

**MUSEUMS COMMITTEE
17 SEPTEMBER 2012**

Present: Councillors Charlesworth, Corello, Hodges, Howard, Sinden, Street (as the duly appointed substitute for Councillor Rogers) and Westley (in the Chair).

Museum Association Representatives: Mr Peak and Mrs Purdey.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rogers, George Adams, Erica Barrett, Lesley Cornish and Catherine Reed.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Councillors declared their interests in the minutes as indicated:

Councillor	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Sinden	The Agenda	Personal – Life member of the Museums Committee
Street	The Agenda	Personal – Life member of the Museums Committee

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2012 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.

Mr Peak asked about the budget for the Museum. The Chair explained that the budget was set by Council, it was not on the agenda for that purpose and if members wished to comment they should do so at this meeting.

4. 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 Alan Turing was officially unveiled on 23 June.

Councillor Westley opened the redisplayed Plains Indian Gallery at John's Place on 30 June.

**MUSEUMS COMMITTEE
17 SEPTEMBER 2012**

It was noted the 3D scan of Durbar Hall made by the RPS Group did not win the Innovations Award at the Leica Geosystems Symposium at Blenheim Place in July.

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

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

5. 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 first quarter of 2012-13. Figures for April to June 2012 were submitted for comparison.

Visitor numbers had increased at Hastings Museum and Art Gallery, possibly due to the wet weather in June, and visitor numbers had decreased at the Old Town Hall Museum due to the effect of visitors moving back to the refurbished HIC. It was noted that website visits had decreased and weddings and civil ceremonies had increased during this quarter

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

6. 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 3, 2012-13.

These included: -

Exhibitions

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

22 September to 13 January 2013: 'Telling Stories'. Supported by Arts Council England, this is a group exhibition of 14 artists from Hastings and Margate, the second instalment of the project. The Hastings artists are Xaverine Bates, Alexander Bratell, Martin Everett, Tracy Jones, Cathryn Kemp, Grace Lau and Lucinda Wells.

29 September to 4 November: 'Hidden Youth'. A Photographic Project with Young People by Amanda Jobson and Stuart Griffiths. Workshops have been held with 16-21 year-olds at Xtrax, and the event is part of Brighton Photo Fringe 2012.

MUSEUMS COMMITTEE
17 SEPTEMBER 2012

Events:

Play & Learn

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

AfriKaBa events

5 October: Literary Evening with Patience Agbabi

19 October: Concert

Artist-led workshops are also on offer for schools.

7 October: Telling Stories Gallery Talk. The artists are led in discussion by photographer Grace Lau.

The Big Draw 2012

13 October: Mapping Yourself with Irene Mensah

27 October to 4 November: Half-term Big Draw

27 October: Life Drawing Workshop with Roy Eastland

26 October to 9 November: Weekly local history talks by Edward Preston.

27 October: 'Jazz at the Museum'. A concert arranged by the Hastings and St Leonards Museum Association.

3 November: Stories at the Museum with Rose Miller, practical workshop.

24 November: Learn to Love Lino! With Fiona Pienkowska

2 December: Hastings and St Leonards Museum Association AGM, followed by talk by Steve Peak.

8 December: Christmas Sparkle with Rachel Hine.

Steve Peak informed the Committee that he had held a successful talk during Old Town Week on Hastings Luggers, and would be giving a talk with slides following the Museum Association AGM .

The Curator announced the winner of the Mr Watt: Grumpy Man of Metal competition. The winning drawing, a Chinese horse, was crafted into a metal statue for the winner by Jon Mills, Artist metalworker.

Marion Purdey offered her congratulations on the 2012 Olympic exhibition at Hastings Museum and Art Gallery.

Steve Peak enquired about an exhibition of the 100th Anniversary of First World War. The Curator explained that they were investigating possible funding for an exhibition and any future developments would be reported back to the Committee.

**MUSEUMS COMMITTEE
17 SEPTEMBER 2012**

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

7. 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 coins and banknotes

Documents relating to 3 Cloudesley Road, St Leonards

Book of Works of Shakespeare presented as school prize to Richard Body at University School in 1921.

'The Cinque Port', the magazine of University School, Hastings, April 1919.

Notice produced under Compulsory Vaccination Act for appointment for Archibald Stokes at 41 High Street, Hastings, November 1864.

Collection of Hastleons' programmes

Beach spade with painted blade, 1930s

Plan of proposed new Hastings Station layout, 1930s

Two Hastings Music Festival certificates awarded to Marjorie Veness, 1934

Photograph of Marjorie Veness.

Three copies of Hastings and St Leonards Pictorial newspaper, 1911 and 1917.

Documents relating to the Burton estate.

Councillor Hodges wanted to record his appreciation of the Members visit to the Hastings Museum and Art Gallery.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

8. REQUEST FOR EXTENSION TO LOAN OF PAINTING FROM MUSEUM COLLECTION – ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEM

With the agreement of the Chair, Cathy Walling, Museum Curator, presented an urgent item to the committee informing members of a request for the loan of material from the Museum collection.

MUSEUMS COMMITTEE
17 SEPTEMBER 2012

This late item was not included in the agenda because the request for the loan was received on 12 September, after the agenda had been printed. As such, a response to the organising institution was needed as soon as possible.

The museum had received a request from The National Maritime Museum for the loan of JMW Turner watercolour 'Hastings: Fishmarket on the Sands'.

The loan of the piece had already been agreed by the Museum's Committee to the National Maritime Museum from November 2013 to March 2014. The National Maritime Museum sought permission to extend the loan period and to agree a second venue at The Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, from 4 June to 1 September 2014.

The Curator added that the piece would be returned to Hastings in Autumn 2014 and displayed again after a period of rest in 2015. It will also go on display for a period of 6-8 weeks during Summer 2013.

Councillor Hodges asked about the effects of ultra violet light, and time needed for the piece to recover. The Curator confirmed she would take further advice and report her findings to the next meeting.

Mr Peak suggested asking the National Maritime Museum for a loan of their collection of boats and model ships built on Hastings Beach. The Curator confirmed she would investigate this request.

The Committee considered the proposal and agreed the piece should be seen by a wider audience as possible along with other Hastings items, provided there is no detrimental effect.

The recommendation to the report was moved by Councillor Charlesworth, with an amendment as set out in the resolution below. This was seconded by Councillor Street and agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED (unanimously) – that the loan is recommended for approval provided there is no detrimental effect to the painting.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 3.03pm)