

Museum and Art Gallery Month 'Travel and the Art of Travel' May 2004



Top left, middle, and right: Sandwell Classic Car show. Bottom left: Barrow Hill Railway, Chesterfield.
Bottom right: Coventry Transport Museum.

1500 museums and galleries around the UK celebrated 'Travel and the Art of Travel' during the Museum and Gallery Month in May 2004. Arts Minister, Estelle Morris launched the month at the Hayward Gallery in London and used the opportunity to explain what a museum means to its community.

Organised by the Campaign for Museums and Engage, the event offers the UK's museums and galleries a chance to bring their treasured collections to a wider audience. Speaking at the Hayward, Estelle Morris used her experience of a visit to an exhibition launch in Sunderland to explain the role a museum plays in the life of a community, **"It was their gallery and their museum, showing things that were about their history - and they were proud."**

A special promotion funded by DfES rose awareness of museums and galleries among teachers and schools. Some 30,000 schools in England received posters, information sheets and a letter from Lloyd Grossman, Chairman of the Campaign for museums. These packs encouraged them to make the most of the great resources that museum and galleries can offer, and to enjoy the enriching and inspirational learning experiences gained through such visits.

For information about exhibitions and events in museums and galleries please visit: www.show.me.uk

Theme for next year: Objects of Desire

This is an opportunity for focusing on a part of your collection, or on collecting, or on creating new art. Would this theme work do you think?

Let them know by emailing a short sentence or just a simple yes or no at:
info@campaignformuseums.org.uk

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Please note: You can find the full meanings of all acronyms used within this newsletter in the 'Glossary of Acronyms' box on the back page.

ICT Issues & E Society

Education Image Gallery

"A picture is worth a thousand words." The value of images as an educational resource has not been lost on the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC), and the Hutton Getty image gallery.

They have recently launched the Education Image Gallery, a subscription-based picture library. It gives further and higher education establishments access to the same high quality pictures as the media and marketing businesses.

A collection of 50,000 images will be available. 40,000 have been uploaded and a further 10,000 will be selected based on user demands. Images cover key events and subject areas. Students can search for and download generic images from a vast array of historical events to more recent events.

For more information visit: <http://edina.ac.uk/eig>

Award Winning Website from the National Archives

The release of a new training manual, Moving Here, enables learners of all ages to become confident IT users. It helps trainers run workshops, as well as being an easy-to-use self-help tool to take new IT learners through basic skills required to get the most out of the internet.

Moving Here is an imaginative learning tool, full of fascinating images, stories, facts and opportunities to get involved with. The website focuses on the histories and experiences of Caribbean, Irish, Jewish and South Asian immigrants to England over the past 200 years. In using Moving Here as a means to teach IT skills, the manual makes learning sessions of particular relevance to communities who feature on the site.

The training manual is downloadable from the Moving Here homepage at: www.movinghere.org.uk/
Also through a link from the People's Network website:
www.peoplesnetwork.gov.uk

The Real Histories Directory

The Runnymede Trust recently initiated a project to create the Real Histories Directory. It is an online resource tool intended for teachers, parents, pupils and the wider community to encourage teaching and learning about cultural diversity across the UK. The Directory facilitates

access to and use of culturally diverse resources throughout the entire year and highlights the many contributions that minority ethnic communities have made to British society.

It contains information on resources such as culturally diverse toys and games, bookshops, museums, archives, individual performance artists, and organisations that provide useful resources. Users are also encouraged to submit information on any useful resources that they are aware of, free of charge, to the site.

For more information visit: www.realhistories.org.uk

24 Hour Museum Commended at Museum Awards

The 24 Hour Museum won a Highly Commended award in the Best Educational Initiative category for its kids' site at this year's Museum and Heritage Awards for Excellence.

"Show Me is an exciting project in its infancy," said Anra Kennedy Education Officer and Show Me Section Editor. "There's so much potential for innovative and inspiring content and it's wonderful to have this recognised at such an early stage of the site's development."

Launched in November 2003, www.show.me.uk is a kids' version of the 24 Hour Museum. It encourages children aged 4 to 11 to enjoy, explore and engage with museum and gallery collections, both online and in the real world as well as showcasing all of the great content being created by the museum sector. There are online games, interactive activities, stories, exhibitions, and ideas for things to do offline. Designed by Get Frank, Show Me was nominated in the category for Best New Product or Service.

New Gateway to connect West Midlands' Regeneration Community

A virtual gateway into the world of regeneration opportunities was launched in April 2004 in a bid to create a best practice approach for the West Midlands.

Operated by RegenWM, the Regeneration Centre of Excellence for the West Midlands, the two databases will provide the most comprehensive list of training courses and organisational information yet produced for the region. It will undoubtedly help to bridge the skills gap and attract new professionals to the sector. The website is easily accessible and simple to use. It is able to identify appropriate training courses from the 300 carefully researched entries. Funded by Advantage West Midlands, the Government Officer and ERDF, RegenWM is the first of nine RCEs to be launched in the UK.

Please visit: www.regenwm.org

Elgar Birthplace Museum brings England's best loved composer to Life

The new Touchscreen Elgar Display (TED) will present the life and times of Edward Elgar in a way never before possible. It will tell the story of a fascinating character that lived a remarkable life. Visitors will be encountering his story in the place where he was born, a place that was a source of inspiration throughout his life.

Using video, audio, text, and animation, TED will eventually encompass the entire life of Edward Elgar in a series of interactive kiosks housed at his place of birth. TED will be installed in early 2005, with further development planned for the next three years.

The Elgar Birthplace Museum in Worcestershire is in partnership with London based e-learning specialist, Replay, to embark on this long-term new-media project.

For more information visit: www.elgarmuseum.org



Access & Learning

The CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medal Shortlist

“There are good books which are only for adults...but there are no good books only for children” – WH Auden.

Chair of the Judge, Colin Brabazon says: “This year’s shortlist showcases writing that is as enjoyable for adults as it is for children and young people...The recent surge in ‘cross-over publishing’ has alerted adult readers to the sophistication of books for children and young people.”

The CILIP Carnegie Medal has been in existence for almost 70 years and is Britain’s oldest and most prestigious children’s book award.

The CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal shortlist highlights the incredible variety of style and content found in picture books today, for children of all ages. It was established in 1956, awards outstanding illustrations in children’s books. The winner receives a cheque for £5,000 in addition to the coveted medal.

Both of these CILIP annual sister awards will be announced at a celebrity led ceremony at the British Library on Friday 9th July 2004.

For more information visit: www.ckg.org.uk

Freedom of Information for Librarians

Industry experts have renewed their warning that the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, which comes into force next January (2005), will place major new pressures on information professionals.

“The issues are as much cultural as technical or legal,” said Guy Daines, Principal Officer at CILIP. Experts agree that librarians need to reassess their view on the information they hold. “The library stock is information,” said Martin Hughes, an FOI Officer, and so users would have rights of access to that data. Academic librarians are a particular target, “Universities are public bodies and will have to comply” said Sarah Walton, Marketing Manager at Fretwell Downing Informatics.

CILIP and ASLIB are also warning private sector information professionals to be aware of the relationship their organisations have with the public sector through PFI’s. Corporations who are in receipt of public money will be covered by the Act.

What is Freedom of Information?

The Freedom of Information Act, passed on 30 November 2000, gives a general right of access to all types of recorded information held by public authorities. It sets out exemptions from that right and places a number of obligations on public authorities. Subject to the exemptions, any person who makes a request to a public authority for information must be informed whether the public authority holds that information. If so, the information must be supplied, subject to certain conditions.

Two codes of practice issued under the Act will provide guidance to public authorities about responding to requests for information, and records management. The Data Protection Act 1998 and the Public Records Act 1958 will be amended. It will be brought into force in two parts, with full implementation by January 2005.

Public sector organisations (“public authorities”) are following programmes of one kind or another to lead them to full compliance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act. Public Partners have produced an Organisational Check List for Openness (OCLO) to help you and your organisations to assess the readiness for individual rights of access. It is a useful tool to help you judge how far along the road to implementation you have travelled so far, and where you need to focus your attention.

Please visit: <http://www.foi-uk.org/downloads/TrainingProspectus.pdf>

Birmingham is 'Best in Staff Innovation'

Birmingham Libraries have won a 'Be Innovative' Award for the 'Most Innovative Staff Module'. The systems supplier gives the annual awards. They honour best practice by libraries in four categories: Digital Collections, Staff Module, Web Opac, and Staff Instruction. **Birmingham won the award for developing an 'innovative approach to promoting and delivering bestsellers to a hungry public'.**

First of its kind: A Mobile Library Project for Travellers and their Families – An Award Winner.

In our previous issue of Insight we announced the three short listed projects nominated for the coveted CILIP/LIS Libraries Change Lives Award. We are now pleased to announce that the winner is 'The Mobile Library Travellers Project'. It received £4,000 prize money on 21 April 2004. The project was set up to find ways of providing better access to books for children on Traveller sites in Essex. The library works on five travellers' sites and with eight primary schools in the Essex region that have a high percentage of traveller children on their roll. The project is primarily a partnership between Essex County Council and Essex Travellers Education Service. The CILIP/LIS Libraries Change Lives Award recognises innovative and exciting work in the fields of social inclusion, education and life-long learning in libraries and their communities.

Workforce Development

MLA West Midlands has decided to run the Training Bursary scheme for the second year running as a pilot scheme. A recent survey to gauge your opinion of its usefulness provided too few replies to be conclusive; however one thing this lack of feedback suggests is we need to do some work on marketing the bursaries.

Please find enclosed with this newsletter a copy of the necessary forms to apply for a bursary and feel free to distribute copies of these to your colleagues. Should you require further information regarding the training bursaries contact:

Mark Hinsley, Workforce Development Officer
Tel: 0121 631 5819.

mark.hinsley@mlawestmidlands.org.uk

MLA West Midlands

MLA West Midlands wish to thank Graham Allen and Jerry Murland for their services as Board Members.

They have both recently resigned. We welcome aboard Cllr Thomas Roger Wright.

A Tribute to Simon Penn Director, Avoncroft Museum

*By Jeff Carpenter,
Former Chairman of West Midlands Heritage Lottery*

How we shall miss that wonderful cracked voice and infectious smile. I got to know Simon by sitting on sundry committees and it did not take long to recognise the quality of a very special human being. What was it about him? As a 'professionals professional', Simon was to become a leading light on the West Midlands Regional Museums Council. In its time it was a key body which really got things done and Simon was at the heart of the action. It was always obvious he knew his stuff and would only settle for quality solutions. He could master the detailed brief and muster the facts with the best of them. Above all, he understood the intricate chemistry of human relationships – the factor that really makes things work when the really difficult decisions have to be made. Three years ago Simon joined the West Midlands Regional Committee of Heritage Lottery. He was just the man to have on board. Here was a truly significant funding organisation for cultural heritage which had to prove itself in the region. Simon's expertise was invaluable- in vernacular architecture and more widely in the inestimable value of the West Midlands cultural resource. He also seemed to know almost everyone worth knowing and he became instantly popular with the young, and the committed staff at the Heritage Lottery Regional Office.

When Simon became ill, we decided it was imperative to hold a major HLF decision meeting on his home patch at Avoncroft. The discussion was spot on and all the right decisions were made. We have many jokes to remember, and many allusions to the fortunes of West Bromwich Albion. An organisation like the Regional Heritage Lottery will miss Simon Penn enormously in their crucial work ahead, but should remember what he stood for. The West Midlands historic fabric was never in greater need of friends and strong champions.

MLA West Midlands wish to express their heartfelt condolences to Simon's family and convey the sense of loss that so many people are feeling. All our thoughts are with the family at this difficult time.

Curriculum Online

Curriculum Online is part of a drive to transform teaching and learning in schools by improving access to ICT and truly stimulating multimedia learning resources for all pupils. Channelled straight to schools are substantial funds to spend on multimedia resources.

In April 2004, MLA West Midlands hosted an event to illustrate the benefits of Curriculum Online to the cultural sector. Also to highlight the new 'Best Practice Guidelines' which were developed to help cultural sector organisations to register their curriculum related resources on the Curriculum Online website. There is still a need for more people/organisations to sign up for this to offer their resources. Please visit the Curriculum Online website to register. If you would like to pursue any projects around this, please contact MLA West Midlands:

Simon Bennett, Knowledge Development Manager.
Tel: 0121 631 5821

simon.bennett@mlawestmidlands.org.uk

The website exists to bring teaching professionals and multimedia resources together.

www.curriculumonline.gov.uk

INSPIRE

With the intention of ultimately linking 875 higher educations, 4620 public and 3 national libraries, the 'INSPIRE' initiative aims to interweave the current network of access partnerships in the regions and home nations of the UK into a single pathway, irrespective of geography and sector.

Two years ago the British Library, the SCL and SCOUNL, signed an accord committing national, public and academic libraries in the UK to work together to develop a cross-sectoral access pathway to information and knowledge for learners.

A project website for INSPIRE has been launched. INSPIRE aims to provide a seamless cross-sectoral pathway for learning by adults across public, academic, and national libraries. At this stage, the site is intended as a tool for dissemination of the work of the three demonstration projects: England, North West, and West Midlands. The development of a service website is part of the next phase of the project.

Please visit: www.inspire.gov.uk/home.htm

MLA West Midlands hosted the INSPIRE Conference in Birmingham in April 2004. It provided delegates with the opportunity to assess progress on the commitment made by the founding partners of INSPIRE, through the perspective of a number of 'Empowering the Learning Community' demonstrator

projects funded by the DfES, and speakers from the LSC, LLDA and SCURL.

Archives Awareness Month



'Routes to Roots' Archives Awareness Campaign (AAC)

2004 Following the success of last years Archive Awareness Month the Archive Awareness Campaign is now an ongoing

campaign, supported by The National Council on Archives, The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), The National Archives and MLA West Midlands. Through a series of events throughout the year, it aims to celebrate and uncover the amazing wealth of material contained within archives, whether held in archives, libraries, or museums, to a wider audience. The main focus of this year's campaign will be from October until December.

The national theme for Archive Awareness Campaign 2004 is 'Routes to Roots' - a strong theme that will hopefully capture the imagination of the public. It can be used to explain material on family history, gardening and botany, travel, transport and expeditions and much more.

For further information see:

<http://www.aamsept2003.com/>

or contact Philip Kiberd, Content Co-ordination Officer, MLA West Midlands Tel – 0121 631 5822
philip.kiberd@mlawestmidlands.org.uk

Disability Database Launch

The Disability Database represents a wealth of skills and experience. It makes it significantly easier for museums, libraries, and archives to contact disability trainers, auditors, and consultants to support them on access initiatives.

MLA West Midlands invited ones from across the region to enter onto this national on line database, hosted by MLA Council. Search the database by region or alphabetically. It gives details of whether they can work with museums, libraries, and/or archives; a personalised statement of their objectives; the scope of services provided; their experience/knowledge about different types of impairments/disabilities, and details of previous projects.

MLA West Midlands hosted a successful launch of the database on 6 April. Over 90 delegates attended the launch, which was a programme of speakers, networking and training sessions. The training sessions focused on accessible ICT, developing partnerships with disabled people, the duties of the

DDA from 1 October, and of case studies of access projects from historic buildings, museums and libraries. Feedback from the day indicated that staff across the domains would like a regular opportunity to share skills and get involved in training.

Disability Access Network – a steering group of 15 staff from disabilities organisations, museum, library and archives is currently looking at the recommendations from the networking session at the launch. It posed the question around how MLA West Midlands could support disability access initiatives. The group will be looking how to develop a sustainable Disability Access Network along with issues around training needs, awareness-raising, advocacy and funding.

New Audiences Access Network (NAAN)

MLA West Midlands has been working with English Heritage and the LGA to widen the remit of this region's Cultural Diversity Network and to invite new partners who are also working on developing cultural diversity issues. The network aims to build on the work of the Cultural Diversity Network, and issues around developing new audiences and partners.

NAAN held its first successful meeting on 29 April with over 60 delegates present from museum, library, heritage, and cultural sectors. The event focused on the following issues: Achieving meaningful recognition of, and respect for, Cultural Diversity within audience development; The origins of the NAAN network, its purposes and partnerships; the 'Memory Block' project that explored community identities through art was looked at as a case study; How the network might communicate through a regular on line newsletter and the idea of SpeedNet, a networking session. Case studies involving Black, Multicultural and Ethnic communities and working with excluded groups were explored.

Plans for the next NAAN event are underway for Wednesday 6 October. Details will follow on the event's content and focus.

WW2 People's War Project

The BBC has now been commissioned by Culture Online (a dept of the DCMS) to increase access to digital technology amongst elderly people and to help them record their memories of the Second World War as part of the WW2 People's War online archive.

The first BBC People's War Road show was launched at the RAF Museum, Cosford, in time for the annual Air Show



on 13 June. (as seen in photograph.) Over the course of a month, over 54,000 museum visitors have seen the exhibition and many have contributed stories of their own wartime experiences to the website. Volunteers from the RAF Museum, some war veterans themselves, have been trained to assist visitors in browsing the site and story writing. (see photograph for example.)



Jenni Waugh is the newly appointed BBC Outreach Officer for the project, and is keen to hear from any institutions in the West Midlands region who would like to get involved with the People's War. She can be reached on 0121 631 5813 or email: jenni.waugh@mlawestmidlands.org.uk

MLA West Midlands will be announcing shortly the launch of our new website. In the meantime, please visit our interim site at www.mlawestmidlands.org.uk

Collections and Stewardship

The following museums have been awarded Full Registration in the Museums Registration Scheme:

George Eliot Hospital NHS Museum

Originally set up 25 years ago as a teaching aid, the George Eliot has evolved into one of the very few NHS owned museums in the country. The museum aims to: develop, preserve and display a collection of artefacts and archives that relate to the development of healthcare. To inform healthcare staff of the importance of their medical heritage. To encourage greater public awareness of medical history in order to enable individuals to understand and take control of their own health and to ensure that the collection is used both in formal education and as a resource for lifelong learning.

Included in the collection is an exercise bike from the 1940s, a 19th century medicine chest with a set of spoons and measures, a spinal carriage from the 1920s-40s, and various apparatus including a tonsil guillotine!

The museum is open 11am - 3pm every Monday except Bank Holidays.

Visits by school groups are welcomed and workshops relating to the National Curriculum can be arranged with teachers. Guided Tours are available for pre-booked groups.

Ironbridge Open Air Museum of Steel Sculpture

This site consists of many sculptures displayed through 10 acres of superbly diverse landscape;

some almost hidden amongst broadleaf woodland, others sit out upon open rolling grassland or in intimate enclosures

The Museum Trust's objective is to "advance the education of the public by the creation and maintenance of an open air museum situated near Ironbridge, Shropshire, for the purpose of exhibiting sculpture created by Roy Kitchin, together with Iron and Steel sculpture created by other artists whose work reflects the industrial heritage associated with Ironbridge and the establishment and maintenance of a centre for the study and creation of iron and steel sculpture"

The museum is open March to November, Tuesday to Sunday 10.00 am to 5.00 pm and summer evenings by advance booking. The Museum also hosts Cast Iron Sculpture Workshops in the open air during the summer.

Sea Britain 2005

Sea Britain 2005 is a yearlong festival celebrating Britain's relationship with the sea, our coastline, and our estuaries. Its origin is the bicentenary in 2005 of the Battle of Trafalgar and the death of Admiral Lord Nelson. It is a major initiative led by the National Maritime Museum in partnership with a number of key stakeholders.

The campaign presents unique opportunities for tourist boards and museums to join in with events and activities to raise awareness of the sea and the great impact it has on our lives, past, present – and future. It is also an opportunity for libraries to promote the reading of books about the sea and the coast, and possible exploring of family history links with those who manned the navy 200 years ago. A reading list will be featuring on the website.

For more information on Sea Britain, how to get involved, and for a list of events please see enclosed brochure, and visit: www.seabritain2005.com

Funding

Service Development Fund Grants for Collections / Stock Management

Grants from £400 up to £2,500 are available. They are to support and improve the sector's stewardship and resource discovery of the region's cultural and historic assets through projects that will improve the care and management of collections/stock in museums, libraries, and archives. The next two deadline dates are **26 July 2004 and 22 November 2004.**

For Application forms and Guidance Notes contact: Carl Franklin, Funding Advisor.

Tel: 0121 631 5806

carl.franklin@mlawestmidlands.org.uk

Following is a list of the first round successful Service Development Fund grants:

University of Birmingham – *Library, Archive and Museum Collections Gallery*

Leominster Folk Museum - *A permanent sign advertising Leominster Museum*

Bridgenorth & District Historical Society – *Upgrading museum show cases*

Sandwell Museum Service – *Improvements to preventative conservation standards*

CILIP (on behalf of SPICE) – *Library and Information service*

William Salt Library – *Improving the image*

Walsall Leather Museum – *Community catalogue access and conservation project*

Staffordshire Regiment Museum – *Digitisation of photographs*

Queen's Own Hussars Museum – *Purchase of new medal case*

Sandwell MBC – *Keeping our word: archives and local studies collections care in the Black Country*

Herbert Art Gallery – *Purchase of display case for the panel painting 'Lady Elizabeth Fitzgerald' 1573 attributed to Lucas d'Heere*

Big Lottery Fund

The Big Lottery Fund will take over the functions of the New Opportunities Fund and the Community Fund. As a distributor, it will be responsible for giving out half of all lottery good cause money. Secretary of State for Culture, Media, and Sport, Tessa Jowell said: "We will call it the Big Lottery Fund because it will be by far the largest and most visible of the distributors. It will be a single point of contact involving the public in the big choices about how to award half of all the Lottery grants. It will also support communities in securing and spending Lottery grants for their benefit."

MLA Council

Their Past Your Future and Veterans Reunited

Their Past Your Future is a unique project which gives young people the opportunity to learn first-hand from veterans about their experience of the Second World War. The project will centre on a groundbreaking travelling exhibition developed by the Imperial War Museum. The exhibition will visit sites across the country to give children the opportunity to learn more about the events leading up to the War and speak to the generation who took part.

A £2 million grant fund has been set up to enable museums, libraries, and archives across the country to get involved in Veterans Reunited. Their Past Your Future is one of the central strands of the Veterans campaign. This is a major lottery-funded national campaign to mark the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The project will run from February 2005 to February 2006. MLA Council has agreed to act as the umbrella £2m grant holder.

MLA Chief Executive Chris Batt said of the project: *"It will give children of all ages a better understanding of the events leading up to the War and to learn from their grandparents and great grandparents what life was like then. The Imperial War Museum is developing a truly innovative exhibition, and we want as many people as possible across the country to be able to take part."*

For more information visit: www.mla.gov.uk

MLA Disability Guides and Website Feature

MLA Council has published the final four Disability Guides (9-12) in the series.

Guide 9 – Accessible Environments

Guide 10 – Outreach and Partnerships

Guide 11 – Consulting Disabled People

Guide 12 – Employment at Every Level

They are available (along with series 1-8) at:

www.mla.gov.uk/action/learnacc/OOaccess_03.asp

For hard copies contact: Central Books Ltd

Tel: 0845 458 9910 or email: mo@centralbooks.com

Also, see MLA Council website for an article entitled "Museum, Library, and Archives Access for Disabled People."

www.mla.gov.uk/news/feature_article.asp?articleid=674

WM Hub Update

Please find enclosed a copy of Issue 2 the **West Midlands Hub's Newsletter**. If you would like your organisation to receive additional copies please contact the Hub Office direct stating the quantity, name and full postal address to: Nicky Smith, Hub Administrative Officer, Tel: 0121 303 6698

nicky_s_smith@birmingham.gov.uk

Publications

Freedom of Information: a practical guide to implementing the Act - Kelvin Smith. This practical guide covers both preparing for the new law, and implementing systems to ensure compliance. £39.95
www.facetpublishing.co.uk

One Written Word is Worth 1,000 pieces of Gold

The DDA and Copyright (VIP) Act, have transformed the legislative framework. It is now possible, for the first time, to provide individual copies in alternative formats for VIPs.

In April 2004, NAG held a seminar to highlight the latest developments in services to VIPs. High profile campaigns like *Share the Vision* and *Right to Read* are focusing attention on the needs of the VIP community to an unprecedented degree. ICT developments and the advent of e-books are bringing new means of access to digitised text. www.nag.org.uk

The *Right to Read Campaign* are calling on the government to establish an Access to Reading Fund; to abolish VAT on audio books, and to ensure that no student is denied the opportunity to learn because they cannot read standard print. They are calling on libraries, publishers, and booksellers to expand the number of books, magazines, and newspapers available in large print, audio and Braille.

The National Library for the Blind houses Europe's largest collection of tactile books and music. It is a leading national agency in the provision of library services for VIP.

How great a need is there for accessible formatted material?

- Fewer than 5% of books published in the UK are available in formats suitable for VIPs.
- Only 6% of the 2 million VIPs in the UK have never used a public library.

For more information visit: www.nlbuk.org

For the first time information produced in a range of accessible formats is in one place by means of **Reveal Web**. There are two major components to Revealweb: the *Catalogue of Resources* and the *Register of Suppliers*. NLB, RNIB, and a representative from MLA Council are part of the Joint Management Group. They act on behalf of all the contributing organisations to ensure effective management of Revealweb.

Please visit: www.revealweb.org.uk

"You do not have to be able to see to read, but you have to be able to read to see"

Anthony Horowitz

...Around the Region...

Coventry Transport Museum marks Standard Centenary

On Whitsun Bank Holiday, people from all over the country joined in celebrating one of Coventry's most famous motor manufacturers. Reginald Maudslay founded the Standard Motor Company just over 100 years ago. From a small factory in Much Park Street, the company eventually grew to employ tens of thousands of people from Coventry and Warwickshire at its Canley and Banner Lane sites. The last Standard cars were built in 1963, but Standard was the parent company of Triumph Cars, and vehicles continued to be built at Canley under the Triumph badge until 1981.



Photograph courtesy of Coventry Transport Museum

Coventry Transport Museum employee honoured for Lifetime Achievement

A recently retired member of staff at Coventry Transport Museum has been given a top 'Lifetime Achievement' award by the Transport Trust – a prestigious national charity set up to promote the preservation of the nation's transport heritage – in recognition of his services to transport history. After 29 years, Barry Mapperson retired from the Museum in February as a Technician in the workshop. His wide-ranging knowledge and infectious enthusiasm were essential when representing the Museum at the great many historic events he attended. In recognition of this contribution HRH Prince Michael of Kent, Patron of the Transport Trust presented Barry with a 'Lifetime Achievement Award' on Wednesday June 25th at Croydon. This Award goes to 'unsung heroes' who have made a significant contribution to transport preservation and is a key part of the Trust's activities in encouraging the preservation and restoration of Britain's transport heritage.

The History of Car Manufacturers in Coventry



1898 Daimler Phaeton

Coventry Transport Museum has the largest collection of British Road Transport in the world. It exhibits 230 cars and commercial vehicles, 250 cycles and 90 motorcycles.

Coventry founded the first factory to make motor cars for sale in 1896. The first successful car company was Daimler and since then there have been 138 vehicle makers in the city. Coventry also has over 300 cycle manufacturers and almost 90 motorcycle builders.

Spirit of Speed – new gallery opened 13 January 2004. The gallery focuses on the Museums Land Speed Record Cars. In 1889, the first land speed record was set at 39.24 mph. Almost a hundred years later it was set at over 630 mph by Richard Noble in Thrust2. In 1997 Thrust SSC became the first car ever to break the sound barrier and set a new land speed record of 763.035 mph. The gallery has been hugely successful. It has already attracted over 15,000 people, including 1000 International visitors into the city.



Thrust SSC on the Black Rock Desert of Nevada. The name 'Coventry' is on the upper side behind the engine exhaust.

For more information, please visit: www.transport-museum.com

Events

Make a Noise in Libraries week – 19-25 July 2004-04-30

Promote your libraries inclusive services to blind and partially sighted people in your area. The NLB is asking you to hold events that encourage visually impaired people into your library. Try launching new access technology; develop an inclusive reading group; or, invite the local visual impairment society to tour your facilities, etc.

Contact NLB for ideas and support for your events. To get your Make a Noise in Libraries week promotional pack, visit: www.nlb-online.org/campaigns or Email: campaigns@nlbuk.org or call 0161 355 2007

A large print version of this newsletter is available on request.

Are you involved in any projects, events, exhibitions, or have any interesting/success stories that you would like to feature in our newsletter? Please send in your article of approximately 200 words, and a photograph if available to:

Julie Bedward, Information Assistant
julie.bedward@mlawestmidlands.org.uk

To contact MLA West Midlands:

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Birmingham B2 5RS.

Tel: 0121 631 5800

Fax: 0121 631 5825

Email: info@mlawestmidlands.org.uk

Website: www.mlawestmidlands.org.uk



west midlands
the regional council
for museums libraries
and archives

Box of Acronyms

ASLIB	Association for Information Management
CILIP	Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act
DfES	Department for Education and Skills
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
FOI	Freedom of Information
LGA	Local Government Association
LIC	Libraries Information Centre
LIS	Library Information Services
LLDA	London Libraries Development Agency
LSC	Learning & Skills Council
NAG	National Acquisitions Group
NLB	National Library for the Blind
OCLO	Organisational Check List for Openness
PFI	Private Finance Initiatives
RCE	Regeneration Centre of Excellence
RNIB	Royal National Institute for the Blind
SCL	Society of Chief Librarians
SCONUL	Society of College, National & University Libraries
SCURL	Scottish Confederation of University & Research Libraries
SPICE	Special Provision in Community Languages and English
VIP	Visually Impaired People



MLA West Midlands Mission Statement...

“MLA West Midlands is working for the region to promote and develop excellent museum, library and archive services which are available to everyone, today and in the future.

We will do this by supporting and championing the development of museums, libraries and archives, to encourage them to inspire, enrich and record the life, environment and works of all its people and to enhance the cultural, social, educational and economic life of the region.”

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