

National review of  
Renaissance

Collections for the  
Future team

Curating for the  
Future conference

**RENAISSANCE**  
NORTH WEST  
museums for  
changing lives

ISSUE 11 OCTOBER 09



# National review of Renaissance

“ There is a lot more work to do – the strategic developments proposed in the Review together with sustained funding will help complete the comprehensive transformation that was originally visualised, to help ensure key regional museums continue to develop as confident, ambitious institutions, focused on continuous improvement.

Professor Sara Selwood,  
Chair of the Renaissance Review ”

Harris Museum & Art Gallery



Claire Wood

The Renaissance Review, published 22 July, has endorsed this flagship funding programme as the most important intervention in English non-national museums since the Museums Act of 1845. It has recognised that the £300m invested in the programme since 2002 has helped transform the regional museum sector across the country and boost visitor figures.

Culture Minister Barbara Follet, said: “*Renaissance in the Regions* has been a real success. There are around 15 million visits to the Hub museums funded by the programme every year; visitor numbers have increased by 18.5% since 2002... These are remarkable achievements and vindicate the decision to put real investment into our regional museums and galleries for the first time. Much has been achieved but there is still much to be done, and I wish the MLA every success in furthering improvements to the delivery of the programme.”

*Leading Museums*, MLA's National Action Plan for Museums prioritises the implementation of recommendations made in the Review. Hedley Swain, MLA's Director of Programme Delivery, is developing a timetable for full consultation with stakeholders and then a programme of implementation that will dovetail with the next Renaissance planning round. This autumn, MLA is working closely with DCMS, and will be convening a high level steering group representing the whole sector, to oversee the delivery of *Leading Museums* and assess how Renaissance can drive improvement.

The Renaissance North West Board is positively engaging with the Review and will use it and all associated consultation, to take forward the Renaissance programme which has undoubtedly been such a success in our region. Since 2003-04, visitor figures at the Hub venues have increased by more than 25% and 98% of regional museums have been supported through funding, resources or advice from the Collections for the Future team.

**Virginia Tandy OBE, Director of Culture:  
Manchester City Council & North West Hub Lead &  
Nathan Lee, Regional Manager – North West: MLA Council**

For more information about the review and MLA's action plan visit [www.mla.gov.uk/what/programmes/renaissance](http://www.mla.gov.uk/what/programmes/renaissance)

## Centre for Museology Professional Development Programme

**The University of Manchester in partnership with Renaissance North West welcomes applications for the second year of its successful professional development programme for museum staff throughout the region.**

The programme is for anyone working in a museum or gallery in the North West who wants to develop their skills and understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing museums today. Drawing on a personalised blend of learning on campus, in your workplace and in a network of fellow trainees, you will have the opportunity to:

- ★ develop a strategic understanding of your role within your organisation and the contexts that shape your organisation's policies

- ★ acquire knowledge and skills in different aspects of museum practice
- ★ research and reflect on the impact and effects of a work-based project
- ★ be part of the learning and research community in the Centre for Museology
- ★ share your knowledge with others and form a network of contacts

Find out more about the programme at the Professional Development Open Day on Tuesday 10 November 2009. To book contact Robert Knifton [robert.knifton@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:robert.knifton@manchester.ac.uk)

For more information on how to apply visit [www.arts.manchester.ac.uk/museology](http://www.arts.manchester.ac.uk/museology)

[www.renaissancenw.org.uk](http://www.renaissancenw.org.uk)

# Supporting regional museums: Collections for the Future Team



Kaye, Alex, Jennie, Julian and Sarah

## **Jennie Pitceathly** Regional Museums Development Manager

My role as Regional Museums Development Manager is a new post within the Renaissance North West team. It's about communications, advocacy, networks and brokering partnerships. My surname is new too – many of you reading this will know me as Jennie Crawford.

I am responsible for coordinating the team that delivers the Collections for the Future programme across the region. Together we are supporting museum collaborations that strengthen capacity, raise the profile of collections to bring them to new audiences, and develop colleagues in every museum and gallery across the North West. We are achieving this by working with other partners too, like the Museums Association, North West Fed and GEM.

The best part of my job is the people and range of institutions that I get to work with in Tameside, Grasmere and Blackburn. It's through working together that we are better able to make the case nationally for continued support for museums and galleries in our region.

## **Sarah Cooper** Accreditation, Standards & Review Officer

I provide Accreditation advice and support to museums in the North West. This includes one to one advice on applications as well as the provision of suitable training days related to the scheme.

I am also looking to build on the work carried out in the region on collections reviews. This will involve working with museums who are interested in the Museums Association's Effective Collections grant scheme which Renaissance North West is supporting ([www.museumsassociation.org/effective](http://www.museumsassociation.org/effective)).

I joined the team in mid-July having previously worked as a more 'traditional' Museum Development Officer in Cornwall. I have worked in museums for over ten years and I still get a little thrill when I am allowed to go behind the scenes and see the museum's stores. I am often out on the road visiting museums, so you will get a quicker response from me by e-mailing rather than by ringing my office number.

## **Kaye Tetlow** Collections Care Liaison Officer

It has been two years since I joined the Renaissance North West team as the Collections Care Liaison Officer and I still consider it to be my dream job!

I trained as a conservator, so it's a pleasure to support individuals and institutions to raise standards in collections care through implementing preventive conservation plans and gaining new skills at the training sessions that Renaissance North West has organised.

Over the next 18 months, my aim is to build on these achievements to help museums plan for the future. As our sector explores new ways of increasing sustainability, I am also keen to support museums and galleries to develop and implement sustainable methods of storage, display and environmental control to preserve the rich heritage of the North West.

Working with the diverse range of heritage sites, collections and individuals in my region is a joy. Please contact me regarding any queries relating to the preservation of the collections in your care and 'greening' your museums.

## **Manchester Museum**



## Julian Andrejczuk Workforce & Skills Development Officer

This is a new position within Renaissance North West and I am looking to build on the successes previously achieved by colleagues in this and other regional and national organisations. Drawing from staff development opportunities that already exist I will broaden the offer available across our region so that staff from Carlisle to Chester are able to access opportunities and develop skills to benefit themselves and their organisations. I hope my work will have an impact on the retention and progression of staff at all levels and support the sustainability of the wider sector.

I am keen to hear of any staff development opportunities that may be available within the sector, and encourage anyone who knows of any events or initiatives to contact me and I will ensure the information is disseminated. Equally if you feel that your needs are not being addressed, or that there are barriers to your taking up CPD or other learning opportunities please do give me a call or drop me an email.

## Alex Bird Events & Communications Support Officer

I have been in post since June and my role is to provide support for the Renaissance North West team while Katie Athey is on maternity leave. I am mainly responsible for coordinating events – including the Curating for the Future conference in November – and copy editing. Most of you will know me as the booking contact for our training events. Keep those bookings coming as our events and training sessions have never been so popular.

I am also responsible for promoting the opportunities for regional museums and galleries and disseminating all other relevant information and learning via our e-bulletin. You can sign up to receive information about events, job opportunities and new research by visiting [www.renaissancenw.org.uk](http://www.renaissancenw.org.uk)

Since joining the team, I have been impressed by the extensive 'reach' of the programme across the North West and am really looking forward to contributing to the success of the programme.



## Regional role of Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery

Renaissance in the Regions has given Tullie House the opportunity to build on its strengths and develop into a more dynamic and outgoing organisation. Over the past five years the change and investment in learning, outreach, collections access and audience development has transformed Tullie House.

Tullie House supports the three Cumbrian Learning Networks which work collaboratively on literacy projects such as Once Upon a Time, and other initiatives such as oral history and reminiscence training. We are also working with the Cumbrian Museums Forum which is beginning to refocus and work together.

Tullie House is leading on two major collaborative projects that will benefit museums across Cumbria. The first is working with Tate and the Museums Association on the Effective Collections programme getting works of art from the Tate's collection on long term loan at Cumbrian museums.

The second is coordinating the BBC's A History of the World project. Cumbrian museums have been invited to work with the BBC to choose ten museum objects with compelling stories that have a global and a local resonance. Participation in the project will give the museums a permanent presence on the A History of the World website, with links to each organisation. All registered or accredited museums in the county have been invited to submit suggestions. The challenge will be getting the list down to ten objects, but the resulting website will be well worth visiting.

Hilary Wade, Museum Director,  
Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery



Claire Wood

## Collections Development Officer: Natural Sciences

As this newsletter went to print, we were recruiting the Collections Development Officer: Natural Sciences. They will develop the region's natural science collections for the 21st century so they continue to have relevance and meaning for audiences and users. The post will focus on brokering partnerships between museums and other organisations, in relation to learning about and protecting our changing natural world, connecting with scientific, conservation and environmental research.

Bolton Museum & Archive Service

# Curating for the Future Conference

Thursday 26 November 2009, Tate Liverpool

## Keynote:

**Barbara Follet, Minister for Culture, Creative Industries and Tourism, Department for Culture Media & Sport**

The Minister will outline the government's vision for museums and galleries and address how museums can manage change in the current financial situation and how they can better advocate for the services they provide for the public.

## Panel discussion

What will the museum sector look like in 10 years? What should it look like in 2020?

**Hedley Swain**, Director Programme Delivery, MLA

**Maurice Davies**, Deputy Director, Museums Association

**Diane Lees**, Director, Imperial War Museum

**Virginia Tandy**, Director of Culture: Manchester City Council

## Concurrent workshops

**The Long and Winding Road: Developing Glasgow Museums Resource Centre.** This session will look at the practical steps involved in making a large collection research-ready, on the basis of long, hard-won experience and many lessons learnt.  
**Ellen McAdam**, Acting Head of Museums, Glasgow Museums

**A Space to Think.** This practical gallery based workshop will use a range of enjoyable activities to explore how the gallery functions as a learning resource for adults, with particular focus on gallery and museums professionals working with health / care staff.

**Liz Ellis**, Curator: Community Programme, Tate Modern

**Is Disney a four-letter word?** This session will look for ways to learn from the wider attractions sector with a particular focus on understanding visitors' wants and needs, and the planning and marketing of programmes to get your message across.

**Catherine Halcrow**, Consultant, Halcrow Creative

## Keynote:

**Stuart Davies, President, Museums Association**  
**Sustainable Museums and Sustainable Curatorship**

Where services are preparing for major downsizing, there is much talk of how to ensure museums remain sustainable. Stuart will explore the meaning of curatorship in the current economic climate.

## Practical case studies

### 1. Presenting our past while safeguarding our future

How to reduce museum energy costs and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions while maintaining a suitable environment for collections.

**Dr. Robert Child**, Head of Conservation, National Museum of Wales.

### 2. The UCL Collections Review

A case study with top tips, lessons learned and how other museums can adopt the review methodology.

**Jayne Dunn**, Collections Manager – Teaching & Research Collections, University College of London

### 3. Building Successful Partnerships

Collaboration between museums and other sectors is key in this demanding climate. Learn some tips for developing meaningful partnerships and about the pitfalls that can be avoided.



Steve Devine

Places are limited, to book a place contact Alex Bird, [a.bird@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:a.bird@manchester.gov.uk)



Chaire Wood

Manchester Art Gallery

## Introducing the Green Museum Programme

**Renaissance North West has created a new programme focused on reducing energy costs, waste production and carbon emissions at museums and galleries in the region.**

★ implement changes with support and funding from Renaissance North West.

To get involved and help shape this programme join us at one of five exploratory workshops which will take place in November 2009.

### Green Museums Programme Exploratory Workshops

- 5 November – Manchester Art Gallery
- 12 November – Tate Liverpool
- 16 November – Norton Priory Museum and Gardens, Runcorn, Cheshire
- 23 November – Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery, Carlisle
- 30 November – Lancashire Conservation Studios, Preston

All workshops run from 10:30 – 12pm.

To book a place contact Alex Bird  
a.bird@manchester.gov.uk

If you would like any further information about the Green Museums Programme contact Kaye Tetlow,  
kaye.tetlow@lancashire.gov.uk

The Green Museum Programme is designed to develop leaders so they are able to address the challenges of environmental and economic sustainability and champion green issues in their organisations.

To achieve this, Renaissance North West invites museums across the region to sign up to an 18 month programme of workshops in order to:

- ★ develop an environmental strategy
- ★ assess the impact our institutions have on the environment
- ★ define priorities for reducing energy costs and Co2 emissions
- ★ set targets for reducing energy use
- ★ advocate the importance of the scheme to senior management

## Events & Training

**15 & 29 October** My Learning Website – 2 day training course **FREE** Bradford Industrial Museum, Bradford. Contact Alex Bird a.bird@manchester.gov.uk or visit [www.mylearning.org](http://www.mylearning.org)

**5 & 18 November** My Learning Website – 2 day training course **FREE** City Learning Centre Abraham Moss High School, Manchester. Contact Alex Bird as above or visit [www.mylearning.org](http://www.mylearning.org)

**7 October** The New Primary Curriculum – What does it mean for Arts and Creativity? **FREE** Blackburn Technology Management Centre. Contact James Robins james.robins@capeuk.org

**11 November** Exploiting the Potential of the Social Web **FREE** location TBC

**19 November** Safe Handling: Objects for Learning **FREE** Lancashire Conservation Studios, Preston, organised by GEM and Renaissance North West. Contact Ellen Fenton education@nortonpriory.org

**19 November** Safeguarding The Welfare of the Child **FREE** Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery, Carlisle. For further information or to book a place, contact cpd@mla.gov.uk

**26 November** Curating for the Future Conference **FREE** Tate Liverpool. Contact Alex Bird as above

**21 January 2010** Trustees for the Future – Developing your Industrial Heritage Sites Helmshore Mills Textile Museums. Organised by European Routes of Industrial Heritage, Industrial Powerhouse and Renaissance North West. Contact Alex Bird as above

**29 January** Shared Interest: collaboration between higher education, museums and visual arts organisations **FREE** Organised in collaboration with Arts Council England NW and the North West Universities Association, The Manchester Museum. Contact Alex Bird as above

Leadership Development Workshops will take place in early 2010, with limited places. For further information contact cpd@mla.gov.uk

### Contact the Renaissance North West team

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