

Association of Independent Museums

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Grants for conservation of manuscripts – deadline 1st October 2015

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of nearly £2.5m, which have enabled the conservation of hundreds of musical, literary, architectural and other vital historical documents that would otherwise have been lost or faced an uncertain future.

The next deadline for the submission of applications is 1st October 2015 and the results will be announced in mid-June. Applications must be submitted on an application form, which you can download here: [Grants for conservation of manuscripts](#).

Auto-enrolment for small charities - what you need to know

Charity Finance Group has released step-by-step guidance to help small charities to plan and budget for additional costs created by auto-enrolment. Further information and a downloadable version of the guide can be found on the Civil Society website: [CFG releases free guidance](#). The Pensions Regulator also has a step by step guide to help you understand the pension changes: [Your step-by-step guide to automatic enrolment](#)

Gift Aid - Publication of a call for evidence

A call for evidence on how the existing Gift Aid Donor Benefit rules might be improved has been issued from HM Treasury and will give charities the opportunity to contribute to the government's review and simplification of the Gift Aid donor benefit rules. The call for evidence closes on 9 October and details can be found here: [Call for evidence: simplifying the Gift Aid Donor Benefit Rules](#)

AIM is coordinating a joint response on behalf of the sector and our members and we would welcome your thoughts on Gift Aid and how it might be improved. Please send your thoughts in email to: sassy@aim-museums.co.uk

Museum Freecycle – Connecting museums through recycling

Created in June 2014, the Museum Freecycle project has gone from strength to strength in its first year, with 400 museums from across the UK now taking part in the scheme. Designed to help museums exchange unwanted items such as display cases, exhibition furniture and office equipment, Museum Freecycle has prevented good quality, reusable museum items from reaching landfill and forged mutually beneficial relationships across the whole museum sector.

Museum Freecycle Founder, Caroline Keppel-Palmer, told AIM: "Museum Freecycle provides an interesting model for the museum sector linking museums and enabling swaps, gifting and sharing between those museums through a website." To sign up for Museum Freecycle, please visit the website: <https://groups.freecycle.org/group/MuseumFreecycleUK/posts/all>

