

Agenda Item No: 5

Report to: Museums Committee

Date of Meeting: 16 February 2011

Report Title: Curator's Report

Report By: Cathy Walling
Museum Curator

Purpose of Report

to provide an update on issues from previous meetings and confirmation of Curator's actions

Recommendation(s)

1. the report is for noting

Reasons for Recommendations

Introduction

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

1. We were informed just before Christmas 2010 that the Museums have maintained Accreditation, as administered by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA). This is based on the returns submitted in September 2009.

Reports on progress in the following areas must be made for the next returns cycle, starting late 2011 into 2012: Completion of documentation backlog stage 2 by December 2011, and stage 3 by June 2012; 5-Year Security assessment due early 2011. Dealing with the documentation backlog has been incorporated into the Forward Plan.

The Museum Accreditation scheme is currently being reviewed, and MLA will be recommending changes to the Standard based on the results of sector consultation. Additional information, particularly in relation to Forward Planning and Acquisition and Disposal Policies will be published in spring 2011.

2. The loan of Native American material to Leeds City Museum's Lotherton Hall has gone ahead as agreed at the last Museums Committee meeting. A total of 20 objects will be loaned. This includes the fibreglass horse and rider from display in the Plains Gallery. Other items taken from the displays will be replaced with objects from the store.

The exhibition, 'Warriors of the Plains', will be on display at Lotherton Hall from 1 March to 31 December 2011.

3. In 2004 the Museum participated in the Public Catalogue Foundation's printed catalogue of 'Oil Paintings in Public Ownership in East Sussex'. The PCF is a registered charity working on behalf of the museum sector to bring the United Kingdom's 200,000 publicly-owned oil paintings to a wider audience.

The PCF is now moving to online publication, which will give free access to the nation's collection of oil painting to a wider audience. It has also formed a partnership with the BBC.

The Museum has agreed that its collection can be included in this project, which is expected to go live in summer 2011 and be completed by summer 2012.

4. Permission has been given for the reproduction of material from the Museum Burton collection to be included in an article written for 'The Georgian' magazine by Elizabeth Nathaniels. Mrs Nathaniels has also arranged a visit in May 2011 by members of the Georgian Group to St Leonards and to visit the Museum to view the Burton material.

BBC North West was given permission to use a photograph of Robert Tressell for a programme on the centenary anniversary of his death, 3 February 2011.

5. In answer to a question raised by Cllr Hodges at the last meeting, the HBC store at Castleham is that the warehouse has its own heating and its own thermostat. The thermostat is set for: minimum of 7°C between 22.30 hrs-06.30 hrs, all other times set for a minimum of 13°C. There is also a dehumidifier set in between the ceiling and roof, which is automatic.

6. Discussions continue to take place about archaeological storage county-wide. It is hoped to provide a verbal update at the meeting. Issues relating to the deposition of archaeological archives with museums are complex. The priorities and concerns of archaeological units, planning authorities and museums are different and potentially conflicting. However, all parties generally have the same overall aim: the long-term protection of cultural heritage. A session is being proposed at the forthcoming Museums Association conference in Brighton (3rd-4th October 2011) to explore these complex issues.

7. Discussions are also ongoing about access to records at the East Sussex Record Office.

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	No
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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