

## Notes from Culture Club – May 7th 2025



### Actions from the last meeting:

**Action:** Charmain to update the Fish Trail leaflet – *Work in progress*

**Action:** Laura E to make contact with Kelvin/Ilfracombe Museum to share her experience of digitising projects – *Laura has not only met with the museum but is now their newest volunteer! It sounds like they have had some great conversations about potential research projects.*

**Action:** Charmain to introduce Jody LeBredonchel (Ilfracombe Junior Head) and Mel via email – *Done. They are now involved in the Beach of Dreams project (see notes from Mel below)*

**Action:** Charmain to speak to Laura Carolan of National Landscapes about Beach of Dreams involvement – *I have sent the information to Jess Giblett who is leading on the Footprints in Nature project.*

**Action:** Steph to send Mel National Trust rep contact details – *Not yet, but it will be in hand after Art Trail.*

**Action:** Charmain to speak to Co-op rep re funding for Beach of Dreams activities – *not yet, but on the 'to do' list.*

**Action:** Charmain to link Caz at The Landmark about Beach of Dreams and potential for a performance piece from Make The Move. – *Done. Caz is going to contact Mel directly.*

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

**Action:** John to send Screen Devon details to Paul Bateman – *Done, plus we had a load of amazing updates from John which he has kindly sent though so I have posted those below!*

**Action:** Charmain to meet local Age Concern rep to explore Silver Sundays further – *Age Concern are currently trying to build on their weekly drop*

**Action:** Charmain/Laura D to email NDC to see if there are any plans for the street food festival to happen locally this year – *we have heard back from NDC that there are no plans for the street food festival (or at least no one has applied for a licence), and there will also be no fair this year.*

### Project Area Updates:

#### \*Blue Plaques

Lindsay was unable to join us, but updated via email the following:

Using the English Heritage criteria on who to include/exclude, (Do not include those 'passing through', or who have been sufficiently commemorated elsewhere. Do include those who spent significant time living and working in Ilfracombe who significantly influenced the town and who were significantly influenced by the town) Kelvin and I filtered all the suggested people and came up with a short list of around 20 (still looking for more information on a few).

- We have begun to compile a potted history/biography for each candidate that will be used to inform the community vote.
- We will need to think about how the information about potential candidates can be made available to the community and how they will be able to vote.
- We aim to begin the project by potentially producing 6 plaques.

**ACTION:** Neil to support in online polls for the public to choose the final 6

#### \*Trails

**\*Digitising the Museum Archive** – On hold until the museum has been relocated

**\*Beach of Dreams** – (thanks to Mel for sending me this summary):

Oaktree Nursey have completed their Beach of Dreams project; the children drew their own interpretation of "Happy Beach/Sad Beach" and also explored through the use of a sand table and props. They have pledged as their Climate Commitment to "take home all our rubbish when we visit the beach".

Members of Ilfracombe Juniors Year 5 are doing their own version of this project, an A4 split of "Beach of Dreams/Beach of Nightmares" to tie in with curriculum work around the oceans and the coast. They will also make a Climate Commitment.

Creative Communities, as above but with a craft/collage twist, and a larger panel. All of the artworks will be collated into a BOD exhibition with quotes, pictures etc. after the end of the month.

The Wildersmouth Beach Clean/Big Art attack is scheduled for Sunday 18th, with aerial drone capture of the artwork.

There will be a film edit/montage to capture all of this and use as a record/promotion for enlarging the event next year, particularly with a view to gaining some funding.

**\*Telephone Box** – On hold (excuse the pun)

**\*Community Noticeboards** – Neil has a list of old/abandoned noticeboards and is now looking into who owns them and potentials for improving them. This then sparked a conversation about having digital noticeboards in shops windows. It was mentioned that there were some screens in the old Tourist Information Centre but no-one seemed to know where they now were.

**ACTION:** Laura D to find out what happened to the screens

**ACTION:** John to look into digital screen content potentials

**\*Multi-Media Space** – Paul has sent his apologies so no update at this point

**\*Town-wide Themed Exhibitions** – ITC along with NDC have done a survey of the High St to identify the empty shops/units, and will be sending out letters initially to landlords to encourage them to clean up their properties. I have suggested adding a paragraph into those letters to see if there is any willing to allow us entry to display art work. Alison Mills from NDC updated that they have just successfully arranged a pop up arrangement with a landlord, which is great to hear!

**\*Expansion of museums Silver Saturday/Sunday events** – Charmain has spoken with Age Concern who currently don't have the capacity to support on a big project, as they are currently trying to build on their weekly drop ins at the Lantern, but were happy to be kept in the loop and can offer advice where needed.

**\*Youth led comms/Community video projects** – Please see John's report (thanks for sending me this info, John):

VFX PRESENTATION - First presentation at Hand@ plant went well and fully attended. Look at doing more presentations and possibly using larger venues i.e. Lantern or Landmark. STATUS - John to look at doing more presentations.

SCREEN DEVON - John had a meeting in Exeter with Claire from Screen Devon to go through plans and project ideas he has. Screen Devon are excited to be involved and support in areas such as funding and bid writing as well as promotion. John also introduced them via email to Merlin cinemas - Craig. STATUS: continue contact.

<https://screendevon.org.uk/> (this is the new site I think as they are changing emails addresses etc.)

ILFRACOMBE ACADEMY - John and Laura had a meeting with Lauren - Head of Media and business at the IA. They are eager to work with the community more and help run film and animation projects (yellow mouse studios

- <https://www.yellowmousestudios.co.uk/> STATUS - Lauren is discussing with her bosses.

FILM CLUB MEETING - John and various local filmmakers including Paul Bateman have met to discuss forming film clubs, running workshops and film projects (documentary and narrative) in the Ilfracombe area. John and Graham shot footage for Jack in the green, and Graham is finalising an edit. STATUS further projects/ideas to be discussed.

CINEMA - John has emailed Craig with ideas after he expressed interest in working more with the community. Costings are here - <https://ilfracombe.merlincinemas.co.uk/private-hire> - STATUS - Craig has not replied as of yet. John and others to look at firming up ideas and including costings.

FILM PROJECTS - A lot of discussions of possible future film projects and documentaries amongst the group. STATUS - further projects/ideas to be discussed.

IAT - John is showing film and TV work on the Ilfracombe art trail and will open up conversations with visitors about interest in local film projects. He constantly and shamelessly promoted VENUE 23 for some reason.... :-)

I have copied and pasted John's email to Claire at Screen Devon to the bottom of these notes 😊

## Funding Updates/Opportunities

Alison, Charmain and Laura met with Josephine from the AHF in advance of submitting their application to them for £15,000 for a viability study/business plan development on the Emmanuel Church. She seemed to really like the space and it was great for her to see it being used so well by the community as when she visited the set for the Great British Bake Off Musical was out and the choir were in singing a bit of Vera Lynn on VE Day! The application is being submitted Mid-May and we believe that there is a 6 week wait for a decision.

## Ideas from the Table

Following on from earlier discussions around filming community events, Ruth suggested having a place where multiple people, attending multiple events could bring all of their footage together to create a "Year in the life of Ilfracombe Events" folder, of which the newly formed film club could possibly edit together.

Laura E told us about the Penzance Culture Hub and how they are working collaboratively, so she is going to bring some more information to the next meeting

**ACTION:** Laura E to bring info about what is happening culturally in Penzance to the next meeting

It was suggested that we look at expanding Events by offering a series of themed workshops in advance, which would help extend the timeframe of local events whilst also increasing the amount of cultural activity linked to said event.

**ACTION: Add a bit of brainstorming time at the next meeting to look at what events we have and what could be tied in to them to augment the cultural offer.**

We had a good chat about the potential move for the museum now that North Devon Council have bought the old Post Office building. NDC need to meet with the museum to discuss room requirements, and there was further discussion around potential funding pots to appropriate kit out the potential new space should it be a viable option.

**ACTION: Charmain to send Alison Kelvin's email to set up a meeting about the museum**

Kelvin revealed to us that he is now a vlogger! He's pretty new to the game but he made a start by creating a video down at Capstone Parade and then talking through the history of the space. Everyone loved that he was doing this and this developed into another idea around how we can support Kelvin (if he wants any help that is!) through the new film club and also whether there is the potential to turn Kelvin into a Podcast star and also create a larger Oral Histories style project to make sure we preserve all of this vital local knowledge for future generations.

Mel asked about the potential to use the bandstand more over the summer for pop-up gigs. Barbara knows all of the dates and contacts on how to book this space, but generally everyone was behind the idea.

**ACTION: Barbara to send Mel booking info for the bandstand**

## **Cultural Plan Action Plan and Google Drive Spreadsheet**

Just a reminder that it is there and for all of us to use - [https://northdevon.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-06/Ilfracombe%20Cultural%20Plan\\_2024.pdf](https://northdevon.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-06/Ilfracombe%20Cultural%20Plan_2024.pdf)

## **AOB**

Charmain had been contacted by a member of the public who is passionate about the condition/appearance of the Landmark. He has spoken to some paint experts and has been recommended a specific type of paint/sealant that can be used on the external brickwork which wouldn't flake or discolour.

Charmain said she would put this forward to the Culture Group for opinions and to see if there were any ideas around the painting of the Landmark.

Unfortunately there wasn't anyone from the theatre available to comment, but the general consensus was that the recent cleaning had brought the exterior up to a really good standard and that if NDC/Landmark Theatres could continue with a regular schedule to keep on top of it then that would be ideal.

What was raised though was the state of the shelf above the entrance which isn't well maintained, so it was agreed that we would contact the parks team to see if there was something that could be done. We understand that it's barriered off for safety, but it could do with a good tidy which would also help the overall appearance.

Previous projects to project onto the cones were very effective (such as Chris Horrell's VE Day tribute), but costly. We understand that Cllr Sara Wilson has been enquiring recently about potential options so will keep in contact with her on this.

**ACTION: Neil (via the Town Team) to contact NDC Parks and Gardens**

## **EMAIL JOHN SENT TO SCREEN DEVON:**

Hello Claire,

Firstly, thank you for the meeting. I am very excited about the prospect of being involved in promoting and building more filmmaking and animation opportunities in the North Devon area and forging links with other Devon based projects as well as those around the country.

I just wanted to send an email that kind of outlined the ideas we talked about and also some links to short films and people in Ilfracombe I will introduce to you.

I will also do some other emails as more focused introductions although have CC'd some interested parties to this email.

## **MY IDEAS**

As talked about I view two aspects to what I want to look at helping set up. I have created a basic image for how I see the 'grand plan'. I am calling the Ilfracombe media lab (not the film lab) as a temp name and also because I would love to see it include other areas including comic / manga / anime / book writing alongside film making etc. although I have kept the below image film centric.

# ILFRACOMBE MEDIA LAB

## COMMUNITY

Film making / animation clubs and workshops.

Film making / animation tuition / courses including Yellow mouse run animation/stop motion courses and working with Ilfracombe academy.

Presentations branching out to invited industry guests.

Ilfracombe community building which includes film making facilities (computers for editing/animation/VFX, etc), access to equipment such as cameras, tripods, etc).

local screenings (Cinema) including local produced films and films as part of workshops i.e. an animation workshop followed by a studio Ghibli film.

Working with local museums to showcase history of film making in the North Devon area.



## FILM MAKING

Support for local film makers to create short films / animations / features.

Support for external film making projects to be shot in North Devon. These can range from small short films to high end TV and film.

Local database of film makers, accommodation, catering, equipment hire, etc.

Ilfracombe community building which includes film making facilities (computers for editing/animation/VFX, etc), access to equipment such as cameras, tripods, etc).

local screenings (Cinema) of North Devon produced films aimed at promoting local film making involvement and talent.

Working with local museums to showcase new films being created in the North Devon area.



## MOVING FORWARD

Support from external organisations such as Screen Devon in both data basing / promoting local talent and assistance in funding opportunities and liaising with other external projects / film makers.

Support from local council and projects such as the Ilfracombe art trail.

Support from the Cinema and other venues.

Forming initial groups / projects / presentations to start gaining interest.

## VENUES / ORGANISATIONS

Hand Plant - Art cafe. I did a VFX presentation here to approximately 17 people - a comfortable number for the venue. (Mel from Hand Plant is CC'd) - <https://www.facebook.com/handplantshop/>

Ilfracombe cinema - I will do a separate email introducing you to Craig at the Ilfracombe cinema.  
- <https://ilfracombe.merlincinemas.co.uk/?forcechoice=true>

Landmark Theatre - <https://www.landmark-ilfracombe.com/>

## ILFRACOMBE CULTURE PLAN

I mentioned that there is an Ilfracombe culture plan that is a starting point to a lot of what we have been looking at as well what the local council priorities are and how our projects can work with them. - [https://www.northdevon.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-06/Ilfracombe%20Cultural%20Plan\\_2024.pdf](https://www.northdevon.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-06/Ilfracombe%20Cultural%20Plan_2024.pdf)

SHORT FILMS MENTIONED - I mentioned we were submitting 2 short films for the Exeter respect. Unfortunately Satori is a bit too long but Tergo will be shown. Below are links. Both were promoted by DUST.

Tergo - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k4sXQ3Wshzw>

Satori - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Htl7ggxPB94>

HaZ - I mentioned a filmmaker who works a lot in gaming now. Have a look at his website for some more info and the kind of low budget Sci fi films we produced. <https://hazfilm.com/>

## MOVING FORWARD WITH SCREEN DEVON

I would like to arrange another meeting in the future in Exeter where we can look at moving these ideas and projects forward - maybe choosing some select projects and focusing on them.

I will be forging and networking more on both sides of the projects. These include talking to the Ilfracombe academy and the Cinema, through to reaching out to London and beyond film making colleagues to start looking at shooting short film ideas in Ilfracombe and North Devon.

Thanks and let me know your thoughts,

John