

**MUSEUMS COMMITTEE
16 DECEMBER 2013**

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

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

19. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were noted for Councillor Batsford.

20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Museum Association Member declared their interest in the minutes as indicated:

<u>Museum Association Member</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Marion Purdey	Item 18E – Offers to Purchase, Item 2.	Personal – Trustee of Project Artworks

21. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 16
September 2013 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true
record.

22. 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.

Permission had been given to use a number of images for publication, as noted in the report.

The Museum Curator reported that the HLF application had now been submitted and a response would be received after 17 January 2014 as to whether or not they had been successful.

Steve Peak will give a talk on Robert Tressell as part of the centenary anniversary of the publication of 'The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists'. The talk will take place on Sunday 27 April 2014, at the museum.

The Curator advised that she will arrange a visit in the New Year to the new Keep at Falmer. A list of potential dates will be circulated for members to confirm their availability.

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Funding for the Documentation Assistant by the Arts Council Permeate project finished on 6 December 2013. During the course of his employment, James Perry, input a total of 1,359 record cards over 6 months, whilst working two days a week. The Curator said it was a positive project and that she was very pleased with his work.

The Committee formally thanked Mr Perry for his work.

Steve Peak referred to the mural at the Keep of net shops and asked what would be available to view online. The Curator said she would check and report back.

Councillor Hodges asked if it was necessary to obtain a 'readers ticket' before visiting the Keep. The Curator explained that members must register online before the visit to obtain an ID number which is presented at the Keep.

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

23. 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 second quarter of 2013-14. Figures for 2012 were submitted for comparison.

The attendance figures for both Hastings Museum & Art Gallery and Johns Place had increased by 1,000 visitors compared to the previous year. Additionally, it was noted that there had been an increase in foreign language groups during the summer months.

Attendances to The Old Town Hall Museum were exactly the same as the previous year, although it had been closed on Mondays since 1 April 2013.

The figures for the number of website visits had increased for Quarter 2 by 10,462.

Wedding and Civil Ceremonies had reduced slightly to 11, compared with 12 in Quarter 2 last year. A total of 8 bookings have been made so far for 2014/15. The Curator informed the committee that they will advertise in publications such as the ESCC Registrar and the Exhibitions and Events pages leaflet to encourage more bookings. Similarly, there will also be a dedicated section on the new website.

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

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24. MUSEUM EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Cathy Walling, Museum Curator, presented a report to inform Members of forthcoming events and educational activities at the Hastings Museum and Art Gallery and the Old Town Hall Museum during January to March 2014, for Quarter 4, 2014.

These included:-

Exhibitions

Until 5 January 2014: 'Women Artists from 1850 to 1950', in the Long Gallery.

From 11 January: 'Four Seasons', a selection of paintings and drawings from the Museum Collection, in the Long Gallery.

Until 31 March: 'The Wealden Coin Hoard'. One of the largest hoards of Roman coins found in the county, this display is on loan from the Royal Pavilion and Museums, Brighton.

17 Jan - 8 March: 'No Labels', photographs by John Stiles LRPS. An exhibition of portraits of the people involved with the Seaview Project.

1 February – 20 April

'The Nature of Things': Flora

This exhibition is an eclectic selection of ceramics and pottery; design sketches, still life paintings and, botanical illustrations from the permanent collection, which have been inspired by plants.

15 March - 27 April: A display of work by students at Saxon Mount School.

Events

18 January: 'The Archaeology of the Link Road', a talk by East Sussex County Archaeologist Casper Johnson.

25 & 26 January: 'Love Lino', weekend print workshop with Fiona Pienkowska

18 February: Roman Activity Day, object handling, craft activities and combat techniques!

22 & 23 February: 'The Marvellous Monoprint', weekend print workshop with Fiona Pienkowska

15 March: 'The Wonderful Woodcut', day workshop with Fiona Pienkowska

29 March: Adult workshop with Amber Khokhar

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The Curator advised that she would be acquiring four table cases to display the museums coin collection to sit along side the exhibition of Roman coins entitled 'Wealden Coin Hoard'.

Mr Peak asked if there will be a meeting with local groups to discuss the events and exhibitions planned for the Centenary of World War I. Councillor Westley informed him that the museum will be running its own WWI events programme and that notice of any town wide events should be referred to Kevin Boorman, Head of Marketing and Communications. The Curator added that when funding is confirmed, they will meet with community groups.

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

25. 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. Archives of the Hastings Branch of Soroptimists International, now closed. Donor: B.J. Blythe
2. Artificial arm, developed after WWI. Formerly in Fishermen's Museum. Donor: Fishermen's Museum
3. 5 Photograph albums of Hastings and area in 1950s. 9 Theatre programmes, Hastleons and Remembrance Day events. Donor: Mr S. Care
4. 9 photographs of Hastings Pageant and visit of Prince of Wales. Donor: Steve Peak
5. 3 postcards of Hastings and St Leonards. Donor: Mr L Taylor
6. Deeds and letters relating to 5 Southwater Road, St Leonards. Donor: Mr R Veness
7. Programme for 'Twinkle' at White Rock Pavilion, 1956. Donor: Mr N Bishop
8. Signed copy of 'The Tree' by Grey Owl. Donor: Ms K Potter
9. Indenture dated 1831 between James Burton and George Greenhough re land at Marina. Donor: Mr D Vidler

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10. 2 Hastings tram tickets. One Hastings Borough Police button. Donor: Alison Hawkins
11. 3 Hastings Speedway programmes, 1949. Donor: Mrs S Turk
12. Indenture between Thomas Dodson and Joseph Carswell dated 1779 relating to windmill in Hastings. Donor: Mrs J Turner
13. The Dungeness Portfolio - 25 artist photographic prints by Jobo. Donor: Jobo
14. Oil painting of Elsie Cole by Philip Cole. Donor: Mrs Helen Cole
15. Collection of photographs from 1850s to 1940s relating to ?Jenner family of Hastings. Donor: Mr D McQuaid
16. Sales particulars for 136-138 St Georges road, 1909; Press cutting re Bathing Pool; Daily Express, May 1940. Donor: Mrs C Bargh
17. Small musket ball, found near Beauport Park. Donor: Mr R Burton
18. Shop receipts, St Andrew's Parish magazine, School and Music certificates for Dorothy Westfield. Donor: Mr R Kemble
19. Books, photographs and ephemera found in loft in Bulverhythe Road. Donor: Mrs V Lodder

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

26. 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.

<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Subject Matter</u>	<u>Paragraph No.</u>
18(E)	Offers to Purchase	Paragraphs 8 & 9

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27E. OFFERS TO PURCHASE

Cathy Walling, Museum Curator, presented a report for Members to consider the acquisition of two items.

Councillor Street proposed a motion to refuse to purchase item 1. This was seconded by Marion Purdey.

Councillor Street proposed a motion to refuse to purchase item 2. This was seconded by Councillor Charlesworth.

RESOLVED – (unanimously) that the Committee accepts the report and are satisfied with the comments in the report and that the offers for purchase be declined.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 3:10pm)