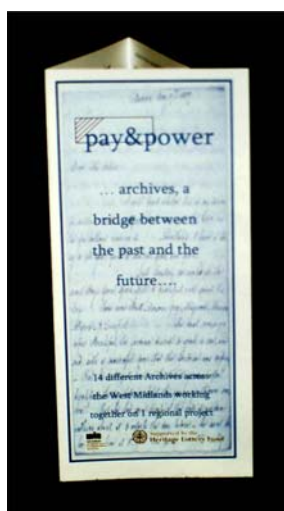


Pay & Power

developing new audiences for archives



Pay & Power is an archive project involving 14 different archive repositories across the West Midlands. The project concentrates on two overlapping aspects of the Archives commitment to safeguarding our heritage; cataloguing and audience development through outreach and promotion.

The cataloguers working on the project are more than half way through the 18 collections chosen for the project. Now, the cataloguers and the 14 archives are working closely with the project's outreach officer, Karen McCourt, to use the newly catalogued collections to introduce and engage a wide range of people with archives and their role in the community.

Access to the collections is being improved as each catalogue is made available on A2A and other online resources where possible. Many of the participating archives are also creating small online exhibitions to highlight the project's work.

Over 20 workshops and training sessions are planned over the coming year. These will encourage strengthened partnerships between Archives and other cultural, heritage, learning and care groups but above all, they will enable Archives to build themselves a stronger role within their community.

See the last page for more information on some of the outreach events that have been held so far. See also: www.mlawestmidlands.org.uk/priorities/ourcurrentprojects and www.a2a.org.uk

Judith Karena, Pay & Power Project Manager
judith.karena@mlawestmidlands.org.uk

Karen McCourt, Pay & Power Assistant, Outreach Officer
karen.mccourt@mlawestmidlands.org.uk

Pictured above left to right: the new Pay & Power leaflet; the local library service and other council departments at Shropshire archives; teachers and archivists at the Black Co workshop; guests from adult education at the Birmingham Group Training session.

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Please Note: All acronyms used within this newsletter are explained in full on the back page.

Collections and Stewardship



Museums and Galleries Month 2006 – Making Connections, *past, present and future*

This years Museums and Galleries Month is all about building audiences. Please join in and take that leap forward to attract back some of the visitors who have not been for many years and inviting others over the doorstep for the first time. The West Midlands Hub is developing MGM campaigns and activities as part of *Renaissance in the Regions*. The focus will be very much on families, which fits in well with MGM's broad audience targets of 'new and returning visitors'.

Inputting your MGM events into the 24 Hour Museum website listing database has never been easier, due to a host of changes to its Direct Data Entry system. You can start entering your MGM events now at:
www.24hourmuseum.org.uk

The Museums and Galleries Month **Welcome Weekend** will be on the May Bank Holiday, 29 April – 1 May 2006. This is for you to show new and returning visitors what your museum or gallery is about.

Museum Conservators - Nominate Objects to be TV stars

Reef TV has started filming for the BBC series **The People's Museum** to be shown during May and discussions are taking place to link this with MGM. The **Welcome Weekend** will be an excellent opportunity for all those with treasures due to be featured in the 20 programmes to put them on view for the whole of the month.

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

Renaissance West Midlands will soon have the events and activities on their website at: www.renaissancewestmidlands.org.uk

The National Ice Age Network



From four regional centres in Birmingham, Leicester, London and Southampton NIAN is striving to build good working relationships with the quarry industry so that active sand and gravel extraction sites in England can be visited and their potential for preserving Ice Age evidence assessed. They are

also hoping to raise the 'profile' of the Ice Age among the commercial and academic community and to provide user friendly education and outreach resources to the wider community. NIAN is an initiative concerned with the archaeological, environmental and sedimentological evidence of the Ice Age that is uncovered as a result of commercial sand and gravel extraction.

NIAN would like to send their outreach materials such as project leaflets, posters and a series of recognition sheets describing ice age stone tools, animals, plants and sediments to as wide an audience as possible and are keen to make them available to local libraries, museums and indeed to interested individuals. They will provide you with technical advice and creative input towards any existing exhibitions or concepts that maybe at a planning stage, or to institutions interested in a small Ice Age display. They will also help with the classification and identification of Ice Age materials, such as stone tools, that may be brought in as Portable Antiquities.

Please visit: www.iceage.org.uk or email: info@iceage.org.uk

NIAN is funded by ALSF through English Heritage and English Nature.

Victorian Voices

'Victorian Voices' is a short story competition for schoolchildren, organised by Archive Awareness Campaign and entries were submitted in December 2005.

Archives in the West Midlands hold a wealth of material about the Victorian period. An example of such is shown in this picture: a Pictogram created by Staffordshire children in the early 19th Century. *Can you decipher it?* (For the translation see our website at address below.) Some relevant local material can be viewed on our website for: Birmingham, Dudley, Staffordshire (including the Pictogram and its translation), Warwickshire and Wolverhampton at:
<http://www.mlawestmidlands.org.uk>



www.mlawestmidlands.org.uk/thesection/regionalarchives/victorianvoices/

MICHAEL

MICHAEL, the Multilingual Inventory of Cultural Heritage in Europe is a ground-breaking British, French and Italian led initiative, aiming to develop online access to the digital collections of museums, libraries and archives of Europe.

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

MDA's Labelling Marking Training Film

MDA, the UK's lead organisation in documentation and the management of collections information, has launched a new short training film on labelling and marking museum objects. *Making Your Mark* has been made in consultation with museum curators and conservators and illustrates up to date labelling and marking techniques as well as containing essential health and safety information. Object types discussed in the film include coins, textiles, ceramics, natural history specimens, paper and photographs.

Making Your Mark will be shown as part of all MDA documentation training courses. It is also available for retail for £27.50 for MDA members or £37.00 for non-members.

To order a copy, you can email: orders@mda.org.uk stating whether you require DVD or VHS format.

For more information visit: <http://www.mda.org.uk/video.htm>

First Planetarium in Birmingham

Birmingham's first Planetarium has opened as the central part of a £2m upgrade of the Thinktank science museum at Millennium Point.



The digital Planetarium will seat up to 70 visitors per show with reclined seating, Digistar 3 technology and additional room for four wheelchairs, under a projection dome stretching 32.8ft (10m) in diameter. The fully hemispheric attraction will offer visitors a selection of science-led shows based on astronomy and the life sciences. It will join the IMAX cinema and a number of other

organisations at Millennium Point including one of Thinktank's education partners, the UCE's Technology Innovation Centre.

For more details visit: www.thinktank.ac

Buried Treasures Revealed

Members of the public have discovered more than 67,000 archaeological items and 427 pieces of treasure over the past year. The details of the finds are revealed in two new reports launched by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

The PAS annual report (2004/5) contains information about finds reported by amateur archaeologists and members of the public. www.finds.org.uk

The DCMS Treasure Annual Report includes details of objects reported under the Treasure Act 1996.

http://www.culture.gov.uk/global/publications/archive_2005/tar_2003.htm

The Conservation Register has moved!

The register of conservators and restorers in the UK and Ireland has moved to the premises at Icon, the Institute of Conservation.

Their address is now: Conservation Register, c/o Icon the Institute of Conservation, 3rd Floor Downstream Building, 1 London Bridge, London, SE1 9BG. Tel: 020 7785 3804.

The Conservation Register allows you to carry out free searches based on specialist skill and geographical location.

www.conservationregister.com

Winners of the 2005 Conservation Awards

The Conservation Awards celebrate excellence in conservation, restoration and preservation management. They focus attention on the skills of those training and working in these fields and on outstanding achievements in caring for the cultural heritage in the UK. For details of the winners visit:

www.consawards.instituteofconservation.org.uk

New Gift Aid Branding

The law governing Gift Aid contributions will change in April 2006. To raise awareness of this change AGALG has developed new branding for use when asking visitors to contribute gift aid. The change will affect all museums with charitable status that claim gift aid on admission charges or paid-for exhibitions.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has confirmed that redeemable vouchers can be used to meet one of the criteria for eligibility for gift aid, that is, that visitors pay an additional 10% over the normal admission price.

Museums may also promote an admission charge that includes the additional ten per cent, on condition that the normal admission charge is made clear. Alternatively, museums can offer a season ticket or a membership scheme that incorporates the gift aid donation.

For more information visit: www.museumsassociation.org

HMRC Guidance: www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/chapter3-insert.htm

Learning and Access

Summary of the Third Libraries Forum Event



Having regional events for libraries in the West Midlands has become a bit of a tradition over the last decade or so. How can the latest of these annual Library Forum events (held on October 12th) be summed up; and more important still how can it be communicated to a wider audience?

It was the opinion of the Libraries Forum, who is responsible for planning the day, that events like these do not always produce helpful sets of action points. The customary breakout sessions with flip charts and reporting back can sometimes result in nothing very specific or focused. It is not easy for such a diverse range of delegates (this year spread quick widely across NHS, special, local authority and higher/further education libraries) to envisage partnership opportunities without a much longer period of reflection, maybe even some brokerage. So this year it was decided to concentrate on sharing practice rather than more open discussion and to give this the best of our energies by doing it first thing. The six studies covered a huge amount of ground, posing questions about such diverse elements of the customer experience as shelving, reception/information desks and design of buildings. The speakers (*pictured above*) presented their approaches to consultation (focus groups and mystery visitors in particular), standards and partnership working. We were very pleased that within-region input from Geoff Mills (Birmingham), Adrian Williams (Shropshire), Harpreet Kaur (Audiences Central), Sam Skillings (Compton Verney) and Janet Weaver (Staffordshire University) was enhanced by some external viewpoints from Jan Clark (Leeds) and Katherine Everest (Leeds Metropolitan University). Each of their presentations can be viewed on our website at: <http://www.mlawestmidlands.org.uk/priorities/learning/resources/index.asp?id=864,746,55,759>

So what should the 2006 event focus on? After three years on customer and marketing themes, it is maybe time for something completely different. The Libraries Forum would welcome your thoughts (whether you have attended any of these events before or not). Please email Geoff Warren, Deputy Chief Executive: geoff.warren@mlawestmidlands.org.uk and he will pass your feedback on.

For Geoff's full summary of the event please visit: <http://www.mlawestmidlands.org.uk/priorities/learning/resources/index.asp?id=864,746,55,759>

Britain's Forgotten Readers

Get hooked on books...

"I've never read a book in my life, but I've read three Quick Reads. I started reading in the day, read all evening, and took the book to bed with me - even though my husband laughed at me for reading a book." - A Parent in a Family Learning Class.

Quick Reads are short, fast-paced books aimed at the millions of people who don't read, either because they don't have the skills or the time. The series of twenty-two includes accessible fiction and non-fiction that have universal appeal. These will be released on World Book Day, 2 March 2006.

To encourage emergent readers to buy Quick Reads, book tokens will be produced and distributed throughout England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The book tokens will entitle the buyer to a £1 discount on the £2.99 retail price of the Quick Reads titles and are valid until the end of 2006.

To order these exclusive tokens visit www.quickreads.org.uk as soon as possible, as the closing date for ordering tokens, is rapidly approaching, or email: quickreads@niace.org.uk

2006 Crime Writers' Association Dagger in the Library Award

This year the Library Award has been brought forward by 4 months. Libraries have until 1st April 2006 (but sooner would be appreciated) to produce nominations - up to 3 per library or Readers' Group. This award, sponsored by Random House, is nominated and judged entirely by librarians, although of course many people seize this opportunity to involve Readers' Groups.

The 2005 nominations were extremely successful - the judges received 152 nominations, for a total of 99 authors, from 68 libraries/ Readers' Groups. All libraries whose authors are short-listed for this award will be entered for a draw for two free tickets to the CWA Dagger Awards ceremony in London in November, where the winner will be announced.

Details and forms are available at: www.jiscmail.ac.uk/files/LIS-PUB-LIBS/2006CWAFLier.doc

Literature Matters!

“It has been demonstrated that when teachers and librarians work together, students achieve higher levels of literacy, reading, learning, problem solving and ICT skills” – UNESCO / ILFA School Manifesto 2000

School Library Services (SLS) are an invaluable resource for teachers and. They can support teaching and learning across the curriculum and with the raising standards agenda. This is achieved by advice, loans, and support for evaluation, training and partnership development.

10 Top Ways to Utilise a School's Library

1. **Resources.** Visit the school library and find out what *resources* are available, e.g. books, ICT, posters, texts to support literacy across the curriculum and collections of resources for topic teaching.
2. **Plan.** Work with library resources and staff to *plan* lessons within schemes of work
3. **Responsibility.** Find out who has *responsibility* for the library. In a primary school this may be a library co-ordinator and in a secondary school a specialist librarian. These staff will be able to provide information on outside agencies, especially the SLS.
4. **Identify.** Make use of the school librarians or SLS who can support teachers to *identify* books and web-based resources in advance of teaching topics.
5. **Support.** Use a library to *support* 'out of hours' interest or homework clubs.
6. **Creative.** Use the library as a *creative* and flexible learning space for project work, individual study and group research.
7. **Technology.** Use the library to enable students to use *technology* in practical ways for real research.
8. **Enhance.** Make use of SLS who can support teachers' own knowledge of fictional genres, significant authors, current reading trends and non-fiction texts to *enhance* subject knowledge across the curriculum.
9. **Organising.** Support pupils in *organising* their classroom-based research and homework.
10. **Success.** Celebrate *success* – displaying pupils' work within library spaces.

Each local authority council in the West Midlands operates a SLS see details in the list that follows. Each SLS will provide full details of the support and services on offer and where applicable the cost to school budgets of this support. Services offered will either be 'pay as you go', a subscription package or a mixture of both.

Birmingham - www.schoolslibraryservice.co.uk
Coventry -

www.coventry.gov.uk/navigation/education-and-learning/school-library-service/

Dudley - www.dudley.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/libraries/schools-library-service

Herefordshire - www.libraries.herefordshire.gov.uk
Sandwell -

www.lea.sandwell.gov.uk/libraries/rm/index

Shropshire - www.shropshire.gov.uk

Solihull -

www.solihull.gov.uk/wwwlib/central/schools/schools.htm

Staffordshire - www.staffordshire.gov.uk/libraries

Walsall -

www.walsall.gov.uk/libraries/schools/slss.asp

Warwickshire -

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/schoolslibraryservice

Wolverhampton -

www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/leisure_culture/libraries/schools_lib

Worcestershire -

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/home/lib-schools

Awards For Organisations Who Open Doors To Learners

The *Opening Doors to Adult Learners Awards* are open to organisations across the UK that meet the challenge of delivering learning opportunities which provide clear routes of progression for, and have a positive impact on, their learners. Each winning organisation will receive a certificate and £1500.

Rachel Thomson, Senior Campaigns Officer at NIACE, said, “...*The Opening Doors to Adult Learners awards celebrate creative schemes of learning that have a track record of success for their adult learners - ones that really ignite a spark of enthusiasm that can lead to whole new lives for learners and benefit whole communities.*”

The search for nominations continues for the Adult Learners' Week Awards 2006 -part of the biggest celebration of learning in the UK. The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) is not only keen to hear about inspirational adult learners, but also wants to celebrate the originality, creativity and excellence demonstrated by organisations that provide encouragement for adults to learn.

Contact NIACE's Campaigns and Promotions team on 0116 204 4200 for a nomination form – or visit: www.alw.org.uk - and you could be receiving a national award in May 2006.

MLA West Midlands Placement Programme

There are a few remaining places available on the Placement Programme – either for you to gain experience within a school or to work with a teacher at your organisation.

Last year the teacher placements proved to be a unanimous success with not only the resulting learning resources being well used but with the teachers wanting to engage their children with the museum/archive.

It is a fantastic opportunity to develop your services to children using the specialist knowledge of a teacher and also opens your service up to more children.



Photo is from a CD Rom developed by Hereford Museum and a local teacher as an outreach resource for schools.

For application forms please visit our website:

<http://www.mlawestmidlands.org.uk/priorities/learning/event/s/>

Adult Learners Week 2006 – 20-26 May 2006.

Champion your learners and celebrate the value of learning with an Adult Learners Week Award.

The search for nominations continues for the Adult Learners' Week Awards 2006 -part of the biggest celebration of learning in the UK. The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) is not only keen to hear about inspirational adult learners, but also wants to celebrate the originality, creativity and excellence demonstrated by organisations that provide encouragement for adults to learn.

Do you know of someone who has a remarkable story to tell or who has overcome particular changes or barriers to his/her learning? If you do, then nominate them now. There is an array of awards for individuals and groups, for those who learn as a family as well as projects that are remarkable for their innovation and impact. All award winners will receive a framed certificate of achievement and will be invited to one of two national award ceremonies in London during Adult Learners' Week.

The closing date for nominations is 13 January 2006

You can download a nomination form from:

<http://www.niace.org.uk/ALW/2006/Default.htm>

Email: alw@niace.org.uk or Tel: 0116 204 4200/1



RENAISSANCE WEST MIDLANDS
museums for changing lives

Museum Education – Shout It From The Rooftops

Free Training and Resources

Those working in museums and museum education are very aware of the unique and rich resources that we have to offer schools, to help them support the national curriculum. We have exhibitions, collections, objects and educational activities that can bring subjects to life and inspire children to learn. We have unique learning environments that capture children's imaginations and go beyond what teachers can do in the classroom. In short, we have a fantastic resource that every school child and teacher should get access to.

The West Midlands Hub Museums have been developing a **FREE new resource** to help museum professionals with these issues. The resources are designed for museums of all sizes and types of collections, whether you are a local voluntary museum that would like to make contact with your local school, or a larger established service that offers a range of education sessions and would like to convince 100 teacher trainees at your local University to use your museum. The presentation has been designed so that museums can include information and images that show your own exhibitions and education resources, so that you can really highlight your strengths.

For full details and booking form visit our website at:

www.mlawestmidlands.org.uk/learning/events

For more information about Renaissance in the West Midlands visit:

www.renaissancewestmidlands.org.uk

The deadline for bookings will be Monday 9th January 2006.

Arts Award for Young People

Art Council England's new Arts Award is the first accredited youth arts scheme that recognises the development of young artists and arts leaders. It will offer young people aged 11 to 25 the chance to enjoy the arts whilst leading projects in the community geared towards building skills for active citizenship and developing self-confidence.

The Arts Award can be taken at three levels, Bronze, Silver or Gold, which are accredited at the National Qualifications Framework levels one, two and three. By April 2006 it is expected that Arts Award centres will be up and running throughout the country, supported by nine regional agencies in each Government Office region.

For more information visit:
www.artscouncil.org.uk/aboutus/

Jodi Awards 2006 - Call for Nominations –

The Jodi Awards recognise museum, gallery, library, archive or heritage websites that demonstrate commitment to meeting web accessibility standards.

Nominations are now being sought for the Jodi Awards 2006. The awards are developed and sustained by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, (MLA), 24 Hour Museum and the British Museum.

The deadline for nominations is 24 February 2006.

For full details visit:

http://www.mla.gov.uk/action/earnacc/00access_03.asp#4

Funding and Awards

Development Fund Programme 2006-2008

A fund of £125,000 is available to museums, libraries and archives in the West Midlands in each of the next two financial years (2006-7, and subject to budget confirmation, 2007-8).

Stream One – The Strategic Programme. 'Children and family learning' and/or 'Young people'. A total of £50,000 is available in 2006-7 and subject to budget confirmation the same in 2007-8. Sums between £10,000 - £30,000 may be applied for. Your proposal will need to demonstrate how museum, library and archive services and organisations can improve and develop together. Bids are invited from partnerships representing the whole sector (museums, libraries and archives must all be included).

Stream Two – Service Programmes. 'Attracting new audiences' linked to 'Improving collections'. There will be three programmes to support a range of projects in each of the domains (museums, libraries and archives). £25,000 is available for each domain in 2006-7 and subject to budget confirmation the same sum in 2007-8 (£75,000 in total for the Service Programmes each year). Your proposal will need to focus on new audiences (more and better use) linked to collection improvements (better stewardship and resource discovery). Sums between £1,000 and £8,000 may be applied for.

Specific criteria for each domain

Museums programme – Long-term improvements to the care and exploitation of *Museums Collections* (but bids should not involve Designated or Hub Collections). This programme complements Grants programmes we expect to be agreed for 2006-8 via Renaissance in the Regions and the Museum Development Fund.

Libraries programme – Long-term improvements to the care and exploitation of *Special Collections* of regional or greater significance (as audited in the 'Futures Together' report but bids should not include Designated Collections or Newsplan related work).

Archives programme - Long-term improvements to the care and exploitation of *Archive Collections* with a focus on extending the range of use and increasing the numbers of users of the service (but bids should not include Designated Collections).

Applications for the Strategic Programme must be returned by 10 March 2006 and for the Service Programme by 24 March 2006.

For the full document and an application form visit our website at:

www.mlawestmidlands.org.uk/priorities/fundingawards/

For an electronic or hardcopy version of the document and form contact:

Judi Locke, Coordinator - Development Initiatives:

judi.locke@mlawestmidlands.org.uk or Tel: 0121 631 5812

Workforce Development

FREE IT Course

Newman College of Higher Education, Birmingham is launching an IT Certificate in Higher Education which is intended for staff working in the voluntary sector and SMEs, who have responsibility for IT systems in the workplace. The part-time course starts in January 2006 and will last for 11 months.

The course is FREE to those who are eligible (you must live or work in certain parts of the West Midlands such as Birmingham, Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall or West Bromwich and either be working for an SME or in the voluntary sector). Some students may also be eligible for further funding to help with the costs of books and childcare.

For more information visit: www.newman.ac.uk

ICT and E-Society

Renaissance West Midlands Website

Renaissance West Midlands launched their new website at the end of last year.

It is for employees and volunteers in museums and galleries across the region. The site provides information on training, advice and resources that are available locally through Renaissance initiatives. There is also more detailed information on the Renaissance programme and regional projects.

Visit: www.renaissancewestmidlands.org.uk

Their bi-annual newsletter is also available via their website, please visit:
http://www.renaissancewestmidlands.org.uk/?location_id=26 for the latest issue and older issues.

Marketing Information Available to Museums, Libraries and Archives

Museums, libraries and archives can now access Arts Council England's database of demographic information to assist them with marketing planning, as a result of an arrangement between MLA and the Arts Council.

The database includes information from the 2001 Census, the Target Group Index (TGI) and the ACORN geo-demographic profiling system, which together allow organisations to profile their local area. When combined with visitor survey data, this information can be used to identify marketing and audience development opportunities.

Further details and the order form are available at:
www.mla.gov.uk/information/evidence/ev_ace_report_s.asp

Microsoft and the British Library work together

Microsoft and the British Library have announced a strategic partnership to digitise 25 million pages of content from the Library's collections in

2006, with a long term commitment to digitise still more in the future.

Microsoft and the British Library will work together to digitise around 100,000 out-of-copyright books and deliver search results for this content through the new **MSN Book Search** service. It will help people find precisely what they're looking for on the web.

For more information visit:

<http://www.bl.uk/news/2005/pressrelease20051104.html>

MLA Council

MLA Secondments/Appointments

Fran Hegyi, Head of Regions and International at MLA, has been seconded part time to London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG) to take up the post of Cultural Programmes Adviser. Fran's role will be to identify ways in which the museums, libraries and archives sector can contribute to the cultural festival and activities around the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Fran's email address at LOCOG will be fran.hegyi@london2012.com

David Dawson, MLA's Head of Digital Futures, will be dividing his time between MLA his secondment as **Technology Directorate at the Department for Education and Skills (DfES)**. His role will focus on the Personalised Learning agenda, one of four key strands of the implementation of the Government's eStrategy. This will include working with the wider cultural sector and DCMS, as well as BECTA and JISC who are delivery partners for the implementation of the eStrategy.

John Dolan has been appointed **Head of Library Policy** at MLA. John will lead library policy and advocacy and continue to develop Framework for the Future, the MLA's national programme for public library transformation.

Understanding the Future: Museums and the 21st Century

The responses to the DCMS Consultation: Understanding the Future: Museums and the 21st Century, which ran from 27 January to 30 June 2005 is now available on the DCMS website at:
www.culture.gov.uk

Proud Heritage Survey

MLA is supporting a new initiative which will provide the first national overview of collections in museums, libraries and archives which tell the story of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people in England. Proud Heritage is working through MLA and other key partners in the cultural sector to map collections and reveal hidden histories.

MLA are distributing the mapping questionnaire on request to museums, libraries and archives who have related collections. At the same time, the MDA is working with Proud Heritage to develop strategies to promote access and innovative interpretation of the newly mapped collections. For a copy of the survey, or for more information, please contact Rebecca Linley, MLA Social Policy Adviser on 020 7273 1432 or rebecca.linley@mla.gov.uk

Museum Development Officers get the 'Thumbs Up'

The Museum Development Fund is one way in which *Renaissance*, the national programme to transform regional museums, channels support to museums beyond the Regional Museum Hub network. The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council's (MLA) new report, *The Mapping of Museum Development Officers in England*, provides a comprehensive picture of the support available to the museum sector, reveals how that support is funded and identifies gaps in provision. It summarises research conducted on behalf of MLA and the Association of Independent Museums.

The report concludes that Museum Development Officers play a crucial support role, and that increased, sustained funding is required to sustain existing posts and extend services.

The full report with all the recommendations is available on the MLA website at: [http://www.mla.gov.uk/action/regional/00renaiss.asp - 4](http://www.mla.gov.uk/action/regional/00renaiss.asp-4)

MLA welcomes the launch of online poetry archive

The brainchild of Poet Laureate Andrew Motion and recording producer Richard Carrington, the Poetry Archive is recording significant poets reading their own works and preserving them for posterity on an online database freely available to everyone.

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) welcome the launch of an online initiative to create a digital archive of poetry readings. As a unique archive and an educational resource that will encourage the enjoyment of poetry and reading, MLA is supporting the initiative by making it available through the new online People's Network service www.peoplesnetwork.gov.uk where public libraries promote valuable resources for the diverse audiences they serve.

The Poetry Archive has also tackled new areas in ensuring that its content is available to those with disabilities, and it aims to be user friendly for both the visually impaired and those with hearing difficulties. Web Accessibility is very important, and has been

highlighted in a report by MLA published earlier this year.

To view the Poetry Archive please visit: <http://www.poetryarchive.org/poetryarchive/home.do>

MLA West Midlands

Staff Announcements

Research & Evidence Officer

Philip Kiberd started in post as Research & Evidence Officer on 1st December 2005 and will now work part-time in this role & part-time as Content Coordination Officer March next year.

Ivar Romo left the Pay & Power Project as Project Assistant last year. We thank him for his contribution to the project during his time with us.

Jenni Waugh who was the BBC People's War Outreach Officer has now finished that project successfully. Happily she is still with MLA West Midlands in her new post as Access and Social Policy Officer.

Box of Acronyms		
A2A	...	Access to Archives
AGALG	...	Attractions Gift Aid Liaisons Group
ALSF		Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund
DCMS	...	Department of Culture, Media and Sports
KS2	...	Key Stage 2
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
PAS	...	Portable Antiquities Scheme
SLS	...	School Library Services

MLA West Midlands

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If you have any articles you would like to submit to our newsletter please email: julie.bedward@mlawestmidlands.org.uk



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...Around the Region...

Pay & Power's Successful Workshops/Training Sessions



Creativity boxes and the Black Country

Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton, collaborated to host a workshop for KS2 teachers. The main aim was to enable the Archives to develop the resources they offer to schools in consultation with the teachers so that resources developed subsequently shall better meet the needs of both teachers and

pupils. The Archives, the project staff and the MLA West Midlands Cultural Entitlement Officer, Laura Robinson, jointly coordinated the work. Cultural Entitlement is a government led initiative that aims to break down the barriers that prevent school-aged children benefiting from cultural experiences.

The teachers were encouraged to handle and discuss a wide variety of archive material and Wolverhampton Archive Service invited the guests to visit their conservation area. During the workshop, both guests and organisers realised that the archivists' research and interpretative skills are complementary to the teachers' pedagogical skills. By working together to develop educational resources, children will have the opportunity to enjoy a creative learning experience.

Before the workshop, few of the teachers had used primary sources from archives in the classroom; many felt unsure about what an archive is. By the end of the session, their outlook had become very positive and their enthusiasm to participate in the development of learning resources was great.



Creating Networks in Shropshire

Guests came from local libraries, a wide range of county council departments including Countryside and Tourism, and the National Trust.

The morning was divided into three sections. Firstly, the guests were introduced to on-line catalogues and used on-line catalogues to answer four questions. They found that they had different answers depending on the catalogue used. This highlighted the importance of looking at more than one catalogue. The second part of the day was a hands-on session. For the final session, the participants were divided into two groups to discuss their changed attitudes towards the Archives and ways they could work more effectively together. Follow up sessions are planned with each smaller group in order to keep the ball rolling. The training session held by Shropshire Archives generated the enthusiasm needed for productive partnerships in Shropshire's cultural landscape.



Birmingham Group - Archives and adult education

Birmingham University Special Collections and Birmingham City Archives teamed up to organise two training sessions for people from museums, libraries and archives with an interest in adult education and lifelong learning.

The training sessions aimed to demonstrate the many ways archives can be used to engage learners, in both formal and informal education. Birmingham City Archives used group palaeography activities to challenge their guests who were asked to decipher 17th century letters from the Galton collection.

Discussion groups were invited to think about different ways these collections could be used with adult learners and they were fruitful with far ranging ideas for future partnerships. These included creative writing in literacy programmes, shared exhibition projects with the National Trust and national links with events to celebrate the anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery in 2007.



Train the Trainers – DALHS introduces librarians to family history

Dudley Archives and Local History Service combined the training sessions with their own aims to develop closer links with library and museum services and offer training for their paid and volunteer staff.

Ten librarians and museum staff spent the day at DALHS and learnt about archives and local studies and how this was relevant to their work. They were encouraged to share new skills and knowledge acquired with both colleagues and members of the public when they returned to their library or museum. They had the opportunity to develop enquiry skills, handle documents and use a variety of finding aids. In particular, they highlighted the insight they had into family history and making the most of online resources. This is essential as libraries are often the first port of call for the public wanting to start tracing their ancestry.

For the full reviews visit: www.mlwestmidlands.org.uk/priorities/ourcurrentprojects/

Cultural Calendar 2006

A listing of some of the National, Regional & Religious Events/Festivals
Chinese Year of the Dog

January			March			May		
1	New Years Day		1	Ash Wednesday	C	1	Bank Holiday	
2	Bank Holiday		2	World Book Day		6	Nurses Day	
6	Epiphany	C		Dr Seuss Birthday			Join Hands Day	
8	Waqf al Arafa	I	14	Purim – Feast of Lots	J		150 th anniversary of the birth of Sigmund Freud	
8 – 12	Hajj	I		Sikh New Year	S	8	VE Day	
9-15	Sign Up Now (for adult learning) campaign. NIACE		14-15	Holi – Spring Festival	H	9	National Teachers Day	
10	Save the Eagles Day		17	St Patrick's Day	C	16	Lag B'omer	J
	Asara B Tevet	J	20	First Day of Spring		18	International Museums Day	
	Eid – ul – Adha	I	21	Hola Mohalla	S	20	Armed Forces Day	
11	Amelia Earheart Day		25	Annunciation	C		Museums at Night Event	
	Id al Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice)	I	26	Mothering Sunday		22	Victoria Day	
14	Makar Sankrant	H		British Summer Time begins			National Maritime Day	
15	World Religion Day					25	Ascension	C
22 –	Farmhouse Breakfast Week						Gulbenkian Prize Presentation	
28						29	Bank Holiday	
23–28	Cancertalk Week					31-1	Stafford County Show	
26	National Salt Awareness Day					June		
27	WWII Genocide Memorial Day							
29	Chinese New Year: Year of the Dog							
31	50 th anniversary of the death of Winnie the Pooh author AA Milne							
February			April			June		
1	National Freedom Day		1	April Fools Day		1-7	Volunteers Week	
2	Groundhog Day		9	Palm Sunday	C	2	Shavu' (Pentecost)	J
	Candlemass	P	10	Mawlid an – Nabi	I	4	Pentecost	J
	Vasanta Panchani / Saraswati Puja	H	13	Pesach (start of Passover)	J	5	World Environment Day	
5	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh	S	13-14	Vaisakli	S	8	World Oceans Day	
8	Boy Scout Day		14	Good Friday	C	11	Trinity Sunday	C
13	Tu B'Shevat – New Year of Trees	J	16	Easter Sunday	C	11-19	National Bike Week	
14	Valentine's Day		17	Easter Bank Holiday		14	Flag Day	
26	Mahashivratri (Great Shiva Night)	H	21	Queen's actual 80 th birthday		15	Corpus Christi	C
			22	Earth Day		17	National Badger Day	
			23-13	Bromsgrove Festival			BT Giant Sleepover	
			May			17-18	Leamington Peace Festival	
			23	St George's Day		18	Father's Day	
			26	Administrative Professionals Day				
			28	Arbar Day				
			29-4	Museums & Galleries Month				
			June					

18-24	Learning Disability Week	
18-25	Refugee Week	
19	Juneteenth	
20	Emancipalia Day	
21	Longest Day – First Day of Summer	
24	St Baptiste Day	C
	Wrong Trousers Day	
24-9	Ludlow Festival	
July		
26-30	Design & Technology Week	
26-2	DeafBlind Awareness Week	
July		
30	The Big Recycle	

July

4	Independence Day	
5-9	Henley Festival of Music	
6-16	Lichfield's 25 th Festival	
12	Battle of Boyne / Orangemen's Day	
14	Bastille Day	
	Emmeline Parkhurst Day	
15	St Swithin's Day	C
21-23	Warwick Folk Festival	
23	Parents Day	
	Birthday of Haile Selassie	R

August

3	Tisha B'Av	J
6	Friendship Day	
	The Transfiguration	C
6-11	Worcestershire Three Choirs Festival	
15	Assumption Day	C
16	Janamashtami / Krhishna Jayanti – Birthday of Krishna	H
17	Marcus Garvey's Birthday	R
19	National Aviation Day	
21	Lailat – Ul – Isra' Wal Mi'raj (the Prophets Night Journey to Jerusalem and Ascension)	I
25	Month of Elul Begins	J
25-28	Shrewsbury Folk Festival	
26	Women's Equality Day	

27	Ganesh Chaturthi	H
28	Summer Bank Holiday	
	100 th anniversary of the birth of poet John Betjeman	

September

1	First Parkash (Nanak Shaki)	S
4	Labor Day	
7	First Parkash (Bikardni)	S
8-10	Bromyard Folk Festival	
8-22	Pitr-Paksha	H
10	Grandparents Day	
11	Patriot Day	
	New Years Day	R
16	Stepfamily Day	
16-17	First Selichot Service (at midnight)	J
17	Citizenship Day	
23	First Day of Autumn	
	Rosh Hashanah	J
27-1	Navaratri / Durga Puja / Dusserah	H
Oct		
29	Michaelmass	C
29-30	Saraswati Puja	H

October

2	Childs Health Day	
	Vijaya Dashami (Dasera)	H
	Yom Kippur – Attonement Day	J
6-13	Sukkot	J
7-15	Bewdley Festival	
8	National Childrens Day	
9	Leif Erikson Day	
14	Simkhat Torah (Rejoicing the Law)	J
16	Boss Day	
19	Lailat – Ul – Qadr (The Night of Power)	I
21	Sweetest Day	
	Deepavali (Festival of Light)	H
22	Mother-in-Law Day	
	Vikram New Year 2063	H
24	United Nations Day	
28	National Make a Difference day	
29	British Summer Time ends	
31	Halloween	

November

1	All Saints Day	C
2	All Souls Day	C
	Anniversary of the Crowning of Haile Selassie	R
4	Bandi Chhar Divas	S
5	Guy Fawkes Day	
6	Installation of the Holy Scriptures as Guru Granth Sahib Ji	S
8	Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji	S
11	Remembrance Day	
21	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji (Nanakshaki)	S
22	Arts Awareness Day	
	St Andrews Day	C

December

7	National Pearl Harbour Day	
8	Remembrance Day	
	Immaculate Conception	C
	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji (Bikarami)	S
10	Human Rights Day	
15-22	Chanukkah	J
17	Wright Brothers Day	
21	Shortest Day - First Day of Winter	
	Forefathers Day	
25	Christmas Day	C
26	Boxing Day	C
26-1	Chanukkah	J
Jan		
31	Asara B'Tevet	J

C = Christian	P= Paganism
H = Hindu	R = Rastafarianism
I = Islam	S = Sikh
J = Judasism	