

Extract from

OUR MUSEUM REPORT

Year 1: 2012 - 2013

St Fagans: National History Museum



Milestone 5: Trustees and Champions

Overview

At St Fagans the Our Museum initiative takes the core principle of developing active partnerships between communities and museums and has focused on building and sustaining a community of volunteers.

Over the next decade, the aim of Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales is to create in St Fagans the most important national and international centre for the enjoyment, understanding and study of the lives of the peoples of Wales. St Fagans has always been a museum of the people for the people, built on contributions of generations of people from across Wales. However it still does not achieve its potential to reach all the peoples of Wales, to be truly culturally democratic and driven by the social needs of contemporary Wales. Developing the facilities and spaces necessary for this is a major redevelopment project funded by Welsh Government and the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The new philosophy for St Fagans aligns with our work as part of the Our Museum initiative. The culture change we have started with our Community Partners focusing on broadening the volunteer base and embedding opportunities for volunteers in all aspects of the Museum's work is also influencing other areas of the redevelopment as a whole. This is particularly true of our work in communicating and sharing decision making with our Community Partners.

The application for involvement in the Our Museum initiative was submitted to the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and funds granted in March 2012. The engagement work done as part of developing the Activity Plan for the redevelopment of St Fagans and as part of developing the application for funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation provided important links with some key Community Partners from public and third sector organisations. Once funding was established the Engagement Team was further developed to include Museum Trustees and additional Community Partners.

Once the Engagement Team was established the milestones for Year 1 were developed and agreed together with the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, to complement the Our Museum key outcomes and the strategic objectives of the bid whilst adding value to the Activity Plan for the redevelopment project. What follows is the report for Year 1 against said milestones, documenting the development of the scheme at St Fagans, the relationships that have grown from it and the new approaches and ways of working that have been explored in the process.



Community Partners volunteering at St Fagans

Milestone 5: Trustees and Champions

This Milestone was developed early on in the process, as it was anticipated from the early stages of the bid development that engagement in the Our Museum Initiative would be all inclusive, from Trustees, to Senior Management to key staff and Community Partners. Delays were encountered to involving the Trustees, but by December 2012 four Museum Trustees were actively involved in the project having volunteered at an earlier briefing session.

How do we know we've succeeded in creating change? What is different?

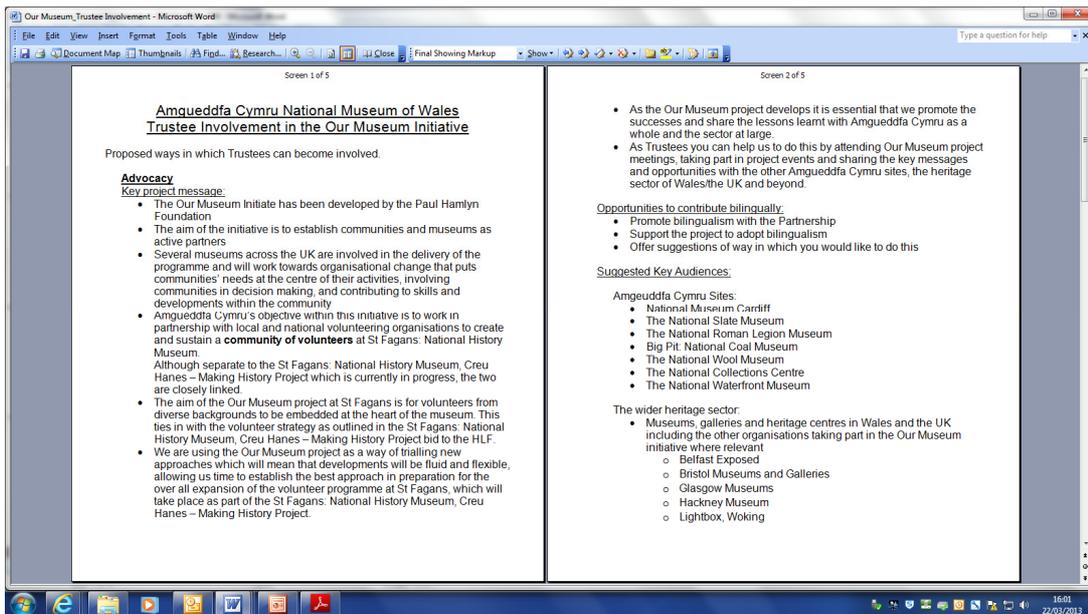
Progress against Milestone

- Four Amgueddfa Cymru Trustees joined the Engagement Team
- The four Trustees concerned attended a briefing session on Our Museum on 6th December 2012
- Three Trustees attended the Our Museum bi monthly meeting on 18th December 2012



Trustees and Community Partners working together

- Trustee Involvement notes have been drawn up in collaboration with and agreed upon by the Trustees, Museum staff and Community Partners, outlining the Trustees' role in the Engagement Team



- The four Trustees have committed to the Our Museum bi monthly meetings up to June 2013 (further involvement then to be reviewed and commitment renewed)
- One Trustee attended the February Our Museum bi monthly meeting
- The Trustees are acting as advocates for Our Museum and the work that is being carried out at St Fagans
- Good working relationships are developing between the Trustees and the rest of the Engagement Team

What evidence do we have?

- The Trustees' enthusiasm and commitment for the initiative is evident
- Verbal and written feedback (via Teamwork), from the four Trustees on the Engagement Team

Thank you and the whole team and our partners, for a very stimulating meeting. I'm sorry I had to skip at lunchtime! The whole project is really fascinating and I'm sure will be enriching. I'm also hoping this message gets through as a test of using the site! We're looking forward to the next stage.

Extract from Teamwork posted 19.12.12 by Trustee Carole-Anne Davies

- Feedback from the other members of the Engagement Team (Teamwork and at meetings/events)
- Photos and recordings of the Trustees taking part in discussions and activities at meetings and events
- Agenda, notes, presentations, records of meetings and Trustee briefing session
- Trustee Involvement Notes

Successes, challenges and resources

Aspects that worked well

- Providing the Trustees with a briefing session before they met the Engagement Team
- Involving the Trustees and the Community Partners in the development of the Trustee Involvement Notes
- Working with the Trustees on ideas around Self Evaluation
- Learning from the Trustees' skills and experience in specific areas relevant to the project, e.g. self evaluations, project management, media and communications
- Gaining the support of the President of the Board of Trustees and working closely with the Museum Secretary to keep the Trustees informed of all developments, but not overwhelmed with correspondence
- Adding the Trustees to Teamwork

Aspects to develop further

- Continue to develop relationships with the Trustees
- Continue to learn from the Trustees' skills and experience
- Further develop the Trustees role in the project, ensuring they do not become "auditors" but remain at the strategic level
- Ensure the Trustees are not overwhelmed with messages and project correspondence irrelevant to their role

Obstacles encountered and actions taken

- Delay to Trustees involvement due in part to limiting time constraints
 - **ACTIONS TAKEN:** worked with the Museum Secretary to ensure dates were agreed well in advance
 - **ACTION TAKEN:** Agreed with Trustees that they would take it in turns to attend the bi monthly meetings and selected dates in advance

Resources Used

- Time of Museum staff
- Time of the Engagement Team
- Time of Trustees

Who was responsible for implementation?

- The Museum Secretary
- The President of the Board of Trustees
- The Trustees
- The Our Museum Co-Ordinator
- The Engagement Team