

Arts Strategy

the story so far

Jurassic Coast Arts Strategy Update

by Sue Kay, Chair Creative Coast Group

Welcome to the autumn edition of the Jurassic Coast Arts Newsletter.

Back in the Spring I was pleased to report on progress in implementing the Jurassic Coast Arts Strategy. Since then a great deal of activity has taken place on all fronts, thanks largely to the work of our Strategic Development Coordinators, Chris Huxley and Crystal Johnson.

Having secured financial support from Dorset County Council, Devon County Council and Arts Council England, South West, the Creative Coast Group appointed Chris and Crystal in March and gave them a twelve month brief to construct a framework for the long term management and delivery of a unique arts programme along the Jurassic Coast. Since then, they have been beavering away on a range of tasks including the development of an 'arts protocol' (which gives guidance on who to approach about what - downloadable from www.jurassiccoast.com) and the drafting of a sizeable funding bid to Arts Council England.

If all goes according to plan, by late spring next year we will be enjoying the services of a dedicated full-time Arts Coordinator placed within the World Heritage Site Team and holding a budget to help seed fund a variety of projects.

Planning issues aside, there has also been much to enjoy this summer, in spite of the uninspiring weather. There has been some really exciting work along the Coast led by a range of partners and we have included details of just a few of these projects in this newsletter.

High on the list for next year will be events along the Jurassic Coast to mark the start of the Cultural Olympiad. With Weymouth & Portland as the venue for the Olympic sailing events, we are particularly well placed to make a unique contribution to the lead up to London 2012. Thanks to the support of the regional cultural agencies, the South West Regional Development Agency and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, a regional 2012 Creative Programmer (Richard Crowe) has now been engaged by Culture South West, and we look forward to working closely with him. Welcome also to the newly appointed Arts Development Officer for Weymouth & Portland, Alan Rogers. Alan's post is funded by the Weymouth & Portland Partnership and hosted by Weymouth College.

Whatever shape and form all these exciting projects eventually take, I am confident that there will be substantial benefits for the arts, artists and cultural organisations along the Jurassic Coast. Our aim is to build steadily and strategically a programme of activities and events that will, in time, create an inspirational benchmark for the use of the arts within the context of a natural World Heritage Site.

To find out more, and to get involved, I'd encourage you to come along to one of the four 'dialogue sessions' that Chris and Crystal are running this November (see back page for further details).

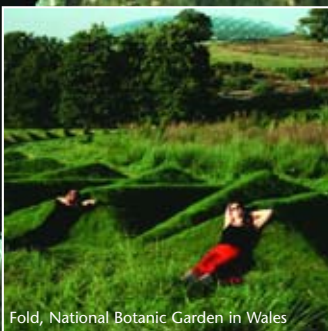
Best Wishes,
Sue Kay Chair, Creative Coast Group



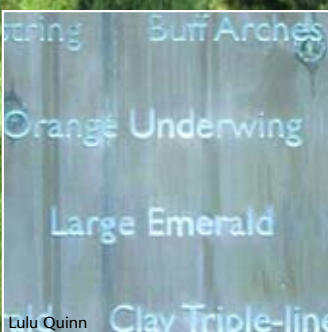
Installation: Kate Coombs



Edward Parker



Fold, National Botanic Garden in Wales



Lulu Quinn

Arts Strategy - Moving forward

Thank you to everyone who has replied with updated or confirmed contact details following our last newsletter. This will be the very last paper newsletter before converting over to an e-newsletter format in the 2008. Therefore if you have not already given us your email details then please contact Kirstie Snow at K.Snow@dorsetcc.gov.uk to ensure that you receive our next edition in the New Year.

A lot has been happening over the past six months and we have had a fantastic response from different communities to the possibilities of arts and earth science coming together along our wonderful Coastline. We have been really excited by the collaborations and projects already happening and hope that as the Jurassic Coast Arts Programme develops we will be assisting even more partnerships and really making the most of the wealth of experience and expertise that we have in the local area.

As 2008 approaches the Arts Programme for the coming years will start to materialise and we are aiming to bring you a more detailed programme of projects and events in our next newsletter. There will also be a chance to find out how the Arts Programme is shaping up at one of our Dialogue Sessions which will be held along the Coast in November (see back cover for more details).

Thank you to everyone for your support and enthusiasm – we are truly inspired by the huge potential for the arts along the Jurassic Coast.

Chris and Crystal

Chris Huxley & Crystal Johnson

Joint Strategic Development Coordinators

Chris@Jurassiccoast.com

Crystal@Jurassiccoast.com

Time and Tide

by Helen Poynor



Installation: Kate Coombs; photo: Annie Pflugst

Time and Tide is a *Movers and Makers* project, facilitated by movement artist Helen Poynor and visual artist Annie Pflugst as part of their ongoing artistic engagement with the World Heritage Coast. For four days over the spring tides at the end of September eight women artists developed movement and installation responses to three tidal sites in West Dorset.

Responding to the textures, forms and spaces in the locations and the movement of the tides and weather the artists' aimed to enhance and deepen the perception and experience of the environment by bringing attention to it in a new way, highlighting both the subtleties and the scale of these inspiring locations and exploring the inter-relationship between the moving body and the landscape.

The project is in a process of constant evolution. This phase of the work was shared through presentations on site and an artists' talk at the Town Mill Galleries in Lyme Regis. For further information contact Helen Poynor & Annie Pflugst 01297 20624 anniepflugst@tiscali.co.uk.

Participating artists: Tanja Brown, Kate Coombs, Cherril Copperwheat, Linda Hall, Hilary Kneale, Salma Lilarasa Nathoo, Jen Sanders, Penny Stirling.



Time and Tide was supported by Dance South West, Dorset County Council and the Town Mill Galleries.

Durlston: Artist on Concept Design

by Martin Cook, H&L Management

The artist Lulu Quinn was appointed to assist with concept design on the Durlston Project during the summer of 2004 through funding from the Arts Council England (South West) and Dorset County Council. Lulu, as a member of the design team, has worked with the project team and park rangers on developing a number of approaches for the development of Durlston. She has looked at possible opportunities for collaboration between the arts and science. This includes thinking of Durlston as a platform for enquiry and exploration where the public could engage with the Park's rangers, geologists, botanists and a rich diversity of wildlife as part of a changing programme of events throughout the year. Lulu's role has also been to challenge preconceptions and broaden the imaginative vision for the project.



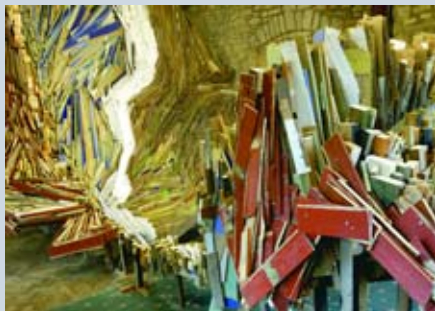
Lulu Quinn

Since a successful stage 1 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund and with further funding from Arts Council England South West, Lulu has developed her work, concentrating particularly on the Diversity project, which will allow the visitor to view the enormous variety of species to be found on the site through the use of text, glass and changing light.



ShapeShift: Landscape in motion

by Martin Cook, H&L Management



Edward Parker

In 2007 Cleo Evans (Visual Arts Development Officer at Dorset County Council) developed an innovative art/science project at Durlston, at the eastern end of the Jurassic Coast. The artist Abigail Reynolds worked with members of the local community and two scientists, Dr Samantha Gibbs, a micropaleontologist from the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton and Dr Bjorn Stanstede, a mathematician from the University of Surrey, to create an artwork that helped to unlock the story of the Jurassic Coast, England's only natural World Heritage Site.

The sculpture was a three-dimensional graph made of recycled materials and depicted the relative numbers of six different groups of microfossils found in rocks along the coast from 200m years ago to 35m years ago, these were graphed against changes in sea level over the same period.

Abigail and her team created the installation working full time over 13 days. The work was then exhibited in the front room of Durlston Castle for seven weeks in July and August, over 4,700 people viewed the work.



Public Art Plans for Weymouth and Portland

by Mererid Velios, Celfwaith

Hosting the Olympic events in 2012 will be a great opportunity for Weymouth and Portland, as well as the surrounding area, to welcome visitors here for the first time, and to be seen by the world. Celfwaith, a public art consultancy, have been appointed to produce a commissioning plan for public art, which will include assessing sites, developing a funding strategy and consulting with both local authority staff and community groups.



An example of Celfwaith's previous work: Trudi Entwistle temporary installation, Fold, for National Botanic Garden in Wales, 2003

Other Olympic Games have shown that it is important to plan inspiring cultural events alongside the sporting events for residents and visitors to experience. These will show the world that Weymouth and Portland are not only areas of outstanding natural beauty and heritage but also culturally vibrant places moving confidently into the 21st Century. The Jurassic Coast itself will be a spectacular and memorable backdrop to the sailing events and the 2012 Games offer the potential to make lasting international links with other World Heritage Sites.



Project Manager with Arts Background for Seaton and Exmouth

Tracey Guiry has been appointed as Project Development Manager for the exciting Visitor Centres planned for Exmouth and Seaton as part of the Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Site, Jurassic Coast project. Before taking up her new role, she was the CEO of the South West regional creative skills development agency, ArtsMatrix Ltd.

She says "I'm thrilled to be working on the Exmouth and Seaton Visitor Centre projects. There are so many brilliant stories to be told about this part of the coastline and the surrounding areas of outstanding natural beauty that the centre is bound to be an exceptional, engaging and really fun place to visit. It's not often you get to work on projects that have such great aspirations, I can't wait to get started."

New Arts Development Officer

With the support of Arts Council England and Weymouth College, the Weymouth & Portland Partnership has appointed a new Arts Development Officer for the Borough, Alan Rogers. Alan has a rich and varied background in fine art and arts education and brings a wealth of international experience to the post.

If you have ideas and projects which you would like to discuss with Alan, you can email him at alan_rogers@weymouth.ac.uk or phone him on 01305 208708

Dialogue Sessions

Find out how the arts programme for the Jurassic Coast is shaping up at one of our Dialogue Sessions which will be held along the Coast in November, dates and venue are listed below. There is no need to book for session, just turn up.

We will be giving a short presentation on what's been happening, each session will have a different speaker talking about a particular project along the Coast and there will of course be an opportunity to ask questions and network. We have planned the session for early evening in the understanding that many people have 'day jobs' alongside their artistic practice.

Wednesday 7 November 6.00 – 8.00pm

**Council Chamber,
Purbeck District Council Offices, Wareham**

At this session Martin Cook will be talking about the development and projects taking place at Durlston Castle. Martin is the Project Manager for the Durlston Project which has received an award of £3.2m from the Heritage Lottery Fund; he has also been the project manager for various Jurassic Coast inspired arts projects at the Castle.

Wednesday 14 November 6.00 – 8.00pm

Weymouth Pavilion

Alan Rogers, newly appointed Arts Development Officer for Weymouth and Portland will be talking about the plans for the area in the build up to 2012 and the Cultural Olympiad.

Wednesday 21 November 6.00 – 8.00pm

Salt House, West Bay

Marcus Dixon, Lyme Regis Development Trust Manager, will be attending this session to outline his plans for the future development of Lyme Regis Fossil Festival and the developing Earth Festival for 2012.

Thursday 29 November 6.00 – 8.00pm

Council Chamber, Exmouth Town Hall

Tracey Guiry, Project Manager for the Exmouth and Seaton Interpretation Centres will be talking about how she sees the role of artists in the development of the centres.

We look forward to seeing you there!