

Agenda Item No: 5

Report to: Museums Committee

Date of Meeting: 14 September 2009

Report Title: Acting Curator's Report

Report By: Cathy Walling
Acting Museum Curator

Purpose of Report

to provide an update on issues from previous meetings

Recommendation(s)

1. the report is for noting

Reasons for Recommendations

Background

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

1. Loans

The loan of 41 items relating to the Women's Land Army to Brighton Museum and Art Gallery has gone ahead. The exhibition 'The Land Girls: Cinderellas of the Soil' runs from 3 October 2009 to 14 March 2010. Several of the Hastings pieces have been photographed for the catalogue.

The following two loans out were confirmed with the Chairman.

Bexhill Museum have borrowed 4 watercolour paintings of local scenes by Barbara Bodichon for their opening exhibition following the HLF funded project. They will be on loan until January 2010.

Laetitia Yhap's oil painting of 'The Boat' has gone on loan to the Memorial Art Gallery, Hastings as part of the Coastal Currents Festival. The exhibition of paintings of the Hastings Fishing Community by Laetitia Yhap runs from 4 to 13 September.

2. Conservation of Feather Cloak

The Hawaiian feather cloak is due to be returned to the Museum in the middle of September, having been conserved and remounted. The Acting Curator visited the Textile Conservancy Studio to check on its progress.

3. Purchases

Updates are included in the confidential appendix.

4. Answer to question on Acquisition Policy

There has been a question raised about the Museum's policy as regards the purchase of works of art by living artists.

The Acquisition and Disposal Policy as agreed at the last Museums Committee contains the paragraph: 'The Museum will continue to build up a collection of work by nationally significant artists with local connections, both historical and contemporary. Also paintings, drawings and prints of topographical interest showing areas of the town previously unrecorded'.

5. GHK Consulting has been commissioned by the Heritage Lottery Fund to look at the benefits of HLF projects on local economies. Hastings Museum and Art Gallery is one of the projects chosen as a case study. As part of this study, visitor interviews have been conducted in the Museum, with researchers hoping to complete a total of 100 detailed interviews with visitors. The Museum will receive a copy of the report.

6. It is hoped that a draft policy on Human Remains, in line with recommendations from the MLA (Museums, Libraries and Archives), can be presented to the next Committee.

7. The Curator had been asked to look at whether a local television company would be interested in making a programme, in conjunction with a school project, based on the recent donation of a 1934 notebook with scale drawings of Draper's Mill. This will be taken forward, with advice from the Education Officer, now that the schools have returned.

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

Area(s) Affected

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

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

Supporting Documents

Officer to Contact

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