

Creative Coastline: A Torbay Culture Forum Event
Berry Head Hotel
24th November 2016

Speaker Biographies (in order of programme)

Kate Farmery

Kate has spent most of her career within the cultural sector, firstly at Oldham Council and then for many years with Manchester City Galleries. She joined the organisation as press officer and worked her way up to deputy director, in charge of the day to day operation of the whole service, nearly 100 staff and a budget of £3.2m. In recent years, she's also been heavily involved with shaping the overall cultural offer in Manchester and repositioning the city as a popular cultural tourism destination.

As the Executive Director of the Torbay Culture Board she will work with the board to implement its Cultural Strategy, the main aims of which is to get more people involved in cultural activities, make the most of Torbay's cultural assets, from the coast and countryside to its buildings and ensure that culture contributes to Torbay's social and economic development.

Sarah Crown

Mumsnet editor Sarah Crown has joined Arts Council England (ACE) to become its director of literature and the South West.

The role of director for literature is a national one, in addition to which Crown will have a regional leadership position in the South West team. Sarah has been editor of mumsnet.com, the UK's largest network for parents, for the past four years, and before this was the *Guardian's* online literary editor.

Jenny Rutter

Jenny Rutter is a creative producer with 15 years' experience supporting & developing creative practice in the Northwest, now working as the Creative Development Manager for LeftCoast. Her work has included managing arts organisations, producing arts projects, festivals and design events, lecturing on creative entrepreneurship across the country and project managing a wide range of creative & cultural regeneration programmes. Jenny is a Clore cultural fellow, SFEDI accredited business advisor and Relational Dynamics accredited coach, specialising in work with creative people and start-ups.

Daisy Sutcliffe

Daisy is a creative producer, facilitator and researcher specialising in engagement in arts, science, heritage and place. She studied sciences at A-level and then Social Anthropology at the University of Edinburgh. She spent the next ten years developing and delivering participatory arts projects in London working at the South Bank Centre and Hackney Empire amongst others, before moving to Dorset into the new post of Jurassic Coast Arts Coordinator where she delivered the Jurassic Coast Arts Programme, the first time a natural World Heritage Site had incorporated the arts into the site's strategic management. She is now doing a PhD in Geography at the University of Glasgow, looking at geopolitics, arts, aesthetics and the mobilisation of creative practices around UNESCO Sites.

John Wokersien

John is a retired associate of the Institute of Company Secretaries and Administrators. His career was spent in Central Services within Local Authorities – Portsmouth City Council, Mid Devon District Council, Cotswold District Council and Exmouth Town Council where he spent 12 years as Town Clerk (a post from which he is now retired).

He has been associated with the Jurassic Coast since its incorporation as a World Heritage Site and has served for most of that time as Chairman of the Communities Forum. His interests include

working in the community, ornithology and environmental issues and of course the Jurassic Coast and all its secrets, many yet to be revealed. For light relief, John is also known as Quill the Bosun as a member of the internationally famous buoy band The Exmouth Shanty Men.

His love of the Jurassic Coast developed from two childhood holidays spent in the area which sparked a lifelong interest in landscape and nature. To be able to be involved in looking after this internationally important length of coast feels to John like a natural fulfilment of his life. The arrival of grandchildren has been a joy and reinforces the need to take some responsibility for looking after our important corner of England for future generations and for sharing it responsibly with all who live here or are yet to visit.

Richard Maddock

A director of Torquay-based Kay Elliott Architects, Richard is an Urban Designer with over 25 years' experience in the field of architecture and masterplanning. His area of special interest is in mixed use developments including waterfront regeneration, cultural, leisure and wildlife conservation projects.

Richard has been involved in large scale masterplanning including eco-communities, successful funding applications for culture-led regeneration, strategic support to local authorities on urban design and public realm improvements. He is highly regarded for his creative design ability and for adding value to projects through the feasibility to planning stages and beyond. Richard is the Kay Elliott practice champion for design quality and sustainability.

Richard is one of the members of the Torbay Culture Board.

Carolyn Custerson

Carolyn has over 30 years' experience working in the UK tourism industry and is known for her infectious enthusiasm and passion for progressive tourism. Previous roles include Director of UK holidays for SAGA, Specialist Tourism Advisor for Business Link Devon and Cornwall and Senior Tourism lecturer at Plymouth CFE. For the past 10 years Carolyn has run Close Focus Tourism Consultancy. In March 2009 Close Focus was awarded the contract by Torbay Development Agency to prepare a new tourism strategy *Turning the Tide for Tourism in Torbay* which was published in July 2009. Carolyn was subsequently contracted to set up the ERTC as Project Manager before becoming CEO.

Esther Pearson

Esther Pearson has been working in the charity sector for 20 years. Initially inspired by her volunteer work in local charities, Esther was supported by her employer and their corporate social responsibility policy to use her private sector marketing skills for the good of charities. After developing her fundraising skills working in London for national charities, Esther returned to the South West and has worked in employed, volunteer and freelancing roles to progress the work of various charities through strategy development, income generation, project management and recruiting and managing good people. She rose to the position of Chief Executive Officer for a national charity and sport governing body in 2010 and has continued her passion for health and wellbeing and the outdoors sector in her work as Director of the South West Coast Path. During her 2.5 years with the charity Esther has created a business plan, strong collaborations with partners, the National Trust and Natural England Team, delivered income generation in excess of £1.5 million – enabling the charity to reach its dual ambitions of promoting and protecting the South West Coast Path as one of the World's greatest walking routes.