

## **Behind the scenes at the Museum – the Beaney House of Art & Knowledge**

### **Notes for MoP meeting – introductory half of the Canterbury presentation Manda Gifford**

As a therapeutic museum & gallery

- make people welcome – not just the easy people who visit anyway
- share collections – share the power of the object (film to follow)

Key elements to this work is

- access to collections
- Funding (to enable staff time)
- Volunteers

Importance of developing themed handling collections which are sustainable and can be adapted across uses from pre-school and school sessions through to later life participants. And then 'selling' this work to the wider museum world, to increase the research opportunities.

My job is

- part creating & programming exhibitions
- part community engagement

and the Front Room gallery downstairs is the visible embodiment of what we do

**Just to flag up some of the other community stuff we are doing at the moment:**

#### **homelessness project, 2015-16**

Xmas & the big national awareness of homelessness, so a project to remind us that it is a serious issue in our own city – artist Sara Wicks is working with homelessness groups and the award-winning national Homeless Film Festival to bring us the Cardboard Canterbury exhibition in the Front Room gallery from the end of Oct to the end of Jan 2016

#### **RNIB project, 2015-17**

we'll be employing artists to work with BPS people to create an exhibition in the Front Room gallery in Dec 2016, and then make the Beaney more BPS-friendly in years to come

#### **Therapeutic music with Grenville Hancox**

Singing for health & wellbeing; Parkinson's group; music at one of our dementia sessions.

#### **Dementia work**

shows the wonderful Power of the Object film that Jane Milton made

[www.canterbury.co.uk/Beaney/explore/The-Front-Room.aspx](http://www.canterbury.co.uk/Beaney/explore/The-Front-Room.aspx)

But also important to say that we have other work in hand:

- **dementia legacy group** continues - Shelley (a former teacher and now a volunteer with us) has taken on running a dementia legacy group monthly (basically the 2014-15 dementia group didn't want to stop meeting once the funding for the sessions ran out)
- **Sumita's dementia sculpture project** starting in November - a series of workshops in the Beaney run by a **PhD** student at UoK who is studying patients' responses to sculpture & digital sculpture – she has volunteered for us on our previous dementia project and her project is really interesting – it will culminate in an exhibition in the Front Room Gallery in June 2016.
- We have trained as many staff as possible to become Dementia Friends

And the **current project with UCL** where we **commissioned Bright Shadow** – over to Katy Hirst to tell you about how they approached the brief