

Agenda Item No: 5

Report to: Museums Committee

Date of Meeting: 16 June 2014

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**

Reasons for Recommendations

Introduction

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

1. A visit to the Keep at Falmer took place on 11 April and was attended by 8 Committee and HBC staff members. A tour of the building and its facilities was most interesting and many Hastings maps and documents were available to be seen.
2. The National Trust asked for permission to move a painting of William Lamb currently on loan to Lamb House in Rye to facilitate the BBC filming of 'Mapp and Lucia' currently taking place.
3. The 'Hastings Remembers' WWI project has now gathered a team of volunteers and research is going ahead. A programme of training has also been arranged. Work on the exhibition, which opens on 26 July is currently underway.
4. The Museum now has active Twitter and Facebook accounts. Both are proving popular, with (as of 4 June 2014) 189 Twitter followers. In the current week Facebook posts have reached 3,795 people. The most popular item on Facebook has been an album of photographs of Hastings in the 1950s which has reached 4,168 people.
5. Rediscovering Ethnography in Kent & Sussex.
HMAG is one of five museums taking part in this project, led by Rachel Heminway-Hurst for Bexhill Museum and 100% funded by the Arts Council England Strategic Commissioning Fund. The project will pay for a three day review by freelance expert Len Pole of our less well-known ethnographic objects, in particular items from Eastern Europe, South America and Africa. We will then work with a freelance education specialist Sam Smith to develop a community project and resources using these collections. The first review day is scheduled for 18 August 2014. Outreach work will start in November 2014. There will be a display about our part of the project on the First Floor Walkway in spring 2015. The other partner museums are the Powell-Cotton Museum and Maidstone Museum & Bentrif Art Gallery (both Kent), Bexhill Museum (East Sussex) and Horsham Museum (West Sussex)

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
