



Minutes BAT meeting 24th May 2021

Agenda Item:

1. **Present:** J Buckley, J. Hart, B Jones, C Basset, C Kimberly-Bassett, E Spenser, N Cooper

2. **Minutes of last meeting** and matters arising (agreed)

3. **Budget update**

N Cooper gave a budgetary update:

£600 had been allocated to the 3 x statue repairs, still leaving £2,000 contingency and £500 available for another flyer or map printing this year if needed. It was proposed to allocate £400 for repairs in next year, as each year passing would take its toll on the statues.

Nearer the time we will need to secure some written quotes for the removal of the statues, to be able to confirm whether the allocations are appropriate.

4. **Statue watch - repairs / damage update**

JB had ordered more masonry white paint and arranged for the Bridgnorth Litter Pickers (painting team) to repaint the plinths white and these were much improved in time for the Easter holidays. Much appreciated.

Statue #1: The varnish had arrived and was made available to Corin Ryalls Garbett, who had finished her re-paint of statue no. 1. JB made a short video interviewing CRG which was shared on the facebook page. Much thanks for BJ for lending his gazebo to support Corin. All agreed the new paints are brighter than previous to withstand the bright sunlight in that location.

Statue #2 – Tania Holland's collage at the SVR was kindly delivered to her by JH and CB. She has made some repairs and upgrades using all her remaining materials – so any future repairs will rely upon the SVR providing more (original) materials. She had sent through some we transfer photos of the design work so far which the group looked at and agreed the work was excellent. She offered to use her own yacht varnish, but the group were concerned this could be yellowy so instead agreed to drop off the clear varnish to her home.

A discussion ensued regarding where her statue should return to. BK to check with SVR but it could return to the same location and be bolted down, until the SVR have produced their own concrete base. JH has the plaques.

Statue #3 – Cathy O'Connor at Lavington's garden – not so damaged – Kathy has since moved house to Walsall so travelling tricky but she as visited to ascertain level of damage and started preparing her materials, she has also contacted the sponsor to seek their approval. She plans to return for the next 2 Saturdays to complete the works.

Statue #10 – Rory outside The Harp pub harp has a few scratches since the last touch up – Cath & Cliff to complete repairs with the varnish and acrylic paints, weather dependant.

Statue #6 – The advertising banner was moved away from the statue and has been placed on the opposite site, freeing up visibility.

5. Hazledine Foundry Celebrations

BJ reported back on the successful celebrations held for Trevithick's 200th birthday. A new plaque had been installed on the interpretation sign. The gardening team and painting teams of Bridgnorth Litter Pickers had worked hard to tidy up and spruce up the site ready for the anniversary on 13th April.

The chairman of the Trevithick 200 society and Civic Society were both present and waved a union jack for a series of photographs. These would accompany an article in the Bridgnorth Journal in the coming week.

6. Promotion / press / PR?

It was felt that if the unlocking did happen on 21st June, we could start to push the trail again to visitors. Gentle preparations for this date could begin – with the Journal, What's what, SVR on board magazine, spring gala (May) and 1940s weekend (June/July)

Not many maps left at the library so may need to prepare for a future print run of trail maps. It was hard to quantify how many maps each shop had because of lockdown.

7. AOB

JH: Idea to approach a local micro brewery to name an ale after the Art Trail – with catchy name to promote the trail.

Also question about the new chocolatier (Beau) and whether he might be interested in producing a chocolate version of the Catch me who can?

8. Date of next meeting

Monday 24th May at the outside gazebo of the Railwayman's Arms (SVR) 6.30 – 8pm



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1. **Present:** J Buckley, J. Hart, B Jones, C Basset, C Kimberly-Bassett, E Spenser, N Cooper, R. Davies,
2. **Update following the local elections**

Cllr J Buckley is now a dual-hatted member (Shropshire and Town) Nicky Cooper our treasurer is now a Town Councillor, and Cllr Alexa Buffey (newly elected) requested to join the working group. She works for Dudmaston and has experience and interest in supporting artists, visitor economy and sustainability.
2. **Budget update**

N Cooper gave a budgetary update.
She suggested that JB should make contact with the groundworks companies needed to remove the statues in 2022, with a view to getting a written quote in good time, to help confirm our budget projections. JB to request an order of magnitude.
JB agreed to contact both JLR constructions (who installed the trail) and SAMCO (who assisted with installing no. 13).
3. **Statue watch - repairs / damage update**

Statues #1 and #3 have both been repaired, completed and featured on the facebook page now with a narrative about their repairs.

Statue #2 was now complete. NC offered to drive over to Stourport with the varnish to assist before the statue could be returned to the SVR.

Some members of the public had been in touch to say they were disappointed and had missed statue #2 which was quite nice.
4. **Promotion / press / PR**

It was felt that if the unlocking did happen on 21st June, we could start to push the trail again to visitors.
The library is now open again and trail maps are on offer so we need to monitor numbers and consider whether and when to place a further order.
BJ reported back that the Bridgnorth Journal and Shropshire Star covered the story of the 250th birthday celebrations of Trevithick very fully indeed with photos and articles over 2 weeks.
5. **Merchandise**

J Hart reported back on his investigations regarding the real ale to be badged with the Art Trail designs. He had approached the micro brewery, "Hop & Stagger" which is locally based. They are keen to support and can re-label their existing Shropshire Ale if

we can provide the design art work for the labels, and cover the cost of the label printing.

There was a discussion as to whether to provide one design, the three repainted statues or all 13. JH was asked to come back with costings per quantity to help the group reach a decision.

BJ offered to contact the secretary of the local CAMRA group.

The group had previously discussed whether a chocolatier could produce some chocolates in the shape of the Catch me Who can. It was mentioned that a new young man has set up a business called "Beau – chocolates" and it might be worth contacting him.

6. **AOB**

The Bridgnorth walk has been postponed until September. We have previously had a stall and gazebo offering leaflets and maps. Perhaps this year we could add real ales for sale! Awaiting dates and details of how to book a stall.

The group suggested contacting existing Trail sponsors to ask them how they felt about the group requesting an extension period to retain the trail for an additional 18 months to compensate for Covid lockdowns. JB to draft a letter to sponsors seeking their views before the group decides whether to request permissions from the Councils and English Heritage.

7. **Date of next meeting**

Monday 12th July, 6.30pm – 8pm at Bridgnorth Library (if covid restrictions allow).