**Literary Group Update
Notes from meeting on Thursday 16 June 2016**

**Attended**
Jessica Leathley Hull Libraries, inc Untold Stories

Shane Rhodes Wrecking Ball Press & Humber Mouth
Mikey Martins & Lindsay Freedom Festival
John Wedgwood Clarke – University of Hull
Ruth Drake City Arts, Humber Mouth
Liam Rich Producer, Hull 2017

Ian Read Head of Education & Participation, Hull 2017

Henrietta Duckworth Executive Producer, Hull 2017

Projects & Programme for 2017 – Headlines

**Libraries**

**- Children’s Lit Fest**

Dates to be confirmed, may be moved earlier – currently 30 June to 9 July

**- Reading Rooms (The Verbal)**

This is a reading aloud project that was in Derry (legacy trail) hoping to get funding from Paul Hamlyn.

**- Untold Stories**

No news

**- James Reckitt Trust**

Richard Heseltine’s Library Conference no news

Children’s Book Award taking place in April/May 2017

**- New Library**

No update

**- Acts of Care**

13 Ways project - Linda Brothwell curated. Crafts/traditions of Hull culminating in artwork, a public realm installation.

Also Literary History exhibitions and street literature and zine culture at History Centre and Libraries. Note links with walks at university and artists books at Freedom Festival.

Libraries also doing Networked Narratives project.

**Shane Rhodes – Wrecking Ball Press**

**- Head in a Book**

A series of readings online and monthly event

**- Humber Mouth 16 & 17**

Part of BBC Everything To Be Said (was Contains Strong Language) in September 2017. Approaching Alan Bennett, David Hockney, Melvyn Bragg, Haruki Murakami.

Links with Rotterdam international poetry festival with aim of bringing over an ensemble of 17 poets/film-makers that would tour – including Poet Laureate Ramsey Nasr. Plus new commissions.

Wrecking Ball Press also doing an under 25’s initiative called Hardtalk where writers go into schools and kids get up on stage.

Shane is going to Iceland and Poland later in the year and plans to do digital stuff internationally too – including links with Sierra Leone.

For HM’16 Shane is working with Akala and Val McDermid

**Mikey Martins & Lindsay – Freedom Festival**

Festival making a big shift towards words and the visual arts compared with the past. Want new work in public space bringing together different artforms from words to spectacle, etc. Potential dramaturgical work with Hull Truck.

Video-mapping/projection work with NOVAK happening this year. Desire to explore a ‘words’ element to this for 2017. Working with VJ Suave on bicycles this year.

Planning to have poets on main stages. Note possible link with the BBC Everything To Be Said event.

Freedom To Tell Tales (old name) is a new spoken word tented venue to be introduced in 2016 with capacity of approx 200.

Exec Producer role at Festival for spoken word content.

Festival is moving around the city more in 2017 with some guerrilla-style activity too.

Links with Chelsea Flower Show with themes including Gardens and Feasts and Vegetables and university and FF should talk more about this particularly. Note that the Library has a Cob oven in a garden at Western Library, Boulevard. Also that there’s a Botanical Garden in Cottingham (albeit East Riding). Ian is doing an allotment/special needs project with Oatfield School – and there is a CCP project that asked for compost!

FF is working with In-Situ on ‘stories of the city’ (both real and fantasy) and moving tours of the city.

**- Firm of Poets & Word on the Street (spoken word development)**

Working with Ross at Wrecking Ball Press working onan intergenerational project at the Fruit Market in 2016 and 2017 and exploring different perceptions of freedom. Also working at HMP Humber.

Freedom Festival have commissioned Firm of Poets to programme and host three spoken word events in June, July and August, including workshops with writer/performers during the day, to develop audiences for the festival. There will be a Firm of Poets event at Freedom.

New project introduced in 2016 called Shelf Life funded by JR Trust and Libraries. Book works programmed. Art Books with AB Fair and children’s workshops at the festival and exhibitions in library. Two artists in residence at History Centre and WISE. In 2017 there will be higher profiles artists (such as Lubiana Hamid) and an outdoor visual arts project based on Artists Books.

Request for an anti-clash diary.

**John Wedgwood Clarke – University of Hull**

Developing full programme for 2017, with four elements, currently working up detail for an ACE bid matched by University & Hull 2017 funding.

1. The Garden: Andrew Marvell’s poem 'The Garden’ used as starting point to

explore human/natural, sustainability and eco-aesthetics. Artist’s residency at

Rooted in Hull will engage the public in growing and making art. Closes with a

harvest festival of words/ performance and vegetables during the BBC’s poetry

festival.

2. Hull Rises: bread is central to religious practices, myths and fairy tales. Hull

was/is centre for milling and baking. Related plays by Plater and Bean will

inform the project. An artist’s residency established at Weston Library to make

feasts of words, images, performances and fresh bread. International, digital

writing exchange about bread with British Council (BC)

3. Bridges to Everywhere: a translation project exploring East Coast/Baltic trade

links, with BC, BBC, emerging/mid-career Hull writers and international writers

(through BC). Themes: harbours, boats, swimmers. Engages

schools/communities in translation activities. Leads to translation symposium/

conference. Poems launched throughout year on P&O ferries.

4. Late Vocations works with ‘3rd Age’ emerging artists/interpreters. Draws on

research by English department/ University of Hull’s faculty of Health.

Quarterly repeat-format events include: international writer's event +

masterclass; new poets series curated by students; pop-up readers' debates;

multi-artform symposia dedicated to the selected book/theme;literary + creativewriting

walks + workshops in partnership with RIBA.

R**uth Drake – City Arts**

**-Writers Squad**

Coordinated by Steve Dearden funded by ACE and Hull CC with new application in for 2017. Young writers (older children and up to 25?) linked with the Wrecking Ball Press U25 project. Wants to run links with the University – and John was receptive to this.

**Ian Read – Hull 2017**

**-First Story**

A charity that’s taking authors into 5 schools in areas of deprivation in Hull and 21 KS3 pupils per school during a 16 week intense period. An anthology is produced and there’s a teacher’s CPD programme alongside.

Culminates in a Young Writers Festival in Oxford. Currently recruiting a coordinator. May link with the themes of next year and also with the Back to Ours (was Network Neighbourhoods) programme.

Possible links with BBC Everything To Be Said and Humber Mouth.

Ian also mentioned talks on place-making / architecture presented by RIBA. IR to share RIBA project information with JWC.

General offer made to make use of Hull 2017’s links with over 100 schools in Hull – both FF and university could make good use of this.

**Henri Duckworth - Hull 2017**

**- Larkin Exhibition**

Major exhibition by the Philip Larkin SocietyHull University and others taking place at the university at the end of June to end of September to coincide with National Poetry Day & BBC Spoken word and poetry festivalA guest curator of the exhibition based on ‘Larkin the man’, a 360 degree view of the poet with unique access to the Philip Larkin archive at Hull History Centre

**- BBC Contains Strong Language (now Everything To Be Said)**

Firm of Poets (Word on the Street/Freedom Festival) should be part of this to build on Freedom Festival programming and further developing audiences.

Could FF Feast be part of this too?

Includes Harvest Festival (Fruition) as part of Rooted in Hull and University.

Note Mr Bloom from CBBC (Plunge Boom Ben) is at Freedom Festival.

**- BBC Writers Room**

Wants to do more performance so possible link with Freedom Festival.

**- British Council – Poland;**

Poland is a priority in 2017 as is India @ 70

Meeting held with British Council on 29 June with Hull 2017 (update at next meeting).

**- Yorkshire Water Stories**

They’re collecting stories (predominantly from their employees) and an artist/illustrator may be involved in the making of a book.

The Springhead Pumping Station in Derringham may be available for events.