

# Museums Committee Agenda

Monday, 13 July 2015 at 2.30 pm

Hastings Museum & Art Gallery

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# Agenda Item 2 Public Document Pack

## MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

16 MARCH 2015

Present: Councillors Poole (Chair), Howard (Vice-Chair), Charlesworth, Edwards, Hodges, Sinden, Street, Webb, Adams, Purdey, Barrett and Peak

### 31. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Sangster, Mrs Hawkins, Councillor Charman and absence was noted for Councillor Lock.

### 32. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 JANUARY 2015

**RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2015 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.**

### 33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

### 34. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEMS

None.

### 35. CURATOR'S REPORT

The Chair expressed her congratulations to the Fishermen's Museum on their accreditation.

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 Old Town Hall Museum's final day open to the public is Sunday 29 March 2015. The collections will then be transferred and placed into storage at St. Johns Place and the Corporate Archive. This work will involve a 20 step plan to pack and remove the collections. The curator confirmed the Corporate Archive was environmentally controlled and secure.

Mr Peak suggested that priority should be given to getting the permanent exhibition back up and running at St. Johns Place. The Curator advised him that it was intended to provide a temporary display because it would take longer to fund and plan a permanent display which could take between 1 year to 6 months to arrange. The Chair added that the process could not be rushed and it was the consequence of year on year funding cuts. The museum would need to be resilient.

Councillor Hodges said he would like to see a permanent display including artefacts. The Curator confirmed the 'Ships Figure Heads' would be moved to St. Johns Place.

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2. The Arts Council has granted Hastings Museum and Art Gallery a resilience fund of £33,000. The museum will undertake a thorough review of how it operates, including governance, income generation, audience engagement, workforce development and consider what exhibitions and activities are provided. The project will run for 12 months commencing on 1 April 2015.

Councillor Charlesworth asked if a detailed list could be provided of items that are going into storage. The Curator confirmed that only temporary items would be going back into display and that access to the collections would be given to researchers.

3. The Accreditation return has been submitted and the removal of the Old Town Hall Museum will be processed at the same time. The assessment will be made during the new few weeks.

4. Permission has been given for the following requests for reproduction of images:

a) 3 images of the Pier Ballroom for a BBC2 documentary, with working title 'Demolition'.

b) an image of the oil painting 'The Sacrifice of Jephthah' by Sebastiano Mazzoni for a book on the artist written by Dr Paolo Benassai and published by Edizioni dei Soncino, Italy.

5. The 'Young Curators' project led by HMAG in partnership with Culture Shift and the Hastings and Rother Arts Education network, for 14-19 years old to undertake practical work experience of the Museum sector, is underway. So far the group have led a taster day and family activity day during February half-term. Plans are in progress for an easter egg trail and family fun day during the Easter holidays. Later in 2015 the group will produce a display and provide creative workshops on the role of women in WWI. The Curator will give a full report on what they have achieved at later meeting.

6. In 2015, the museum joined 'Visitor Finder', funded by the Arts Council England. The purpose of the group is to help the museum gather visitor data and to understand and use it more effectively. Working with other local museums and galleries, the data will provide an insight into the demographics and profile proximity; behaviour, attitudes and motivation of visitors. The Curator advised that the questions in the questionnaire did cover visitor 'intentions' and were spelt out clearly.

**RESOLVED – (by 13 votes to 1) that the Committee accepts the report and are satisfied with the comments in the report.**

### **36. 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 third quarter of 2014-15. Figures for October to December 2013 were submitted for comparison.

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It was noted that the attendance figures for Hastings Museum and Art Gallery had increased when compared with the previous year, this was due to the half term activities: Jaws and Claws and the WWI exhibition. Similarly the numbers of pupils in organised groups had also increased during October to December. Overall the total number of visits combined for Quarter 3 had increased by 3398.

Attendances to the Old Town Hall Museum had decreased in addition to a reduction of pupils in organised groups. Therefore the total number of visits combined for Quarter 3 had decreased by 406 when compared to the previous year.

The number of website visits had increased significantly by 6678. Mrs Barrett raised her disappointment at the lack of information on the website for special exhibitions. The Curator advised her that this matter had been dealt with and a request had been submitted for more images. She confirmed the new website will be launched next month.

Weddings and Ceremonies had increased for the year. Although one wedding was held in quarter 3, a total of 22 ceremonies have been made for 2015-16. The next Wedding Fair will take place in April 2015.

It was noted that a number of educational visits held during the last quarter were made from schools outside Hastings. Councillor Street identified an error in item 5 of the report, the words 'Ore Valley Academy' should read 'Ore Village Primary Academy'.

The total number of visitors for the calendar year 2014 had increased by 4011 at Johns Place and decreased by 7280 at the Old Town Hall.

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

### 37. **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 April to June 2015, for Quarter 3, 2014-15.

#### **Exhibitions**

10 January 2015 to 3 January 2016: 'All at Sea'. Maritime paintings from the Museum collection.

14 February to 19 April: 'Uncovering Africa'. Objects from the collection uncovered as part of regional partnership project.

7 March to 7 June: 'Voyage, Paintings by Louis Dodd'.

25 April to 21 June: 'Fakes, Fear and Forges: Sussex in the 16th and 17th Centuries'. A Higher Education Innovation Fund project.

20 June to 13 September: Cabinets of Curiosities.

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### Events

28 March to 12 April: Easter Egg Hunt

7 April; Easter fun day led by Young Curators.

25 April: 'St Peter's Beard & the Martyr's Fireback: fakes, faith and the reconstruction of Sussex's past'. Talk by Dr Paul Quinn, University of Sussex.

26 April: Wedding Fair

21 May, 4, 11, 18 & 25 June: Beats and Voices. Music sessions open to learning disabled adults in East Sussex.

26 May: 'Something Fishy'. Family Activity Day.

19 June: 'Titus Oates'. Talk by Professor Tim Harris, Brown University.

21 June: 'Wellington and Hastings'. Talk by Brion Purdey to commemorate bi-centenary of Battle of Waterloo.

Councillor Hodges reported that as part of the 18<sup>th</sup> military event, a military regiment would be visiting Hastings. Further details will follow when known. Mrs Purdey requested photographs be taken of the event.

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

### 38. MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

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

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

1. Photographic slides, prints and negatives. Donor: Bequest of John French
2. Pantomime programme, White Rock Pavilion, 1966. 3 Copies of 'Music for All' magazines, 1930s. Donor: Mr R Mucci
3. Second World War Cookery leaflet. Donor: Mrs L Tinker
4. Hollington Park School magazines 1958 to 1989. Donor: Mrs J Louis
5. First Day covers of Grey Owl. Donor: Mr B Silsby
6. Order of Service for foundation of St Leonards Parish Church, 1953. Donor: Mr D Hails

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7. Cannon ball found in Cambridge Road. 3 bowls from West Hill Pottery 1970s. Donor: Mr P Fuller
8. Fire Brigade Call books from Halton station, 1949 – 1971. Donor: Mr R May
9. Photographic slides and glass slides. Donor: Mr P Holland
10. Muffin Club wooden spoon. Rose & Bates Jewellers box. Donor: Mrs E Barrett
11. Aerial photographs of Hastings & St Leonards. Donor: HBC Planning Dept
12. 'Views of Hastings & Neighbourhood' by Broderick. Donor: Mr J Mephram
13. Collection of 100 local postcards. Donor: Mrs D Hayward
14. First World War postcards and drawings of Harry 'Bunk' Marchant. Donor: Mrs B Sims

Mrs Barrett advised the Curator that item 10, Muffin Club wooden spoon had already been accessioned. In addition, she asked if the description on the label of her father's 1930's swimming costume could be changed from 'womens' swimming costume to 'mens' swimming costume. The Curator advised the modesty panel suggested it was a ladies costume, but she would compromise and amend the description to '1930's costume worn by donor's father'.

Mr Peak referred to item 7 and asked if there had been an update on the cannon ball found in Cambridge Road. The Curator advised him the cannon ball had been discovered in the garden of a property in Cambridge Road but at this time she had no further details.

Mr Palfrey-Martin recommended members read the fire brigade call books, which he felt were a fascinating insight into how the fire brigade operated from the 1940's onwards. There are approximately 66 or 67 books in the collection to read.

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

### **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>
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39(E)	Offer to purchase	Paragraphs 8 & 9
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### 39. OFFER TO PURCHASE

Cathy Walling, Museum Curator, presented a report for Members to consider an item offered to the Museum for purchase.

**RESOLVED – (unanimously) that the committee recommends to Cabinet the item not be purchased at this time.**

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 3.25 pm)



# Agenda Item 5



**Report to:** Museums Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 13 July 2015

**Report Title:** Curator's Report

**Report By:** Cathy Walling  
Museum Curator

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## **Purpose of Report**

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

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## **Recommendation(s)**

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

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## **Reasons for Recommendations**

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## Introduction

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

1. The contents of the main store have been moved into the temporary exhibition galleries to allow repairs and cleaning of the storage area. The planned exhibition has been postponed. Conservation cleaning of objects is continuing in-house by staff and volunteers; all archives and works on paper have now been removed to The Keep for cleaning. Priority items have been returned and are once again available to researchers. Staff are working on small displays and gallery updates around the Museum to compensate for the temporary halt to the exhibition programme.
2. Interviews for consultants to work with the Museum on the ACE Resilience project will take place on 9 July. It is anticipated that initiation meetings with the Project Manager and staff will begin soon after this date.
3. The Museum has had a preliminary discussion with the HLF about funding for exhibiting the local history material. A verbal update will be given at the meeting.
4. The second year of the HLF-funded WWI project continues with the next display from 19 September being on the role of women. Hannah Miles has taken over the co-ordination of the project volunteers who continue to research and record oral histories. Facebook and Twitter are regularly updated with events of 100 years ago. The Young Curators group are beginning work around the topic of women's' roles. The Museum is also working with Hastings Women's Voice to run a series of 8-10 sessions to uncover family history and use creative writing and artwork to bring wartime women to life.
5. Permission has been given for the following image reproduction requests:
  - a) Images of Bathing Pool for café information boards.
  - b) Images of White Rock Baths for Saville Jones Architects report.
6. The first results of the data collected for 'Visitor Finder' are now accessible to staff on a real time 'dashboard'. This will also allow cluster participants to compare website statistics. The Museum is working in a Sussex cluster with the Jerwood Gallery, Bexhill Museum, Horsham Museum and The Novium. There will be a verbal update on results so far.

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## Wards Affected

None

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## 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

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**Additional Information**

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**Officer to Contact**

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# Agenda Item 6



**Report to:** Museums Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 13 July 2015

**Report Title:** Museum Attendance Figures

**Report By:** Cathy Walling  
Museum Curator

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## **Purpose of Report**

to inform members of figures for attendances, educational activities and use of the Museum's website for the fourth quarter of 2014-15

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## **Recommendation(s)**

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

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## **Reasons for Recommendations**

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## Introduction

### 1. Attendances: Hastings Museum and Art Gallery

The figures for January to March 2014 are given for comparison.

	Jan to March 2015	2014
Number of visitors	10395	9877
Pupils in organised groups	275	1413

The total number of visitors for the year 2014-15 was 43683. This compares to 39179 in 2013-14.

### 2. Attendances: Old Town Hall Museum

	Jan to March 2015	2014
Number of visitors	1969	1749
Pupils in organised groups	0	24

The total number of visitors to the Old Town Hall Museum for the year 2014-15 was 20311. This compares to 24891 in 2013-14.

### 3. Website Visits

The total number of visits to [hmag.org.uk](http://hmag.org.uk) website for Quarter 4 is 45933. The comparable measure for Quarter 4, 2012-13 is 37023.

The total for 2014-15 is 168353 compared to 133683 for 2013-14.

As of 16 June Hastings Museum has 601 followers on Facebook and 645 on Twitter. The top 5 total reaches on Facebook in the previous 28 days: 5356 people in UK, 186 in USA, 129 in Greece, 103 in Australia and 86 in Pakistan.

#### 4. Weddings and Civil Ceremonies

The total number of ceremonies held in 2014-15 was 16, compared to 22 for the previous year. There are 15 ceremonies booked for 2015-16 so far. A third Wedding Fair is to be held on 13 September.

#### 5. Comment

The lower figure for formal educational visits in this quarter compared to last year reflects the whole school visit by St Paul's in early 2014.

A statistic which the museum now provides to the South East Museum Development programme is the number of activities/outreach on and off-site, with non-education providers eg Scouts, local Arts Groups, Community Groups, Book Bugs, In2Play etc. This can include workshops, seminars, talks as well as family activity days. For this quarter the total number of participants in sessions is 1535. This does not include individual researchers.

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#### Wards Affected

Central St. Leonards

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#### 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

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#### Additional Information

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#### Officer to Contact

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# Agenda Item 7



**Report to:** Museums Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 13 July 2015

**Report Title:** Events and Activities

**Report By:** Cathy Walling  
Museum Curator

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## **Purpose of Report**

To update members on exhibitions, events and educational activities at the Museums in Quarter 2 2015-16

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## **Recommendation(s)**

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

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## **Reasons for Recommendations**

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## Introduction

The following events and activities will be taking place at Hastings Museum and Art Gallery during July to September 2015.

### Exhibitions

10 January 2015 to 3 January 2016: 'All at Sea'. Maritime paintings from the Museum collection, including Turner watercolour until 30 August.

1 June to 30 August: Waterloo 200, small display of related objects and pictures.

27 June to 6 September: Textiles by award-winning textile designer and weaver Caroline Richards.

18 July onwards: Refurbished Brassey Gallery opens.

8 September to 4 October: Floor installation in Durbar Hall by Tod Hanson, for Coastal Currents Festival.

19 September to January 2016: Women and the First World War.

### Events

7, 14, 21 July: Out of the Doll's House. Workshop taster sessions with Hastings Women's Voice to explore what women were doing during WWI.

11 July: Young Curators Summer Project Workshop.

18 July to 30 August: Family activities in Brassey Gallery in association with Hastings-based artist Lucy Brennan.

23 July to 30 August: Family Holiday activities.

9 August: Piano Recital by Howard Southern for OHPS.

8 September: Private View for Coastal Currents installation.

11, 18, 25 September: Local History talks by Edward Preston.

13 September: Wedding Fair.

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**Wards Affected**

Castle

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**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

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**Additional Information**

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**Officer to Contact**

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# Agenda Item 8



**Report to:** Museums Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 13 July 2015

**Report Title:** Museum Acquisitions

**Report By:** Cathy Walling  
Museum Curator

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## **Purpose of Report**

to inform members of items recently acquired by the Museum

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## **Recommendation(s)**

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

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## **Reasons for Recommendations**

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## Introduction

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

1. 50 photographs and postcards from the 1920s and 1930s

Donor: Mrs J Middleditch

2. Board commemorating opening of the Grove School, 1956

Donor: Mr M Baker

3. Poster of Hastings by Walter Spradberry

Donor: Miss E Spradberry

4. Photograph of Boer War soldiers

Donor: Mr J Dearnley

5. Photographs, news cuttings, WWII documents etc belonging to Bernard & Kitty Card

Donor: Mrs J Soan

6. 7 photographs of Breeds and Sinden families

Donor: Mrs C Poulton

7. Programmes and posters for White Rock Baths and Hastings Pier

Donor: Mr M Glynn

8. Postcard of Carlisle Parade

Donor: Estate of Mrs A Georgiou

9. 14 photographs, mainly steam engines

Donor: Anon

10. Hastings Observer 7/4/1927 (Visit of Prince of Wales)

Daily Mirror 7/4/1927

Donor: Mr A Pepper

11. Documents re introduction of electrification to Tonbridge- Hastings line, 1987

Donor: Mr A Palfrey-Martin

12. O/S One-inch map of Hastings

Donor: Mr A Gunn

13. 15 photographs of WWII bomb damage, photographed 1948

Transfer from Legal Services

14. County Borough of Hastings fuel measures, 1960s

Donor: East Sussex County Council per Roger Cohen

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### **Wards Affected**

None

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### **Policy Implications**

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness      No

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Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	Yes
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	No
Local People's Views	No
Anti-Poverty	No

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**Additional Information**

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**Officer to Contact**

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