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# York Museums Trust Museum Development Yorkshire

## Newsletter - Fri 3 April 2020

## In this Issue

Dear <<First Name>>

**\*\*Submissions for next week's bulletin  
should be sent to [mdy-bulletin@ymt.org.uk](mailto:mdy-bulletin@ymt.org.uk)  
by 5pm on Wed 8 April\*\***

The MDY team continue to work remotely and are available to support you! We are adapting our development delivery methods to suit you in this period - if you need to contact any member of the team, our details are at the end of this bulletin. Please check our website regularly for further information and don't forget to follow us on Twitter [@MusDevYorks](#).

We are now delivering the bulletin weekly - if it doesn't appear on Friday please remember to check your spam and clutter folder!

Ali Glew, Editor

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- News & Notices
- Your Week Ahead
- For Your Diary
- Your Wellbeing
- Funding Opportunities
- Your Development
- And Relax...!
- Contacts

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## News and Notices

### Arts Council England's Emergency Funding Package for Museums Outside of the National Portfolio

Arts Council England (ACE) have announced further details of [emergency funding streams](#) in response to COVID-19.

They are making £50 million available to organisations in the cultural sector, including Accredited museums, who are [not National Portfolio Organisations \(NPOs\)](#). Each organisation can apply for a maximum of £35,000.

#### Deadlines

Please note that there are several short-term deadlines to meet in order to apply for this funding:

- If you don't have a Grantium profile, try to set one up by **Monday 13 April**
- Round 1 closing date: **Thursday 16 April (12pm midday)**
- Round 2 closing date: **Thursday 30 April (12pm midday)**

**See next article below for further more detailed information.**

### More Detail on Arts Council England Emergency Funding

#### What the funding will cover

The funding is to support organisations that do not receive regular funding from the Arts Council by providing some financial assistance during this time, and giving organisations the best chance to be in a position to continue once the situation created by the COVID-19 emergency has eased.

The funding could be used to cover:

- Activity intended to prevent your organisation ceasing operation due to the financial impact of the COVID-19 emergency, for example:
  - urgent changes of business model
  - essential operational costs (such as rent and staff costs)
  - IT and other equipment-related costs to support home working and/or
- Development and delivery of activity specifically designed to be deliverable during the next six months, including:
  - development projects in readiness for organisations restarting normal operations, for example organisational development, and/or
  - public facing projects, for example digital/online projects

When preparing your application, please check the [ACE Guidance for Applicants](#), including details of How to apply on page 8. This is a funding application and you will need to justify your need, explain your proposed work, and show how your application will support Arts Council England's new Strategy 2020-2030, [Let's Create](#) (or see the

**Who can apply?**

You must be an Accredited museum with experience in the last three years of delivering work that was funded by bodies such as Arts Council England, National Lottery Heritage Fund, National Lottery Community Fund, local authorities, universities, public sector bodies, trusts and foundations etc.

Museums can apply for funding of up to £35,000 to be used within six months of receiving a grant.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund is due to announce its emergency funding programme today. If you apply to both Arts Council England and National Lottery Heritage Fund to support COVID-19 response work, you should only accept funding from one funder. You must indicate in your application to each funder if you have also applied to the other.

**When can I apply?**

There will be two rounds of this fund. You can apply to only one of these rounds. If you apply to the first round you will not be able to apply to the second round, even if ACE are unable to offer you a grant in the first round.

The budget will be split equally across both rounds. Please apply to the round that suits your circumstances best.

	Round one	Round two
Grantium portal opens for applications	Thursday 9 April 2020	Thursday 16 April 2020
Grantium portal closes for applications	Thursday 16 April 2020 (12pm midday)	Thursday 30 April 2020 (12pm midday)

**How do I apply?**

You must apply via Arts Council England's online portal, Grantium. This is the same portal as the one used for your Accreditation applications.

If you don't already have a Grantium profile, please try to register by Monday 13 April 2020 for the first round, otherwise there is no guarantee that your profile will have been validated in time. [Use this guidance to help you.](#)

**Further information is available on the ACE website including FAQs which will be updated regularly.**

## Arts Council England Links to Other Support

Arts Council England have also compiled separate guidance for organisations and guidance for individuals, so that you can access advice and links to government support in one place. Find out more using the links below:

- **Guidance for Organisations:**  
[www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid-19/covid-19-support-organisations-government-and-other-sources](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid-19/covid-19-support-organisations-government-and-other-sources).
- **Guidance for Individuals:**  
[www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid-19/covid-19-support-individuals-government-and-other-sources](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid-19/covid-19-support-individuals-government-and-other-sources).

## Funding and Support for Covid-19 MDY Summary of Guidance and Links

MDY has compiled a one-stop summary of guidance and links to newly available funding and support for your museum.

**Please follow this link to our guidance document:**

[www.museumdevelopmentyorkshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Funding-and-Support-for-Museums.pdf](http://www.museumdevelopmentyorkshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Funding-and-Support-for-Museums.pdf).

## Heritage Emergency Fund Launches to Help Sector



The National Lottery Heritage Fund has put together a £50million fund to support the heritage sector as an immediate response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

The UK-wide fund - money raised from The National Lottery - will address immediate pressures over the next three-six months for those organisations most in need. It will be open for applications within the next few days.

The fund will be available for grants of between £3,000 and £50,000 and is offered to organisations across the full breadth of heritage, including historic sites, industrial and maritime heritage, museums, libraries and archives, parks and gardens, landscapes and nature.

Organisations which have received funding in the past and are either a current grantee, or still under contract following a previous grant, can apply.

Priority will be given where:

- there is limited or no access to other sources of support
- heritage is most at risk
- an organisation is at risk of severe financial crisis due to COVID-19.

**Find out more at:** [www.heritagefund.org.uk/news/heritage-emergency-fund-launches-help-sector](http://www.heritagefund.org.uk/news/heritage-emergency-fund-launches-help-sector).

## Accreditation Update: COVID-19 Response

Arts Council England (ACE) recognise that many museums are closing their sites due to the impact of Covid-19 and in response to Government advice.

In order to support the sector during these unprecedented times all Accredited museums in the UK will have their current award status extended for an additional 12 months. All future Accreditation Panel meetings, including the meeting scheduled for 28 April 2020, are also postponed.

ACE will be publishing FAQs with greater detail on what this means and how it might

**We realise that this is a very challenging period. Museum Development Yorkshire are here to support you throughout this crisis so please do stay in touch.**

## **Collections Trust UK Survey: Remote access to collections management data**

### **Please complete before 13 April**

Collections Trust suspects many people are not only physically cut off from their collections, but are also unable to access the collections databases that might help them curate online exhibitions or carry out other collections management activities. So, whether they can or can't work on their collections data from home, we would be very grateful if people could complete a survey we're currently running.

It will only take five minutes to fill out, but will enable us to assess the scale of the problem across the UK, so we can coordinate with collections management software suppliers and sector bodies to find workarounds.

**The survey will be open until Monday 13 April and you can find it here:**

**[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/XFYG2BN](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/XFYG2BN).**

## **Open Letter to the Sector from the Museum Freelance Network**

The Museum Freelance Network penned an open letter to UK Museums, Libraries, Heritage Sites, Archives and Galleries and their sector organisations about the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on freelancers, and what the sector could do to support them.

In response to the Government's press conference last week and in light of the lack of anywhere near enough support for the self-employed, we have since updated the letter with the following:

The financial support measures announced by UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak on 20 March 2020 have largely been welcomed by our sector organisations ([please see their joint statement](#)). However, the measures do not go anywhere near far enough to support and protect the self-employed – who are such an intrinsic part of the cultural and heritage sectors' ecosystems – whose livelihoods face decimation.

**We are calling on UK Museums, Libraries, Heritage Sites, Archives and Galleries and sector organisations to visibly and robustly stand up for freelancers who they frequently depend so greatly on.**

There are other precedents and models which the UK could adopt. For example, in Norway the self-employed will receive 80% of their average earnings over the last three years; whilst another idea is a temporary universal basic income.

So, in addition to the seven points for how the sector can help freelancers that we originally listed, we have now added an eighth point:

View the original open letter at: [www.museumfreelance.org](http://www.museumfreelance.org).

## Contribute to the Sector's First Ever Large-Scale Survey on Freelancing

**Survey closes: 30 April**

**Enter free prize draw for £50 shopping voucher**

Freelancing can be the best job in the world but also – now more than ever – precarious and hard to navigate. Our sector lacks robust data on the self-employed workforce which is making it harder for freelancers and consultants to thrive and be recognised as the integral part of the sector that they are.

The Museum Freelance Network has therefore just launched a wide-ranging survey into the self-employed workforce within the museums, galleries, heritage, libraries and archives sectors. We've been working hard on it behind-the-scenes for months and are looking forward to seeing and sharing the insights later this year.

We would like to encourage freelancers and consultants working in the sector to take part in the survey and share your views. We hope that the results will enable us to:

- lobby more effectively for freelancers, especially with sector support organisations and potential client organisations
- learn about the challenges facing freelancers so we can respond appropriately through our programmes
- understand more about the demographics of the freelance community so that we can ensure events and content we deliver are representative
- expose any demographic / geographic variations in relation to fees and opportunities.

The survey is open to freelancers and consultants based in the UK (or those with UK clients as their primary source of income) working with museums, galleries, archives, libraries and heritage sites. It is open until 30 April 2020 and we will be making the findings from the survey public in autumn 2020. It should take around 10 minutes to complete. And, if you wish, you can enter our free prize draw to win £50 worth of high street shopping vouchers.

To complete the survey please visit: [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MF20](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MF20).

## MDY Learning Cohorts Open to ALL Museums in the Region

**\*\*Deadline for expressions of interest: 10 April\*\***

MDY are reviewing how we deliver learning cohorts under the current circumstances. We are assessing a range of different methods to ensure that all those museums who are interested in training during this extraordinary period will have the opportunity to

The training will be very different to our original plans but it will be professionally useful, informative and - hopefully - will provide a positive focus, new social contact, and a fun distraction during social isolation!

**Visit:** [www.museumdevelopmentyorkshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Cohort-Information.zip](http://www.museumdevelopmentyorkshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Cohort-Information.zip) for further details about:

- Collections
- Health and Wellbeing
- Front of House
- Audience Champions
- Fundraising
- Income Generation
- Everyday Innovation.

These groups have had excellent feedback from participant organisations about the additional benefits of learning as a cohort. In light of the current situation, working together could also provide welcome respite from the daily news.

**[Please complete the initial expression of interest via this link.](#)**

**It will be open until Friday 10 April.**

**If your museum has any questions about taking part, wants more information or has any suggestions please email Alan Bentley: [alan.bentley@ymt.org.uk](mailto:alan.bentley@ymt.org.uk) or Liz Denton [liz.denton@ymt.org.uk](mailto:liz.denton@ymt.org.uk).**

## International Museum Day 2020 Goes Digital! Message from ICOM:

Nothing is stopping [#IMD2020](#) from carrying on its values of inclusion and promoting the role of museums in society. Visit the International Museum Day (IMD) website to find all the available materials and don't forget to add your events to the interactive map.

### Digital and online events are more than welcome!

Send us the material you are preparing for IMD2020: filled posters, short presentation videos, ideas for interactive (virtual) activities to be done at home during International Museum Day. And don't forget to put inclusion first and consider the diversity of your audiences: through which channels can you reach them? What activities could they enjoy?

**International Museum Day website:** [imd.icom.museum](http://imd.icom.museum).

**Interactive map:** [imd.icom.museum/interactive-map-time-to-announce-your-events](http://imd.icom.museum/interactive-map-time-to-announce-your-events).

## Expand Your Online Learning Offer with MyLearning

Are you a small museum, gallery or cultural



We can even help with resource development if required.

The [MyLearning platform](#) received over 450,000 page views in the last three months, and we are seeing a significant increase in traffic during this quarantine period (up 25% in the last week).

MyLearning is non-profit, managed by Leeds Museums and Galleries and funded by Arts Council England.

**If you have any queries, or would like to have a chat about online learning resources, please drop me a line at [izzy.bartley@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:izzy.bartley@leeds.gov.uk).**

## Some Chinese Museums Starting to Re-Open

*From ICOM UK:*

Whilst many of our members' museums and galleries here in the UK are in the thick of emergency planning, having had to close to the public, we have been looking ahead to find out what happens at the other end of the 'curve'. How are museums in China responding to the lifting of restriction of movements as they start to re-open their museums, galleries and cultural institutions? As they start to re-open, what measures are museums and galleries putting in place to protect and reassure their visitors?

This week we are sharing three articles about museums in China.

- Half of China's provincial museums reopened on 24 March 2020
- Attractions continue to open nationwide across China
- Virtual visits reveal museums' magic

**Read the articles in full at:**

**[uk.icom.museum/looking-ahead-of-the-curve-some-chinese-museums-are-starting-to-re-open](http://uk.icom.museum/looking-ahead-of-the-curve-some-chinese-museums-are-starting-to-re-open).**

Over the coming weeks we will publish articles and interviews from across the global ICOM network to share how our colleagues in other countries and continents are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact on their organisations.

**If you have stories, advice, best practice examples to share from your International Committees (ICs) or National Committee (NC) contacts, please get in touch with us at [uk.icom.museum@gmail.com](mailto:uk.icom.museum@gmail.com).**

## Your Week Ahead

### Elevenses with MDY

Join members of the MDY team on Mondays and Thursdays for a cuppa and a chat – you will have to bring your own drink! These are informal get-togethers, with no agenda, to share experiences and thinking (and enjoy some different company). We will have two different types of Elevenses, one themed around the three Accreditation strands and the other open to talk about anything and everything.



We will be doing this via the Skype for Business App. If you DO NOT have Skype for Business you can use this link: [www.skype.com/en/business](https://www.skype.com/en/business), you will have to download the web app but don't need a Skype account to do so.

- **Monday 6 April**

**Join Dieter and Liz for an open session:**

[meet.lync.com/yorkmuseumtrust/lily.wilks/WH5FJOJ6](https://meet.lync.com/yorkmuseumtrust/lily.wilks/WH5FJOJ6)

- **Thursday 9 April**

**Join Michael and Alan for a chat themed around Organisational Health:**

[meet.lync.com/yorkmuseumtrust/lily.wilks/GRL9URFB](https://meet.lync.com/yorkmuseumtrust/lily.wilks/GRL9URFB)

**\*\*Please note the above links are unique to each individual session\*\***

If you have any questions to be discussed please send them to Lily:

[Lily.Wilks@ymt.org.uk](mailto:Lily.Wilks@ymt.org.uk). Please also email Lily if you experience any trouble connecting and we will attempt to solve the issue.

**The full Elevenes Schedule can be viewed at:**

[www.museumdevelopmentyorkshire.org.uk/event-category/elevenses-with-mdy](https://www.museumdevelopmentyorkshire.org.uk/event-category/elevenses-with-mdy).



## Collections Care in Lockdown

### Panel Discussion

**Tue 7 April, 11.00am - 12.00pm**

Collections Trust is already working with Museum Development colleagues to move our popular outreach programme online and our first event is a special Q&A session on collections care during the lockdown, to be streamed live via the Collections Trust YouTube channel. The video will also be viewable there afterwards.

**People can submit questions in advance via the website (by Friday 3 April):**

[collectionstrust.org.uk/events/nationwide-event-listings/collections-care-in-lockdown-panel-discussion](https://collectionstrust.org.uk/events/nationwide-event-listings/collections-care-in-lockdown-panel-discussion).

## Collections Trust Coffee Time

**Wed 8 April, 11.00am**

Collections Trust will also be holding a weekly online get-together to chat about a museum topic. This week we'll be talking about how people are adapting to working on collections management during the current lockdown, and everyone is welcome to join in, raise any issues that are concerning them and share survival tips.

The get-together will be hosted via an online platform that should work with any browser without the need to install anything else. Using a webcam is optional and people can also dial in by phone if they prefer.

**Find out more:** [collectionstrust.org.uk/events/ct-coffee-time](https://collectionstrust.org.uk/events/ct-coffee-time).

**To take part in the conversation via your web browser, go to:**  
[meeting.powwownow.co.uk/login/guest/262440](https://meeting.powwownow.co.uk/login/guest/262440).

## Join the #CreativeNetwork Weekdays at 9.30am

Voluntary Arts has launched **#CreativeNetwork**, an online get-together of people involved in arts, culture and creativity.

Join the network at 9.30am every weekday to chat through issues you're facing and to make new connections.

**Find out more at:** [www.voluntaryarts.org/creativenetwork](https://www.voluntaryarts.org/creativenetwork).

## For Your Diary

### Museum Accreditation

**Online Advice Surgery  
Mon 20 April, 10.30am - 3.30pm**

The Museum Accreditation scheme is the UK industry standard for museums and galleries. It tells everyone involved with a museum that they're doing the right things to help people to engage with collections and protect them for the future.

Accreditation covers all types and sizes of museums and galleries and there are currently more than 1,700 museums participating in the scheme across the UK. Accreditation advice in England is provided by Museum Development Yorkshire, part of the York Museums Trust and funded by Arts Council England.

If you would like to discuss your museum's Accreditation or Accreditation Return, Becky Griffiths, Regional Accreditation Advisor, is running a One to One advice surgery, conducted via Skype.

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-only-museum-accreditation-advice-surgery-tickets-89042353075](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-only-museum-accreditation-advice-surgery-tickets-89042353075).

## MDY Regional Museum Forum Meetings Online Delivery

We are preparing to deliver an online version of our museum forum meetings, to enable you to connect with us and each other, and receive development support during museum closures and social distancing.

**Please continue booking into scheduled forum meetings via this link:**

[www.museumdevelopmentyorkshire.org.uk/event-category/regional-forum-meetings](http://www.museumdevelopmentyorkshire.org.uk/event-category/regional-forum-meetings).

Meetings will start at 10.00am and run for a shorter time via a group Skype call. Please see the item above on our MDY Elevenses online gatherings, for details of how to join the Skype meeting.

**Further details of forum meeting content will be provided before the meetings.**

## Dementia and The Arts: sharing practice, developing understanding and enhancing lives

### Online - starts 20 April

Explore, challenge and shape your perceptions of dementias through science and the creative arts. In this online course you will discover how the arts can create common ground between people, and in doing so, learn what we can all do to improve the quality of life and care for people living with different dementias.

Estimated learning time is approximately two hours per week across four weeks, at your own pace. Each of the four weeks will showcase current best practice, explain the limits of our current understanding, and set ambitious goals for enhancing the lives of anyone affected by one of these conditions.

**The course will also run from 22 June.**

**Further information can be found at:**

[www.futurelearn.com/courses/dementia-arts](http://www.futurelearn.com/courses/dementia-arts).

## AbilityNet Live!

### Free events about technology and disability

In response to the Coronavirus emergency AbilityNet is running a series of live online events to help share useful information for disabled people and their carers and employers.

- Keeping in touch using technology
- Technology support for disabled people working and studying from home
- Finding local support groups online
- Staying safe online.

**The programme for April and May is now available at:**

**[abilitynet.org.uk/news-blogs/abilitynet-live-free-events-about-technology-and-disability](http://abilitynet.org.uk/news-blogs/abilitynet-live-free-events-about-technology-and-disability).**

**\*\*POSTPONED\*\***

## **Volunteers and Legal Compliance**

### **Virtual Webinar via Zoom**

**30 March, 10.00am - 11.00am**

Unfortunately, we were unable to go ahead with this planned session on 30 March. However, we will re-schedule as soon as is practical, and will post the new arrangements in this bulletin. We also plan to post some advice and information developed by Naomi on volunteers and IPR on our website before the end of April.

**In the meantime we have a number of general advice sheets on museums and IPR which you may find useful at:**

**[www.museumdevelopmentyorkshire.org.uk/resource-category/intellectual-property-rights](http://www.museumdevelopmentyorkshire.org.uk/resource-category/intellectual-property-rights).**

**There is also some free information on Naomi Korn Associates website:**

**[naomikorn.com/resources](http://naomikorn.com/resources).**

*Further information will be posted in the Enewsletter when available - Dieter Hopkin.*

## **Your Wellbeing**

### **Share Your Resources!**

During this time it is more important than ever that you focus on your own wellbeing! Each week we will look at ways to support you.

**If you come across resources that help you and would like to share with others, please send them to Liz Denton [liz.denton@ymt.org.uk](mailto:liz.denton@ymt.org.uk).**

### **Daily Mindfulness Videos from Yorkshire!**

Thank you to Lucy Cooke, Under 5s Learning Co-ordinator for East Riding of Yorkshire Museum Service, for highlighting these daily videos.

They are being offered for free by Sally Edward, who ran Mindful Engagement with Art

Details via her website: [www.kindmind.co.uk](http://www.kindmind.co.uk) and Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/kindmindtraining](https://www.facebook.com/kindmindtraining).

## Creative Isolation from March Network

Check out this great resource from March Network, which pulls together the huge range of creative initiatives available to support our mental health and wellbeing during this period of social distancing.

Find out more at: [www.marchnetwork.org/creative-isolation](http://www.marchnetwork.org/creative-isolation).

## No Panic Website

Thank you to an anonymous subscriber who recommended this website. They said they had found the resources very helpful.

For all those who might be feeling increased stress or anxiety during these times have a look at: [nopanic.org.uk](http://nopanic.org.uk).

## Make That Desk Work For You!

Physical wellbeing is important. In addition to that daily walk, run or bike ride, there are lots of things you can do inside. Here are some desk yoga poses which could help relax you when are sat down most of the day!

Visit: [www.adventureyogi.com/blog/10-desk-yoga-poses](http://www.adventureyogi.com/blog/10-desk-yoga-poses).

## Funding Opportunities

### Open - Applications Welcome!

### MDY Small Development Grant Scheme 2018-22

Does your museum have a project which just needs that small amount of money to:

- turn a great idea into reality to move the museum forward and better care for its collections
- provide better experiences for your visitors and users
- develop new fundraising ideas
- attend training courses
- implement recommendations made by MDY or
- address areas for improvement for Accreditation?

The Museum Development Yorkshire Small Grants Fund can provide funding for a variety of projects in your museum. Our Small Development Grant Scheme assists museums to implement advice, test new ways of working and make good things happen. It also supports personnel to attend training courses and conferences.

The amount awarded is up to £3,000 per project with a sliding scale of match funding required. The fund for this financial year is now live and available on an open application basis, with assessments made on a monthly basis. All monies must be spent and claimed by the end of the financial year.

**For the guidance notes and links to the online application form, visit: [bit.ly/MDY18SGApp](https://bit.ly/MDY18SGApp).**

**If you need any further advice please contact your local Museum Development Officer who will be pleased to comment on potential projects for funding and assist with any queries on the paperwork.**

## Your Development

### Let MyLearning Help You With Home Schooling

Are you home-schooling or know people who are? If so, chances are you're looking around for high quality, trusted resources to help you through.

MyLearning is a hub website hosting learning resources from arts, cultural and heritage organisations from across the country. The content covers the whole curriculum and everything is FREE for educational use. The MyLearning website is specially designed to make it quick and easy to find what you're looking for. Search using a keyword, curriculum subject or key-stage. Each resource has a 'Teachers Notes' page where you can find discussion and activity ideas, and any supporting documents. There is also a range of digital interactives, and thousands of images for inspiration.

**Explore the MyLearning website at: [www.mylearning.org](http://www.mylearning.org).**

### Free Audio Books

For all those parents who are embracing the joys (!) of home-schooling this new FREE resource could prove to be really useful. Last week Amazon decided to cancel charging for audio books for children. All stories are free to stream on your desktop, laptop, phone or tablet.

**Full details at: [stories.audible.com/start-listen](https://stories.audible.com/start-listen).**

### AIM Resources and Online Surgeries

AIM are offering resources to support members during the current Coronavirus situation. Their website has been updated to provide advice on support packages that are available to museums

They have also introduced a new programme offering free online surgeries for museums with their Prospering Boards consultants, see: [www.aim-museums.co.uk/coronavirus-support-resources-online-advice-surgeries](http://www.aim-museums.co.uk/coronavirus-support-resources-online-advice-surgeries).

**The resources will be updated regularly and they will be looking more at how they can repurpose programmes to support members.**

**Visit:** [www.aim-museums.co.uk/coronavirus-support-finance](http://www.aim-museums.co.uk/coronavirus-support-finance).

## Video Conferencing Software: a Quick Comparison

Abdullah Ahmad, Programme Assistant at Museum Development North West (MDNW), has published a useful article comparing the following popular video conferencing tools:

- Skype
- Whereby
- Zoom
- Google Hangouts

**To read his reviews and final conclusion, including advice for anyone considering subscription packages, visit:**

[museumdevelopmentnorthwest.wordpress.com/2020/03/30/video-conferencing-software-a-quick-comparison](http://museumdevelopmentnorthwest.wordpress.com/2020/03/30/video-conferencing-software-a-quick-comparison).

## Tech Tips from the Digital Culture Network

If you're trying to get to grips with new ways of working, get in touch with the Digital Culture Network. Our Tech Champions are on hand to help you work remotely, keep engaged with your audiences, find alternative ways of generating income online and much more. They've made lots of resources available already, with more to come soon.

**Find out more at:**

[www.artscouncil.org.uk/developing-digital-culture/digital-culture-network](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/developing-digital-culture/digital-culture-network).

## FREE Digital Skills Webinars

The Arts Marketing Association (AMA) is running free webinars on topics such as crisis communications and connecting with your audiences. Recordings of past webinars are also available, as well as other useful resources.

**Find out more at:** [www.a-m-a.co.uk/covid-19-resources](http://www.a-m-a.co.uk/covid-19-resources).

To support collections who have closed to the public and showcase their artworks, Art UK are facilitating an [#OnlineArtExchange](#) between museums and galleries in different regions across the UK.

They are asking them to choose an artwork from another institution that they love, which Art UK will then retweet in a chain reaction of art sharing. While they're calling on specific regions each day, they welcome museums to choose an artwork from any collection across the country.

**On Thursday 2 April, a direct call-out was tweeted to Yorkshire and the Humber, see: [twitter.com/artukdotorg](https://twitter.com/artukdotorg).**

**If anyone would like to double check any copyright permissions of images on Art UK, they can email: [julia.defabo@artuk.org](mailto:julia.defabo@artuk.org).**

## Disability Collaborative Network (DCN) for Museums

### Ensuring online content is inclusive and accessible

In light of the COVID-19 guidance and as the Government announces self-isolation for people with chronic health conditions and disabilities for 12 weeks, it's vital that all of our online content can be inclusive and accessible to our audiences, and attract new users.

DCN can help and support colleagues with this through our partnership with EMBED, as we have colleagues who are digital inclusion specialists within the team. We are currently talking about how we can utilise our skills in reflection of the current crisis to support organisations in developing accessible digital content.

**If you are interested, please email: [info@musedcn.org.uk](mailto:info@musedcn.org.uk).**

In the meantime here are some useful links:

- **Subtitling your own content (StageText):**  
[www.stagetext.org/about-stagetext/training-in-how-to-subtitle-your-own-content](http://www.stagetext.org/about-stagetext/training-in-how-to-subtitle-your-own-content)
- **Digital Culture Compass:** [digitalculturecompass.org.uk](http://digitalculturecompass.org.uk).
- **Accessibility on social media:**  
[www.musedcn.org.uk/2018/06/07/how-to-be-more-accessible-on-social-media-snapchat-vimeo](http://www.musedcn.org.uk/2018/06/07/how-to-be-more-accessible-on-social-media-snapchat-vimeo).
- **Website Accessibility via (Government Digital Service):**  
[www.gov.uk/service-manual/helping-people-to-use-your-service/making-your-service-accessible-an-introduction](http://www.gov.uk/service-manual/helping-people-to-use-your-service/making-your-service-accessible-an-introduction)
- **Practical tips for public messaging:**  
For Twitter: Please ensure that any statements which are an image, have a direct link to the statement on your website.  
Ensure any gifs or images are described via the Twitter guidance (this is available via the Accessibility on social media link above).



Harvard Business Review have published a useful guide to help employers manage their home-working staff, including:

- **Common Challenges of Remote Work**
  - lack of face-to-face supervision
  - lack of access to information
  - social isolation
  - distractions at home
- **How Managers Can Support Remote Employees**
  - Establish structured daily check-ins
  - Provide several different communication technology options
  - And then establish 'rules of engagement'
  - Provide opportunities for remote social interaction
  - Offer encouragement and emotional support

Read the full article at:

[hbr.org/2020/03/a-guide-to-managing-your-newly-remote-workers](https://hbr.org/2020/03/a-guide-to-managing-your-newly-remote-workers).

## And Relax...!

### New Feature

The eagle eyed amongst you will realise this is a new feature! We all need an opportunity to smile, at this time, or a chance to share great ideas to help us ...relax!

**Lily is encouraging you all to send her any great resources or tips that are helping you, email: [lily.wilks@ymt.org.uk](mailto:lily.wilks@ymt.org.uk).**

### NT Helps Squirrels Find Their Nuts!

Great video from the National Trust on looking after their squirrels. This is the best way to do April Fools!

[twitter.com/nationaltrust/status/1245244579915403264?s=20](https://twitter.com/nationaltrust/status/1245244579915403264?s=20).



### Cowboy Museum's Hilarious Tweets

The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma provides some light relief with their Head of Security being put in charge of their Twitter account. Writers at BoredPanda have collected these tweets into a fabulous article showcasing these 'hilarious and wholesome' tweets:

[www.boredpanda.com/national-cowboy-museum-head-of-security-twitter/](https://www.boredpanda.com/national-cowboy-museum-head-of-security-twitter/)

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