



# The Power of Connection

2ND OCTOBER 2025 | VICTORY SERVICES CLUB



## Speakers will include...

### **Sam Bowen, Founder, SEND In Museums**

11% of UK children are disabled. Include siblings, and 1 in 5 families face access barriers at museums. Every child deserves culture—and small changes can make museums inclusive. It begins with belief and a true welcome. Sam Bowen founded SEND in Museums, wrote the Special Schools and Museums toolkit, and created [www.sendinmuseums.org](http://www.sendinmuseums.org).

### **Sarah Briggs, Grants Manager, Museums Association**

Using insights from the Esmée Fairbairn Communities and Collections Fund the Museums Association have launched a new guide to support equitable relationships between museums and community partners. This session will explore this resource to enable you to evolve participatory practice into community led practice.

### **Eyob Derillo, Project Officer, King's Own Royal Regiment Museum & Carolyn Dalton, Museum Development Manager, Lancaster City Museums**

The 1868 British Expedition to Abyssinia began in controversy, as Britain reluctantly sent troops to rescue hostages held by King Tewodros. Today, it sparks new debate. This project engages Ethiopian, Military, and Lancaster communities to explore its meaning today.

### **Michelle Hill, Curator, Tameside Museums & Galleries**

Without a permanent home for 10 years, the Manchester Regiment collection relies on new ways to promote access. This project saw Portland Basin Museum staff and Tameside College students create two films, using young voices to explore the regiment's legacy and local soldiers' stories.

### **Brigadier Nick Doyle, Army Heritage Branch,**

Brigadier Nick Doyle will provide the Army Heritage Branch perspective on current developments and future plans. He will outline how Army funding works and the best routes to access it, give an update on the Army's approach to heritage from the new DCGS and the Heritage Strategy, and share key updates from the past year, including lease arrangements and the impact of projected 2030 funding cuts.

### **Dr Hannah West, Centre for Military Women's Research & Dr Laura Patrick, UNTOLD: Stories of the Irish in the British Army**

Northern Ireland's military museums reflect complex, contested heritage. Co-design with diverse audiences helps address difficult questions. In 2023, a virtual exhibition on Greenfinches—women veterans of the Ulster Defence Regiment—invited reflection on gender and duty. UNTOLD will continue this work, exploring Irish stories in the British Army.

### **Isabel Wilson, Senior Manager, Museums and Cultural Property, Arts Council England**

Isabel Wilson will explain what makes a strong funding bid to Arts Council England's National Lottery Project Grants. She'll cover how to align your application with the Arts Council's strategy, use data to show project need, and why focusing on audiences boosts your chances of success.

### **Lucy Johnson, Chief Executive, Army Flying Museum**

With funding tight and budgets stretched, growing audiences and income can feel tough. At the Army Flying Museum, we've focused on identifying key audiences to boost both profile and income. Lucy will share lessons learned and successes from the team's journey.

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