

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
NOTES OF THE
HERITAGE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE
HELD AT WESTON MUSEUM
ON 6th OCTOBER 2022**

Meeting Commenced: 10:00 am

Meeting Concluded: 11:29 am

PRESENT: Councillors John Crockford-Hawley (Chairman), Jan Holloway, Peter Crew, Peter McAleer and Catherine Gibbons; Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk), Fay Powell (Assistant Town Clerk - Operational Services), Molly Maher (Development Officer), Sally Heath (Theatre Manager) Jane Hill (Community Liaison Officer – Weston Museum), Mike Solomon (North Somerset Councillor), Tom Newman (Culture Weston) and Lorna Clark (North Somerset Council).

145	Apologies for absence and notification of substitutes Apologies for absence were received from Becky Walsh, Cara McMahon, Bethan Murray, Heather Morrissey and Lisa Clemons.
146	Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest received.
147	To approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 30th June 2022 The minutes of the meeting had been previously circulated with the agenda. PROPOSED BY: Councillor Jan Holloway SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman
148	Budget for 2022/23 The detailed income and expenditure reports for the Blakehay Theatre and Weston Museum had been previously circulated. Both venues performing as well as they could, with income down in some areas and up in others. Both services were working hard, but costs continued to rise. Spending Officer meetings would be taking place, and the Deputy Town Clerk would work with officers to review progress. It was noted that museum functions and the theatre auditorium were doing well with bookings. It was explained that some of the difficulties could not have been avoided by officers. Insurance provision for the entire council had increased from £14,000 last year to £65,000. This would affect the expenditure of all the services as one example of financial pressures the council is seeing in the current climate. There was also the increase in energy costs.

	<p>It was queried if the museum would be involved in the public living room scheme within the community. It was explained that the Community Wellbeing Development Officer was exploring this on behalf of the council, but that any provision would need to take operations into consideration.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>
149	<p>Marketing Report</p> <p>The report of the Communications and Marketing Officer had been previously circulated.</p> <p>John Lewis have offered to fund a blue plaque in Weston where the founder grew up. The site of the proposed plaque was currently being sold and it was suggested they wait until the sale was completed to approach the owners to avoid having to deal with two parties.</p> <p>A summary report detailing the success of Facebook and Twitter posts for Weston museum formed part of the report. Facebook posts were now being automated through Agorapulse. Members felt the report was over complicated and should be summarised in one page. A member asked if Facebook posts were ever boosted. It was explained that this was done on a case by case basis and not as a rule. It was felt that whilst this boosted the profile of the social media sites, resulting in more follows, this did not necessarily result in higher visitor numbers.</p> <p>The museum had featured in the Local Reach magazine which was popular, particularly in Worle.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted</p>
150	<p>Weston Museum Management Report</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk (Operational Services) provided a verbal report.</p> <p>The Museum team had met with representatives from the Natural History Museum. They were keen to work with the museum. It was explained that this would help with reach, as they had a large social media following.</p> <p>Sessions had been delivered on SEE Monster by members of the team.</p> <p>The volunteer had painted the café and new prints were on display, having been donated by North Somerset Council. It was suggested these could go into HQ when occupied.</p> <p>The team were preparing for October half term with Martin Brown, the horrible histories illustrators returning to host a session.</p> <p>The Wildlife Photographer of the year exhibition would be in the temporary exhibition gallery from November.</p>

Outreach work was beginning to increase after a period of little uptake due to Covid. More visits and talks were being delivered.

There were intermittent issues with leaks and flooding due to adverse weather. The team were managing this as best they could.

A member suggested producing copies of the prints from North Somerset Council for sale.

It was noted that there had been issues with the PA system during events, something which should be considered within the budget setting process.

Members queried the lack of interpretation from some exhibitions and items in the museum, in particular the Portico. It was explained that the original artists did not want to include interpretation, as it was for the audience to interpret as they wished. It was suggested that this could be explored.

Officers were working with the SWHT and Beaufort Bespoke to rehome the Civic Insignia from Grove House to Weston Museum. It was hoped it would be in situ before Christmas.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

151 Blakehay Theatre Report

The report of the Theatre Manager had been previously circulated with the agenda.

There had been lots of bookings and booking enquiries for the auditorium, up to 5 years in advance. This included bookings which were normally in other theatres. However, there had also been issues with levels of commitment, with many cancelations in recent months.

It was explained that they were working to build the theatre back up following the closure period and the budget reflected this.

Members felt that the building never looked open. It was explained that there were often private classes in the studio, or loud events which required ~~for~~ the doors to remain closed. There was restriction on opening hours due to staff availability and budget, as well as the turnaround time between shows and events. This could be explored during budget setting.

It was noted that this quiet period was not out of the ordinary, with the Playhouse's production of Mousetrap hosting 5 people.

It was not felt that the lack of a physical box office was affecting sales, as the switch to digital sales was happening across the region.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

The Community Liaison Officer left the meeting at 10:48 am.

152	WSMTC Grant Development The Learning and Events Officers at Weston Museum would be working with the Senior Development Officer on a grant funding application. An update would be given at the next meeting. RESOLVED: That the report be noted.
153	Community Event Grant applications The grant application and summary report had been previously circulated with the agenda. Members acknowledged that Glow 2021 had been a wonderful event, even though it was let down by the weather . It was explained that tickets were limited last year due to Covid-19 and social distancing. There would be an increased capacity this year. Theatre Orchard were working with North Somerset Council to minimise the impact of transport issues, with neighborhoods without transport links having projects brought to them. Members queried some of the details in the application, including the specific emphasis on working with female working class artists, the decision to make the event vegan, and the possibility of linking with refugees. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the application specifically asked about considerations for climate change and inclusivity, amongst other factors, hence the detail and specific suggestions for managing the event. PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford Hawley SECONDED BY: Councillor Catherine Gibbons A vote was taken and was carried RESOLVED: That Theatre Orchard be awarded £10,000 from the 2022/23 community events grant budget
154	South West Heritage Trust Update Report The report of Bethan Murray had been previously circulated with the agenda. RESOLVED: That the report be noted.
155	Friends of Weston Museum Verbal Report Heather Morrissey did not attend the meeting and no update was given.
156	North Somerset Council and Heritage Action Zone Report The report of the Heritage Action Zone Officer had been previously circulated with the agenda.

	<p>It was noted that the Article 4 decision regarding stone walls had been confirmed and communications would be going out to inform the public.</p> <p>The works on Walliscote Road work would be commencing on 7th November.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted and thanks be given to Cara and the team for all their work, as well as the Civic Society.</p>
<p>157</p>	<p>Culture Weston and Theatre Orchard Update Report</p> <p>The Culture Weston and Theatre Orchard report had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>A member asked if the events on the seafront, Italian gardens and Grove Park all attracted the same audience. The data had not been collated, but Culture Weston had been working to reach a wide audience geographically. The Assistant Town Clerk (Operational Services) emphasised that the events produced were more than the final product, with lots of community involvement throughout the project.</p> <p>A member suggested reaching out to the campus as it accommodated a large community and may act as a good location for advertising.</p> <p>It was felt there was unnecessary reference specifically to South and Central Ward in the report. Members suggested this made residents of those wards feel labelled, and a large proportion of people outside those wards missed out on projects due to geography.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>
<p>158</p>	<p>Printing local history books</p> <p>Members discussed the Museum shop and the issues the lack of space caused. Some felt that the current retail offer did not reflect the purpose of the museum and that there should be more books on offer. Members were advised that was limited storage for retail and they relied on stocking items which would sell, or utilising sale or return items. It was felt that previously history books did not sell.</p> <p>The retail offer was being reviewed by officers. Books would be displayed such as they were in a bookshop and volunteers had been asked to write reviews of books they had read. It was suggested that books should be purchased in line with the temporary exhibitions. The Horrible History books had all sold out and more needed to be ordered.</p>
<p>159</p>	<p>Local History Update</p> <p>There was nothing to report.</p>
	<p>There being no further business the meeting concluded at 11:29 am</p> <p>Signed.....Dated..... Chairman of the Heritage Arts and Culture Committee</p>

Heritage, Arts and Culture Committee Dec 2022

Communication and Marketing Report - written by Becky Walsh, Communications and Marketing Officer

Agenda Item No 5. – Communication and Marketing Report

BLUE PLAQUE JOHN LEWIS

We have been approached to put a Blue Plaque on a property that John Lewis founder of the department store of the same name lived in. This plaque will be funded by the department store. The owner no longer in the process of selling the property and a permissions form has been sent.

I have spoken to Nicola Mason at John Lewis who is happy to pay for the Blue Plaque.

NSC have created a Blue Plaque walking map on their new 'superweston' website which will be launched shortly.

Articles and advertising

Communications officer is working with the Museum Manager to look into creating 4 a year high profile launch events around the William Mable exhibition space. The aim is to raise the profile of the museum.

Becky is a guest speaker at the Bristol and Bath tourism awards at the Winter gardens and will be using the opportunity to promote the town and many events.

Somerset Live is doing a piece on 'Why Weston is still great to visit in winter' Becky and Matt are working with NSC on this.

A trifold flyer has now been created for the Blakehay and is with the Museum on at the train station as well as around town.

Members requested to note this report.

Heritage and Arts Committee Meeting: 8th December 2022

Blakehay Theatre Management Report written by Sally Heath, Theatre Manager

Overview & News

We are delighted to announce that the theatre has been shortlisted for a South West Award for Leisure & Tourism of the Year. The winner will be announced at an awards ceremony in Swindon on Thursday 8th December 2022, unfortunately staff are unable to attend due to performances, but will keep everyone up to date as soon as we hear.

The 'Heritage Open Day' that was postponed from 10th September 2022, due to the Queens passing, has now been rescheduled as an 'Open Day' on Saturday 7th January 2023. The theatre will be open from 10am – 4pm with lots of free workshops, classes and tours of the theatre happening throughout the day. For more information, please see our website.

Please note that the theatre will be closed over the Christmas period from Saturday 16th December to Monday 2nd January 2023 inclusive so that staff are able to take their Annual Leave.

Since the last HAC report the theatre has been busy and so please see an [update](#) on information reported in the last management report in October 2022.

Please see below an update to the theatre's [5 Year Plan](#).

Update from last committee meeting

Further to the report to committee of October 2022 regarding Box Office sales, we are pleased to report that ticket sales have been steady over the last couple of months with an average of 28 tickets sold per day in October 2022 and 29 per day in November 2022. Our online booking transactions have increased with an average of 83% of tickets being bought online for shows in this financial year compared to 62% in 2019/2020.

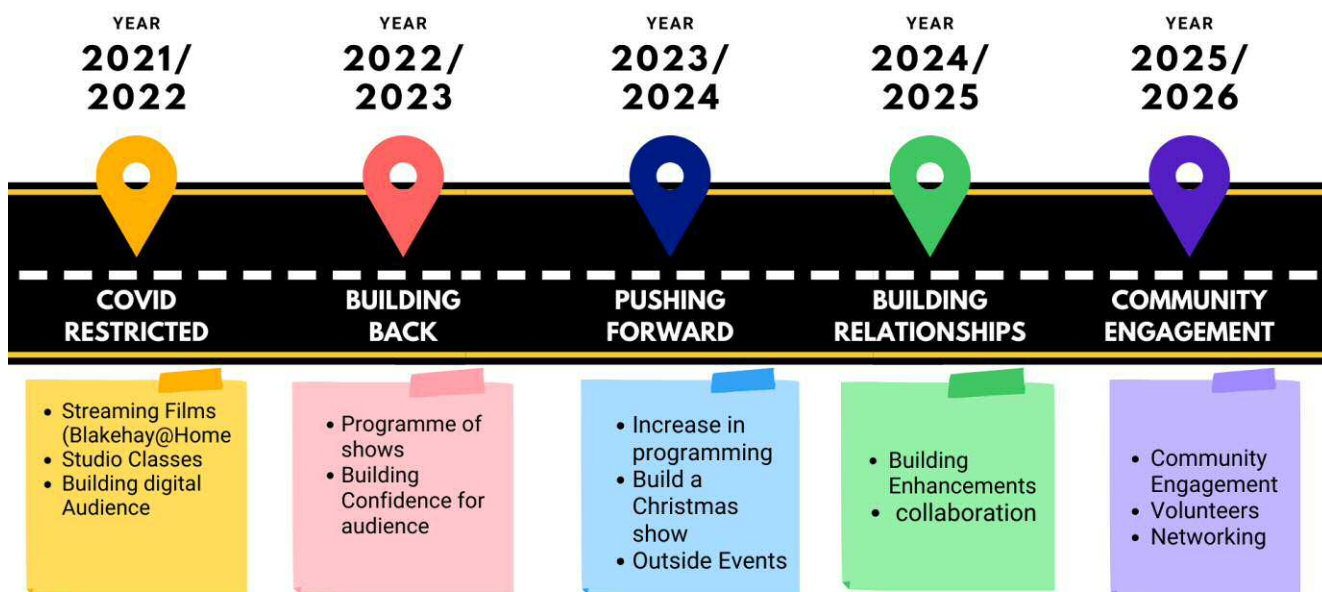
At the last committee meeting, committee members were concerned that the theatre did not look open. The theatre is in use, however due to the architecture of the building it is very difficult not to look open when we have two small doors at each end of the building and apart from the Theatre Bar, have very high windows. The theatre has a lit up noticeboard outside for Patrons to see what is on and we keep the blinds open in the bar, so that people are able to look in, as well as notices on our doors about opening times and how to ring our front door bell. Unfortunately, the theatre does close its front doors (especially during the winter season) when patrons and class members are inside and this is mainly due to security. The theatre has issues with Anti-social behaviour from members of public in the area and does not have the staffing capacity to be able to manage the foyer and to keep staff and patrons safe whilst working. Ideas that have been thought about was changing our doors to glass doors so that people can see in, or major building works to the front of the theatre to open this up, at a large cost. Officers would welcome any suggestions from councillors on this matter to explore.

5 Year Plan Update

As per the May 2021 report to this committee and the outline of our 5 Year Plan for the theatre that runs in line with the Town Council Strategy, this is an update on where we are in this plan.

The 5-year plan is a working document with targets to be able to achieve the goals set out in the Council Strategy that can be adapted as the year's progress, and will be a tool to be able to measure the progress of the theatre.

5 YEAR ROADMAP



2022/ 2023 Building Back Outline Target

The hope that the theatre will be back open to full capacity from April 2022, this would be a building back year to enable the theatre to be back to full operation as in 2019/2020.

This will be about having a full programme of shows in the theatre, with full audiences, as well as growing the studio classes. We would need to build confidence in audiences to come back and also for hirers to be sure that the theatre is safe and stable to hire.

2022/2023 Update

The theatre was back open to full capacity and has been back to full operation this year. There has been a full programme of shows in the theatre with good audience numbers and growing regular studio classes throughout the year.

2022/2023 Achievements so far;

- Currently the studio is hired on a weekly basis on a Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday evening as well as a Thursday morning and afternoon.
- This financial year of shows are selling an average of 189 tickets per show compared to an average of 143 tickets per show in 2019/2020, with an average increase in ticket income of over 40%.
- The bar takings per performance have averaged at £500.00 (incl VAT) per show with £5.00 (excl. VAT) being taken ever minute that the bar is open for a performance, (average of 80 mins per show).
- The enquiries for hire of the theatre have been more than ever before, with new bookings from local groups that have not hired the theatre before, to enquiries from all over the country. To compare this, the theatre's busiest year to date for enquiries was 2016/2017 and so to compare from this financial year to the current financial year our Booking enquiries have increased by approximately 80% in 2022/2023, and we are still in November 2022.

- Online reach has increased from 2021 figures, with a 204% increase in Website traffic and a 56% increase through Instagram and a 34% increase through Facebook (data for Jan – November 2022)
- Studio Theatre/ Cinema has been put back together and booking enquiries are coming in, with a successful Cinema showing in October 2022 half term and another planned for February 2023 half term.
- We are currently working with the Tourism Manager to look at building relationships with local Hotels and Coach companies to offer a theatre experience during their day trips/ holidays for Summer 2023.
- The theatre Manager and Development Officer plan to sit down in February 2023 to look at re-submitting the SEN Theatre Grant that was started in 2017, then postponed due to the pandemic.

2022/2023 Challenges;

- Shows cancelling and postponing due to the uncertainty nationally with the cost of living crisis, especially around the Spring and Autumn seasons. This has meant that there have been gaps in the programming at the theatre this year.
- There have also been challenges with capacity of staff time and so this has been reviewed and suggestions have been put forward for streamlining processes and making changes for the 2023/2024 financial year so that we are able to build capacity at the theatre.
- Unfortunately, we have not been able to implement our plan for Outdoor events due to the delay in the Old Town Quarry project, but hope to implement this when there is certainty of when this will be.
- The building of volunteers at the theatre has been stalled due to the loss of the dedicated Volunteer Co-Ordinator, however we plan to re-engage with this as soon as is possible.

2023/ 2024 Pushing Forward Target

This will be about increasing our programming and then building our capacity. This would be the year to push our offering at the theatre, by building an alternative Christmas show and building our Outside events.

Collaborating with other organisations and venues to build a cultural community within Weston and the theatre being a part of this.

2023/2024 Plans so far;

- The theatre manager is currently in talks with a company about bringing a Christmas show to the theatre for Christmas 2023.
- Dependant on the outcome of the 2023/2024 budget, there are plans sin place in order to build capacity of the theatre.
- Outside events will depend on the take over of the 'Old Town Quarry' by the Town Council, however plans are currently being discussed working with other council services to participate in outdoor events.

Members are requested to;

1. Note the Managers report

Heritage, Arts and Culture Sub Committee Meeting:

December 2022

Heritage Action Zone – written by Cara MacMahon. Heritage Action Zones Project Officer
(Agenda item No. 12) Heritage Action Zone Report

High Street Heritage Action Zone

Engagement work

Our engagement work includes:

- A schools engagement project run by Weston Museum
- Monthly talks organised by Weston-super-Mare Civic Society
- A reminisce project in Care Homes managed by NSC Library team
- Recruiting, training and managing 'Culture and Heritage makers' volunteers managed by Culture Weston
- Development of Heritage walks in Weston- to be published on Super Weston web site January 2023.
- Training for Retailers in marketing their shops
- Audit of construction industry Heritage construction skills
- Co-ordination of Heritage Open Days
- Legacy work for end of the High Street Heritage Action Zone- including working with the Museum on an exhibition (November 2023- February 2024)

Heritage Open Days 08 Sept to 17 September 2023

We hope the Town Council, including The Blakehay and The Museum, will continue to offer events for the festival.

We will be developing a 'light touch' Heritage Open Days (HODS) offer to organisers. We aim to support organisations to be able to deliver HODS after we have finished.

The theme for September 2023 is Creativity Unwrapped.

Details can be found here: [Creativity Unwrapped | Heritage Open Days](#)

Restoration work

Our capital funding for Shopfront enhancement has now all been allocated. This means that unless we are successful in bidding for and gaining more funding the work will finish when the following buildings have been completed:

Fork n Ale- 18 Walliscote Road

Works completed

Kendall's Building- High Street/ Regent Street

Work has commenced on site.- Work to date includes:

- restoration of all mosaic tiles, windows and external render, repaired and restored.

- railings fitted
- Awaiting arrival of glazing for railings

We would like to restore the facias on all the individual shop units and are currently in dialogue with owners and tenants to enable that to happen.

4-8 Walliscote Road

Proposed work is 3 new shop fronts. Works have commenced off site. On site works commence 1 week of 10 January. Completion due during February 2023

Other works

- We have been advised that restoration work on The Odeon shall commence shortly.
- Three listed seafront shelters have been restored and the others are being repainted.



Cara MacMahon

Heritage Action Zones Officer

December 2022

DECEMBER 2022 HAC COMMITTEE

REPORT FROM CULTURE WESTON/ THEATRE ORCHARD (Fiona Matthews/ Tom Newman)

1) RECENT EVENTS



Climate Carnival (2 October)

Weston's first Climate Carnival showed solidarity for climate action and shone a light on how creativity and community can play their part in spreading a positive message for a sustainable and hopeful future world.

The free spectacle was the culmination of a Summer of workshops at Weston Artspace exploring environmental topics through using recycled materials to create flags, costume, head-dresses and props. Regular Weston Re-Makes It fashion workshops

also resulted in a catwalk show at Italian Gardens. Other activities included a dance collaboration with Weston's Twist-o-Flex, 'Actual Reality Arcade', a life-sized, low-tech interactive game zone; 'Circomedia' circus skills family workshops and stilt walkers. Also featured were a short animation film screening 'Where did the Bats go?' (created with Into University) and a multi-generational, immersive audio experience 'Weathering Together' created by sound artist Joseff Harris and a cross-generation group from the town (this also featured in the SEE MONSTER drone show).

Weston Arts + Health Festival 2022 (5-9 October)



Very well attended and received Festival, which combined live and streamed activity in town and at Weston General Hospital, multiple partners and venues, reaching 6k+ live audiences across events, and 100k+ digital reach across platforms. A celebration of Weston's unique spaces and diverse communities, and an

endorsement of the strong relationship between the hospital and the town. Centrepiece exhibition 'In Our Hands' has moved from Princess Royal Gardens to Weston General Hospital & is online at CW.



Unusual outcomes in addition to regional media coverage include a ceramic bowl depicting the Almost Synchro event that is on display in the Turner Contemporary, Margate, plus feature piece in Outdoor Swimmer Magazine.

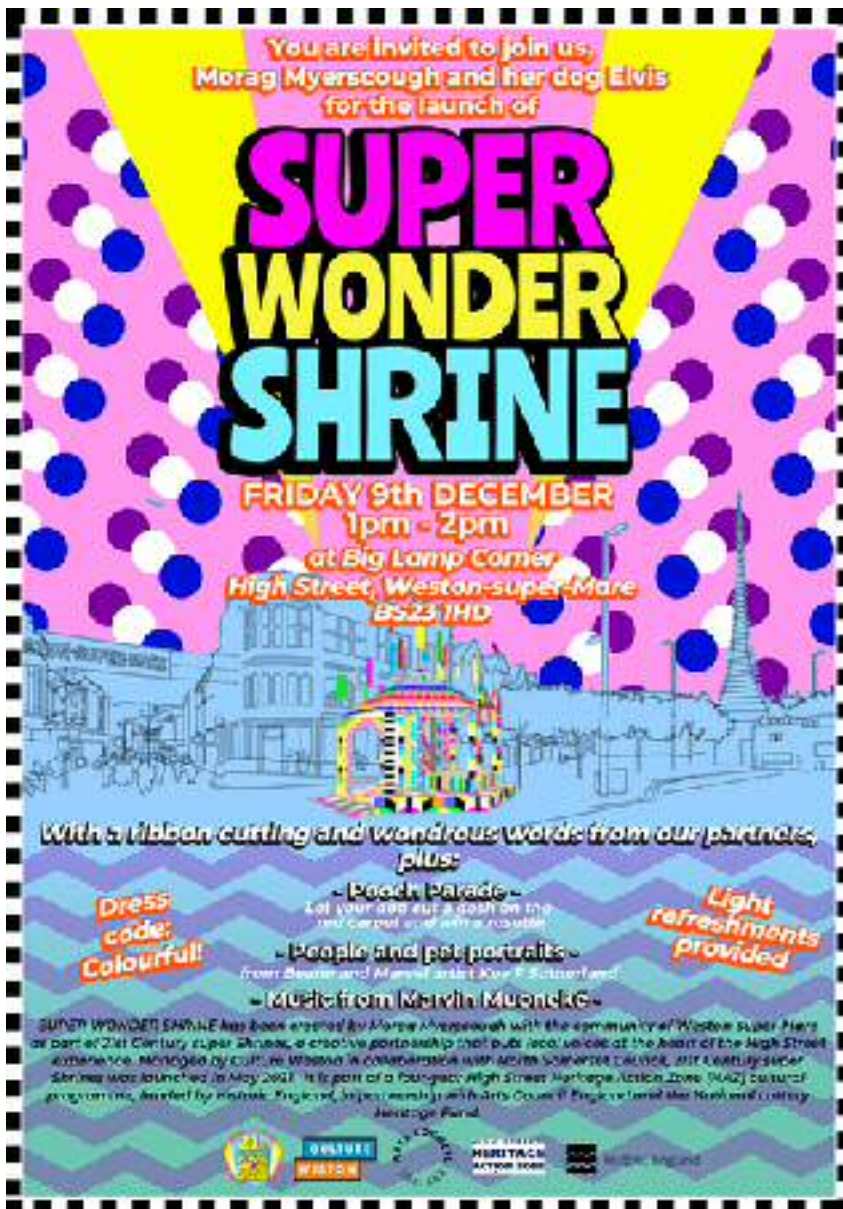
2) FORTHCOMING EVENTS

A) Launch of **SUPER WONDER SHRINE** at Big Lamp Corner, part of 21st Century super Shrines culture programme, funded by Historic England. Created by Morag Myerscough and the community (over 100 members involved in the design/creation). The making process has been covered by regional media and national BBC online. The shrine is intended to animate the high street with colour and vibrancy, provide a place to meet and rest, and a space for occasional events. Before Xmas we have local school carol performance and late night shopping festive tunes from the Lipinskis. The intention is to co-programme a monthly event with the community through 2023. Good feedback from Historic England's Head of Creative Programmes on the Shrines programme: "Weston really is one of the most interesting high streets that we have within the cultural programme"

Our next Shrine project is with artist Chila Kumari Burman MBE, whose work has appeared on the front page of both Times and Telegraph in the last few weeks, and whose lockdown project with Tate Britain 'Remembering a

Brave New World' received worldwide acclaim. She is known internationally for her feminist practise that spans multiple artforms - currently she works mainly with light.

Chila will also feature in February's....



B) GLOW - February 2023

THEME FOR 2023 – NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT

GLOW is an ambitious 4 day light festival. It will transform public space with spectacular and enchanting illuminations with site-specific light and sound installations, projection mapping and live performance, showcasing artwork from renowned national and local artists and the community.

It will be free to attend, aimed at local people and visitors from the West of England. An imaginative participation programme will draw together many of Weston's local communities to place community involvement, voices and stories at the heart of the festival. GLOW 2023 will build on the creative ambition and participatory ethos of 2022 and enable step change in scale, expanding to new town centre locations - showcasing new commissions & community projects - and establishing itself as a flagship event in the town's cultural calendar.

We have developed relationships with new artists/partners including Quays Culture (Lightwaves – one of the UK's largest light festivals) to explore potential for co-commissioning/co-presenting work that will enable us to present outstanding national and international light artists in Weston as part of GLOW. The extension of GLOW to new include town centre locations aims to increase the impact of the festival – driving evening footfall and dwell time during the off-season, encouraging expenditure within the local economy. A regional PR campaign aims to increase WSM reputation as a high quality cultural destination.

GLOW 23 will foreground the theme of climate change and nature through a number of artworks and pieces designed to make audiences stop and consider our impact on our natural world (in a positive rather than a guilty way). Artworks will highlight creative use of repurposing materials which aims to stimulate conversation and ideas around developing creative solutions and action on climate change.

GLOW 2023 Festival Aims

- Deliver a high quality, artistically ambitious cultural event for Weston-super-Mare
- Remove barriers to attendance to encourage family audiences and those who might not otherwise engage with arts and culture
- Make excellent participatory opportunities for local communities
- To illuminate and celebrate Weston's landscapes, heritage and communities
- Create opportunities for new and diverse artists to develop their practice in light art
- Bring outstanding international quality light art work to Weston audiences
- Work collaboratively with a range of partners – arts organisations, FE/HE, businesses, venues
- Collaborate with other light festivals to present work and explore future co-commissioning, and on strategic developments
- To grow Weston's reputation as an exciting, dynamic and outward looking cultural destination

GLOW 2022 PROMOTIONAL VIDEOS

<https://vimeo.com/siddiquimedia/download/690541949/20b1b15f8a>

<https://www.facebook.com/pytchuk/videos/-we-had-a-glorious-time-at-glow-in-weston-super-mare-heres-a-very-windy-highligh/481403010357506>

ARTWORKS

Flora Litchfield – LASERTONIC

Flora is a freelance Laserist and Visual Artist based in Edinburgh - working with light, nature and mental health. She has exhibited her work at festivals such as – Secret Garden Party (21-24th July 2022). Bath Fringe (27-12th June 2022). Light Waves, Manchester (1-15 Dec, 2021). Leeds LightNight (14-16 Oct, 2021). Light up Lancaster (5-6 Nov, 2021).

GNI Projects - HEARTBEAT

Heart Beat is an interactive installation, 3 cubes are attached to each other with a pulse line that runs through the sculpture. From the side, audiences see a heart rate line running through the structure. Audiences are encouraged to use the touch sensors and hold hands in order to complete the circuit, uniting what appear to be fragmented components to reveal the symbol of a heart. Heart Beat was commissioned by Quays Culture in partnership with Blackpool Illuminations and created by GNI.

Illumaphonium - HALO

Illumaphonium: Halo is a series of nine interconnected, interactive towers that create ever-evolving patterns of light and sound through audience participation. Each column stands nearly 11 feet tall and consists of 10 illuminated “halos” that, when touched, light up and play tones from two octaves of a pentatonic scale to create bespoke music featuring birdsong captured from the artist’s garden. Illumaphonium is a duo of artists creating large-scale interactive installations from their workshop in rural Somerset.

4



Helen Musselwhite & Illuminos – MYSTERY BIRD

Birds are symbolic of hope and our desire for freedom and engagement with nature is widely recognised as inherently positive for humans - making us feel alive and connected to our fragile eco-system. Mystery Bird is a collaboration of five artists.

Alison Smith – THE NECTARY

An interactive light and sound installation that invites visitors to immerse themselves in nature and hear “the hum of the earth” as they mimic a pollinating insect, moving from flower to flower. Created by Leeds based artist Alison Smith and Dr. Chris Hassall, lecturer in Animal Biology at the University of Leeds, this light and sound installation explores what we can gain from listening to nature, both for our own wellbeing and to develop understanding of the delicate ecosystems of which we are a part.

CO-CREATED WORKS with Weston communities :

Felix Rowberry – FIRE GARDEN

Felix Rowberry is a Somerset based artist, fabricator and pyrotechnician. Felix makes large scale and impactful sculptures, from pyro-kinetic devices for live orchestra events to bespoke circus equipment, focusing particularly on special effects. Felix has created metalwork and special effects for shows like Doctor Who, Top Gear, and

X-Factor. Felix will create a new fire sculpture working with young people from South Weston Activities Network.

Dylan Barker – LANTERNS

Dylan Barker is a Weston based artist and youth worker and will work with young people on South Ward (where Dylan lives) to create a multi-faceted illuminated structure from lanterns used in the South Ward winter lantern parade.

Bev G Star - ENTWINED

Bev will work with service users from We Are With You to create a new artwork Entwined – a multi-layered piece that unfolds throughout the day-night cycle with variations in colour and illumination, taking inspiration from bioluminescence in nature by utilising the inherent properties of photo-luminescent materials.

Sophie Shepherd – SPEAK FOR THE TREES

Sophie is a Weston based young writer, poet, performer and youth worker. Sophie will work with young people from Boombox and OTR to create a new sound based installation that explores their perspectives on climate change and highlight how change must happen now.

Jasmine Thompson – FUTURE PLAYGROUND

Jasmine is a Bristol-based illustrator and designer. Amongst her recent work are murals for Royal Shakespeare Company and Pervasive Media Studio. She will work with young people from the YMCA youth service to co-create an animated projection artwork.

Paula Birtwistle:

SWING Taking traditional playground favourites and re-imaging them in a different context. Suspended from a series of trees in Grove Park, the swings will light up and play music.

DISCO

Playfully juxtaposing different musical cultures with a series of disco balls illuminating a historic bandstand set to a soundtrack 70s disco party hits to get the whole family grooving.

TREE OF LIGHT

An interactive installation that invites the audience to use pedal power to illuminate some of Grove Park's stateliest trees.

SEAGULL

A hand carved illuminated, interactive seagull. Stand under it too long and you might be surprised.

SHADOWPLAY – in development

Five coloured spotlights, directed at a wall, are arranged in a line on the floor. The colours combine to illuminate the wall with a bright white light. When the visitor enters the space, their projected shadow, by blocking each coloured light from a slightly different angle, appears on the wall as an array of five differently coloured silhouettes. The display amplifies and distorts their movements, inviting their engagement, interaction and play.

XYLOPHONE – in development

Xylophone is an interactive sound and light installation that will be located in Princess Royal Square. At its centre is a mechanical xylophone which the audience is invited to play.

3) PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Regular Offers:

CHAPTER ONE creative writing group

continues to meet up fortnightly. Some of the members will feature alongside published poet Kathryn Beavis (co-winner of the Mairtin Crawford Award for Poetry and the Poetry Society

Members' Competition; first and second prize in the Second Light Poetry Competition; second in the York Poetry Prize) in December's **SPEAKEASY online poetry event - tickets available here:** <https://cultureweston.org.uk/listings/speakeasy-online-poetry-evening/>

OPEN ACCESS DRAMA

All sessions are offered on a free or pay what you can basis, and are attended by a large number of people with particular emotional and physical needs.

Adults - runs every Thursday morning at the Stable - see image below of their recent devised performance 'The Ground Between Us' - exploring what it is like to exist in the gaps of society - at Grand Atlantic Hotel.

Youth Theatre (junior and senior) - runs every Thursday afternoon at Blakehay and Weston College. Some young people have gone onto post 16 courses at Weston College as a direct consequence.

A new 4-6 year olds group is starting in January at the new Front Room venue in Dolphin Square. Shake, Rattle and Role-play for under 5s and their carers are running in December in Weston's libraries.

Recent feedback on youth theatre:

Thank YOU Angie, Lilly and Jordan and all the fabulous crew! Odin has had such a great time and LOVES drama club on Thursdays!!!! It is not an exaggeration to say, this group has changed his life. He is valued, appreciated, listened to and, dare I say, loved for who he is and for all he is. THANK YOU!!!!



Bespoke Projects

GOOD GRIEF WESTON

This will be a new Festival for May 2022 (as part of Dying Matters Awareness Week) and is part of a wider partnership between Bristol University, Culture Weston, VANS and wider community partners that aims to explore how health and social care, community assets and community can work together to tackle inequities. The Festival will be co-designed with community partners, and will offer inclusive and engaging arts and culture activities that can help to both highlight existing support, and seed further opportunities.

REACH IN AND REACH OUT (RIRO)

'Reach In and Reach Out' (RIRO) is a co-produced project with those aged 16-24 who live in the Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol and North Somerset area that aims to explore the link between creativity, wellbeing, community engagement and volunteering. In Weston we are connecting with young people on South Ward and with young refugee communities, with a core theme of food, cooking and shared activity. Co-ordinated regionally by Arts + Health SW and funded by Arts Council Volunteering Futures fund.