production, or playing in the school team." The full strategy can be found at:

www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/5yearstrategy/

Visits to Interesting Buildings

Research carried out by MORI Social Research Institute for the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment found most young people would like to see their school offer visits to interesting buildings (58%), while a third (37%) would like to have architects or designers come into their school to talk to them about different buildings and cities. A similar proportion (35%) would like to be taught about buildings outside of the classroom. The survey also found that two-fifths of young people aged 11-16 want to be involved in changes to the area in which they live. The survey found that young people are also keen to learn about buildings and places. See: www.cabe-education.org.uk/

Culture 2007 Proposals

The European Commission has adopted proposals for the new generation of programmes in the education, youth, culture and audiovisual fields. This includes proposals for the Culture 2007 programme (which will replace Culture 2000). There will be €408m available for the programme from 2007-2013, a cash increase of 39% on the budget for 2000-2006. The new proposals follow evaluation of the Culture 2000 programme, which revealed a number of shortcomings, including that EC funding for culture is too fragmented and that Culture 2000 pursued too many objectives, given the limited financial resources available to it. The programme will be slimmed down to three main objectives:

- **Transnational mobility for people working in the cultural sector** - promoting the establishment of networks and dissemination of knowledge to encourage mobility for the provision or establishment of cultural services (e.g. tours) and mobility with the aim of training, experiencing other cultures or artistic practices, exchanges experiences
- **Transnational circulation of artistic and cultural works and products** - assisting completion of the internal market and creation of a common cultural area by assisting with the extra costs for the organiser: transport costs, insurance, prospecting new markets, publicising works etc.
- **Intercultural dialogue** - an exchange based on openness and equality between cultural dialogues, leading to mutual enrichment and a common search for shared values and interpretations

Each project will need to pursue at least two of these objectives.

The proposed new programme will have three fields of action:

- **Support for cultural actions** – direct financial support of up to £500,000 for sustainable, exploratory or “special” cooperation projects of varying length and scale. [77% of total programme budget]
- **Operating aid for European organisations** active in the field of culture – organisations working on a sustainable basis in favour of cultural cooperation or acting as “ambassadors” [10% budget]
- **Support for analyses and for the collection and dissemination of information** in the field of cultural cooperation [5% budget]

DCMS will be consulting with UK cultural sector bodies on the proposals for the new programme. They will then be examined by the Council and the European Parliament, with the aim of adoption at the end of 2005. The full proposals can be found at http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/education_culture/newprog/com1_en.pdf

SeaBritain 2005

To galvanise and enthuse the country to engage and participate in next year's SeaBritain 2005 campaign, the SeaBritain team have completed a series of 14 business to business roadshows around the UK in partnership with the National Maritime Museum, VisitBritain, SeaVision UK and the Official Nelson Commemorations Committee. Working also with VisitEngland, many SeaBritain 2005 events are now featured in a colourful glossy insert within the Waterside England brochure that was launched on 12th July. The main consumer press launch for SeaBritain 2005 will take place in London on 29th September (Nelson's birthday) where fuller details of events, festivals and exhibitions planned for next year's celebration will be set out. Organisers still planning their events are encouraged to register their details on the website: www.seabritain2005.com - or to contact Deirdre Livingstone, Head of Project: dlivingstone@nmm.ac.uk

Museums & Galleries Month

Museums and Galleries Month 2004 has been declared to be a great success, achieving greater recognition and support throughout the UK. The contributing factors were:

- participation by some 1,200 museums and galleries across the UK
- Great support from the Minister for the Arts who wrote to all English MPs to encourage them to visit museums and galleries.
- Sponsorship by the Eurostar Group
- Additional funding from DfES to undertake a targeted promotion aimed at schools
- The contribution by Museums Libraries Archives Council (MLA) to weekend events/launches in Phase One Hubs
- Increased promotion in new areas – posters on railway stations, leaflet distribution to motorway service stations and advertising on Classic FM.

Here are some figures from the evaluation:

- Over 1,000 events registered on the website (it is estimated twice that number took place)
- Website hits up by 20 per cent
- Media coverage up by 30 per cent
- 81% of museums said it went well for them
- 66% said they got media coverage
- 18% organised VIP visits
- 96% will be participating next year

Museums and Galleries Month will take place from 1 – 31 May 2005. The theme will be “Objects of Desire: the art of collecting”. The full report of Museums and Galleries Month 2004 is available on the MGM website www.may2004.org.uk. The new website address will be www.may2005.org.uk and www.mgm.org.uk

Home Front Recall

Home Front Recall is a £7.3 million scheme funded by The Big Lottery Fund as part of the Veterans Reunited Programme. This funding stream is aimed at organisations (like museums, libraries, schools, Cadets, Scouts) and groups (Veteran Associations, local community groups) who want to put on a special event or project in the UK to commemorate the part played by those on the home front during the war years and mark the sixtieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The scheme will fund street parties, services, reunions, parades, and other activities that will allow communities to come together and ensure that all generations can commemorate and remember the contribution that the people of Britain made in the Second World War. Further information and application pack are available by phoning 08457 458 458.

New version of Cornucopia

Version 3 of Cornucopia, MLA's national database of museum, library and archive collections, is now available to review at <http://www.cornucopia.org.uk>. Cornucopia is a fully searchable online database of some 6000 collections held by almost 2000 cultural heritage institutions. It allows those institutions to record and maintain collections descriptions and details in a unique shared national resource.

Participating organisations are asked to check the website and make additions or corrections using the online editing tools, in advance of a public launch this autumn. Details of how to sign up for edit access are given on the Cornucopia website.

A full account of the Cornucopia project is given by Chris Turner, ICT Adviser at MLA in Ariadne Issue 40 www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue40/turner/

www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

Lack of Adequate Tourism Data

DCMS published The National Statistics Review of Tourism Statistics on 28 June 2004, part of a wider programme of quality reviews of National Statistics to ensure they are fit for purpose. The Steering Group concluded:

"Due to the sheer diversity of tourism services, and the unique challenge of measuring a consumer-defined industry, we have come to believe that there is no other sector in the UK economy as significant as tourism in which the key strategic and management decisions are so hampered by a lack of adequate data. Existing sources are no longer fit for purpose and the potential economic, social and environmental contributions of the tourism sector will only be realised if priority is allocated to better measurement."

Major gaps identified by users include frequent and timely statistics of day visitors, frequent and timely indicators of short term market trends, more detailed statistics of tourist expenditure and more comprehensive and robust local statistics.

The review found that major expenditure is necessary to improve the main surveys, possibly up to an additional £8m. A public sector group has been formed to develop an implementation plan.

The full report can be found at:

www.culture.gov.uk/global/publications/archive_2004/Review_Tourism_Statistics.htm

Record Visitor Figures Continue

The latest figures published by the Office of National Statistics show that between March and May 2004, six and a half million international visitors travelled to the UK, representing the highest ever-recorded numbers of visitors for this period. Visitor numbers were up 22% on the same period last year, and visitor spend was up by 10%. For details visit:

www.visitbritain.com/uk/presscentre/press_releases/current/2004_07_07_01.htm

International Issues

Dutch Restitutions Committee Recommends Return

The Advisory Committee on the Assessment of Restitution Applications for Items of Cultural Value and the Second World War in the Netherlands has recommended that the Secretary of State for Culture honours two claims for the restitution of art objects from the Dutch National Art Collection (NK collection). This concerns three landscapes by the 19th-century Dutch painters Koekkoek, Schelfhout and Van Os, and a drawing by their contemporary Jozef Israëls. The paintings disappeared from the home of the owner, a Jewish art collector and resistance fighter from Amsterdam, in an unknown manner in 1942. This claim was occasioned by a postcard sent from the Westerbork concentration camp. On the card the owner states his wish to bequeath five paintings to his illegitimate son who grew up in a foster home. In its recommendation with regard to the remaining three works, the committee observes that the applicant does not act as the original owner's heir as there was never any recognition. However, it is the committee's opinion that this concerns a legally valid gift to the applicant.

The works, until recently loaned to Dutch museums, have been part of the NK-collection held in government custody since the late 1940s. Since its inception in January 2002, twenty cases have been submitted to the Restitutions Committee, and it has made recommendations in fourteen of these cases. Details of the decisions can be found at: www.restitutiecommissie.nl

Old Masters Facing the Wall

The Guardian reports that a museum in South Africa is to exhibit 17th century Dutch master paintings all hung facing the wall. The *Flip* Exhibition at Cape Town's Old Town House has been described by curator Andrew Lamprecht as a "conceptual art intervention" on one of the country's premier art collections. The Michaelis Collection includes work by Frans Hal, Jan Steen and Anthony van Dyck. For more information visit:

www.museums.org.za/michaelis/index.html

www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

Parliamentary Report

Grant in Aid and Target Visitor Numbers

In Westminster last month Julie Kirkbride asked the Secretary of State to list for each museum or gallery that contains a national collection (a) the grant in aid the Government has provided in each year since free entry was introduced, (b) the grant in aid the Government plans to provide in the future for each year that plans are available and (c) the targets that must be met in terms of (i) numbers of visitors and (ii) social inclusion. Estelle Morris's Written Answer brings together data from the funding agreements and can be found at:

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200304/cmhansrd/cm040713/text/40713w05.htm

Human Tissue Bill

The House of Lords debated the Human Tissue Bill on its second Reading on 22 July. The debate largely focussed on medical research issues but Lord Redesdale and Lord Winston raised the issue of human remains in museum collections. Lord Redesdale said he was concerned about the judicial review proceedings in Clause 52. He read a letter from Lord McIntosh, which referred to the Human Remains consultation document: "Part of this consultation will focus on whether there should be a Code of Practice governing the care of human remains in museums and, if so, who should issue and enforce the Code of Practice. ...Adherence to such a Code would give museums some protection against a Judicial Review of a refusal to repatriate human remains to a claimant".

The Bill passed the Second Reading and was committed to a Grand Committee. Responding to the debate, Health Minister Lord Warner urged peers to recognise that much of the detail referred to in the debate will only appear in regulations and codes and that they should avoid putting excessive detail into the legislation itself.

Van Gogh Thieves Jailed

Two men have been jailed over the thefts of two paintings from the Van Gogh Museum in 2002. The two men arrested separately in Spain and Amsterdam received sentences of 4 and 4.5 years. The paintings, *Congregation Leaving the Reformed Church in Nuenen* and *View of the Sea at Scheveningen* have not been recovered. *BBC News* reports that the Van Gogh Museum has put in a claim for €1.8m for the two uninsured paintings but the judge rejected the claim for damages, saying the true value of the paintings was unknown. *BBC News* reports that the museum is considering launching a civil action to recoup the money.

Forthcoming Meetings

Joint Advocacy Group

3.00pm, Tue 24 Aug, Imperial War Museum

PR Group

11.00am, Wed 25 Aug, National Portrait Gallery

NMDC Executive Committee

11.00am, Fri 10 Sep, Imperial War Museum

Human Resources Forum

11.00am, Fri 17 Sep, British Library

Cultural Diversity Working Group

3.00pm, Tues 21 Sep, National Portrait Gallery

Spoliation Working Group

4.30pm, Tue 21 Sep, Tate Britain

Learning & Access Committee

11.00am, Fri 29 Oct, National Portrait Gallery

NMDC Executive Committee

11.00am, Fri 5 Nov, Imperial War Museum

National Museum Managers Consortium

Fri 12 November, Science Museum

Board Secretaries Group

11.30am, Thurs 2 Dec, Imperial War Museum

National Museum Director's Conference

11.00am, Fri 3 Dec, Imperial War Museum

Contact details for the NMDC Secretariat:

Sean Bullick, Secretary, tel: 020 7416 5202

sbullick@iwm.org.uk

Emily Adams, Research & Communication

Manager, tel: 020 7416 5208 eadams@iwm.org.uk

Alex Baker, Office Manager, tel: 020 7416 5203,

email: abaker@iwm.org.uk