

**MUSEUMS COMMITTEE
8 DECEMBER 2008**

Present: Councillors Cartwright, Charlesworth, Finch (in the Chair), Martin (from Item 23) and Soan
Museum Association Representatives: Mr Adams, Mrs Barrett, Ms Cornish, Mr Peak, Mrs Purdey and Miss Reed.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Webb.
Apologies for lateness were also received from Councillor Martin.

The Committee took a moment to express their sadness at the news of Victoria Williams' husband's passing.

21. MINUTES

Councillor Cartwright corrected his declaration to read "knows one of the exhibitors".

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2008 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors declared no interests at this meeting.

23. UPDATE ON MUSEUM CURATOR POST

The Head of Destination Management & Marketing, Kevin Boorman, presented a verbal report to inform the Committee of progress on filling the Curator's post.

Due to funding issues within the Council there were still possibilities of further staff redundancies, and, mindful of the problems and uncertainty of last year, Kevin felt it would be inappropriate to fill the post at the current time; he said that he had been asked to look at various options for making cuts across his department. Kevin reported that they were considering a Museum management restructure in the light of this, and he was having discussions with the senior management of the Museum, and, indeed, all the staff. There would be no move to fill the Curator's position until after the Budget Council in February 2009.

The Committee agreed that a Curator post should remain part of the Museum, even if it was covered by more than one person.

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RESOLVED that the report be noted.

24. MUSEUM EVENTS

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report to inform members of figures for attendances, educational activities and use of the Museum and Gallery's website for the second quarter of 2008/2009.

Pupils in organised groups had increased as had website hits from 16,047 to 20,010. The number of website hits have trebled since first recorded in 2004.

There had been no educational activities outside the Museum in this quarter.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

25. MUSEUM EVENTS

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report to inform Members of forthcoming exhibitions and educational activities.

These included, amongst others:

- Interiors/The Roger Woods Design Archive (small gallery) – this exhibition features the textile designs of local designer Roger Woods, who in the 1980s produced designs for leading fabric houses, including Hodsoll McKenzie, Zoffany, Osborne and Little and Beaumont and Fletcher.
- European baskets – A touring exhibition curated by Mary Butcher highlighting traditional, functional and sculptural work.

At the Old Town Hall Museum:

- Old Town Hall Diamond Jubilee Poster competition
- The Stables Theatre 50th Anniversary Exhibition

Educational Activities and Events:

- Poster competition – to commemorate the 60th birthday of the Museum at the Old Town Hall
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Gallery talk for 'Coasting' Exhibition by Joel Edwards

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

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26. OLD TOWN HALL ANNIVERSARY 2009

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report to consider marking the anniversary of the Old Town Hall Museum, as requested by Councillor Webb at the last Committee.

2009 will mark two anniversaries for the Old Town Hall Museum and a poster competition is set to coincide with this. It was discussed that either students at HCAT or staff within the Council's IT department could design some window displays to mark this event.

The new conservation officer is also going to meet with the Senior Planning Officer to discuss planning permission to hang a sign outside the Old Town Hall.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

27. LOANS

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report to update Members on loans from the Museum collection.

The feather cloak is now back in England following the damage it sustained in Paris. The Textile Conservator in Rolvenden is currently working on it and it should be returned to the Museum in December. The Conservator said that the original hanging in the Museum was over 20 years old and a new hanging would be worthwhile. Cathy is going to obtain quotations for this and report back at the next Committee.

The Turner painting has now gone on the Tate National Tour and then shall be on display at Nottingham Castle until February 15 2009 and then the Ferens Art Gallery, Hull from February 28 until May 3 2009.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

28. MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report to inform Members of items acquired by the Museum since September 2008. These included, amongst others:

- Account books from members of the Bohemia Conservative Association 1905 – 1994

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- 'English Men of Letters' book with bookplate and signature of Marie Brassey
- Christ Church Blacklands Sunday School certificate from 1910
- Guidebook to Hastings from 1956

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the Chairman sign Certificates of thanks to the donors

29. 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>
30(E)	Offers to purchase	Paragraph 4

30(E). OFFER TO PURCHASE

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report for Members to consider the acquisition of various items

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 3.37 pm)