

**MUSEUMS COMMITTEE  
27 FEBRUARY 2012**

Present: Councillors Charlesworth, Chowney, Finch, Forward,  
Hodges (in the Chair), Martin and Webb  
Museum Association Representatives: Mrs Barrett, Ms  
Cornish, Mr Peak and Mrs Purdey

Apologies for lateness were noted for Councillor Forward.

**31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following councillor declared an interest in the minutes as follows:

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Charlesworth	34 – Update of Museum Forward Plan (in so far as mention was made of Happy Harold Trolley Bus)	Personal – President of the Trolley Bus Association

**32. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2011 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.**

**33. CURATOR'S REPORT**

Cathy Walling, Museum Curator, presented a report to provide an update on issues arising from previous meetings and confirmation of Curator's actions.

The members visit to the East Sussex Record Office had taken place on 9 February and details were contained in the report. The Curator had received a copy of the list of pre-1835 Hastings Corporation Records, a digital copy together with copies and a list of the newly acquired photographs. A request would be made for the Museum to receive copies of all digitised archive material relating to Hastings. A visit to the Keep would be organised for 2013.

Steve Peak commented that he had suggested a change in the opening hours of the Record Office to accommodate people travelling off peak by public transport. Both he and Councillor Hodges commented that they would wish as much digitised information as possible about Hastings to be available locally in an electronic form.

An order had been placed to erect the commemorative plaque to Sidney Little at the eastern end of Bottle Alley. A date was still awaited for the ceremony to unveil the plaque to Alan Turing on Baston Lodge. At the meeting the Curator suggested that this be arranged for Saturday, 23 June 2012 which was the anniversary of Alan Turin's birth, subject to the agreement of the owners of Baston Lodge.

**MUSEUMS COMMITTEE  
27 FEBRUARY 2012**

Permission had been given for the reproduction of images etc from the Museum's collection and details were contained in the report.

**RESOLVED – that the report be noted.**

**34. UPDATE OF MUSEUM FORWARD PLAN**

The Museums Forward Plan had been presented to the Museums Committee in September 2010 and covered a three-year period. A regularly monitored Forward Plan was a requirement of Accreditation. The Action Plan had been reviewed and updated. The revised Action Plan for 2010 – 2013 was appended to the report.

Mrs Barrett requested that the ceramic collection be displayed on a rotating basis and that checking and re-labelling of exhibits be carried out. Steve Peak suggested the possibility of using volunteer assistance for this work. The Museum Curator commented that this would be very labour intensive but agreed to consider this proposal and to report back.

The recommendation to the report was moved by Councillor Charlesworth, with an amendment as set out in the resolution below. This was seconded by Steve Peak and agreed unanimously.

In considering the item on the Action Plan for investigation of the potential for “garden” land behind the Hastings Museum and Art Gallery, Councillor Finch suggested that the area be used for display of statues etc. Steve Peak said that the Trolley Bus Association wished to build a bus depot for the storage of the Happy Harold trolley bus in that location.

**RESOLVED (unanimously) – that the report be noted and a report be submitted to the next meeting on the proposal that the Museum archaeological collecting area be restricted to the Borough of Hastings and that other museums be offered the archaeological material from their areas or if they could not accept them a charge be levied for their storage.**

Councillor Forward arrived at 3.07 pm. during consideration of this item.

**35. VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

Cathy Walling, Museum Curator, presented a report on a policy and guidelines on the management of volunteers at Hastings Museum.. The proposed Volunteer Policy and Procedures policy document was appended to the report.

The Museum had been involved in a Renaissance-funded Sustainable Volunteering Project. Following work with the appointed Consultant, the

**MUSEUMS COMMITTEE  
27 FEBRUARY 2012**

Curator had produced a Volunteer Management Policy and received advice on the recruitment and retention of suitable volunteers. Museum staff and other stakeholders had been consulted as part of the process.

The aim of the policy was to enable Hastings Museum to think about the value of its volunteers and their involvement in delivering objectives. Specific roles would be developed to reach targets. The co-ordination of volunteers would initially be the responsibility of the Curator to ensure consistency. This role would be assessed when the policy was reviewed and the need to define it as a formal role would be considered.

**RESOLVED – that Cabinet be recommended to accept the Volunteer Policy and Procedures as appended to the report of the Museum Curator.**

**36. UPDATE ON OLD TOWN MUSEUM**

Cathy Walling, Museum Curator, presented a report to update members on the progress of the review of the Old Town Hall Museum. Interested parties had attended a meeting on 10 January 2012 to receive an update on the latest developments.

The Stanhope Press had been moved to Hastings Museum and Art Gallery. The ground floor had been redisplayed and work on the upper floor would commence in March.

The group had discussed marketing and income generation opportunities. The group had agreed in the short term to concentrate on efficiencies to improve visitor attendance and income.

**RESOLVED – that the report be noted.**

**37. MUSEUM ATTENDANCE FIGURES**

Cathy Walling, Museum Curator, presented a report to inform members of figures for attendances, educational activities and use of the Museum's website for the third quarter of 2011-12. Figures for October to December 2010 were submitted for comparison. The figures all showed a sizeable increase in numbers.

**RESOLVED – that the report be noted.**

**38. MUSEUM EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

Cathy Walling, Museum Curator, presented a report to inform Members of forthcoming events and educational activities at the Museum for Quarter 1, 2012-13.

These included: -

**MUSEUMS COMMITTEE  
27 FEBRUARY 2012**

Until 6 January 2013: 'Diamond Jubilee Exhibition: 60 Years of Paintings from the Museum Collection';

Until 17 June 2012: 'On the Map'. An exhibition of historic maps from the Museum Collection and contemporary work selected from open submission; and

6 April to 10 June: 'Not Everyone Rises' - Graphic novelist Julian Hanshaw illustrates five moments from the rich historical past of the coastline between Pett Level and Camber Sands in comic book format.

Events:

1 - 15 April: Free Easter Egg Hunt at both Museums;

14 April: On the Map workshop;

28 April: Over the West Hill - a local history walk with Edward Preston;

19 May: Museum Association visit to Old Town Hall;

19 May: Tango Evening. Hastings Tango Club is taking over the Museum as part of the international Museums at Night initiative;

26 May: Coronation Ceremonies and Cinque Ports - an illustrated talk by Brion Purdey;

2-10 June: Coronation Crowns - a family craft workshop. At both Museums;

9 June: On the Map workshop; and

22 June - 26 July: weekly series of local history talks by Edward Preston.

**RESOLVED - that the report be noted.**

**39. MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS**

Cathy Walling, Museum Curator, presented a report informing members of items acquired by the Museum in the last quarter and the names of donors. The items included: -

3x 35mm slides of Hastings Pier, Fishing Beach and Ecclesbourne Glen

1938 Hastings Grammar School photograph

Print of Hastings

Booklets relating to Hastings

Plaster mould of Father Christmas

National Bakery School certificates

Association of Master Bakers and Confectioners members lists and minute books etc

78rpm gramophone record from Kings Rd

2 engraved wood blocks

Small watercolour sketch

Copy of 'A Sketch of Hastings and the Surrounding Country' 1884

Documents relating to the Park Cricket Club 1938-54

Filming schedule for Underwater Archaeology programme on the 'Amsterdam'

Souvenir programme of Gary Glitter on Tour in Hastings 1973

MC.21

**MUSEUMS COMMITTEE  
27 FEBRUARY 2012**

Box of 35mm slides from former mayor Vera Jones, showing events in Hastings 1966 - 71, including Mayor-making, Carnival and Dordrecht Exchange visit.

**RESOLVED – that the report be noted.**

**40. REQUEST FOR A LOAN**

Cathy Walling, Museum Curator, presented a report to inform Members of a request for a loan. Councillor Charlesworth moved the recommendation to the report which was seconded by Councillor Martin and agreed unanimously.

**RESOLVED (unanimously) – that Cabinet be recommended to approve the loan of a Turner watercolour entitled, “Fish-Market, Hastings, 1824” to the National Trust for an exhibition at Petworth House entitled, “Turner’s Sussex” from January to March 2013.**

**41. STADE EDUCATION PROJECT**

Cathy Walling, Museum Curator, presented a report to provide a final update on the Heritage Lottery Funded (HLF) Stade Education Project. This had been a three year project which was active from December 2008 to December 2011. The project was primarily paid for by the Heritage Lottery Fund with some additional support for specific projects from Hastings Borough Council, and external funders. The designated project budget was £180,449 with 86.7% (£156,500) coming from HLF.

The three main partners in the Stade Education Project were the Fishermen’s Museum, the Shipwreck Museum and the Fishermen’s Protection Society.

As part of the Project a Stade Education Officer was employed full time for three years and a budget was provided to fund the officer in post and to deliver the activities. The Stade Education Project worked to deliver the following four main aims: -

increase the number of people enjoying and learning about the cultural and environmental heritage of the Stade;

improve, coordinate and promote a range of informational and learning resources;

provide opportunities for local people to understand and appreciate their maritime heritage; and

develop a continual strategy for educational resources and learning on the Stade.

During the life of the project, applications were made in partnership with The Fishermen’s Protection Society, Old Hastings Preservation Society, Radiator Arts, and the Electric Palace Cinema to other external funders to bring additional funds into the project. Successful bids totalling £30,285 were detailed in the report. The report also listed events and activities that had received assistance from or were delivered by the Stade Education Project.

**MUSEUMS COMMITTEE  
27 FEBRUARY 2012**

The project's success in achieving its aims could be seen in the fact that over 20,000 people had some kind of interaction with the project, whether it be directly, through going on a guided walk, or coming to a workshop, or perhaps by watching a DVD or using resources on the website or flickr account. For a three year project employing one project officer this was a great achievement. High levels of volunteer commitment were also a successful aspect of the project.

**RESOLVED – that the report be noted.**

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 3.44 pm)