

Association of Independent Museums
AIM E-News 1 February 2019 - EXTRACTS

Booking Is Now Open For AIM National Conference 2019!

We are pleased to announce that booking for AIM National Conference which runs 20-22 June at The National Civil War Centre in Newark has just opened. The theme this year is 'How to be a great destination' and we have lined up inspiring speakers, new networking opportunities and some exciting social events.

Sponsored by [Artelia](#), AIM National Conference 2019 will offer delegates fresh ideas on developing a successful destination. It will look at creative place making, becoming a great destination for your community, understanding your audiences, tips for creating an excellent visitor experience and case studies on how to attract groups to your museum and making your shop or café into a desirable destination amongst many more.

Prices have been fixed so that they are the same as last year and our special early bird rates will run until 29 April. AIM members can also apply for an [AIM training grant](#) to help cover expenses. Booking can be made quickly and easily online using our [secure Eventbrite booking page](#).

We are very excited about conference this year and look forward to seeing you in beautiful Newark this summer! For all AIM National Conference information, along with details of hotels, travel and social events, please visit: [AIM National Conference 2019](#)

Wales Hallmarks Awards: New Small Grant Scheme Opens

Museums in Wales can now apply for small grants to boost their financial sustainability. The new opportunity is thanks to a programme supported by the Welsh government through the Museums, Archives and Libraries Division. We are offering grants of £3,000 – £6,000 to help museums become more financially sustainable. These are open to Accredited AIM member museums in Wales in AIM's small museum category (that is, museums with up to 20,000 visitors a year). We can support projects that either help museums reduce their costs or generate more income. We welcome a wide variety of proposals – including support for marketing or fundraising, improving a café or shop, trialling a new form of income generation, or saving costs through new equipment or training. Museums must be AIM members but can join at the point of application. The closing date for applications is 12th April 2019. For all information and Welsh and English guidance notes, please visit: [Hallmarks Awards, New Small Grant Scheme](#)

Museums in England And Wales: Apply Now For Prospering Boards

Museums in England - and now Wales - can apply to AIM Prospering Boards to help them strengthen their leadership, work more strategically or deal more effectively with emerging challenges.

Prospering Boards provides one-to-one consultancy support, tailored to the needs of individual boards of trustees. We can provide up to six days support from an expert consultant, which can be used for a range of different forms of support including: setting strategy and vision, developing new ways of working as a board, coaching for a new chair of trustees, helping plan a recruitment programme and induct new trustees.

In England, due to high levels of demand, we have set a deadline for applications to the current round of support of Friday 8th March 2019. Museums in Wales have until 31 March to apply. [For full information please visit: AIM Prospering Boards](#)

National Lottery Funder Commits To More Than £1bn For Heritage And Further Devolves Decision-Making Across The UK

A new-look National Lottery Heritage Fund has unveiled plans for the next five years. A major devolution of decision-making across the whole of the UK is at the heart of new plans to distribute more than £1bn of National Lottery money to the UK's heritage over the next five years. Also announced was a commitment to continue supporting large-scale, projects over £5m. [Please click here for the full press release from the Heritage Fund.](#)

Museum Shops - Bucking The High Street Slump?

[An interesting article by the BBC](#) has highlighted how museum shops are beating the downturn in retail and attracting shoppers looking for presents with a cultural touch, or something different to the wares of the High Street.

Free Online Evaluation Tool For Small Charities Launches

A free online evaluation tool specifically designed for small and medium sized charities has been launched. The Impactasaurus aims to help charities measure and report on their impact and has been released after two years of development and trials involving 100 charities. [More information at Charity Digital News.](#)

Webinar: Be Awesome On Instagram – Tips For Small And Medium Sized Charities

Is your museum using Instagram or thinking about joining the platform? [In a live 45 minute webinar, Charities Aid Foundation's](#) social media manager, Hannah Iqbal, will run through how charities can get the most out of Instagram. Runs 8 March.

New Fund In Scotland Supports Museums To Take Part In Local Festivals

Museums Galleries Scotland has started to receive applications to their Festivals Fund, a new fund that helps museums to develop local and regional relationships and increase their audience development potential. The fund supports museums with the costs of staging an event that is part of a wider local or regional event programme or festival. [The next closing date is 7 February.](#)

The National Manuscripts Conservation Trust

The National Manuscripts Conservation Trust offers grants for the conservation and preservation of manuscripts and archives. Since the NMCT was founded in 1990 it has awarded grants of over £3m, which have enabled the conservation of hundreds of musical, literary, architectural and other vital historical documents. The grants ensure that these important collections can once more be made accessible to the public and researchers. The next deadline for the submission of applications is 1st April 2019 and the results will be announced in early July. [Further information can be found on the AIM website.](#)