

Association of Independent Museums

AIM E-News – Late March Edition – Number 81 – **EXTRACTS**

Please Complete And Share: The Impact Of Charging Museum Admission: New AIM Research Survey

AIM has just launched a sector wide survey which is the first part of vital research into the impact of charging for admissions on museums and heritage sites. Organisations across the UK are invited to take part now, to ensure that this ground-breaking research reflects the whole sector. The findings, case studies and resulting guidance will be announced at AIM's national conference in June and published in the summer.

The research programme, led by DC Research and commissioned in partnership with Arts Council England (ACE) and the Museums Archives and Libraries Division (MALD) of the Welsh Government, involves assessing the impact of charging – or not charging – for museums, and comes at an extremely opportune time for many museums that are currently considering their future charging policy in light of reductions in other forms of funding.

All UK museums, heritage sites and galleries, whether local authority, university, independent or of other types and whether they charge – or don't charge – admissions, are encouraged to complete the survey which closes on 11 April 2016. The survey is available in [English](#) and [Welsh](#). Please contribute to this survey and also consider sharing this information with other organisations, as the results will help to generate responses from across the whole heritage sector. More information: [The Impact of Charging Museum Admission](#)

AIM Roundup Of The 2016 Budget

There were two announcements specifically for museums in the Chancellor's Budget on Wednesday 16 March. There will be consultations on both in the summer and AIM will ensure the concerns of all independent museums are represented. Following an early announcement in the Autumn Statement, confirmation that a museum exhibition tax credit, similar to the existing theatre tax credit, will be introduced from April 2017.

AIM has called for this to be applicable to all types of exhibition in order for it to be relevant to as many museums as possible; in particular trying to make it apply to so-called 'temporary' and touring exhibitions only is not likely to work effectively for the majority of independents which naturally develop exhibitions with greatly varying life expectancies.

An extension to the VAT exemption scheme which currently enables free-entry national and university museums to recover their VAT. Whilst this permits free-entry independent museums to apply for similar exemption and VAT recovery, AIM believes it should also cover culturally exempt museums to be of genuinely wide benefit to the sector.

Several museums and heritage sites were awarded funds including AIM members ss Great Britain Trust, Bletchley Park and Brooklands Museum. Importantly, it was confirmed that there will be no change to the 80% mandatory business rates relief for charities, despite fears in the charity sector that this was under threat, an area AIM has been actively involved in campaigning about.

Have Your Say: ACE Museum Workforce Survey

Arts Council England, together with Museums Galleries Scotland, the Museums Association and the Association of Independent Museums have commissioned a major study that takes a forward look at the skills and attributes needed by the museum workforce. At the heart of the research project is [a survey of the museum workforce in the UK](#) which closes on **31 March**.

Arts Fundraising & Philanthropy April-July 2016

The new Arts Fundraising & Philanthropy [brochure for April-July 2016](#) has been published. There are seven one-day training courses, each running twice, and again there are discounts available to AIM members. These courses are suitable for anyone involved in fundraising or wanting to develop fundraising skills in the arts/cultural sector with courses taking place at venues across England.

The Association of Industrial Archaeology

The AIA can make available Restoration Grants of up to £20,000 for a range of historic and industrial archaeology purposes. Grants are for the restoration of historically, technically, architecturally, and/or archaeologically important industrial buildings, structures, machinery, vehicles and vessels within the UK. Applications close **31 March** [AIA Grants](#)