

MUSEUMS COMMITTEE
17 JUNE 2013

Present: Councillors Batsford, Charlesworth, Hodges, Howard (in the Chair) and Street.

Museum Association Representatives: Mr Adams, Mrs Barrett, Mr Palfrey-Martin, Mr Peak and Mrs Purdey

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Westley and Councillor Corello's absence was noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Cllr Howard and Mrs Purdey, Mrs Barrett & Mr Palfrey-Martin	The Agenda	Personal – Member of the Old Hastings Preservation Society
Mrs Purdey and Mrs Barrett	The Agenda	Personal – Member of Hastings Area Archaeological Research Group (HAARG).

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2013 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.

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 Fishmarket painting by J.M.W. Turner will be on display at the museum from 13th July to 1st September before going on loan to the National Maritime Museum.

The appointment of the Documentation Assistant under the Permeate Fellowship scheme has been successful. James Perry has been in post for a

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number of weeks and has been inputting data onto the computer. The Curator said she was very pleased with his progress.

The filming of John Logie Baird and Linton Crescent by ITV will be televised on 'Britain's Secret Homes' within a matter of weeks.

East Sussex Records Office has closed and will reopen in Autumn following the transfer of all its archives to the new Keep in Falmer. This work is being catalogued and will be available to view on the web. Steve Peak asked if the Curator would confirm when this work has finished. This request was agreed with the Curator.

RESOLVED – that the Committee accepts the report and are satisfied with the comments in the report.

5. ACCESS AND LEARNING POLICY

Cathy Walling, Museum Curator, presented a report to inform members of the draft review of the Museum's Access and Learning Policy.

The Education Officer updated the Committee on the review of the 2008 Access & Learning Policy. The revised Access & Learning Policy were posted on the consultation pages of the Hastings Borough Council website, along with a letter inviting comments via the What's On e-newsletter. In response to the revised objectives two responses had been received following the consultation exercise. Support was received from Sally Staples, Cultural Strategy Manager at East Sussex County Council and Laura Cecil from Horizons.

Councillor Street referred to paragraph 3.3.5 of the Museum Access and Learning Policy 2013-2018 and was concerned that the wording implied that every bit of every exhibit must be intellectually and physically accessible to all visitors. Therefore, if the exhibit was made accessible to a child, it would not be very intellectually challenging or stimulating to an adult. The Museum Curator and the Head of Amenities, Resorts & Leisure agreed to revise the wording.

RESOLVED – that the Committee accepts the report and recommends that the policy is adopted.

6. HERITAGE TRAILS

Cathy Walling, Museum Curator, presented a report to inform members of progress with the planned Heritage Trails.

The Curator stated the Hastings and St Heritage Trail leaflets for walkers had been printed and were available in hardcopy and electronically online. The completed subjects include Blue & Commemorative Plaques, Architecture,

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Robert Tressell and famous women. These leaflets will be available for free in the Museums and the Information Centres after their launch. The electronic versions are currently on the Famously Hastings website and will be moved to the Museum website following the completion of its redesign. The Tressell trail leaflets will be launched on 13 July for the Robert Tressell weekend.

Steve Peak suggested there were elements of information missing from the Tressell version which need to be updated.

Councillor Charlesworth thanked everyone for their work.

RESOLVED – that the Committee accepts the report and are satisfied with the comments in the report.

7. 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 2012-13. Figures for 2012 were submitted for comparison.

The Curator advised that there had been an increase in visitor numbers and pupils in organised groups to the Hastings Museum and Art Gallery, possibly due to the weather. It was noted that the increase in visitor numbers had not been affected by the reduction in opening hours of the museum from 7 days a week to 6. This improvement in attendances was acknowledged by the Committee.

Figures for the number of visitors to the Old Town Hall Museum were slightly down this quarter, possibly due to the closure of the museum for 3½ weeks in January 2013 because of emergency electrical works. In addition, there had been an increase in pupils in organised groups to the museum.

The number of Website visits had increased. However, Weddings and Civil Ceremonies were slightly down this quarter. 20 bookings had been arranged so far for 2013/14 compared to 35 during 2012/13. It was acknowledged that these figures were subject to change because bookings were made at short notice.

Erica Barrett asked if anything could be done to raise the profile of the Old Town Hall Museum. Cathy Walling advised that this matter had been raised at Old Town Hall Museum Group Meetings and with the Estates Manager.

RESOLVED – that the Committee accepts the report and are satisfied with the comments in the report.

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8. 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, 2013-14.

These included: -

Exhibitions

Until 5 January 2014: 'Women Artists from 1850 to 1950'.

Until 7 July: 'Brooke, Badham and Beyond'.

Until 7 July: 'The Grave's a Fine and Private Place'.

13 July to 1 September: JMW Turner's 'Fishmarket' on display.

13 July to 29 September: 'Outside In', the work of marginalised artists in the South East, organised in partnership with Pallant House.

13 July to 29 September: Scottie Wilson - drawings and ceramics

13 July to 29 September: '50 Years of Fred Basset' - original illustrations and storyboards.

3 to 11 August: Hastings Old Town Week exhibition at Old Town Hall of finds from Community excavation at Old St Helen's Church.

Events

2 to 7 July: Stitch for Victory, at the Old Town Hall Museum. School workshops available.

5, 12, 19 and 26 July; Local History Lectures by Edward Preston.

6 July: 'Observing Hastings Today', a drawing workshop with Sharon Haward.

9 July: 'Get Ahead for the Autumn Term', for teachers at all key stages.

20 July, 3 and 10 August: 'Knitting for Change', the creation of a knitted graffiti wall.

30 July: Outside In Step Up Workshop.

25 July to 3 September: Summer holiday Activities

20, 21 and 22 August: Performance Workshop with Yumino Seki

14 September: Grey Owl Anniversary Family Activity Day.

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21 September: Native American Style Bead Embroidery workshop.

24 September: Artist's Talk with Yumino Seki.

26, 27 and 28 September: Hyakki Yakou, A Night Walk of a Hundred Demons, a site specific dance performance inspired by the Durbar Hall.

27 September: 'In Remembrance of You' - spoken word and music for Afrikaba

28 September: Fred Bassett Big Draw Family Drop in Workshop

29 September: Brazilian rhythm and dance Family Workshop for Afrikaba

Steve Peak informed the Committee that the Fishermen's Museum would be holding an exhibition of George Wood's negatives and prints during Old Town Carnival Week in August.

Erica Barrett congratulated everyone involved in organising the events and activities and gave gratitude for providing a resting chair at the Brooke, Badham and Beyond exhibition.

RESOLVED - that the Committee accepts the report and are satisfied with the comments in the report.

9. 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: -

1. Items from Hastings Grammar School. Donor: Mrs J Tibbutt
2. Three etchings of Hastings Old Town. Donor: Mrs J Pett
3. Colour photograph of the pier. Donor: Mr P Norman
4. Selection of Hastings tea-towels and a t-shirt. Donor: Miss S Hayward
5. World War Two gas mask. Donor: Mrs SA Turk
6. Ordinance Survey maps, from Hastings and Eastbourne, 1940. Donor: Ashford Museum
7. Two collections of historic postcards, 19th and early 20th century. Donor: Mrs S Nevis

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8. Pistol, dagger, pot and box of Tressell slides. Donor: Miss L Vahey
9. 1911 Fletcher Russell & Co booklet with Hastings Gas Company advert on cover. Donor: Mrs SA Peerless
10. Glasses box from AG Foord opticians, Hastings. Donor: Mr A Slack
11. Medals and 1066 award to Dorothy Clements. Donor: Mr Hunneman
12. TV 770, 'Cave Captain' badge, Radio Times articles, Hand-painted Hastings plate. Donor: Mr R Mucci
13. Jar of 'Ma'amite'- Jubilee edition. Donor: Mrs A Hawkins
14. St Mary's Bulverhythe plaque. Donor: Mr D Dine
15. HMAG Exhibition poster. Donor: Towner Art Gallery
16. Photocopied poster of West Marina Warehouse. Donor: Mr B Cooper
17. DVD of holidays in Hastings, 1947 and 1948. Donor: Mr E Arnold
18. Birth, marriage and death certificates from Hastings. Donor: Mrs J Buchanan
19. Collection of Hastings photos. Donor: Mr M Horne
20. Bathing Pool fixture list, 1953. Donor: Mrs J Gibbs
21. Photographs etc relating to the Blue Saloon. Donor: Mrs P Mendenhall
22. David Sharp Pottery ash tray, Hastings Cinque Ports design. Donor: Mr J Hibberd
23. Two watercolours, of Church-in-the-Wood and All Saints. Anon. Donor: Mr Diver

RESOLVED - that the Committee accepts the report and are satisfied with the comments in the report.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 3.12pm)