



SEAFORD MUSEUM AND HERITAGE SOCIETY

FORWARD PLAN – 2015

1. Introduction

2015 is the 36th year that Seaford Museum has been situated at Martello Tower 74, a small Napoleonic fort situated on the beach in Seaford, East Sussex. The Museum rent the Tower from Seaford Town Council for a peppercorn rent.

The Museum contains an archive and collections relating to local history but also has collections of items reflecting social and domestic history.

The Museum is entirely run by unpaid volunteers and has an average budget of about £24,000. Last year approximately 4,800 people, as individuals or in groups, visited the Museum. The Museum continues to apply for small grants for specific projects and is well supported by the local business community and has close links with the local Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Clubs.

The Society has a membership of approximately 600 of whom approximately 75 work to keep the Museum running.

The budget for last year was £24,701, and the anticipated expenditure for this year is £24,000 excluding building work.

The Museum has a collection of 47,323 items in its collection (archive and artefacts).

2. Mission Statement

The object of Seaford Museum is to inform and educate the public in the history and heritage of the town of Seaford and its environs and to seek to promote a greater understanding of the social history and background of the town amongst its inhabitants.

3. Objectives for 2015

- i. De-clutter and revise displays, including the meeting room. Clear a wall in the meeting room for temporary displays and introduce “This Month's Item”.
- ii. Stewarding levels are adequate at the moment but will need to increase when the improved access work is completed.
- iii. The revised opening hours are working well but consideration will be given to increasing opening times during the summer holidays.
- iv. Investigate opening when events are taking place in the Martello Fields.

- v. Review signage and try to find a sponsor for the replacement sign on the scaffolding fence.
- vi. Consider introducing a number of small trips out.

4. Ongoing Matters

- i. To encourage the use of the Museum by young people by means of the Education Officer maintaining the excellent links with schools in Seaford and other areas and to promote special events for young people during the school holidays.
- ii. To encourage the use of the Museum by community groups and outside organisations such as U3A.
- iii. To continue to make the archives available to researchers and members of the public and, where necessary, make arrangements for access outside of normal opening hours.
- iv. To continue to monitor visitors' comments through the examination of the visitor's book and feedback from stewards. Occasional visitor surveys will be carried out during 2015.
- v. To continue to hold educational public lectures, provide a quarterly magazine and special interest visits for the public.
- vi. To generate sufficient income to run the Museum through fundraising events and increase such events, group visits and increase visitor numbers.
- vii. To continue to hold re-enactment events as a benefit to the local community and tourism.
- viii. To co-operate with the South Downs National Park Authority.

This Forward Plan was agreed by the Committee at its meeting held on 14th January, 2015 and will be reviewed at the January, 2016 planning meeting.