

Agenda Item No: 5

Report to: Museums Committee

Date of Meeting: 7 December 2009

Report Title: Acting Curator's Report

Report By: Cathy Walling
Acting 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 not included on the agenda.

1. Loans

The exhibition 'Destination Normandie' at the Musee de Normandie at Caen has now finished. The Curator at Caen has reported total visitor figures to the exhibition of 14,200 for the period 13 June to 31 October 2009. The 3 prints will be returned early next year.

2 .Conservation of Feather Cloak.

After problems with the first stretcher made for the cloak, it will now be put back on display on 30 November.

3. Purchases

Updates are included in the confidential appendix.

4. Old Town Hall Museum

The Old Town Tourist Information Centre reopened on the ground floor of the Old Town Hall Museum on 7 November. Museum staff have been trained in the extra duties that will be required and are working alongside HIC staff initially.

5. History of the World Project

Hastings Museum is involved in a project entitled 'A History of the World', which is a partnership between the British Museum, the BBC and regional Museums. The vision is to tell the history of the world through man-made objects in a 100-part series on BBC Radio 4 and a 13-part CBBC TV series.

The regional press launch will be in January 2010, with a one-hour special of the Culture Show on BBC2, a website launch on 16 January, and the start of the Radio 4 series on 18 January.

The iconic object chosen from Hastings is the Maltese Cross used by John Logie Baird in his early experiments, as the first object to be transmitted as a wireless image. This project is expected to generate much local and national publicity.

6. Filming in the Museum

Earlier this year, a film crew filmed Jake and Dinos Chapman being interviewed for a Channel 4 programme. They now wish to film the installation of the exhibition and the Private View in December. This will be good publicity for the Museum and for this prestigious exhibition.

7. Response to Question on Copying Charges

Steve Peak has raised a question about the costs of copies in the Local Studies Room.

The current charges are A4 photocopy 36p, A3 photocopy 59p, A4 scanned photograph £5.85, A3 scanned photograph £7.00. Unlike the Library we have to charge VAT because it is a service, and not self-service.

The Museum does not charge students or school pupils for copies, and will arrange discounts for multiple copies.

8. Response to question about Museum Grounds

Erica Barrett has raised a question about weeds between the paving stones around the Museum entrance. The Museum does have the weeds removed once a year, but this may not be enough. This issue has now been raised with the Head of Amenities, Waste and Leisure.

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

Background Information

Officer to Contact

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