

Agenda Item No: 5

Report to: Museums Committee

Date of Meeting: 1 March 2010

Report Title: Acting Curator's Report

Report By: Cathy Walling
Acting Museums Curator

Purpose of Report

to provide an update on issues from previous meetings

Recommendation(s)

1. the report is for noting

Reasons for Recommendations

Introduction

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

1. Photocopying Charges

The Museums current photocopying charges are A4 36p and A3 59p. VAT has to be charged as photocopying is a service provided, and not a self-service facility.

The Curator has investigated charges in other Museums which range from 20p and 30p at Bolton Museum, 40p and 80p at Whitby Museum, 50p and £1.00 at Godalming Museum, to the National Maritime Museum where up to 5 copies are free, and a charge of £23.50 is made for anything over 5 copies.

After consultation with the Head of Amenities, Waste and Leisure it has been decided to leave the charges as they are as they accurately reflect the cost in materials and staff time.

2. Response to question about Acquisition/Recording of Heritage Items

Cllr Cartwright has requested that consideration be given to the acquisition and recording of large items such as shop fronts, which are in danger of being lost through redevelopment.

The shop sign from the 'Home and Colonial Stores' has recently been uncovered in Bohemia Road, and the Museum has agreed to add it to the collections.

The Museum's Acquisition and Disposal Policy allows for the acquisition of local history material. Paragraph 3.1 states:

'Local History is the most important area of collecting activity and concerns items relating to the town of Hastings and immediate neighbourhood, but not towns in the vicinity where other Accredited museums exist such as at Bexhill, Battle, Winchelsea and Rye, unless these museums are not in a position to take such items or their acquisition does not form part of a published collecting policy. Items will only be acquired under the following headings if they have a local association: agriculture, trade and industry, costume, public entertainment, tourism, fishing, architecture, church history, militaria, coins and medals, photographs and film.'

Collection activity in this area is however likely to be limited by the storage capacity as stated in the Policy in paragraph 4:

' The museum recognises its responsibility, in acquiring additions to its collections, to ensure that care of collections, documentation arrangements and use of collections will meet the requirements of the Accreditation Standard. It will take into account limitations

on collecting imposed by such factors as staffing, storage and care of collection arrangements.'

The Museum welcomes the donation of any photographs or other records of such heritage items, but does not have the staff capacity to carry out the recording. The Curator will contact staff in the Conservation section of Hastings Borough Council to discuss their arrangements in this area.

3. History of the World Project

The History of the World project, a partnership between the British Museum, the BBC and regional Museums has now been officially launched. Hastings Museum's object, the St John Maltese Cross used by John Logie Baird, has now gone live on the website. The link is http://www.bbc.co.uk/ahistoryoftheworld/objects/VbfAHSiBSbam_lloQvajCA

The BBS requested that the Maltese Cross be taken to the studios in Tunbridge Wells to feature 'live' on the 6.30 news bulletin in January, along with a piece recorded in the Museum. A member of staff accompanied the item and remained with it during recording.

Coverage of the Cross on BBC South-East today resulted in a small rise in visitors coming to see this item specifically.

4. Purchases

Updates are included in the confidential appendix.

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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