

## **Association of Independent Museums**

### **AIM E-News – May 2014 – Number 57 – EXTRACTS**

#### **AIM's new toolkit covering social and environmental impacts – can you help?**

AIM has appointed DC Research to research the expansion of the successful and much-used AIM Economic Impact Toolkit (see under More AIM below) to include social and environmental questions. This work, supported by Arts Council England (ACE), will review recent thinking and approaches to measuring social and environmental impact in museums. A social and environmental impact evaluation/assessment framework will be developed, and piloted with a small number of AIM member museums before producing a report and toolkit that will complement the Economic Impact Toolkit. As part of this, DC Research is keen to be made aware of any reports, papers and other material that AIM members have produced giving evidence of how independent museums create social and environmental impacts. This might include evidence you have prepared for funders and wider advocacy audiences, research you have participated in, case studies, or research or articles you have found helpful. Please share anything you think is relevant and helpful with Jonathan Durnin at [jon@dcresearch.co.uk](mailto:jon@dcresearch.co.uk), tel 0116 259 2390. Meanwhile, the Department for Culture Media & Sport has commissioned the London School of Economics to publish a two-part research report, Quantifying and Valuing the Wellbeing Impacts of Culture & Sport. <http://tinyurl.com/n6rodpc>

#### **AIM Conservation and Preventive Conservation Schemes – latest round**

Ten AIM members will benefit from grants worth £36,472 in the latest round of the Conservation and Preventive Conservation Grant Schemes, supported by The Pilgrim Trust. They are: Manchester Jewish Museum (yahrzeit [memorial candle stand]/£1,369); Godalming Museum (nine architectural drawings/£2,708); Tenby Museum (16th century iron breech loading canon/£2,827); Museum of East Asian Art (16 Asian metal ware objects/£4,865); The Royal Green Jackets (Rifles) Museum (seven oil on canvas paintings - Waterloo/£4,252); The Bentley Priory Museum (Nottingham Lace Panel depicting the Battle of Britain/£5,000); Scottish Maritime Museum (1884 Dublin Bay Cutter Vagrant/£5,000); Wells Museum (six Roman bronze leaves from Wookey Hole Caves/£1,450); Biggar Museum (silk Whipman Society banner c1814/£5,000) and Wilton House (pair of Imari Baluster vases/£4,000)

#### **AIM Success Guide of the month – Successful Business Planning**

.... AIM's new Success Guides replace the Focus Papers, they are free and you can download them as pdfs from AIM's website at [http://www.aim-museums.co.uk/content/success\\_guides/](http://www.aim-museums.co.uk/content/success_guides/). All freshly written or updated, most have been funded by ACE (Arts Council England) through AIM's Resilience programme.

**MUSEUMS + HERITAGE AWARDS & SHOW** - Full lists including the shortlisted entries can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/n7xg2g2>.

#### **'Giving Tuesday' for the UK**

The Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) is to organise the UK's first 'Giving Tuesday' on 2 December. The event was started in the US two years ago by New York-based community organisation 92nd Street Y to encourage the public and businesses to do something charitable on the Tuesday after the Thanksgiving national holiday. The early December date is envisaged as an "antidote to consumerism" by CAF chief executive John Low. More than £5.9 million in online donations were made on the first Giving Tuesday in 2012. The initiative also runs in other countries, including Australia and Canada. A website will be set up later this year for organisations who want to be involved. <http://tinyurl.com/mn53ne8>

### **'50p for culture' campaign**

The National Campaign for the Arts (NCA) has launched a '50p for culture' campaign to encourage local councils to spend 50p per person per week on cultural activities. .... Find out the level of spend in your area and call for improvement by visiting [www.50pforculture.org](http://www.50pforculture.org)

### **Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme "not working"**

The Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) is not working with only a fraction of the expected amount being claimed, says David Ainsworth of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO). He believes the complicated rules about eligibility are putting off small charities and museums the scheme was meant to help. NCVO has called on the Government to reform the scheme immediately. <http://tinyurl.com/mtokhrn>

### **Boiler engineering training project**

The Boiler and Engineering Skills Training Trust (BESTT) has received a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £469,000 under its Skills for the Future programme towards its £600,000 project to train new boiler-smiths. BESTT sponsors are the Heritage Railways Association, Maritime Heritage Trust and the National Traction Engine Trust. This is the first national boiler-smith training programme for heritage boilers since the closure of steam facilities at the major railway and engineering works in the 1960s and will increase the number of skilled boiler-smiths available to heritage projects including railways, ships, traction engines and museum engines to help maintain their steam operations into the future. Over two years, 16 trainees will each undertake a 12 month-long paid placement, leading to a specialist qualification. They will be taught by experienced heritage boiler engineers at locations such as Llangollen Railway, the North York Moors Railway, the Severn Valley and Bluebell Railways or specialist boiler-smiths such as Hatch Steam Engineers, near Swindon, and Israel Newton & Sons Ltd at Cromford, Derbyshire. <http://www.bestt.org.uk/>

Museums running their own **cafés** should be aware of the new legal requirement for advice on allergens to be available to customers from December 2014. See catering company Turpin Smale's blog at <http://tinyurl.com/n85kcm8>, and for the full information, <http://tinyurl.com/mnpz6zz>. Chris Brown of Turpin Smale is the author of AIM's Success Guide, *Successful Museum Cafés*, which can be downloaded free at [http://www.aim-museums.co.uk/content/success\\_guides/](http://www.aim-museums.co.uk/content/success_guides/)

The **Charity Commission** has published revised public guidance on **conflicts of interest** for charity trustees. The guidance follows a public consultation and aims to be clearer about what is expected of trustees. <http://tinyurl.com/lmx3ft8>

**CultureDiary**, which is supported by Arts Council England (ACE), the Department for Culture Media & Sport (DCMS) and the British Council, has moved from being a London-focused online tool to being available globally. It will allow UK cultural organisations to find partners, discover what else is happening to avoid clashes, and publicise their own events. It will be promoted by GREAT partners across websites and social media channels. Organisations are invited to register to take part. <http://tinyurl.com/pt67q7u>

**Security and safety risk assessments** are being offered free of charge by Securitas Security Services for the arts and leisure sector. The security scans could be of use to museums looking to increase efficiency or reduce security costs. Advice on security awareness and small changes that can be made to protect collections, often at no charge, are also included. Securitas is working in partnership with Collections Trust. View their presentation at <http://www.collectionslink.org.uk/securitas-security-scan>

**London Transport Museum** is running two symposiums as part of the Year of the Bus 2014 and the museum's special exhibition *Goodbye Piccadilly – from Home Front to Western Front* which commemorates the start of the First World War. They are: *The social history and cultural significance of the London bus* on **18 October** and *1914-1918, From Home Front to Western Front* on **15 November**. For further information and tickets contact [siobhan.ion@ltmuseum.co.uk](mailto:siobhan.ion@ltmuseum.co.uk)

**Grant Schemes Closing Dates**

Sustainability Scheme – 1 June and 15 January

Conservation Scheme – 31 March and 30 September

Preventive Conservation Scheme – 31 March and 30 September

AIM Training Grants – for 2014 onwards, 10 March for courses between 1 April-30 June; 10 June for courses 1 July-30 September, 10 September for courses 1 October-31 December and 1 December for courses 1 January-31 March.

National Heritage Landmarks Partnership AIM/Biffa Award Scheme – 23 August

[www.aim-museums.co.uk](http://www.aim-museums.co.uk)