

AGENDA ITEM 6

NOTES OF THE MEETING of the HERITAGE ALLIANCE held on Wednesday 23rd April 2025 at 11am.

In Attendance:

Representing Tavistock Heritage Trust- David Conn.
Representing Tavistock Town Council- Wayne Southall, Tabitha Teale, Cllr Andy Hutton.
Representing West Devon Borough Council- Caroline Mott.
Representing Tavistock Museum- Lesley Holliday
Representing Tavistock Subscription Library- Ruth Blowey.
Representing Tavistock Local History Society- Chris Bellers.
Representing Tavistock BID- Janna Sanders.
Representing TASS- Simon Thompson.
Representing Tavistock Parish Church- Bob Owens.
Representing Devonshire Association- Sue Andrew.

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

1. CONFIRMATION OF NOTES:

- a) The notes of the Heritage Alliance held on 19th March 2025 were confirmed as a true record.

2. MATTERS ARISING

- a) Attendees discussed the latest version of the Heritage Alliance Newsletter with the main theme relating to VE Day and everyone was thanked with regards to the quality their contributions. A general discussion was held around how best this iteration should be circulated to reach the widest audience.

3. HERITAGE ORGANISATION UPDATES:

- a) Tavistock Local History Society: An overview was provided with respect to their partnership working with THT relating to Guided Walking Tours, that they were considering what could be delivered for Heritage Open Days and an explanation was provided around a project in Mary Tavy relating to a telephone box.
- b) Tavistock Subscription Library: It was explained at the latest AGM that the current Chairman, Simon Dell has decided to step down. An overview of membership numbers was provided with the amount of subscriptions deemed positive and manageable and attendees were advised of the Libraries ongoing commitment to Heritage Open Days.

- c) Tavistock Museum: The Museum Manager explained that figures for those attending since reopening in April 2024 were encouraging and that they were receiving a lot of positive feedback regarding new displays. Specific to Heritage Open Days the museum would be focusing on themes relating to Bedford Cottages and the Canal and it was mentioned that the museum would be working closely with The Devonshire Association around sharing knowledge on this topic.
- d) West Devon Borough Council: An update was provided specific to attendance and plans with the WHS and it was explained that WDBC had committed to promoting Heritage buildings and aspects of architectural interest on social media this year (how this would be achieved was currently being reviewed).
- e) Tavistock Town Council: An explanation was provided regarding the rationale of why the recent grant application to NLHF relating to the Abbey Remains project has been declined, primarily regarding unsecured match funding and that if this match funding was secured in the future, that a re-application would be encouraged. The next steps were explained specific to applying for a grant up to £200,000 to Historic England for refurbishment works to Betsy Grimbal's Tower only, along with some community engagement activities, and that it was expected that this application would be submitted in May. The Historic England bid could then either be delivered in isolation or as a wider project if a reapplication to NLHF was successful. It was also explained that other grant applications were to be submitted specific to archaeological aspects and that the research team would continue with their scheduled programme of investigations.
- f) Tavistock Parish Church: The representative discussed the churches involvement for the HODs with a focus around musical heritage specific to the church organ and the story around artefacts stored within the church. Specific to VE Day Celebrations it was explained that a service had been scheduled for 10am.
- g) Tavistock Heritage Trust: A general overview was provided around the plans for Heritage Open Days, theme 'Architecture', with guided walks scheduled for 20th September by THT and plans being implemented, in conjunction with the Discovery Team for an event again within the Guildhall, in addition to their normal scheduled activities. An overview of progress made with potentially relocating the three 6th century memorial stones currently within the Vicarage Garden was provided with a scheduled tour planned for 4th September on this theme. It was explained at a recent trustee meeting that the current Chair maybe stepping down this year as a trustee but would still be involved, and thanks were expressed from all in attendance.
- h) Tavistock BID: The BID Manager provided an overview of progress relating to the development of the new Visit Tavistock website and explained that a separate section would be allocated to heritage and its scheduled events as well as explaining that the new Town Guide would be circulated shortly and

that Tavistock BID had been working with partners on delivering some heritage trails. An update on VE Day Celebrations Event scheduled for 8th May was given which was being held in and around the curtilage of Bedford Square and Guildhall car-park between 12:00-20:00 and that the event would finish with the lighting of the Beacon on Whitchurch Down at 21:30.

- i) Devonshire Association: The representative provided an overview of what their organisation was planning, including that they had secured IRO of £40,000 from Heritage Fund UK which would allow them to raise awareness to Celebrate Devon's World-Class Heritage which includes talks in Tavistock on 26th April 2025 relating to Cornwall and West Devon's Mining Landscape, and walks on 17th May 2025 specific to Tavistock Canal and at Devon Great Consols.
- j) Tavistock Area Support Services: An update on the scheduled walks and talks as well explaining the stages and next steps relating to the Life Stories Project was provided.

4. AOB:

- a) A provisional date of 26th July 2025 was agreed for the next Heritage Fair Event.
- b) The next meeting is arranged for 4th June 2025 at 11:00.