

Mud Walls Group Minutes

Meeting 3: May 2016

Minutes prepared by Jen Barback.

The meeting diverged from the prepared agenda because of the arrival of Luke from Marketplace, who wished to present to the group about his work.

Marketplace Project

Marketplace is a vehicle for delivering Arts Council funded arts & culture programming across the fens (to market towns). Luke is employed by this project and is currently trying to meet groups of local people in order to generate some community engagement with the project. He is specifically looking for groups who could be in some way involved with an event he intends to run in Whittlesey in November 2016, for which he needs several community groups to help co-create art.

The event will be held at St. Mary's church on the 18th-20th November 2016, it will be called "The Imagination Festival". Very few other details are finalised as the shape of it will be determined by the nature of the community involvement, although he is looking for local people to create content, volunteer at the event itself and to create performances (live or pre-recorded).

In preparation for the November event Luke hopes to run workshops to help develop new work, for example projections, lights, installations, poetry, storytelling, etc (the exact nature would be community-led). Hopefully, this would then lead onto a programme for 2017.

Luke's email address is: lukepayn@hotmail.com

The meeting responded favourably to Luke's suggestions and briefly brainstormed possible ways to engage with the festival as a new group, for example building a demonstration mud wall in the churchyard for the weekend or asking children to film themselves with commentary in front of existing fragments of mud wall using a provided map.

Heritage Open Days

The meeting was reminded that Heritage Open Days are a national programme of opening private historic buildings (etc), held on the first weekend in September every year. In 2016 it is thought that the dates would be 8th-11th September.

It was decided that the next meeting of the Mud walls group would be held at 10am on Wednesday 15th June and that this meeting would be used to focus on the Imagination programme and Heritage Open Days (which need to be entered by the end of June).

Visit Cambridgeshire Fens

It was felt that this site should be informed about mud walls, to help raise the profile regionally/nationally.

Surveying

The logistics of surveying the existing mud walls were discussed.

- Historic survey information is to be gathered, it can be sent to Jen to collate or publish to Facebook if necessary/appropriate.
- The FDC staff told the meeting that Historic England are about to produce an app to help review buildings, to launch "at any moment". This may or may not be helpful to mud walls.
- It was decided that the group should go and survey a mud wall together at the next meeting, ideally led by David Hancock, due to his past experience.

Equipment required to survey:

- Long measuring tapes
- Camera
- Clipboard and pencil (etc), with survey proforma sheet to fill in.

It was agreed that the survey proforma should only be finalised after this first test-survey, as carrying out a survey might throw up information or practicalities that need to be accounted for.

Before carrying out a full survey of all the mud walls, a letter will be prepared and then hand-delivered to people who might own a mud wall. This can work off QUBE info where owners are known and otherwise can be delivered to all properties adjacent to a mud wall.

Contact

Nicola volunteered to sort out a mobile phone for the group, so that a phone number could be advertised.

An email address would also be created: whittleseymudwalls@gmail.com

Having these group contact details would allow the creation of flyers etc.