



Association of Independent Museums

The National Body Connecting, Supporting and Representing Independent Museums

Association of Independent Museums AIM E-News – July 2014 – Number 59 – **EXTRACTS**

Independent museums were robust, commercially astute and good at serving their communities, said **Sir Peter Bazalgette, chairman of Arts Council England (ACE)** in his first major speech about museums this year at the AIM 2014 National Conference at the Black Country Museum, Dudley. He also confirmed his view that smaller museums played a “vital” role in the sector, and highlighted the importance of Museum Development.

AIM Conference was launched by AIM chairman Matthew Tanner talking about ‘The entrepreneurial museum’ and revealing a new vision for AIM following its recent strategic review - Helping heritage organisations prosper is the new strapline. He was also able to announce that the association now has over 1,000 members. To go with the new keyword ‘prosper’ are four AIM goals –

- Supporting the development of an independent culture within organisations enabling them to prosper
- Providing useful, practical support and helping other organisations do this too
- Connecting, informing and inspiring
- Celebrating the culture of independence and independent governance.

Have you joined AIM Energy Action Group?

AIM members are showing lots of interest in the new AIM Energy Action Group, which enables you to get free, no obligation energy quotes, cutting energy costs and contributing to your sustainability. Working in partnership with DTA Wales and Touchstone Services, the Group will enable museums and heritage attractions of all sizes to review energy bills, work with an energy management company to gain competitive quotes and join a bulk energy-buying basket to reduce costs further. Latest AIM members to sign up to the group include: The Fry Art Gallery, Ragged School Museum, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, Combe Mill Society, Epworth Old Rectory, Carmarthenshire Heritage Regeneration Trust and Bentley Priory. To find out more, go to www.aimenergyactiongroup.co.uk. Meanwhile, Ken Shaw of DTA Wales tells us that the Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) has launched a new scheme called the Electricity Demand Reduction Pilot (EDR), in which organisations can bid to get paid for consuming less energy and being more energy-efficient. £20 million is on offer. Candidates need to prove how much they would be able to save (the minimum is 100kW per day). To register an interest, find out more or apply (until October this year) contact edr-project@decc.gsi.gov.uk

Working internationally in the regions – project launched

AIM is a partner in a new project which will help regional museums discover more about working internationally and increase their capacity to work in the field. Working Internationally Regional Project is funded by Arts Council England’s Renaissance Strategic Support Fund and is led by ICOM-UK with the National Museum Directors’ Council, AIM, the British Council and Heritage Without Borders. Workshops (from September to January 2015), a mentoring scheme and web-based resources will all be included. The project has now entered its research phase and is seeking examples of international work of all types and scales from the museum and heritage sector. If you are working internationally or would like to, contact Dana Andrew at dana@cuello-

andrew.co.uk. For details of workshops go to <http://uk.icom.museum/working-internationally-regional-project/>

Giving to Heritage workshops and telephone surgeries

The Heritage Lottery Fund-supported Giving to Heritage programme delivered by The Heritage Alliance has announced dates for four series of workshops and telephone surgeries during the autumn. The £500,000 scheme aims to empower heritage enthusiasts with the skills they need to **improve their fundraising capability and diversify their income through training sessions**. AIM is represented on the programme steering group and AIM executive director Tamalie Newbery attended the first session, capturing top tips from the day on Storify (<http://tinyurl.com/nez073p>), as well as blogging about it at <http://aimuseums.wordpress.com>. Workshop places cost just **£20**. The programme continues from September with workshops under the headings '**Developing a heritage fundraising plan**', '**Making a case for heritage fundraising**', '**Major donor fundraising**' and '**Community fundraising**'. Telephone surgeries will be held on dates from September-December as well, enabling direct conversations about fundraising plans with an expert. Book now to ensure your place via the new website - www.givingtoheritage.org.uk - and for further information about the programme contact mark.webb@theheritagealliance.org.uk (tel 020 7222 3982).

Grants for collections projects

The John Ellerman Foundation's Regional Museums and Galleries Fund has £380,000 to spend in 2014/15 to help museums with collections research and **display projects**. The Fund aims to help strengthen regional museums and galleries enhance and **sustain curatorial development to attract a broader public**. The money will be spread between four grants for up to three years on visual and decorative arts and **social** and natural history collections. <http://tinyurl.com/nquteox>

A framework for **succession planning** has been launched by CyMAL (Museums Archives & Libraries Wales) and aims consider the issues involved in ensuring continued leadership in light of the departure of senior management. Written by former AIM Council member Emma Chaplin, it provides templates for analysis and assessment of the current situation and an action plan template for future use. It can be downloaded at <http://tinyurl.com/paszwyw>

Museum Freecycle UK has been launched by SHARE Museums East as a new online network allowing museums to re-use and recycle temporary display materials and other museum-specific resources. This national version of the original SHARE marketplace function is also supported by Collections Trust. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/qyuzwy6>

The Collections Trust and Arts Council England (ACE) have launched a pilot collections **management traineeships programme** for staff or volunteers working in the museums and heritage sector. To see the criteria, watch a video and apply go to <http://www.collectionstrust.org.uk/traineeships>

The Museums Association (MA) is looking for case studies that demonstrate a wide range of types of social impact as part of its **Museums Change Lives** campaign. Museums are already changing lives, of course, and having an impact on communities and individuals. If you have examples to share contact AIM's executive director at tamalie@aim-museums.co.uk or Sharon Heal at the MA at sharon@museumsassociation.org.

AIM members are offered a discount of £5 per member for a seminar focusing on first-hand experience of effective collection management on **2 October** at Trinity Hall College Cambridge. ***Making the Most of Your Collection*** is sponsored by Castleacre Insurance, Bonhams and Ecclesiastical Insurance. Senior museum professionals will speak on **acquisitions, conservation, storage, loans, valuations, fundraising and PR**, and lunch and a guided tour of the college's world famous Elizabethan chained library are included. The cost is £30 but the discount will reduce this to £25. To book contact Chantal Haddon on 01787 211155, or email chantalhaddon@castleacreinsurance.com. More details are on the website, www.castleacreinsurance.com/insurance/museums-and-galleries