

Culture Team Notes – Monday June 16th 2025

Location: The Lantern Club Room (upstairs)

Time: 5.30pm



Before we started, Charmain raised that following her plea from the previous meeting for any volunteers to chair the group, Laura E and Mel had come forward to say that they have an idea of having a revolving chair (not literally!), so that they could share the load. If anyone else is interested in co-chairing or being responsible for minutes and the like, then please contact Charmain, Laura E or Mel for more info.

ACTION: Contact Charmain to meet with Mel, Laura and any other interested parties to look at how we can do this efficiently.

1. Responses/Actions from the previous meeting

ACTION: Neil to support in online polls for the public to choose the final 6 Blue Plaque names – ONGOING

ACTION: Laura D to find out what happened to the screens from the TIC –ONGOING

ACTION: John to look into digital screen content potentials – John has made a brilliant start on this! There are currently screens in Hand:Plant and the Ilfracombe Centre featuring a reel that John has edited today and features a mix of local events and footage from previous/relevant events. He is going to set up a Google Drive file so that we can all drop our posters into it for monthly updates. In the mean time you can send stuff to John or Mel (landscape mode please).

As a group we'd like to see more screens around town in various places and we discussed maybe finding some funding to purchase some additional screens for any shops that would be willing to have a screen running in their window.

ACTION: Laura E to bring info about what is happening culturally in Penzance to the next meeting – Laura shared with us that Merlin Cinemas (who also own the Embassy in Ilfracombe) have developed The Ritz cinema in Penzance (using the Penzance Future High Street Fund) to create a multi-cultural, multi-purpose entertainment/performance venue.

ACTION: Charmain to 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 – DONE see point 5

ACTION: Charmain to send Alison Kelvin's email to set up a meeting about the museum – Kelvin said he hasn't heard yet so Charmain will drop Alison an email.

ACTION: Barbara to send Mel booking info for the bandstand – Barbara to send this through tomorrow (Tuesday) – on a side note Barbara updated that the electric work is now done at the bandstand.

ACTION: Neil (via the Town Team) to contact NDC Parks and Gardens re: the ledge above the Landmark entrance – DONE they have been made aware and it is on their work list but we don't have a time frame.

2. Project Area Updates:

***Blue Plaques** - ongoing

***Trails** – In conversation we started talking about accessibility of the Art Trail (and other local trails) and whether we could look at having the community minibus or similar provide transport for those who would like to participate but are either limited because of their ability to travel around.

New member Will suggested a donation scheme for the Art Trail programmes which could subsidise the transport.

Action: Charmain to feedback to Steph and the Art Trail Team

Action: Charmain to update Fish Trail leaflet

***Digitising the Museum Archive** – on hold until the museum has found a new premises. This led on to some conversations around whether there was any progress on the relocation of the museum. It was confirmed that the old Post Office building (which has been purchase by North Devon Council as a part of the Healthy Homes Ilfracombe) has been looked at as a potential space. Cllr June Williams said that she was awaiting a reply via email from Alison Mills and Sarah Jane Mackenzie-Shapland at NDC regarding the museum. Nick Mollart updated that they had applied to the AHF for funding but the application was rejected as the building was council owned.

Will asked about the potentials within the museum to attract more visitors and he suggested a themed escape room could be a great attraction and a good wet weather activity for the town.

Action: Charmain to email AM and SJMS to ask if they can reply to JW

***Beach of Dreams** – big well done to Mel for pulling everything together last minute! The beach clean event was well attended and they were able to create a fab video documenting it. Beach of Dreams have reached out to her to use it for promo purposes which is fab! She now has a tonne of pictures drawn by local kids which show their beach of dreams/beach of nightmares so she is looking for a space to display them – if you know anywhere please drop Charmain or Mel a message.

Action: Charmain to speak to Caz at The Landmark.

***Telephone Box** – on hold

***Community Noticeboards** – Neil has been inundated following a request from the public to let him know where there are abandoned community noticeboards. It's now a case of establishing ownership to see which ones can be bought back to life.

***Multi-Media Space** – No major updates on this one, but the next step will be to establish what the actual need is.

***Town-wide Themed Exhibitions** – links into Item 4 of the agenda.

***Expansion of museums Silver Saturday/Sunday events** – Nick kindly brought along some information from Age UK about the Silver Saturday/Sunday initiative. The Museum currently have two events planned on this theme – a 1940s party on 3rd August and a Silver Saturday on October 4th. If anyone has anything that they feel they can offer on the day then please contact Nick Mollart.

Laura E suggested that they contact the local older people's homes to let them know about both events.

We also talked about accessibility for people wanting to attend so we are going to look at costs to use Community Transport

Action: Charmain to speak to Allan Day at Ilfracombe Community Transport

Action: Charmain to make The Landmark aware of the date in October in case they could tie something in given the proximity to the museum

***Youth led comms/video projects & Community Film/Footage/Photo Database** - John Sellings shared his development of ideas around film making and animation workshops. John is working in 2 areas, one is community filmmaking and the other is engaging with professional film makers in the area and working with local young people so they get hands on experience whilst living here.

He has two projects:

1. Working with Ilfracombe Academy (supported by Laura E). They have a meeting lined up with the headmaster but they will need funding for this.
2. He's been speaking with Caz at the Landmark about workshops that teach young actors the difference between acting in theatre and in film. She is also looking at funding to run some workshops working behind the camera rather than in front of it.

Tying in with the earlier conversation John said it would be good to open opportunities to older people whether that is workshops on filmmaking or supporting the cinema with silver screenings.

At this point he introduced the Skuttle Butt Shanty Crew – I have moved this section to point 6 of the notes.

***Kelvin's Vlog/Oral Histories** – Kelvin's vlog is now live on YouTube! His first video is about Capstone Parade and definitely worth a like and subscribe! The link is here - [Ilfracombe. Capstone Parade.](#)

3. [Town Branding](#)

This conversation came about following a between between Town Clerk Laura Donovan, our MP Ian Roome and a member of the public who is returning to Ilfracombe and had a number of ideas about cultural activity in Ilfracombe. Laura explained that whilst a lot of the ideas that he had were already being addressed through this group and other local forums, he had some really good idea about town branding so we had a bit of a discussion about how we can create some sort of uniformity/continuity across the town so that people automatically know that it's Ilfracombe.

We spoke about the previous town branding which was "curious, coastal charm" and how we could use the idea of using a town colour palette and font as well as a phrase, or specific wording that is recognisable to people visiting the area as Ilfracombe's tagline. We also had some really good ideas around specific hashtags for visitors to use so that they were easily searchable on socials and how we use a QR LinkTree at Instagrammable areas so that visitors can find out a lot more about the town.

Neil commented that Visit Ilfracombe have done a lot of work with digital experts so we could probably do with looking to them before throwing hashtags around, to make sure that what we do is effective.

If anyone has any good examples of how other towns have created a recognisable 'brand' then please send them to Charmain or Laura D.

Laura E asked whether it was worth doing a demographic study of tourists to guide this work. Charmain updated that North Devon Council have some new software that does exactly this so we can use the data from that as it goes back 3 years so we can identify where people come from and where they visit/spend money once they are here.

Action: Barbara to send branding pack to Laura D

4. Extending the cultural opportunities of existing town events

Following on from a conversation at the previous Culture Club meeting we discussed how we can bolt on some cultural opportunities to existing established events, but in a way that doesn't put any additional pressure on the event organisers who are usually overstretched volunteers.

Will suggested that it would be nice to include more elements of diversity into our town events to make sure that everyone in town feels like that can be a part of it.

Mel suggested looking at projectbritain.com to identify National X Day, British X Week, Talk Like a Pirate Day etc. Barbara said that Combe Christmas are already working on this sort of thing as they only now look after the switch on event, but there is a community Xmas fair, Caz at the Landmark is doing some lantern making shops and the harbour will do something on the Monday. Pearces undertakers are also doing a Christmas shop window event too.

Helen Pritchard said that when she lived in Hanover they did an Advent Calendar of Streets/Cul-de-sacs where on a certain day each street would have a light-up party/celebration of sorts, so this could be something which could be replicated and we said how lots of people got behind a similar idea during Covid when Combe Christmas did a drive around to see the houses lit up so could be a good one to explore!

There were some really great ideas that came through for other events but we quickly realised that we could spend another couple of hours on this as there are so many potential opportunities.

We also know that the Art Trail are looking to expand the offer over their weekend and beyond, including the potential to have a Christmas trail.

It may be an idea for us to concentrate on one event (with enough lead up time of course) per meeting and make sure that the event organisers are present as we aren't looking to hijack any event, but work with them.

Action: Charmain keep this item as a standing item on the agenda

5. Funding Updates/Opportunities

Charmain updated that were expected to hear back from the Arts Council by 20th July as to whether our application to the for the Creative People and Places funding has been selected to go through to the next round. We are also expecting to hear back from the Architectural Heritage Fund in the coming weeks to see if we have been successful in getting £15,000 for a business development/viability study.

Paul added that he had a meeting with North Devon Resort who are keen to support community activities through offering their spaces for free or sponsorship. He suggested it may be worth contacting them about the Shanty Festival.

Laura E suggested contacting the supermarkets and chains who often have community funding pots.

6. Ideas from the Table

We had a number of Skuttlebutters in the meeting (Skuttle Butts are shanty crew based here in Ilfracombe!). They shared with us their fantastic plans for a Shanty Festival that they have organised to happen in Ilfracombe next year on the 27th & 28th June.

The festival will move around venues and spaces in town with other shanty crews being invited to come to Ilfracombe and get involved.

The whole team were really supportive of this event and can see the potential it has. The Skuttlebutters gave some examples of other towns where this type of event has started small but grown with a huge amount of recognition.

They are looking at opportunities for funding but because there will be no set venue, this means the costs are relatively low.

Actions: Charmain to send a list of potential funder to Niki Davis

Steve Gear raised that he and Paul are looking into the possibility of a Photography Festival.

Helen said that she knew someone who would be keen to be involved.

Paul said they need to look at how they tie in with local accommodation and then how they set up as a group in terms of constitution and booking systems etc.

Paul asked that if they know of anywhere that has done this successfully elsewhere then please let him know,

Action: Helen to put Steve in contact with her friend who would be interested

Action: Group to send any existing good examples of how other photography festivals have run

7. AOB

Kelvin raised that he had been approached by a local resident, Shane Gooch, who's dad was a member of the WW2 Ilfracombe to Bulford march (now recognised in the annual Forces March - <https://www.forcesmarch.org.uk/>) and wanted to know whether there could be a memorial in Ilfracombe to celebrate their incredible effort.

Charmain suggested speaking to Ilfracombe in Bloom who have grand plans for the War Memorial and this could be exactly the sort of thing that they could work into their plans.

Action: Charmain to contact Steve Trebble from Ilfracombe in Bloom (note: Steve was in the meeting but had to leave just before we got to this point)

Neil Ingram – Sat 28th June fundraiser for Sea Ilfracombe at Hele Bay Pub (tied in with Armed Forces Day). He said that Sea Ilfracombe are looking for sponsors so if anyone knows of anyone please send Neil the info. The IBTA now have a simplified means to submit events to the 'What's On' section of the **Visit Ilfracombe** website.

The link to add an event is www.visitilfracombe.co.uk/events/local-community/add/
Events will then be checked prior to being published on the website.

Paul Bateman from IDBTA updated us on the Visit Ilfracombe website and the new facility to upload events:

The use of categories and tags allows users to filter and find just the type of events they are interested in. The appropriate category should be selected to indicate if the event is in Ilfracombe, or further afield across North Devon.

A range of tags is available to indicate the type of event and help people find things they're interested in. If other tags are needed or for support please send an email to info@ibta.org.uk. It's always worth tagging if the event is dog friendly or family friendly, as some users will filter events based on this.

If anyone will be regularly submitting events, we can set them up with a login, so that they can see a list and manage their posted events. Again, just send an email to info@ibta.org.uk. Please also use this address if you need any assistance or have any suggestions.

Barbara Clarke updated us that All Things Morris is back on 6th/7th and they have over 200 dancers confirmed to attend including a group from California and they are only performing in 2 places in the UK and Ilfracombe is one of them!

Charmain had a few bits that had been sent in by those who couldn't attend:

Caz Turner – Landmark Theatres

The Welcome Weekend is full steam ahead and will be happening on Friday 5th - Sunday 7th September. We will be launching the majority of the programme on Wednesday. A great mix of family theatre, early years, music, visual arts, cinema, new writing and more. My faves so far are "Mrs Lovett", RSVP Banghra and "In the Lady Garden"

Our Art Club for young people with Jennie Cousins is in it's second term and our young artists are making some fabulous work.

Nest week we have our final Speak Up Celebration at the Landmark. An inspirational evening of original performances created by young people from across North Devon (including Ilfracombe Academy) as part of Speak Up which is a National Theatre Programme that puts youth voice and creativity at centre stage. Landmark Theatre Wednesday 25th June arrival from 6:00pm for a 7:00pm start. FREE Tickets available from our website.

Steph Charles – Ilfracombe Art Trail

A quick update from the Art Trail. The event was another huge success, probably our best to date, with some lovely feedback received from visitors to our artists (we asked the artists to get the visitors to complete feedback forms, we received 94 in total, which was a great start!)

The rebrand, new logo and revised brochure played a big part in this too. We are all extremely proud and happy with how the weekend went, with some local businesses saying they had their best weekend ever!

We are busy working on hopefully pulling together a Christmas Art Fair, an update of which I shall be in a position to provide at the next meeting in July

Beaford are delivering a number of performances on Hele Beach in July (see the poster below for dates and details).

beaford A wild swim and a wild tale
in partnership with **BURN THE CURTAIN**



Swim from The Wild Shore
“Every story, no matter how strange, starts with the truth”

A unique shore side adventure for wild swimmers and lovers of good stories. Bring your swimming costume, a towel and your imagination.

Running time: 1.5 hours max
Ages: 14+ (confident sea swimmers only)
Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult in the water

8 -10 July, 2025
Hele Bay, EX34 9QZ

Dates & Times (timed with the tide):
Tuesday 8 July - 4pm & 5.30pm
Wednesday 9 July - 4.30pm & 6pm
Thursday 10 July - 5.15pm & 6.45pm

Tickets: £10 - booking essential

More info and book tickets: beaford.org 

