

Hi all,

Many thanks to those of you came along to the Culture Club meeting on Monday. Welcome to our two new members John and Laura!

Lots of great, productive conversations again!

I've tried to make as many notes as I can but apologies if I have missed out any details.

I'll send out an invite to the next meeting when I know a date!

Many thanks,  
Charmain

**Culture Team Meeting – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**  
**The Lantern 5.30pm**

Attending:

Charmain Lovett – One Ilfracombe/Ilfracombe Town Council

Laura Donovan – Ilfracombe Town Council

Kelvin Farndell - Ilfracombe Museum

Mel Turnbull – Hand:Plant

John Selling – VFX and Film maker

Graham Kennedy – Film maker

Paul Bateman - IDBTA

Barbara Clarke – IDBTA/Events4Ilfracombe

Steve Gear – Film maker/Ilfracombe Men's Shed

Ruth Fuller – Local Resident

Cllr June Williams – Town and District Councillor/IDBTA

Cllr Malcolm Wilkinson – Morteheo Parish and District Councillor/Coastal Communities

Lyndsey Armstrong – Ilfracombe Museum

Steph Charles – Ilfracombe Art Trail

Laura Elliott - Art Historian

After a round of introductions, we congratulated Steph Charles on Art Trails win at the Northern Devon Flourishing Cultures Awards last weeks and also recognised Coastal Sea Swimming who also won as well as Sea Ilfracombe and Hele Cornmill who were finalists (and former Ilfracombe College teacher Pat Glover who also won for her schools project through the Appledore Book Festival). It was fantastic to see Ilfracombe represented so heavily for cultural activities.

**Project Area Updates:**

**\*Blue Plaques**

Lynsey – They have consulted English Heritage for guidelines on blue plaque schemes and they now have specific criteria which they can put their long list of significant Ilfracombe figures against to create a short list of 6 people to start with.

Some of the criteria includes not commemorating people who are significantly commemorated elsewhere, and it's for people who spent a decent amount of time in the town, not for people who just pass through.

They suggest people are identified who have had a large effect on the town or vice versa so someone very important who shaped change or created real impact in the town's history.

Once they have established who the 6 people are they will then look into funding.

### \*Trails

Paul commented that IDBTA are now Ordnance Survey partners meaning that many of the town walking, cycling, running trails are now digitised on the OS website .

It was also mentioned that Mark Langworthy who runs the local ghost tours is investigating virtual/QR trails around town.

An ongoing project is the Fish Trails. Charmain has the PDF of the artwork so will get that updated and printed. Sarah Maddocks (Ilfracombe Town Council) had arranged for a local business to clean the fish trail boards as they have community volunteering hours to use, but they had to stand down last minute

**Action – Charmain to update the Fish Trail leaflet**

### \*Digitising the Museum Archive

Kelvin told us that Nick had raised at Trustees meeting and after some discussion they have decided against sending the archive to be professionally digitised. Instead, as a more effective and sustainable alternative they are going to purchase the necessary, albeit expensive, equipment do it in house. This also minimises the risk of losing archive if they are out of the museums hands. They are putting this on hold until the future of the museum is secured.

Laura E commented that she had worked on some digitising projects which were funded through National Lottery Heritage Funding and it worked wonderfully as expands the reach having it online plus there are opportunities for people to pay or subscribe to access the archive. Kelvin exclaimed that the museum didn't want to make it available online as they would prefer for people to visit and therefore would increase visitor numbers. Laura said she was happy to share her previous projects/experiences with the museum and have that conversation which Kelvin said she was very welcome to do.

**Action: Laura to make contact with Kelvin/Ilfracombe Museum**

### \*Beach of Dreams

Mel told us about the great work she has done in pulling together a number of groups including Plastic Free North Devon and the Earth Repair Shop to create a series of small actions throughout May for Beach of Dreams. This will also encapsulate the Art Trail and Jack in the Green. The plan is film as much as they can in order to create a montage video, with this year being a precursor to a potentially bigger event next year. Cllr Malcolm Wilkinson then reiterated that this could be an acorn which could grow year on year.

There will be a Beach Clean on the 18<sup>th</sup> May (this is also repair café Sunday ) and what gets collected on the beach will then be turned into beach art with the idea that the final shot of the video montage would be an ariel shot of the new art work positioned on the beach itself.

Mel would like to try and get the Junior School involved for for a schools project which would see the pupils create art based around the idea of a Beach of Dreams vs a Beach of Nightmares!

**Action: Charmain to introduce Jody LeBredonchel (Ilfracombe Junior Head) and Mel via email**

Netti said it would be nice to see a day of events on the green on the seafront too. Everyone agreed that this was all fab stuff and hopefully as it is advertised it would encourage more of the community to get involved.

**Action: Charmain to speak to Laura Carolan of National Landscapes about Beach of Dreams involvement.**

**Action: Steph to send Mel National Trust rep contact details**

Laura E mentioned Co-op funding may be available to support this

Action: Charmain to speak to Co-op rep

Action: Charmain to link Caz at The Landmark about Beach of Dreams and potential for a performance piece from Make The Move.

### \*Telephone Box

Laura updated that planning permission needed and is waiting until new toilets are built before progressing with that. Steph from the Art Trail is obviously busy with planning the trail so there wasn't too much progress there but it was agreed that it wouldn't potentially happen until 2026 now anyway so much more time to plan.

### \*Art Fair to tie in with the Art Trail

Dan and Hayley had provisionally booked the Lantern but I think that has now been cancelled as the space was too large for what they had envisaged.

Action: Steph to speak to Dan and Hayley about potential art trail market clash

### \*Community Noticeboards

Laura – Neil Ingram is undertaking a community board/sign audit. If anyone knows of any signs/community board that are dotted around (whatever their state), then please let Neil know on [neil.ingram@northdevon.gov.uk](mailto:neil.ingram@northdevon.gov.uk)

### \*Multi-Media Space

Paul met Ilfracombe Holiday Park regarding the potential to host the mixed media space idea that he had. IHP have just refurbished an area where their swimming pool used to be and are happy for the community to use the space for meetings, choir/band rehearsals etc. He has also spoken with North Devon Moving Image who have some larger scale ideas around supporting external filming companies so that North Devon can become a real destination as a shoot location where essential facilities and networks with providers/suppliers are established.

Paul is awaiting a reply from Leigh Crossman at The Ariel.

Given the nature of this project it seems natural for the filmmakers in the room - Steve, Graham and John – to continue discussions with Paul around this.

John commented that on a related note on 9th April will be giving a presentation on the work that he does in TV and Film Video FX. It will be at Hand:Plant from 7-9pm. Please contact Mel Turnbull on this distribution list if you'd like to attend.

John mentioned to Paul that it would be worth looking into/contacting Screen Devon

Action: John to send Screen Devon details to Paul Bateman

### \*Town-wide Themed Exhibitions

We had a brief conversation about the struggles to obtain empty shops aka "meanwhile spaces". Mel is going to catch up with to see if this is something that the Art Trail could support with.

### \*Expansion of museums Silver Saturday/Sunday events

Charmain has spoken with Age Concern to see if they could support an expansion of the Museums Silver Sundays.

Action: Charmain to meet local Age Concern rep to explore further

### \*Youth led comms/video projects

Filmmaking – John spoke about cultural/creative career ops for young people and how he is great example of how you can now work remotely as a professional VFX bod. He also told us about a brilliant project he used to run which was a Film school and a rock school and has also been talking with Damien Wilson about potential to use the cinema for a project and potentially do a short film festival around the town.

Following this the filmmakers in the room decided to have a further conversation about the potential so will all meet at John presentation at Hand:Plant (as discussed above).

Laura E also mentioned how tattoo art and surf art is now extremely popular amongst younger people.

### Ideas from the Table

Paul said he has been contacted by Simon at North Devon Coasteering – They are looking for a space to do Parkour training. If anyone knows of a space please drop Paul a message. Malcolm raised that he had been contacted by Harry Knight who has been making a film of the restoration of the Balmoral in Bristol. They are hoping to tour the film in port towns where the Balmoral landed so is holding a screening at the Embassy Cinema on the 24<sup>th</sup> April.

There will be a Q&A session after the screening.

Barbara just wanted to raise that the North Shore Aircooled event is back in the second weekend in September (with the bike show being the first weekend) - [North Shore Aircooled - Visit Ilfracombe](#)

Paul – IDBTA are looking at shoulder months and are exploring the possibility of a photography or walking festival

Mel asked about the street food festival which was previously at the bottom of Capstone and then was supposed to be in Braunton last year. There was no definitive answer as to what happened but Petra at NDC may know more.

Barbara added that the Sea Ilfracombe Maritime Festival, All things Morris and Carnival will have local food stalls.

Laura added that she went to a practitioner's conference where there was a conversation about the Purple Flag scheme [Purple Flag | ATCM](#) (an idea which is raised in the Ilfracombe Culture Plan) and there is an example of other towns that have held successful Foodie Fridays once a month.

Mel suggested pop up in existing cafes that are closed in the evening.

**Action: Charmain/Laura to email NDC to see if there are any plans for the street food festival to happen locally this year**

Mel told us that she was having a crack at restarting the High Street Traders Association.

They are initially meeting at Hand:Plant on the 10<sup>th</sup> April. Please contact Mel on [handplantshop@yahoo.com](mailto:handplantshop@yahoo.com) for more info.

Charmain Lovett

Project Officer

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