



Association of Independent Museums

The National Body Connecting, Supporting and Representing Independent Museums

Association of Independent Museums AIM E-News – April 2014 – Number 56 – **EXTRACTS**

AIM Success Guide of the month – *Successfully Working Internationally*

Successfully Working Internationally is written by Jane Weeks, Museums & Heritage Advisor at the British Council. For many museums across the world, working internationally is not a new phenomenon but, as a dimension of British museums, it has grown exponentially over the last decade. An increasing number of non-national museums in the UK are working internationally: most countries have small and medium-sized museums looking to make links with similar sized museums in the UK, or those with specialised collections. The guide covers the benefits of working internationally and focuses on why, where and how to do it, before taking readers through first steps, building partnerships, how to fund it, and where to go for advice. Case studies and a large further support section complete the guide. AIM's new Success Guides replace the Focus Papers, they are free and you can download them as pdfs from AIM's website at http://www.aim-museums.co.uk/content/success_guides/. All freshly written or updated, most have been funded by ACE (Arts Council England) through AIM's Resilience programme.

The new SORP

The Charity Commission has announced what's to be expected in the new SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice) in charity accounts. A new SORP has been written following consultation to accommodate the new Financial Reporting Standard (FRS102) and support charities that choose to continue reporting under the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (FRSSE). The analysis can be viewed at <http://www.charitycorp.org/the-consultation-process/>. For Scottish changes go to <http://www.oscr.org.uk/>

Selfies could help simplify Gift Aid

The Government is planning to introduce facial-recognition software to the Gift Aid system to allow donors to upload selfies with their donations instead of completing paper forms. The aim is to simplify Gift Aid to increase take-up and the Treasury now believes facial-recognition software has become advanced enough to provide a secure alternative to the current cumbersome paper forms. <http://tinyurl.com/owj9yjk>. Meanwhile, it is important to ensure you operating your Gift Aid admissions in accordance with HMRC's requirements, as one of AIM's members recently discovered. The requirements are clearly explained, with examples, on its website and it is best to use this as your primary source of information. <http://tinyurl.com/93gqqt8>

Updated Disposal Toolkit available

Updated guidance on collections disposal and a refreshed Disposal Toolkit is now available. The product has been designed by Arts Council England (ACE), the Museums Association, CyMAL, Museums Galleries Scotland and Northern Ireland Museums Council and is available at <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/what-we-do/supporting-museums/accreditation-scheme/disposal-museum-collections-guidance/>. Most disposal activity is undertaken responsibly, but the toolkit provides support and guidance to continue this work. The new appendix on financially motivated disposal aims to help museums understand the exceptional circumstances when it is regarded as acceptable to sell items from collections, says ACE.

Webinars provide free online training

Audio recordings of four webinars developed by Collections Trust, with funding and support from Arts Council England, are now available as a new online training resource on Collections Link. The one-hour webinars cover licensing digital content to create revenue, strategic collections management, managing archives in museums and buying collections management software. <http://tinyurl.com/nkk94t3>

Sajid Javid, formerly financial secretary to the treasury, has taken over as **culture secretary** after Maria Miller resigned following the row over her expenses. The son of a Muslim immigrant bus driver, he is a former investment banker who took a huge pay cut to embark on his parliamentary career. A passionate advocate of multicultural Britain, he is considered to have a strong work ethic, and to have an admiration for the amount of private money given to cultural causes in America.

The **Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs** has published the draft framework of its proposed new apprenticeship in historic vehicle restoration. Compiled in conjunction with the Institute of the Motor Industry, the initiative is in response to the ageing workforce within the growing industry in vehicle restoration. <http://tinyurl.com/o4tzjo6>

Volunteers' Week is on **1-7 June**, a great opportunity to highlight the vital role of volunteers in your museums and say a huge thank you – a third of AIM members are entirely run by volunteers. Now in its 30th year, the week is backed up by a range of resources to help you celebrate. <http://volunteersweek.org/>