

**Agenda Item No:** 9

**Report to:** Museums Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 7 December 2009

**Report Title:** Commemorative Plaques

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

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**Purpose of Report**

to update members on the mounting of commemorative plaques

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**Recommendation(s)**

**1. The report is for noting**

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**Reasons for Recommendations**

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## Background

1. The last meeting of the selection panel to discuss subjects for commemorative plaques took place in 4 September 2008.
2. At that meeting a total of 10 suggestions were discussed. The priorities agreed upon for 2009 - 10 were:

Sidney Little, Civil Engineer. 1885 - 1961. Plaque at entrance to Bottle Alley.

Joseph Kay, Architect. 1775 - 1847. Plaque at St Mary-in-the-Castle?

Henry Ward, Architect. 1854 - 1927. Plaque at 8 Bank Buildings.

Edward Lear, Author and Artist. 1812 - 1888. Plaque at Marina/Grand Parade?

3. There is still one name outstanding from the 2007-8 suggestions. This is Don Cockell, heavyweight boxing champion of the 1950s. It had been hoped that this plaque could be mounted on the Jenny Lind public house. Permission from the freeholders is still awaited.

4. As reported to this Committee in September 2009, further suggestions have been received recently. These are Raymond Williams, Muriel Matters and Alan Turing. It was hoped that a plaque to Muriel Matters would be funded via Frances Bedford, MP for Florey, South Australia. There has been no further contact from Mrs Bedford.

5. As reported to this Committee in 2008 there is no longer a budget for plaques and they have to be funded from the Museum's publicity budget. This is currently controlled centrally as part of a cost-saving across all services.

6. Alan Turing was suggested as a subject for a plaque in 2001, and considered by the Committee, but it was agreed at that time that he was not eligible under the agreed criteria as his period of residence in Hastings was very limited. Further research has now shown that he was in fact effectively fostered by the Ward family in St Leonards from 1914 to 1921, and attended St Michael's Preparatory School, 9a Charles Road, St Leonards.

7. Dean Morrison, External Funding Officer for HBC, has suggested that a plaque is erected in 2012 to tie in with both the Cultural Olympiad and the Alan Turing Centenary celebrations. 2012 will be a celebration of Turing's life and scientific impact and events will be coordinated by the Turing Centenary Advisory Committee.

8. The Acting Curator will contact the Turing Centenary Advisory Committee and suggest a plaque in Hastings. Further research will be necessary to establish the appropriate property and exact dates. Contact will also be made with the University Centre, Schools and Colleges to seek their involvement.

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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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**Background Information**

Insert a list of appendices and/or additional documents

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**Officer to Contact**

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