



Present:

Steph Toogood, David Baldwin, Morgan Williams, Catherine Hammond, Will Harvey, Will Nixon

1. Apologies: Steve Cooper and Abby Wilkinson
2. Declarations of interest – from all of the group.
3. **The meeting started with the group thanking Abby and Will for their stunning boards and banner designs.**
4. Interpretation boards
 - a. Will explained that the map is pixellated at the size on the board and has sourced a slightly newer map (from the 1600s) that is 1200dpi. However, David would prefer the original map to be used. Morgan will scan the original map in 2 halves and Will offered to stitch together.
 - b. Morgan has heard from NT about the board on the Downs. We will need planning permission to erect permanent structures such as interpretation boards. The group discussed how to go about this in the time frame available. Morgan to approach landowners to gain their permission. Morgan will ask Katherine (Clerk) about how to approach the planning permission with IOW Council – Ollie Boulter to be contacted.
 - c. The visit to the locations on Friday was useful and the locations were decided amongst the group. The ones at St Lawrence will be at the bench on Wolverton Road to allow people to park near the route without causing obstructions and on the coast path by the bench just past the Coastguard cottages.
 - d. Quality of sign boards – Steph said that there are 2 levels of quality. The deluxe one (like the new one in Ventnor Park) was agreed upon. A1 boards were agreed upon. Steph will get quotes.
 - e. Abby has completed the route maps and was thanked by the group for all her work on this project.
5. Flag
 - a. There is still some difficulty contacting the King of Spain and the flag emblem is still on hold.
 - b. David said that he contacted the Spanish Embassy in London last Wednesday with details of what we are doing, a copy of the letter we sent to the King and a request for the Ambassador to contact the King.
 - c. The flagpole in the cascade was discussed. The pole has gone ‘missing’. There was some discussion around this. Will Nixon will speak to the possible new ‘owner’ and

see whether we can use the pole in its new location for flying the Armada flag. This location is likely to be the centre of the seafront which is an ideal spot.

- d. Spyglass has 2 or 3 poles.
- e. Beach safety hut has 1 pole, but flying a flag here will need discussion and a vote by the councillors.
- f. Steph will get quotes for flags (from 2 printers) and an idea of printing times.
- g. Will suggested producing small flags for children – Morgan to get quotes.

6. Launch

- a. Steph informed us that there has been a complaint on Facebook, and she has tried to contact her to discuss the matter.
- b. There will be an official press release going out before the end of the month. Will is to make a mock-up and we will discuss via email for expediency.
- c. St Lawrence: the gun saluting station will not be at Binnel Bay due to poor access. Trevor (landowner) has given permission to use the Sugarloaf. The group agreed that this is a suitable location. Will said the reenactment vehicles can use the car park at the rear of his property.
- d. David is still waiting to hear from St Lawrence regarding the ringing of the bells.
- e. Will Nixon asked to do a general salute on the trumpet at the raising of the flag.
- f. An Armada Peel will be rung after the boat has passed. There will be the opportunity for members of the public to have a go at bellringing?
- g. Dignitaries will be invited to look at the gun-saluting station at the Spyglass after the ceremony.
- h. Steph mentioned that she might be able to get some refreshments organised for the dignitaries.
- i. Cannon to Cannon Walk following the ceremony.
- j. Followed by Cannon Boules on the beach. Ask Ventnor Bowling Club and Pétanque club to join us on the beach.
- k. Tide times: David is finding out from the Navy about accurate tide times. Hopefully, it will be a high tide so the ship can sail close to the coast.
- l. Steph has at least 7 Sea Shanty bands lined up.
- m. At 7pm there will be 'Spanish Stories and Shanties' event at the Spyglass. 5-minute tales interspersed with Sea Shanties. Neil has kindly offered a free bar to Shanty singers.
- n. Neil (Spyglass) has a brazier which he will light near to the gun saluting station.
- o. The group discussed the usage of a speaker for musical entertainment on the seafront. Morgan has a large guitar speaker. Possible locations for the speaker were discussed. The pavement is not wide enough in places where there is electricity. Would the Blakes allow us to put it on their decking? Will Nixon is going to ask Sophie Blake if we can position the speaker behind the Longshoreman's Museum raised up above the building.
- p. David asked to include Music from the Courts of England And Spain at the time of the Armada as well as Sea Shanties.
- q. David will provide a list of people to invite to the official ceremony and produce an invitation.
- r. There was a discussion about who is sending the invitations? Is it the Mayor, Ventnor Town Council, Ventnor Town, Armada 1588 Heritage Trail Working group? This is to be decided.
- s. The coastguard has not replied to David, Steph will follow this up.
- t. Police will need to be informed of the event. Catherine to do this?

- u. Contacting Businesses was discussed in detail. We do not want to make any business feel left out of the plans for the launch. It was suggested that David speaks at the next Business and Community Committee meeting, and we invite businesses?
- v. David has produced information documents about the cuisine of the time to distribute to food businesses for ideas for them to celebrate the day. He also has a similar document for other businesses/shops. We shall send these to the VBA to distribute to their members. We discussed that not everyone will be a member of the VBA. We will need to be mindful of this and the need to approach businesses individually. Steph and Catherine will investigate solutions.
- w. Steph is waiting for confirmation from a photographer. Catherine will ask her son and partner as well as local schools and colleges.
- x. A programme/running order will need to be discussed and produced at the next meeting(s).
- y. Banners should include 'headlines' for the day such as flag raising, 4 ship to shore gun salutes, etc.

7. Education – Linking with local schools

- a. David has sent Catherine and Steph an information document to send to schools. Catherine thanked David for this and will send it out to all local schools ASAP.
- b. Catherine has contacted St Francis School to let them know the date and general plan for the launch day, but they have not replied yet.
- c. Catherine will contact the Island Free School History Department.
- d. Catherine still to contact schools and Sixth form re student photographers.

8. We agreed to discuss the future legacy at the next meeting.

9. Date of next meeting Tuesday 8th April at 9pm

Addendum: Updated Esplanade events/things to do

- Sea shanties organised by Steph.
- Eloise – Spanish dancing – Catherine/Katherine to ask?
- Art competition? Catherine to talk to Peer Studios/Pier Street Gallery/VAC, The Exchange, etc if agreed by the working group.
- Any age boat making competition (assuming beach becomes sandy!!)
- Cannon to Cannon Walk
- Cannon Boules/Pétanque
- Mugs, Badges, and/or flags for children
- Getting people to walk around the town as part of the event/Treasure Hunt/window spot? Spot the cannon in the window?
- Spanish food and drink e.g. Spanish food – Phil in the Mill Bay is keen to make Paella – need to contact them ASAP so they can make plans.
- Music – a mix of contemporary music.
- Steph suggested an annual event for children at the Putting Green.
- Ventnor Bowling Recalde Cup - Catherine or Steph will get an update.