

Welcome to the monthly news update from the National Museum Directors' Council. In this issue:

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## DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

### NMDC supports legislation for Orphan Works and Voluntary Extended Copyright Licensing

The Government has published proposals to modernise copyright licensing which would provide museums with a way to use orphan works more fully and in some instances allow them to apply for an extended copyright license to digitise whole collections. The proposals are part of the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill, which will be debated in the House of Commons on 16 October. NMDC is urging members' MPs to support the legislation, and is working with the Intellectual Property Office as part of a working group to consider the details of the secondary legislation. NMDC has also produced a briefing to explain the current impact of museums' inability to use orphan works more fully, and the benefits of both the orphan works solution and the voluntary extended copyright licensing scheme. [More](#)

### Europeana's opens up digital cultural treasures for free re-use

Europeana - Europe's digital library, archive and museum - has announced that it is opening up its dataset of over 20 million cultural objects for free re-use. The move will provide opportunities for electronic entrepreneurs to create apps and games for tablets and smartphones, and to create new web services and portals using the descriptive data from Europe's cultural collections. The metadata is being released under the Creative Commons Public Domain Dedication, which means anyone can use the data for any purpose - creative, educational, commercial - with no restrictions. Europeana represents 2,200 partner organisations, including many national collections across Europe. This release is by far the largest one-time dedication of cultural data to the public domain using Creative Commons. [Europeana](#)

### New regulations to preserve the nation's memory in the digital age

Following public consultation, DCMS announced on 3 September the Government's intention to proceed with introduction of the Legal Deposit Libraries (Non-print works) Regulations in April 2013. By law, a copy of every UK print publication must be deposited in the British Library by its publishers but there is currently no legal requirement for non-print works to be deposited. Since the introduction of the 2003 Legal Deposit Libraries Act, the Legal Deposit Libraries have been working with the Government and publishers to secure the necessary regulations to collect material published digitally and on-line. Welcoming the announcement, the Library said that The Non-Print Legal Deposit regulations would "empower the British Library to collect, store and preserve the nation's memory in the digital age. To date, much of the country's published heritage has been lost to a digital black hole with information and records of major events of the 21st century lost forever." [British Library](#) [DCMS](#)

### 26,000 images added to Your Paintings website

Another 26,000 oil paintings have joined the "Your Paintings" website, which is a partnership between the Public Catalogue Foundation (PCF) and the BBC. 172,000 paintings are now featured. Recent additions to the site include paintings from Tate, National Maritime Museum, Science Museum, and more paintings from the National Trust. In addition, artist biographies from Oxford University Press and the first keyword tags from the PCF's Tagger crowd sourcing project have also joined the site. The PCF expects to have all 210,000 oil paintings from public collections across the UK on the website in December.

The PCF is now also using the skills built up through this project to offer new commercial digitisation services to both public and private institutions in the UK and overseas, photographing and cataloguing 2-D and 3-D images and advising on copyright. [Your Paintings](#) [Public Catalogue Foundation](#)

## GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

### Scottish Government announces budget plans for culture

The Scottish Government announced its proposed spending plans for 2013-14 on 20 September. The main points from the Culture and External Affairs Draft Budget 2013-14 are:

- The total budget for Culture and External Affairs will be £240.8m in 2013-14 – an increase of 1.26% on the 2012-13 baseline, but still 1.95% less than in 2011-12. Within this, the budget for Culture will fall from £149.2m in 2012-13 to £147.3m in 2014-15;
- Capital spending is being increased to £17 million in 2013-14 from the £8.7 million set out in the 2011 Spending Review;
- The budget for Cultural Collections, which includes National Museums Scotland and National Galleries of Scotland, will fall from £73.4m in 2012-13 to £72.9m next year and to £72.7m in 2014-15;
- Creative Scotland - the national body supporting and promoting Scotland's culture, arts and creative industries - will receive a core budget of £34.1 million in 2013-14 – a 2% reduction. An additional £1 million capital for “shovel-ready” projects means that Creative Scotland's net budget will, in fact, increase in 2013-14 relative to the Spending Review 2011 allocation.

Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs Fiona Hyslop MSP said that the increase in capital funding was “in line with the Scottish Government's commitment to support economic recovery and create more jobs”. Ms Hyslop said that Cultural Collections have “been protected from cuts in previous years to give them time to prepare for budget reductions which are “lower than the portfolio average over this Spending Review period” and that Cultural Collections were being provided with additional capital support for repairs and maintenance to “ease the burden of costs on their core grant and accelerate these capital works.” [Culture & External Affairs statement](#) [Budget Statement](#)

### Maria Miller describes her long 'to do list'

Maria Miller MP has written a blog outlining her priorities as Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in which she dismisses any suggestion that the end of the Olympics marked the end of DCMS's departmental business. Her to-do list includes the roll out of the superfast broadband network, taking forward the GREAT campaign, promoting the UK's creative industries at home and overseas, and “continuing to work together in Government to bring about economic recovery through sustained growth.” [DCMS](#)

### European Capitals of Culture consultation

DCMS has launched a consultation on the European Commission's proposal for a new European Capitals of Culture programme 2020-2033. The Commission's proposal retains the main features and general structure of the current programme, with two countries hosting a European Capital of Culture each year, based on a chronological list of Member States. It is proposed that the UK will host a European Capital of Culture in 2023, alongside Hungary. Cities will be selected through a two-stage selection process carried out by a European panel of independent experts, on the basis of their proposed cultural programme for the year. The selection process will begin 6 years before the start of the year to which it relates. The Commission is also proposing expanding the objectives for the programme and the criteria for the selection process, strengthening support for cities during their preparation for their year as European Capital of Culture and new evaluation requirements. The deadline for responses is 14 November. [DCMS](#)

## MUSEUM NEWS

### 51.3% of adults visited a museum in the last year – up 4.9%

Latest figures from the DCMS Taking Part survey were published on 20 September revealing a big increase in the percentage of people who have visited a museum in the past 12 months. Between 2005/06 and July 2011 to June 2012, the proportion of people who had visited a museum or gallery in the last year significantly increased from 42.3% to 51.3%. There was a particularly big upsurge in participation in the past year, rising from 46.3% in 2010/11 to 51.3% in the first quarter of 2012/13.

[DCMS](#)

### Visits to DCMS sponsored museums

The Guardian published a Datablog on 1 October creating a data visualisation using the monthly visitor figures of DCMS-sponsored museums. The interactive chart allows users to choose a specific museum or gallery and shows the number of visitors by year or monthly visitor patterns for each of the past nine years. The article invites readers to show how they can use this data. [Guardian](#)

### Tate says make Arts the fourth 'R' in the curriculum

Tate is calling for arts subjects to remain within the National Curriculum for Secondary Schools and for their inclusion in the recently-unveiled English Baccalaureate. The proposals for the new "Ebacc" certificates to replace GCSEs announced by the Government last month do not include the arts as a core subject. Tate is concerned that this suggests there will be no room in the school timetable for art, design, dance, drama and music.

In statement issued alongside the launch of Tate's annual report on 27 September, Tate said: "Cultural learning is more significant than ever. Creativity is essential in a global economy which needs a workforce that is knowledgeable, imaginative and innovative. One of the few parts of the economy in the UK which is still growing is the creative industries. Cultural education is vital for the development of individuals and of society as a whole and it should be delivered through schools as part of the curriculum to ensure both quality of opportunity and experience. It should not be regarded as an optional extra. Learning through and about the arts enables young people to make, create, learn and express themselves. This is fundamental to achieving success in school and later life."

Nicholas Serota, Director, Tate said: "We cannot deprive an entire generation of children of the cultural skills that they will need."

Tate's annual report reveals that 7.1 million people visited the four Tate galleries in 2011/2, including 607,901 schoolchildren. It was a record year for loans, with 1,621 works being lent to 279 venues across the world, including 1,105 works to 147 venues in the UK. In 2011/12, 61% of Tate's funding came from earned and private sources and over the past five years Tate has increased its self-generated income by 15%. [Tate](#)

### Renaissance Strategic support funding for 82 organisations

On 2 October, Arts Council England announced that 82 organisations will share approximately £7 million through the Renaissance Strategic support fund in 2012/13. For many museums services, this will be the first time that they will benefit directly from funding through the Renaissance programme. The grants aim to address two key areas: some geographical gaps in the portfolio of Major Partner Museums and the development of knowledge through research to address issues across the museums sector.

The announcement includes three-year funding for three large museums services which missed out on Major Partner funding: Nottingham Museums and Galleries and Derby Museums will receive almost £1.4m each over 3 years, whilst Museums Sheffield will receive £1.2m. In total £3.5m has been allocated to the East Midlands, which has no Major partner museum, over the next 3 years.

The announcement also includes funding for initiatives addressing strategic gaps and opportunities including:

- Museums Association -£184k for projects on workforce development and sustainability; and public attitudes towards museums and their role.
- The Collections Trust - £35.5k for work to increase resilience in terms of security.
- Museum of East Anglian Life - £146k for a second round of commissions for the Happy Museums project.

- Association of Independent Museums - £81k for work to enhance and support organisational resilience and effectiveness, with focus on independent trust and charitable companies.

An open application process for the second stage of the Strategic Support Fund is now open for activity starting in April 2013. Applications for activity starting in April 2014 will open in September 2013. Up to £13.5 million will be available to apply for in both of these years. [Arts Council](#)

### Designation Development Fund

The Arts Council has also announced the 25 projects involving museum collections that will receive funding through the Designation development fund. The Designation Scheme identifies the pre-eminent collections of national and international importance held in England's non-national museums, libraries and archives, based on their quality and significance. The Designation Development Fund aims to ensure the long-term sustainability of these collections, maximise their public value and share of best practice across the sector. Around £1.6 million will be invested in projects for activities taking place between 2012 and 2014. The museums awarded Designation development funding include our members:

- Beamish The Living Museum of the North
- Bristol City Council
- Horniman Museum and Gardens
- Leeds City Council
- Plymouth City Council
- Sir John Soane's Museum
- Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums

The second funding round (2014-15) will open in September 2013. [Arts Council](#)

### Training for gallery educators on the new Welsh Baccalaureate

Engage Cymru are running training seminars this month on opportunities for galleries to help support the Welsh Baccalaureate. The Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification will be offered through schools and Further Education colleges to 14 – 19 year olds. The course will explore how galleries can support key components of the curriculum. The events take place in Llandudno on 16 October and Cardiff on 19 October. [Engage](#)

### Wenlok Jug recovered by police

The Wenlok Jug, stolen from a museum in Luton in May, was recovered by the police at a property in Tadworth, Surrey in the early hours of 24 September. Two people were arrested: one has been charged with handling stolen property and the second has been released on police bail pending further enquiries. The investigation continues, and the police continue to seek information regarding the burglary. The theft occurred at 11.22pm on Saturday 12 May, when a man climbed the fence, and smashed first the door and then the security cabinet with a heavy metal object. A full investigation was then launched by Bedfordshire Police and the robbery featured on BBC1's *Crimewatch* programme. [Luton Culture](#)

### Thieves jailed and reward offered for stolen Fitzwilliam Museum objects

Three men and a 16-year-old boy have been sentenced at Cambridge Crown Court on 27 September for theft of Chinese artefacts from the Fitzwilliam Museum in April this year. The men, who had pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing, were each jailed for six years for conspiracy to burgle and the boy sentenced to a four-month detention and training order. The 18 pieces of Chinese art dating from the Ming and Qing dynasties have not been recovered. Loss adjusters Clement Doherty Adjusters Ltd have placed an advert in Antiques Trade Gazette offering a "substantial reward." BBC News previously reported the police were "scaling back" the operation following the conviction of four people for the theft. [BBC News](#)

### Cultural organisations connections with universities and beyond

The University of Cambridge's Centre for Business Research (CBR) is inviting museums and galleries to respond to a survey of cultural organisations funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. The research aims to improve understanding of cultural organisations, particularly around their connections to Universities and their wider contributions to the fabric of the UK. The results will be valuable to funders and to policymakers, and anonymous survey results will be published on the Centre for Business Research website. [CBR survey](#)

## Also

Applications are now open for the next Clore Leadership Short Courses. The Clore Leadership Short Course is an intensive two-week residential course for leaders in the cultural sector. The deadline for applications is Friday 2 November. [Clore Leadership](#)

## TOURISM

### Memories are GREAT – post Olympics tourism campaign

VisitBritain has launched the next stage of the multi-million pound GREAT campaign, which aims to capitalise on the increased global interest in Britain as a result of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The message of the campaign is 'come and make your own memories' and a key component is a new TV advert entitled 'Memories are GREAT', which includes images from the Olympic Opening Ceremony.

GREAT Britain is a four-year £125m marketing campaign which aimed to influence an extra 4.6 million people to choose Britain for their next holiday. New research released by VisitBritain has shown that, in cities with GREAT activity, 75% of recent travellers would now consider a holiday in Britain.

Shopping features prominently in the latest marketing messages. In partnership with British Airways, £5m will be invested in the US, India, China, Japan and the Middle East to encourage people to come to Britain for their Christmas shopping and the January sales. VisitBritain has also formed a partnership with STA Travel to target the youth market and promote Britain's music, culture and shopping opportunities, and a digital campaign will be rolled out with Expedia in the key markets of France, Germany and Italy. A shopping campaign with Virgin Australia is also underway, with a mixture of digital, radio, print and trade advertising. [VisitBritain](#)

### Promoting the opportunity for destinations after dark

VisitEngland and the Association of Town Centre Management (ATCM) have joined together to help tourism industries make the most of the night time economy in towns and cities. A new publication, *The Evening & Night Time Economy*, provides facts and figures on the opportunity for growing a destination's night-time economy and guidance on measuring success. The night-time economy is worth around £66bn to the UK economy, accounting for nearly a third of town and city centre turnover.

The publication was launched in the run up to Purple Flag Week (24-30 September), a new annual UK-wide campaign to promote town and city centres at night. Purple Flag is the national accreditation scheme providing recognition for businesses and organisations which inspire visitors to enjoy towns and cities specifically between the hours of 6pm – 6am by the development and promotion of excellent late night shopping, dining, drinking, and cultural experiences. 31 cities have been awarded Purple Flag accreditation. [VisitEngland](#)

## Also

A new report commissioned by the European Commission shows the importance of EU Structural Funds in European cities, regions and countries in developing their economy and improving their social fabric through culture. It highlights the breadth of the impact of cultural investment, including on urban regeneration, social cohesion, jobs and entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, heritage preservation, education and tourism. The report, by Brussels-based strategic consultancy KEA, cites Berlin as a case-study, suggesting that its branding as a world creative city is largely due to the €1.2 billion EU Structural Funds received over the 2007-2013 financing period. [The use of Structural Funds for Cultural Projects](#)

## CULTURAL POLICY

### £15m arts and culture employment programme for young people

Arts Council England has launched the Creative Employment Programme to help unemployed people aged 16-24 - both graduates and non-graduates - find paid opportunities for on-the-job training, and gain skills and experience in the arts and cultural sector. The programme is designed to support up to 6,500 new apprenticeships, pre-apprenticeships and paid internships across the arts and cultural sector. The Arts Council is opening a commissioned grant to applications to find a national provider who will deliver the programme. The successful applicant will receive up to £15 million to deliver the programme and help subsidise new opportunities which will directly benefit unemployed young people until March 2015. The programme builds on work already done in the sector to provide fairer entry routes for young people, including the Creative Apprenticeships, DCMS Jerwood Creative Bursaries Scheme and the Creative Jobs Programme. [Arts Council](#)

### Creative people and places

Applications are now open for the second round of Arts Council England's Creative People and Places Fund. This aims to encourage long-term collaborations between local communities and arts organisations, museums, libraries and other partners such as local authorities and the private sector, and will focus investment in parts of the country where people's involvement in the arts is significantly below the national average. The fund will establish up to 15 action research partnerships to experiment with new and different approaches and to develop sustainable arts programmes that will engage audiences in those communities. In the first round, seven consortiums were awarded a total of just under £16 million over three years. A total of £20m is available in round two for proposals with a budget of between £500,000 and £3 million over three years. [Arts Council](#)

### Learning from Olympic construction projects

The future of the Olympic Development Agency's Learning Legacy website has been secured. The website, which aims to ensure that the lessons from the successful London 2012 construction programme are retained for other projects, will continue under the auspices of the Major Projects Authority (MPA), a partnership of the Cabinet Office, HM Treasury and other Government Departments. The Learning Legacy website comprises more than 300 papers put together by the ODA and its supply chain of companies from all over the UK, along with contributions from independent industry bodies and academics. Case studies and reports are based around ten themes, including health and safety, sustainability, procurement, transport and project management. [London 2012](#)

### Nominations for Queen's Diamond Jubilee Volunteering Award 2012

The deadline for nominations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Volunteering Award 2012 has been extended until 16 October. While the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service recognises the work of grassroots organisations at a local level, the special Diamond Jubilee category is for groups that involve volunteers nationally. [DCMS](#)

## EVENTS

### Museums encouraged to sign up for Parliament Week 19-25

Parliament Week is a nationwide event co-ordinated by the [House of Commons](#) and the [House of Lords](#) which aims to raise awareness of the history of social and political campaigning, democracy, and democratic institutions in the UK - and to inform people about how they can take an active part in them. This year's Parliament Week runs from 19-25 November 2012. Culture 24 is encouraging museums with relevant objects to register as a Parliament Week 2012 partner and participate by staging an event, or promoting a planned event, which relates to the past, present and/or future of democracy, campaigning, or social and political history in the UK. [Parliament Week](#) [Culture 24](#)

### International Museum Day 2013

The International Council of Museums (ICOM) has announced that the theme of International Museum Day 2013 will be "Museums (memory + creativity) = social change." International Museums Day takes place on 18 May. [ICOM](#)

## Ask a Curator Day 2012

The “Ask a Curator” Day took place on Twitter on 19 September with curators from over 600 museums in 29 countries around the world taking part. The event using hashtag #AskaCurator became the UK’s top trending subject on Twitter with 13,000 tweets sent. Participants asked about photography in museums, international partnerships, and the impact of the recession as well as what objects in museum collections make the curators laugh - leading to a new [Pinterest](#) page sharing amusing images from museums around the world. [Ask a Curator](#)

## Museums at Night 2012 evaluation

Culture 24 has published evaluation of Museums at Night 2012, which was a record-breaking year for the festival, with 416 venues running 537 events. The 2012 campaign was characterised by an increase in events featuring arts activity and more cross-venue collaboration. Statistics from the evaluation include:

- 121,000 visits were made: 43,000 people were new to the venues they visited, while 5,000 had never been to an arts or heritage venue before;
- 94% of visitors said they were inspired to visit more arts and heritage venues in future;
- 95% of participating venues say they will take part in the festival again in 2013; and
- Media coverage was valued at £3.4 million AVE, including a Sky Arts documentary and over 2,000 pages of press cuttings.

### [Museums at Night](#)

## Also

Museums Showoff 3 took place in London on 27 September. The open mic night for people who work in museums featured intriguing insights into some of our member institutions. The Horniman Museum’s Paolo Viscardi regaled us with tales mummies, mustelids and mermaids. Corrinne Burns from the Science Museum explored the world of visitor comments from the sublime to the ridiculous, while Gregory Ackerman adroitly argued that Hans Sloane was responsible for the assassination of John Lennon. Museums Showoff also visited Brighton on 20 September and will be back in London at the Wilmington Arms, EC1 on 15 November. [Museums Showoff](#)

## APPOINTMENTS

### National Railway Museum

**Steve Davies** is to step down as Director of the National Railway Museum. He will be leaving his post at the end of this month to become Managing Director of a company in the leisure and tourism industry. Steve has been the Director of the National Railway Museum since February 2010.

**Paul Kirkman** will become Acting Director of the National Railway Museum from 5 November. Paul will move on secondment from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport where he currently Head of Arts. Paul previously worked at HM Treasury and was **Head of Policy & Planning** at the Natural History Museum. [National Railway Museum](#)

### British Library

**Roly Keating** took up post at Chief Executive of the British Library on 12 September. He was previously Director of Archive Content at the BBC, and a former Controller of BBC Two and BBC Four. He takes over from Dame Lynne Brindley who left the Library at the end of July after 12 years as Chief Executive. [British Library](#)

### Museum of London

**Sharon Ament** has taken up her new post as Director of the Museum of London. She was previously Director of Public Engagement at the Natural History Museum. [Museum of London](#)

## Government

Culture Secretary Maria Miller MP has appointed **Joanna Hindley** as a **Special Adviser** at the Department for Culture Media and Sport. Ms Hindley was previously Head of Communications for the Prince’s Foundation. Jeremy Hunt’s special adviser Sue Beeby moved with him to Department for Health, while Guy Levin has moved to the Department for International Development.

The Cabinet Office has appointed a **Chief Operating Officer for Government** with responsibility to improve the way government operates, make efficiency savings and support growth. Stephen Kelly will lead the Cabinet Office's Efficiency and Reform team, and be responsible for spending controls to cut expenditure by departments on IT contracts, property, marketing, temporary staff and consultancy. [Cabinet Office](#)

### Also

**Vanessa Trevelyan, Head of Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service** has announced she will be retiring in April 2013. She is currently President of the Museums Association and her term will also end on 31 March. [Museums Association](#)

**Janice Lane** has joined **Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales** as its new Director of Learning, Exhibitions and New Media. She was previously Senior Museums Manager at Glasgow Museums/Glasgow Life where her portfolio included strategic leadership of the Riverside Museum, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Burrell Collection and Gallery of Modern Art with responsibility for learning, social inclusion, public programming, digital and new media, interpretation, outreach and volunteer development and visitor experience across the service. [More](#)

**National Museums Scotland** has appointed **James Robinson** as its new Keeper of Art and Design. He will head a new department caring for the Art & Design collections and lead the creation of four new European Art and Design Galleries at the National Museum of Scotland. He was previously Senior Curator, Medieval Collections at the British Museum. [National Museums Scotland](#)

**Jane Glaister OBE** has been appointed acting chief executive of **Scarborough Museums Trust**. Jane will join the Trust on a temporary, part-time basis, and replaces current chief executive Shirley Collier, who is leaving the Trust on 5 October. Jane was Strategic Director of Culture, Tourism and Sport with Bradford City Council from 2001 to 2011. [Scarborough Museums Trust](#)

**Nick Poole**, CEO of the Collections Trust, has been re-elected for a further term as Chair of the **Europeana Network**, a cross-industry body representing the Creative & Cultural Industries within Europe. The Europeana Network includes more than 500 leading cultural institutions, broadcasters, publishers and news outlets and forms part of the development of Europeana, the online channel for digital cultural content in the EU. [Europeana](#)

## NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

### National Media Museum discovers world's first colour moving pictures

National Media Museum in Bradford, part of the Science Museum Group, has unveiled the earliest colour moving pictures ever made. These films were made by photographer and inventor Edward Turner using a process he patented with his financial backer Frederick Lee in 1899. Lee and Turner's invention has always been regarded by film historians as a practical failure but it has now been 'unlocked' through digital technology, revealing the images produced by the process for the first time in over a hundred years. Experts at the Museum have dated the films to 1901/2, making these the earliest examples of colour moving pictures in existence. [Science Museum](#)

### Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery recruits human artefacts

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery is offering the chance to become a "human artefact" in its new permanent exhibition, *Birmingham: its people, its history*. Those selected to become a *Birmingham Exhibitionist*, will be positioned on a specially created podium, during 12-18 October and will also be able to bring an artefact with them to represent their links to the city. The Museum is looking for ordinary people with extraordinary stories or links to the history of the city. Applicants can enter by submitting a video via Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery's Facebook page or by emailing an application form. [BMAG](#)



## Science Museum launches Research and Public History Department

The Science Museum has opened its new Research and Public History Department. The Department is the Science Museum's coordinating home for everything related to academic research and will run research projects, liaise with university departments and other museums, co-supervise students, support research fellows and associates, publish papers and books and organise public events, conferences and workshops. Speaking at an event to launch the Department on 12 September, Professor Ludmilla Jordanova, Chair of History at Kings College London and a Trustee of the Science Museum said: "the establishment of the research and public history department, is an expression of long-term commitment on the part of the group to precisely promote and foster serious research. It is, if you like, a way of putting a very big OPEN sign on the door." [Science Museum](#)

## Fort Nelson wins top architectural awards

The £3.5m scheme to transform Fort Nelson has won two awards from the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). The **Royal Armouries** won the RIBA Downland Regional Award for Architectural Excellence and the RIBA South Conservation Award. The judges praised the sensitive development of the Victorian Grade 1 and Scheduled Monument, including the glass-sided, timber-framed Voice of the Guns building which houses 14 of the most iconic exhibits in the Royal Armouries' national collection of artillery. [Royal Armouries](#)

## Open meeting of Board of Trustees

**Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales** has invited members of the public to observe the Museum's quarterly meeting of the Board of Trustees. The event on 4 October includes an opportunity to meet with the Board and Executive afterwards. [Amgueddfa Cymru](#)

## Bowes Museum park re-development

Broadcaster and botanist David Bellamy OBE officially opened at £200,000 redevelopment of the **Bowes Museum's** grounds and parkland on 2 September. The grounds, including new outdoor play equipment and wheelchair accessible woodland paths, are open to the public seven days a week and can be accessed free of charge. [Bowes Museum](#)

## Award for Museum Apprentice

An Apprentice at the **Royal Air Force Museum Cosford** has been named as one of the West Midlands' best apprentices in the regional final of the National Apprenticeship and National Training Awards 2012. Laura Pringle, who trains at the Museum's Conservation Centre, won the Pearson Award for Intermediate Apprentice of the Year at the awards ceremony on 24 September. She will now go forward to the national judging round where she will be in head to head competition with eleven other regional winners. The RAF Museum's Apprenticeship scheme began in 2005, due to a shortage of people with the skills required to look after its historic aircraft collection. The Museum works in partnership with City of Wolverhampton College (who provide the academic and specialist vocational education of the Apprentices as well as the assessment and verification of their skills for NVQ awards). [Royal Air Force Museum](#)

## Also

**Sir John Soane's Museum** and the Royal College of Art have been working together to bring exclusive designer jewellery to the Soane Shop. *In Tandem at the Soane* takes the creative talent of students and alumni from the Royal College of Art's Goldsmithing, Silversmithing, Metalwork and Jewellery (GSM&J) MA course, and translates their artistic responses to Soane's eccentric house and collections into jewellery for sale in the newly designed Soane Shop. [More](#)

The **Natural History Museum** has produced a short film looking at the success of the museum this year. [More](#)

**Science Museum** and **Great North Museum**, Newcastle featured in a list of 5 UK attractions that are leading the way on accessibility in the Telegraph. The article reported call from the charity, Leonard Cheshire Disability, for the travel industry to do more for disabled visitors. *The Sunday Mirror* also included the Science Museum in an article on accessible holidays in the UK. [Telegraph Mirror](#)

## NMDC JOBS

Our jobs website [www.nationalmuseumjobs.org.uk](http://www.nationalmuseumjobs.org.uk) now includes the latest vacancies from NMDC's new member organisations too. Current vacancies include:

- Apprenticeships Manager, Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery
- Special Effects Engineer, Natural History Museum
- Designer (Digital Media), National Gallery
- Curator: Oceania, British Museum
- Programme Development Co-Ordinator (Adults & Intangible Heritage Programme), Horniman Museum & Gardens
- Head of Airfield & Security, Imperial War Museums
- Visitor Fundraiser, Science Museum
- Merchandising and Buying Manager, National Portrait Gallery

For details of these jobs and **many more** visit [www.nationalmuseumjobs.org.uk](http://www.nationalmuseumjobs.org.uk)

## AND FINALLY

Would you like to write this newsletter? NMDC will be advertising shortly for a new Newsletter Editor as Emily Candler is taking up a new role. We're looking for someone with a good understanding of the UK museums sector and cultural policy context, and experience of writing for different audiences. If you would like to hear when the contract is advertised on our website please email [news@nationalmuseums.org.uk](mailto:news@nationalmuseums.org.uk)

This newsletter can also be read online at <http://nmdcgit.nmdc.webfactional.com/news/newsletters/>