**From Anna Farthing , for project team meeting on 18th January 2017**

Since the last meeting, I have been primarily scoping the context and nature of the project and the objectives and expectations of the project partners, and reading.

I have had in-depth meetings with representatives from Hull 2017 and Hull University about their ambitions for audiences and targeted engagement. The next step is to hear more on the objectives and expectations of Philip Larkin Society and Hull University Archives/HHC regarding the materials.

A relatively smaller proportion of the time has been spent undertaking an initial survey of potential objects. This will be continued once we have created a design brief, invited tenders and commissioned the design team.

**Meetings to date have taken place with:**

* John Osborne
* Jim Orwin
* Ali Craig (Head of Customer Services at Brynmore Jones Library - point of contact for operational matters)
* Marianne Lewsley-Stier, Programme and Partnership Manager University of Hull
* James Booth (Phillip Larkin Society)

**Ali Craig 10/01/2017**

Objectives:

* Engage current staff and students with the history and legacy of the Brynmor Jones library building through the Larkin story
* Develop greater awareness of the gallery as a public space
* Explore new ways of creatively interpreting and animating the library spaces through design that reaches beyond the gallery and the development of guided tours

What we did: Looked at gallery space, entrance spaces (both access points), ticketing/shop area, permanent exhibition, library spaces (including The Cube and conservatory) and the Librarian’s office

What was gleaned:

* Building tours: Ali does tours of the building including Librarian’s Office and Cube (first editions) and conservatory to view surrounding area. This tour can be adapted and offered as part of public programme throughout run of exhibition for groups of approx. 15. Ali has sent the script to AF
* Could use graphics/projections on walls in the library spaces
* The interative whiteboard in the foyer could be used in the exhibition
* Two shutters need to be kept clear for fire exits (alcove and second from right)
* Gallery space has corridor off of alcove that is behind a door – could be used for material that may challenge or offend families (MA guidelines)
* A number of table style display cases may be usable (tbc)
* We could display clothing on tailors mannequins without cases (AF check with textile conservation experts)
* Library space has a round void in floor above from which we can suspend a large item – Bicycle? – Lawnmower? – and relevant verse/letter text
* QUESTION: PLS, are these or other large items stored somewhere? If not can we get a visual reference for a replica

The visitor journey will start at the point of entering the campus. Needs good clear signage (visitors were struggling to find the gallery)

Tickets will be booked online (Hull Box Office) – although tickets are free – in order to aid data collection. Data will also be taken from walk ups. (Marianne said some confusion over current exhibition with people thinking they had to arrive at 10am rather than had all day – comms needs clarification to include last admission, dwell time, campus map with catering outlets)

Sales and Takeaways – Source guide (Simon) Souvenirs/Merchandise (City of Culture), Postcards, relevant books (poetry, biographies, critical studies etc)

**Marianne Lewsley-Stier 10/01/2017**

Objectives: Raise the profile of the university and its cultural assets, promote public engagement, local engagement (anchor institution), student engagement and provide opportunities for supporting interdisciplinarity between departments.

What we did: discussion on the following links

* Depts of Music, Drama, Literature, Screen
* Medical humanities (vision, hearing, psychology/cognition/creativity)
* Institute of Cultural Policy and Place (responsible for Evaluation Framework)
* Larkin Reflections programme (February to October) can help build momentum
* Programming Board & reps from Marketing, Research, SU, Legacy etc

Actions:

Get Undergrad and Postgrad term dates

Marianne to make introductions to relevant departments (medic & arts)

AF has offered a visiting lecture/in conversation with for postgrad students

**James Booth 09/01/2017**

Objectives: Not articulated (need to discuss with wider PLS) but James is an authority on Larkin having written biography, and has a detailed knowledge of the letters (his forthcoming publication) which he has generously offered to share. He is familiar with some of the challenges of museology, exhibition and interpretation from his other research expertise (coins).

What we did: looked at the online catalogue and opened a small number of cupboards and archive boxes to look at items of potential interest.

What was gleaned: the following objects inspired ideas for the exhibition

* Coffee table (mid century design aesthetics)
* Clothing (Both PL and Monica’s more quirky & stylish than presumed)
* A large number of unworn brand new handmade shirts – striking colours of pink, blue, stripy (Garstang & Co of Blackburn to be approached)
* Shoes and Gloves (reveal scale, PL, large and Monica, tiny)
* Hand made shoe bags with PAL initials and sewing materials–Monica
* China (Indian Tree pattern by Johnson Bros) brightly patterned
* Ties – reflecting childhood, professional, personal, hobbies and interests

**Forthcoming visits/meetings include**

31st January - Larkinworld – Siason Poetry Library - South Bank London

Attending PV and meeting with DJ Roberts (artist) and Chris McCabe (Poetry Librarian)

**Scoping of contemporary poets**

* Douglas Dunn (via Asif Khan – Scottish Poetry Library)
  + NB Simon has highlighted his forthcoming publication
* Jackie Kay – Makar (also via Asif and MA)
* Sean O’Brien (grew up in Hull – now Newcastle?)
* Anthony Rowland (now Salford - Land of Green Ginger - links Hull and Tony Harrison)
* Gillian Allnut (Queens Medal being awarded 2017) lives nr Durham
* Heather Phillipson (Ex CDD Jarman Prize)
* Leontia Flynn
* Kate Tempest
* Lavinia Greenlaw
* (Wendy Cope’s Mr Strugnell)

Actors/Voice Over Artists

* Vincent Franklyn (Yorkshire born and bred)
* David Walliams (link through Agathafest)