

# Museums Committee Agenda

Monday, 14 September 2015 at 2.30 pm

Hastings Museum & Art Gallery

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|  | Page No. |
|--|----------|
| 1. Apologies for Absence                             |          |
| 2. Minutes of the meeting held 13 July 2015          | 1 - 6    |
| 3. Declarations of Interest                          |          |
| 4. Notification of any additional urgent items       |          |
| 5. Curator's Report                                  | 7 - 10   |
| 6. Resilience Project Update                         | 11 - 14  |
| 7. Local History Displays                            | 15 - 18  |
| 8. Museum Attendance Figures                         | 19 - 22  |
| 9. Museum Events and Activities                      | 23 - 26  |
| 10. Museum Acquisitions<br>( <i>Museum Curator</i> ) | 27 - 30  |
| 11. Additional urgent items (if any)                 |          |



# Agenda Item 2

## Public Document Pack

### MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

13 JULY 2015

Present: Councillors Poole (Chair), Howard (Vice-Chair), Charlesworth, Charman, Edwards, Hodges, Sinden, Street

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

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from George Adams, Nick Sangster and noted for Councillor Erica Barrett.

The Chair updated the committee on the status of the Old Town Hall Museum. Since the closure of the building she advised that various options were being considered including a possible proposal from the Old Hastings Preservation Society.

Furthermore, the Chair also advised that since the departure of Councillor Lock, there was a Conservative vacancy on the committee. Councillor Charlesworth said she would inform her group.

#### 2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 16 MARCH 2015

**RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2015 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.**

#### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors made no declarations of interest at this meeting.

#### 4. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEMS

None.

#### 5. 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.

1. Most of the content of the main store has been moved to the temporary exhibition galleries to enable cleaning and repairs to take place. The conservation cleaning of objects by staff, volunteers, students and work experience continues. All archives and works on paper have been removed to the Keep for storage and cleaning. All items taken to the Keep are catalogued. A meeting is due to take place with the Councils Building Surveyors and (DCB contractors) to discuss issues concerning the ceiling tiles with a view to replacing or covering the ceiling with plaster board. Due to the temporary halt to the exhibition programme, staff have arranged a number of small displays and gallery updates.

## MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

13 JULY 2015

Councillor Hodges asked the Curator what action was being taken to ensure items returned from the Keep were kept clean. The Curator said the building was being cleaned and environmental controls upgraded which will enable the conditions to be better monitored. When the work is complete in June 2016, the temporary exhibition gallery will reopen.

Councillor Hodges asked if there was any form of digitisation to further protect documents when public look at them. The Curator advised the Keep were also taking copies of the documents.

2. Interviews for the consultants to work with the Museum on the ACE Resilience project took place on 9<sup>th</sup> July. A project meeting will be set up with stake holders to consider what type of museum want to be moving forward.

3. The Curator gave a verbal update regarding the preliminary discussions concerning HLF funding for exhibiting the local history material. She advised that they decided not to pursue the funding this year because of other priorities and because many of the items were in storage. She said they will consider submitting an application next year and feed it into Hastings and Heritage events by providing material. Mrs Purdey asked for assurance that the store environment will be monitored. The Curator advised that she would be happy to supply the readings.

The Curator informed the committee that Susan Ward, Exhibitions Officer, would be leaving to take up a new post. Consideration is being given to a temporary post to deal with collections management issues prior to re-advertising her post. Marion Purdey said she would not wish to see the post lost.

Councillor Charlesworth asked if the Elizabethan Charter could be displayed as part of the exhibition next year. The Curator said the Museum has a copy and they are looking to provide possible screen access to this as the original is too fragile. Early discussions had taken place for next year's exhibition on the story of Hastings since 1066; she said the Museum hoped to get the public involved by voting via social media etc for their favourite objects or stories.

4. The project based on the role of women during WWI continues with a display on 19<sup>th</sup> September. Facebook and twitter are regularly updated with events of 100 years ago. The Young Creators Group have started work on the topic of women's' roles. The Museum is also working with Hastings Women's Voice on a creative writing exhibition to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> September.

5. Permission has been given for two image reproduction requests:  
a) Images of Bathing Pool for Café information boards  
b) Images of White Rock Baths for Saville Jones Architects report.

The Curator said the BBC had recently filmed an episode of the Celebrity Antiques Road trip with Gok Wan, which includes a feature on the Brassey Collection.

The Curator advised the data collected for the 'Visitor Finder' was available and enable participants to compare website statistics. The Sussex Cluster participants include Jerwood Gallery, Bexhill Museum, Horsham Museum and The Novium. The

## MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

13 JULY 2015

preliminary findings were based on 38 questionnaires, the results are as follows:- Hastings has younger visitors than other museums; more first timers, and better gender split. The main reason given for visiting was to learn something; visitors were mainly accompanied by friends and family, and the visitors liked the atmosphere. The Curator confirmed she would provide quarterly updates.

Councillor Poole expressed her thanks to staff during an ambitious year.

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

### 6. 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 fourth quarter of 2014-15. Figures for January to March 2014 were submitted for comparison.

It was noted that the attendance figures for Hastings Museum and Art Gallery had increased by 518 when compared with the previous year. However, numbers of pupils in organised groups had dropped by 1,138, due to a whole school visit by St. Paul's in early 2014. The total number of visits combined for Quarter 4 had increased by 4504.

Attendances to the Old Town Hall Museum had increased by 220 due to a flurry of visitors in the final month. The total number of visits combined for Quarter 4 had decreased by 4,580 when compared to the previous year.

The number of website visits had increased significantly by 8,910. At the time of the meeting, the number of followers on Facebook had increased to 615 and Twitter to 657, as well as regular Facebook visits of 5356 people in the UK, 186 in USA, 129 in Greece, 103 in Australia and 86 in Pakistan according to Facebook statistics.

Councillor Street mentioned that some businesses sell followers from twitter and facebook to increase figures. The Curator confirmed that some twitter followers did not have any connection with the museum.

The number of weddings and civil ceremonies had decreased by 6 compared to quarter 4 last year. 3 cancellations had been received. At the time of the meeting, a total of 15 ceremonies had been made for 2015-16.

The next Wedding Fair will take place on 13 September 2015.

Mrs Purdey mentioned that someone had looked at the Durbar Hall for a wedding, but declined because of painted floors. The Curator said the floor will be painted by Tod Hanson, artist, as part of the Coastal Currents Festival in September 2015. He will be making a false floor and will be there for two months. The exhibition dates have been moved so two of the booked weddings will not be affected. The costs of the third wedding will be covered by Costal Currents. The art commission will be publicised as part of the Festival.

A new statistic is to be provided for the South East Museum Development for the number of activities/outreach events on and off-site, with non-education providers eg Scouts, local Arts Groups, Community Groups, Book Bugs, In2Play etc. This includes workshops, seminars, talks as well as family activity days. The number of participants

## MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

13 JULY 2015

in sessions for quarter 4 is 1535. The Curator added that this figure may be added to the agenda for information as their education figures tend to be more informal than formal.

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

### 7. **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 July to September 2015, for Quarter 2, 2015-16. These included:-

#### **Exhibitions**

10 January 2015 to 3 January 2016: 'All at Sea'. Maritime paintings from the Museum collection, including Turner watercolour until 30 August.

1 June to 30 August: Waterloo 200, small display of related objects and pictures.

27 June to 6 September: Textiles by award-winning textile designer and weaver Caroline Richards.

18 July onwards: Refurbished Brassey Gallery opens.

8 September to 4 October: Floor installation in Durbar Hall by Tod Hanson, for Coastal Currents Festival.

19 September to January 2016: Women and the First World War.

#### **Events**

7, 14, 21 July: Out of the Doll's House. Workshop taster sessions with Hastings Women's Voice to explore what women were doing during WWI.

11 July: Young Curators Summer Project Workshop.

18 July to 30 August: Family activities in Brassey Gallery in association with Hastings-based artist Lucy Brennan.

23 July to 30 August: Family Holiday activities.

9 August: Piano Recital by Howard Southern for OHPS.

8 September: Private View for Coastal Currents installation.

11, 18, 25 September: Local History talks by Edward Preston.

## MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

13 JULY 2015

13 September: Wedding Fair.

The Curator confirmed there had been a slight delay with the events leaflet however, the leaflet had been signed off and would be with members the following week.

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

### 8. MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

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

1. 50 photographs and postcards from the 1920s and 1930s. Donor: Mrs J Middleditch;
2. Board commemorating opening of the Grove School, 1956. Donor: Mr M Baker;
3. Poster of Hastings by Walter Spradberry. Donor: Miss E Spradberry;
4. Photograph of Boer War soldiers. Donor: Mr J Dearnley;
5. Photographs, news cuttings, WWII documents etc belonging to Bernard & Kitty Card. Donor: Mrs J Soan;
6. 7 photographs of Breeds and Sinden families. Donor: Mrs C Poulton;
7. Programmes and posters for White Rock Baths and Hastings Pier. Donor: Mr M Glynn;
8. Postcard of Carlisle Parade. Donor: Estate of Mrs A Georgiou;
9. 14 photographs, mainly steam engines. Donor: Anon;
10. Hastings Observer 7/4/1927 (Visit of Prince of Wales). Daily Mirror 7/4/1927. Donor: Mr A Pepper;
11. Documents re introduction of electrification to Tonbridge- Hastings line, 1987. Donor: Mr A Palfrey-Martin;
12. O/S One-inch map of Hastings. Donor: Mr A Gunn;
13. 15 photographs of WWII bomb damage, photographed 1948. Transfer from Legal Services;
14. County Borough of Hastings fuel measures, 1960s. Donor: East Sussex County Council per Roger Cohen.

# MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

13 JULY 2015

**RESOLVED** - that the Committee accepts the report and is satisfied with the report.

9. **ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)**

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 3.20 pm)



# Agenda Item 5



**Report to:** Museums Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 14 September 2015

**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 accept 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 previous meetings and other items not included on the agenda.

1. The main store has now been emptied of objects and cleaning of the interior and fittings will take place in September, with the redecorating and ceiling repairs to take place in October. Upgraded conservation heating will be installed in October/November. There has been a visit by the Preventive Conservation Officer for SE Museums Development Programme who has been updated on developments, and who will be presenting a further conservation training day for volunteers and staff.
2. Permission has been given for the following image reproduction requests:
  - a) Images of Hastings Pier for a book to be written by Steve Peak for the Pier Charity.
  - b) Moss's 'Rescue at Hastings' for a self-published family history by Sarah Harris.
3. Februar Film, a German television production company, will be filming at the Museum in late September for a documentary on the Piltdown Man affair for German public television. They will be filming other items donated to the Museum by Charles Dawson.
4. The Hawaiian Feather Cloak is now on display at the De Young Museum of Fine Arts in San Francisco in the exhibition 'Royal Hawaiian Featherwork - Naa hulu Ali'i' until 28 February 2016. The exhibition will then be transferred to Hawaii until May 2016.

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## Wards 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                       | No |
| Environmental Issues                  | No |
| Economic/Financial Implications       | No |
| Human Rights Act                      | No |
| Organisational Consequences           | No |
| Local People's Views                  | No |
| Anti-Poverty                          | No |

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## Additional Information

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# Agenda Item 6



**Report to:** Museums Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 14 September 2015

**Report Title:** Resilience Project update

**Report By:** Cathy Walling  
Museum Curator

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## **Purpose of Report**

To update members on the progress of the ACE-funded Resilience Project

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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

1. The Project Manager, Museum Consultant and Creative Consultant have been appointed to the Arts Council England funded Museum Resilience Project. Sonia Rasbery, Robert Taylor and Culture Shift will be working with Museum staff. Interviews will take place on 11 September to appoint the Spatial Designer for the later phase of the project. There will be a verbal update at the Committee meeting.
2. The initial start-up meeting has taken place with the team where the scope of the project and consultant briefs were confirmed. Timetable and evaluation plans have been drawn up: the main delivery of the Museum Review and Creative Consultancy will take place between August and October, with the delivery of the Spatial Design Consultancy taking place between September and January.
3. Culture Shift have produced an activity sheet and event questionnaire which have been available through August for visitors to the Museum. There will be audience engagement events in October for users and non-users, both at the Museum and in Priory Meadow.
4. The final report will be produced in January/February 2016, with a presentation to stakeholders in March 2016. The Curator will present an interim report at the Museums Committee meeting on 30 November 2015.

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## Wards 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                       | No |
| Environmental Issues                  | No |
| Economic/Financial Implications       | No |
| Human Rights Act                      | No |
| Organisational Consequences           | No |
| Local People's Views                  | No |
| Anti-Poverty                          | No |

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## Additional Information

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## Officer to Contact

Cathy Walling

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# Agenda Item 7



**Report to:** Museums Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 14 September 2015

**Report Title:** Local History Displays

**Report By:** Cathy Walling  
Museum Curator

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## **Purpose of Report**

to update members on plans for the display of local history material moved from Old Town Hall Museum

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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

1. Following the closure of the Old Town Hall Museum in April 2015 the objects displayed there were packed away and put into storage at the Corporate Archive. The ships' figureheads are on display in the Long Gallery and relevant material will be added to the cases there in October. There has been a temporary display of material about Waterloo in the Lower Walkway, a display on the 16th and 17th centuries, and local history material is included in the WWI exhibition in the Upper Walkway. Public access to archives and collections has continued in the Long Gallery on Wednesdays.

2. The local history material will be going on display in 2016 as part of the town's celebration of the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings. The exhibition which will open in June 2016 will tell the story of Hastings since 1066 in 66 objects, an engaging new interpretative journey through the 950year development of the town since Norman times through the collections of the Museum. The exhibition will have a chronological framework through which visitors can explore local and national events and individual stories. Some will reflect particular moments in time, others will tell stories of continuous themes and gradual change.

3. The final selection of objects and stories to be included will be made through public consultation and voting via social media, talks and pop-up displays around the Museum. For example, stories to be told for the 20th century could include Tressell, Mods & Rockers, WWI and WWII, Sidney Little, Baird, Suffragettes, slum clearances and others.

4. There will be a final case for a people's gallery for objects which tell community histories and perhaps hopes for the future.

5. It is anticipated that Logie Baird's story will be told in the new displays, and that therefore the current Baird gallery can be redisplayed at the same time to tell the early history of the town from Prehistory through Romans to Saxons.

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## Wards Affected

Castle

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

Anti-Poverty

No

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**Additional Information**

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**Officer to Contact**

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# Agenda Item 8



**Report to:** Museums Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 14 September 2015

**Report Title:** Museum Attendances Quarter 1 2015-16

**Report By:** Cathy Walling  
Museum Curator

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## **Purpose of Report**

to inform members of figures for attendances, educational activities and use of the Museum's website for Quarter 1, 2015-16

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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

### 1. Attendances: Hastings Museum and Art Gallery

The figures for April to June 2014 are given for comparison.

|   | April - June 2015 | 2014 |
|---|-------------------|------|
| Number of visitors                              | 10325             | 9486 |
| Pupils in organised groups                      | 843               | 778  |
| Participants in non-education provider sessions | 758               |      |

### 2. Website Visits

The total number of visits to hmag.org.uk website for Quarter 1 is 42,329. The comparable measure for Quarter 4, 2014-15 is 37621.

As of 1 September Hastings Museum has 662 followers on Facebook and 717 on Twitter.

### 3. Weddings and Civil Ceremonies

The total number of ceremonies held in Q1 was 6, compared to 3 for the previous year. There are now 17 ceremonies booked for 2015-16, and 13 booked for 2016-17 so far.

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## Wards Affected

Castle

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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                 | No |
| Environmental Issues            | No |
| Economic/Financial Implications | No |
| Human Rights Act                | No |
| Organisational Consequences     | No |
| Local People's Views            | No |
| Anti-Poverty                    | No |

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**Additional Information**

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# Agenda Item 9



**Report to:** Museums Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 14 September 2015

**Report Title:** Events and Activities

**Report By:** Cathy Walling  
Museum Curator

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## **Purpose of Report**

to update members on exhibitions, events and educational activities at the Museum in Quarter 3 2015-16

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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

The following events and activities will be taking place at Hastings Museum and Art Gallery during July to September 2015.

### Exhibitions

To July 2016: 'All at Sea'. Maritime paintings from the Museum collection.

10 September to 4 October: 'Geo', Floor installation in Durbar Hall by Tod Hanson, for Coastal Currents Festival.

19 September to January 2016: 'Out of the Doll's House: Women in the First World War.' Includes work created by members of Hastings Women's Voice.

### Events

2 October to 4 December: Weekly Local History lectures by Edward Preston.

9 October: Seckou Keita with Gwyneth Glyn, kora music for AfriKaBa

11 October: Concert with Mathew Craven and Judith Buckley. Museum Association event.

16 October: 'Sidney Little and Hollington Council Housing', illustrated talk by Andre Palfrey-Martin.

17 October: 'Untold Stories: Life Story workshop celebrating UK Older People Day & Black History Month.

24 October: 'Map of Me'. Spoken word performance about migration, developed by Papertale.

27 October: 'Medieval Mayhem'. Family Activity Day.

14 November: 'Out of the Doll's House'. Talk by Ann Kramer.

27 November: 'Roll over the Atlantic', one-man show by poet John Agard.

6 December: Museum Association AGM.

12 December: Carol Concert with the Occasional Singers. Museum Association event.

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**Wards Affected**

Castle

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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                       | No |
| Environmental Issues                  | No |
| Economic/Financial Implications       | No |
| Human Rights Act                      | No |
| Organisational Consequences           | No |
| Local People's Views                  | No |
| Anti-Poverty                          | No |

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**Additional Information**

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# Agenda Item 10



**Report to:** Museums Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 14 September 2015

**Report Title:** Museum Acquisitions

**Report By:** Cathy Walling  
Museum Curator

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## **Purpose of Report**

to inform members of items recently acquired by the Museum

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## **Recommendation(s)**

- 1. that the Committee accepts the report and is satisfied with the report**

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## **Reasons for Recommendations**

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## Introduction

The following items have been acquired by Hastings Museum in the last quarter.

1. Raft 2012, reduction woodcut with hand painting, by Tom Hammick.

Donor: Julian & Sophie Ansell

2. Photographic slides, photographs, certificates and other documents relating to Hastings Sea Cadets and Freemasons

Donor: Mrs J Jempson

3. Photograph of Hastings and Alf Torgeir Lommerud-Olsen, stationed in Hastings in WWII.

Donor: Mrs R Tanner

4. Photograph of 5th Battalion Royal Sussex, 1933

Donor: Mr D Mendenhall

5. Grey Owl programme and news cuttings

Donor: Mrs J Bradley

6. Painting of Romney Marsh by Ruth Streatfeild (sister of author Noel)

Donor: Mrs C Bell

7. Beaded purse, 1920s? Belonged to Mary Eliza Duke, wife of last governor of Bengal

Donor: Mrs A Duke

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## Wards 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     | No  |
| Local People's Views            | No  |
| Anti-Poverty                    | No  |

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**Additional Information**

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