

BAFM Newsletter of the Year Award 2026

One of the great pleasures of volunteering for BAFM is receiving the entries for the annual 'Newsletter of the Year'. In 2026, we are slightly altering the rules of entry to reflect developments in the digital world. Usually, BAFM has requested a hard copy version of any entry to the Newsletter of the Year; this year, either hard copies or digital versions are acceptable. The cut-off date for receiving entries will be 30th June by post to

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Digital versions need to be sent to nrwspeard@outlook.com and MUST arrive by 4pm on the 30 June.

The judging panel will consist of Richard Irvine, our Regional Coordinator for Scotland and myself.

As usual, the winning entry will receive 2 free tickets of attend the British Association of Friends of Museums, to be held in Southampton in the autumn (each ticket worth £75). In the event of a tie for the winner each of the two groups will receive one ticket each.

Criteria for judging

I have asked recently about the criteria used to judge the individual entries to the awards. Judgement on these types of competitions can be quite subjective, but the following are always taken into account

- The variety of material included in the Newsletter; does it reflect the programmes run by the group, both past and future?
- Presentation: larger groups may have access to greater funds to have professional print runs despatched whilst smaller groups may have a more homespun approach. Both approaches have their merits and are considered
- Mention of BAFM; we are keen for our member groups to spread information about BAFM and the benefits of being a member; we always like to see a mention of our Conferences and also any awards which a group may have earned
- 'Learned articles'; the judges are always happy to see articles produced on subjects related to the site the group supports; these articles may be by members of the group or members of the staff who work at the institution supported by the members of the BAFM affiliated group

PLEASE CONSIDER ENTERING THIS AWARD IN 2026; PREVIOUS WINNERS HAVE BEEN PROUD TO BE RECOGNISED FOR THEIR EFFORTS AND THERE IS THE ADDED BONUS OF ATTENDING AN INFORMATIVE AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

Dave Adgar
Vice Chair BAFM