

Association of Independent Museums (AIM) E-News – January 2012 – Number 29

Arts Council England (ACE) announces Renaissance Major Partner museums

Sixteen Major Partner museums will receive some £20 million a year in funding for the next three years. These represent a diverse range of museums across England, including local authority, university and independent museums. It is encouraging that two of these partnerships are industrial heritage sites, including one NARTM member.

It is also encouraging that another NARTM member has been awarded a **Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) /Wolfson Museum & Galleries Improvement Fund grant**, with several other grants going to transport and heritage museums.

Those members whose museums are registered charities should note the item below.

Charity Commission places greater responsibility on trustees

The Charity Commission has outlined its new approach to regulation, which will place greater emphasis on preventing problems rather than dealing with them after they occur. There is now a greater expectation that trustees will tackle risks “head-on”. **Guidance is obtainable on http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/bulletin/third_sector_governance_bulletin/article/1112195/charity-commissions-new-regulatory-framework-places-greater-responsibility-trustees/?DCMP=EMC-CONThirdSectorGovernance**

Record numbers engaging with heritage

A DCMS survey reveals that 72% of adults visited a heritage site in 2010-2011, an ongoing upward trend since 2005/6. Visitors to museums and galleries have increased from 42% to 47% between 2005 and 2011. **See <http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/8734.aspx>**

New Collaborative Storage Initiative

The National Conservation Service is leading a project to develop a national collaborative storage service or centre to enable institutions with insufficient storage space, or who wish to reduce the costs of existing remote storage, to have access to quality storage at a reasonable price. To date 45 archive and museum institutions across the UK have expressed an interest. **Contact is Chris Woods at enquiries@ncs.org.uk**

A study into the social, cultural and economic value of the historic vehicle movement by the **Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs** estimates its worth as at least £4.3 billion annually to the UK economy. The movement supports employment for 28,000 people. **<http://fbhvc.co.uk/survey-2011/>**

A new **Gift Aid resources website** has been launched by the Chartered Institute of Taxation, summarising Gift Aid and related issues for use by charities, tax advisors and philanthropists. **See <http://www.tax.org.uk/gift-aid>**