

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Cabinet	Date:	15 July 2015
Subject:	Museums Service Events Planned for July – December 2015		
Report Of:	Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
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Appendices:	1. What's On Guide		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform Cabinet of forthcoming events planned for the City and Folk Museums from July to December 2015.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that:

- (1) The schedule of events listed in paragraphs 3.1 – 3.12.1, which support the recommendations of the Cultural Services Review aimed at increasing footfall and revenue into the Museums be noted
- (2) The report and the Appendix be widely distributed.

3.0 Museums Service - forthcoming events planned for July – December 2015

3.1 Regular clubs and events

- 3.1.1 A number of monthly and weekly clubs and events are held throughout the year: Art Club on the first Wednesday of each month at the City Museum, 10-12 p.m. (*at Folk Museum in July and August*); Sewing Circle on the first Wednesday of every month at the City Museum, 2.30 – 4.30 p.m.; Gloucester Museum Detectives Club once a month at the Folk Museum between September and November; Toddler mornings at the City Museum on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month (*except school holidays*); Crafty Corner every Saturday at the City Museum; Folk Museum Trails available all the time, with new themes every month.

3.2 Exhibitions

- 3.2.1 **'WOW! Rugby' 4th July – 31st October, City Museum, Touring Gallery.** This summer sees the much anticipated 'WOW! Rugby' exhibition open at the City Museum. To celebrate Gloucester being a host City for this year's Rugby World

Cup visitors can expect to be 'WOW'ed with so much to enjoy. Featuring world-class objects, hands-on interactives, and lots of historical facts and figures relating to the game of Rugby, at home and all over the world.

- 3.2.2 **'100 Years of the W.I.' Until 1st November, Folk Museum, Touring Gallery.** So much more than baking and jam, members of the Gloucestershire Women's Institutes have come together to showcase the skills and crafts they have learnt, on this the 100th anniversary year of the Women's Institute. The exhibition will explore the fascinating story and achievements of the largest women's voluntary organisation.
- 3.2.3 **European Art Quilts VII, 14th November 2015 – 5th March 2016, City Museum, Touring Gallery.** A fascinating collection of 47 works, showcasing the medium of art quilting as a form of modern art. The exhibition has toured all over Europe and has been met with rave reviews. So time that this was brought to Gloucester to be enjoyed by all across our own region. A fully illustrated exhibition guidebook will be available from November onwards at a cost of £10.
- 3.2.4 **Time and Place, 18th July – 26th September, City Museum, Community Gallery.** Inspired by the "Crucible2" exhibition held at Gloucester Cathedral in September 2014, the artwork on display has been produced by St Peter's High AS/A Level art students who have combined visual elements in response to the theme 'Time and Place'. The exhibition is an accumulation of prints, paintings, drawing studies and 3D ceramic vessels. The artwork captures the essence of "Time and Place" within the local community and surrounding areas.
- 3.2.5 **'Me, Myself and I', 3rd October – 28th November 2015, City Museum, Community Gallery.** The Year 10 GCSE students at Sir William Romney's School have completed a project called 'Me Myself and I', which is based upon themselves and their lives. They have explored their childhood, their family, their hobbies and their future aspirations. In doing so, they have created a range of energetic and inspirational artwork.
- 3.2.6 **'Roots', by Artist Febby Mpundu, 5th December – 6th February 2016, City Museum, Community Gallery.** A collection of portraits inspired by a journey to Zambia. Febby has explored her personal identity, by better understanding the heritage and culture of the area. The subjects are unknown to onlookers, and yet their intimate gazes and slight expressions are reaching out and connecting beyond the art. The work reveals information about these people from their clothes, their hair, and the murky background. The personalities featured in the portraits were strangers to the artist at first, but working with them created a connection that will last for a long time to come.

3.3 Plays

- 3.3.1 **The Scriptorium Playwright's Workshop Presents – 'ONLY IN GLOUCESTER' Three brand new plays by local writers.**
Come along and see some fantastic new plays based on our very own City. Thanks to Arts Council funding the Scriptorium project has allowed upcoming Scriptwriters and Directors the opportunity to showcase their talent, and has resulted in three brand new plays – being performed in our own Museum spaces at the end of July. Tickets are available for £7 each via the museum website or from the City Museum

directly. Please note that age restrictions are in place as certain plays do contain adult content.

- 3.3.2 **'Rotten Luck', 4pm, 24th July, Folk Museum, 12.30pm & 3.30pm, 25th July, Folk Museum.** *Written by Lou Beckett and performed by MPG productions*
A hangman at Gloucester jail recounts the true tale of two people imprisoned for crimes in the early 1800s. Both face the death penalty. Will they hang, or will fortune provide a last minute reprieve? Suitable for ages 14 years and over.
- 3.3.3 **'The Drop of a Pin', 11am & 2pm, 25th July, Folk Museum.** *Written by Carol Sheppard and performed by Brick Door Theatre.* A family of Victorian pin workers imprisoned by poverty are tempted to take in a mysterious lodger. While on the streets of Gloucester a series of murders occur. Is there a link? Suitable for ages 14 years and over.
- 3.3.4 **'As Sure As God's in Gloucester', 3pm & 5pm, 25th July, City Museum.** *Written by Rhona Smith and performed by Ignite Theatre.* A contemporary psychological drama about a soldier imprisoned by his past. With poignant memories of childhood and friendship flooding his thoughts, as he stands at the Cross deciding his future. Suitable for ages 16 years and over (contains strong language).

3.4 Activity Days

- 3.4.1 Themed days will be held every Wednesday through the summer school holidays, with staff dressed in historical costume, object handling sessions, children's activities and an opportunity for visitors to come in costume too.

Tudor Day	22 nd July, Folk Museum
Dinosaur Day	29 th July, City Museum
Victorian Day	5 th August, Folk Museum
Roman Day	12 th August, City Museum
WWII Day	19 th August, Folk Museum
Medieval Day	26 th August, City Museum

3.5 Museums After Hours

- 3.5.1 Following the success of the Museums at Night event earlier this year, both museums will be open for the evening, 6pm – 9pm on these dates:
- City Museum – 25th September, 27th November;
 - Folk Museum – 26th September, 28th November.

3.6 Heritage Open Days

- 3.6.1 Both museums will be free to Gloucester residents for the whole weekend, with the following themes:
- Roman day - 12th September (City Museum),
 - Victorian day - 13th September (Folk Museum).

3.7 Tours

- 3.7.1 **Behind the Scenes Tours at the City Museum**, 11am and 2pm, 12th September & 28th November

- 3.7.2 **Eastgate Chamber Tours with a Roman Soldier**, 1pm, 2pm & 3pm, 18th July, 25th July, 1st August, 8th August, 15th August, 22nd August
- 3.7.3 **Eastgate Chamber Tours**, 11am, meeting at City Museum, 1st & 22nd July, 5th & 19th August, 2nd, 23rd & 30th September, 14th & 28th October
- 3.7.4 **Roman Gloucester Tours**, 10.30am, meeting at City Museum, 10th, 24th & 31st July, 14th & 28th August, 18th & 25th September, 9th, 23rd & 30th October
- 3.7.5 **Candle-Lit Tours of the Folk Museum Building**, 27th & 28th November, 6pm & 7pm
- 3.7.6 **Folk Museum Building Tours on Heritage Open Days**, 10th & 11th September

3.8 Workshops

- 3.8.1 'Museum Makers' Craft workshops are for children of any age, and are held in the morning and afternoon:
 - **Museum Mice**
22nd July, Folk Museum
 - **Mini Monsters**
28th July, City Museum
 - **Notebook Covers**
4th August, Folk Museum
 - **Felt Space Rockets**
11th August, City Museum
 - **Stitch A Shark**
18th August, Folk Museum
 - **Eyeball Hacky Sacks**
27th October, City Museum

3.9 Annual events

3.9.1 Cotton Motorcycle Rally 2015

The Cotton Motorcycle Club's AGM will be held on 8th August at the Folk Museum. There will be many motorcycles on display for the public to see, both owned by the museum and privately owned by club members.

3.9.2 Apple Day 2015

Our traditional Apple day event will be held on 24th October at the Folk Museum. The traditional Cider Mill at the Folk Museum makes its annual appearance as Apple Day returns to create lots of fun for all. Come along and see the horse crush the apples, taste some local cider, or have a go at crushing yourself! A great day out for all, featuring lots of rare varieties of apple.

3.9.3 St Nicholas Wishing Tree

10am – 3pm, 17th November – 12th December (Tuesdays – Saturdays), City Museum

10am – 3pm, every Saturday until 12th December, Folk Museum

3.10 Murder Mystery event

- 3.10.1 There will be a Murder Mystery event in the evening of 30th October at the Folk Museum. Numbers will be limited and tickets for the event must be bought in advance.

3.11 Rugby World Cup events

3.11.1 The World Cup Trophy Tour comes to the City Museum on Thursday 16th July from 3 – 5 p.m. The trophy will be on display in Café Nerva along with its minders and there will be activities for children. A flyer for this event will be distributed to all Gloucester Schools at the beginning of July.

3.11.2 The Mini Scrumpty trail will be available from 18th July – 31st October at both museums during opening hours. All winners will be entered into a draw to win a Scrumpty and a WOW Rugby rucksack. All entrants who complete trails at all four Gloucester museums will be entered into a big prize draw.

3.12 Retro Festival

3.12.1 The Museums are pleased to be supporting the Retro Festival on the 29th and 30th August with a stall in Westgate Street and staff in costume (1900s – 1940s). Both museums will be open on Saturday 29th and additionally the Folk Museum will be open on Sunday 30th. A flyer for this event will be distributed to all Gloucester schools before they break up for summer.

4.0 Alternative Options Considered

4.1 There are no alternative options to this matter.

5.0 Reasons for Recommendations

5.1 A good events programme is essential to attract a larger audience and so increase income.

6.0 Future Work and Conclusions

6.1 Footfall and income is monitored closely and will be taken into account when planning the next series of events.

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 The Museums Service operates at a cost to the City Council, and events are planned to minimise expenditure, maximise income and increase footfall.

7.2 Events will be advertised widely to reach a wide potential audience and a greater proportion of the budget will be spent on marketing than in previous years. This is seen as a good investment as a greater footfall will mean a greater income.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation of the report)

8.0 Legal Implications

8.1 The Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 empowers the Council to provide and maintain museums and art galleries and to charge for admission.

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation of this report)

9.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

9.1 All key risks are covered by the Museums Risk Register and controls are in place.

10.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA):

10.1 The Museums, as part of the City Council, work with a broad range of partners to deliver a programme that is available and accessible to all of our community.

10.2 Events, activities and exhibitions are planned to appeal to a wide range of ages and interests.

10.3 Throughout the year there are planned free events and open days, so that admission charges do not prevent anyone from enjoying the museums.

10.4 All impacts are neutral; therefore a full PIA is not needed.

11.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety

11.1 The Museums' Service provides a safe environment for our community and visitors. All Museum staff have undergone safeguarding training and all staff who work directly with children have been DBS checked.

Sustainability

11.2 The Museums are taking active steps to become more economically sustainable.

Staffing & Trade Union

11.3 Staff are involved in events, and these are part of their normal duties.

Background Documents: None