

**Agenda Item No:** 5

**Report to:** Museums Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 17 March 2014

**Report Title:** Curator's Report

**Report By:** Cathy Walling  
Museum Curator

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### **Purpose of Report**

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

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### **Recommendation(s)**

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

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### **Reasons for Recommendations**

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## Introduction

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

1. The Heritage Lottery Fund has confirmed the offer of a grant of £34,400 to the Museum to fund the World War I Centenary project. Work has already started on outreach with the Eggtooth group from Hastings Academy.

Hastings Museum, like many others in the sector, are interested in increasing understanding and use of social media, and will be using the Hastings Remembers... Local Stories of the First World War project as a tool to do this, aiming to build a following over the lifetime of the project. Posts will, however, not be restricted to this project, but we will be working hard to ensure that our use of social media complements and enhances the new HMAG website, rather than duplicating what it can do for us.

We have started the process to set up both a twitter account and Facebook page for the Museum. There will be one account for each into which all Museum staff can feed items. We will start with a 'soft launch' to give staff the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the systems, before making a public launch/announcement.

We are organising a one-day introduction to social media training course (planned for April 2014), which will be delivered by an external specialist and places will be available for HMAG staff and volunteers, as well as staff/volunteers from other local heritage venues and groups. This will be funded through the Hastings Remembers project and will be free to all participants.

2. A new Keeper of Local History and Archives has been appointed, following the resignation of Alison Hawkins. Hannah Miles will start on 11 March and will work two days per week.

3. A visit to the Keep has been arranged for members of the Museums Committee. This will take place on Friday 11 April at 11am.

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## Wards Affected

None

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## Area(s) Affected

None

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## 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	Yes
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	No
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	Yes
Local People's Views	No

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## Background Information

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## Officer to Contact

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