

Geoffrey Bond Conference Bursaries

Bursaries worth up to £500 are available to GEM members.



GEM Conference 2008

Tuesday 2 September – Friday 5 September
Medway, Kent

Heritage Learning & Social Change



Heritage Learning and Social Change

Heritage learning can make a significant contribution to a functioning, stable modern society.

This conference investigates the current socio-economic and cultural issues that are shaping heritage learning. Recognising the value of sharing best practice across the wider heritage sector, this conference examines the strategic and practical factors influencing the delivery of socially responsive learning and interpretation.

In particular, it addresses how heritage learning can help to implement government policies such as Every Child Matters, Learning Outside the Classroom and the Cultural Offer.

The experiences and opportunities offered will engage and inspire professionals from career-entry to senior management level.

The Pilkington Building, where conference is based, is on the Medway Campus which was home to HMS Pembroke Royal Naval Barracks from 1903 to 1984. The historic buildings have benefited from a £50 million investment to restore their former glory.



Tuesday 2 September

- 14.00 Conference registration
- 16.00 First timers' tea and cake
- 18.30 Leave for Chatham Historic Dockyard (on foot)
- 19.00 Drinks reception and dinner at Commissioners House
- 22.30 Return to Halls of Residence

Wednesday 3 September

Heritage Learning at the Heart of Social Change

Heritage learning is an increasingly important means by which individuals and communities identify with modern society. Modern British society is undergoing some significant changes that heritage organisations need to be aware of. How can heritage learning work to facilitate these changes?

MORNING PROGRAMME

- Pilkington Building 12.00 Lunch
- 08.30 Registration for day delegates Refreshments 13.00 Coaches depart

09.00 Welcome & Opening Address
John Reeve, Chair, GEM

09.15 Keynote address
Heritage Learning: addressing contemporary social evils
Julia Unwin CBE, Director, Joseph Rowntree Foundation
Drawing on research by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, we ask what are the social evils facing the UK today and how can heritage learning engage with these issues?

09.45 Keynote address
The role of heritage in regeneration
Richard Simmons, CEO, CABE
How can heritage learning contribute to continuity and community identity in regeneration?

10.15 Q&A with keynote speakers

10.30 Refreshments

11.00 Breakout Sessions
How heritage organisations respond to key aspects of social change and their degree of success

(a) *Communities*

An exploration and analysis of heritage organisations engaging with and supporting communities.

Susan Potter, Vital Communities, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Partnership & **Rose Swindells**, London Voices, National Trust

(b) *Continuity & Regeneration*

How can heritage support and benefit from regeneration and redevelopment? **Joanne Creighton**, Chatham Historic Dockyard & TBC

(c) *Migrant groups*

Promoting inter-cultural understanding between migrant groups and local people. **Richard Searle**, Traveller Education, Medway & **Hannah Gould**, MDO, Lincolnshire

AFTERNOON PROGRAMME

See how heritage sites in Kent are adapting their learning provision to respond to and engage with social and economic change in the region.

(a) **Engaging Religious Communities**
Investigate how England's second oldest cathedral engages with its diverse religious communities.
Rochester Cathedral, Kent

(b) **Heritage & regeneration at the heart of a local community**
How industrial heritage has been preserved at the heart of the regeneration of Medway.
Chatham Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent

(c) **Heritage & Identity**
Visit this local history museum to see how it reaches out to the diversifying communities of modern Medway.
Guildhall Museum, Rochester, Kent

(d) **Rural Heritage: preserving skills**
See how Kent's rural heritage is being interpreted in an increasingly urban, industrial and international region.
Museum of Kent Life, Maidstone

(e) **The Inside Out Project: engaging young people**
Visit a county museum responding to the needs of young people today.
Maidstone Museum, Maidstone

17.00 Coaches arrive back

EVENING PROGRAMME

18.30 Coaches depart for Leeds Castle

19.00 Drinks reception and dinner at the Fairfax Restaurant and Terrace Room, **Leeds Castle**

22.30 Depart for halls of residence

Thursday 4 September

The Flexible and Responsive Heritage Organisation

Are heritage organisations equipped to provide the flexible and responsive learning needed to support social and cultural change? Using our diverse local heritage we explore some varied, strategic and practical approaches to heritage learning in the twenty first century.

MORNING PROGRAMME

Pilkington Building

08.30 Registration for day delegates
Refreshments

09.00 Welcome & Opening Remarks
Vicky Woollard, Deputy Chair, GEM

09.15 Keynote address
Learning at the heart of culture: the implications for the heritage sector
John Holden, Head of Culture, DEMOS (author of *Culture and Learning: towards a new agenda*)
What does a more comprehensive focus on learning through culture mean for heritage organisations?

09.45 Keynote address
An organisational perspective on delivering learning
Judikje Kiers, Director, Our Lord in the Attic Museum, Amsterdam
What does a learning-centred organisation look like?

10.15 Q&A with keynote speakers

10.30 Refreshments

11.00 Breakout Sessions
How are heritage organisations adapting their structures and provision to meet the needs of today's learners?

(a) *Innovation in delivery*
Using cutting-edge technology to develop new ways of communicating with modern audiences.

Lynne Minett, North of England, English Heritage & **Dr Carl Gavin**, Lateral Visions Software Company

(b) *Understanding audiences*
How listening and responding to visitor groups can help heritage organisations develop their structure and provision to meet visitor needs.
Lucy Smith, Tyne & Wear Museums & **Julia Kingston**, Thinktank

(c) *Learning outside the Museum*
How learning activities outside the museum can make local heritage more accessible.

Mike Lefroy, Museum Consultant, Western Australia & **Celine West**, UCL Museums & College

12.00 Lunch

13.00 Coaches depart

AFTERNOON PROGRAMME

Experience ways of planning and delivery that are uncovering and making accessible the hidden treasures of Kent's heritage.

(a) Experience an English Heritage Discovery Visit

Sample an English Heritage Discovery Visit – developed in response to the LOtC Manifesto.

Lullingstone Roman Villa

(b) Learning provision at a private house and collection

View this private collection of instruments owned and interpreted and played for you by international concert pianist, Richard Burnett.

Finchcocks Musical Museum, Goudhurst, Kent

(c) Learning through conservation
Discover what learning looks like at this hidden fourteenth century gem – the National Trust's largest ever conservation project.

Ightham Mote, Sevenoaks, Kent

(d) Profile of a Gifted & Talented Programme

Explore this glorious privately-owned castle and see how "Gifted & Talented" programmes are bringing it to life for young people.

Leeds Castle, Maidstone, Kent

(e) Medway's military legacy

Visit the old home of the Sappers and learn about their heritage from military and civilian perspectives.

Royal Engineers Museum, Gillingham, Kent

17.30 Coaches arrive back



EVENING PROGRAMME

18.30 Leave for Kingswear Paddle Steamer (on foot)

19.00 Cruise down the River Medway and enjoy drinks, buffet dinner and jazz aboard the **Kingswear Paddle Steamer**.

22.00 Depart for halls of residence



Members' Presentations

Friday 5 September 15.30

GEM members attending the conference who would like to present a case study (ten minutes) should email the title, 100 word synopsis and details of any audiovisual equipment that they will need, to gemoffice@btinternet.com by 11 July.

The main criteria for selection will be how relevant the "lessons learned" from the case study are to the world of heritage learning.

Friday 5 September

Heritage Education and Government Policy

Learning now plays a central role in government policy regarding young people's welfare. In the light of major policy developments such as Every Child Matters, the Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto, diplomas and the Five Hour Cultural Offer, what contribution can heritage learning make to the successful education of a young person today?

MORNING PROGRAMME

Pilkington Building

08.30 Registration for day delegates
Refreshments

09.00 Welcome & Opening Remarks
Dr John Stevenson, Director, GEM

09.15 Keynote address

The value of heritage in a young person's education

Mick Waters, Curriculum Director, QCA

How will changes in the curriculum support and accommodate heritage learning?

09.45 Keynote address

Education professionals working together towards successful learning outside the classroom

(speaker to be confirmed)

Working with schools to implement government initiatives to make the world a better place for our children.

10.15 Q&A with keynote speakers

10.30 GEM's AGM and Role

AGM followed by an overview of GEM's role in advancing heritage learning.

11.00 Refreshments

11.30 Breakout Sessions

How heritage learning is responding to and informing government policy on 0-19 education and welfare.

(a) *Teenage learning*

A look at the changing educational landscape at secondary level and improving youth engagement.

Dr Sharon Goddard, DCSF & **Jane Clark**, The Inside Out Project

(b) *Learning Outside the Classroom*
Heritage learning in the context of the LOtC Manifesto.

Peter Carne, LOtC Manifesto Champion & **Dr John Stevenson**, Director, GEM

(c) *Skills-focused learning*

How can heritage learning support the changing focus of the National Curriculum?

Sandra Stancliffe, Bristol's Museums, Galleries & Archives & **Nic Garrick**, Fair Furlong Primary School

12.30 Lunch

AFTERNOON PROGRAMME

13.30 Career Development Workshops

These workshops offer the opportunity to meet with other GEM members at a similar career stage, whether employed or freelance, to discuss issues of common interest and share recent training experiences. Discussion topics will relate to the implementation of GEM's new professional development strategy. The session may also include what GEM might do to help plug the gaps by building on successful practice; mentoring and CPD from all points of view; and future approaches to conference and other events.

15.00 Refreshments

15.30 Members' Presentations

Short presentations from GEM members on a wide range of case studies, best professional practice and good ideas.

16.30 Closing Remarks

OPTIONAL INFORMAL EVENING

18.30 Delegates depart for Faversham for an educational tour of Britain's oldest brewer, Shepherd Neame, followed by a tasting session and supper.

11.00 (approx) Arrive back at halls of residence.



Saturday 6 September

Delegates are free to explore the many attractions in the area. A list will be supplied in the conference pack. Chatham Historic Dockyard have very kindly agreed to give all delegates a free pass so they can explore this spectacular maritime heritage site and the world's most complete dockyard at any time throughout conference. The Dockyard and its defences are now on the UK Government's shortlist of potential World Heritage Sites.

Accommodation

The halls of residence are based on the Medway Campus – less than a five minute walk from the Pilkington Building where all morning events are being held. The campus itself is a ten minute bus journey from Chatham Station which has a regular service to London. All rooms are en suite with shared kitchen facilities.

Access

If you have specific access or other needs, please tell us in advance.

Fees

The fee for the whole conference is £420 for GEM members and £480 for non-members. There is a reduction of £30 for members if booked before 25 July and fees paid by 8 August. Full details of fees are on the booking form.

General Enquiries

For general enquiries about the conference please contact the GEM office at 131 Trafalgar Street, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 4RP. Tel/Fax: 01634 853424. Email: gemoffice@btinternet.com.

While GEM hopes to run the conference according to this programme, changes at short notice are possible.