



## Kent Museums Group

Protecting Kent's Heritage

### Minutes of the General Meeting

held at The Beaney, Canterbury on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2013

**Present:** Chair & Secretary: J Harrison; S Corn, J Fryer, R Morley, C Boxer, T Hill, T West, R Dann, J Adamson.

Before our meeting Craig Bowen, The Beaney's Collections Manager, gave a short introduction to the recent redevelopment of the museum.

#### 1. Apologies:

C Griffiths, C Ward, K Harris, T Whitling, J Thornton Higgs, M Esain, J Jones, C Reader, D Wills.

#### 2. Minutes of the previous meeting & matters arising

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting at Maidstone Museum on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2012 were approved.

#### 3. Subscriptions

David Wills will be circulating a list of those members who have paid their 2013 subscription. If your name is not on that list and you wish to remain a member please send your payment to David as soon as possible.

#### 4. Meetings for 2013

The meeting in May is yet to be organized but, after discussion by those present and an offer from Sarah, it was decided to dedicate a meeting to the subject of safeguarding & CRB. Members attending this meeting will receive payment for CRB checks from Sarah.

The other two meetings in the year are Adrian Babbidge presenting on the new CIO Trust status on **September 23<sup>rd</sup>** at The Fleur de Lis in Faversham and Alex Seth-Smith presenting on Textile Conservation on **November 14<sup>th</sup>** at Ashford Borough Council Offices.

#### 5. Archaeological Storage

Members will remember recent attempts to organize a group to discuss and rationalize the huge problem of adequate storage for archaeological collections across the region. Sarah had more success by organizing a museum representative meeting on the subject at Maidstone Museum recently.

Recent news on the subject: the Phase 1 HLF application by KCC et al to redevelop an existing building at Dover Castle had failed and there is no plan to re-apply; Sarah's meeting had initiated a mapping exercise to show who was responsible for any new finds etc across the region – plans for this include GIS mapping on KCC website eventually; conclusions from meeting seemed to indicate only radical solutions will now help this long running problem....robust collecting policies which limit post excavation depositions and review of existing archives; Sarah can now help individual museums with the archaeological component of their Collections Development Policies if any decide to collect archaeology; Sussex Archaeological Working Party is having a meeting on the 19th April at 11am in

the William IV Room in the Royal Pavilion, Brighton where they will be joined by Quinton Caroll. Quinton will give a presentation on his experience of a deep storage for archaeological archives from Cambridgeshire.

## **6. MDO News**

Sarah gave report of her current and future work/planning:

- a. Current end of year reporting and performance indicators for 2012/13
- b. Proposed annual recording of museum stats in the SE based on 'Fast Forward' program to help develop museum advocacy. Sarah is employing Kate Pontin, an experienced museum consultant/professional to research how we currently collect data and to inform a future program.
- c. Continuation of Micro-Consultancy Programme outlined by Sarah last November: more focussed project support designed to meet individual needs; covers most eventualities especially relating to Accreditation but projects must be specified in forward plan. Contact Sarah for advice/info.
- d. Training related to digital technology, social networking and digital preservation (scanning projects)
- e. Support on volunteer capacity/development and succession
- f. Support for World War I anniversary/commemoration projects
- g. Now a Preventive Conservator available for Kent & Medway museums to provide free advice. Sarah also offering free cleaning kits.
- h. ACE support available to fund projects which bring arts into museums e.g. allowing local art practitioners special access to collections to inspire their creative process; works produced can then add to the museums exhibitions programme and attract new audiences.

## **7. Any Other Business**

JH told members that Kim Norton has now retired from her post at Dover Museum & Art Gallery. She moves to Scotland with her husband to breed Alpaca! All agreed she would be sorely missed in Dover and around the region for her sterling contributions to Learning and museum development.

## **8. Next Meeting**

Many thanks to Joanna Jones and her team for provision of our meeting room and facilities today! Details of the next meeting will be circulated in good time once a date has been confirmed.

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Following the business meeting, members were led through the subject of Collections Reviews and Disposals by Cultural Consultant Robert Taylor. Robert gave us an insightful talk based on his wide experience as a Curator and his notes are attached as a separate pdf. Phil Hadland from The Beaney

attended to join the discussion and to provide feedback on Canterbury Museums' project to review its collections, especially those at Herne Bay.

**\*\*\* REMINDER – 2012-13 subscriptions now overdue! \*\*\***

email JH for a subs invoice if you have lost yours.

## **Members' News**

### **Fleur-de-Lis Museum, Faversham**

Despite a good year in 2012, visitor numbers for the Museum this year so far are stagnant - perhaps the miserable weather kept people at home? However there has been a rise for the exhibition gallery, partly due to an excellent display of posters and photographs from our archives.

Our new Learning Manager, Dr. Moya Dean, is still keeping very busy improving our educational facilities – one of her recent projects was another enjoyable Family Fun Day in the Library with lots of hands-on activities.

The Secret Gardens events held by the Faversham Society (our governing body) every year in Faversham have been cancelled for 2013 but a new volunteer has stepped forward to lead the projects in 2014