



Kent Museums Group
Protecting Kent's Heritage

Minutes of the General Meeting

held at the Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre, Faversham on 13th October 2016

Present: Chair & Secretary: J Harrison, T West, M Goodhew, T Hill, M Thomsett, R Morley, H Wootton, A Edwards, J Shipman, H Wells, M Slythe, Sarah Brown (Collections Trust)

1. Apologies:

C Foreman, J Jones, Inbal Livne, J Low, L Elliot, R Dann, C Boxer, D Wills (Treasurer)

JH noted that Rod Dann from Cranbrook had been very ill recently but is recovering; best wishes to him from all the members!

2. Minutes of the previous meeting & matters arising

Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting at the Beaney House of Art & Knowledge on 24th November 2015 were approved.

3. Harwell Document Recovery Service

After discussions by KMG Council, we have agreed to take over the HDRS administration from Sarah at Brighton & Hove Council. KMG had paid the annual subscription and will be issuing invoices in due course.

4. New MDO

JH has been Acting MDO since April but the SEMDP has now appointed a new MDO to replace Sarah following her promotion to Programme Leader. Most of you will be familiar with Joanna Low, who worked as MDO from 2004 to 10, working latterly with Sarah in a job share before Sarah went full time. Jo started in post on the 3rd of October but hasn't received an official email address yet. This should be circulated via the SEMDP e-newsletter which, if you don't receive it, got to <http://southeastmuseums.org/> and click the button top-right of the home page.

In the meantime, Jo is keen to promote the Development Grants as there is still money available http://southeastmuseums.org/grants#.WAlOi_krKHs whilst also asking that members have a good think about their training needs as she will be carrying out a full training audit in order to plan training that suits your needs.

Jo will be working part-time (2.5 days/wk) and mostly the mornings.

5. Kent & Medway Collaborative Network

Lisa Batchelor from KMCN gave a short but interesting presentation on the work of this organisation. It is funded by government to promote further education to potential students; particularly with 40 specific schools in Kent but also, with another part of its organization, to all the schools in Kent. It also collaborates with University Outreach Officers in the County (including UCAS) to develop opportunities for interesting extra-curricular opportunities to enrich FE courses, most of which are curricular but with

room for more flexible, aspirational course. KMCN can circulate related news and opportunities to their partner schools etc whilst their website is a portal site to highlight projects and connect with potential partners.

JH met with a representative earlier in the summer and there is mutual interest in collaboration between museums and schools where individual projects that create new relationships between the two sectors could be supported. This is especially relevant as HLF's funding stream 'Young Roots' focuses on partnership projects between museums and non-museum partners aimed at young people.

A stakeholder meeting is the natural progression for us to develop a useful relationship with KMCN. This should take place in early 2017 as KMCN has an administrative reorganization to complete by Dec 2016. For more information go to <http://kentandmedway.org/>

6. KMG Development

JH updated members on KMG Council activity over the summer towards developing the Group:

Further to the Group discussions last year on potential areas for development, the ideas had evolved into KMG becoming a direct and supportive 'umbrella' for the existing, informally constituted sub-regional museum groups, whilst also trying to engender two new groups (Thanet and NW Kent & Medway). The previously discussed relationships with non-museum heritage stakeholders also evolved into the creation of a one-year Museum Engagement Officer to work alongside the MDO to develop such relationships and support two projects which would, effectively, create two new sub-regional groups to strengthen museum networking right across the County.

These ideas were worked up into a Resilience Fund application to Arts Council England for £57,000 which, unfortunately, was unsuccessful. There was some very positive feedback but the application hadn't made it clear how an improved and more influential KMG would work with the MDO programme, despite strong support during drafting from Richard at CHDT and Sarah Corn... a blind spot created largely because we already work together so well.

KMG Council has met subsequently and agreed to revert to the original development path, including the registration of KMG as a CIO (Association Model). Whilst this unfolded, Swale Museums Gp has received money to investigate the possibilities surrounding formalization as a CIO, an outcome that would facilitate project development and funding within the Group as it would then have a bank account etc. Martin pointed that the outcome of the scoping exercise might not lead to such formalization and that SMG would still need KMG to act as an 'umbrella', where project funding and support would be administered by KMG. Hence KMG may still develop towards managing such a County-wide network.

7. KMG Council

JH noted the addition of a new Council Member – Inbal Livne, Head of Collections, Powell-Cotton Museum. Inbal has worked as an ethnographer at the National Museums of Scotland previously and is a great asset to our professional teams in Kent & Medway; predictably, we are pleased to welcome her to KMG Council.

With a mind to the extra work required to develop KMG, and the fact we do not have a Secretary or Vice Chair (see below re postponement of next meeting whilst JH is out of the country), JH will be targeting individuals to join KMG Council.

8. Any other business

- a) Mary circulated information about the Wheels of Time project – a promotional vehicle based on the Passport Scheme for Children developed by Maidstone Museum a few years ago. The Scheme – involving children collecting badges received when visiting participating museum – has proved to be very successful, with more museums joining the scheme. New museums can join the scheme for free by the end of December <https://wheelsoftime.uk/>

9. Date, time and place of next meeting

Next meeting date and venue yet to be confirmed but the November meeting will be postponed until early 2017

Presentation from Sarah Brown, Outreach Officer for the Collections Trust (formerly MDA)

Sarah gave a fluent and engaging presentation on the current process of redrafting the Spectrum Standard 4.0 for collections documentation and management, including a reorganization of their website www.collectionstrust.org.uk

The intention is to provide more face-to-face relationships and a fuller training programme with more support and Standards management.

The redraft will streamline a lot of the language and complexities of the Standard and should be out for consultation in January 2017

Sarah's presentation will be attached to the email circulating these minutes.

Sarah welcomes direct queries to sarah@collectionstrust.org.uk or office@collectionstrust.org.uk