

Creative and Digital Industries; a meeting of the Torbay Culture Forum 12th July 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.

Pippa Warin

Pippa is a senior manager of Arts Council England leading on strategic partnerships in the South West area and is a member of the national Creative Industries team.

Previous to the Arts Council Pippa was Head of Culture for the Government Office SW and executive director of Culture SW and before that she set up the regional arm of the Big Lottery Fund. Pippa originally trained as a drama teacher and has had a wide and varied experience setting up and running community education projects and working with local authorities. She was chair of the Phoenix Arts Centre, founder chair of DAISI - Devon Arts in Schools, a Director of Exeter College and a member of the Board set up to develop Exeter University's Arts and Cultural strategy.

Kate Adam

Kate manages the Business Investment Programme at Creative England. This is an £8.3million investment fund made available via the Regional Growth Fund from the Department of Business Innovation and Skills. We support and invest in digital creative SMEs in England outside of London to finance business growth, which helps to fuel the fastest growing sector in the UK economy. From our interest-free business loans and equity investments to supporting innovative healthtech products and offering revenue share deals, we have different types of investment and finance we can offer to high growth companies and start-ups.

<http://www.creativeengland.co.uk/investment/overview-and-apply>

Matt Desmier

Matt Desmier is an interesting character and like all the best super heroes, he leads a double life.

By day he is a partner at the strategic consultancy Think Create Do, working with brands and organisations helping inform their next big decision. Whilst by night he's an event impresario, having founded Silicon Beach, Once Upon A Time, She Who Dares Wins and BOSS:Talks.

A fixture on various Top 100 lists of digital champions (BIMA 2016, Maserati 2016, Digital Leaders 2015) he's also an in demand raconteur, speaking at events all over the world.

If you've ever met Matt you'll know he laughs a lot and has a unique dress sense.

Steve Caunter

Steve Caunter has 20 years' experience in education and training. Steve started his career as an apprentice heavy vehicle technician, studying at South Devon College. Whilst working for DAF and Mercedes on truck, marine, bus and powertrain applications Steve developed a desire to share his knowledge, skills and experience with others. Moving to Milton Keynes, Steve joined Mercedes Benz UK as a Technical Training Specialist delivering electronic systems and technical innovation courses nationally and internationally.

Following completion of his teacher training at Exeter University, Steve moved into further education gaining a wealth of experience and is currently Assistant Principal for the department of Hi-Tech & Digital at South Devon College. Curriculum responsibilities include Animal Science, Horticulture, Automotive, Marine, Engineering, Computing and Digital Media. Steve is currently driving important curriculum developments to reflect the needs of Hi-Tech & Digital Skills in a global economy.

Marissa Wakefield

Before becoming Centre Director at Cockington Court 5 years ago, Marissa was responsible for the strategic direction and planning of the Arts Charity DIVA as a leading arts organisation in West Yorkshire, was head of the Making Faces project from the National Trust and National Portrait Gallery and was Centre Manager for the vibrant state of the art Contemporary arts and Crafts Centre at Henshaws, a charity supporting people living with sight loss and other disabilities to achieve their ambitions and go beyond their expectations

Her work role at Cockington Court is to establish the restored Grade II* listed Cockington Court Manor House and estate as a creative centre of excellence, incorporating new-build workspace, art gallery, visitor centre, outdoor entertainment area, and an education and skills training venue. The project addresses deprivation by using a tourist attraction as a catalyst for economic regeneration and operating it as a creative business incubator as part of the TDA's range of innovation centres.

Lynnette and James Dare, 'Flossy and Jim'

We are illustrators and designers; our aim is to make the world a more exciting, imaginative and fun place to be!

We both trained at the University of Plymouth, and have a BA (Hons) degree in illustration and visual communications. Since trading as 'Flossy and Jim Ltd' in May 2013, we have built an extensive portfolio of work including illustrations for children's books, cook books, phone apps, educational tools, crafting materials, cartoons and food packaging! We have been lucky enough to work alongside big brands such as Red Bull, Apple, Disney and the Cartoon Network. Most recently we have been contracted to provide illustrations for the brand new messenger app 'YUBL', which just got voted number one app by BT.

In 2015 we won the Excellence Award for 'Best New Business', and we were also nominated for the 'MAD Awards Best Blog', the 'Venus Awards' and also the 'Torbay Social Media Awards!' This year we have been nominated for 'Excellence in Customer Service', and for a 'Business Growth Award'. (We don't like to blow our own trumpets, but that's pretty rad right?!)