

AIM Heritage Trustee Newsletter April 2019 - **EXTRACTS**

Support for chairs of AIM member museums

England and Wales

We announced in our February newsletter that AIM has agreed to fund 30 free one-year memberships of the [Association of Chairs](#), to give museum chairs and vice-chairs the chance to benefit from the support available from the AoC. The memberships are open on a first-come, first-served basis to chairs of AIM member museums with an income of less than £5m a year. The offer is funded in England by AIM's ACE NPO funding, and in Wales by a new programme of support from the Welsh government.

Almost all the places have now been taken up, but we have a handful remaining. To apply, please contact Helen Farress at helenf@aim-museums.co.uk with a note confirming the name of your museum, your AIM membership number if known, and the annual income of the museum. We will accept applications for the remaining places on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note, applications must come from the Chair or Vice-Chair directly and are limited to one per museum.

Scotland

For members in Scotland, AIM will be supporting chairs of museums to attend events organised for chairs by [ACOSVO \(the Association of Chief Officers of Scottish Voluntary Organisations\)](#). ACOSVO has recently launched a chair's network to support chairs of voluntary sector organisations in Scotland and is planning a series of events for 2019 (link: <https://www.acosvo.org.uk/chairs-network-events>). Any chairs of AIM member museums in Scotland who wish to attend one of the events can apply for an AIM training grant for travel and the event fees.

To apply for support to attend an ACOSVO Chair's network event, please complete AIM's training grant application form [link]. <https://www.aim-museums.co.uk/for-aim-members/grants/aim-training-grants/>. Please state clearly that your application relates to this programme and show us how you think your attendance will benefit your museum.

Applications still open for Prospering Board support in Wales

We announced in February that museum boards in Wales are now eligible to apply for support through the Prospering Boards programme, thanks to new funding from the Welsh Government through the Museums, Archives and Libraries Division. Boards can apply for up to 6 days of expert, one-to-one support from one of our Prospering Boards consultants, to help them plan for new challenges or improve their ways of working. Anyone interested in applying for the programme should contact emma.chaplin@aim-museums.co.uk for an informal preliminary discussion. For full details of the scheme and how to apply, please see <https://www.aim-museums.co.uk/support-aim-museums-wales/>. We have extended the deadline for expressions of interest for the first round of the programme in Wales and they must now be received by 15 May 2019.

Staffing changes at AIM

Helen Wilkinson, who has led AIM's support for boards and trustees in recent years, left AIM at the end of March. AIM will be recruiting to two new senior positions shortly. In the meantime, for any queries about AIM's governance programmes, please contact Emma Chaplin in the first instance: emma.chaplin@aim-museums.co.uk.

Setting up a charity – new guidance

The Small Charities Coalition has launched new, easy-to-follow guidance on how to go about setting up a new charity. The guidance is exceptionally clear and accessible and takes potential trustees through the process step by step. Some elements will also be useful for trustees of existing charities who need help with issues like recruiting trustees.

<https://charitysetup.org.uk/>

For groups looking at establishing or taking over a museum, don't forget AIM's widely respected Success Guides:

<https://www.aim-museums.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/V-5-Successfully-Taking-Over-Your-Local-Museum-2018-6.pdf>

<https://www.aim-museums.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Successfully-Setting-up-a-New-Museum-2017.pdf>

New Charity Commission Strategy

The Charity Commission has set out key elements of a new strategy, to come into force this month. The new strategy will focus on holding charities to account, providing useful tools for charities and strengthening charity's relationships with the public, after recent fundraising and safeguarding scandals. The Commission has also announced that it is working on new guidance for charities on their relationships with non-charitable organisations. We will include links in a future newsletter, when it is available.

To read the full speech announcing the new strategy, see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/chairs-speech-to-the-charity-commission-annual-public-meeting>

Does your board need volunteer accountancy support?

The Chartered Institute of Accountants for England and Wales runs a volunteer scheme for charities. Charities can register to post advertisements for voluntary accountancy support: www.icaewvolunteers.com.

In Scotland, ICAS offers a similar service for charities to post volunteer roles:

<https://www.icas.com/professional-development/volunteering-opportunities-for-cas>

Are you thinking of changing your museum's purpose?

The AIM Hallmarks framework includes a clear purpose as one of the key characteristics of a thriving heritage organisation: a successful museum is one with a purpose which directly informs decision-making, is motivating for the people who work in the organisation and is relevant for the long term.

All museum leaders need to reflect from time to time on whether a museum's statement of purpose is up-to-date and properly reflects the museum's evolution. A review can be an opportunity to bring trustees, volunteers and staff together around a clarified vision. There are several case studies on the AIM website

which explore the benefits of reviewing and refreshing a stated purpose:

<https://www.aim-museums.co.uk/aim-hallmarks/purpose/>

Key points to note are:

*Museums that are charities may have to check proposed changes with the appropriate regulators. Even if changes are for clarity only, without a change of substance, it is still useful to check with regulators in advance.

*OSCR, the Scottish charity regulator, makes clear that it should be consulted on any mooted change of purpose but, generally, will only object if the purpose of the museum is no longer charitable in nature.

See www.oscr.org.uk/managing-a-charity/making-changes-and-reorganising/making-changes-to-your-charity/making-changes-to-your-charity

*The Charity Commission for England and Wales notes that charities have wide powers to amend their governing documents as the law stands. The regulations are different depending how your charity is constituted and how large its income is. For full details, see: www.gov.uk/government/publications/changing-your-charitys-governing-document-cc36

*There may also be tax implications (including for VAT) if the new purpose introduces a commercial element into your operation in addition to ones originally stipulated. The full report includes an example from the Scottish Maritime Museum.