

**Agenda Item No:** 5

**Report to:** Museums Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 16 March 2015

**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 accepts the report and are satisfied with the comments in the report

---

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

---

## Introduction

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

1. The Old Town Hall Museum's final day open to the public will be Sunday 29 March. The collections will then be transferred to Johns Place.
2. Hastings Museum and Art Gallery was successful in the application to Arts Council England's Museum Resilience Fund and has been awarded £33,000. Hastings Museum and Art Gallery will undertake a thorough review of how it works, including governance, income generation, audience engagement, workforce development and its exhibition and activity programme. The review will support the museum to plan ahead and to help ensure its long-term resilience and continued success. The project will run from 1 April for 12 months.
3. The Accreditation return has been submitted and will be assessed over the next few weeks. The formal removal of the Old Town Hall Museum from the Accreditation scheme will be processed at the same time.
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. 'Young Curators' is a project led by HMAG, in partnership with Culture Shift and the Hastings & Rother Arts Education network, to give 14-19 year olds practical work experience of the Museum sector. This is part of the Museum's 'Hastings Remembers ...' project with additional funding from Culture Shift. Taster days have taken place, and sessions around the 'Uncovering Africa' display led to the young people leading the family activity day in February half-term. They will also design and deliver new Easter activities, and begin research on the role of women in WWI for a display and creative workshops later in 2015.
6. The Museum will join a group called 'Visitor Finder' in 2015: this is the museums strand of Audience Finder, funded by Arts Council England, to help museums to understand and use visitor data more effectively. By working as a cluster with peer museums in the local area, Visitor Finder will help in understanding more about visitors in the context of other museums. It provides insights into the demographics and profile, proximity, behaviour, attitudes and motivations of visitors.

---

**Wards Affected**

None

---

**Area(s) 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	Yes
Local People's Views	No

---

**Background Information**

---

**Officer to Contact**

Cathy Walling  
cwalling@hastings.gov.uk  
01424 451151

---