



## Museum Management Working Group Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017

### Museum Society Chairman's Report

At the last Board Meeting of the Society on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, I was pleased to be able to report that the Development Committee of the Society were advised of the future development of the Castle. We understand that following the discussion the Chairman and David Tomlinson (St. Mary's Church) had with the leader, Howard Rolfe, the inclusion of the Castle within this group has been agreed. That the MMWG can now co-ordinate the Castle development with the Museum development will greatly assist with the Phase II bid for Lottery funding.

The Heritage Development Team will meet on 21<sup>st</sup> June to progress the co-ordination of the Heritage assets of the town. The Fry Art Gallery and the Town Library Society are invited to this meeting in addition to the Castle involvement. We are pleased to note that the Town Development plan has acknowledged the future development of the Museum. We were pleased to hear that the UDC budget for the Museum has been increased to enable the re-establishment of the Learning & Outreach officer vacant since the post was vacated by Gemma Tully in October 2015. The Board has approved the draft proposals for the Phase I and II of the Development of the Museum which are to be discussed at this meeting. The Board also authorised the Museum Society representatives on this group to agree both the initial details of the application and the final application form, as required. The matched funding contribution has been agreed in the sum of £7,500.

The Board also recorded that the sum of £1,000 has been paid for the project to digitise the series of 19th century illustrated accession registers. Volunteers have entered these onto spreadsheets so that they are now available to both staff and store volunteers on computer. Volunteers continue to man the visitor desk, and assist in the Shirehill store. Richard Priestley is to assist the interview team for the new Learning officer. Plans are in hand for the preview of the next exhibition in August.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> January, Society members had a private preview of the current exhibition 'Completing the Look: 300 Years of Fashion Accessories'. Leah Mellors who has curated this exhibition was rewarded by a large attendance of members and guests. The Spring series of talks, organised by Carol Law, has continued in March with 'Dressing up - British portraits of the 18th century': in April 'Darwin's Life in Letters': in May 'The history of horseracing in Newmarket' and the talk in June will complement the current exhibition with a talk on 300 years of jewellery design.

**Tony Watson**  
12<sup>th</sup> June 2017



Visit our web site at: [www.swmuseumsoc.org.uk](http://www.swmuseumsoc.org.uk)

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