

Culture: Learning Well; a meeting of the Torbay Culture Forum

20th October 2015

Speaker Biographies (in programme order)

Culture: Learning Well Opening Address

Lizzie Crump

Co-Director of the Cultural Learning Alliance

I work right across the arts and cultural sector leading projects with all sorts of different people; from large-scale strategic agencies and major cultural venues, to very small organisations, individuals and artists. I specialise in being the strategic glue between the public sector, politics, culture, arts and learning professionals and in finding new ways for people to work together, share expertise, express opinions and make change.

I love the arts - particularly literature and poetry - and think that everyone, everywhere should have the chance to experience and create culture in their everyday lives. I believe that equality of access to excellent learning and a brilliant cultural and creative education should be the right of every child. I love technology too.

In my day-to-day work I draft policy positions, advise on implementation, support advocacy, structure collective action, build relationships and try to champion collegiate thinking.

Beyond Words

Professor Jocey Quinn

Plymouth Institute of Education, Plymouth University

I am a Professor of Education. My research focuses on those considered to be 'non-learners', 'bad learners' or 'past learning'. I am interested in the inter-relationships of learning and culture, in transformations in what counts as valid knowledge and in the implications for social justice.

I work at Plymouth University, UK, where I lead the research group Learning outside Formal Education and am a director of the Centre for Culture, Community and Society.

My research and publications have focused on the social and cultural role of universities and on adults learning outside formal education, for example in community arts, activism, low-paid work and nature.

Meanwhile... in Torbay

Andy Sloper, Active Devon

Andy joined Active Devon as Business Development Manager in January 2012, supporting all the business development, planning and improvement activities of Active Devon, and lead the Business Support Team.

Andy has been involved in sport development in a voluntary capacity since 1995, primarily through involvement with Dart-Totnes Amateur Rowing Club. He led the establishment of the Junior section and was Junior Coordinator there between 1995 and 2004. He continues to coach junior beginners, a level 3 coach, and qualified coach educator for British Rowing.

Kate Rudman and Mike Cook
Co-Directors of Sound Communities

Kate's work experience includes Learning Director at Preston Manor City Learning Centre. Freelance Radio Education Consultant incl. Makewaves, London Gifted and Talented, Southwark City Learning Centre and Soundart Radio. Kate taught English at secondary level and was a casting director and documentary researcher for film and television. She has Masters degrees in Media Education/School Improvement and Radio Production and is a fellow of the Devon School for Social Entrepreneurs. Kate DJs and produces live radio shows and features.

Mike also works as a radio and music technology teacher. He teaches visually impaired students at the WESC Foundation in Exeter where he runs their radio station. He manages and teaches music sessions with young people with SEND and SEBD. He studied Music Production at Buckinghamshire New University winning the Sennheiser Best Music Production Prize. Mike has worked as a producer for community radio stations and is a professional DJ.

Session leader for Achieving Outstanding... Schools

Helen Tiplady
Real Ideas Organisation (RIO)

Helen is the Arts Award and Artsmark regional development coordinator for the South of the South West (mostly covering Devon and Cornwall). Helen has been with RIO since 2010 before which she was a dance teacher and Co-Director of a dance company called CScape, performing and working in unusual spaces and places.

Session leaders for Achieving Outstanding... Individuals

Lynne Roberts and Michael Howarth
Sanctuary Housing

Lynne is the Neighbourhood Partnerships Manager for Sanctuary Housing in Torbay. With over 15 years experience in social work, supported living and community development in Torbay, Lynne has developed an extensive knowledge of Torbay's communities. Lynne's focus has always been on supporting local communities to develop projects and activities that encourage self sufficiency, raise aspirations and make local neighbourhoods better places to live.

Michael is the Neighbourhood Partnerships Officer for Sanctuary Housing in Torbay. Michael has over 20 years experience in housing management and neighbourhood based community development, for the last 4 years in Torbay. With experience of delivering projects from youth engagement through Dreamscheme initiatives, to estate based environmental improvement schemes, Michael works to secure funding for small community groups and help them promote their activities.

Erin Walcon
Co-Director of Doorstep Arts

Erin administers and runs six ongoing weekly groups for children aged 4-19 across Torbay for Doorstep Arts. These groups devise and create their own theatre, dance and music with support from professional artists. Outside of her work with Doorstep Arts, Erin completed her PhD at the University of Exeter in 2013 and has since joined the staff as a postdoctoral research fellow. As one of the members of staff working with the Applied Theatre pathway, she supports university students working out in the field with various school, health and community groups. As Artistic Director for Devon Youth Theatre, Erin works in partnership with DAISI (Devon Arts in Schools Initiative) to provide a free schools theatre outreach programme every January/February. She is also a regional producer for Battersea Arts Centre's Collaborative Touring Network.

Session leaders for Achieving Outstanding... Futures

Peter Heppa

Head of Creative Arts and Media, South Devon College

As Head of Creative Arts and Media at South Devon College in Paignton, I have responsibility for Art, including Fashion and Photography, Music, Media and Drama. My main personal interests and experience are in Film, Art History and Theatre. I'm also interested in – and have experience of – Community Art based projects, especially involving children, and all aspects of Arts Education.

Debbie Passmore

Partnership Executive, Torbay Development Agency

As Economy, Investment and Enterprise Development lead for Employment and Skills I support the delivery of key priorities and sector specific strategies, which aim to improve skills levels and employment opportunities for local residents and to support long-term sustainable job growth for businesses within Torbay and South Devon.

My role also provides cross-function support to the Economy, Investment and Enterprise Development team and wider objectives of the Torbay Development Agency in order to assist in the production and implementation of strategies and programmes that enable the achievement of local identified economic and regeneration goals.

Sue Smith

Director, Dance in Devon

Sue has worked as an independent dance artist in Devon and Plymouth since 2003. She was a Rayne Fellow 2006 and was Dance in Devon's first Dance Champion. Sue was a member of CandoCo Dance Company and has danced in works by Emilyn Claid, Siobhan Davies and Complicite and as a teacher has worked extensively across the UK and internationally. Sue has worked for The Council for Dance Education and Training and Yorkshire Dance and has developed dance courses for CandoCo Dance Company and Leeds Metropolitan University. She was a choreography lecturer at Dartington College of Arts and continues her relationship with Falmouth University as a PhD candidate. Sue is passionate about the potential of accessible, high quality dance to reflect and reveal real lives across the broadest spectrum of experience.

Kate Rowlands

Kate works with our event partner Real Ideas Organisation (RIO) and works as a Locality Coordinator for Plymouth, responsible for the management and delivering of the enterprising learning, education and social programmes they run in a real work context.

Session leader for 'Taking your ideas forward...'

Tamzyn Smith

Tamzyn is RIO's Specialist Consultant for Arts and Culture – developing meaningful and sustainable working partnerships between young people, schools and the cultural sector – including arts organisations, museums, libraries and archives.

Tamzyn has worked in developing relationships between the schools and the arts sector for over ten years – delivering on both the Creative Partnerships and Bridge contracts in the South West for Arts Council England. She has previously worked for The Architecture Foundation, Design Council and the ICA.

Tamzyn has a degree in Architecture and an MA in Curating Contemporary Design. Her passion is to initiate exciting conversations involving arts, culture and enterprise with a sprinkle of humour and fun that result in some practical and meaningful solutions for the benefit of the individuals, organisations and young people involved. She is also a Director of the Borlase Smart John Wells Trust Ltd which

owns and manages unique and historic artists studios in St Ives and Newlyn, Cornwall, and a Board Member of the South West Museum Development Partnership.

Jonathon Clitheroe

Head of Challenge Based Learning, RIO

Jonathan has worked in the education sector for the last 10 years as a teacher, creative agent, project manager, consultant, and social entrepreneur. He has a MA from Exeter University, is a member of Plymouth's Social Enterprise Network, sits on the boards of PAPH CIC and the South West Plymouth Educational Trust and is a co-founder of the Merfyn Temple Foundation.

He specialises in applying social enterprise principles that transform teaching and learning as well as how schools are run and managed.

As Head of Challenge Based Learning, Jonathan is responsible for the continued success of our Schools' Service, drawing on his wide experience working with young people, communities, school leaders, businesses and the third sector. He is passionate about getting our young generation ready for their future and he loves enabling schools to use innovative, challenge-based learning and a social enterprise approach to solve the problems they face.

Kate Farmery

Executive Director of Torbay Culture Board

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 new Executive Director of the Torbay Culture Board 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.