



# Newsletter

## January 2019

### Happy New Year to all HMSSG Members and Museum Supporters.

In this newsletter you can find news and information about:

- ✚ Recent and forthcoming Museum and HMSSG events and activities
- ✚ Herefordshire Council's timetable for 'outsourcing' its Museum, Library and Archives (MLA) Services

And (see page 3):

- ✚ Why HMSSG needs **your help** to continue championing and supporting the Museum Service through 2019 and beyond.

**2018 ended with seasonal Museum activities and events**, including festive decorations at the Black and White House and the Christmas Craft fair at Broad Street. The Art Gallery exhibition about Humphrey Repton's Garden design work by Hereford and Worcester Gardens Trust, with input from Museum Curators, proved very popular; it ended with an HMSSG event on November 30<sup>th</sup>: it was a pleasure to see HMSSG members and colleagues from other organisations there.

There were two particularly pleasing elements in this exhibition: several landscape paintings from the Museum's Art Collection – some of them not so often displayed – were included; and as a result of HMSSG's fundraising activities by Annabelle Elletson, 5 display cases were purchased so that precious objects such as originals of Repton's famous 'Red Books' on garden design could be displayed with suitable protection.



*Some of the guests in the Art Gallery at the closing evening of the Humphrey Repton exhibition hear what Miriam (Chair of HMSSG) has to say about the Museum's future (see page 3 below).*

*One of the moveable secure white display cases purchased by HMSSG via Annabelle's revenue development work with the 'Ready to Borrow' scheme, is at left centre of the photo. These cases will be used from now on for displaying valuable and special items.*

<https://herefordshiremuseumsupport.org.uk/>

## Looking forward to 2019

The Black and White House will reopen with the newly conserved wall paintings (restored with a grant obtained by HMSSG) on display. Some redecorating of the Museum at Broad Street will brighten it up for the new year – but HMSSG were sorry to hear that money from the Collections reserve had to be used for this purpose as no other funds were forthcoming from the Council.

The Council has, however, found £230,000 to refurbish the mezzanine floor at Broad Street, which will enhance facilities for Library and Museum users. The 3 support groups for Museums, Libraries and Archives are keeping an eye on this development (which resulted from a Council Cabinet decision in June 2018); for example we have pointed out the importance of disabled access, and have signalled support for the space to be used for local studies activities. We will aim to post more information about this on our website.

## Museum Exhibitions for the first part of 2019

**Textiles in Context: \_January 26<sup>th</sup> - March 2<sup>nd</sup> Hereford Museum & Art Gallery. FREE**

Textile Design students at Hereford College of Arts consider the role and impact of textile design in a wide context. Work on display will include objects from the Museum's Costume and Textiles collection.

**BrickHistory LEGO®: \_March 16<sup>th</sup> – May 18<sup>th</sup> Hereford Museum & Art Gallery. £3.00 adults £2.00 children £8.00 family. Tickets available in advance.**

'Brick History is a journey through pivotal moments in world history, modelled in LEGO® bricks by Warren Elsmore and his team of artists - this is history brought to life at a relatable, human level, featuring key figures from Mozart to Martin Luther King, scientific discoveries from the Big Bang to DNA, and recent history from mobile phones to the moon landings. Enjoy LEGO models, from tiny recreations of Concorde and Titanic that would sit in your hand, to an impressive 1.5m square castle bustling with activity in peace and war.'

**Master and Student: Wood Engravings by Sarah van Niekerk (1934 -2018) and Harry Brockway: \_June 1<sup>st</sup> –Aug 24<sup>th</sup> Hereford Museum & Art Gallery. FREE**

For more than 60 years Sarah van Niekerk took inspiration for her prints from the world around her. She introduced her student Harry Brockway to wood engraving by Sarah at The Royal Academy Schools where Harry studied sculpture. Sarah showed him how versatile a medium wood engraving can be. Harry – whose works form the frieze around the Broad Street gallery, takes much of his inspiration from literature and together they illustrate the range of this expressive and most English of art forms.

When the final 2019 Museum programme is out, we'll circulate it and post it on our website.

<https://herefordshiremuseumsupport.org.uk/>

## The future of MLA Services in Herefordshire and next steps for HMSSG

You will recall that HMSSG supported the 2018 HLF-funded report from Museum Consultants Prince & Pearce, which showed how a partnership Trust model could bring more funding and resources to the Museum Service. However in June Herefordshire Council's Cabinet decided not to pursue that Report's recommendations and, despite some vociferous protests, decided instead to outsource its MLA Services via a tendering process to commission the operation of the Services from external organisations or businesses.

The timetable for this commissioning/tendering process is set out on the next page.

Although Museum, Library and Archives Services have some different aspects, there is much common ground. Chairs of the MLA support groups (Joint Action for Herefordshire Libraries (JAHL), Friends of Herefordshire Archives Service (FHAS) and HMSSG are working together to monitor and influence the tendering process. We have been invited to contribute as 'stakeholders', albeit in a limited way – we are pushing for more input so as to insist on things such as quality requirements, meeting service-users' needs and future investment.

The local Council elections in May could see political changes leading to changes in local policy and priorities for MLA: we have contacted all the political parties in the County asking them to give a clear Manifesto commitment to a sustainable future for the County's Museum, Library and Archives Services and asking for continued dialogue and discussion with them. HMSSG members could help by contacting their Councillors about this, too.

The 3 MLA Groups are involved in the new phase of 'Herefordshire's a Great Place' project – when they launch their new website we will provide information on our HMSSG website .

**This is an interesting and critical time for HMSSG, which currently has four Trustees. I am stepping down as Chair and Trustee in April 2019, and there is no Membership Secretary: more Trustees would be very welcome so that HMSSG's activities can be sustained.**

In addition, HMSSG needs people to help with membership activities, organising events, publicity, influencing the Council and to sustaining relationships with other groups, projects and organisations. It's very interesting and gives opportunities to get behind the scenes at the Museum, to work with the fantastic Museum staff , and to be part of local projects.

2019 is a vital year – with active support from its members, HMSSG can help the Museum's future – if you can help, please email us on [herefordmuseumgroup@gmail.com](mailto:herefordmuseumgroup@gmail.com)

With best wishes from Miriam (Chair) on behalf of *Jane Adams, Secretary/Trustee; Christy Bolderson, Treasurer/Trustee; Jacki Addis, Trustee.* We also appreciate support from Annabelle Elletson our fundraising consultant, and Jules North who provides publicity and website support.

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Jane and Miriam were recently glimpsed putting up the new portable HMSSG Banner in the Museum – look out for it at events and venues from now on.

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## Outline of Timetable for outsourcing MLA Services – Herefordshire Council

### Decision

June 2018 Cabinet decision to commence procurement  
 Sept 2018 Briefing to staff and stakeholders

### Tenders

Aug-Dec 2018 Prepare Service Level Agreements, contract documentation, evaluation framework, team and TUPE  
 Jan 2019 Finalise tender document, publish OJEU notice and put on HC portal  
 March 2019 Closing date for SSQ. Shortlist (minimum 5) to invite to tender  
 May 2019 Closing date for submission of ITT ( bid)

### Evaluation

Nov 2018 Staff and stakeholder evaluation groups established.  
 July/2019 Evaluation and Moderation panels  
 Aug 2019 Staff and stakeholder group input  
 Oct 2019 Panel make Final selection (moderation)

### Award Contract

Nov 2019 HC prepare governance papers  
 Dec 2019 Option for scrutiny committee  
 Jan 2020 Decision to award contract by Cabinet Member  
 March 2020 Finalise contract

### Implementation

Feb- June 2020  
 July 2020 Contract Commence

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