

## **AGENDA ITEM 9c**

### **NOTES OF THE MEETING of the HERITAGE ALLIANCE held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 11am.**

#### **In Attendance:**

Representing Tavistock Heritage Trust- David Conn.  
Representing Tavistock Town Council- Wayne Southall, Cllr Jeff Moody, Cllr Bev Moody.  
Representing Tavistock Guildhall: Tabitha Teale.  
Representing Tavistock Subscription Library- Ruth Blowey.  
Representing Tavistock Local History Society- Chris Bellers.  
Representing TASS- Simon Thompson.  
Representing Tavistock Parish Church- Bob Owens.  
Representing Tavistock Museum- Lesley Holliday.  
Representing Tavistock BID: Janna Sanders

Apologies were made on behalf of Simon Dell, Caroline Mott and Alison Holmes, who were unable to attend the meeting.

#### **1. CONFIRMATION OF NOTES:**

- a) The Notes of the Heritage Alliance Meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> June were confirmed as a true record.

#### **2. MATTERS ARISING:**

- a) There were no matters arising.

#### **3. HERITAGE ORGANISATION UPDATES:**

- a) Tavistock Guildhall: An overview of upcoming events for the Guildhall was provided, with the Museum of Policy planning to hold an exhibition in the Robing Room: 'Policing the Blitz' from the 5<sup>th</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup> August, with a mining exhibition following on from 1<sup>st</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> September: 'Ruins and Monuments'. It was explained that a crime theatre group were holding a two day performance on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> October, 'You be the Jury' and that Simon Dell's monthly talks continued to be well attended with a new programme of talks being discussed for 2026. An overview was provided relating to the arrangements for the planned Heritage Fair on 26<sup>th</sup> July.
- b) Tavistock BID: The BID Manager provided an overview of the stages for finalising all the content with the new website and various marketing initiatives relating to Tavistock experiences e.g. cream teas, canoe trips. This led to a conversation relating to tours of the Canal and who could be involved (Simon Dell, Tavistock Museum, THT).
- c) Tavistock Local History Society: Regarding Heritage Open Days it was explained that tours were planned at Hurdwick Quarry and Plymouth Road Cemetery with Fairway Furniture agreeing to the use of their car-park for the tours at the cemetery to assist with concerns around congestion on the site.

- d) The Subscription Library: The representative provided a positive update on the archiving process following a significant donation of books and it was explained that recently the venue had hosted a small group interested in mining.
- e) Tavistock Town Council: An update on Abbey Remains Project was provided explaining that THT and TTC had recently submitted a grant application to Historic England (value £254,000 including match funding) primarily pertaining the capital improvements complimentary initiatives for Betsy Grimbals Tower. It was explained that there was an anticipated determination period of 6-8 weeks and that if the partnership received a full grant that this could then lead to a re-submission to NLHF for delivery of the wider project objectives. The THT representative clarified that additional grant funding options were being explored, as well as considering the benefits of crowd funding, including applying for targeted funding relating to the Community Archaeological Digs.

A discussion was had relating to the condition of the old Chemist Shop on Market Street and next steps with regards to trying to improve the asset.

It was explained for Heritage Open Days that the Fringe were happy to be involved, with individuals dressing up as Monks etc.

- f) Tavistock Heritage Trust: The THT representative provided a positive update on the progress made relating to the preparation for Heritage Open Days, including the development of the brochure/newsletter, explaining that there was 27 scheduled events secured at this stage on the programme. The various mediums for promoting the event were explained including social media, e-brochures, banners, signage and bunting. It was explained that ticketed events such as Hurdwick Quarry, the Cemetery walk and the 6<sup>th</sup> Century Stones, had been published to ensure numbers were controlled safely with it being reported that a lot of interest has been received already. The arrangements for the evening opening event were explained for 12<sup>th</sup> September in the Guildhall, with the Mayor in attendance and a talk being presented by Dr Geri Parlby.
- g) Tavistock Museum: The Museum Manager explained that they have been offered an artifact, due to being the nearest accredited museum, with the artifact currently being evaluated and that there was ongoing discussions with THT regarding the approach around showcasing artifacts pertaining to the Abbey Remains Project. An overview of arrangements relating to supporting the Heritage Fair and Heritage Open Days was provided with the latter involving the use of one of the small rooms on the first floor.
- h) Tavistock Parish Church: An overview was provided relating to church parishes and their boundaries and how this would be approached in the

future. It was discussed whether Abbey Chapel and the Quakers building could be made available for Heritage Open Days.

- i) Tavistock Area Support Services: The representative explained what they were planning to promote for the heritage Fair and provided an overview relating to the school projects and what they wished to deliver for Heritage Open Days.

Next meeting is arranged for the 8<sup>th</sup> September at 11:00am, Tavistock Guildhall.