

**MUSEUMS COMMITTEE  
16 SEPTEMBER 2013**

Present: Councillors Batsford, Cartwright (as the duly appointed substitute for Cllr Hodges), Charlesworth, Howard, Martin, Street and Westley (in the Chair).

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

**10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hodges.

**11. 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>
Cllrs Charlesworth and Martin	Item 14 – World War One Centenary	Personal – Member of the Royal British Legion

**12. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2013 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.

**13. 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 said that permission had been given to the Fishermen's Museum to reproduce 57 photographs by George Wood for an exhibition. The photographs will be displayed for a year, and the Museum will also produce a calendar for sale based on some of the selected images.

Hastings Museum and Art Gallery has appeared in the following television programmes:

- A look at the legacy of the Hastings Rarities on BBC One's 'The One Show'.
- The 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Logie Barid's birth on Meridian News. This maybe on You Tube for those who wish to view it.
- A quiz show 'Pa Sparet' (On the Right Track) for Sveriges Television AB, the Swedish public service television company. This travelling-

**MUSEUMS COMMITTEE  
16 SEPTEMBER 2013**

based quiz has been produced in Sweden for 25 years and attracts ratings of 25%.

Permission has been given for the wholesale of data currently in A2A (Access to Archives) to a new Discovery Platform, incorporating data from the National Register of Archives and ARCHON. This new service will combine archive catalogue data and digital files with increased functionality. The Museum will be able to upload, edit and maintain data directly and use Discovery as an online showcase of resources if we so chose. The new service will be useful for contributors and users alike. It is intended that it will be released for feedback in 2014. The links to the database will be provided in due course.

The printed Heritage Trail leaflets are proving very popular since they have been available at both Museum sites and in the TIC. Interest has been boosted since an article promoting the leaflets in the Hastings Observer. The leaflets are also available to view online via the museum website and the Famously Hastings website. It was confirmed that the Tressell leaflet is now available.

A celebration is planned to take place in April 2014 for the centenary of the publication of 'The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists'. Mr Peak said The Havelock P.H. will be hosting an event involving music and books as well as a coach tour around the town. The Curator said she was happy to host an event but did not have the resources to organise it.

The new East Sussex County Council Records Office is due to open soon following the transfer of all its archives to the new Keep in Falmer. In light of this, Mr Peak sought notification of when the work is completed. The Curator said the target date is November, and that she will arrange a visit as soon as is possible.

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

**14. WORLD WAR ONE CENTENARY**

Catherine Harvey, Education Officer, presented a report informing members of the programme of exhibitions and events entitled 'Hastings Remembers.... A Five-Year Programme of First World War Centenary Activities.

The programme will focus on the main event in 2014, followed by smaller yearly events thereafter.

- Year 1 (2014) – Overview and an introduction to the Centenary
- Year 2 (2015) – The Role of women at home, at work, in service
- Year 3 (2016) – Recruitment, conscription and conscientious objectors
- Year 4 (2017) – Refugees, aliens and the war beyond Europe

**MUSEUMS COMMITTEE**  
**16 SEPTEMBER 2013**

- Year 5 (2018) – Soliders' stories, Roll of Honours and the legacy of the First World War.

Planning is currently at an early stage. A project team will be put together to oversee the activities; they include a project co-ordinator, oral historian, volunteers and various specialists.

A freelance museum consultant has been employed, at no cost, in line with HLF objectives, to progress the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to request a grant of £30,000. It is intended to submit the completed application in November 2013.

The emphasis of the exhibition will be from a local point of view highlighting individual stories using memorabilia etc. It is hoped that at the end of five years the museum will have a good collection of information about Hastings and the 1<sup>st</sup> World War.

Councillor Howard asked in there would be a balance of material to include those who objected to it as an imperial war. He was advised it would be included.

Councillor Batsford said the Pier Charity had discussed ways on how to engage with young people; staff and volunteers and that there will be opportunities for volunteering. Furthermore, he asked if consideration could be given to venues. The Library he said was out of use, however the Pier Hub was up and running and had curated space in it.

Councillor Cartwright asked to what extent the museum will work with organisations to facilitate a wider appreciation of what happened during the 1<sup>st</sup> World War in the streets of Hastings. He believed that it might improve local interest if there is something available that is specific to each street.

The Education Officer said they will be covering community stories in various localities. All information would be fed into a planning meeting so it is known where the majority of interest is. The project team will constantly monitor and review the feedback.

Councillor Charlesworth asked if it would be possible to create a display of photos, memorials and plaques in the museum and asked if consideration could be given to an annual walk.

Mr Peak suggested including a photograph of the 'Roll of Honour' in the display.

During the discussion, members offered photographs for inclusion in the exhibition. Mr Palfrey-Martin offered a digital list of recorded war dead from the churches in Hastings.

Councillor Westley thanked officers for their work and contribution towards the bid.

The Education Officer said she was looking at alternative ways of providing a full and proper exhibition of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, if the bid was unsuccessful.

**MUSEUMS COMMITTEE  
16 SEPTEMBER 2013**

Councillor Westley suggested using twitter updates which would cover a diary entry of what happened on this day in..... to engage and inform younger people via social media.

**RESOLVED – that the Committee accepts the report and recommends that the policy is adopted.**

**15. 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 first quarter of 2013-14. Figures for 2012 were submitted for comparison.

Figures for both Hastings Museum & Art Gallery and St Johns Place were slightly down compared to 2012, possibly due to a very popular exhibition of maps held at Johns Place in 2012 which had a high number of repeat visitors.

Since producing the report, the Curator advised the Committee that the attendance figures for the summer period were already up to 10,424.

Attendances to The Old Town Hall Museum had decreased. It was acknowledged that this was the first year the Museum had been closed on a Monday since April 2013. In the last quarter the majority of educational visits had been by Language Schools, it was expected that the number of educational visits will increase in the future.

The figures for the number of Website visits had increased. The Curator advised the Committee that she was waiting for the website to be revamped.

Councillor Street asked if anything could be done to encourage the attendance of Primary Schools. In response, the Education Officer said schools were not making as many trips out because of the amount of organisation involved and the volume of paperwork. Schools were more likely to take up an organised activity or use the loan boxes. Looking into the future she said they were looking to capitalise on half term activities and repackage them, for example a local history session could involve object handling. She said they were intending to increase the local history offer to secondary schools, Key Stage 3 & 4. In addition, the Learning Officer for East Sussex County Council is willing to put together a full programme of workshops on a range of topics which they would initially test, subject to budget and paperwork.

Mrs Barrett recommended the window display at the Old Town Hall needed to look more enticing to the passing trade. She praised the increase in website visits and asked for the new website to be operational as soon as possible to encourage more visitors.

Councillor Westley said it was not the intention for the museums website to be in the corporate style, it will be separate. She said she would chase up its completion and ask for an opening date.

**MUSEUMS COMMITTEE  
16 SEPTEMBER 2013**

Mrs Purdey asked if more could be done to advertise wedding venues, for example Durbar Hall. It was suggested that Aspect County should be invited to produce an article.

Mrs Purdey also suggested the windows at the Old Town Hall Museum should be cleaned. The Curator said the windows were coated with UV film which had deteriorated and needed scraping off.

Mr Peak asked to be informed if the future of the Old Town Hall is questioned again. The Curator said that the Old Town Hall Group will reconvene if necessary.

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

**16. MUSEUM EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

Cathy Walling, Museum Curator, presented a report to inform Members of forthcoming events and educational activities at the Hastings Museum and Art Gallery and the Old Town Hall Museum during October to December 2013, for Quarter 3, 2013-14.

These included: -

**Exhibitions**

Until 5 January 2014: 'Women Artists from 1850 to 1950'.

12 October to 19 January: 'The French Connection', an exhibition on the links between East Sussex and Normandy from the Middle Ages to modern times as revealed through the archives of the East Sussex Record Office and the Departmental Archives of Seine-Maritime, as well as items from the collections of Hastings Museum.

5 to 27 October: 'Irene Mensah', an exhibition celebrating her life and work.

2 November to 5 January: 'Marvellous Moustaches' as part of Movember, a display of Museum photographs and barber's equipment.

1 to 31 October: 'Old St Helen's Church', an exhibition at the Old Town Hall Museum of artefacts recovered from the community excavation.

**Events**

Within the next two weeks: Japanese dance events and Nigerian music, part of the AfriKaba Festival.

4 October: UK Funk Legend Root Jackson and Co, part of the AfriKaba Festival.

**MUSEUMS COMMITTEE**  
**16 SEPTEMBER 2013**

8 October: Full day workshop for women from Muslim and other communities exploring the message of Eid-ul-Adha through poetry, performance and writing, with Aziza Abdullah from Hastings Mosque.

15 October to 15 January: Free School workshops for 'The French Connection' exhibition. Schools are invited to bring students for a free visit and workshop using original archive documents and museum objects to explore KS3 and KS4 History, Geography, French and Citizenship.

Workshops are:

'Smuggling secrets; no questions asked!'

'Immigration: is the South Coast a sanctuary?'

'Coastal towns; behind the piers and palaces.'

'Medieval realms: conquering Sussex'.

Families at war in World War I'

There will also be special talks on combining Geography, Archaeology, and ICT with live demonstrations of GIS mapping.

16 October and 6 November: 'Take One Picture', a CPD event for teachers.

18, 25 October and 1, 8, 15, 22 November: Local History Lectures by Edward Preston.

29 October: Saxons and Normans Activity Day.

9 November: 'The Woodcut Revisited', a print-making workshop with Fiona Pienkowska.

9 November: Museum Association Autumn Concert, featuring Sussex soprano, Sophie Pullen.

16 November: 'Women Artists 1850-1920', an illustrated talk by Dr Meaghan Clarke.

23 November: Charity Concert.

30 November: 'Print your own Christmas Cards', a family workshop with Fiona Pienkowska.

1 December: Museum Association AGM.

The Education Officer said she had been approached by the Lady Muslim Mosque and was hoping to draw on community links to involve the Muslim Community.

Mr Peak asked if it would be possible to locate a French Linguist who could look into the names of the Borough i.e. Rock-a-Nore.

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

**MUSEUMS COMMITTEE  
16 SEPTEMBER 2013**

**17. 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. Oil painting by Gus Cummins entitled 'Elements'. Donor: Estate of Margaret Whitford.
2. Beer tankard commemorating First Regatta of Hastings and St Leonards Sailing Club.  
BBC Television, 1936-1986 First Day Cover. Donor: R. Mucci.
3. Collection of documents, photographs etc relating to Upfields Engineering, and Hastings High School for Girls. Donor: Mrs G Webb.
4. 2 pairs of Chinese shoes for bound feet from collection of Hollington's 'Foot Inspector', Dr John Kuhne. Donor: D. Mears.
5. Daily Express newspaper for May 1940, press cuttings re Bathing Pool, and sales details for 136-138 St George's Road. Donor: Mrs C Bargh.
6. Two medals from Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffalos, Hastings Lodge, formerly belonging to Thomas Good Chandler. Donor: Mrs E Spratley.
7. Paper bag from R.Harding, butcher, Hughenden Road.  
Programme from 'The Student Prince', White Rock Pavilion, 1950's.  
Early 20<sup>th</sup> century bottle of shoe polish. Donor: M Styring.
8. Dorman's Guide to St Leonards, 1875. Donor: H Verney.
9. Six copies of 'The Hastonian', 1961-65.  
1964 Grammar School brochure. Donor: M Pelling.
10. Blueprint of relief valve for Hastings and St Leonards Gas Company.  
Donor: Anon.
11. Copy photograph of donor while evacuee in Hertfordshire, 1940. Donor: G Champ.
12. Collection of commemorative newspapers. Donor: R Bishop.

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

**MUSEUMS COMMITTEE  
16 SEPTEMBER 2013**

**18. ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEM – MEMORIAL, CROWN POST OFFICE, HASTINGS**

With the agreement of the Committee, the Chair, With the agreement of the Committee, the Chair, Councillor Westley, presented an urgent item to the Committee informing members of the potential sale of the Crown Post Office and queried what will happen to the war memorial located within it.

This late item was not included in the agenda because it is not known at this stage if the Crown Post Office will be sold. Councillor Westley sought agreement from the Committee to write to the Crown Post Office Ltd, to ask what they intend to do with the memorial if the sale goes ahead.

Other memorials also considered were located at the Gas Works; Wellington Square and St. Helens Church Hall. Councillor Batsford said he would talk to St. Helens Church Hall as Ward Councillor.

**RESOLVED – that the Committee further investigates who the appropriate person is to write to regarding the Crown Post Office's plans for the memorial.**

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 3.50pm)