

Public Document Pack

Museums Committee Agenda

Monday, 14 March 2016 at 2.30 pm

Hastings Museum & Art Gallery

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Agenda Item 3 Public Document Pack

MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

30 NOVEMBER 2015

Present: Councillors Poole (Chair), Hodges (Vice-Chair), Howard, Edwards, Sinden, Street, Purdey, Peak, Palfrey-Martin, Clarke and Dowling

21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Charlesworth and Mr George Adams and noted for Erica Barrett and Alison Hawkins.

The Chair welcomed new members Councillors Terri Dowling and Martin Clarke to the committee.

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors made no declarations of interest at this meeting.

23. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 14 SEPTEMBER 2015

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2015 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.

24. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEMS

None.

25. 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.

1. The recommendation for the Museum's Accreditation application will be determined by the Arts Council England on 19th November 2015. It is hoped the full accreditation will be received.

Actions to be updated on in a year or so:-

- Dealing with document backlog;
- Gathering data on users and non users.
- Action fulfilled, we hope to receive the certificate shortly.

2. The Museums new and improved website has been updated and subject to a few remaining technical corrections will be launched at the end of January 2016. Progress had slowed down at the early part of the year due to staff changes.

The Curator confirmed the website would be proof read prior to the full launch in the new year. She added that they will eventually include copies of policy documents and any info or links relating to WWI, plus collections, events and access information.

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3. The Museum Store has been completely emptied, cleaned and redecorated. It will then take 6 to 8 weeks for the fumes to dry out and settle. The heating installation will take place on 14th December, followed by the installation of shelving before or after Christmas. The cleaning of parts of the collections is on schedule.

4. The Museum exhibition for 2016 'Story of Hastings in 66 Objects' has been publicised and a live survey linked to Facebook and Twitter and the Root 1066 website. The idea is to get people to suggest the most significant people, events and stories of the last 950 years.. Potential exhibits will be available to view on Facebook and at a Museum Association event in the New Year.

Councillor T Dowling asked if there had been much response and what the cut-off date was for the survey. The Curator confirmed that 12 responses had been received to date and that the survey will close in 66 days from when it was launched, on 31 January 2016.

5. Fossil specimens will be photographed for Sussex Geodiversity Partnership <http://www.geodiversitysussex.org.uk>. A pilot project which was undertaken with the Booth Museum to make people more aware of geological collections in Sussex, can be viewed at the above website link. The Curator confirmed that the Museum holds examples of type specimens.

6. The Public Catalogue Foundation is to change it's shared platform from 'Your Paintings' to 'Art UK' in January 2016 to facilitate a wider range of artworks, it will still work in partnership with the BBC. The Public Catalogue Foundation has already catalogued the Museum's collection of oil paintings. Hastings Museum will be given the opportunity to generate income from the Print and Demand activities and will be publicised on the ART UK website.

RESOLVED - That the Committee accept the report and are satisfied with the comments in the report.

26. RESILIENCE REVIEW UPDATE

Cathy Walling, Museum Curator, presented a report to update members on the progress of the ACE-funded Resilience Project.

Grant money has been received from the Arts Council England Resilience Fund for a 12 month project to conduct a review of Museum Services 'Finding Our Place'.

The museum consultant has met with museum staff and the stakeholders to undertake a review of the Museum services. So far the consultant has delivered a session on 'Developing a Vision for Hastings Museum and Art Gallery' and will be undertaking further training sessions on advocacy and customer care. The areas being considered in this part of the review are:-

- a. The effectiveness of current governance arrangements.
- b. An independent appraisal of the Museum's strategic positioning within the Local Authority structure.
- c. An informed understanding of different models of governance.

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- d. Reviewing the Museum's 'Vision' with staff.
- e. Training to assist staff in developing skills to advocate internally as well as recruit champions for the Museum.
- f. A review of current workforce with recommendations for future development.
- g. A review of income generation activity.
- h. Production of action plan with recommended short, medium and long-term actions.

The Creative Consultants have surveyed 500 people via event questionnaires, focus groups etc to gain information. The initial conclusions are listed below:-

- a. There is a surprising lack of awareness of the Museum by people in Hastings.
- b. Those who know the Museum recognise its value but are oblivious to what is happening when they aren't in the building.
- c. There is a lot of passion for the Museum but concern that only some voices are heard.
- d. From non-users, they encountered surprise at how much there is to see and how good it is.
- e. People value the old-fashioned feel of the displays but see room for some rethink and refresh in presentation.

Having completed their initial review of current spaces and emerging requirements, the Spatial Designers will be taking into account the public views collected by the Creative Consultants and their own research into visitor flow and requirements.

The final report will be produced in February 2016, with a consultation exhibition at the Museum; a sharing event and final progress report to Museums Committee will be in March 2016.

Monies left from the small underspend in the Resilience budget will fund a review of the Education Services and will focus specifically on the Museum's education service to schools. This review will draw on the findings from consultation undertaken in the other activity strands.

Steve Peak asked whether there were further plans for the museum in respect of the government cuts. The Curator confirmed that there was no current plan for reducing the budget and that reporting on different models of governance was a standard requirement of any discussion on resilience.. Furthermore, a full consultation would be carried out on any decisions made in respect of the budget process. Nick Sangster said the original reason for greater resilience that has been funded by Arts Council is that they understood government grants had been reduced.

Councillor Edwards asked the Curator if she was surprised by the fall in school visitor numbers. The Curator said she was not surprised and they had identified an underspend in the Resilience grant which will consider Education Services (schools) and will come up with some actions.

Martin Clarke sought clarification on the museums income. The Curator confirmed that there wasn't much possibility to increase income in addition to current sources such as the shop and café sales, weddings and event hire. She suggested that if the café was enlarged it could help and they were looking at the possibility of selling

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reproduction pictures to bring in a small income. She went on to say that the Museum Consultant felt that the museum was doing as much as it could currently to generate income.

Councillor Street recalled that previously there had been talk about selling items on the museum website. The Curator advised him that the museums software does not currently facilitate it.

Marion Purdey suggested that there was very little information provided about the museum in the Information Centre. The group agreed that this should be improved and recommended that posters advertising the museum be displayed.

Members thanked the Curator for her work.

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

27. 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 quarter 2 of 2015-16. Figures for July to September 2014 were submitted for comparison.

It was noted that the attendance figures for Hastings Museum and Art Gallery had reduced by 437 to 13,119 for Quarter 2 when compared with the previous year. Similarly, numbers of pupils in organised groups had reduced by 811. Participants in non-education provider sessions reached 657. The total number of education visits combined for Quarter 2 was 1,905.

The number of website visits had increased by 1,816. At the time of the meeting, the number of followers on Facebook had increased to 749 and Twitter to 849.

The number of weddings and civil ceremonies had increased by 2 compared to quarter 2 last year. At the time of the meeting, a total of 19 ceremonies had been made for 2015-16 and 18 booked for 2016-17.

The curator advised the decrease in visitor numbers may have been due to the reduction in temporary exhibitions. She stated the number of pupils had dropped during quarter 2 since the majority of language schools visit during July to September.

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

28. MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

Cathy Walling, Museum Curator, presented a report to inform Members of forthcoming events and educational activities taking place at the Hastings Museum and Art Gallery during January to March 2016, for Quarter 4, 2015-16. These included:-

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Exhibitions

To July 2016: 'All at Sea'. Sussex Coastal Scenes from the Museum Collection.

5 December to 31 January 2016: 'The Big Chill', photographs and Tom Hammick's 'Raft'.

From 6 February 2016: 'Finding Our Place, a New Vision for Hastings Museum'. The interim findings of our Arts Council funded project.

Events

16 February 2016: 'All Creatures Great and Small', Family Activity Day

Wednesdays in term-time: Little Explorers

Thursdays in term-time: Stay and Play.

The Curator confirmed the number of exhibitions had reduced now that the exhibition gallery was being used as temporary storage for the items from the store. Exhibitions will continue to take place in the upper walkway until summer 2016. Members should expect to see more events listed from June 2016.

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

29. ACQUISITIONS

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

1. 105 prints and engravings of Hastings and area, including Rye and Winchelsea
Donor: Mr H Jutsche
2. 19th century Bathing Cap, made by E & S Corpo, George St
Donor: Mr S Craig
3. Lindridge & Son keyboard cover; Daily Herald Insurance Certificates; Tickets for Gaiety Cinema; postcards; photographs; assorted leaflets
Donor: Mr P Fuller
4. Daily Mirror Coronation Souvenir; Sussex Downland guidebook
Donor: Mrs K Tichband
5. Non-idiomatic converter of Language devised by donor
Donor: Mr B Nicol
6. Copy of Daily Sketch dated 1915
Donor: Mrs C White

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7. Journal of Royal Sussex Regiment; History of Hastings Police; History of Royal Sussex

Donor: Mr R Whatley

8. Goss china 'memorial', collection of local tickets, cards, paper bags, badges

Donor: Miss S Hayward

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

Steve Peak asked for an update on the status of the Old Town Hall Museum. Cllr Poole confirmed Hastings Borough Council were still hoping to let the building and had received a number of proposals.

Marion Purdey invited members to attend a carol concert on 12 December 2015 at the museum starting at 7.30pm. All proceeds will go to the museum.

30. ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

None.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 3.13 pm)

Agenda Item 5



Report to: Museums Committee

Date of Meeting: 14 March 2016

Report Title: Curator's Report

Report By: Cathy Walling
Museum Curator

Purpose of Report

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

Recommendation(s)

1. that the Committee accept the report and are satisfied with the comments in the report

Reasons for Recommendations

Introduction

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

1. The Arts Council-funded Resilience review will be completed at the end of March 2016. The final report will be presented to the Museums Committee in June. We have sent an expression of interest for the second round of ACE Resilience funding and will find out at the end of March whether we will go on to put in an application.
2. Following changes to ESCC funding to the Children's Centre, the two weekly pre-school sessions at the Museum will end this month. These were the Little Explorers and Stay and Play in the Museum which have become increasingly popular. The Museum will fund a new group - Museum Explorers - on Thursdays in term-time until mid-July and will be working with In2Play to deliver sessions which will offer pre-school children and their adults the opportunity to come and discover the Museum through stories, song and play. We will then explore external funding opportunities to continue activities after this pilot period. It is probable that the Museum will also be hosting the Library's Rhyme Time during their refurbishment period, but a start date has yet to be confirmed.
3. The updated Museum website is due to be ready in March. IT staff have been dealing with a new intranet system for HBC, and there has been a compatibility issue with the internet provider.
4. Hastings Pier will be using 42 copies of the Museum's historic images in their digital archive which is part of the interpretation scheme in the new Visitor Centre. The Museum will be acknowledged with each image.

Images of the White Rock Baths were used in newspaper and television publicity for the opening of the Skate Park.

Wards Affected

None

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	No
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	No
Local People's Views	No
Anti-Poverty	No

Additional Information

Officer to Contact

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Agenda Item 6



Report to: Museums Committee

Date of Meeting: 14 March 2016

Report Title: Local History Displays

Report By: Cathy Walling
Museum Curator

Purpose of Report

to update members on the progress of displaying the local history material

Recommendation(s)

- 1. that the Committee accepts the report and is satisfied with the report**

Reasons for Recommendations

Introduction

1. The local history material will be going on display in 2016 as part of the town's celebration of the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings. The exhibition which will open in June 2016 will tell the story of Hastings since 1066 in 66 objects, an engaging new interpretative journey through the 950 year development of the town since Norman times through the collections of the Museum. The exhibition will have a chronological framework through which visitors can explore local and national events and individual stories. Some will reflect particular moments in time, others will tell stories of continuous themes and gradual change.
2. Public voting has been taking place on Facebook and through an online survey, now closed, on some of the stories and objects that will be included. Among the most popular stories which the public wish to see featured are: the Battle of Hastings, the changing coastline, the Elizabethan harbour, smuggling, the coming of the railways and Robert Tressell. Objects that have appeared on Facebook so far are: smuggling, World War I, Medieval and John Logie Baird.
3. The Before Hastings: Prehistory to Saxon gallery opened on 12 March. The 'Story of Hastings in 66 Objects' will open on 25 June, with a private view on Friday 24th.

Wards Affected

None

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	No
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	No
Local People's Views	No
Anti-Poverty	No

Additional Information

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Agenda Item 7



Report to: Museums Committee

Date of Meeting: 14 March 2016

Report Title: Requests for Loans

Report By: Cathy Walling
Museum Curator

Purpose of Report

to inform members of requests for loans of items from the Museum collection

Recommendation(s)

- 1. that the Committee accepts the report and is satisfied with the report**

Reasons for Recommendations

Introduction

The following requests for loans of items from the Museum collection have been received.

1. The Frick Collection, New York, wish to borrow JMW Turner's watercolour 'Hastings: Fishmarket on the Sands, Early Morning' for an exhibition entitled 'Passages through Time: Turner's Modern and Ancient Ports'.

The exhibition will be held from 23 February to 14 May 2017 and is organised by the Frick's Senior Curator Susan Galassi and Turner expert Ian Warrell from the Tate. The Tate Gallery will themselves be lending 16 works. All costs will be paid by the organisers.

2. The Cite de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine in Paris have requested the loan of an 1834 lithograph of St Leonards for an exhibition devoted to the history of seaside resorts, entitled 'Tous a la Plage!' The exhibition will run from 18 October 2016 to 13 February 2017. Once again all costs will be covered by the borrowing institution.

3. Littlehampton Museum have requested the loan of material relating to smuggling for their summer exhibition 'Smuggling, a Gentleman's Trade?' which runs from 16 July to 19 September 2016. The exact items have not yet been decided, as it depends on what will be used in the 'Story of Hastings' display.

4. The Southbank Centre have requested the loan of a Japanese print and a netsuke for an exhibition of work by contemporary work by Elizabeth Price.

5. The Hawaiian feather cloak which is currently on loan to De Young Museum, San Francisco will be returning to Hastings in April. The exhibition of Royal Hawaiian Featherwork will no longer be transferring to Hawaii and the loan agreement will be terminated early.

Wards Affected

None

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	Yes
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	No
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	No
Local People's Views	No
Anti-Poverty	No

Additional Information

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Agenda Item 8



Report to: Museums Committee

Date of Meeting: 14 March 2015

Report Title: Attendance Figures

Report By: Cathy Walling
Museum Curator

Purpose of Report

to inform members of figures for attendances, educational activities and use of the Museum's website for the third quarter of 2015-16

Recommendation(s)

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

Reasons for Recommendations

Introduction

1. Attendances

The figures for October to December 2014 are given for comparison.

	Quarter 3 2015-16	Quarter 3 2014-15
Total number of visitors	9,743	10,249
Pupils in organised groups	694	644
Participants in non-education provider sessions	1,980	
Website visits	45,088	42,809

2. Social media

As of 3 March 2016 the museum has 953 followers on Twitter and 871 on Facebook.

3. Weddings and Civil Ceremonies

The total number of ceremonies held in Q3 was 0, compared to 1 in the same quarter the previous year. There are 19 ceremonies booked for 2016-17 so far.

4. Comment

Schools who have visited this quarter include Torfield, Little Ridge, Saxon Mount, St Paul's, Guestling Primary, Pebsham Primary, St Mary's and Sussex Coast College.

The non-education provider sessions include workshops, talk, researchers and toddler groups.

Wards Affected

None

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	No
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	No
Local People's Views	No
Anti-Poverty	No

Additional Information

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Agenda Item 9



Report to: Museums Committee

Date of Meeting: 14 March 2016

Report Title: Museum Events and Exhibitions

Report By: Cathy Walling
Museum Curator

Purpose of Report

to inform members of exhibitions and events to be held at the Museum from April to June 2016

Recommendation(s)

1. that the Committee accepts the report and is satisfied with the report

Reasons for Recommendations

Introduction

The following exhibitions, events and activities will be held at the Museum from April to June 2016.

Exhibitions

Until 4 September; 'All at Sea', marine paintings from the collection. JMW Turner's 'Fishmarket' will be added to the display from 18 June.

16 April to 3 July: 'In the Footsteps of Annie'. Photographs by Louise Kenward who tracked the voyages of Lady Brassey over 11 months.

7 May to 10 July: 'Natural Capital' by Maslen and Mehra. A new ceramic piece in response to the Museum's Modena Dish.

From 25 June: two new local history galleries. 'The Story of Hastings in 66 Objects' and 'Wish you were here - Hastings as a seaside resort 1794-1964'.

Events

25 March to 10 April: Free Easter Egg Hunt.

From 14 April: Museum Explorers, a regular Thursday session for parents/carers and pre-school children.

24 April: Wedding Fair

31 May: Family Activity Day to celebrate the Durbar Hall's 130th birthday.

10 June to 24 June: Local History talks by Edward Preston on Friday mornings.

24 June: Private View of 'The Story of Hastings in 66 Objects'.

Wards Affected

None

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	No

Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	No
Local People's Views	No
Anti-Poverty	No

Additional Information

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Agenda Item 10



Report to: Museums Committee

Date of Meeting: 14 March 2016

Report Title: Museum Acquisitions

Report By: Cathy Walling

Purpose of Report

to inform members of items recently acquired by the Museum

Recommendation(s)

- 1. that the Committee accepts the report and is satisfied with the report**
-

Reasons for Recommendations

Introduction

The following items have been acquired by Hastings Museum in the last quarter.

1. Ten postcards of Hastings, early 20th century

Donor: M. Miller

2. Hastings Grammar School cap, 1934

Donor: P. Sudell

3. Copy of 'Sajo and her Beaver People' by Grey Owl

Donor: Mrs M Pettett

4. Hastings School attendance medal, 1911

Donor: M. Crouch

5. Copy of 'The Tree' by Grey Owl

Donor: W. Smith

6. Chad Valley jigsaw of photo of Fairlight Glen

Donor: Mrs C. Shoesmith

7. Masonic records of G.H. Burgess, Derwent Lodge

Donor: Mrs C. Welch

8. County Borough of Hastings School sign from Grove School

Seventeen Grove School registers

Donor: M. Baker

9. Six engravings, sketch, photographs and documents relating to artist Arthur Rigden Read

Donor: R. Martin

10. Drawing of Guestling Hall, 1827 by John Martin.

Donor: Estate of Mrs A Stevens

11. Collection of 20th century Inuit Art

Donor: S. Mounsey

Wards Affected

None

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	No
Local People's Views	No
Anti-Poverty	No

Additional Information

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