



# MEETING NOTES OF THE ARMADA 1588 HERITAGE TRAIL WORKING GROUP

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

5TH MARCH 2025 9AM

Present:

Steph Toogood, David Baldwin, Morgan Williams, Catherine Hammond, Will Harvey (South Wight Chronicle)

1. Apologies: Steve Cooper
2. One declaration of interest: David Baldwin declares he is the father of the Town Clerk.
3. Interpretation boards
  - a. Start of walk: Steve likes the church wall but also likes the idea of being on the path as this is better for passers-by.
  - b. All agree on the path for the location of the board in Bonchurch. Morgan to contact IOW Council
  - c. Morgan to talk to sister re NT permission on Downs.
  - d. Location of bench in St Lawrence – permission form Twining's – Morgan and Will to investigate
  - e. Location of the seafront board – La Falaise. David tells us that it is called Mill Bay because there were only two buildings on the sea front in 1588, one being the Mill.
  - f. Morgan will scout out the locations and feed back to the group.
  - g. QR codes – Will and David to make PDFs of intermediary information and a link to David's book on VTC website. Morgan to produce QR codes.
  - h. A simple map of the trail to be put on each board.
  - i. Steph discouraged David from putting the book for free on VTC website! Include a link to where to purchase the book?
  - j. Suggestion of giving copies of the book to the library and asking the Heritage Centre to stock it.
4. Information Booklets
  - a. DL leaflet is suitable because it fits in tourist information display points.
  - b. Accessibility at seafront – consider making DL booklet into audio guide?
5. Flag
  - a. A letter has been sent to the King of Spain to ask for permission for the design. Email address did not work.
  - b. Everyone agreed that the flag design is great.
  - c. Will to produce the artwork for the flag.
  - d. David has secured with the previous Archdeacon for all relevant Armada churches to fly the flag. David will check this is still secured.
  - e. All agreed to present a flag to John Nicolson.
6. Launch
  - a. The ship is booked, signed, and paid for by David Baldwin. Ship will arrive on 21<sup>st</sup> May and sail to Cowes.
  - b. It was discussed that we would like all the church bells in the area to be rung, if possible.

- c. Steph to chase Barry re portable bell.
- d. David to find out Catholic Church contacts. Brian Lucas? Does St Wilfred's have a bell?
- e. Bonchurch bell is organised. David to contact St Lawrence Church.
- f. Will Nixon to light the beacon and be on the seafront for town crying.
- g. Binnel Bay – flare launched for ship to identify the start, ship to salute, Spyglass to launch flare and salute, horseshoe bay launch flare.
- h. Use concussion maroons from [Stage Maroons — Wells Fireworks](#)
- i. David to collect explosives from Wells directly (Arundel) and get back to the island using the Dangerous Goods crossing?
- j. David is waiting for a reply from a Reconstruction Group about using their expertise and equipment and T2 Certificate. They will be able to move from one place to another and David will ask if Will can have a turn at firing.

7. Press and Comms including recording on the day.

- a. Will to do a press release, an editorial in the April Chronicle, advert in the May Chronicle and a Facebook post to share.
- b. A single sheet insert in the Chronicle was discussed at a cost of approx. £25 plus printing costs. Katherine to make final decision on funding this.
- c. Press to contact: BBC South, British forces, all local press, Solent News.
- d. Catherine will contact schools and Sixth form re student photographers.
- e. Steve to contact IOW College.
- f. Morgan is all set to film the event with drone.

8. Education – Linking with local schools

- a. Catherine has contacted John Nicholson about his education offer in Cowes but no reply yet. Will try again.
- b. Catherine suggested letting the schools know the date and a brief overview of the event so they can 'Save the Date'.
- c. Getting the children from school to the seafront was discussed – Catherine to contact school about this and see if they have any transport ideas. Catherine will also give the schools an estimate of timings - the ship may arrive in the afternoon near the end of the school day.
- d. David has purchased a part of an 'Armada' ship for children to interact with.
- e. Catherine suggested an assembly at each school with David Baldwin (and other interested members of the working group). Catherine is happy to produce a PowerPoint.

9. Link with Cowes

- a. Galleon to be in Cowes from 21-26 May.
- b. VTC are a co-host so we can hold a reception on board. Need to discuss with the captain for a date/time. Steph to work with John Nicholson on this.
- c. Ventnor Bowling Club still in discussion with Cowes Plessey over dates for the Recalde Cup.

10. Interested parties

- a. It was agreed that it is essential to set a meeting to discuss this event with all interested parties and to explain that the event will be advantageous to their businesses.
- b. Discuss direct business involvement at next meeting.
- c. David Baldwin to contact Charles Close Society regarding possible funding due to connection with Dunnose point.

11. Date of next meeting      Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 9am

**Esplanade events/things to do:**

- Sea shanties?
- Eloise – Spanish dancing?
- Art competition?
- Any age boat making competition (assuming beach becomes sandy!!)
- Mugs – Steph to get a quote for
- Badges considered?
- Getting people to walk around the town as part of the event?
- Spanish food and drink e.g. Spanish beer – Golden Sands and Spanish food – Mill Bay is keen to make Paella
- Music – a mix of contemporary music. Steph has a list of possible Sea Shanty singers. It was agreed to discuss PA system at next meeting.
- Will to ask Abbi to liaise with fashion School about costumes.
- Steph suggested an annual event for children at the Putting Green.
- Ventnor Bowling Club - Maurice is talking to Cowes Plessey team about taking part in the Recalde Cup. He has since mentioned to Catherine that he is still in discussion with Cowes to coordinate with other fixtures.