

AGENDA ITEM NO. x

Committee:	EASTLEIGH MUSEUM JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	Friday 11 DECEMBER
Title of Report:	COMMUNITY MANAGER'S REPORT
Author:	EMMA BANKS

Purpose:

Report on activities at or relating to Eastleigh Museum
Covering period February 2020-November 2020

1. Providing a Welcoming and Well Maintained Museum

1.1 Museum Service Delivery

Visitor figures for 2019/20 overall were down on the 2018/19 figures. However, we did see growth in November and January owing to popular events and exhibitions. Namely the Santa's Grotto, Community Christmas Tree Exhibition and the modern art exhibition Wonderland.

The financial year was cut short by the Covid-19 pandemic. In mid-March 2020 the site was closed. During lockdown One Community team member, Naomi Stock ensured regular Health & Safety checks and essential maintenance we carried out.

Repair work was completed by HCC on the skylight in the museum in June 2020, bringing much more natural light into the rear of the building and ensuring that the skylight is now watertight.

Prior to reopening again in August 2020 the Community Manager carried out a Covid-19 risk assessment for the site. A number of measures were implemented including limiting numbers of people on site, a suite of informational signage installed, hand sanitiser stations installed and face coverings issued to team members. All One Community staff and volunteer museum team members attended a 'Return to the Workplace' training session led by the Community Manager outlining the new measures in place.

Following the training the site was opened to the public on 1st August 2020.

The site then closed again due to the second lockdown in November and reopened on Friday 4th December.

Looking forwards we continue to have a diverse programme of exhibitions planned which will be supplemented with events and activities where appropriate and Covid secure.

1.2 Visitor Figures

Year	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Totals
2009 – 2010	2179	1864	1521	2574	2693	2046	2401	1714	1300	3087	3598	3236	28,213
2010 – 2011	2372	1567	1780	2493	3205	2091	2349	1881	1151	1236	2109	1759	24,041
2011 – 2012	1713	1408	1516	2022	2322	1805	1542	1351	1297	1140	1550	1321	18,987
2012 – 2013	923	163	1153	1131	1640	1213	1153	2018	962	1094	1576	1236	14,252
2013 – 2014	1470	1523	1279	1405	2461	1571	1910	1788	1139	1538	1692	1738	19,514
2014 – 2015	1926	3052	1561	1961	1465	1501	1470	1382	850	905	1188	1078	18,339
2015-2016	1655	1435	1431	1674	1434	1248	1746	1876	1310	1032	1208	1122	17,171
2016-2017	1367	1236	1807	1331	1520	1232	1241	1641	966	796	1295	1097	16,006
2017-2018	1204	1490	1265	3094	1551	1508	1399	2151	1303	1048	1354	1262	18,629
2018 – 2019	1193	1029	1194	1303	1742	1596	1031	1477	1124	808	1102	1113	14,608
2019-2020	955	761	1179	951	1440	1202	757	1614	1051	861	1072	635	12,248
2020-2021	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	294	491	423	175					

2. Hosting Special Temporary Exhibitions and Family Events

'Wonderland' January 11th 2020-February 22nd 2020

The Wonderland exhibition featured contemporary artworks from four local artists. It included paintings, surreal constructions and found sounds as a conduit for the artists to explore environments and to invite the viewer in.



Figure 1 Wonderland Exhibition Flier

'All That Jazz' – 29th February-25 April 2020 (extended until 5 September 2020)

Eastleigh Museum hosted an exhibition telling the story of jazz and its impact in the local area, particularly in the post-war period.

The exhibition covered how jazz contributed not just to the development of popular music, but also had an impact on the look of everyday objects from ceramics to textiles, fashion to interior design. We'll also be telling stories of local jazz legends such as Nat Gonella, as well as the local clubs that did so much to promote a sound that gave its name to the Jazz Age.

The exhibition was halted by the Covid-19 lockdown in March 2020 so was extended until 5 September 2020.

'Life Through The Lens' – 12 September 2020-14 November 2020

This exhibition invited visitors to immerse themselves in over 100 years of work, rest and play in the Eastleigh borough through black and white photographs.

This selection of photographs was selected from the Hampshire Cultural Trust photographic collection, transporting us back in time to the heyday of the railway in Eastleigh.



Figure 2 Group outside the Salvation Army Barracks, High Street, Eastleigh, 1894 (Now the home of Eastleigh Museum)

The exhibition closed earlier than planned due to the Covid-19 lockdown in November 2020.

Hate Crime Awareness Days - 14th & 15th October

To help promote Hate Crime Awareness Week 10-17 October 2020. One Community and Hampshire Constabulary ran two awareness days to help reach the community and give advice of the support available. Eastleigh Museum is a third party hate crime reporting centre.

Along with Naomi Stock, a PCSO and a positive action coordinator from Hampshire Constabulary facilitated the event.



Figure 3 Hate Crime Awareness Days

Half Term Trail – 26 October until 31st October

A Halloween Half Term museum trail for families was delivered by One Community with 30 participants.

3. Caring for collections, promoting access, providing specialist knowledge & advice

3.1 Collections Care

The Community Manager carried out a survey of collections to identify any objects that could potentially contain asbestos. This list is being reviewed by the HCT conservation team. There were no items identified to be of immediate concern and requiring quarantine.

4. Inspiring Learning and Community Engagement

4.1 Community Engagement

One Community

From the Information Centre at Eastleigh Museum, One Community provides information, support and signposting to local agencies, to meet the needs of all comers. In addition to information about local support agencies, local activities, such as clubs, fetes and all manner of events that contribute to a flourishing community life are also promoted.

Horizon 20:20

The Horizon programme has continued to support vulnerable young people in The Bridge Education Centre. During the time when face-to-face activity was not possible HCT secured funding through Youth Endowment Fund to offer resources and online sessions for young people. 20 Creative Boxes shared out by the Bridge Education Centre.

The following workshops took place in the Spring Term.

- February - 2 Printmaking with artist Sarah Gaiger
- March - 5 Animation sessions

64 young people participated in these sessions and 20 people received creative boxes as part of the Create and Connect programme.

In August there were continued opportunities to engage with online workshops and resources open to young people in Eastleigh through Hampshire Children's Services.

With felt making sessions with artist Jono Retallick and in November artist led session with Thomas Cooke. 30 young people participated in these sessions.



Figure 4 Printmaking workshop

5. Marketing and Management

5.1 Social Media

HCT Facebook now has over 5000 “likes” and twitter 6000 followers. Events at Eastleigh are promoted on both social media sites on an ongoing basis.

5.2 Other Marketing Projects

The Eastleigh venue leaflet continues to be produced and is professionally distributed across the region and is at every HCT venue as well as Eastleigh itself.

5.3 Culture on Call

When venues closed an online offer, Culture On Call was developed by HCT and launched 3 April. From 3 April until 31 October there were 57,118 page views and 26,969 sessions. You can view online content at <https://www.cultureoncall.com/> including the Eastleigh exhibition Life Through The Lens <https://www.cultureoncall.com/life-in-eastleigh-through-the-lens/> and Bursledon Windmill Tree Trail.

6. Other Projects

Industrious Minds

We are delighted to announce that our successful National Heritage Lottery Funded project 'Industrious Minds' has commenced with our Project Officer Paola Palma starting in her one day a week position at the beginning of November.

The project will commence with an online consultation meeting with partners and interested groups from the Eastleigh Borough. We will then take this feedback to adapt our project plan in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Industrious Minds is an 18-month project working with up to 40 young people to engage them with the industrial heritage of Eastleigh. Utilising Hampshire Cultural Trust's local collections, the local studies area at Eastleigh Museum and built heritage of Eastleigh, young people will investigate how past industry has shaped present day, and how current industry will shape our future. There will also be a focus on the impact of industry on the environment in response to Eastleigh Borough Council declaring a climate emergency.

The project will provide young people with a voice, responding to these topics through a collaborative exhibition, digital interpretation and artist response which will go on to tour around the borough. The outcomes created by young people during Industrious Minds will also inform Eastleigh Museum's new venue and interpretation plan, embedding their voices into the future development of the museum. Our main aims are to inspire young people to engage with Eastleigh's heritage and to help inspire pride of place among Eastleigh Borough residents.

We hope that the project will include partners Eastleigh Borough Council, One Community, The Bridge Education Centre and Energy Youth Club.

The Eastleigh Connection, Eastleigh Museum – Options Appraisal

Consultants Oxford Cultural Associates have been commissioned to carry out an options appraisal for Eastleigh Museum and began work in October 2020.

They have completed the first phase of their work and will be leading on a community consultation process over the coming months. Please see the Update and Community Engagement Consultation Plan attached. The consultants will update the JMC at the meeting on progress to date, and consult the group on future plans.

The Options Appraisal project has been funded by the South Western Railways Customer and Communities Improvement Fund.

7. Future Activity

Upcoming exhibitions for 2020 include an exhibition from local photographer Antony Lowe and an internal Hampshire Cultural Trust Exhibition on 'Early Eastleigh'.



Figure 5 Photograph of Bursledon Windmill by Antony Lowe

Emma Banks
November 2020