

Celebrating Learning Opportunities



In 2005 many libraries, museums and archives across the West Midlands took part in a huge variety of events including Silver Surfers' Day, Birmingham's launch of Adult Learners Week and NIACE's Rural Learning Campaign.

MLA West Midlands and NIACE are working together to look at what additional support could be offered to organisations who want to get involved with Adult Learners Week. Further details will be posted on our website and in our newsletter shortly, so watch out for these. To support this year's campaign, there are a range of promotional newsletters, posters etc available from NIACE.

Details of any events that you are running for ALW can be added to the online calendar on the ALW website at http://www.niace.org.uk/alw/Events/EventDetail_list.asp

Following your events, fill in the evaluation forms which will be available from the ALW website. Any evidence collected about the success and impact of the programme is used by NIACE to lobby for future funding so is very gratefully received.

<http://www.niace.org.uk/ALW/2005/Default.htm>

Further information or advice about Adult Learners' Week can be obtained from Elizabeth Roberts at MLA West Midlands, Elizabeth.roberts@mlawestmidlands.org.uk or Jo Knight, NIACE's Promotions Co-ordinator for Adult Learning (WM). Jo can be reached by email Jo.Knight@niace.org.uk or by mobile on 07717 178246.

See pages 2-3 for more learning opportunities for adults, families and children.

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Learning, Access and Social Policy

Adult Learners Week – 20-26 May 2006

Adult Learners Week celebrates the fact that learning does not have to be accredited or academic. It has no age barriers and can be fun and it can be the introduction to something new. It is a continuous process.

2006 will be the 15th year for Adult Learners Week, the national campaign organised by NIACE. The campaign highlights the successes and excellence of adult learners and the organisations that support them.

The annual national search for outstanding adult learners, groups, families and organisations is now on until 13 Jan 2006! It is a great opportunity to nominate someone who you think deserves to be recognised nationally, or to enter your project/programme for an 'Opening Doors to Adult Learners' award. NIACE are looking for creative schemes of learning that have a track record of success for their adult clients.

For more information and a nomination form please visit:

alw@niace.org.uk

The Vital Link

The Vital Link is an exciting national programme which promotes reading for pleasure as a way of motivating and inspiring learners to reach their full potential.

Engaging new adult readers through libraries

What turns an adult learner into a confident lifelong reader? A timely conference on 7 Oct 2005 will give senior managers from adult literacy and public libraries an opportunity to hear about new research, effective practice and national partnerships to support their work with adult learners.

For more information and an online booking form visit: www.vitallink.org.uk or www.literacytrust.org.uk

New Vital Link online toolkit

This online toolkit is aimed at library staff working with adult learners who want to develop their services in line with the Governments Skills for Life strategy. Online guidance and case studies are linked to the Vital Link Improvement Framework and based around four themes: accessibility, learner support, stock provision and reader development activity.

To view the toolkit visit: <http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/vitallink/toolkit.html>

The Vital Link is run by The Reading Agency in partnership with the National Literacy Trust and the National Reading Campaign. It is part of the Government's Framework for the Future strategy.

Family Learning Week – 8-16 Oct 2005

The Campaign for Learning is encouraging museums, libraries and archives to promote their family learning initiatives via a national listing of events available online at: www.campaign-for-learning.org.uk

A free copy of the 2005 Planning Guide to help organisations develop events for this week is available at: www.familylearningweek.com

The Sixth Big Draw

The Campaign for Drawing provides proof that drawing is a powerful way to respond to our heritage, and engage with our environment. They are therefore encouraging museums, libraries and archives to explore new ways of using drawing to promote access to collections, exhibitions and other resources.

Last year 1400 Big Draw events took place at 1200 venues.

This year the main focus is mid October with the Big Draw Day being on 15 Oct. Its themes are sufficiently broad enough to allow connections with other initiatives, such as, *Family Learning Week, Black History Month, Sea Britain* or the *Archives Awareness Campaign*.

For registration, advice and publicity materials visit:

www.thebigdraw.org.uk

Adult Learners Week Competition – Inspired by...

Would you like to see your artwork displayed? *Inspired by...* was piloted in Manchester, collaborated with the V&A, and Tyne and Wear in 2004. The competition encourages artwork by part-time students based on exhibits in the museums.

If you are a colleague or are working in the museum sector and would like to be involved in the regional *Inspired by...* competition 2006 please contact: Francisca Martinez at NIACE, sica@niace.org.uk

Black History Month

Throughout October Birmingham is celebrating Black History Month in style with a programme of events and activities for people of all ages and backgrounds. For more details visit:

www.birminghamblackhistory.com

People's Network Launch – 19 Oct 2005

The national launch of PN services is set to coincide with Local Democracy Week. The PN services feature as part of the overall public library marketing campaign that is being developed through Framework for the Future, by David Lammy in Warwickshire, (the government's vision for English public libraries over the next 10 years.)

To download briefing documents about the launch and for information on the promotions and activities visit: <http://www.peoplesnetwork.gov.uk/staff/es-promotion.html>

New Links for libraries and schools

Birmingham has received funding from The Reading Agency and Creative Partnerships for one of four action research projects around the UK. Running from Sep 2005 to Mar 2006 the projects will explore how working with libraries and reading can help schools deliver the curriculum more creatively.

The Birmingham project will explore how reading for pleasure and library resources can be tools for meeting the health and information needs of young people.

<http://www.creative-partnerships.com/news/83549?version=1>

Books to be given to every toddler

Babies, toddlers and nursery school children are to be given free books in the latest government drive to encourage parents to read to their young. Over the next three years, the independent charity Booktrust, will distribute 4.5 million book bags and 9 million books. These will be distributed via health visitors, Sure Start centres, children's libraries and other outlets.

Collections and Stewardship

Museum Accreditation

Congratulations to Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery and The Potteries Museum Service on recently achieving Full Accreditation, the first museums in the region to do so.

Birmingham Museums service holds nationally important collections, including one of the finest Pre-Raphaelite collections in the world as well as Designated collections in the fine and decorative arts, science, numismatics and the Pinto treen collection.

The service covers six newly accredited sites across Birmingham, from the Central Museum & Art Gallery to the community museums: Aston Hall and Blakesley Hall - restored houses reflecting the lives of the nobility of 16th & 17th Centuries in Birmingham and Soho House, Sarehole Mill and the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter which all represent aspects of Birmingham's industrial heritage.

The Potteries Museum Service is made up of: The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery reflecting the City's heritage of English ceramics, where the visitor can discover the story of Stoke-on-Trent people, industry, products and landscapes through displays of pottery, local history, archaeology, geology and wildlife; Gladstone Pottery Museum, a unique working museum allowing visitors to see how 19th century potters worked. It is the only remaining complete Victorian pottery factory from the days when coal-burning bottle ovens made the world's finest English bone china; Etruria Industrial Museum, a scheduled ancient monument with working steam engine; as well as Ford Green Hall, a 17th century house complete with period garden. All collections at Etruria and Ford Green Hall are designated as being of national importance.

If you would like to find out more about the Museum Accreditation scheme, please visit: <http://www.mla.gov.uk/action/accreditation> or contact Paula Brikci, Standards & Stewardship Officer at: paula.brikci@mlawestmidlands.org.uk Tel: 0121 631 5814

A Collections Description Manual from MDA

MDA have been awarded a contract by Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) to develop a Collections Description Manual for MICHAEL, a project which will create the first multilingual inventory of collections in museums, libraries and archives across Europe.

The manual will be launched in October 2005 as an online browsable resource providing guidance and case studies illustrating best practice in describing collections.

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

For more information about MICHAEL visit: www.michael-culture.org

The 2005 Conservation Awards

Short listed entries for the Student Conservator of the Year Award and the Anna Plowden Award have been announced. The Student Conservator of the Year award draws attention to the achievements of students and the high standards of UK conservation courses. The Anna Plowden award is for the best completed programme of research or development aimed at furthering the practice of conservation.

The Conservation Awards are supported by Sir Paul McCartney and managed in partnership by MLA, UKIC, English Heritage, IPC and the National Preservation Office. They are now merging into a larger professional body, the Institute of Conservation.
www.instituteofconservation.org.uk

For a full listing of the short listed entries visit:
www.consawards.ukic.org.uk

Getting *SMART* in Staffordshire

Staffordshire Arts & Museum Service is seeking to raise the profile of museum collections in Staffordshire through a new online resource for teachers.

The SMART website, (Staffordshire Museums' Activities and Resources for Teachers), is designed to help teachers plan and organise a visit to one of Staffordshire's 43 museums. The aim of the site is to raise teachers' awareness of the diverse collections that are held across the county and the ways they can be used to deliver the National Curriculum.

The site is accessible through the Staffordshire Learning Net, the County Council's main source of information for teachers.

The project originated from baseline research into formal education provision in Staffordshire's museums as part of the Museum Development Work of the Arts and Museum Service in 2004. MLA West Midlands awarded £7,000 of Museum Development Fund money to the project towards research and development costs. A further £10,000 of match funding was given in the form of development time by the Staffordshire County Council web development team responsible for the site.

For further information contact Helen Ruthven, Museum Development Officer: Helen.ruthven@staffordshire.gov.uk

To view the site visit: www.sln.org.uk

Advocacy and Leadership

£12 million Cultural Leadership Programme

This programme is developed by Arts Council in response to the Government's commitment to promote leadership skills within the cultural sector. Working with sector partners, including MLA, they have published **Cultural Leadership Programme – A call for ideas**, It outlines the scope of the proposed programme and signals the start of a consultation process that will inform its further development.

The Cultural Leadership Programme will make it possible for the cultural sector to develop and strengthen its leadership and establish a culture of experience for the future. It will develop business and leadership skills required to lead in a changing global environment. The programme will address the development needs of leaders at all stages of their careers as well as trustees and board members.

It will run for two years from April 2006 and cover two areas of priority: creating a culture of strong leadership and diversity in leadership.

For more details visit: www.artscouncil.org.uk

The 2005 Archive Awareness Campaign

The AAC is an ongoing celebration of all kinds of fascinating archive treasure. To see a list of events happening in the West Midlands visit:

<http://www.archiveawareness.com/events/westmids/>

Part of this years campaign **Victorian Voices** is a short story competition for schoolchildren, organised by the AAC. You can find out how to register your interest, and more, at the Victorian Voices website:

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

Relevant local material will soon be available on our website:

www.mlwestmidlands.org.uk

24 Hour Museum Trails

What are trails? 24 Hour Museum trails are in-depth web features specially written to show off the best of the UK's museums, galleries and heritage sites.

With plenty of photographs, lots of links and easy to find contact details it makes an interesting read. Some trails can be followed physically, some virtually and some are themed mini-web sites, like trail for Harry Potter fans.

The trails will give you plenty of ideas for things to do and places to visit - some can be followed in a day, others might take longer.

<http://www.24hourmuseum.org.uk/trh.html>

Pay and Power Collections Update

Dudley Archives & Local History Service

A Giant within the Black Country Iron Industry

The records of N. Hingley & Sons are now available for the public to see at Dudley Archives and Local History Service, thanks to Ivar Romo, Pay & Power project assistant.

The firm of N. Hingley & Sons was incorporated in 1890, but it had existed as a family-run company since the 1830's. During the early years of the 20th Century, Hingley's was the world's leading manufacturer of wrought iron anchors. The firm supplied the anchors for the German liner SS Vaterland, the largest passenger ship ever seen, and for the Titanic, as shown in the photograph. At present the catalogue can be examined at Dudley Archives and Local History Service, but it will shortly be made available on the Internet as well.



Pay & Power project provides support in cataloguing and publicising collections for archive services across the West Midlands. For more information about this collection visit:

<http://www.mlawestmidlands.org.uk/assets/documents/100001BETheHingleyPapers-P&P.pdf>

To see the collection contact Dudley Archives and Local History Centre: archives.centre@dudley.gov.uk

Tel: 01384 812770

Walsall Archives & Local History Centre

IMI PLC Collection

This collection offers a fantastic insight into the relationship between metal refiners and salvagers in the Midlands as well as methods of approaches to business in the early to mid 20th century. The most in-depth part of the collection relates to the salvaging of the warship HMS Warspite. Correspondence from 'J & F Wooten Ltd' to The Wolverhampton Metal Company Ltd talks about salvaged teak from HMS Warspite being used to manufacture two seats in the playground of Queen Mary's High School for girls, Walsall.

Deposited at Walsall Local History Centre, the collection consists of the business records of those companies taken over by Imperial Metal Industries Ltd, (later Public Limited Company), and also the records of companies taken over by those subsidiaries. The records date back from 1865 to 1973.

Records of Wheway Watson Ltd

Gifted to Walsall Local History Centre, records from this collection span from 1888 to 1970. During World War II the firm produced, amongst other things, chain flails which were fitted to booms projecting well in front of tanks in the North African desert to detonate land mines. The firm also produced anchor chains for the many Sunderland Flying Boats stationed around the coast.

The records have been divided up into 5 series, reflecting the subsidiaries and partnerships that eventually formed Wheway Watson Ltd. The largest series of records are those relating to Job Wheway & Son Ltd, with an extensive arrangement of patent, trademark and design registration documents and agency agreements.

Records of Heath Machin and Co Ltd

The Heath and Machin families became partners and producers of high class leather goods by at least 1900. The firm went from bridle cutters to fancy leather goods manufacturers at the Teddesley Works in Walsall. By 1917 Heath Machin was officially registered as Heath Machin & Co. The collection includes company records but also non-company records, concerning wage and price setting within the leather industry during the first and second World Wars. This provides insight as to the style and quantity demanded by the Armed Services during this period.

These three collections, catalogued by Sarah Edwards, have a paper catalogue which is available in the public search room at Walsall Local History Centre and will soon be on the A2A website. In the meantime, if you would like to see other collections relating to the Pay & Power project please visit: www.a2a.org.uk

Warwickshire University Modern Record Office

The cataloguing of the papers of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union is now complete. The catalogue incorporates records that have been deposited piecemeal in the Modern Records Centre since 1984. This large and complicated collection contains the papers of some thirty-five trade unions and spans a period of 170 years from the 1820's to the 1990's.

Work continues to promote the papers as part of the Pay & Power project with training sessions and workshops on the catalogue.

The catalogue can be viewed at: <http://www.warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/ead/259umb.htm>

Wolverhampton Archives & Local Studies



These photographs show how Wolverhampton archives are using the Stallard collection that they have had catalogued as part of the P&P project. Samples of the collection were displayed to enhance a talk and tour of the archives and a semi-permanent display of the collection are in the window and foyer of Wolverhampton Archives & Local Studies.



For more information about the Pay and Power project, details on each of the collections and to view their newsletter please visit:

<http://www.mlwestmidlands.org.uk/priorities/ourcurrentprojects/index.asp?id=266,677,51,690>

If you would like to learn more about archive participation in the project, and possible partnership working opportunities please check our website at the events programme.

<http://www.mlwestmidlands.org.uk/priorities/ourcurrentprojects/>

If you are interested in attending any of the sessions contact: Karen McCourt, Pay and Power Outreach Officer, karen.mccourt@mlwestmidlands.org.uk

Please note that some of the sessions are still being developed.

MLA Council

Join the Rural Museums Network

The Rural Museums Network aims to provide a means of communication between museums, to help them share knowledge and best practice and to promote development of the sector.

It has become apparent however that many other museums with rural items in their collections would benefit from membership. This is particularly so given that the Network has been awarded £36,000 by MLA to carry out audience research and subject development work for the sector.

The Network has proved to be a strong voice for the rural sector and MLA encourage all rural museums to join the group, to benefit from the current services. In 2005-2006 the Building Relevance Programme, funded by MLA, will gather information on audiences and manage a series of creative forum meetings to identify how rural museums can enhance the service they provide, culminating in pilot re-displays in a number of museums. For an application form visit: www.ruralmuseumnetwork.org.uk

Digital Copyright Questionnaire

Digital management of copyright material is increasingly relevant to museums, archives and libraries. For some projects, ranging from large scale digitisation programmes to one-off website projects, it is absolutely critical to delivering the project's objectives.

MLA Council has funded MCG to explore with the Design and Artists Copyright Society (DACS) the possibility of a blanket licensing scheme. This would allow digitisation of artistic works in collections and digital copies to be made available to staff, students and the public. MLA, the MCG and DACS need your help in providing information to take those discussions forward. A simple questionnaire has been designed for on-line completion and MLA and the MCG would be extremely grateful if your organisation could complete the questionnaire

<http://www.museumscopyright.org.uk/question.htm>

Funding and Awards

Winner of Stanford Award

This is the first Stanford Award for Heritage Education ever given in Warwickshire and it goes to The Rugby Museum and Art Gallery.

The lead judge at Rugby who spent a day at the museum observed: ***“Rugby Art Gallery and Museum offers visitors of all ages the opportunity to find out about life in Roman Times. Care is taken to let visitors find out for themselves through a series of clues. Pupils cannot fail to understand more fully the daily life of the occupants some 2000 years ago, due to the care with which staff introduce the subject. Of importance is the attention paid to encourage pupils to think and work as archaeologists...”***

www.rugby.gov.uk

National Lottery Day Join in the fun as National Lottery Day will now be an annual event.

It will take place on 5 November 2005 and will focus on activities where Lottery support has benefited children and young people. There will be many opportunities over the weekend of 5-6 November. To take part in or visit a Lottery funded event.

www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk

University College Worcester

Congratulations to the staff and students at the University College Worcester which is now recognised as the ***University of Worcester***.

www.worcester.ac.uk

£4 Million Funding Boost for Museums

Forty museums and galleries throughout England are to benefit from grants totalling £4 million. Funded jointly by DCMS and the Wolfson Foundation, the grants will help improve the quality of museums' displays, public spaces, disabled access and environmental controls.

Congratulations to the following museums and galleries that will benefit from this funding: Barber Institute of Fine Arts, £50,000; Coventry Transport Museum, £150,000; Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, £150,000; Leicester City Museum, £20,000; Stoke on Trent Museums, £112,000; Wedgwood Museum, £250,000 and Wolverhampton Art Gallery & Museum, £133,000.

Coventry Kids in the Blitz project Wins Two Awards

The intention of this ambitious project was to give modern children an insight to the life of a child in 1940's Coventry through the use of "immersive" drama. The project was a resounding success. Its true strength came from the creativity and originality portrayed by the children themselves. The children were with the project team for four full days, completely in character, which culminated with the 'evacuation' of 80 year 6 school children in an overnight simulation of a real-life World War II scenario. Using the WW2 collections of various heritage establishments in Coventry as inspiration, it was a multi-agency, multi-site project.

In May 2005 the project won the prestigious *Best Educational Initiative* award by the Museums and Heritage Awards for Excellency, as mentioned in our last newsletter. In June 2005 the project won the *Roots and Wings* award, organised by Curiosity and Imagination, which recognises best practice in "hands on" heritage interpretation. Both of these awards are testament to the tremendous teamwork approach of this project.

Tenbury Museum Awarded £49,700

The grant, awarded by HLF, will be used to preserve back copies of the 'Tenbury Advertiser' dated from 1871 to 1997. Many of the copies are in a fragile condition, but the huge collection will be put onto microfilm and then transferred onto CD and publicised on a website in the future.

HLF's Regional Manager, Anne Jenkins, said: ***“This is a fantastic resource and we are so pleased to help to bring it back to life. HLF is dedicated to opening up heritage resources to as many people as possible and this project will enable everyone to explore this huge collection and allow people to learn what life used to be like in Tenbury Wells”***. The museum is regularly visited by people wishing to research family history, some travelling considerable distances to use the collection. The museum is also packed with artefacts from Victorian times to 1950's, which show visitors what life was like in a small market town.

www.tenburycom.co.uk

Worcester Library and History Centre receives £36.8m

The joint university and public library project has received a boost of £36.8m of PFI credits that were awarded to Worcestershire County Council by DCMS. It was the largest single allocation made in this annual round and signifies national recognition of the strength and impact of the shared vision.

www.worcestershire.gov.uk

ICT and E-Society

Audio-Visual Collections Development Day

Left to right:

James Patterson – MACE;

Philip Kiberd – MLA-WM;

Julia Letts – Worcs Oral History;

Cheryl Williams – Wolverhampton libraries;

Steve Bagley – Coventry Transport Museum;

Ray Johnson – Staffordshire Film Archives



On 14 September 2004 MLA West Midlands held a highly successful event organised by Philip Kiberd, Content Co-ordinator. The event was aimed at addressing and identifying the practical development issues faced by the sector in the creation, use and management of audio-visual collections. Work groups held throughout the day gave opportunities to hear and comment on the Audio-Visual Strategy, which is currently being worked on, and also to look at logistical issues that the Strategy would have to face. The speakers, *pictured above*, presented their approaches and experiences on creating and using AV materials from film archives and oral histories. Plenty of promotional material from film and oral history archives and product suppliers was freely available.

Progress Update: the Audio-Visual Strategy for the East and West Midlands.

In February 2005, Peter Boyden Associates (PBA) was commissioned to undertake a programme of work leading to the strategy, which began in May 2005. The consultancy brief asked for a “realistic and sustainable strategic vision for the archiving and availability of the audio-visual culture of the Midlands.” To do so it must understand the scope and nature of regional holdings along with both the motivations of the groups responsible for their safe keeping and the policy objectives of public stakeholders. It must also reflect the need for professional practice and the aspiration for maximum access which drives the wider DCMS cultural agenda.

After consultation with stakeholders over the summer of 2005 a discussion document has been produced which will evolve into the final strategy. This document focuses on four areas: public policy context; conceptual issues specific to AV archives; strategic planning issues for the final document and operational delivery issues. A more rounded strategic document will be produced for consultation by the sector during October 2005.

For more information contact: philip.kiberd@mlawestmidlands.org.uk

Licensing Essentials Workshops Training Day

12 December. AV Room, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery.

Free event, open to all. lunch and refreshments will be provided.

In partnership with MDA and the ICT Network MLA-WM will be running a workshop day exploring copyright issues for collections and licenses enabling online delivery of content. This one day workshop provides an introduction to the basic principles of licensing within the context of working with collections. It offers practical training, giving participants the tools they need to choose, create and negotiate licensees for the use of third party rights as well as to allow the full exploitation of their own assets. The workshop will look at various national licensing and copyright schemes, including Creative Commons. Please refer to the enclosed/attached

Licensing Essentials Day flyer or visit:

<http://www.mlawestmidlands.org.uk/priorities/esociety/events/> or contact: deanna.jackson@mlawestmidlands.org.uk

Digital Collection and Preservation Workshop

From the Cradle to the Grave: The Digital Life Cycle

Tues 15 November 2005 at MLA-WM premises. Free event.

OCLC PICA and Preservation Resources provide libraries with the flexibility to preserve and manage digital collections via microfilming, digitising, collection management tools and archiving services. The day will focus on areas of: environment scan/trends; strata and preservation resources; access; Olive – a digital collection management; content; preservation and digital archives.

For more details visit:

<http://www.mlawestmidlands.org.uk/priorities/esociety/events/>

To attend the workshop please send your details and number of attendees to:

deanna.jackson@mlawestmidlands.org.uk

MDA Launches Free Online Forum

This online forum enables museum staff to ask questions, discuss current issues and find out more about the work of MDA.

Topics covered by the Forum include general documentation, the SPECTRUM standard, Museum Accreditation and Copyright. There is also a member's only section, AdvicePoint advisory service, for direct access to MDA experts. The Forum will also host discussions relating to MDA's *Collections for All* campaign.

www.mda.org.uk

www.collectionsforall.org.uk

MLA West Midlands ICT Network: More members needed.

'An idea is nothing without a site for exchange'

The ICT Network exists to support this engagement within the museums, libraries and archives sector. Administered by MLA West Midlands the Network posts regular online news and information to Network pages on the MLA West Midlands website, arranges workshops and visits to sites of interest, and explores training opportunities.

The MLA West Midlands ICT Network provides a forum for the free and fair exchange of information, best practice, advice and guidance on Information and Communication Technology and its application in the West Midlands. The Network is open to all regardless of experience, capability and knowledge. A primary aim of the Network is to cater for those looking for information on how to get started in digitization, while allowing space and a focus for debate on the technical challenges of electronic service delivery for those at the cutting edge. And to get those with knowledge and experience to share with those who haven't.

A network needs members and news relies on content. We need you to sign-up, to submit features and share information. If you have not previously signed-up to the Network and would like to do so please email: philip.kiberd@mlawestmidlands.org.uk

For full details of the ICT Network visit:
<http://www.mlawestmidlands.org.uk/priorities/esociety/news/>

After all it's your Network and your needs and your news.

What's next for BBC People's War?

Thank you very much to the many institutions across the region who have participated in the People's War project this year. All your enthusiasm and hard work has made the People's War project a huge success and helped to create a lasting archive of over 34,000 stories and images for generations to come.

From 30 January 2006, you will no longer be able to contribute stories or messages to the WW2 People's War website. If you're planning to host a story-gathering event, or to contribute text or images from your own collections, please do so before the end of the year.

As promised, all stories submitted to the site by that date will be incorporated into a new BBC web archive, which will remain on the internet as a valuable research resource for future generations, accessible via www.bbc.co.uk/ww2 Each story will be categorized according to the current archive headings (for a full list, see bbc.co.uk/dna/ww2/C1072). For further information concerning the archiving project, go to: www.bbc.co.uk/dna/ww2/Story-Happen In addition to all stories and their attached message forums, the **website will retain all personal pages**, including the 'About Me' section.

Please do take up this excellent opportunity to use the 'About Me' section of your personal page to demonstrate to future researchers the fascinating breadth of WW2 material held by your institution. You might also like to describe your motivation for taking part in the project, or highlight your research interests or the services you provide.

If you have any queries about this, please contact Jenni Waugh, BBC Outreach Officer, by email: jenni.waugh@mlawestmidlands.org.uk or phone: 0121 631 5813.

...Around the Region... Festival of Motoring Event in Coventry



The annual popular car run attracted approximately 500 classic and vintage cars, and over 50 motorcycles to Coventry.

For 20 years this has been an annual event and it was extended to a whole weekend this year, on 3-4 September 2005. The weekend started with a display of selected entrants' cars in Millennium Place, outside Coventry Transport Museum (*pictured above.*) Entrants were invited to a private civic reception at the Transport Museum hosted by the Lord Mayor of Coventry. On the Sunday the rally of cars, flagged off by the Lord Mayor, took a new 54 mile route which incorporated key elements of local history and interest. There was a special display of military vehicles at Memorial Park to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II.



Lord Mayor of Coventry and a group of local cheer leaders flagging off the car rally.

Coventry Transport Museum is also a finalist for the Gulbenkian Museum of the Year Award, 2005

MLA West Midlands

The Draft West Midlands Regional Archive Strategy 2006-2008

MLA West Midlands in collaboration with the regional Archive Forum has developed a new draft archive strategy that follows on from the region's previous archive strategy *Future Directions* published in 2001. This is intended to build upon the recommendations of the national Archives Task Force report *Listening to the Past, Speaking to the Future*; to lay down a clear path for the development of archive provision within the region; to help set future policy for MLA West Midlands and archive services and to outline priorities for individual and collaborative action.

In order to develop a regional archive strategy that reflects the needs and aspirations of all those working with archives; all those who use or have an interest in archives; all those who own archives and all those who support archives in the West Midlands we are undertaking a consultation process. We hope that you will take time to read and comment on the draft West Midlands Regional Archive strategy. Your comments will help shape the development of archive provision over the next few years. The draft strategy and a short consultation questionnaire are available at: <http://www.mlwestmidlands.org.uk/thesection/regionalarchives/regionalarchivestrategy/>

The consultation ends on **Monday 14th November 2005**

Staff Announcements

The following staff have left MLA West Midlands, since our last newsletter. MLA West Midlands wish them all every success in their new posts.

Rowan Carr, Access & Social Inclusion Development Officer; **Heather Rayfield**, Access & Learning Development Officer; **Scott Mitchell**, Cultural Entitlement Admin Support; **Sofia Zamir**, PA to Chief Executive

Kim Edmunds left us on 29 September 2005. We thank her for all her hard work and support. MLA West Midlands will greatly miss her support as she was involved in a range of areas within the organisation. During her time with us Kim has been Assistant Company Secretary, ICT Systems Manager, Workforce Development Support Officer and PA to the Chief Executive. She is now moving on to 'pastures new' as DeafBlind Co-ordinator, Sensory Impairment Team at Worcestershire County Council.

Elizabeth Roberts, Learning Development Officer will be going on Maternity Leave towards the end of the year. We wish her all the best and thank her for her hard work and support over the past year.

Kim Crawford, Co-ordinator (Senior Managers) has been appointed the post of PA to the Chief Executive, from 3 October 2005. We wish her all the best in her new role.

For a full listing of MLA West Midlands Staff please visit:

<http://www.mlwestmidlands.org.uk/mlwestmidlands/structureandgovernance/staff/>



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Events

The Museums Association Annual Conference

24-26 October 2005. Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre, London.

The 2005 conference will cover a wide variety of subjects including the four themes of: collections for the future; valuing learning; cultural tourism and world cities, world cultures.

For information visit:

www.museumassociation.org

For more information on regional events visit:

<http://www.mlwestmidlands.org.uk/news/events/>

Box of Acronyms

| | | |
|----------------|-----|--|
| AAC | ... | Archives Awareness Campaign |
| ALW | ... | Adult Learners Week |
| DCMS | ... | Department of Culture, Media and Sports |
| HLF | ... | Heritage Lottery Fund |
| IPC | ... | Institute of Paper Conservation |
| MACE | ... | Media Archive for Central England |
| MCG | ... | Museums Copyright Group |
| MDA | ... | Museum Documentation Association |
| MICHAEL | ... | Multilingual Inventory of Cultural Heritage in Europe |
| MLA | ... | Museums, Libraries and Archives Council |
| MLA-WM | ... | Museums, Libraries and Archives: regional council of West Midlands |
| NIACE | ... | National Institute of Adult Continuing Education |
| PFI | ... | Private Finance Initiations |
| PN | ... | People's Network |
| UKIC | ... | Institute for Conservation |
| V&A | ... | Victoria & Albert Museum |



Licensing Essentials

12 December 2005

9.45 am - 4.00 pm

AV Room, Gas Hall, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

This one day workshop provides an introduction to the basic principles of licensing within the context of working with collections. It offers practical training, giving participants the tools they need to choose, create and negotiate licenses for the use of third party rights as well as to allow the full exploitation of their own assets.

The workshop will look at various national licensing and copyright schemes, including Creative Commons.

THIS IS A FREE EVENT*

*In order to make the most of the benefits of this training day we are interested in supporting individuals after the event who would be prepared to act as mentors for others in the sector following the training day. If you would be interested in acting as a mentor, please let us know when you book.

Who should attend:

- Museum professionals
- Librarians and Archivists
- Anyone in the cultural heritage sector interested in copyright & licensing issues

| | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------|--|
| Name: | | Designation: | |
| Institution: | | | |
| Contact details: <i>(please include email and telephone)</i> | | | |
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| | | | |
| Any access requirements: | | Dietary requirements: | |

Please indicate below if you would be interested in sharing your knowledge as a mentor following training

| | | | | |
|--|-------------------|--|--|--|
| | Mentoring scheme: | | | |
|--|-------------------|--|--|--|

PLEASE FAX COMPLETED FORM TO: DEANNA JACKSON ON 0121-631 5825
Or post to 2nd Floor, Grosvenor House 14 Bennetts Hill BIRMINGHAM B2 5RS Tel: 0121-631 5809