



**Association of
Independent Museums**

The National Body Connecting, Supporting
and Representing Independent Museums

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AIM E-News – March 2012 – Number 31- **EXTRACTS****

MGS gets ready for new role

Museums Galleries Scotland (MGS) assumes a new organisational structure in April in support of its transition towards taking on the functions of a National Development Body (NDB) for the sector. It has also moved, to Waverley Gate, 2-4 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh EH1 3EG. MGS's new remit will include increased partnership working through a stronger focus on exchange of best practice and skills, and a strategic commissioning and contracting approach to delivery. Roles within the organisations have been reviewed, highlighting investment and enterprise, research and development, and communication and relationships. Recruitment is now under way. The organisation will maintain charitable status and will reduce subscriptions for its services by 10% during the first year of transition. It will continue to manage the Accreditation and Recognition schemes. The national strategy is in the final stages of development and will be launched at the end of this month. Roadshows will be held to engage museums with the strategy and to hone the delivery plan, with a final plan launched later this year. www.museumsgalleriesscotland.org.uk

Art Fund Prize 2012 launches search for Unsung Museum Heroes

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Art Fund Prize for Museums & Galleries the Museum Prize Trust is to champion 10 Unsung Museum Heroes who have made a truly memorable contribution to museums and galleries. Whether they are a committed curator or an invaluable archivist, a terrific tour guide or a fabulous fundraiser, the Prize is urging museum and gallery professionals to nominate staff and volunteers who have made an invaluable contribution to their organisation. Nominations are now open and forms can be downloaded from www.artfundprize.org.uk/heroes. Deadline for nominations is 4.00pm on 12 April. The winners will be announced in Museums Journal and will be invited to the award ceremony of the Art Fund Prize 2012 at the British Museum on 19 June, with an exclusive guided tour of the BM beforehand.

Charities have until the end of this year to make changes to **Gift Aid declarations** to comply with guidance published earlier this month, says HM Revenue & Customs. After concern that the guidance did not make it clear whether charities had to impose changes immediately, or seek retrospective changes to previous declarations, HMRC has conceded that its wording was unclear, and confirms that Gift Aid claims based on the old model will be accepted until 31 December

2012. http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/bulletin/third_sector_fundraising_bulletin/article/1121963/gift-aid-declarations-will-change-end-year/?DCMP=EMC-CONThirdSectorFundraising

The new '**Heritage Toolkit**' from The Heritage Alliance's Cultural Olympiad project, Discovering Places, launching on 19 March, may help members make the most of London 2012 and reach its diverse audiences. The toolkit can be found at <http://www.discoveringplaces.co.uk/>

Arts Council England (ACE) is to become the first arts funding body in the world to embed **environmental sustainability** into the funding agreements of its major programmes. This will affect the new Major Partner museums, which will need to measure and improve water and energy use as a minimum requirement. **Over the next three years the commitment will apply to all its funding programmes.** <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/news/arts-council-news/arts-council-england-embed-environmental-sustainab/>

Grampian Transport Museum's governing body has been refreshed, taking on new members with new skills and co-opting the services of others to institute its new development plan, with its focus on customer care. Among developments will be a new visitor reception, to be in place for the 2014 season, and a fresh marketing strategy. A marketing and events officer is currently being recruited. Further information: Mike Ward at curator @gtm.org.uk. www.gtm.org.uk