

**MUSEUMS COMMITTEE**  
**18 JUNE 2012**

Present: Councillors Corello, Hodges, Howard, Rogers, Street  
(substitution for Cllr Sinden), Westley (in the chair).  
Museum Association Representatives: Mr Adams, Mrs  
Barrett, Ms Cornish, Mr Peak and Mrs Purdey

**42. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Charlesworth and Miss Reed. Councillor Westley expressed her hope that Councillor Charlesworth would make a speedy recovery.

**43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**44. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2012 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.**

**45. CURATOR'S REPORT**

Cathy Walling, Museum Curator, presented a report to provide an update on issues arising from previous meetings and confirmation of Curator's actions.

The plaque to Sidney Little is in position and the plaque to Alan Turing will be officially unveiled on 23 June.

The Museum Association were the first to be taken around the Old Town Hall Museum following completion of the displays on the upper floor. At John's Place, the Plains Indian Gallery redisplay is due to open on Saturday 30 June.

The RPS Group have recently made a 3D scan of the Durbar Hall to preserve an exact record of the intricate woodwork of the structure and this will allow for a 'fly-through' to be used on the website. The RPS Group are using this scan to enter an Innovations Award at the Leica Geosystems Symposium at Blenheim Palace in July

Permission had been given for the reproduction of images etc from the Museum's collection and details were contained in the report.

The Curator told the meeting that she had taken delivery of a new donations box and thanked the Museums Association.

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Councillor Street asked about the Old Town Museum Group and the Curator explained that a group of interested parties wanted to look at increasing the use and income of the Old Town Hall. The group is made up of councillors, members of the Old Hastings Preservation Society, members of the Museums Association and Old Town traders. The group meet two or three times a year and Nick Sangster, Resort Services Manager, said he could update this Committee.

Miss Purdey offered her congratulations on the reorganisation of the shop space at the Old Town Hall and for the new display in the window.

Mr Peak asked about the budget for the Museum and Councillor Hodges explained that the budget cycle for 2013/14 had not yet commenced.

**RESOLVED – that the report be noted.**

**46. SUGGESTED AMENDMENT TO ACQUISITIONS AND DISPOSALS POLICY**

Cathy Walling, Museum Curator presented a report to consider an amendment to the Museum's Acquisition and Disposal Policy with regard to the collection of archaeology.

The Sussex Museums Group Archaeological Working Party has been discussing standards for the deposition of archaeological archives. A large amount of material has been generated by Planning-led excavations in the Rother and Wealden District Council areas. The Museum's archaeology collection is currently stored at Castleham and space is limited. The Curator has met with the Curator of Bexhill Museum to discuss this issue.

The Sussex Museums Group Archaeological Working Party has suggested the following wording for the deposition of archaeological archives:

'for planning-led archaeological work the archive should be offered to the principal museum in the District or Borough which acts as the Local Planning Authority for the work undertaken. Where this is not possible because, for example, there is no collecting museum, then the archive should be offered to the nearest accredited collecting museum'.

It was suggested that an amendment is made to paragraph 3.2 of the Museums Acquisition and Disposals Policy to read:

'The Museum will continue to collect archaeological material from all periods found within the Hastings Borough boundary. There will be no additions to the collections of foreign archaeology unless of particular relevance to material already held.'

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The Curator explained that the amendment refers only to forward collection. Councillor Street thought the reference to 'foreign' archaeology should mean archaeology from outside the Hastings Borough boundary.

**RESOLVED (unanimously) – that the amendment be adopted but that 'foreign' archaeology should refer to archaeology from outside the Hastings Borough boundary.**

**47. REQUESTS FOR LOANS FROM THE MUSEUM COLLECTIONS**

Cathy Walling, Museum Curator, presented a report on the request for the loan of material from the Museum collection.

The Museum had received a request from Brighton and Hove Museums for the loan of material relating to Charles Dawson and the Piltdown Hoax, including a Roman statuette, bone hammer, prick spur and letters.

A request had also been received from Winchelsea Museum for the loan of 3 pieces of Sussex Pottery, a Rye jug from the early 14<sup>th</sup> century, a 17<sup>th</sup> century watering pot and a 19<sup>th</sup> century flask.

The Curator will visit Winchelsea Museum to confirm security and environmental conditions before agreeing the loan. The loan should then be for an initial period of 3 years.

**RESOLVED – that the loans are recommended for approval.**

**48. MUSEUM ATTENDANCE FIGURES**

Cathy Walling, Museum Curator, presented a report to inform members of figures for attendances, educational activities and use of the Museum's website for the fourth quarter of 2011-12. Figures for January to March 2011 were submitted for comparison. Visitor numbers have increased at both sites, the numbers at Hastings Museum are for a six day week compared with last year's figures. The increased figures for the Old Town Hall reflect the effect of the temporary closure of the main HIC and the move of services to the Old Town.

Miss Barrett wanted to record her appreciation of the welcome given to visitors to Hastings Museum.

**RESOLVED – that the report be noted.**

**49. MUSEUM EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

Cathy Walling, Museum Curator, presented a report to inform Members of forthcoming events and educational activities at the Museum for Quarter 2, 2012-13.

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These included: -

Until 6 January 2013: 'Diamond Jubilee Exhibition: 60 Years of Paintings from the Museum Collection';

30 June to 9 September: 'Mr Watt, Grumpy Man of Metal' – Artist metalworker Jon Mills presents an exhibition of metal pieces used to illustrate the disastrous adventures of Mr Watt.

30 June to 23 September: 'Celebrating Sport in Hastings and St Leonards' – a display celebrating the participation of local people in the various sports that make up the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

'Re-Discoveries' – a collaboration between British artist Rachel Cohen and Brazilian artist Gisel Carriconde Azevedo who have created new work in response to the museum's collection and the town of Hastings. The works will be presented side by side with the museum's permanent collections.

**Old Town Hall**

Until 16 September: Display of work by FdA Contemporary Crafts Practice students, Sussex Coast College. Follow the trail to spot the contemporary work amongst the local history collections.

**Events:**

**Play and Learn**

Every Thursday in term time. In partnership with Hastings Children's Centre, In2Play and Hastings Children's Library.

22 June to 20 July: Weekly local history talks by Edward Preston.

30 June: Family Fun Day for opening of Mr Watts Exhibition.

30 June to 9 September: Mr Watt's Summer Holiday. Gallery Trail and other activities, including a competition to design a souvenir for Mr Watt.

5 July: Artist-led tour of the re-Discoveries project.

14 July: St Leonards International Film Festival, an evening of groundbreaking celluloid film, including Super 8 projections with live music, St Leonards archive 8mm footage installation and homage to avant-garde film legend Jeff Keen.

21 July: re-Discoveries Workshop for families.

23 July – 4 September: Children's activities at Old Town Hall Museum.

30 July to 3 August: Old Town Week. A second series of daily talks at the Old Town Hall Museum.

6-9 September: Cabinet of Curiosities. Enter the mystery object quiz and see some of the curiosities usually kept in store. Heritage Open Days Event.

**RESOLVED - that the report be noted.**

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**50. MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS**

Cathy Walling, Museum Curator, presented a report informing members of items acquired by the Museum in the last quarter and the names of donors. The items included: -

Collection of newspapers and magazine from the 1930s to 1950s, many relating to coronations.

Pett, Fairlight and Icklesham British Legion Women's Section album from 1947

Documents relating to 2 Portland Place

Publicity photographs of Hastings from 1933

St Paul's Church Parish Magazine, August 1920

Eighteen postcards of Hastings, including eleven of church interiors

Postcard – Greetings from Hastings

Metal Estate Agents sign – Chennels, Dyer and Gallaway

Papers relating to 80 Burry Road

Handmade chequers board found in Grey Owl's Cabin in 1950s

Wireless Licences, 1960s

Headed paper from Plummer Roddis Ltd

Photographs of interior of Orion Cinema, 1957

Collection of football programmes from Stamco Football Club, 1980s and 90s

Sales document for Sussex House, 1882

School Register, Priory Rd Boys (?) 1893-5

Hastings Pier Company Shares certificate

Two notebooks listing air raid warnings in Hastings Borough Council  
Programme for Lawn Tennis Tournament at Central Cricket Ground 1938

Paperes, photographs, baton etc relating to Harvey and Lionel Elford

Photograph album of Royal East Sussex Hospital, nurses' certificates and medals, from Hastings Nurses' League

**RESOLVED – that the report be noted.**

**51. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED – that the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the items of business listed below because it is likely that, if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of 'exempt' information as defined in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.**

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<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Subject Matter</u>	<u>Paragraph No.</u>
52 (E)	Theft of Lead	Paragraphs 8 & 9
53 (E)	Offer of donation to the Museum Collection	Paragraphs 8 & 9
54 (E)	Offer to Purchase	Paragraphs 8 & 9

**52 (E) THEFT OF LEAD**

Cathy Walling, Museum Curator, presented a report to inform Committee Members of the theft of lead from the Museum roof and subsequent actions.

**RESOLVED** – that the report be noted.

**53 (E) OFFER OF DONATION TO THE MUSEUM COLLECTION**

Cathy Walling, Museum Curator, presented a report to Committee Members on the offer of a donation of coins.

**RESOLVED** – that the offer of donation be accepted subject to checking the position regarding insurance and inheritance tax.

**54 (E) OFFER TO PURCHASE**

Cathy Walling, Museum Curator, presented a report to inform Committee Members of a watercolour which will be for sale at a forthcoming auction.

**RESOLVED** – that the watercolour is purchased for the Museum collection.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 3.45 pm)