

Heritage Link Update 111

Heritage Link Update is sent to members and supporters of Heritage Link as a way of sharing information of relevance to the historic environment sector. Please feel free to circulate copies within your organisation and to forward copies to anyone else who might be interested.

13th April 2007

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Welcome to IFA Members

We are delighted to welcome as regular readers, members of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, the professional organisation for archaeologists in the United Kingdom. From this issue, Heritage Link Update is being circulated to as many of the 2400 members as are on email. [Back](#)

The Budget: What did the Chancellor mean?

Gift Aid, rate relief, brownfield development and volunteering were all affected in the Budget of 21st March but most intriguing, sandwiched between gift aid and tax incentives to help people into work, was the Chancellor's

remark 'And in the run up to the Spending Review, the Culture Secretary and I will examine the help we can give to churches and heritage buildings that are at the heart of so many communities.'

What lies behind this? DCMS commented 'The remark was an assurance that these issues will feature in the discussions leading up to the spending review. There was no specific announcement. But very good that we were singled out for this prominent mention in the Budget statement.' [Back](#)

The Budget: Gift Aid

Turning to firmer detail, the Chancellor indicated that the government will consult the charitable sector on measures to increase the take-up of Gift Aid and conduct an awareness-raising campaign. DCMS will assess the impact of changes on donations over the next nine months to gather evidence to make the case for further measures.

But the Budget also made income tax changes that will reduce charities' Gift Aid income by £70m. Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) estimated the amount charities reclaim in gift aid will drop from £625m to £554m.

Keith Hickey of Charity Finance Directors' Group (CFDG) said 'The decrease in the basic rate of income tax from 22 pence down to 20 pence while good for the general public will roughly result in a reduction of 11.4% in Gift Aid for all charities or in monetary terms a loss of over £70 million. We will push for a simpler, opt-out system to drive up usage'. CFDG and Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (acevo) have called for urgent reform of the Gift Aid system.

For further comment see

https://www.acevo.org.uk/index.cfm/display_page/news_press/control_contentType/news_list/display_open/news_788 [Back](#)

The Budget: Volunteering

The Government may discount tuition fees for students who volunteer. V, the charity established to promote youth volunteering, is to undertake a consultation with young people on the design of the scheme. Volunteering England welcomed the Chancellor's commitment to promoting volunteering but expressed concern about this particular proposal.

'While efforts to increase community participation amongst young people should be lauded, such activity should not be described as volunteering. Volunteering is - in the government's own definition - unpaid and freely entered into. VE believes that, as well as being contrary to the spirit of volunteering, offering incentives sets a potentially dangerous precedent which other voluntary organisations may feel pressurised to follow, leaving them open to severe legal problems and destroying the nature of volunteering itself.' [Back](#)

The Budget: Community Organisations Fund

This new £80 million fund to support 'community action and voice' will be operated through the Office of the Third Sector, providing core funding to grass-roots community organisations. The fund will be awarded over four years, using local distributors (such as Community Foundations) to award specific grants. [Back](#)

The Budget: The Landfill Communities Fund

The Government announced an increase in the value of the Landfill Communities Fund, previously the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme, from £5 million to £65 million for 2007-08 to redress some of the environmental costs of landfill by improving the environment in the vicinity of landfill sites. Budget 2006 had already announced an increase in the value of the fund to £60 million a year. The Government will also amend the regulations to reduce the administrative burden on environmental bodies and to simplify the operation of the fund. Further increases in the value of the Landfill Communities Fund from 2008-9 onwards will be considered. [Back](#)

The Budget: Brownfield land and empty properties

Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) was quick to welcome the green(ish) budget. Extending tax incentives for brownfield development and reducing the duration of empty property relief from business rates will both help secure the more efficient use of urban land, said Neil Sinden, CPRE Policy Director. A new consultation (see below) invites views on improving the effectiveness of tax incentives for cleaning up contaminated land. A separate consultation on the Government's wider objectives for redeveloping vacant and derelict previously developed land is expected later in the year (para 3.144). The Budget also announces reforms which reduce the duration of the existing empty property relief to 3 months for all properties and 6 months for industrial and warehouse properties (with exemptions for properties held by charities) (para 3.140).

The full Budget report is available at www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/budget/budget_07/bud_bud07_index.cfm [Back](#)

Lyons Review: review of rate relief but no change for charities

The Cabinet Office quickly moved to end concerns over rate relief for charities. Page 310 of the Lyons Review into Local Government, published alongside the Budget, included a recommendation to review the Council Tax relief of charities (currently a mandatory 80%). It said that the relief for charities is the second most significant relief and that it potentially distorts a level playing field for all property users. Lyons recommended that the Government should conduct a review to look at 'where practical, to remove or merge existing reliefs or exemptions'.

The Cabinet Office however brought out a statement on 23rd March 'The Government agrees with the report that more needs to be done by central and local government alike to enhance the ability of councils to deliver for their local communities. However, the Government will retain the existing relief given to charities and exempt empty charity property from business rates altogether.'

See http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/070323_rate.asp [Back](#)

2012 Olympic Games Funding: implications for heritage

The losses for Arts Sports and Heritage funding diverted to the 2012 Olympics were confirmed in a Parliamentary Question on 22nd March set up by Shadow Minister for Charities, Social Enterprise and Volunteering, Greg Clark.

Richard Caborn, Minister for Sport, confirmed that subject to parliamentary approval, 'we will transfer £1,085 million from non-Olympic lottery proceeds to the Olympic funding package. Of this, approximately £638 million will be transferred from the Big Lottery Fund. The remainder will be shared between 11 of the other 12 non-Olympic lottery distributors in proportion to their fixed shares of income from the lottery. However, no transfer will be made from UK Sport.'

The amounts to be transferred from each non-Olympic distributor, rounded to the nearest £0.1 million, are: Arts Council England £112.3m, UN Film Council £21m, Arts Council for Northern Ireland £4.5m, Scottish Arts Council £12.5m, Scottish Screen £1.8m, Arts Council of Wales £8.1, Big Lottery Fund £638.1m, Heritage Lottery Fund £161.2m, Sport England £99.m, Sports Council for Northern Ireland £4.1m, Sport Scotland £7.3m, Sports Council for Wales, £7.3m and UK Sport 0.

Across the UK, this means Arts Council and Film lose £161.2m, Heritage loses £161.2m, BLF loses £638.1m and Sport loses £124.4m.

See Hansard

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070322/text/70322w0006.htm#07032294000072> [Back](#)

Olympics contribution is 19% of projected Lottery income

Richard Caborn replying as the Minister responsible for the Lottery to a joint letter from Heritage Link, National Trust, Historic Houses Association and HLF, gave the overall Lottery contribution to the Games as £2.175bn. This figure includes the previously announced contribution of £750m from the new Olympic Lottery games, the £340m from the sports good causes, and £410m from across the non-Olympic good causes. In addition the non Olympic good causes may lose about 5% of their income as a result of sales diversion from the new games during the 8 years from 2005 to 2013. In all, he estimated, this amounts to about 19% of total projected lottery income to the Lottery Good causes (£11bn 2005-13).

Heritage Lottery Fund, he continued, will be contributing £90.2m of the additional contribution announced on 15th March and a £71m share of the £410 million announced in June 2006. This means that there should still be over £700m of new Lottery money for the Heritage Lottery Fund between 2008/9 and 2011/12. 'I hope this explanation goes some way to allaying your concerns.' [Back](#)

Scottish Railway Heritage members condemn second raid on Lottery

Scottish members of the Heritage Railway Association are among many who have formally deplored the raid on heritage funding. While noting the significant contribution HLF has made to the conservation of the nation's heritage, their statement points out that major transport heritage projects have given back to the people of Scotland important parts of their industrial heritage and provided very high quality tourist venues.

'Such a major reduction of its funds will mean the rejection of applications for support for many very worthwhile projects which will put the nation's heritage at serious risk. The abandonment of such projects in Scotland will also be to the detriment of the Scottish economy, which we respectfully suggest is unlikely to gain any benefit from the London Olympics and the regeneration of the Lea Valley.' [Back](#)

Heritage Link to meet HLF

Heritage Link Trustees will meet Heritage Lottery Fund to discuss priorities for the period 2008-13. While Big Lottery Fund succeeded in ringfencing sufficient funds to support its commitment to provide 60-70% of funding to the third sector, just how the impact will be managed to minimise the damage is clearly of concern to those voluntary and community sectors not safeguarded under similar arrangements by the HLF, Arts Councils and Sport England. Heritage Link with its counterparts Voluntary Arts Network, Central Council for Physical Recreation is working with the National Council for Voluntary Organisations to explore options.

Heritage Lottery Fund assures all that existing commitments are safe. Its Board of Trustees is due to discuss priorities shortly before a strategic briefing and discussion for key stakeholders on 8th May. [Back](#)

Prime Minister's diary too full for heritage meeting

And so much for the Prime Minister assuring the Director General of the Historic Houses Association at the 'legacy' speech at Tate Modern on 6th March that he would 'sit down with the heritage sector to discuss concerns about funding' (Update 109). His office writes 'Unfortunately, due to current pressures on the Prime Minister's diary we are unable to offer you a date for a meeting at the moment. However, I will of course come back to you should a suitable opportunity arise.' [Back](#)

Regional Creative Programmers for Cultural Olympiad

A network of experienced regional representatives is to be set up to move forward Government plans for the Cultural Olympiad in the run-up to the 2012 Olympic Games. Each of England's eight regions outside London is to have its own Creative Programmer who will encourage and enable arts and cultural bodies to get involved, and create opportunities for people to take part. They will act as a link between the regions and London's 2012 organising committee (LOCOG), assess whether local projects meet the criteria to become part of the Cultural Olympiad, and ensure that each region's heritage is well represented. See www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Press_notices/archive_2007/dcms047_07.htm

The Cultural Olympiad is expected to include the widest possible range of culture, from arts, museums and galleries to the historic and built environment, from libraries and archives to the moving and digital image and from the biggest institutions to the smallest community groups. The three main elements are the mandatory ceremonies; the bid projects which were included in the Bid document and include Live Sites around the country, a World Cultural Festival, the International Shakespeare Festival, the 5 Rings Exhibition, the UK School Games and the UK-wide Cultural Festival. This cultural festival is planned to build up to and run alongside the Games and that projects should be drawn from grass-roots community projects, engage local communities and increase participation. [Back](#)

Heritage White Paper

Heritage Link Update continues to air opinion on the Heritage White Paper published on 8th March. Heritage Link members are meeting in a special Heritage White Paper seminar on Monday 16th April (11-5pm in London EC1) to share information and opinion. For last minute registrations call 020 7820 7796. [Back](#)

Heritage White Paper: in Wales

In Wales, not technically part of Heritage Link's remit but still relevant, Michael Norman from The Penllergare Trust which is restoring and regenerating the Grade II historic park and gardens in Swansea, commented to the Welsh Assembly, 'As an aspirational statement the White Paper gets our vote although I agree with Heritage Link that the DCLG priorities should be given far greater prominence. What concerns me - as I suspect it does others - is the matter of delivery. For example, in para. 29, of the three proposed consultees, the Garden History Society hasn't operated on this side of Offa's Dyke for upwards of eight years. Again, the implicit assertion in para. 38 that local authorities will become better equipped to discharge their responsibilities towards the historic environment, ignores the reality that the relevant staffs are often (to put it mildly) over-stretched. Will the Welsh Assembly Government provide the necessary funding? And if not them - who?'

And the reply from CADW? 'At this stage, of course, the White Paper can only flag up the framework of the Government's proposed reforms and there will be detailed consideration during the passage of the Bill (if it is given Parliamentary time) and, particularly, in consideration of the detailed application of the proposals through secondary legislation. The issues you raise are pertinent and will be given full consideration.'

'The funding of particular services of local authorities is a matter for those authorities, in the light of the circumstances and priorities of the authority and the unhypothecated funding given to them by the Welsh Assembly Government.' [Back](#)

Heritage White Paper: Historic Environment Records

More positively, Victoria Bryant, Manager of Worcestershire Historic Environment Record www.worcestershire.gov.uk/archaeology writes:

'As the manager of an Historic Environment Record I warmly welcome the proposals in the White Paper and believe that HERs should play an important role in delivering the core principles on which these reforms are based.

'Developing a unified approach to the historic environment: HERs already hold a wide range of information on archaeology, buildings and landscape and are developing links with other data creators be they District Conservation Officers or volunteers recording veteran trees. HERs use GIS as standard and are well placed to develop as information centres which could be accessed by a wide range of professional and non-professional users.

'Maximising opportunities for inclusion and involvement: Many HERs have been successfully working with communities on projects involving the historic environment for over 25 years. HERs are also developing a wider role as academic and educational resources which can only increase as they continue to develop a holistic approach to both urban and rural landscapes.

'Putting the historic environment at the heart of an effective planning system: HERs which provided access to information on the whole of the historic environment (archaeology, buildings and habitats) would allow specialists in one field to make consistent, well thought out decisions informed by a high-level understanding of the entire resource. It would increase communication and decrease duplication of effort.

'HERs have the potential to provide high quality historic environment services at a local level but, as English Heritage have identified, they need financial commitment to training and capacity building. This is a once in a generation opportunity to develop resources fit for the needs of the 21st century. Let's not waste it.' [Back](#)

Heritage White Paper: Society of Antiquaries seminar

The Society of Antiquaries is hosting an open seminar on 30th April (1.30-4.30pm) at the Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly on the Heritage White Paper.

The seminar will begin with a series of short presentations on key aspects of the White Paper from Harry Reeves, Head of Heritage at the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, and from Peter Beacham, Head of Heritage Protection at English Heritage. The aim is not to achieve unanimity of response or to crystallise people's views on the White Paper but to help participants understand the main issues, hear a range of views and become fully informed of the opportunities represented by this important set of reforms.

If you wish to attend, email Christopher Catling ccatling@sal.org.uk giving your name and the organisation, if any, that you will represent. [Back](#)

Cultural Apprenticeships: e-consultation panel members required

Creative & Cultural Skills has completed its series of *Access All Areas* roadshows aiming to engage and consult people from all regions on its development of a Sector Skills Agreement and training and qualifications to close skills gaps within the creative and cultural sector.

Heritage and crafts are seen as part of a wide spectrum of creative industries that includes arts, design, music, theatre, advertising and specialist technical skills. According to the workshop producers, the sector is growing swiftly with 2 jobs to every 1 in other sectors. Hundreds of courses are already producing thousands of graduates. However employers are identifying the need to focus on specific and practical skills and many support plans for a National Skills Academy overseeing accreditation.

Major cultural organisations including the National Trust have taken on a handful of apprentices in pilot placements for the Creative Apprenticeship which is planned for launch to 16-24 year olds next year. The sector skills council has also identified challenges at management level and is one of the partners developing a Cultural Leadership programme, with the Arts Council and the MLA.

Research reveals that the sector has an especially high proportion of very small organisations and self-employed practitioners, pointing to difficulties in accessing training for reasons of cost, distance and lack of time. At the Leeds event at the Royal Armouries, where Heritage Link and the CBA were represented, participants highlighted the need for capacity building among these smaller employers - who may rely on volunteers for the roles an apprentice could enter - to enable them to consider taking on and financially supporting a cultural apprentice.

Creative & Cultural Skills is now seeking 300 practitioners and employers to join an e consultation panel to review its programmes and initiatives. Heritage Link would urge participation to ensure that heritage conservation and crafts are represented alongside the many other industries. To express interest, email consultation@ccskills.org.uk and see www.ccskills.org.uk where research and progress will be posted. [Back](#)

£30m Community Assets Fund: OTS consultation to 23rd June

Ed Miliband, Minister for the Third Sector, announced on 30th March that the Big Lottery Fund (BIG) will manage a new £30m programme to enable community-led third sector organisations to own and run underused public buildings.

Part of the Government's commitment to expand the opportunities for communities to manage or own physical assets, the fund will facilitate the transfer of management or ownership of assets from local authorities in England to the third sector by offering capital to refurbish assets. This consultation sets out some underlying principles to ensure the fund supports social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainable development. It also asks for the views on aspects of how the fund will work, such as its beneficiaries, distribution and eligible assets.

The consultation will take also into account the findings of the ongoing independent review into community ownership and management of assets being led by Barry Quirk, which will report to the Department for Communities and Local Government. Following the outcomes of the consultation process, ministers together with BIG will decide on the final criteria for the fund which will then be launched later this year.

For the consultation paper and process visit http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/documents/catf/catf.pdf Responses should be submitted by 23rd June 2007 to Annie Cooper, Office of the Third Sector, 2nd floor 35 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BQ or by email at communityassets@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk [Back](#)

Home energy improvements: CLG Consultation to 27th June

In a speech to the Green Alliance on 4th April, Communities Secretary Ruth Kelly launched a consultation *Changes to Permitted Development* which would mean planning permission for 'microgeneration' devices on their homes are no longer be required where it is clear there is little or no impact on neighbouring properties.

Ruth Kelly said: 'I believe that the local planning system should support efforts to tackle climate change rather than acting as a barrier, but it is important that we ensure that there are clear, common-sense safeguards on noise, siting and size and that the unique features of conservation areas are protected'.

At present, there are more than 100,000 microgeneration installations across the country - including wind, water source or ground source heat pumps and bio mass. In the Energy White Paper, the Government will provide new incentives with the aim of raising eightfold the number of households which are producers as well as consumers of energy.

The closing date for responses to *Changes to Permitted Development: Consultation Paper 1 - Permitted Development Rights for Householder Microgeneration* is 27th June 2007.

Further details can be found at www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1508888 Also published is a report by planning consultancy firm Entec, which fed into the Government's proposals. This can be found at www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1504866 [Back](#)

Tax Incentives for Development of Brownfield Land: HM Treasury consultation to 14th June

As declared in the Budget, HM Treasury consults on the future form of tax reliefs to assist with the decontamination of land and to encourage development of long-term derelict sites. The consultation covers long term derelict land; improving the development focus; timing issues in land remediation relief; Japanese Knotweed; and the landfill tax exemption for waste from contaminated land.

The consultation closes on 14th June 2007. Any legislation needed following the consultation will not be enacted before 2008. For further details visit

DCMS Capability Review

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has apparently achieved 'significant successes' and has 'knowledgeable, committed staff and a positive working environment', according to the departmental capability review published on 27th March by the Cabinet Office.

The Department's capability for future delivery was assessed as 'well placed' in 2 of the 10 elements in the model of capability. These were 'set direction' and 'plan, resource and prioritise'. Five elements were assessed as a 'development area'. These were 'ignite passion, pace and drive', 'build capability', 'base choices on evidence', 'build common purpose' and 'manage performance'. Three elements were assessed as an 'urgent development area'. These were 'take responsibility for leading delivery and change', 'focus on outcomes' and 'develop clear roles, responsibilities and business model(s)'. There were no areas of 'serious concerns'.

The Review also noted the department has some high profile challenges ahead, in particular the 2012 Olympics, which will be the department's biggest ever challenge. DCMS needs to improve its leadership capacity to increase its impact and it should engage more strategically with its sponsored bodies, look at where it can best add value, and redistribute its resources accordingly. There were good examples of evidence-based decision-making and the report concluded that the department should expand this. [Back](#)

The Department has already drawn up an Action Plan which sets out the work put in train to address these findings. This includes strengthening the leadership at the top of the organisation with a new board structure and changes to the top of its Olympic team. Both the Capability Review and Action Plan can be downloaded from www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Publications/archive_2007/capability_review.htm [Back](#)

Energy Ratings for Public Buildings

Public buildings over 1000 sq metres, such as museums, galleries and government buildings, will have to display Energy Performance Certificates - like consumer friendly fridge ratings - from April 2008, under new regulations to implement the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive.

This measure, which will enable visitors to see the annual carbon emissions of each building, is intended to encourage energy improvements to public buildings, help cut public costs and lead the way in cutting carbon emissions. Housing Minister Yvette Cooper said 'More than 40% of carbon emissions in the UK come from buildings. From the local library to the House of Commons, the public sector must do its bit to cut carbon emissions'. The publication of regulations on the Energy Performance of Buildings paves the way for the introduction of Home Information Packs (HIPs) which include Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) for homes. Final regulations to introduce HIPs were also published on 29th March. EPCs must be provided as part of HIPs for all homes marketed for sale from 1st June.

Further details at www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1002882&PressNoticeID=2394 [Back](#)

Tourism Industry Recovers to pre-2001 Levels

New research indicates that Britain's visitor economy has recovered to pre-2001 levels. Based on available 2005 data, the value of Britain's visitor economy is now estimated at £85 billion which, accounting for inflation, places it £600 million ahead of its worth in 2000.

Inbound tourism expenditure has been strong since 2001, with 14% growth in real terms, helped by the enlargement of Europe, which has led to growth from Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary and increased visits to the UK from countries such as India. Britons make over one billion tourism day trips a year, spending £44.3 billion, and take 139 million overnight trips (£23 billion), well ahead of the 66.5 million trips abroad taken by Britons.

Further statistics at

www.visitbritain.com/corporate/presscentre/presscentrebritain/pressreleasesoverseasmrkt/jan-mar2007/tourism_recovery.aspx [Back](#)

National Lottery passes £20bn

Last Saturday 7th April, the Lottery passed the £20bn mark. Since its launch in 1994, 28p from every £1 spent on lottery tickets has gone to the Good Causes. On average, £25 million a week has been raised over the past 13 years.

More than £435 million of National Lottery funding has regenerated and improved public parks, gardens, squares and promenades across the UK; the National Lottery has funded 8 out of 10 of the UK's most visited museums; over £88million has gone to cleaning up and improving waterways across the UK; more than £1.3bn billion has been spent on heritage projects that contribute to urban and rural regeneration in deprived areas of the UK; £258 million of National Lottery funding has been invested in village halls and community centres across the UK; and the UK National Lottery returns a higher proportion of Lottery revenue back to society than any other Lottery in the world.

More statistics on the National Lottery are given at <http://www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/mediacentre/item/204/20-facts-about-the-national> [Back](#)

£3.9 billion for the English countryside

David Miliband, Secretary of State for DEFRA has at last announced the overall budget for the Rural Development Programme for England 2007-2013.

The £3.9 billion budget, more than double the budget for the previous 2000-2006 programme, will implement the European Rural Development Regulation, also known as the Second Pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy.

£3.3 billion of the total budget will be allocated to agri-environment and other land management schemes. This funding will help farmers manage the land more sustainably and deliver important environmental outcomes on biodiversity, landscape and access, water quality and climate change. Some £600 million will also be made available to make agriculture and forestry more competitive and sustainable, and to enhance opportunity in rural areas.

The rate of voluntary modulation (the transfer of funds from farming subsidies in the first pillar of the CAP to rural development schemes) required to underpin this budget will be 12% for 2007, rising to 13% for 2008, and 14% for the years 2009-2012. Eighty per cent of the money raised through voluntary modulation will fund agri-environment schemes and will be co-financed by the UK Government at a rate of 40%. This means that for every £60 raised for agri-environment schemes through voluntary modulation, the Government will contribute a further £40 from national funds. This decision to co-finance voluntary modulation will result in a net total increase to overall CAP spending in England of some £725 million by end 2013.

David Miliband said 'I hope that the near £4 billion funding will help all concerned build on the significant achievements already made and continue to make the English countryside a thriving community for those who live and work there as well as a beautiful place to visit'.

The statement can be read at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/ministers/statements/dm070329.htm> [Back](#)

Euclid EU Rural Seminars

Euclid, the EU's Cultural Contact Point in the UK, is running a second seminar programme highlighting changes to the Common Agricultural Policy and potential benefits to the arts and cultural sector. This series will examine the detail of the proposals for the implementation of the European Rural Development Regulation in England by DEFRA due to begin in 2007 - its policy priorities and its new administrative arrangements - all presented in a way that is designed to enable cultural and heritage professionals and arts development staff to identify the priorities for the Fund, and to know their local contact points so that they can develop applications to the Programme as it begins being implemented at regional level.

The seminars will take place in Birmingham - 17th May at 10.00; Brighton - 25th May at 14.00; Cambridge - 23rd May at 10.00; Exeter - 8th May at 14.00; Manchester - 10th May 10.00; Newcastle - 22nd May at 14.00; Nottingham - 16th May at 14.00; and Thirsk - 11th May at 10.00. For more information and costs visit www.euclid.info [Back](#)

Britain's independent museums celebrate 30 years

The Association of Independent Museums (AIM) which represents half the museums in the UK and spearheaded the revolution in museum management and interpretation celebrates its 30th anniversary this year.

AIM is the national body connecting, supporting and representing independent museums - entrepreneurial organisations which receive little or no core funding from the Government or their Local Authorities. Its 750 members will celebrate at the 30th Anniversary Annual Conference on 21st - 23rd June at Ironbridge Gorge Museums, Shropshire, when Culture Minister David Lammy MP will give the keynote speech.

Independent museums emerged in the early 1970s when local communities all over the UK were dismayed at the increasing loss of important elements of British history, notably industrial heritage. A new type of museum - many of them 'open air museums' based on industrial sites - sprang up all over the country offering imaginative ventures in a cultural movement that is without precedent in Europe. They have flourished in a difficult economic climate through determination, flexibility of decision-making, professional staff drawn from all walks of life and teams of dedicated volunteers.

Further information can be obtained from AIM's website, www.aim-museums.co.uk, or from the AIM Administrator, Roger Hornshaw, 4 Clayhall Road, Gosport, Hampshire PO12 2BY. Tel 02392 587751. Email aimadmin@aim-museums.co.uk [Back](#)

Rare close up of Peterborough Cathedral West Front

The need to conserve the statues and architectural mouldings on the west front of Peterborough Cathedral means that it is scaffolded for the first time in more than forty years. Thanks to the Paul Mellon Centre, research on the west front is currently being carried out by Jackie Hall and Julian Luxford, but the Cathedral Chapter is extending an invitation to any researchers and heritage professionals who are interested in seeing the front at close quarters.

The west front will be open on Saturday 19th May, from 10am to 4pm. Jackie Hall, the Cathedral Archaeologist, says she hopes the whole west front will be available (rather than just the south gable and part of the central gable that are currently scaffolded), although this cannot be guaranteed. The scaffolding is extremely solid (stairs, not ladders!) and that tea and coffee will be available.

Please contact Jackie Hall at jackie.hall@tesco.net or tel: 01223 890197), so that the Cathedral knows who and how many to expect. [Back](#)

English Heritage guide to slave trade sites

As Britain commemorates the bicentenary of the Parliamentary abolition of its transatlantic slave trade, a new English Heritage web micro-site and accompanying leaflet, *Sites of Memory - The Slave Trade and Abolition*, lists the houses, docks, graves, plaques and memorials that are the tangible links to this complex period of history. More than 60 sites are featured, from the grave of an unknown slave in Lancaster, to Britain's oldest anti-slavery memorial, a grand arch in Paganhill, Stroud.

Rachel Hasted, Head of Social Inclusion for English Heritage, said 'There is evidence of the wealth that the slave trade created for British merchants, of the lives of black people brought to England through the slave trade and also of the extraordinary campaign waged by so many people in England, black and white, to end the trade. This is history on our doorstep and English Heritage is committed to helping people explore their historic environment and understand that legacy.'

Sites of Memory - The Slave Trade and Abolition, is now available from English Heritage sites and tourist information offices and from English Heritage customer services on 0870 333 1181. The web micro-site is at www.english-heritage.org.uk [Back](#)

Gulbenkian Prize Short List 2007

The short list announced for £100,000 Gulbenkian Prize for museums and galleries includes Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum, Glasgow for its New Century Project, the three-year £35m restoration and re-display of its Victorian art gallery and museum; Kew Palace, Historic Royal Palaces, Britain's smallest royal palace; Pallant House Gallery, Chichester, West Sussex, home to one of the best collections of Modern British art in the world. This is the first gallery in the UK to install a geothermal heating and cooling system, cutting its carbon emissions by 40-50%; and Weston Park Museum, Sheffield Galleries & Museums Trust, Sheffield, for its recent £19m transformation.

You can comment and/or vote on this year's Short List by visiting <http://www.thegulbenkianprize.org.uk/> The winner will be announced on 24th May. [Back](#)

Cultural Leadership on line opportunities

Two new and free opportunities to creative and cultural leaders looking to make a difference to their business performance through improved leadership skills are offered under the leadership programme funded by Arts Council, MLA, and Creative and Cultural Skills as part of an assessment pilot to inform the development of the Creative Knowledge Lab the UK's first comprehensive online resource for the creative and cultural industries to be launched later this year.

The *E Learning Pilot* will provide flexible access to short sharp online learning options targeted at specific leadership requirements. The *E Assessment Pilot* will help emerging and current leaders understand their current skills and highlight areas of improvement. Access to online assessment tools and e-learning is free. Visit www.culturalleadership.org.uk for more information and to apply. The deadline is 12 noon on 30th April. [Back](#)

Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Applications

QUEST gives awards worth between £2,000 and £15,000 to craftsmen and women of all ages for further training and work experience. Scholarships are awarded twice a year and application forms for summer 2007 must be received by 8th June.

Application forms can be downloaded from the QUEST website www.gest.org.uk Or contact The Secretary, Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust, No 1 Buckingham Place, London SW1E 6HR (send A4 SAE with 50p stamp). [Back](#)

PEOPLE

Commissioners for English Heritage

The DCMS is seeking to appoint one or more additional Commissioners to the Board of English Heritage. In addition to the general criteria given at http://www.culture.gov.uk/working_with_us/Public_appointments/pa_vacancies/paadvert_eh.htm, the Department is looking for candidates with skills in one or more of the following areas: acknowledged expertise and reputation as an architect; experience or understanding of business at a senior level in the financial, hospitality, leisure, marketing, retail or customer services sectors with strong entrepreneurial skills; and with first-hand experience, at either member or senior officer level, of managing the diverse activities of a local authority. The term of appointment(s) is 4 years and is expected to start from June 2007 or later. Further detail of remuneration and time commitment can be found at the same site.

Further details and an application form are available from Sean Kenny, Public Appointments Unit, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, 2-4 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5 DH. Tel 020 7211 2304 or email sean.kenny@culture.gsi.gov.uk Closing date 27th April. [Back](#)

Commissioners for CABE

DCMS is also inviting applications for 3 Commissioner roles for the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE). The appointments are for four years. Two commence on 5th July 2007 with a further appointment from 15th December

In addition to the general criteria, DCMS is encouraging applications from individuals with skills and experience in the following areas: as a private sector client / developer; as a public sector client; with direct experience of the UK's housebuilding industry and an understanding of the issues facing both policymakers and residential developers; from the built environment professions; and with experience and expertise in issues involved in making environments accessible to all.

Further details and an application form are available from Danny Herbert, Public Appointments Unit, Department for Culture Media and Sport, 2-4 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5DH. Tel: 020 7211 2303 or email danny.herbert@culture.gsi.gov.uk [Back](#)

EH Chair: new terms explained

In a written answer to Lord Clement Jones in the House of Lords on 22nd March, the Government refuted the suspected downgrading of the role of the next Chairman of English Heritage although the detail suggests otherwise.

The current role attracts £68,390 per annum for a commitment of 144 days per year but Lord Davies of Oldham revealed 'In considering the appropriate time commitment for the future chair we reviewed the needs of the body and the role in conjunction with English Heritage, including the commissioners, and have agreed that 90 days a year is appropriate. This does not represent a downgrading of the role but reflects the fact that English Heritage's modernisation programme has been completed and a greater time commitment will no longer be necessary. The remuneration level for the new chair has been set at £45,000 per annum, representing a small pro-rata increase. We recognise the importance of the role of the chairman of English Heritage and we are making every effort to identify a suitable successor to build on the excellent work of Sir Neil Cossons.' [Back](#)

EVENTS

UNESCO's World Heritage Day in Scotland: 18th April

Edinburgh World Heritage Trust is celebrating World Heritage Day on 18th April (2-5.00pm) at The Scottish Storytelling Centre with presentations on Edinburgh past, present and future. Places are limited, to book telephone 0131 220 7720 or email info@ewht.org.uk Full programme at <http://www.ewht.org.uk/World-Heritage-Day-18-April-2007.aspx> [Back](#)

Sir John Soane and Pitzhanger: 24th April

An illustrated talk by Gillian Darley on Sir John Soane, the architect and surveyor of the Bank of England who owned and designed Pitzhanger Manor as his 'dream' home, is one of London Borough of Ealing's exhibitions and events, talks and behind-the-scenes tours for Museums and Galleries Month. On 5th May, there will be an opportunity to tour Pitzhanger Manor with conservation architect Michael Shippobottom. Susan Palmer talks about 'The Soanes at Home' on 1st May.

For details of all events see www.ealing.gov.uk/pmgalleryandhouse [Back](#)

Attracted to the Light: Annual Lecture of the Churches Conservation Trust, 16th May

Dr Paul Williamson, Director of Collections and Keeper of sculpture, metalwork, ceramics and glass at the V&A, will present an illustrated lecture on the collection of Medieval and Renaissance stained glass in England. This will take place at St. Mary's Church, Shrewsbury, accompanied by a specially commissioned exhibition featuring the 16th century St Bernard glass from Altenburg Abbey, and performances by musicians.

Tickets are £10 including refreshments. To book telephone 01743 281281. See www.visitchurches.org.uk for more information. [Back](#)

AIM 30th Anniversary Annual Conference: 21-23rd June

Local Authority: Friend or Foe? All museums have to interact with their Local Authorities in some way - so how can independent museums make the most of it? The conference will look at best practice in a range of case studies from museums large and small. The conference will also look at the concept of Social Enterprise and how it is affecting independent museums.

The results of a specially commissioned nationwide review will be presented, and delegates can also expect a series of practical workshops. See <http://www.aim-museums.co.uk/aim-conference.htm> for booking details. [Back](#)

UK National Commission for UNESCO: 2nd Annual Conference: 14th July

UK National Commission's 2nd Annual Conference will be held in Cardiff at the Holland House Hotel on Saturday 14th July, with a drinks reception the previous evening at the Senedd (the Welsh Assembly) and a pre-conference dinner at the National Museum of Cardiff, hosted by the UNESCO Cymru Wales Committee.

Speakers include the Director-General for UNESCO, Koichiro Matsuura, UK Ambassador to the United Nations, Emyr Jones Parry, the Ambassador and UK Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, Peter Landymore, and the Director of ARUP, Chris Jofeh. Several thematic debating groups will be staged. In a year which augurs many changes within the United Nations and its agencies, the conference addresses current issues seen in the context UK and UNESCO: Drivers of Change. For further details see http://www.unesco.org.uk/2007_Annual_Conference.htm [Back](#)

Ironbridge Institute conservation courses 2007-8

The new programme of courses from April 2007 - March 2008 is now available from the Ironbridge Institute, offering both lecture based and practical two day conservation workshops. The workshops can be used to build up and increase practical knowledge of skills, building materials and conservation, or as an integral part of a MA in Historic Environment Conservation, recognised by the Institute of Historic Building Conservation

Practical workshops covers topics such as the use of lime, conservation or repair of stone, ceramics, ferrous and non ferrous metals in construction; the conservation of C20th buildings and many more. The lecture series ranges from Conservation Ethics and Philosophy, Conservation Legislation to Project and Disaster Management.

For full details see information about any aspect of the courses contact Harriet Devlin, Ironbridge Institute Coalbrookdale, Telford TF8 7DQ. Tel 01952 435969 or email harriet.devlin@ironbridge.org.uk [Back](#)

The Grand Tour: Conference and Lecture, Edinburgh 16th and 17th September

Europa Nostra in association with the Royal Society of Edinburgh presents the Duncan-Sandys Lecture on *The Influence of the Italian Grand Tour on British Art Collecting*. Sir Timothy Clifford, former Director General of the National Galleries of Scotland, will speak. The event will take place at 4pm on Sunday 16th September, to be followed by a one-day conference on the same theme on 17th September.

The lecture takes place at the National Gallery of Scotland, with the conference at the Royal Society of Edinburgh. For more details of either event email Dr Lester Borley, lesterborley@waitrose.com [Back](#)

Colourful Past, Bright Future: English Heritage Conference 16-17th October

English Heritage will host a conference at St. Mary-in-the-Castle, Hastings to celebrate the colourful history of British seaside towns and examine ways that their heritage can contribute to the economy, quality of life and regeneration. This is a conference for all who care about the management, regeneration, promotion and conservation of seaside towns, drawing on lessons from other countries and local, regional and national organisations.

For booking information see <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/seasideheritage> or contact Sussex Arts Marketing helen.charlton@sam-culture.com Tel. 01273 882112. [Back](#)

In Touch With Art: Art, Museums and Visual Impairment 28-29th November

This conference will give opportunities to find out about models of best practice for the interpretation of the visual arts for a visually impaired audience, identifying how people engage and interact with visual art in gallery and museum environments. It will also look at the international perspective on this area, together with processing and cognition through the senses, and draw together the personal, professional, physical and psychological experiences of artists, educators, and visitors with visual impairment.

The programme and booking information is available at www.st-dunstons.org.uk and takes place at the V&A, London on 28th and 29th November. [Back](#)

SITUATIONS VACANT

All organisations whose posts are advertised below are expected to offer equal opportunity to all and to welcome applications from all sections of the community.

English Heritage: Regional Director South West

The regional director is responsible for the delivery of corporate, group and regional objectives through decisive leadership, the effective delivery of casework and advisory services, and successful management of stakeholders' expectations.

Strong, adaptable leadership skills are required, with confidence to communicate effectively on controversial issues. The successful applicant will excel at building strategic relationships, motivating and focussing teams and have the tenacity and perseverance to promote and deliver new initiatives and projects.

Salary: c£55,000. Based in Bristol. Email recruitsw@english-heritage.org.uk for an application pack quoting ref H/01/207 in the subject box. No CVs. Closing date 18th April.

Chris Blandford Associates: Heritage Site Conservation Management Vacancies

CBA delivers conservation management plans and advice for heritage sites in the UK and abroad. Applications from candidates are sought which demonstrate a proven track record in the co-ordination and writing of conservation management plans for a variety of historic environment assets. Experience of delivering Management Plans for World Heritage Sites would be an advantage. All applicants are expected to have significant practical experience of preparing these types of plans. An attractive salary package and staff benefits are available with positions based in London or East Sussex.

Applications in writing enclosing a CV and examples of management plan work should be sent to Dominic Watkins, Director, Chris Blandford Associates, The Old Crown, High Street, Blackboys, Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 5JR, mail@cba.uk.net

IFA Workplace Learning Bursary in Rural Archaeology

Applications are invited for a 12 month, HLF funded IFA Workplace Learning Bursary in Rural Archaeology with North Yorkshire County Council starting 4th June. The post is based in Northallerton but will include regional travel, potentially to areas without public transport. The role of local authorities in rural delivery and partnership

working will be covered and there will be opportunities to participate in short placements with Natural England, English Heritage and the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Applicants should have a good knowledge of British archaeology and demonstrate a commitment to the rural historic environment. A relevant qualification is not essential though suitable equivalent experience should be demonstrated. ICT skills are essential, as is a full current driving licence.

Professional training will cover practical experience of rural archaeology and how to communicate information and undertake negotiations when responding to Farm Environment Plan consultations. There may also be an opportunity to use the experience towards a vocational Qualification in Archaeological Practice.

Salary: £14,270. See www.archaeologists.net and follow the link to the IFA News page to apply. For an informal discussion, contact Linda Smith, Rural Archaeologist on 01609 533578. Closing date 9am, 17th April.

National Trust: Regional Policy Manager South East

Candidates should be analytical, influential and a confident communicator with a relevant policy related degree and/or experience of lobbying/campaigning, ideally in the voluntary sector as well as being a strong team player with first hand experience of policy development, and have strong organisation and planning skills.

Salary £27,403pa. Flexible Bucks/Surrey location. Full details at www.ntjobs.org.uk Closing date 25th April.

Historic Scotland: Conservation Scientist

Based in the Preventative Conservation and Science Unit in Edinburgh, the primary role of this post is to conduct research into Scotland's traditional building materials, the performance and decay of traditional buildings and the factors that cause material deterioration.

Salary £25,622 - £31,131pa. For an application pack email hs.recruit@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or call Jaclyn Johnstone on 0131 668 8641. Closing date 27th April.

Tees Valley Museums: Education Facilitators

Tees Valley Museums are coordinating a database of Museum Education Facilitators to run education based workshops throughout the Tees Valley. They seek animated and dynamic individuals who can facilitate and supervise workshops for school children.

Applicants should have confident communications skills with experience of working with children and enthusiasm for the educational role of museums. A teaching or museum qualification is desirable but not essential.

Please send CV with details of any specialist subjects to naomi.beeley@hartlepool.gov.uk Hartlepool Arts, Museums and Events Service, Sir William Gray House, Clarence Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8BT.

Prince's Regeneration Trust: 3 posts

The Prince's Regeneration Trust delivers heritage-led regeneration across the UK through conservation and re-use of redundant historic buildings primarily in areas of social and economic deprivation. The Trust is seeking a Commercial Director, based in London (salary c£50-60,000) and 2 Project Advisers in London and Scotland (salary £35,000) to help deliver projects in both the charitable and commercial sectors.

For more information or to apply, call 020 7033 2582 or email recruitment@princes-regeneration.org Closing date 30th April.

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