

Culture Team Notes – Monday July 21st 2025

Location: The Lantern Club Room (upstairs)

Time: 5.30pm



1. Introductions and Apologies.

Barbara Clarke
Paul Bateman
Katy Ashford
Alison Mills
Steve Trebble
Lawrence Raybone
Olga Vynnyk

2. Responses/Actions from the previous meeting

- **Action: Contact Charmain to meet with Mel, Laura re: chairing this group and any other interested parties to look at how we can do this efficiently.** – We've all been a bit busy, but hopefully we'll have this sorted by the next meeting. Laura E said it would be good to have a good core of members who would be happy to help either chair or take minutes, so please contact her if you are interested in supporting on this – lozzums@hotmail.co.uk
- **Action: Charmain to feedback to Steph and the Art Trail Team following the last meeting** – DONE. Steph updated that following the great response to the Art Trail this year (coupled with a letter of congratulations from the council and John's support on creating a video), they are running a Christmas Art Market at the North Devon Resort on 1st and 2nd November. They have offered it out to the Art Trail members and they have confirmed (and then some!) that they would like to attend 😊
- **Action: Charmain to update Fish Trail leaflet** DONE – it has been sent to Barbara Clarke for proofing. We can then have loads printed off for distribution in shops, venues etc. for locals and holidaymakers alike to enjoy.
- **Action: Charmain to email AM and SJMS to ask if they can reply to JW** – DONE.
- **Action: Charmain to speak to Caz at The Landmark re: space for Beach of Dreams pictures** – DONE – Caz said she can find some space.
- **Action: Charmain to speak to Allan Day at Ilfracombe Community Transport re: costs** - ONGOING
- **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** – DONE. Caz updated that the Landmark will be doing their own Silver Saturday on 25th October with free films and a planetarium but they will note the Museum Silver Saturday date to see if they can support in some way.
- **Action: Barbara to send branding pack to Laura D** - DONE
- **Actions: Charmain to send a list of potential funders for the Shanty Festival to Niki Davis** – ONGOING – This is part of a bigger project to pull together a list of all funding opportunities that could support the Culture Club members. Charmain will try and get something together to bring to the next meeting.
- **Action: Helen to put Steve in contact with her friend who would be interested in a photography festival** - DONE
Action: Group to send any existing good examples of how other photography festivals have run – Nothing was sent through, but Steve updated that they have had some meetings about this and are due to meet The Landmark at the end of the month with a view to running something next autumn
- **Action: Charmain to contact Steve Trebble from Ilfracombe in Bloom re: memorial for the Force March** – DONE.
Kelvin also updated that the Veterans Charity are looking to create some form of memorial on the seafront. It was advised that Danny Greeno from the VC should contact NDC as this is their land.

3. Project Area Updates:

***Blue Plaques** - ongoing

***Trails** – Action: Mel to speak to Mark Langworthy to see if he has any update on digital trails. Ruth and Kelvin discussed the RNLI trail leaflet that is available from the RNLI shop and we had a wider discussion about how we can bring these trails into one place where people can access them. There are already a number of different ones available at [Things to Do in Ilfracombe - See & Do - Visit Ilfracombe](#)

***Digitising the Museum Archive** – on hold

***Telephone Box** – on hold

***Community Noticeboards** – ongoing. Neil Ingram has been doing a recce of noticeboards and now has a working list of where they are and what condition they are in. In addition to this, thanks to John's hard work we now have the digital noticeboards in Hand:Plant and the Ilfracombe Centre and are open to more opportunities if folks have a window and a screen.

***Multi-Media Space** – Paul has sent his apologies for this meeting so no update at present

***Town-wide Themed Exhibitions** – No major update but Neil is still working on “meanwhile spaces” with NDC and trying to ascertain who the owners of various empty shops are in town (which isn't easy as they're often owned by people outside of town). Mel suggested talking to Grassroots to see how they've worked it with the Rotary using the space as a pop up shop over the summer.

***Expansion of museums Silver Saturday/Sunday events** – As discussed above in the Actions section

***Youth led comms/video projects** – John and Laura E have met with Steve Rogers, the head of Ilfracombe Academy to look at potentials for film/animation courses with them. They have also had communication with Petroc about the potential to collaborate with them on some of the digital short courses that are being delivered in Ilfracombe. They are talking with the head of media there in September. *we had a discussion about a potential funded project around Anti Social Behaviour at this point, but I'll talk about this in the AOB section

Action: Charmain to ask ITC/One Ilfracombe for funding for 20 USBs for the digital screens

***Kelvin's Vlog/Oral Histories** – We're still trying to make Kelvin viral (in a good way)! Kathryn suggested that he work with the academy or local filmmakers as it would be nice to see Kelvin actually presenting his fabulous videos rather than hiding behind the camera.

4. Extending the cultural opportunities of existing town events

Chris Batstone joined us to tell us about the new Ilfracombe Compass Club. These are members of the former Ilfracombe Compass Rotary who have taken a step back from Rotary but still want to give their time to support community initiatives.

The group are also looking for new volunteers. Mel commented that she spoke to Marnie from Events4Ilfracombe and it seems to be an issue across the board.

Culture Club were delighted to hear that they will be bringing out Santa on his sleigh again this year! If anyone would like to talk more with the club about possible opportunities, or volunteering then please drop an email to Chris on chris@westhillfarm.org

We discussed that the next big community events are Carnival and Sea Ilfracombe.

Mel and Netti said there could be an opportunity to run some sessions in the run up to carnival to make a new costumer for their lovely giant.

Action: Mel and Netti to see if there is scope to do this

Malcolm commented that in Helston they have a project where the schools get involved in creating some fantastic withy sculptures that have battery powered tea lights in.

5. Funding Updates/Opportunities

Two updates from Charmain:

1. The AHF have awarded One Ilfracombe £18,000 to work with North Devon Council to create a project viability plan for the Emmanuel Church. This is fabulous news but we are still waiting on confirmation from the Methodist Church as to how much they would be willing to sell the space for.
2. Our Arts Council Creative People and Places funding application was successful in reaching the next/final round. This meant we had an interview with The Arts Council (Alison Mills from NDC, Louise Adam from North Devon Plus, Ben Lyons Ross from Landmark Theatres and Karen, a community member of Ilfracombe's Poverty Truth Commission). We will find out if we are successful on October 6th, so everyone cross everything please!

6. Ideas from the Table / AOB

Anti Social Behaviour Project – Through Ilfracombe Futures, Charmain raised that there may be some funding (very last minute) from DCC to provide some activities/workshops over the summer holiday period to try and give local kids something else to do rather than running riot. Charmain is putting together a wide range of activities for local children and young people, and would love to see some cultural/artistic ventures as a part of this. She has already spoken with Silk Crystal and also John about some film-based/animation workshops but is keen to hear if any of the other members of this group have any ideas as to what can be offered.

The can be one off workshops, a series of events...whatever you are able to deliver.

If you are interested, can you let Charmain know:

- * *What the offer is*
- * *How many people can take part*
- * *Any age limits/restrictions*
- * *Do you have a venue or do you need one*
- * *How much it will cost*

Please email Charmain on Charmain.lovett@northdevon.gov.uk with any suggestions.

The time line is of course very short (not our fault!) so don't wait until mid-August!

Netti updated us that they were seeking funding to create a peace garden at the War Memorial that could be a lovely community space to reflect and be a lovely feature for the town.

Caz let us know that their Welcome Weekender will be taking place on 5-7th September and wristbands for the weekend are only £5 for adults and free for under 16s (and there is a bursary available for families who can't afford this). As per last year there will be a whole host of events and activities at The Landmark (inside and out), including 2 open air cinemas. Wristbands can be purchased via the Landmark Theatres website, or on the day.

Kelvin reminded us that the Museum will be having a 1940s Day on August 3rd to tie in with the VE/VJ Day celebrations. He kindly sent me a copy of the poster should anyone want to share:



We also had a good chat about Dan from Silk Crystal's Fossil collection and ridiculous amount of knowledge about the history of our coastline. Neil, Charmain and Mel have all been to see Dan's collection and heard him talk so passionately about what he has found and the potential to share all of this information about what we have right on our doorstep.

Helen mentioned that they are having talks at The Bank so Dan could be a great fit for this!

Action: Helen to speak to Dan about the potential to run a talk at The Bank

Charmain shared that she went to the Speak Up event at The Landmark Theatre which is a National Theatre programme working in collaboration with young people from Ilfracombe Academy, Braunton Academy and Pilton College.

It brought together young people with creatives to help them express their feelings about a young person growing up in their town.

Ilfracombe's students worked with local musician Jim Jones and created 3 very poignant pieces:

1. A soundscape which answers the question of "If our town could talk, what would it say"?
2. A lovely song based on the answers of the above question
3. A song based on their experience of negotiating the High St called "Don't Wanna Get High on the High Street"

You can listen to these three tracks (and I really encourage you to do so) here - [Speak Up!](#)

Although it's across the border, Barnstaple have their Barnstaple Art Weekend this coming weekend.

The details for this can be found below:

[A series of artistic activities have been brought together as a mini art festival, which will take place in various parts of the town this weekend. The event has been curated by the Flourishing Barnstaple team, who work with events groups in the town to support their endeavours and hope to bring the activities to a wider audience.](#)

[The weekend promises to have something for all the family:](#)

[Arts and Music Fest on the Strand will take place on Saturday 26 July from 11am to 3pm. In partnership with Queen Anne's Café and supporting Children's Hospice South West, the Strand will be packed with free activities including a teddy bear's picnic, bouncy castles, buskers and Big Draw art workshops in conjunction with North Devon Arts.](#)

[Also on Saturday there will be 'Green Man Pottery' and 'Seascape in Acrylics' workshops at St Anne's Chapel. More information and booking is available through their website \[www.ploughartscentre.org.uk\]\(http://www.ploughartscentre.org.uk\).](#)

[Sunday 27 July sees the dawn of a new festival in Barnstaple Pannier Market, 'ArtsFest', from 11am to 4pm, which will see the venue bustling with arts and craft stalls curated by the Craft Collective, buskers, food vendors and free felting workshops offered by North Devon Arts.](#)

[Cultural Producer, Lee Baxendale said "It's great to be able to work with so many different venues and groups within the town, and to collaborate on events that are free for the local community. Barnstaple is a town which has lots of different cultural groups working hard to ensure they have a really diverse offer for the people of the town and North Devon. In supporting these events we hope that the links that have been forged will continue long into the future. We are particularly excited to be working with North Devon Arts and this year's Big Draw project, which is entitled Drawn Together. As you will see they are supplying free workshops over the weekend and as we move into the autumn months they will be working on an exciting piece of community art."](#)

[For more information on these, and many other activities happening in the town this summer please go to \[www.barnstaple.co.uk\]\(http://www.barnstaple.co.uk\).](#)