

# Subject Specialist Networks Contact List

*Click here for the list of networks*

## Introduction to Subject Specialist Networks

Subject Specialist Networks (SSNs) support the development, knowledge and care of collections across England. All the Networks share expertise, ideas and best practice. This is often in the form of research projects, conference days, mentoring and developing best practice guidance.

Networks facilitate knowledge exchange and idea sharing, this could be via a website or at events. This enables networks to connect to the widest pool of knowledge and expertise, which will not always exist within the museum sector itself but may be levered in from academia, practitioners working across the subject area itself or a wider expert forum.

SSNs have a mission statement and a defined purpose to act as an access point to curatorial knowledge. They also have a governance structure with a committee or a board and are usually either an independent charity or a less formal structure residing in a host museum. Host museums lead the network and are often nationally funded museums or an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

Arts Council England currently recognises 37 SSNs. These vary greatly in shape, size and breadth of subject.

Many other types of networks exist within the museum sector – these tend to focus on generic topics such as learning and education, or broader museum activities like registrars, conservation or security. These are outside of the SSN remit, but often enjoy mutually supportive relationships with SSNs.

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## Why does Art Council England support SSNs?

Arts Council England seeks to encourage expertise sharing across organisations and museums both nationally and regionally. Expertise sharing will enhance the potential for excellence in museum practice and equip a confident, knowledgeable workforce of staff and volunteers across the sector.

SSNs have a significant role to play in relation to meeting Arts Council England's aims around dynamic collections curation and management, particularly when museum staff need to make complex curatorial decisions around collections management and require the back-up of peer expertise. We recognise the huge responsibility that collections management and engagement represents and the necessity of having access to expert knowledge for curatorial work, which is not always available in-house. The sharing of ideas and techniques learnt by experience of practice and study makes a crucial contribution to this work.

## **Who are SSNs for?**

SSNs bring together the wider museum community and provide specialist curatorial support and advice to people working with collections.

Many SSNs have membership bodies consisting of institutions with collections linked to the SSN subject matter, museum professionals, researchers, students, volunteers and subject enthusiasts.

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## **Ways that you could be involved in an SSN:**

- If you work with a collection and would like to get additional expertise to help care for the collection.
- If you are an early career museum professional, you may benefit from mentoring and developmental opportunities.
- If you are an established museum professional your personal professional development may be enhanced through an SSN, examples of this would be through mentoring or supporting the SSN with organisational running.
- If you are a museum volunteer you may find getting involved with an SSN broadens your understanding of a specific area and helps you to meet likeminded individuals.
- If you are an expert in a particular field, you might want to consider joining a network to share your experience and knowledge

For all involved there are many opportunities to network and discover other museums and organisations with similar collections queries and learn from each other.

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## **Interested in finding out more?**

Whether you are interested in joining an SSN, using their website for research or finding out more information about a specific SSN, this document lists the SSNs currently recognised by Arts Council England and their contacts.

If you need any other information regarding SSNs contact: [enquiries@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@artscouncil.org.uk)

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List updated February 2019

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# Subject Specialist Networks Contact List

*Click below for contact details for each network*

Army Museums Ogilby Trust (AMOT)  
Art Detective  
Association of Performing Art Collections (APAC)  
Association of British Transport & Engineering Museums (ABTEM)  
Association of Curators for Collections from Egypt and Sudan (ACCES)  
Aviation Heritage UK (AHUK)  
British Art Network  
Chinese Collections Group  
Contemporary Art Society  
Contemporary Studio Ceramics (CoCA)  
Crime and Punishment Collections Network (CaP)  
Dress and Textiles Specialists (DATS)  
European Paintings Pre-1900  
Fire Heritage Network  
Geological Curators Group (GCG)  
Human Remains Subject Specialist Network  
Inland Waterways Heritage Network  
Islamic Art and Material Culture  
Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG)  
Money and Medals  
Museum Ethnographers Group (MEG)  
Musical Instruments Resource Network (MIRN)  
National Banner Initiative  
Natural Sciences Collections Association (NatSCA)  
Plastics Subject Specialist Network  
The Photographic Collections Network  
Rural Museums Network  
Seaside Heritage Network  
Social History Curators Group  
Society for Museum Archaeology  
Society for Decorative Art Collections (SODAC)  
Sporting Heritage  
UK Maritime Heritage Network (UKMHN)  
UK Medical Collections Group  
Understanding British Portraits  
War and Conflict Subject Specialist Network  
Workhouse Museum Network

## Army Museums Ogilby Trust (AMOT)

The Army Museums Ogilby is a private charity founded in 1954 by the late Colonel Robert Ogilby DSO, DL. It is a national organisation that represents the regimental and corps museums of the British Army, supporting them through the provision of advocacy, advice and funding.

**Website**      [www.armymuseums.org.uk](http://www.armymuseums.org.uk)  
**Contact**      Andrew Lloyd  
                      [diramot@armymuseums.org.uk](mailto:diramot@armymuseums.org.uk)

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## Art Detective

Art Detective aims to improve knowledge of the UK's public art collection. It is free to use and accessed through the website of Art UK. Art Detective connects public art collections with specialists and members of the public. Anyone can send us information to pass on to a collection, or propose a public discussion about any artwork featured on Art UK's website. Many curators post enquiries on Art Detective to try to find out more about objects in their collection.

Our contributors include:

- members of the public
- curators from more than 3,000 venues across the UK
- group leaders who lead discussions. Groups cover different subject matter and/or periods. Each Group Leader has an established reputation in the subject area
- a panel comprising respected academics and practitioners who may be contacted if Art Detective, the collection and Group Leaders cannot come to a conclusion

**Website**      <https://www.artuk.org/artdetective/>  
**Contact**      [artdetective@artuk.org](mailto:artdetective@artuk.org)

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## Association of Performing Art Collections (APAC)

The Association of Performing Arts Collections is the Subject Specialist Network of performing arts collections in the UK and Ireland.

APAC's members – museums, archives, libraries, organisations, and individuals – meet regularly to discuss issues, share ideas, and exchange knowledge and expertise.

APAC, a registered charity, provides an email discussion forum, study days on specialist topics, symposia, and collaborative projects. It is the UK and Ireland affiliate of SIBMAS, the International Association of Libraries, Museums, Archives, and Documentation Centres of the Performing Arts.

**Website**      <http://www.performingartscollections.org.uk/>  
**Contact**      Erin Lee  
                      [elee@nationaltheatre.org.uk](mailto:elee@nationaltheatre.org.uk)

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## Association of British Transport & Engineering Museums (ABTEM)

The Association of British Transport & Engineering Museums (ABTEM) is a network which exists to provide a forum for the discussion of matters of common interest to transport and engineering museums and to provide a means of representing their views on issues of national and regional concern.

ABTEM holds regular seminars at museums and heritage sites themed around mainly collections-based topics. By working with other SSN networks and heritage groupings, attendance at meetings has often included delegates from all across the sector.

**Website**      [www.abtem.co.uk](http://www.abtem.co.uk)  
**Contact**      Tim Bryan  
                     [tim.bryan@britishmotormuseum.co.uk](mailto:tim.bryan@britishmotormuseum.co.uk)

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## Association of Curators for Collections from Egypt and Sudan (ACCES)

Founded in 2006, ACCES promotes the value of collections from Egypt and Sudan and offers support to everyone working with Egyptian and Sudanese collections in the UK. It is the first curators' group in the UK for curators who are responsible for archaeological collections from ancient Egypt and Sudan.

The objectives of ACCES are:

- To encourage good practice in the curatorship, collections management, and interpretation of UK collections from Egypt and Sudan
- To encourage, facilitate, and disseminate research on UK collections from Egypt and Sudan
- To foster networks and collaborations among museum professionals, regional museum hubs, university academics, postgraduate students working in ancient Egyptian and Sudanese archaeology and philology, museum studies and archaeological conservation
- To promote public engagement with UK collections from Egypt and Sudan and encourage new audiences

**Website**      <https://accesssn.wordpress.com/>  
**Contact**      Alice Stevenson  
                     [alice.stevenson@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:alice.stevenson@ucl.ac.uk)

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## Aviation Heritage UK (AHUK)

Aviation Heritage UK (formerly The British Aviation Preservation Council), formed in 1967, is the national body for the preservation of aviation related items. It is a voluntary staffed body which undertakes a representation, co-ordination and enabling role. AHUK membership includes national, local authority, independent and service museums, private collections, voluntary groups and other organisations involved in the advancement of aviation preservation in Britain. A number of overseas aircraft preservation organisations have affiliated membership.

**Website**      [www.aviationheritageuk.org](http://www.aviationheritageuk.org)  
**Contact**      Brian Dixon  
                     [secretary@aviationheritageuk.org](mailto:secretary@aviationheritageuk.org)

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## British Art Network

The British Art Network brings together professionals working on British art including curators, researchers and academics, reflecting the combined strength of the UK's public collections and curatorial expertise in this field. The aim of the British Art Network is to contribute to the sharing of expertise, research and ideas across visual arts organisations in the UK.

Membership to the network is always open and free, and it includes the following activity:

- An online register of expertise in British art
- An electronic newsletter circulated to members three times a year
- A number of thematic and topical research events each year
- A dedicated network group for Early Career Curators specialising in British art
- Network sub groups that explore specific areas of British art

**Website**      [www.tate.org.uk/about/projects/british-art-network](http://www.tate.org.uk/about/projects/british-art-network)  
**Contact**      [britishartnetwork@tate.org.uk](mailto:britishartnetwork@tate.org.uk)

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## Chinese Collections Group

The Chinese Collections Group is an information network for curators, academics, researchers, and independent scholars working with collections of Chinese cultural material in museums and institutions, and interested in issues related to Chinese culture more widely. Content is generated by members of the group, and typically includes information on job postings; conferences, workshops, and symposia; exhibitions; major China related cultural events; identification queries; funding announcements; and research queries.

**Website**      <https://uk.groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ChineseCollectionsGroup/info>  
**Contact**      Kevin McLoughlin  
                     [kevin.mcloughlin@yahoo.com](mailto:kevin.mcloughlin@yahoo.com)

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## Contemporary Art Society

Founded in 1910, the Contemporary Art Society exists to encourage an appreciation and understanding of contemporary art by a wide audience and to donate works by important and new artists to museums and public galleries across the UK.

With the help of our members and supporters we raise funds to purchase works by new artists which we give to museums and public galleries where they are enjoyed by a national audience; we broker significant and rare works of art by important artists of the twentieth century for public collections through our networks of patrons and private collectors; we establish relationships to commission artworks and promote contemporary art in public spaces; and we devise programmes of displays, artist talks and educational events.

**Website** <http://www.contemporaryartsociety.org/about/>

**Contact** [info@contemporaryartsociety.org](mailto:info@contemporaryartsociety.org)

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## Contemporary Studio Ceramics (CoCA)

The Centre of Ceramic Art is part of York Museums Trust which set up a SSN with the aim of bringing together people with an interest in Contemporary Studio Ceramics. At the heart of the SSN are the public collections of contemporary studio ceramics held in museums and galleries across the UK and the ambition to create a supportive peer group for curators looking after these collections.

The group aims to create opportunities to get together and hear what colleagues and peers in other parts of the country are up to. To encourage the sharing of expertise and collections, and to develop partnership projects for public benefit.

The network is free to join and means you will receive (and can send out) emails to promote your new exhibition, partnership or project to other SSN members, as well as us providing two meetings a year in different venues across the UK for networking.

**Website** <http://www.centreofceramicart.org.uk/studio-ceramics-subject-specialist-network/>

**Contact** Helen Walsh  
[helen.walsh@ymt.org.uk](mailto:helen.walsh@ymt.org.uk)

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## Crime and Punishment Collections Network (CaP)

The Crime and Punishment Collections Network (CaP) is a network of museums, libraries, archives and heritage sites concerned with the topic of crime and punishment. We aim to represent, promote and assist museums, libraries, archives and heritage sites which either hold collections or manage sites related to the topic of criminal justice.

**Website** <http://www.capcollections.org.uk>

**Contact** [capcollectionsnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:capcollectionsnetwork@gmail.com)

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## Dress and Textiles Specialists (DATS)

DATS was established in 1975 to provide a supportive network for professionals in the British Isles and the Republic of Ireland who are working with specialist collections of dress and textiles. We welcome colleagues working for museums, galleries, archives and historic houses that include these materials and those whose work involves collections-based research.

Our aims are to encourage sharing knowledge, information, skills and resources; to promote the use of professional standards; to encourage and develop expertise, research and scholarship and to enable those working with dress and textile collections to develop and use them for the benefit of the public.

**Website**      [www.dressandtextilespecialists.org.uk](http://www.dressandtextilespecialists.org.uk)

**Contact**      [chairman@dressandtextilespecialists.org.uk](mailto:chairman@dressandtextilespecialists.org.uk).

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## European Paintings Pre-1900

The European Paintings pre-1900 SSN forms part of the National Gallery's nationwide programme, and is overseen by the Advisory Committee for Research on European Paintings. The network provides the opportunity to exchange knowledge, experiences, and new ideas about paintings, including ways of improving public engagement through display and interpretation.

**Website**      [www.nationalgallery.org.uk/ssn](http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/ssn)

**Contact**      [ssn@ng-london.org.uk](mailto:ssn@ng-london.org.uk)

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## Fire Heritage Network

In 2004 the major fire museums, fire heritage collections and fire service enthusiast groups in the country met together to form a new network dedicated to the study and preservation of Britain's proud fire service history.

Fire Heritage Network UK is not itself a museum, nor is it a society for collectors of memorabilia or old fire engines, or a club for "fire fan", but it serves to bring together all those existing organisations within the sector, to provide mutual assistance and the ongoing promotion and encouragement of the topic.

**Website**      [www.fireheritage.org](http://www.fireheritage.org)

**Contact**      Bob Bonner  
[secretary@fireheritage.org](mailto:secretary@fireheritage.org)

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## Geological Curators Group (GCG)

Geological collections are an irreplaceable part of our scientific and cultural heritage. The Geological Curators' Group is dedicated to their better care, maintenance and use.

GCG aims to improve access to, and knowledge of, such collections for all purposes – from leisure and tourism to education and science, as well as improve the status of geology in museums and the standard of geological curation in general by: holding meetings and workshops; providing information and advice; documenting and conserving geological sites; the surveillance of geological collections. GCG was founded in 1974, has an international membership and is affiliated to the Geological Society of London.

**Website**      [www.geocurator.org](http://www.geocurator.org)  
**Contact**      Matthew Parkes  
                     [chair@geocurator.org](mailto:chair@geocurator.org)

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## Human Remains Subject Specialist Network

The human remains SSN is a network providing mutual support and information transfer between individuals representing institutions that hold accessioned collections of human remains. Its emphasis is on skill sharing, advice, and training for those working with human remains in a museum context. Around 30 UK institutions are members.

**Contact**      Jelena Bekvalac  
                     [jbekvalac@museumoflondon.org.uk](mailto:jbekvalac@museumoflondon.org.uk)  
                     Dr Margaret Clegg  
                     [margaret@clegg.me](mailto:margaret@clegg.me)

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## Inland Waterways Heritage Network

The Inland Waterways Heritage Network was formed as a SSN in 2011. It has recently reformed as a network for museums and other heritage organisations with a major focus on the history and heritage of the inland waterways. The group meets twice a year to share practical expertise and knowledge.

**Website**      [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk)  
**Contact**      Margaret Harrison  
                     [Margaret.Harrison@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:Margaret.Harrison@canalrivertrust.org.uk)

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## Islamic Art and Material Culture

The principal aim of this network is to share expertise, ideas and best practice on Islamic art and material culture with a focus on museum collections from across the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Many of our members are museum and heritage professionals, but we also welcome the involvement of students, academics and artists.

Our subject area is broadly defined and incorporates objects produced in areas where Islam is, or was, the dominant religion. While this site focusses on historic objects and collections, a further web resource, currently under construction, will present modern and contemporary artistic practices that are related to the Middle East and Islamic traditions in various degrees.

**Website**      <http://krc.orient.ox.ac.uk/iamcssn/index.php/en/>  
**Contact**      Rebecca Bridgman  
                     rebecca.bridgman@birminghammuseums.org.uk

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## Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG)

MPRG was founded in 1975 to bring together people with an interest in the pottery vessels that were made, traded, and used in Europe between the end of the Roman period and the 16th century. Its remit has subsequently expanded to include the pottery of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries from both sides of the Atlantic and beyond, as well as post-Roman ceramic building materials.

The Medieval Pottery Research Group has a broad and diverse membership. The membership includes professional and non-professional archaeologists actively engaged in the study of ceramics as well as those with a general interest in ceramics or who are involved with local archaeology/history societies. Institutional members include universities, commercial archaeological field units and local, regional and national museums. The Group has strong overseas representation among its membership, in particular from the European Union and North America.

**Website**      [www.medievalpottery.org.uk](http://www.medievalpottery.org.uk)  
**Contact**      Andrew Sage  
                     secretary@medievalpottery.org.uk

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## Money and Medals

The Money and Medals Network has five main aims:

- Act as an information exchange for curators within the UK whose collections include coins, medals and other objects relating to monetary and economic history and numismatics
- Provide information on best practice, new research and news items relating to the understanding, care and public access of those collections
- Encourage and facilitate collaborative ventures between the curators and nurture links between curators and individuals outside museums with an interest in related subject areas.
- Make the broad case for the potential of those collections and the importance of numismatic expertise for bringing them effectively to a wide audience
- Work to identify new and exciting ways in which those collections can be presented to the public.

**Website**      [www.moneyandmedals.org.uk](http://www.moneyandmedals.org.uk)  
**Contact**      Henry Flynn  
                     HFlynn@britishmuseum.org  
                     newsletter@moneyandmedals.org.uk

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## Museum Ethnographers Group (MEG)

Originally established in 1975, MEG has a long history of bringing individuals, institutions and museum collections together to build knowledge and understanding around museum ethnography.

MEG is an active interface between museum professionals and university-based researchers and is recognised in the UK museums sector as a key subject-specialist network.

**Website**      [www.museumethnographersgroup.org.uk](http://www.museumethnographersgroup.org.uk)  
**Contact**      secretary@museumethnographersgroup.org.uk

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## Musical Instruments Resource Network (MIRN)

The Musical Instruments Resource Network (MIRN) promotes understanding of issues surrounding the care and display of musical instruments and collections within the United Kingdom. It disseminates information and expertise in accord with current best practice, and advocates for the wide accessibility of public collections.

**Website**      [www.mirn.org.uk](http://www.mirn.org.uk)  
**Contact**      enquiries@mirn.org.uk

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## National Banner Initiative

The National Banner Initiative is a partnership of fourteen institutions with significant collections of banners or a research interest in them.

The People's History Museum holds the National Banner Survey, an inventory of historic banners in UK museums, which was completed in 1999. The survey comprises 2,370 historic banners held in British museums, by other bodies and by individuals and was supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The main aims were to: establish the number of banners held in museum collections in the UK, assess the historical and aesthetic value of these banners, assess their condition and quality of storage, set up a national database of banners and improve the case for future care and storage of banners.

**Contact** Jenny van Enckevort  
jenny.vanenckevort@phm.org.uk

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## Natural Sciences Collections Association (NatSCA)

The Natural Sciences Collections Association (NatSCA) is a UK based membership organisation and charity run by volunteers from the membership.

NatSCA's mission is to promote and support natural science collections, the institutions that house them and the people that work with them, in order to improve collections care, understanding, accessibility and enjoyment for all.

**Website** <http://natsca.org/>  
**Contact** [chair@natsca.org](mailto:chair@natsca.org)

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## Plastics Subject Specialist Network

The Plastics SSN aims to share expertise in the history, development, care and interpretation of plastics within and beyond the museum community, in order to enhance understanding of and engage varied audiences with the key role played by plastics in modern society.

**Website** <https://www.modip.ac.uk/projects/plastics-ssn>  
**Contact** Susan Lambert  
slambert@aub.ac.uk

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## The Photographic Collections Network

The Photographic Collections Network aims to bring together anyone connected with photo collections or archives in the UK, with the aim of building knowledge and enjoyment of photographic treasures.

The network is open to everyone with a connection to or love of photographic archives and collections – old, new, analogue, digital, shoebox or mountain vault. Activities include mapping and researching archives and collections in the UK, events and knowledge sharing.

**Website**      [www.photocollections.org.uk](http://www.photocollections.org.uk)

**Contact**      Paul Herrmann  
                    [info@photocollections.org.uk](mailto:info@photocollections.org.uk)

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## Rural Museums Network

The Rural Museums Network is a registered charity: it exists to promote learning and aims to encourage a wider understanding of the UK's rural heritage. The Network provides access to collections development information, audience research and other ongoing research to increase the relevance of rural museums. It is supported by members in all 4 UK countries – England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. The Network operates a web-based discussion group, a place to exchange information and look for answers. It is open to anybody with an interest in rural life and agricultural history.

**Website**      [www.ruralmuseums.org.uk](http://www.ruralmuseums.org.uk)

**Contact**      [rmnvoice@gmail.com](mailto:rmnvoice@gmail.com)

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## Seaside Heritage Network

The Seaside Heritage Network was launched in May 2016 and now has almost 80 members UK-wide.

The network has the following key aims:

- To promote the value of seaside heritage and culture
- To further understand and research the British seaside and seaside –related collections
- To locate custodians of seaside heritage and share knowledge and expertise
- To provide membership to professionals working with seaside collections and all those interested in seaside history, heritage and culture

**Website**      <http://www.scarboroughmuseumtrust.com/seaside-heritage-network>

**Contact**      See webpage for regional representative

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## Social History Curators Group

The Social History Curators Group was formed to improve the status and provision of social history in museums and the standards of collections, research, display and interpretation.

The aim of the organisation is: to advance the education of the public in heritage, science and the arts advancing standards of social history curatorship by encouraging better care, management, research and development of collections and delivery of improved use, access and interpretation of museum and related collections through public-facing outputs such as events, exhibitions, participative projects for the benefit of the public.

**Website**      [www.shcg.org.uk](http://www.shcg.org.uk)  
**Contact**      [enquiryshcg@gmail.com](mailto:enquiryshcg@gmail.com)

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## Society for Museum Archaeology

The Society of Museum Archaeology exists to:

- Promote museum involvement in all aspects of archaeology and emphasise the unique contribution of museums to the essential unity of the archaeological profession
- Promote greater public understanding of the archaeological past and a fuller public appreciation of the importance of archaeology
- Campaign for the acceptance of museums as guardians of a vital part of the nation's heritage and as the appropriate location for the storage and interpretation of all archaeological material
- Develop a coherent philosophy for the role of archaeologists in museums

**Website**      [www.socmusarch.org.uk](http://www.socmusarch.org.uk)  
**Contact**      Gail Boyle  
[gail.boyle@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:gail.boyle@bristol.gov.uk)

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## Society for Decorative Art Collections (SODAC)

The Society for Decorative Art Collections exists to promote decorative arts and support those with a professional interest in the subject. We run an active programme of handling days and study visits designed to encourage the development of professional expertise. Members receive a twice-yearly newsletter and are encouraged to contribute articles and reviews.

Our membership is diverse and includes curators, collection managers and conservators from national, regional and independent museums and galleries, as well as heritage professionals, consultants and lecturers from across the UK.

**Website**      <https://en-gb.facebook.com/pages/category/Education/Society-for-Decorative-Art-Collections-374001186348650/>  
**Contact**      Rachel Conroy  
[Rachel.Conroy@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:Rachel.Conroy@leeds.gov.uk)

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## Sporting Heritage

Sporting Heritage works specifically to support the collection, preservation, access, and research of sporting heritage in the UK and wider. We support organisations including museums, archives, sports clubs, governing bodies, universities, individuals, schools, and community groups to better look after and share their sporting heritage.

Our work includes:

- delivering the National Sporting Heritage Day campaign
- ensuring at risk collections are removed from risk by working with organisations and individuals
- providing advice and guidance about project development and funding
- mapping and scoping collections of sport in the UK and wider
- delivering training, study days and national conferences
- producing resources which show the relevance of sporting heritage to wider agendas such as formal education and health and well-being
- delivering a programme of collaborative doctoral awards funded by the AHRC
- managing a network of regional support

**Website**      [www.sportingheritage.org.uk](http://www.sportingheritage.org.uk)

**Contact**      Dr Justine Reilly  
                    [Justine@sportingheritage.org.uk](mailto:Justine@sportingheritage.org.uk)

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## UK Maritime Heritage Network (UKMHN)

Having grown out of the long-standing SSN, the Maritime Curators Group, the new UK Maritime Heritage Network (UKMHN) brings together a much broader group of maritime museums, historic vessels, maritime archivists, maritime archaeologists and individuals working with maritime heritage. UKMHN seeks to share expertise and best practice in maritime heritage for the purposes of preserving maritime collections and making them accessible and relevant for a diverse range of audiences.

It holds an annual conference, the UK Maritime Heritage Forum (UKMHF), at a different host maritime location each year.

**Contact**      Sally Archer (UKMHN)  
                    [sarcher@rmg.co.uk](mailto:sarcher@rmg.co.uk)  
                    Joanna Thomas (UKMHF)  
                    [joannat@ssgreatbritain.org](mailto:joannat@ssgreatbritain.org) (On maternity leave until summer 2019)

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## UK Medical Collections Group

The UK Medical Collections Group was set up in 2005 to bring together individuals and organisations with an interest in medicine and healthcare-related collections.

The group promotes the understanding, development and care of medical collections across the UK and highlights their benefits and uses for the public, scholars, and healthcare professionals. The group shares expertise, ideas and best practice, and aims to demonstrate the relevance of medical collections and show how they can make a real and positive difference to people's lives.

**Contact**      Katie Dabin  
katie.dabin@sciencemuseum.ac.uk

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## Understanding British Portraits

Understanding British Portraits is an active network with free membership for professionals working with British portraits including curators, museum learning professionals, researchers, academics and conservators.

We aim to enhance the knowledge and understanding of portraits in all media in British collections, for the benefit of future research, exhibitions, interpretation, display and learning programmes.

**Website**      [www.britishportraits.org.uk](http://www.britishportraits.org.uk)  
**Contact**      Caroline Pegum  
mail@britishportraits.org.uk

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## War and Conflict Subject Specialist Network

The War and Conflict SSN builds capacity, connections and confidence in the cultural heritage sector to improve the public understanding of war and conflict. It provides a forum for sharing good practice, knowledge and skills; and deliver national programmes (initially focusing on impending major Second World War anniversaries).

It aims to: improve the management of collections relating to war and conflict; share and develop specialist knowledge of 20th and 21st century conflict; and develop methods of public engagement to increase and diversify audiences.

**Contact**      Charlotte Czyzyk  
partnerships@iwm.org.uk

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## Workhouse Museum Network

The Workhouse Museum Network is a group of separate museums whose primary objective is preserving the history of welfare in Britain since the 18th century. Each and every one of the workhouses within the network exemplifies a unique part of the history of welfare.

The Workhouse Museums Network exists to bring together people with an interest in the history of poverty and welfare, the representation of these issues in museums, and the relevance of this complex past to modern social issues.

**Website**        <https://workhousenetworkblog.wordpress.com/>

**Contact**        Megan Dennis  
                      megan.dennis@norfolk.gov.uk