

Agenda Item No: 5

Report to: Museums Committee

Date of Meeting: 3 December 2012

Report Title: Curator's Report

Report By: Cathy Walling
Museum Curator

Purpose of Report

to provide an update on issues arising from previous meetings and confirmation of Curator's actions

Recommendation(s)

- 1. the report is for noting**

Reasons for Recommendations

Introduction

This report updates members on matters carried over from previous meetings and other items not included on the agenda.

1. Following the agreement to extend the loan of the JMW Turner watercolour, the Curator has taken further advice on the amount of time the painting will need to rest. Two main factors affect the amount of harm done to a painting by light - the overall light intensity and the length of exposure. Annual exposure must be limited to a prescribed level, which the National Gallery recommend to be 650 kilolux hours. The Long Gallery at HMAG falls well within this limit. UV light is also eliminated. Both the National Maritime Museum and The Peabody Essex Museum have suitable environments for loans and are monitored regularly. The Turner painting will also have two periods of complete darkness in store between loans.
2. The theft of lead from the roof of the Old Town Hall Museum was discovered on 24 September. It is believed that the lead was removed during the weekend of 22-23 September. Around 14 meters of lead are estimated to have been taken. Scaffolding at St Clements Church which was touching the rear of the OTH has been moved and security increased on the church site. A temporary repair will remain in place until the Church finish their repairs and the scaffolding is removed completely. As it is a Listed Building repairs will be in lead.
3. The BBC Natural History Unit has confirmed that a piece about the Hastings Rarities has been commissioned for The One Show next year.
4. The Museum will be hosting a Conservation Roadshow for museums in the South-east region on 7 December. A 6-month project on remedial conservation is being funded by the Arts Council for the region. Hastings Museums will be able to get both advice and minor conservation work undertaken.

Wards Affected

None

Area(s) Affected

None

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	No
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	No
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No

Organisational Consequences
Local People's Views

Yes
No

Background Information

Officer to Contact

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