

**Agenda Item No:** 5

**Report to:** Museums Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 22 June 2009

**Report Title:** Acting Curator's Report

**Report By:** Cathy Walling  
Acting Museums Curator

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**Purpose of Report**

to provide an update on issues from previous meetings

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**Recommendation(s)**

1. the report is for noting

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**Reasons for Recommendations**

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## Background

This report updates members on matters carried over from previous meetings, which are not included on the agenda.

### 1. Purchases

The Bronze Age palstaves from Pett, acquired through the Treasure Act, are now at the Museum but require conservation before they can be put on display.

Updates on other offers to purchase are included in the confidential appendix.

### 2. Loans

The portrait of Signor de Rossi by Walter Sickert, on loan to the Dulwich Picture Gallery, remained there for a further period. The exhibition 'Sickert in Venice' was extended to 7 June due to its popularity. The insurance cover was also extended.

The exhibition 'Destination Normandie -Deux siècle's de tourisme' at the Musée de Normandie, Caen opened on 12 June and will continue until 31 October 2009. Hastings Museum has lent 3 engravings of early 19th century Hastings and St Leonards.

### 3. Sponsorship of Museum Objects

At the last meeting the Committee supported the idea of looking into the principle of sponsorship. It was agreed that the word 'adopt' an object might be less controversial than 'sponsor'.

Mrs Purdey has done some research and finds that the position as regards Local Government funded museums is unclear. The Hastings and St Leonards Museum Association will await the findings of the Borough Council's Legal Services team before deciding how to proceed with the scheme.

### 4. Conservation of Feather Cloak

The Hawaiian Feather Cloak has now been conserved following the loan to the Musée de Quai Branly in Paris last year. It is still at the Textile Conservancy Studio where it is being remounted on a new stretcher. The Acting Curator is to visit soon to check on progress.

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**Wards Affected**

Ashdown, Baird, Braybrooke, Castle, Central St. Leonards, Conquest, Gensing, Hollington, Maze Hill, Old Hastings, Ore, Silverhill, St. Helens, Tressell, West St. Leonards, Wishing Tree

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**Area(s) Affected**

Central Hastings, East Hastings, North St. Leonards, South St. Leonards

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**Policy Implications**

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	Yes
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	No
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	Yes

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**Supporting Documents**

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**Officer to Contact**

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