

Lighthouse

POOLE'S CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

LIGHTHOUSE NEWSLETTER

THE CULTURAL ENQUIRY ISSUE >

**BCP CULTURAL ENQUIRY:
WHAT IT MEANS FOR LIGHTHOUSE**
LH40 COLLECTION ACQUIRED
**STAR WARS DAME BACKS
CAMPAIGN**

01202 280000
www.lighthousepoole.co.uk



MAKING THE CASE FOR ARTS AND CULTURE >

Spring is in the air and with it comes a sense of optimism, of new opportunities and fresh starts – what better time to have launched a Cultural Enquiry to explore the part played by arts and culture in the new BCP city region created by the merger of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole councils?

Lighthouse has joined Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra; Poole, Bournemouth and Christchurch councils; Bournemouth University and Arts University; the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership and Arts Council England South West to develop a long-term vision to ensure that culture is at the heart of BCP and continues to develop as a major economic and social benefit for the region.

We are looking closely at the strengths of the current offer, at what we do well and, crucially, at what new provision or opportunities should be created so that the cultural offer in BCP reflects the new authority and is in line with that available comparable city regions.

It's interesting to compare the experience of arts and business organisations working collectively with local authorities and the ongoing debate around Brexit. There are of course parallels to be drawn between our country's identity now we are no longer part of Europe, and the local picture as we refine our identity within BCP.

But as for how Brexit will affect Lighthouse, there are a number of concerns.

Previously Lighthouse has been able to access funding from Europe and for now at least there is no indication that funding will be replaced. I have further concerns about access – how artists from Europe can perform in this country and how our artists will be able to perform in EU countries without lengthy process and additional costs.

There are also industry concerns about supply chains, not so much in Lighthouse itself as we are very local in the suppliers we work with, but more so our suppliers, if their supply chains are stretched, we could experience some difficulty.

The fact is, arts and culture make all our lives better and I worry some of our audiences might not have the money to spare to attend cultural events. Play is important to our wellbeing and if we're unable to do something that is outside of working and resting such as seeing a show, we lose some of our quality of life.

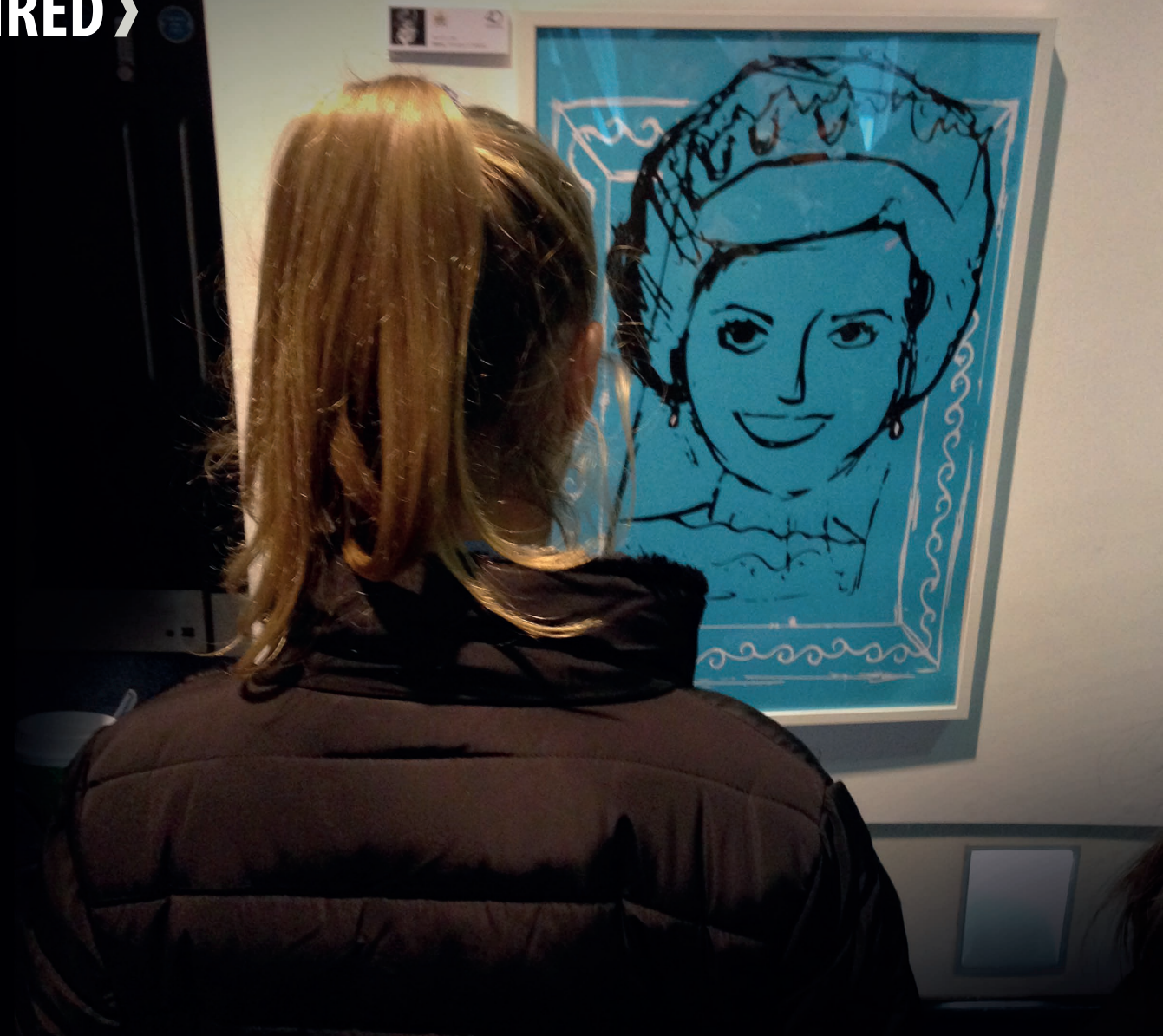
We look forward to seeing the results of the enquiry later in the year and being part of the many organisations who will together shape the cultural future for our community.



Elspeth McBain, Chief Executive, Lighthouse



LH40 ILLUSTRATIONS ACQUIRED ›



As it brings its year of fortieth anniversary celebrations to a close Lighthouse has acquired a collection of eye-catching illustrations depicting key moments in its history.

The fifteen works were created by Year 7 and 8 students as part of Ferndown Middle School's on-going partnership with Lighthouse with the help of final year illustration undergraduates at Arts University Bournemouth and Martin Brown, the Dorset-based illustrator best known for his work on the *Horrible Histories* books.

"This work is hugely impressive and made a real impression on so many of our audiences and visitors when it was shown in the Mezzanine Gallery – we're thrilled to have been able to acquire the illustrations permanently," says Sara St George, head of sales and marketing.

The Ferndown pupils were given access to an unexplored archive of posters, programmes, photographs, newspaper clippings, architectural plans and memorabilia found in a store cupboard at Lighthouse. They chose to work on a range of subjects to illustrate including Michael Jackson, Princess Diana, Wham, Oasis, Rowan Atkinson and Sir Ian McKellen, who was once refused entry to the theatre in costume midway through a production of *Twelfth Night* – because he didn't have a ticket!

Martin Brown spent a day at the school working with the young illustrators on ways they could condense events into single drawings, sometimes made with only a few lines. Praising the young artists as "talented, motivated and fun," he joined them to visit the Museum of Design in Plastic at Arts University Bournemouth where they worked with illustration undergraduates on how best to present the drawings for maximum impact.

"The most positive outcome from this project was the fantastic collaboration between AUB, Lighthouse and Ferndown Middle School," says Jerry Whitton, Ferndown Middle's Head of Design Technology. "It was a real team effort bonded by the skills and expertise of Martin Brown. All involved gained so much from this collaboration."

The illustrations will go on permanent display at Lighthouse around the Beacon café area and backstage in the Green Room.

A CULTURAL ENQUIRY FOR BCP EXPLAINED >

Launched in January, a Cultural Enquiry for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole is looking at the role culture plays in our lives. Here, Chief Executive Elspeth McBain explains what it means for Lighthouse...

WHAT IS IT?

Cultural Enquiry is a piece of work in response to the reorganisation of local government that will bring the new BCP unitary authority into being in April.

WHAT WILL IT DO?

Its aim is to examine the area's creative and cultural provision to identify its strengths and weaknesses, as well as the opportunities presented by the creation of the new unitary authority as three town councils are combined into one city region. The enquiry will shape the area's creative future to make sure it has the right cultural mix in line with what would be expected in a similarly sized city.

WHO WILL DO THE WORK?

Following a rigorous tendering process, Tom Fleming Creative Consultancy, the internationally renowned UK based consultancy for the creative economy, has been engaged to undertake the Cultural Enquiry. They will be supported by a Cultural Enquiry Board made up of Lighthouse, Bournemouth University and Bournemouth Council, but led by Borough of Poole, with a small steering group.

HOW ARE THEY GOING ABOUT IT?

The consultation process is already under way and the Consultancy is staging a series of what it is calling Town Hall Meetings at which members of the local arts community are invited to debate aspects of culture within the area.

Both our universities are very arts-based, so one area for discussion is how does this area retain the talent that is nurtured in higher education; or how does it encourage that talent to come back once it has gained experience in the wider world?

For instance, if we look at Bristol as a comparable city, it has the Watershed that presents creative opportunities for film making and digital work. Does this area need a hub for similar activity?

HOW IS LIGHTHOUSE INVOLVED?

Lighthouse is represented on the Cultural Enquiry along with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Poole, Bournemouth and Christchurch councils (BCP from 1 April), Bournemouth University and Arts University, Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership and Arts Council England South West.

WHAT COULD IT MEAN FOR LIGHTHOUSE?

This area lacks a professional conservatoire, a place to study music, or theatre, or dance, or visual arts. There's no art school. There are dance schools, but no dance company. There are very few small professional theatre companies because there is no funding for them.

Lighthouse is a receiving house and although we retain an ambition that 20 per cent of what is shown here should have been produced here, the reality is that without funding it is hard to see how that can be any more than our will or desire.



Photo: Richard Budd

WHAT DIFFERENCE SHOULD IT MAKE?

The enquiry aims to make culture central to a distinctive identity for the BCP area by developing a cultural strategy that makes the arts a major part of the area's personality – what BCP is best known for.

Investment in arts and culture has been shown to generate economic growth, benefit health and well-being, boost educational attainment and develop community cohesion. We can only do that by working collectively so if you take Hull as an example of what can be achieved with its Capital of Culture programme, there is no reason to think that with the right investment that ambition cannot be achieved here.

WHEN IS THIS HAPPENING?

24 January: Enquiry launched

January to May: Engagement with stakeholders

June: Interim report

October: Final report

WHO PAYS?

To pay for the work each partner has contributed a sum of money that has been matched by Arts Council England.

Collectively we're able to work together towards shared common aims and increasingly as venues we are being asked to produce things as consortia, so this is an example of how we can combine to secure investment and that could be from commercial sponsorship as well as public funding.

What the Cultural Enquiry will do is present Arts Council England with the evidence it needs to make the case for additional funding, wherever that may come from.

All the partners have embraced this as a meaningful opportunity to develop a clear cultural strategy for the region.

‘Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole councils have an exceptional track record of investing in art and culture, which can be seen through the superb range of creative work produced in the region. The forthcoming local government reorganisation presents a unique chance for culture to be put at the heart of this coastal region’s strategy and further develop its sense of place. We’re proud to be supporting this long-term vision for the new unitary authority and we look forward to seeing the recommendations made for the future prosperity of BCP.’

DARREN HENLEY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



Image: 'Ebbs and Flows' by Ashley Wilkie for Light Up Poole Festival of digital light art in partnership with Lighthouse and others. CREDIT Elliott Franks.

WHY I LOVE LIGHTHOUSE

Janna Edwards

Founder 15 Days in Clay

Lighthouse has been central to the development and evolution of 15 Days In Clay. Giving us the opportunity to showcase our work at such a respected and highly-acclaimed venue, has enabled us to be seen in a much more professional light and catapulted us to a wider audience.

There was only ever one venue in Dorset that we felt could platform our work in such a professional way and that would be able to show the talents of the artists. That venue was always Lighthouse.

Having us back for our 15-year anniversary has been an honour and we are enormously grateful to everyone at Lighthouse for being so professional in their support and for helping us fulfill our vision.

15 Days In Clay's latest exhibition, The Tribe, can be seen at Lighthouse until 20 April



Julie Spencer, one of the artists who has been with 15 Days In Clay since the very beginning, with Dr Sybil King, Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset, at the private view of The Tribe.



The Mayor and Mayoress of Poole, Cllr Peter Adams and his wife Brenda, with Brian Cox, Colin Jones and Janna Edwards at the private view of Talking Heads, the previous 15 Days In Clay exhibition at Lighthouse in 2015.



LIGHTHOUSE SETS STANDARD FOR PAID INTERNSHIPS >

With unpaid work experience likely to be outlawed this year Lighthouse is setting the standard for the creative employment of interns.

According to the social mobility campaigning body the Sutton Trust eighty-six per cent of arts internships are unpaid – a figure only surpassed in the retail sector where almost nine out of ten are unpaid. The practice is seen as a barrier to young people from low and moderate-income backgrounds accessing careers in those industries.

Although a date for its second reading has yet to be announced the Unpaid Work Experience (Prohibition) Bill would end unpaid internships that last longer than four weeks.

But marketing interns at Lighthouse are not only paid the minimum wage they have a clearly defined role within the organisation, receive comprehensive training and are actively helped in their future job search.

So far, every intern has gone on to find full-time work in the arts or related industries.

"As part of our role as cultural leaders in the South West it is imperative that we nurture the next generation of arts professionals in the region and present new employment opportunities in the arts," says Sara St George, Head of sales and Marketing.

Interns stay for six months and work four days a week giving them time to pursue other interests, voluntary work or further paid employment. They are trained in arts marketing practice and encouraged to contribute their own skills. Two have since secured full-time positions at Lighthouse.

"I didn't really know jobs like this existed until I applied for the role," says current intern Anne-Marie Dames who started work in October.

"I want to work in the creative industries and had previously done a marketing internship in retail but hadn't thought of arts marketing as a specific skill set and didn't think there were jobs like this outside London."

Her predecessor Andrew Meredith is a practicing artist who took a break from his painting career to develop his marketing skills in an arts context.

"The internship offered more than just a simple glance into marketing within a professional arts centre," he says. "I felt an accepted and valued member of the marketing team and returned to my own painting practice fully equipped to professionally market my own creative endeavours."

Former intern Kelly Coley is leaving her role as Marketing Officer at Lighthouse this month to pursue a new opportunity at the RNLI. "The Marketing Internship gave me the opportunity to gain not only skills, but valuable experience within the marketing industry," she says. "I have since added to that experience as full-time Marketing Officer at Lighthouse and will soon continue my career as a Marketing Executive at the RNLI. I have enjoyed every moment of my time at Lighthouse and hope the Internship continues to offer other young people the step that they need to get started."

Perdie Bargh, Creative Engagement Officer at Lighthouse, also began her career as a marketing intern. "The opportunity to intern at Lighthouse was great, I learned loads and it really helped me build skills and confidence," she says. "I now have a full time position at Lighthouse and I'm excited to find out what will happen in the next stage of my career."



Perdie Bargh, Anne-Marie Dames, Kelly Coley

'The Marketing Internship gave me the opportunity to gain not only skills, but valuable experience within the marketing industry'

KELLY COLEY

'The opportunity to intern at Lighthouse was great, I learned loads and it really helped me build skills and confidence'

PERDIE BARGH

FUNDRAISING: STAR WARS ACTING DAME WELCOMES LIGHTHOUSE CAMPAIGN >

Renowned stage and screen actor Harriet Walter, who has a home in Dorset, has welcomed a campaign by Lighthouse, Poole's centre for the arts, to raise funds to create new work, support emerging artists and expand its learning programmes for local schools and young people.

"It is so important to keep this beacon of arts, education and entertainment available for the use of everyone in the area, especially for the young who are the performers and audience of the future," says the RSC actor whose credits include films such as *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, *Atonement* and *Sense and Sensibility*, as well as hit television series *The Crown*, *Downton Abbey* and *Call the Midwife*.

And she has fond memories of Lighthouse from the 2003 tour of Terence Rattigan's play *The Deep Blue Sea* – "At last I was playing at my local!" she says.

As part of a year-long celebration of its fortieth anniversary, the Lighthouse 40 campaign received hundreds of donations from individuals, community groups, arts organisations and corporate bodies.

A keen supporter of the arts who was made a Dame for services to drama, Harriet Walter is patron of Dorset School of Acting, resident at Lighthouse since 2010, and stressed the social value of such venues, adding: "Communities need the arts as much as they need business and I hope funders will recognise the long-term benefits of investing in Lighthouse as a centre for young people to access live theatre and arts education."

In donating the proceeds from its end of year Level 4 Diploma student showcase to Lighthouse 40, Dorset School of Acting's co-founder and principal Laura Roxburgh says: "We are absolutely passionate about Lighthouse and the opportunities that can be created here for young people. Education and the arts are under growing financial pressure, so organisations have to look at ways in which we can help and support each other in order to reach out to and nurture the next generation."

Bournemouth Symphony Chorus donated proceeds from last October's concert performance of Karl Jenkins's *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace* in which all the musicians donated their services to help fund an annual programme of opportunities for young people to engage in the arts.

The present and two former chairs of Poole Arts Trust, the charity that runs Lighthouse, also made donations with current chair Mike Jeffries contributing proceeds of an exhibition of his watercolours and his predecessor David Pratley performing a recital of Richard Rodney Bennett's musical setting of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. Former chair Lyn Glass also donated as did the French Conversation Group based at Lighthouse; stage door attendant Stephen Collins and events manager Tom Holmes completed a 40-mile sponsored run and the Big Birthday Bash event also raised funds.

"Following the success of the Lighthouse 40 campaign, we are determined to build on the generosity of our audiences and supporters," says Lighthouse fundraising manager Tom Shallaker. "Our Big Christmas Appeal has meant that even more children and families will be able to experience live theatre at Lighthouse this year.

"Sir Ian McKellen's visit this summer will raise money to support Bright Sparks, our programme to help young people grow their skills to have a career in the arts, and we are also continuing to work with donors to ensure that Lighthouse can successfully deliver world-class productions and remain the leading arts centre in the south west of England for the next 40 years and beyond."

01202 280000

www.lighthousepoole.co.uk



Arts Council
ENGLAND



Registered with
FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

Accredited
since 2017



COMMITTEE

Charity Registration Number: 275961