

**MUSEUMS COMMITTEE  
3 DECEMBER 2012**

Present: Councillors Charlesworth, Hodges, Howard, Rogers, Sinden, and Westley (in the Chair).

Museum Association Representatives: Mr Palfrey-Martin, Mr Peak and Mrs Purdey

**9. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Corello, Mr Adams, Mrs Barrett and Ms Cornish. Councillor Hodges gave his apologies for lateness.

The Chair spoke of the sad passing of Catherine Reed and on behalf of the Committee expressed gratitude for the time and commitment she gave to the Museums Committee. The Chair welcomed new member Mr Palfrey-Martin to the Museums Committee.

**10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Councillors declared their interests in the minutes as indicated:

<b>Councillor</b>	<b><u>Minute</u></b>	<b><u>Interest</u></b>
Sinden	The Agenda	Personal – Life member of the Museums Association
Street	The Agenda	Personal – Life member of the Museums Association

**11. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2012 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record subject to the amendment of item 2, Declarations of Interest for Councillors Sinden and Street, noted in item 10 above.

**12. 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 Curator confirmed the Turner watercolour had satisfied environmental conditions for exposure to light and had met the prescribed level of 650 kilolux hours. This limitation will ensure the painting receives periods of rest from light in between loans.

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A film about the Hastings Rarities has been commissioned for The One Show next year. Details will be reported as they become available.

A Conservation Roadshow for museums in the south east region will take place on 7 December. This is being funded by the Arts Council and will promote a 6-month project on remedial conservation.

**RESOLVED – that the committee accepts the report and are satisfied with the comments in the report.**

**13. 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 second quarter of 2012-13. Figures for July to September 2011 were submitted for comparison.

Visitor numbers were slightly down at both the Hastings Museum and Art Gallery and at the Old Town Hall Museum.

It was noted that website visits had decreased. The Curator advised that she had arranged a meeting with Simon Allen, Communications Planning Manager, to consider revamping the website.

Councillor Howard asked if consideration could be given to adding a shopping cart to the website to sell items such as post cards, calendars and local publications. Virginia Gilbert advised that this was largely dependant on using appropriate software, but the idea would be taken on board.

Weddings and civil ceremonies had increased during this quarter.

**RESOLVED – that the committee accepts the report and are satisfied with the comments in the report.**

**14. 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 4, 2012-13.

These included: -

Exhibitions

Until 13 January - 'Telling Stories'

26 January to 7 April - 'The Nature of Things; Animals in Art'

This will consist of works from the collection which show depictions of animals

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Jubilee – Paintings by women in arts theme.

Until 24 February - Ethnographic Imaginings.

A display of poems inspired by the Museum's World Art collections

2 March to 20 April - Work of students from St Leonards Academy inspired by visits to the Museum.

Events

Play & Learn

Every Thursday in term time. In partnership with Hastings Children's Centre, In2Play and Hastings Children's Library.

Telling Stories Gallery Talk

Saturday 12 January 12noon Free

The last chance to hear the Telling Stories artists talk about their work, providing a fascinating insight into the creative process and being involved in the project.

Shogi & the Development of Chess

Date & speaker tbc (Dr F G Irvine, V&A?)

An illustrated talk as part of the Objects In Focus loan from the Horniman Museum.

Tango Evening

Friday 15 February 7.00 – 10.30pm Tickets £10

Beginners' workshop from 7.15pm, limited spaces available. General dancing from 8pm

There will be live music, including the performance of a new composition specially dedicated to Hastings Tango Club by Polo Piatti.

Animal Antics!

Free half-term fun inspired by the range of real & imaginary creatures in 'The Nature of Things' and around the Museum.

Tuesday 19 & Thursday 21 February 10.30-12noon

Get up close to some specimens from the Museum's natural history store, including fossils, minibeasts and mammal skulls!

Trails & new colouring sheets available every day from Museum Reception.

Family Drop In with artist June Nelson

Saturday 16 February 11am-1pm & 1.30-3,30pm

Experiment with oil pastels to explore the texture & effects possible, using paintings on display as inspiration. This event is programmed to celebrate the completion of the ambitious Your Paintings project, and is supported by the BBC (Your Paintings website) and museums & galleries nationwide.

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Get your hands on... Science

16 or 23 March tbc

Students from University Centre Hastings (University of Brighton) will be joining the Museum to celebrate National Science & Engineering Week, with a range of fun science busking experiments around the Museum. Come along for some science-tastic fun!

This is the first partnership with UCH, and the Museum is working with members of the University's Science Society.

Easter Egg Hunt

30 March – 14 April

The events leaflet will be posted out in the New Year.

Steve Peak asked if there were plans for an exhibition of the 100th Anniversary of the First World War. The Curator explained that she was investigating possible funding. Future developments will be reported back to the Committee.

**RESOLVED - that the committee accepts the report and are satisfied with the comments in the report.**

**15. FORTHCOMING MUSEUM PROJECTS**

Catherine Harvey, Education Officer, presented a report informing members of forthcoming additional projects.

The projects are scheduled to take place in 2013. They provide an opportunity for local groups and young people to engage with the museums and will bring in additional funding.

The Education Officer emphasised the achievement in reaching the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of the World Stories project. HMAG is one of four museums to reach this level. Project work comprises a film made by young people for young people to encourage greater engagement. Knowledge gained from this work will be fed into the Access and Learning Policy.

**RESOLVED – that the committee accepts the report and are satisfied with the comments in the report.**

**16. HASTINGS HERITAGE TRAILS**

Cathy Walling, Museum Curator, presented a report informing members of the Heritage Trail Working Group and the implications for the Blue Plaques scheme.

Leaflets of the Hastings and St Leonards Heritage Trails will be available as a set of A4 double sided illustrated information maps for walkers to follow.

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Subjects include Maritime, Gardens, Women, Blue Plaques, Churches and Built Environment. Free leaflets will be available either as a hard copy or electronically. Discussions are still on going to progress this.

The Curator advised that funding for the Hastings and St Leonards Heritage Trails will now be sourced from the Museum's Publicity Budget. Funding for the trails will commence in the new financial year.

The plaque for Alf Cobb, Robert Tressell's co-campaigner in Hastings Social Democratic Federation will be funded from monies set aside from this year's budget.

Councillor Hodges said that he did not want wish to see the loss of blue plaques in the town as a result of budget cuts.

Steve Peak suggested adding a Mugsborough guide to the list of Heritage Trails to draw in a wider audience. Nick Sangster confirmed Mugsborough would be added to the list of trails.

In relation to the heritage trail entitled 'Women', Councillor Howard said that greater emphasis should be placed on highlighting female leaders in Hastings.

Further to Councillor Hodges comment, Councillor Charlesworth suggested revisiting the budget for blue plaques after a few months. The Curator said there was no longer a specific budget for blue plaques and that money is now obtained from the museums budget. The budget would be only be revised if there was a reason.

Councillor Charlesworth recommended the trail leaflets should be placed in the HIC and available on the website.

**RESOLVED - that the committee accepts the report and are satisfied with the comments in the report.**

**17. ACCESS AND LEARNING POLICY**

Catherine Harvey, Educational Officer, presented a report informing members of the draft review of the Museum's 2008 Access and Learning Policy.

The current policy will end December 2012 and is currently subject to a consultation exercise to consider revising the policy objectives. Feedback from the consultation will be brought to the next committee meeting in March 2013.

Councillor Howard asked if schools will be consulted. Catherine Harvey said a number of nominated state schools were already involved, and that if necessary she could send a blanket email to every school.

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**RESOLVED - that the committee recommend the policy is submitted for consultation.**

**18. UPDATE ON OLD TOWN HALL MUSEUM REVIEW GROUP**

Virginia Gilbert, Head of Amenities, Resorts and Leisure, presented a report informing members of progress of meetings held by the Old Town Hall Group.

The operational review was commenced in December 2010 to look at the impact of the operation of the Tourist Information Centre. The review was extended to include the Old Town Hall Museum and to report on recent changes and actions. The next review meeting will be in January 2013 to review the budget and plans for 2013.

Councillor Westley reminded members that the budget was set by Council and that it was not the position of the Museums Committee to discuss it.

Marion Purdey highlighted the income brought into the town by the work of the museums.

Councillor Howard suggested maximising income by promoting services, for example hiring out the main museum. Virginia Gilbert said she would look into this.

**RESOLVED - that the committee accepts the report and are satisfied with the comments in the report.**

**19. 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: -

1. Items from the 1st Hastings Boys Brigade, including shields, silver cups, colours and photographs. Donor: Mrs B. Hampton
2. 9 early photographs of Hastings. Donor: Mr Moss
3. Painting of 23 All Saints Street, by A. F. d' Ermee. Donor: Mr I Scott
4. Programme for performance of 'The Devil's Disciple' at Hastings Secondary School for Boys, 1968. Donor: Mrs H Treglown
5. Piece of gravestone and piece of font, as a result of conservation work at Old St Helens Church. Donor: Sussex Heritage Trust
6. Set of 6 London Olympics pin badges. Donor: Mr M Cooke

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7. Painting 'Willy-Fix-It' by David Hobbs, 1980. Glass pop bottle, Brooke, Sons and Co., Hastings. Donor: Mrs S Dengate
8. Sussex Pottery tobacco Jar, Meeds pottery, Burgess Hill. Donor: Mr B Lea.
9. Plan of London 2012 Olympic Park. Donor: Ms C Harvey

**RESOLVED - that the committee accepts the report and are satisfied with the comments in the report.**

**20. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED – that the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the items of business listed below because it is likely that, if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of ‘exempt’ information as defined in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.**

<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Subject Matter</u>	<u>Paragraph No.</u>
21 (E)	Offer of Loan	Paragraphs 8 & 9
22 (E)	Offers of Donation	Paragraphs 8 & 9

**21 (E) OFFER OF LOAN**

Cathy Walling, Museum Curator, presented a report to the Committee regarding an offer of a loan to the museum.

**RESOLVED – that the offer of loan is recommended for acceptance.**

**22 (E) OFFERS OF DONATION TO THE MUSEUM COLLECTION**

Cathy Walling, Museum Curator, presented a report to the Committee regarding the offer of potential donations to the museum collections.

**RESOLVED – that one offer be rejected as set out in paragraph 6 of the report and the other two be accepted as set out in paragraphs 1 and 9 of the report.**

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 3.15pm)