

Community Cabinet Proposal

Maidstone Museum has recently finished redeveloping its local history gallery, The Oldham Gallery: Exploring Maidstone's Past and Present, which follows the borough of Maidstone from the 16th to 21st century. From the Civil War to Industry, Crime & Punishment to recent changes in demographics, we hope there is something for everyone.

As part of the redevelopment, the museum has incorporated a changing community section within the 21st century as the Museum would like to work closely with the community to reflect Maidstone today. From ethnic groups to local sports clubs, charities and community groups, the Museum would like to diversify its stories and expand its voice to members of the community.

The objects chosen and the way they are displayed and spoken about will be different for each community group, and we acknowledge that there may be conflicting perspectives and experiences within the same display case. We at Maidstone Museum welcome these new and challenging perspectives in our spaces.

What is the purpose?

The purpose of a changing community display is to open our space to people who have previously never been represented in local museums. Maidstone Museum recognises that the objects currently on display may not reflect Maidstone today, and we would like to change that. Our community display gives the public the chance to choose the objects and words that represent them.

Maidstone Museum would like to open its doors to new and personal objects from local individuals, whilst also working closely with the community to build long-term, sustainable ties.

What are we offering?

As part of our mission to diversify our collection and bring new voices in, Maidstone Museum is offering:

- Temporary use of a cabinet measuring approximately 890mm W x 237mm D x 890mm H within The Oldham Gallery: Exploring Maidstone's Past and Present.
- Support from staff on installing and de-installing objects.
- An opportunity to hold talks related to your chosen objects.

Length of Object Loan

Objects will be lent by the community group, and not permanently donated to the museum. An agreed upon loan period will be developed with Maidstone Museum and the chosen community group, though we recommend a 6 -12-month period.

Object Specifications

Objects must fit within the above-mentioned display case. We recommend 15 small objects, or 9 slightly larger objects. Feel free to include multiple objects in the proposal form and we can advise further.

What objects can I submit?

The display case will tackle questions such as:

- What does Maidstone mean to you?
- How would you like your journey to be represented?

For the duration of the display, the objects will be on loan to Maidstone Museum and will be safely returned after the agreed date. The Museum will not be acquiring the objects, and any objects not collected after agreed upon date will be ethically disposed of in accordance with museum standard.

While all objects will be considered, we will prioritise proposals that complement, enhance or develop Maidstone's social history, or the communities in Maidstone today.

All exhibits must have one of the following strong connections with Maidstone:

- Relates to people, organisations or communities of interest who live, work or learn in Maidstone (either today or in the past)
- Relates to the history of ethnic, cultural or identity groups currently settled / who once lived in Maidstone.

What objects will not be considered?

- Projects that do not meet the above criteria.
- Projects with no strong connection to Maidstone or people linked to Maidstone.
- Proposals from businesses or organisations looking to sell products or overly advertise their business.
- Proposals that involve objects with human remains.

Other information

Please note that applications might be saved for future displays, or we might suggest the display for a different area of the museum.

Application Form & Process

Our application form will be open throughout the year, and the Museum team will meet twice a year to discuss applications and decide on the programme. See the steps below for a step-by-step process.

The application allows for up to 10 objects per group, but if you'd like to submit more, please include the relevant information in the email, or print a second form.

1. Express interest through application form and submit via email or drop-off application in person. Please note the museum is only open from Wednesdays to Saturdays during term time, and Mondays to Saturdays during school holidays (with a winter closed period).
2. The Community & Events Manager will send applications to the Collections Manager and shortlist applicants.
3. Maidstone Museums Community Board will help decide on accepted display.

Application Details

Community Group	
Name of Community Contact	
Email address of Community Contact	
Mobile number of Community Contact	
Number of members as part of community	
What is the purpose of your display?	- Share information or raise awareness - Celebrate historical or religious event - Other: please explain below
Do you have a preference for when you'd like your display to take place? You might want to overlap your display with a National holiday, or key event related to your community group, such as independence days or religious festivals. Please note we may not be able to schedule the display for the exact dates and the objects will be on loan for a minimum of 6 months.	

Object Details

Please note you can add as many items as you want to the proposal. If successful, you will work together with Maidstone Museum to develop a display for the objects. Please read the section titled 'Object specification' above for more information on the ideal size and number of objects for an effective display. The size of the object will affect the number available in the case.

Item 1

1. Please tell us about the item. Think about its history, its importance to you, where it fits in your journey, how it relates to your community group and identity.

2. Please attach image to your email.

Object dimensions (in mm)	
Length	
Width	
Height	

Item 2

1. Please tell us about the item. Think about its history, its importance to you, where it fits in your journey, how it relates to your community group and identity.

2. Please attach image to your email.

Object dimensions (in mm)	
Length	
Width	
Height	

Item 3

1. Please tell us about the item. Think about its history, its importance to you, where it fits in your journey, how it relates to your community group and identity.

2. Please attach image to your email.

Object dimensions (in mm)	
Length	
Width	
Height	

Item 4

1. Please tell us about the item. Think about its history, its importance to you, where it fits in your journey, how it relates to your community group and identity.

2. Please attach image to your email.

Object dimensions (in mm)	
Length	
Width	
Height	

Item 5

1. Please tell us about the item. Think about its history, its importance to you, where it fits in your journey, how it relates to your community group and identity.

2. Please attach image to your email.

Object dimensions (in mm)	
Length	
Width	
Height	

Item 6

1. Please tell us about the item. Think about its history, its importance to you, where it fits in your journey, how it relates to your community group and identity.

2. Please attach image to your email.

Object dimensions (in mm)	
Length	
Width	
Height	

Item 7

1. Please tell us about the item. Think about its history, its importance to you, where it fits in your journey, how it relates to your community group and identity.

2. Please attach image to your email.

Object dimensions (in mm)	
Length	
Width	
Height	

Item 8

1. Please tell us about the item. Think about its history, its importance to you, where it fits in your journey, how it relates to your community group and identity.

2. Please attach image to your email.

Object dimensions (in mm)	
Length	
Width	
Height	

Item 9

1. Please tell us about the item. Think about its history, its importance to you, where it fits in your journey, how it relates to your community group and identity.

2. Please attach image to your email.

Object dimensions (in mm)	
Length	
Width	
Height	

Item 10

1. Please tell us about the item. Think about its history, its importance to you, where it fits in your journey, how it relates to your community group and identity.

2. Please attach image to your email.

Object dimensions (in mm)	
Length	
Width	
Height	

Thank you for considering Maidstone Museum as a place to lend your personal objects.
If you are successful:

We will agree a timetable with you to which you must adhere. This will include an obligation on you to:

- Deliver exhibits on the agreed day and time.
 - Deliver the objects to and from Maidstone Museum
 - Help to set up and take down the exhibition as agreed. This may be outside of opening hours.
 - Provide information for the display regarding your group as well as writing text for object labels.
- The Museum team will be able to provide support where needed.

What we will provide:

- Technical expertise and equipment for the installation of the exhibition or display
- Plinths and display equipment
- Templates, guidance and design support for writing labels
- Design support - all displays and labels must follow Maidstone Museums branding guidelines and will be produced by the museum.
- Display publicity on the museum website, social media and Maidstone Borough Council's email newsletter.

Questions

Any questions, please email museumevents@maidstone.gov.uk with 'Community Cabinet' as the Subject Heading.