Jane Arthur  
Museums and heritage consultant  

Jane Arthur is a freelance consultant for the museums and heritage sector. She has over 30 years experience in the sector and specialises in collection standards (care and management, development and significance), facilitating organisational change, audience development and embedding diversity and equality practice.

She has a background in standards and collections development with a long association with the Museum Accreditation scheme. She was a member of the Registration Committee (1998-2005), Chair (2001-2005) and chaired the development of the standard from Registration to Accreditation (2005-6). She has also been an Accreditation Advisor and an Accreditation Assessor.

She started her career as Curator & Librarian of the Wisbech & Fenland Museum and has worked in the West Midlands since 1985. Firstly as Keeper of Decorative Art at the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke on Trent to 1991, then as Assistant Director (Collections) at the West Midlands Regional Museums Council. From 1997 to 2007 she was Head of Collections and Deputy Director for Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery where her achievements include the creation of the Museum Collections Centre, installation of an integrated collections management system, collections Designation, developing regional collection programmes and partnerships with national museums and the academic sector.

Helen Brown  
Museums and heritage consultant  

Helen Brown worked for many years as a senior manager for Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum including for a period jointly managing the service. She has been responsible for learning, exhibitions and audience development and latterly held the post of Collections Manager with overall responsibility for the collections including the Designated Arts and Crafts Movement collection.

Between 2000 and 2006 she developed a successful museum consultancy in the South West specialising in access and audience development projects working with a range of different museums and for the regional agency, this included working as a freelance Museum Development Officer in Gloucestershire.

She has strong curatorial interests in fine and decorative art, craft and Chinese collections. She is currently working in freelance curatorial and museum advisory roles, including working with artists and makers in museums.
She has been a board member of the South West Federation of Museums and Art Galleries and is currently a museum mentor.

**Rachel Cockett**

*Director of Development, Birmingham Museums Trust*

Rachel leads on Birmingham Museum Trust’s income generation through fundraising activities.

She has worked for Birmingham Museums since 2000, moving from collections-based roles to programme management and development. Rachel previously worked for MLA West Midlands, the University of Central England, and Wolverhampton Art Gallery. She is a Mentor/CPD reviewer for Associateship of the Museums Association; and charity trustee.

**Clare Gee**

*Arts, Museums and Heritage Service Manager, Orkney Islands Council*

Clare has been Arts, Museums and Heritage Service Manager for Orkney Islands Council since 2007, and previous to this worked in local authority arts development in Orkney and the North East of England from 2002, with arts development in both local authorities sitting within museums services. Her career prior to joining the public sector was within community visual arts and specifically arts in mental health, working up from being a volunteer at South Tyneside Arts Studio in 1995, to Director, before moving to Hartlepool Borough Council as Arts Officer, responsible for Arts and Events.

Orkney Islands Council’s Arts, Museums and Heritage Service manages four accredited museums and its Archaeology Collection is a Recognised Collection for its national significance as part of the Scottish Government’s Recognition Scheme, managed by Museums Galleries Scotland. The Service also manages St Magnus Cathedral on behalf of the people of Orkney, which is a wonderful 12th century cathedral built of pink sandstone in Kirkwall, and the inspiration behind the annual St Magnus International Festival. Arts Development and Heritage Development make up the rest of this large service, which sit within the United Kingdom’s smallest local authority. The service has recently delivered large projects including the refurbishment of the Orkney Museum, improving environment and security alongside upgrades in utilities, heating and lighting. The museum stores have also been rationalised in to one fit for purpose store close by the Orkney Museum in the last twelve months, which has vastly improved the environment and access to collections for researchers, and Clare is currently working on a major project to improve and expand the Scapa Flow Visitor Centre and Museum at Lyness, Hoy, which tells the story of Orkney and Scapa Flow’s role in the two world
wars. The service is also currently hosting its second MGS Intern, jointly with the Pier Arts Centre in Stromness.

Clare trained in Fine Art at Falmouth School of Art and Design in the late 1980's/early 1990's and has continued to practice as an artist since then, working most recently in site specific installation using primarily traditional craft techniques such as knitting and felt. Clare was part of Museums Galleries Scotland’s Emerging Leaders programme.

**Dr David Gelsthorpe**

**Curator of Earth Sciences Collections, Manchester Museum**

Dr David Gelsthorpe is Curator of Earth Sciences Collections at Manchester Museum.

**Ron Inglis**

**Service Manager (Museums & Galleries), Nottingham City Council**

Ron Inglis is Service Manager [Museums & Galleries] at Nottingham City Council. Within his current role he has wide-ranging responsibility for three of the region’s most important museums and historic buildings at Nottingham Castle, Wollaton Hall and Newstead Abbey, as well as numerous others. He holds an MA in Archaeology from the University of Glasgow and has a Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies from Leicester University. His career in the museum and heritage sector has spanned some thirty years, across a range of organisations in Scotland and Wales. Before taking responsibility for Nottingham City Council Museums in 2003 he was Museums & Heritage Manager at Newport City Council in South Wales, a post he held for seven years and his previous career has included curatorial, museum development and management roles. He has been an independent adviser to a range of heritage organisations throughout his career, including a range of small and volunteer-led bodies.

Ron is co-chair of the Derby Nottingham Museums Consortium and is an External Examiner for Nottingham Trent University MA Museums and Heritage programme. He has been an Accreditation Assessor for the Heritage Council Museum Standards Programme for Ireland since 2006.
Yasmin Khan
Director of Covalent Creative Partnerships Ltd

Yasmin Khan is Director of Covalent Creative Partnerships Ltd.

Kirsty Lingstadt
Collections, Data and Recording Operational Manager, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland

Kirsty Lingstadt works at the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland where she is responsible for collections and data. This involves the development of data standards, development of the database - Canmore and data projects as well as cataloguing systems and programmes, management of stores, conservation, access to the collections and the public service.

She previously worked for South Lanarkshire Council Museums, Scottish Mining Museum and Fife Council Museums Service. Within all these organisations she undertook a wide range of tasks managing collections, researching and arranging exhibition programmes and associated activities across a wide range of venues as well as running community outreach programmes.

Prior to this Kirsty completed a MA (Hons) in Scottish Historical Studies at the University of Edinburgh followed by a Masters in Museum Studies at the University of Leicester. She is an Associate member of the Museums Association and mentor on this scheme. In addition she is the voluntary Secretary for the Business Archives Council, Board of the Scottish Mining Museum Collections Trust and a Board member for the Recognition Scheme for Museums Galleries Scotland.

Dr Kevin Mason
Director, Bodelwyddan Castle Trust

Dr Kevin Mason is Director of Bodelwyddan Castle Trust, a regional partner of the National Portrait Gallery situated in Denbighshire, North Wales. In a career spanning over 30 years, he has worked in a variety of museums and museum agencies in England and Wales. This includes a period of around 10 years as Assistant Director of the Council of Museums in Wales during which time he was elected Fellow of the Museums Association. He has served on a
number of committees and panels including as President of the Welsh Federation of Museums and Art Galleries, as Wales Regional Representative on the Museums Association, and as a member of the Heritage Lottery Fund Committee for Wales. He is currently a member of the Council of the Association of Independent Museums and the advisory committee to CyMAL, Museums Archives Libraries Wales a division of the Welsh Government. Dr Mason is also a trustee of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers Regimental Museum Caernarfon and an advisor and assessor for the Museums Standards Programme for Ireland.

**Heather McGuicken**

*Museum Manager, Arts and North Down Museum*

Heather McGuicken is Museum Manager at Arts and North Down Museum, Northern Ireland.

**Rita McLean**

*Museums and heritage consultant*

Rita McLean is a Museums and Heritage consultant. She has worked in the museums and heritage sector throughout her career in a range of curatorial, museum development and senior management roles. She was Director of Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery from 2004 until 2012, and prior to this, a member of BMAG’s senior management team with specific responsibility for the management and development of the service’s historic house museums and sites. Her work has also encompassed developing a range of workforce and audience development and diversity initiatives. Over time, Rita has served on numerous museums and heritage sector bodies. She is currently a member of the National Trust’s Midlands Advisory Board and a Governor of Compton Verney House Trust.

**Camilla Nichol**

*Chief Executive, UK Antarctic Heritage Trust*

Camilla Nichol is the Chief Executive of the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust, a UK-based charity which cares for six heritage sites on the Antarctic Peninsula, including Port Lockroy, famed Antarctic museum and Post Office. The Trust also runs an active friends scheme, educational programme and grants scheme. Prior to this she was Head of Collections at Leeds Museums and Galleries where she was responsible for all matters concerned with the care, curation and use of the collections, but also held wider responsibilities for partnership development, digital media, service strategy development and both securing and managing Arts Council Major Partner Museum status and programme.
She studied Geology at the University of Edinburgh followed by Museum Studies at the University of Leicester. She has had a varied 20-year museum career working with collections as diverse as geology, scientific and medical instruments, anatomy and pathology, Scottish football and the early oil industry. Previously she headed up the science team for York Museums Trust as curator of geology and prior to that worked in curatorial and technical roles at the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow, Almond Valley Heritage Trust and the Scottish Football Museum. She was, until recently, Museum Mentor for Whitby Museum and continues as a Trustee for the Burton Constable Foundation, a large stately home in East Yorkshire. She has a close working relationship with Leeds University and is on the boards of a small number of academic centres which further the research potential of culture and heritage and is currently supervising two AHRC funded collaborative doctoral award students. She still tries to find time to pursue an active interest in geology, renovating her house and following the fortunes of Ross County FC.

**Nigel Nixon**
**Museums and heritage consultant**

Nigel Nixon is a museum and heritage professional with over 25 years experience in the sector. He has considerable experience of project development and of strategic and operational management in museums. He has extensive experience in the development of museum services; museum infrastructure, exhibitions and collections care initiatives in a range of settings from historic properties, purpose-built resources and mobile platforms.

Following work as a curator, he has held a range of senior posts including Head of Museums for Shropshire Council and Assistant Director of Quarry Bank Mill, Styal. He has managed a county arts service, a countryside interpretation centre and Visitor Information Centres within museums.

He is experienced in the management of change and has lead on audience development and customer care initiatives including Charter Mark and Investors in People.

He has initiated and acted as client project manager for a range major heritage capital programmes including the development of a major collections centre, the Museum Resource Centre in Ludlow, the Apprentice House at Styal, the redevelopment of Acton Scott Historic Working Farm and recently Much Wenlock Museum.

He was a founder member of the Marches Museums Network which, for the last decade has been a forum to work collaboratively for the benefit of its member museums and their audiences.
Dr Sarah Posey  
**Head of Collections, Interpretation and Learning, Royal Pavilion and Museums, Brighton and Hove**

Dr Sarah Posey is Head of Collections, Interpretation and Learning at Royal Pavilion and Museums, Brighton and Hove.

Maria Ragan  
**Museum Manager, Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, UCL**

Maria Ragan is Museum Manager at Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, UCL.

Jane Robinson  
**Museums and heritage consultant**

A freelance consultant since January 2013, Jane provides strategy and project development services to the museums and heritage sector, building on 15 years as a manager then senior manager at Museums Galleries Scotland, and over 30 years in the UK museums sector. Jane specialises in supporting heritage bodies to develop projects that fit the requirements of funders and strategies, and in supporting funders and strategic bodies to create viable and feasible development programmes that meet the needs of heritage organisations. She has a long track record of providing developmental advice and practical assistance to help museums large and small meet the needs of Accreditation. Recent projects include acting as Co-ordinator for the Alliance of Museums Libraries and Archives UK, supporting a community trust to develop plans for a cultural hub and helping two charities develop grants schemes to support conservation in Scottish museums.

Rachael Rogers  
**Curator, Abergavenny Museum**

Rachael is Curator at Abergavenny Museum and Castle, Monmouthshire County Council, where she is responsible for site and staff management, and the management and care of collections. She manages the design and delivery of exhibitions, event and lifelong learning programmes, marketing and promotional activities. Rachael is also responsible for developing the museum’s services and facilities, its policies and plans.
Since 2009 Rachael has held the post of President of the Federation of Museums and Galleries of Wales, in a voluntary capacity. As part of this role she sits on the Steering Group for the Museums Strategy for Wales. In 2012 she was appointed a Trustee of Collections Trust. Previously she has been on the Museums Association Council and worked at the National Waterways Museum.

Sarah Staniforth
President, International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (IIC)

From January 2011 – June 2014 Sarah Staniforth was Museums and Collections Director at the National Trust. She is also a director of National Trust Enterprises and Historic House Hotels. She was Historic Properties Director from 2005-2010 and Head Conservator from 2002-2004. She joined the National Trust in 1985 as Adviser on Paintings Conservation and Environmental Control. She read chemistry at Oxford University, studied paintings conservation at the Courtauld Institute of Art and worked in the scientific department of the National Gallery from 1980-1985.

Sarah has a number of non-executive roles. For many years she served on the Council of IIC (International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works), initially as a Council Member then as Vice-President. She was elected President of IIC in January 2013. She was a member of the Directory Board of ICOM-CC (International Council of Museums – Conservation Committee) from 1996-1999. She served on the Council of the UK Museums Association from 2005-2011, and from 2011-2014 the Council of AIM (Association of Independent Museums). She joined the Arts Council England Museum Accreditation Committee in 2011. She is currently a Trustee of the Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons, the Pilgrim Trust and the Landmark Trust, and a member of the HLF South West Committee, the Westminster Abbey Fabric Commission and the Gloucester Diocesan Advisory Committee. Sarah chaired the steering group that developed the UK National Heritage Science Strategy from 2008-2010 and the Board of Trustees of the UK National Heritage Science Forum from 2012-2014. She is a Fellow of IIC, the Society of Antiquaries and the Royal Society of Arts.

Sarah has written and lectured extensively on preventive conservation for collections in museums and historic houses; some of this work is recorded in the National Trust Manual of Housekeeping, which was published in 2006 with a revised edition in 2011. She has edited Historical Perspectives on Preventive Conservation that was published by Getty Publications in April 2013. Her interests include: museums and heritage management; buildings, collections and preventive conservation; and bringing historic places to life through excellent standards of access, presentation and interpretation.
Nêst Thomas
Chief Officer for Museums and Arts, Gwynedd Council

Nêst has been working in museums since 1986 and since then her role has expanded to include the arts. In 2010 Nêst was appointed to her present role which includes museums, galleries, theatres and community arts in Gwynedd. The services are fully bi-lingual in Welsh and English.

Nêst has been advising museums in Gwynedd since 1988 and is familiar with Accreditation and the previous standards, Registration. She is a member of the Museums Association, committee member of the Federation of Museums & Galleries of Wales; chair the Federation of Gwynedd & Anglesey Maritime Museums and represent the Museums & Arts Service for Gwynedd at numerous groups and meetings. Having taken her services through service reviews in 2010/11 and working with independent museums in the area she has an understanding of the challenges which face this sector. Because of her background with the arts she can also see the opportunities by working not only with others within the museums sector but also in the arts. Also the Museums Strategy for Wales (CyMAL) provides a strategic direction and opportunities for museums.

Philip Wise
Collections and Curatorial Manager, Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service

Philip Wise read archaeology and anthropology at Downing College, Cambridge and subsequently studied curatorship at the Department of Museum Studies, University of Leicester and heritage management at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. He has worked in a variety of local authority museums since 1983, initially as an archaeological curator and more recently as a manager. For the last seventeen years he has been responsible for the heritage management of Colchester’s archaeological sites and monuments. Most recently he led on the heritage aspects of the successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the project to redevelop Colchester Castle and increase access to the town’s wider heritage.

Since October 2012 he has been Collections and Curatorial Manager with Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service. Philip is an Associate Member of the Museums Association, a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and was Chairman of the Society of Museum Archaeologists from 2006-2009 and of the UK Archaeological Archives Forum from 2007-2011. In December 2012 Philip was appointed to the Accreditation Committee of Arts Council England and in 2014 became an Arts Council artistic and quality assessor for museums. He is currently a trustee of
Museums Essex and is the museum mentor for Orford Museum Trust. For many years he has been interested in archaeological reconstruction, including most recently the use of virtual reality, and in the curatorial aspects of collections management.