**Larkin Exhibition**

**Wednesday 26th August 2016**

**Present: SW, HD, SH, GC, PP, JT**

**Notes: HD**

**NOTES**

**Update**

‘The Less Deceived’ was written in Belfast – published in Hull, from a very small imprint, Marvell Press, in a shed on Hessle Road. Jean & George Hartley ran Marvell Press.

**Guest Curator**

Nick Cave – contact with him may see him early September. Unlikely therefore concede this is not going to be our curator.

David Walliams – re-started the conversation around 16 Aug, will pursue after bank holiday weekend.

Cerys Matthews – recorded a programme referencing Sidney Bechet – general advocate of poetry

Stephen Fry

Morrissey – invitation has been issued through Martin Green.

Reece Sheersmith – SH to send invitation.

New suggestions to explore:
Ian Martin – The Thick of It Writer –

Laura Marlin

Frank Turner

Mike Skinner (the Streets)

Andrew Motion – review – not exciting choice and would incite issues for PLS members.

ACTION: wc 29 August is the final opportunity rack of brains. All members of group to email to inform of ideas and agree who is best to issue invitation. The group to respond and agree actions on email to ensure invites are issued.

ACTION: Alternative to guest curator would be to invite profile artists / academics to contribute a favourite poem or record a poem.

And Unheard / Unseen stories – local people’s connections to Larkin – eg the man who fitted his kitchen etc.

**BBC**

Henri hasn’t spoken to Sue at BBC as Sue is on leave. Henri will follow up when she’s back.

Simon has met with the BBC and talked about a reciprocal in kind approach between the History

Centres archive and BBC archive.

Philip noted - Barry Bloomfield’s A Bibliography of Larkin’s work on radio/TV included in his book.

James T confirmed that there is no explicit term in the Hull 2017 / BBC agreement that addresses use of BBC archive material.

Carried forward:

Action: Simon to get in touch with Pat Connor to discuss working together (once archive shortlist is done).

Action: Simon to contact TV Producer Christine, making the documentary,

Action: Simon to make a shortlist of interesting material on the BBC archive lists and find out

costings for viewing and use.

**Research**

Research has begun.

Aim to summarise, in 3-4 pages, this aspect of Larkin’s work or life, with salient headlines and observations, focusing on how the exhibition can reveal aspects

Larkin the Librarian – Philip P
Action: Philip has written and will circulate to group.

Action: Simon is going to review and ask a librarian to try and find relating material in the archive.

Larkin the Poet – James Booth
Action: SW to talk to James – how to draw out some different stories – overshadowed

Larkin’s Family Letters – Philip P
Action: Philip to circulate

Larkin & Jazz – It was suggested that we ask John White who is part of the Larkin Society.

Action: Philip to contact John, to request his support as expert

Larkin & Photography
Action: SW to contact Mark Hayworth-Booth, ex curator at V&A, who wrote the introduction to Richard Bradford book on , is there more to add in relation to

Henri said it would be useful to have a list of key items that have not been exhibited before.

Action: Graham to share his twitter selection of Larkinalia. Statuettes. Monica’s knickers! Etc etc

**Wrap Around Programme**

ACTION: to collate activities which have been staged in the past

Discussion included:
Betty – for Larkin 25 – there was an event with Betty at the Station Hotel. Could this be repeated in a new form? Archive includes a dragon, a toad and one other soft toys which Larkin gave her.

Music ideas: Larkin Jukebox

Composers / Bands who use Larkin’s poetry – could create a Jukebox for the exhibition. Andre Previn; Frank Turner (who has a Philip Larkin inspired tattoos); Jim Orwin, painter & decorator, who lives on Willerby road extraordinary knowledge of Larkin’s

John White – Jazz specialist - ex Uni - American Studies – ex friend of Larkin - produced a box set of Larkin’s jazz records Larkin referenced.

John Osborne – produced poetry evenings in Hull – ex Uni – previously curated Larkin’s photographs for earlier Uni exhibition.

Sources of information include:
Larkin Trail

Larkin 25 programme

Philip Larkin Society events
All Night North – local musicians setting larkin poetry to music – CD and on spotify

**Other**

Cian suggested making a list of interesting curators who have done experiential exhibitions before.

Action: Everyone to bring any suggestions they may have to the next meeting.

Cian suggested looking to see if there were any anniversary dates that fall next year – for poems etc. EG 1957 will be 50 years.

Action: Group to research and feedback if any come up.

James is publishing a Larkin letter’s book in 2018.

Action: SW to discuss with James about Faber doing activity as part of the wrap round

programme.

**Next Meetings**

Next meeting – Mon 5 Sept – 3pm at Pacific Exchange.

Next PLS Committee meeting – 14th Sept.

Unveiling of Larkin stone at Westminster Abbey – 2 December 2016. Anniversary of Larkin’s death.

Next meeting: address bid writing process; project governance.