

UNDER STRICT EMBARGO UNTIL 00.01: ON FRIDAY 1 JUNE 2012

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Art Fund Prize 2012 reveals the nation’s ten ‘Unsung Museum Heroes’

To celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Art Fund Prize for museums and galleries, earlier this year the Museum Prize Trust launched a nationwide search for the UK’s Unsung Museum Heroes, ten everyday individuals who have made a truly memorable contribution to museums and galleries. Today, these ten Heroes are revealed:

- **Pam Fry, Cambridge & County Folk Museum:** A volunteer and Trustee of the Museum for over 20 years, Pam continues to help raise much-needed funds for the museum at the age of 86.
- **Anne Lord, Colne Valley Museum:** A retired primary school teacher who volunteers for the museum which preserves the heritage of the domestic weavers of the West Riding of Yorkshire, Anne is dedicated to organising and publicising a range of exhibitions at the museum.
- **John Henry, Downpatrick & County Down Railway:** Northern Ireland’s only full size heritage railway has been rebuilt through the efforts of volunteers like 80 year old John Henry. As well as laying the track, John is also a regular at public events, meeting and greeting the passengers and explaining about the railway to visitors.
- **Pam Brown, Ironbridge Open Air Museum of Steel Sculpture:** Pam set up the Museum with her late husband Roy Kitchen over 21 years ago, and since then has dedicated her service as a volunteer to all aspects of running and maintaining the museum.
- **Adam Corsini, Museum of London:** Adam’s role as Volunteer Coordinator of the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre has been distinguished by widening access to volunteering opportunities at the Museum through engaging local agencies, schools in Hackney, homeless charities, special needs groups and the unemployed. Up to a third of participants have gained employment or gone on to further education as a result of volunteering at LAARC.
- **Michael Quinn, National Museums Liverpool:** Michael Quinn is the Foreman of NML’s small in-house Production Team of joiners, electricians and painters, a role which he has held for the last 15 years. The Production Team, which works behind the scenes to deliver the all the technical aspects of the organisation’s exhibition programme across seven venues, including such award-winning displays as ‘Plantastic’ and ‘Age of the Dinosaur’.

The Art Fund has sponsored The Museum Prize since 2008. The Art Fund is the national fundraising charity for art, helping museums to buy, show and share art for all to enjoy. Over the past 5 years, the Art Fund has given £24m to help 227 museums and galleries acquire over £195m of art for their public collections. The Art Fund is funded by over 90,000 members who own a National Art Pass, which gives free entry to over 200 museums, galleries and historic houses across the country as well as 50% off many major exhibitions.

Find out more about the Art Fund and the National Art Pass at www.artfund.org.uk. The press office can be reached on 020 7225 4888 or media@artfund.org

The Clore Duffield Foundation is chaired by Dame Vivien Duffield DBE and has a strong focus on supporting cultural learning, particularly within museums and galleries and at heritage sites. www.cloreduffield.org.uk. It is one of the founding partners of the Cultural Learning Alliance, a collective voice working to ensure that all children and young people have meaningful access to culture in this difficult economic climate. www.culturallearningalliance.org.uk