

# FUTURE PORTLAND

Presented by b-side and Island Community Action

**Date:** Saturday November 25<sup>th</sup> 10.30 – 4pm

**Venue:** St Georges Primary School, Clarence Road, Easton, Portland Dorset DT5 2 BD

Googlemap link <https://maps.app.goo.gl/xNtzrf9DHw8erKSc9>

WHAT 3 WORDS: ///reflector.strength.changes

## Overview programme and timings

- 10.30 Event opens for check in and coffee
- 11.00 Introduction to the day  
Amanda Wallwork, b-side, Kim Wilcocks, Island Community Action and event facilitator Sue Palmer
- 11.10 Contributions from Jessica Prendergrast, Anita Roy, Laura Baldwin, Portland Youth Council, The Portland Association, and Sue Palmer PLUS discussion
- 1.00 Buffet lunch
- 2.00 Contributions from Rebecca Davies, Fin Irwin, Anona Dawson, Seb Brooke, Kim Wilcocks, Amanda Wallwork/Catherine Bennett
- 3.15 Framing the future – taking action, next steps
- 4.00 END

## CONTRIBUTORS

### SUE PALMER

#### Future Portland Facilitator

Sue Palmer is an artist, producer and project manager, with a particular focus on participation and community-led initiatives. Current artistic work includes Common Salt and Atmospheric Forces in collaboration with artist Sheila Ghelani. Sue also works as the Future Shed Lead in a health and climate partnership programme in her home town of Frome in Somerset, facilitating community-building and public events. Sue has also worked on many heritage and green space projects, including an international WCMT Fellowship award to study public green space and social arts practice. Sue has shown work as part of b-side Festival, including the No 1 Bus project with artist Joff Winterhart, as well as research work for Dorset AONB.

### JESS PRENDERGRAST

#### Founding Director Onion Collective

Jess Prendergrast, one of the founding Directors of Onion Collective, will talk about East Quay, the journey to its creation and the trials and tribulations along the way. Jess grew up living at the zoo her parents set up in rural West Somerset. With an economics background, Jess previously worked in academia and government research, and as Economics Editor for Oxford Economics, before leaving Westminster to return home to the West Country. There, she splits her time between cultural, funding and research roles. She is currently writing a book on 'Attachment Economics' to explore what a more connected form of economics could look like. Jess has been instrumental in the establishment of several social enterprises. She was one of the team behind the £3.2m Minehead Eye project, an indoor skate park and youth centre, for which she remains Director. Jess also established Contains Art, artist studios and exhibition space in shipping containers in Watchet, which since grew into the major £7.3m development of East Quay. She has recently retired as a trustee of the Power to Change Trust and remains a trustee of Dunster Music Festival and is the Chair of Contains Art, now a charity.

## **ANITA ROY**

### **Chair of Transition Town Wellington**

Anita Roy is chair of Transition Town Wellington. She moved back to the UK in 2015 after spending twenty years living and working in Delhi. She is a writer and editor, and now works part-time as a cloudmaker making acoustic sound absorbers out of upcycled sheep's wool. Her books include *Gifts of Gravity and Light*, *A Year in Kingcombe* and the children's novel, *Gravepyres School for the Recently Deceased*. She is also a regular country diarist for the Guardian.

Transition Town Wellington's newly established forest garden on Fox's Field has been featured in the Guardian, Permaculture Magazine and Resurgence & Ecologist. It has led to the creation of a 65 acre green corridor which the group is helping to manage. TTW is an entirely volunteer-led, not-for-profit community group.

## **FIN IRWIN**

### **Founder & Co-director Into Bodmin CIC**

Fin Irwin is a cultural and community leader. Having set up the successful Bike Shed Theatre in Exeter, being the inaugural programmer at The House in Plymouth and five years ago, founding the community and cultural organisation intoBodmin. As the founder of intoBodmin CIC, Fin focuses on community and cultural projects, embodying values of inclusion and creativity, working to break down barriers and foster a positive future for Bodmin.

IntoBodmin is community interest company based in Bodmin, Cornwall, with a mission to provide equitable access to cultural activities. Our strategic aims focus on breaking down barriers, collaborating for positive impact, and creating inclusive community spaces. Emphasising unity, creativity, and environmental responsibility, we curate diverse programming, from cultural events to community initiatives. Our commitment to inclusivity fosters connections and wellbeing, making intoBodmin a hub for cultural enrichment and community engagement.

## **REBECCA DAVIES**

### **Co-Director Portland Inn Project**

Rebecca Davies is from London and lives in Stoke On Trent. She has a deeply embedded and collaborative art practice that crosses illustration, design, performance and event. Her work explores the role of art in making change, as a device and platform, to represent and communicate complex stories and politics.

She has run participation projects with Turner Contemporary, Tate, New Town Culture, and was lead artist of the Whitechapel Gallery Community Workshops for 3 years. Rebecca and artist Anna Francis set up The Portland Inn Project CIC in 2016 in a residential area of Stoke on Trent, working in collaboration with other artists, arts organisations and residents to improve their community and renovate an old pub building. The project advocates for people-led change, social and environmental justice and champions the importance of art in leading that change, in cooperation with public services.

## **ANORA DAWSON**

### **Wilder Communities Officer Nextdoor Nature, Dorset Wildlife Trust**

The Nextdoor Nature programme has been launched across all Wildlife Trusts, to bring nature to the heart of communities across the UK. With an overarching remit to protect nature and increase biodiversity through provide the advice and support that people and communities need to take care of the places that matter to them, in ways that are right for them.

## **LAURA BALDWIN**

### **Co-founder of Portland 4 the Planet**

Laura is an Olympic sailor, coach, co-founder of Portland 4 the Planet and a member of the Stop Portland Waste Incinerator campaign. An environmental activist and climate science communicator.

Portland 4 the Planet is a platform for anyone doing anything positive for the planet on Portland. So far, they have planted 3000 trees, organised an eco fair and clothes swaps, give talks in schools, businesses and the community, hosted people's assemblies, established a community allotment that is set to expand in 2024 along with the opening of a 'Lottie Larder' for allotment growers to swap seeds, seedlings, produce and knowledge, passing on excess produce to the Portland Community Fridge.

## **SEB BROOKE**

### **Eden Portland**

Eden Portland is a proposed project using redundant quarry mines. It will be an underground cathedral where the ancient art of stone carving and cutting edge technology will combine to breathe life into stories of biodiversity, extinction and evolution. In doing so, it will explore the profound threats posed to modern biodiversity by the actions of humanity, identify emerging solutions and innovations, and provide hope for a future that is safe, joyful and fulfilling.

## **KIM WILCOCKS**

### **CEO Island Community Action**

Island Community Action (ICA) is a small charity based on Portland, Dorset, formed in 1999 to support the local community through activities and services that help tackle deprivation and improve mental, physical and social wellbeing, support and showcase local initiatives that promote, improve and protect the local area, its community, culture, economy, health, heritage and natural environment and contribute towards local regeneration.

ICA support **Portland Youth Council**. Portland's Youth Council, formed in October 2022, made up of local young people aged 11-17.

## **HELENA BERRY**

### **The Portland Association**

The Portland Association is a small community organisation of volunteers focused on the environment, ecology and heritage of the Isle of Portland Dorset.

A partnership project between:



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