

**MUSEUMS COMMITTEE
2 MARCH 2009**

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

Apologies for lateness were received from Kevin Boorman.

Councillor Finch addressed the Committee before the agenda was considered regarding some confusion over having 'Matters Arising' and 'Any Other Business' on the agenda. Cllr Finch had discussed with Jayne Butters, who was taking the matter to the Working Arrangements Group. In the meantime, anything that Members of the Committee wanted to discuss or wanted an update on, should be taken to the Museum Curator who would have a verbal Curator's Update on the agenda.

31. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2008 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.

32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors declared no interests at this meeting.

33. ATTENDANCE FIGURES

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 third quarter of 2008/2009.

Pupils in organised groups had decreased but website hits had gone up from 16,990 (in Oct-Dec 2007) to 18,649.

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

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

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34. MUSEUM EVENTS

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

These included, amongst others:

- European baskets – A touring exhibition curated by Mary Butcher highlighting traditional, functional and sculptural work.
- Coasting: Turner and Bonington on the Shores of the Channel: An exhibition organised by Nottingham Castle in partnership with the Tate. This exhibition compares images of the coast on the French and English sides of the Channel, looking in particular at the works of JMW Turner and RP Bonington. Hastings Museum's own Turner painting, 'Hastings Fishmarket on the Sands, Early Morning' returns with the exhibition.

At the Old Town Hall Museum:

- Old Town Hall Diamond Jubilee Poster competition: The entries from the poster competition commemorating the 60th birthday of the Museum at the Old Town Hall will be on display.

Educational Activities and Events:

- Saturday 7 March 1.30 - 3.30pm
Children's Drop in session
National Science Week
- Saturday 21st March 11am to 4pm
Weaving with Contemporary and Recycled materials with Polly Pollock
Suitable for 16+

A couple of Members of the Committee had attended the European Baskets exhibition and commented on how popular it had been and that compliments should be passed on to the person who mounted the exhibition.

Steve Peak also mentioned the 50th anniversary of the ending of the Trolleybus service which would hopefully star happy Harold. This was scheduled to take place on the Whitsun weekend at the end of May and that Cathy Walling would liaise with Kevin Boorman about a press release.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

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35. OLD TOWN HALL ANNIVERSARY 2009

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report to provide an update on the Old Town Hall anniversary.

As reported at the last Museums Committee, 2009 marked two anniversaries for the Old Town Hall Museum. In 1949 the building opened as a branch Library and Museum, and in 1959 reopened as a Museum on both floors.

The Diamond Jubilee Poster competition had been arranged for February half-term week and the posters would be on display until April 2009.

The Museum Association held a meeting at the Old Town Hall on Saturday 21 February to judge the competition.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

36. SPONSORSHIP OF MUSEUM OBJECTS

Cathy Walling, Acting Museum Curator, presented a report to look at the possibility of introducing a scheme for public sponsorship of the Museum objects.

Mrs Barrett had suggested a sponsorship scheme as a way to fund-raise for the Museum. A list of objects requiring cleaning/restoration could be produced each with a suggested sum of money which would cover the work that needed to be carried out. The public could then choose and pay, with acknowledgment on the label.

The Acting Museum Curator would be asking Legal Services to look at the implications of such a scheme and report back at a future meeting.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and that it be noted that the Museums Committee supports the idea.

37. LOANS

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

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- **Loan of Sickert painting to Dulwich**

The oil painting, 'Portrait of Signor de Rossi' by Walter Sickert, had gone on loan to the Dulwich Picture Gallery exhibition 'Sickert in Venice'. The exhibition runs from 4th March until 31st May. A catalogue had been produced which Cathy circulated at the Committee.

- **2. Loan of 19th century prints to Musee de Normandie**

Three 19th century lithographs showing Hastings and St Leonards would be on loan to a temporary exhibition entitled 'Destination Normandie - deux siecles de tourisme en Normandie' at the Chateau de Caen. The exhibition runs from 13th June to 31st October 2009. A catalogue will be produced.

- **Loan of Turner painting**

The JMW Turner watercolour was currently at the Ferens Art Gallery, Hull, where it would remain until 3rd May. It would then be returned to Hastings Museum as part of the exhibition 'Coasting'.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

38. 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:

- A string bag, made by fisherman on Hastings Beach, 1950s
- 12 postcards of Caple Ne Ferne, St Leonards on Sea
- Two photographs of Childrens' Ward, RESH at Christmas

39. 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.

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RESOLVED that the report be noted.

40. 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>
41(E)	Offers to purchase	Paragraph 4

41(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 3.35 pm)