



Association of Independent Museums

The National Body Connecting, Supporting and Representing Independent Museums

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Gift Aid online – guidance published

HMRC has published guidance on the new system for making Gift Aid repayment claims electronically. Charities Online, to be introduced on 22 April, will enable organisations to file their Gift Aid information online. There are some changes - charities must provide each donor's address in addition to their name, date of donation and the amount given. The guidance includes details of the transitional arrangements, with HMRC continuing to accept the current paper forms until 30 September. <http://tinyurl.com/ccpk8d3>. Meanwhile more than 100,000 charities will soon receive a letter setting out details of the new Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme.

Facebook users' donations through JustGiving increase

Money given by Facebook users through the online donation website JustGiving increased by more than 40% in 2012, according to new figures. Data from JustGiving shows that 1.8 million UK donors made charitable donations totalling £34 million last year when arriving through Facebook, a rise of 44% on 2011. Donors using Facebook on their mobiles gave £5.3 million through JustGiving in 2012, five times as much as in 2011. An app, launched to allow supporters to share their charitable giving with friends on the social network generated £680,000 in donations in 2012. <http://tinyurl.com/a329szl>

Participate in VisitEngland's visitor attraction census

VisitEngland is keen to encourage independent museums' participation in its annual census of visitor attractions. The survey captures information about visitor numbers and trends making the results available as a useful tool for business planning. Institutions can benchmark their own operation within their category, region and across the sector as a whole. The results are freely available on VisitEngland's website. The survey can be completed online or by post. To participate contact Katie.Vosper@bdrc-continental.com and to see the data go to <http://tinyurl.com/6lxajzy>

Fee for Accreditation will hit some Scottish museums

Scottish museums will have pay to become Accredited if they do not subscribe to Museums Galleries Scotland (MGS), the newly-formed national development body for Scotland supported by the Scottish government, it has emerged. It will in future deliver programmes like Accreditation and the new national strategy on a subscription basis and those museums who decide not to belong will have to pay a fee, to cover the costs of the work involved in processing Accreditation applications. Concerns have been voiced that standards could slip in Scottish museums if payment is required. The amount of the fee is currently being finalised. **Think about £2,000 is the figure being bandied around.**

Charity Commission reminded of core responsibility

The Government expects the Charity Commission to "hunker down on its core responsibility of regulating the sector", Nick Hurd, Minister for Civil Society, has told MPs. The move comes after the commission's capacity to regulate was queried after it emerged that the Cup Trust had been

used for tax avoidance. <http://tinyurl.com/bb3kkfb>. Meanwhile, the commission has published draft guidance aimed at supporting trustees in their decision-making. Views from trustees are sought by 30 March on the document It's Your Decision – guidance on decision-making for charity trustees. Contact policydgr@charitycommission.gsi.gov.uk

Following the announcement that **Arts Council England (ACE)** has chosen its new area directors, it wishes to make clear that there will be a director with responsibility for museums in its new structure. The directors will be based in ACE offices around the country, leading on national specialisms as well as having local area responsibilities.

The latest **Government Red Tape Challenge** is aimed at planning regulations. The public and organisations are urged to comment over the next five weeks at <http://tinyurl.com/ba6moyy>

Arts Council England (ACE) has confirmed that **Renaissance funding** to major partner museums will be cut by 1% in 2013/14 and 2% in 2014/15. The cuts are a result of ACE's budget reduction from the Department for Culture, Media & Sport.

The Collections Trust has launched a major new source of information and advice about security issues as part of the **Building Capacity for Museum Security** project it is running for Arts Council England. It is now online at www.collectionslink.org.uk/security

Licensing restrictions on community venues, including heritage sites, have been relaxed as the Government approves measures to make running community events easier. From April local cultural businesses will be able to benefit from the changes, avoiding fees and endless paperwork. http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/news_stories/9651.aspx

The **ABTEM (Association of British Transport & Engineering Museums) Spring Seminar**, Digital Futures for Transport & Industrial Collections, will be held at Coventry Transport Museum on **14 March**. Focusing on future uses of digital technology in museums, speakers from Arts Council England and the Heritage Lottery Fund will outline new funding streams and future areas of interest. The event is free – book at <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/event/5437230904>. Limited travel bursaries are available through ACE Special Subject Network funding.

Advice and good practice from AIM

AIM's research study Examples of Successful Practice is now available on AIM's website at <http://tinyurl.com/bboqav2>, and there is a list of advice sources at <http://tinyurl.com/b6248nt>. The study summarises and reviews successful business ideas and strategies as exemplars for museums and galleries striving for organisational resilience. Compiled by Jon Finch of Black Radley Culture Ltd and supported by the ACE (Arts Council England) Renaissance Strategic Support Fund, the research highlights 13 case studies from the museum, heritage and voluntary sectors, covering a range of subjects.