



Kent Museums Group
Protecting Kent's Heritage

Minutes of the General Meeting

held at Ashford Borough Council on 19th September 2014

Present: Chair & Secretary: J Harrison; S Corn, C Boxer, S Gosling, T Hall (SEGfL), T Hill, D Greaves, C Boxer, J Shipman, R Morley, M Thomsett, Y Squire, M Boulding, R Dann, T West, A Edwards, J Adamson, C Smith (DAD), J Jones.

1. Apologies:

K Chaney, K Harris, M Goodhew, S Lace, D Boston, C Reader, D Wills, L Thompson, A Boxall, J Andrews, R O'Brien, A Freeman, C Griffiths, J Scott, J Hawkesworth, M Esain.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting & matters arising

Minutes of the meeting at Sevenoaks Museum on 7th May 2014 were approved.

3. Subscriptions

JH reminded members that subs now run from Jan 1st to Dec 31st and that, after Council approval of a specific price, the subs would be increased for 2015.

4. Dover Arts Project

Anne Edwards, Joanna Jones and Clare Smith gave members an interesting insight into their arts development project which includes museums. Their website is found at <http://www.dadonline.eu/> with the museum interaction at <http://www.dadonline.eu/portfolio/> There is a lot more on the site including blogs from some of the artists!

5. KMG website

JH thanked Sarah for funding the development of the new KMG website and showed members the site at <http://www.kentmuseumsgroup.org> The site includes recent minutes and agendas as well as links to member museum websites. Please check that the link to your site works and is to the correct page. Please email JH with any amendments.

6. South East Grid for Learning

Tim Hall from SEGfL showed us the ongoing development of the online map of museums in Kent which have a learning offer <http://www.engagingwithmuseums.org/museum-directory/> Schools can access this directory and find museums by selective criteria. It's quick and free for museums to register and add their details including what collections and resources they have. A great resource which will continue to grow and develop!

7. MDO Update

Micro-Scheme: projects and training

The 'Micro Scheme' of support allows museums to apply for funding to develop a 'micro-project' or 'micro-training' opportunity that can include hiring a consultant, purchasing equipment, attending training, or anything else that enables you to develop and meet your own organisational aims. For criteria guidelines and application forms, visit the [Micro Scheme](#) webpage.

NB: this is only available to museums working within the Accreditation Scheme or those working towards. Networks are able to apply.

Museum2Museum | Peer2Peer

- [New Visions for Museums and Public Health](#): Join us and a great selection of speakers to find out how museums can play a vital role in addressing the health and well-being agenda. Tuesday 30 September, The Beaney, Canterbury.
- [Volunteer Participation in Preventive Conservation](#): FULLY BOOKED.
- Social Media & Museums Peer2Peer, Friday 12 December, Tunbridge Wells – full details TBC.

Find out more on the [Museum2Museum](#) and the [Peer2Peer](#) webpages.

NB: attendance at these sessions is open to anyone working within museums, heritage, the arts or wider cultural organisations.

Other Training & Opportunities

Details of up-coming events can be found on our website on the [Training](#) pages.

Preventive Conservation

- **Case Studies**: There are now 4 new conservation related [Case Studies](#) up on our website
- **Useful Links**: Check out these useful links on our [Preventive Conservation webpage](#)
- **Training and Audits available**: Emily is offering [bespoke in-house training](#) AND a [preventive conservation audit](#) in October and November. But be quick - you will need to complete a request form and [email to Emily](#) asap.
- **Conservation Resources Bank**: Take a look at our [Conservation Resources Bank](#) to see what is available and for more details about requesting equipment.

NB: this is only available to museums working within the Accreditation Scheme or those working towards.

Building Engagement

'Building Engagement' is a series of small discrete projects that support museums to develop their learning and outreach offer for schools. Find out how you can receive support at the [Building Engagement](#) webpage.

NB: any museum or heritage venue can add their details to the 'Engaging with Museums' website, but only those within the Accreditation Scheme can receive bespoke learning consultancy support. Networks are able to apply.

Accreditation

Changes are taking place with the online Accreditation application form throughout October so any information saved but not submitted, will be lost. [Full details here](#). Find out about all the latest developments from ACE's Accreditation Team in our [Accreditation Update news](#) items.

Annual Return

To continue proving appropriate and effective support, advice, training and development, we need to hear from the museums we work with. That is why we have introduced the [South East Museums Annual Return](#), and ask all the regional museums to complete it once a year.

NB: moving forward, only museums who complete an Annual Return will be eligible for in-depth museum-specific projects (such as the Micro-Scheme, Preventive Conservation, Conservation Resources, Building Engagement consultancy support

SHOWCASE conference – Monday 10 November 2014, Brooklands Museum

With keynote speakers from the sector, and workshop speakers from the regions' museums themselves, this will be a great day of sharing, learning and networking. Full details of the day and how to book can be found on the [SHOWCASE webpage](#).

SEMDP bid to ACE for 2015-18

Read details from the bid, [here](#). We will find out if we have been successful on 26 September. The key themes we will focus on, are:

- *active collections; great experiences; better business; strong leadership*

The 'golden underlying threads' will be around *understanding your purpose* and *imagination*.

Each theme will have a series of regional and sub-regional projects and programmes of work that supports museums to transform themselves and work in new ways.

8. KMG Development

The meeting ran out of time at this point. KMG Council will discuss and report back.

9. AOB

There was no other business

10. Next Meeting

Details of next meeting will be confirmed asap

Thanks to Sarah Barber and Ashford BC for provision of our meeting room today.

Following the business meeting, Alex Seth Smith from the Textile Conservancy in Tenterden gave us a thorough insight into textile storage best practice, including a demonstration of the 'V&A Scrunch' <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRjXpjuIn8q&feature=youtu.be&list=UUn3RrT7Hfva2cgfc9cC6iEg>

For specialist advice, Alex can be contacted via <http://www.textile-conservation.co.uk>

Members' News

Fleur-de-Lis Museum, Faversham

Visitor numbers to date in 2014 are slightly down on last year, in line with most other Museums. Gallery Exhibition visitors are similar to 2014. The current exhibition features Faversham and WW1. Set up by Clive Foreman, it has received considerable praise.

Our accreditation deadline has been delayed from August until December since all the vital documentation had not been approved by the Trustees.

The new Faversham Society website and Facebook entries are proving very popular. A new version of the Society leaflet based on the website format has been distributed throughout the County.

Our Learning Activities Manager Julie Ricketts is nearing the end of her contract. The Villages project is complete - the attractive display boards will be mounted in the Museum at the end of the month.

The main display in the Entrance Foyer on Lord Boston has been replaced by an eye-catching exhibition on Hops and hop-picking – just in time for the Faversham Hop Festival!

Our 'new members evening' last month was very well attended and resulted in some more volunteering offers. Presentations were given on our Town walks system highlighting Faversham's incredible history and a digital showing of the historic Crosoer slides collection.

Chart Mills

Visitor numbers are up on last year, helped by several group visits. Visitors from far and wide found the Mills on our website.

Minster Gatehouse Museum

Thank you to all the schools which took part in the Sheppey Timeline art competition. The winning pictures have been painted into the mural on the 12th Century stairwell. Gordon Henderson MP launched it and those pictures will be there for generations to come!

Members of the Sheppey Local History Society will be delighted to hand over the archaeology boxes to a teacher of each of the local Primary schools, during opening times at the museum for events during 'Promenade' i.e. Saturday 20th September 2.00 to 4.30pm Fossil Roadshow Sunday 21st September 12.00 to 4.30pm.

Homage to war. As some of you know the archaeology boxes contain local historical artefacts. These boxes are for schools to borrow on a loan basis with the long term aim of swapping them around to the other schools. We hope they will give students a unique opportunity to handle original local historical artefacts thus helping children learn about their rich heritage on the Isle of Sheppey. If your school would rather have a presentation during their school assembly just let me know.

School visits can be arranged with a free 'recki' for risk assessment etc The annual open top coach trip took place on 6th September with two full trips around the island and tea in the Gatehouse afterwards. The museum will represent Promenade 2014 with the Fossil roadshow on Saturday 20th September and a Homage to war under the arch on Sunday 21st September.

The Gatehouse will be converted to a spooky place for the children's *Halloween* Activities during half term.

The KCC Finds Liaison Officer will be visiting on Saturday 1st November. Father Christmas will be visiting with some presents for children and a tableau of the South Pole will be on display in December.