

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

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