

AGENDA ITEM 6

NOTES OF THE MEETING of the HERITAGE ALLIANCE held on WEDNESDAY 19th MARCH 2025 at 11am.

In Attendance:

Representing Tavistock Heritage Trust- David Conn
Representing Tavistock Town Council- Wayne Southall, Tabitha Teale
Representing West Devon Borough Council- Caroline Mott
Representing Tavistock Subscription Library- Simon Dell, Ruth Blowey
Representing Tavistock Local History Society- Chris Bellers
Representing Tavistock BID- Janna Sanders
Representing TASS- Simon Thompson
Representing Tavistock Parish Church- John Rea

Apologies were made on behalf of Geri Parlby and Alison Holmes, who were unable to attend the meeting.

1. CONFIRMATION OF NOTES:

- a) The Notes of the Heritage Alliance held on Thursday 22nd January 2025 were confirmed as a true record.

2. MATTERS ARISING:

- a) It was discussed that the interim chair for the Tavistock Museum was Harry Smith and therefore should be added to the circulation list.

3. HERITAGE ORGANISATION UPDATES:

- a) Tavistock Subscription Library: An overview was provided regarding additional opening days for 2025, relating to Devonshire Association talk, HODs and a scheduled book fair.
- b) Tavistock Town Council: The representative discussed a positive meeting held with WHS which included a commitment to revamp their website, which would include information on the Guildhall as a Key Centre. An update of the next twelve months of events within the Guildhall was given; including Crime and Punishment Month being held during April, Simon Dell delivering monthly Friday talks until the end of 2025 as well as September featuring a Photography and Mining Exhibition (1st-30th) with additional evening talks booked during that period. It was explained that these events were being promoted through the links magazines, Visit Tavistock, on social media and with posters being placed around key venues in the town.
- c) Tavistock Local History Society: An update was provided about their status and that no new trustees had been appointed from the last AGM and it was explained that there was a programme of Tuesday talks being held on the second Tuesday of the month, excluding October.

- d) West Devon Borough Council: The WDBC representative discussed upcoming plans relating to WHS and information was circulated at the meeting.
- e) Tavistock Parish Church: The representative discussed that they are stepping down and Dr Bob Owens was taking over the role. All organisations, thanked the representative for his service.
- f) Tavistock Area Support Services: The representative of TASS discussed they are holding a talk on the 2nd May regarding WWII/VE Day, as well as an event in August/September. An update on school projects was provided and it was explained that funding has been granted for further life story recordings. Discussions relating to displaying a flag for VE Day was had but the general consensus was that it would not form part of the VE Day event.
- g) Tavistock BID: An overview was provided from the BID representative regarding launching the new Visit Tavistock platform. A conversation was held around the importance of organisations providing event information to Tavistock BID in a timely manner and how best to ensure there was effective cross-promotion. It was discussed that a generic email sent every two weeks to prompt organisations to update the spreadsheet may be helpful.
- a) Tavistock Heritage Trust: THT provided an update on what the Discovery Team and been delivering, including positive numbers of attendees to the half term workshop as well as explaining the schedule of activities going forward. An overview was provided regarding the Walking tours programme for April to October and thanks was provided to Alex Mettler who was stepping down from delivering regular talks. It was also explained that THT were promoting and delivering private guided tours. The concept of Tavistock Local History Society working more closely with THT more specifically relating to tours around the cemeteries was mentioned. An overview of HODs in September was provided by THT with the theme being architecture with early promotion scheduled for May/June. A lengthy discussion was held with respect to the Heritage Newsletter and that the theme would be VE Day celebrations/WWII. THT provided an update on the Abbey Remains Project, with the grant application to NLHF sent on the 19th February, determination date expected to be 6-8 weeks.

4. AOB:

- a) The Tavistock BID representative provided an update on VE Day preparations and that a finalised schedule and promotional poster would be circulated closer to the event.
- b) The scheduling of another Heritage Fair for July 2025 was discussed, date to be agreed.

The next meeting is arranged for the 23rd April 2025 at 11.00am