

From: Amelia Matthews Amelia.Matthews@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk 

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To: Jonathan Cochrane jonathan.cochrane@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk, Huw Moseley

h.moseley@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk, Louisa Davies louisadavies.arts@gmail.com, Jane Earl jane.earl57@gmail.com

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Welcome to Issue no. 8 of the E-ZINE for the NEW Cultural Compact! Have a quick read to see what we've been up to since the last edition!

If you would like anything you are doing featured, please send me an email:
amelia.matthews@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

THIS WEEK'S UPDATE

It was a real privilege to be part of a gathering of so many creative colleagues, all committed to using culture to make places better on Monday at the Arts Council England (ACE) sponsored conference for cultural compacts across the country. I was there as the current chair of the North East Worcestershire Cultural Compact, along with Jonathan Cochrane, and it was a great opportunity for learning from other people (and stealing their ideas!).

The commitment of ACE was very clear from the participation of a range of the senior leaders, including Sir Nicholas Serota, the ACE chair. His reflections at the end of the day on the power of collaboration across sectors, absolutely resonated with the messages I took away from the event.

It was truly inspiring to hear some of the stories from other places about the way in which large-scale infrastructure programs have been supported by compacts, as well as seeing the power of local community groups, taking control of what areas need, and working with artists and other creatives to make a real difference.

We also saw some fantastic examples of the way in which business involvement can support and enable a whole range of other activities, which feels to me like an area we definitely want to continue to explore in our locality. The role of local government partners was demonstrated as integral to the way in which projects are supported and enabled. There was a wealth of recognition that money is tight, but some great examples of how funds such as Levelling Up money and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund can unlock a whole lot of potential.

The key messages I took away from the event is an even stronger view that we can collectively make a difference, and that the challenge for all of us now is to set ourselves some clear goals and plans, and then get on with it!

Look forward to having the chance to discuss some of this with you when we meet at the end of March but if you have any comments in the meantime, please do drop me a line at Jane.earl57@gmail.com

All good wishes,
Jane
Compact Chair
Jane.earl57@gmail.com

MEET THE REIMAGINE REDDITCH TEAM

Second in our series of spotlights on the Reimagine Redditch team, let us introduce Calvin Tasker, Community Engagement Manager.



Calvin Tasker – Community Engagement Manager



Calvin is the Community Engagement Lead for Reimagine Redditch. As a community member from 'the ditch' he is excited to help his local community shape the culture and creativity in their town. A tattoo covered, self-proclaimed 'movie nerd' Calvin's background is incredibly wide-ranging but often with a focus on community engagement. He spent his early twenties travelling and helping to co-create community events, firstly in South Africa teaching the homeless community of Cape Town to learn basic computer

skills and shortly after in Australia, where he co-created a weekly youth programme whilst studying creative arts.

He is proud to have organised and hosted charity events whilst managing tattoo studios, raising over £12,000 for local and national charities such as Primrose Hospice and the mastectomy tattooing alliance. He has supported homeless young people helping them find accommodation and to engage in the local community, has been a community organiser talking to local communities about their experience with the mental health system, all the while being a passionate wedding photographer, capturing romance and playing with natural light in a unique way.

He also holds a degree in animal science which has shaped him into an animal rights activist. This diverse background combined with his skills with public speaking, the ability to motivate and inspire change as well as change mindsets has led him to his dream job helping reimagine his town, making culture and creativity synonymous with Redditch.

When he's not photographing and connecting with his local community he can be found at gigs or the cinema or in his happy place - cooking vegan food in the kitchen for his wife.

CONFERENCE

NEW | CULTURAL COMPACT FOR
NORTH EAST WORCESTERSHIRE

SAVE THE DATE

North East Worcestershire Cultural Compact Conference

Guesten Hall
Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings
Bromsgrove (find us [here](#))

**28th March 2023,
10am - 4pm (times tbc)**

More details to follow soon

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND
Bromsgrove District Council
REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL
making a difference
www.redditchbc.gov.uk

You should all have received a calendar invite to our conference which we will be hosting on the 28th of March 2023 at Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings. It was wonderful to see many acceptances.

The conference will be an excellent opportunity to look back on the successes of the year and look towards the future for the Cultural Compact.

Refreshments will be provided.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

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