



## Association of Independent Museums

The National Body Connecting, Supporting and Representing Independent Museums

### Association of Independent Museums AIM E-News – April 2012 – Number 32 - Extracts

#### **AIM's £1.5m partnership initiative with Biffa Award – deadline for first funding round: 29 June**

Details have been announced for the £1.5 million AIM/Biffa Award National Heritage Landmarks Partnership (NHLP) scheme which will provide investment for independent museums and industrial heritage sites across the UK. Members are invited to submit bids for the first funding round by 29 June, with successful projects notified by 1 August. Up to four projects will be selected for partnership funding in each annual round (£500,000 for three years). The NHLP scheme will help transform derelict buildings and sites into inspirational resources, enabling the public to better understand the powerful tide of change brought about by our collective industrial past through the creation of a network of strategic projects that tell the stories of people, processes, industrial development and change. The maximum value of support for each project will be £120,000. AIM would also welcome expressions of interest for rounds two (2013/14) and three (2014/15). The project criteria are now available on AIM's website - <http://www.aim-museums.co.uk/pages/pg-25-aim-biffa-award-the-national-heritage-landmarks-partnership-scheme/>. For further information contact AIM's Executive Director Sam Hunt on: [aimdirector@aim-museums.co.uk](mailto:aimdirector@aim-museums.co.uk), tel 01460 75222/07833 366624, or AIM's Administrator Justeen Stone on: [aimadmin@aim-museums.co.uk](mailto:aimadmin@aim-museums.co.uk), tel 01903 201370.

#### **New HLF £1 million grant programme and the BBC's Great British Story project**

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has launched a new £1 million small grant programme designed to help local communities explore their heritage, *All Our Stories*. Grants will range from £3,000-£10,000 and could include researching local historic landmarks, learning about local customs and traditions, delving into archives or investigating the origins of street and place names. The programme has been developed in support of the BBC's *The Great British Story – A People's History*, to be presented by Michael Wood on BBC2. If you have events running between 5 May and 31 July which aim to engage the public in local history you may want to get involved and promote your event on Things To Do as part of the project - [www.bbc.co.uk/thingstodo](http://www.bbc.co.uk/thingstodo). BBC Learning events will also be held at flagship heritage locations, running in tandem with the TV series, helping involve people in their local heritage. Applications for the HLF grants are welcomed from a wide range of organisations including heritage organisations. Deadline for submission is 31 July, with decisions by October. <http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/Allourstories.aspx>

#### **New money for museum education**

The Department for Education (DfE) has confirmed that the £15 million investment in cultural education in England announced following the Henley Review of Cultural Education will include £3.6 million for museums and galleries education. This is intended to encourage more school visits to museums and will come via the Department for Culture, Media & Sport to Arts Council (DCMS) to Arts Council England (ACE) who will be responsible for coordinating a new museum education scheme. [http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/news\\_stories/8889.aspx](http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/news_stories/8889.aspx)

#### **Collections Management Awards and OpenCulture 2012**

Nominations are now open for the inaugural Collections Trust Collections Management Awards, with two categories, the Collections Practice Award – celebrating projects demonstrating innovative practice - and Collections on a Budget – celebrating projects demonstrating improvement by organisations with a turnover of less than EUR500,000. Deadline for nominations is 11 May. <http://www.collectionslink.org.uk/awards>. The awards will be presented during the

OpenCulture 2012 event, the annual collections management conference. More than 100 people have registered for the trust's flagship event to be held at Kia Oval, London on 26/27 June. Tackling the issues that matter to collections professionals, almost 30 expert speakers will contribute. Delegates rated last year's inaugural event 80% Good to Excellent. Further information: e-mail [john@collectionstrust.org.uk](mailto:john@collectionstrust.org.uk), online booking is at [www.collectionslink/openculture2012](http://www.collectionslink/openculture2012)

### **British Empire & Commonwealth Museum to close**

The collection of the British Empire & Commonwealth Museum (BECM) is to be given to Bristol City Council and the museum venue at Brunel's Old Temple Meads Station sold, following a rigorous review of the museum's long-term viability. The planned move of the museum and collections to London is no longer considered a viable option leading to trustees' conclusion that BECM would have to close. The transfer of collections to Bristol Museums, Galleries & Archives Service (BMAG), part of Bristol City Council, will take place under a Deed of Gift, and will enable the collections to be retained in Bristol for eventual public display. Plans for Brunel's Old Station building could see part of it return to its original design purpose, a platform extension to support Network Rail's ambitions for a fast mainline link from Bristol to London. The building will be purchased by Bristol City Council and forms an integral part of their plans for Bristol's Enterprise Zone. BECM closed in 2008 with accounts showing large losses, including £222,000 from "the sale of artefacts and other unauthorised transactions". Trustees have been advised by Avon & Somerset Police that they do not intend to bring a criminal prosecution against the museum's former director, Gareth Griffiths, who was dismissed in February 2011. **Due to its closure BECM has the following items available for collection – display cases of different sizes; glass-fronted storage cabinets; map chests; shelving and shop fittings.** If interested please contact [admin@empiremuseum.co.uk](mailto:admin@empiremuseum.co.uk) or call 0117 925 4980. A full report will appear in the **AIM Bulletin**, June issue.

The Government's **Red Tape Challenge** initiative has now been extended to the heritage industry among others, with the sector asked to "name and shame the regulations that are holding back [their] business". The website includes regulations affecting many different fields within the sector; check them out at <http://www.redtapechallenge.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sports-and-recreation-other-cultural-regulations/>

An HMRC consultation into the policy design of the **Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme** is currently inviting comments from charities that make claims under Gift Aid and receive small donations of cash. Deadline: 25 May.  
[http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/channelsPortalWebApp.portal?\\_nfpb=true&\\_pageLabel=pageLibrary\\_ConsultationDocuments&propertyType=document&column=1&id=HMCE\\_PROD1\\_031993](http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/channelsPortalWebApp.portal?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=pageLibrary_ConsultationDocuments&propertyType=document&column=1&id=HMCE_PROD1_031993)

**Heritage Open Days** – run by The Heritage Alliance with the National Trust and Civic Voice - is on 6-9 September. The Alliance stresses the importance of maintaining the momentum and popularity of this big heritage celebration. Registration has now opened for organisers. <http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/organisers/>