

Looe Valley Partnership

Proposal for a Looe Valleys Festival April 2025: “We are of this place”

We are a group of Town and Parish Councils and other community groups and people in the East and West Looe Valleys, supported by Looe Development Trust. We are all proud of the place we live and want to celebrate it across the community.

We plan a month-long community-led festival in April 2025 called “**We are of this place**”. This will have something for everyone who lives here to take part in, contribute and learn, co-ordinated by volunteers from the group. All ideas are welcome and the broad themes we have earmarked are:

Guided walks: experienced guide Mark Camp will co-ordinate this strand and lead some of the walks. We would love to see a walk from Liskeard to Looe up the Smugglers Way, at least one easy circular walk in each village, an accessible walk for pushchairs and wheelchairs, and a coastal walk/rockpool ramble led by Looe Marine Conservation Group

Creative arts: Looe resident and Town Councillor Jon Holmes has stepped forward to coordinate this strand with members of the Liskeard Cultural Collective. It already includes suggestions for a community photography exhibition, live performances of spoken word, drama and singing performances and workshops

Food and farming: we’re hoping this strand will connect with young farmers, the NFU and Duchy College. There’s interest in regenerative farming, foraging events and local food markets, open gardens and plant sales led by garden clubs, and perhaps even a Big Easter Breakfast or Lunch in every Town and Village

Heritage and history: Iain Rowe will co-ordinate a strand that we would love to involve easter holiday activities in the museums and events to explore the area’s industrial heritage as the link between the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site and the Coast

Environment: Looe Marine Conservation will co-ordinate this strand which we hope will include conservation activities around Looe Bay and up the valleys including in Kilminorth Woods and Deerpark, as well as something on water quality in our rivers.

So what are we asking from you?

- **Spread the word** around community groups – village halls, gardening clubs, walking groups, choirs, nursing and care homes, WIs, sports clubs, local schools, churches, anyone you can think of – and ask them to consider organising an event in April 2025 as part of the festival
- If you’re a Parish or Town Council, think about **what you would like to offer in your own area**. Could your hall host a Big Breakfast or Lunch? Should we consider a flower festival involving all the local churches and gardening clubs? Where might you organise a short circular walk suitable for lots of local people to join in and meet up?

- **Get involved.** Are you happy to be involved and go on a mailing list to be kept in touch with developments? Do you have any specific event suggestions – either that you would like to organise (fab!) or that you'd like to see happen as part of the festival (also fab, as long as we can find someone to take it on!)

We're going to try and raise some small-scale funding and sponsorship to contribute to costs, and will focus on producing an amazing programme that we can circulate far and wide across the area.

Contact details of strand leads:

Walks **Mark Camp** 07967 320199
walkaboutwest@btinternet.com

Creative **Jon Holmes** 07940 095322
jon.holmes@looetowncouncil.gov.uk

Food & Farming *tbc*

Heritage and history **Iain Rowe** 07514 723422 caradonheritage@gmail.com

Environment **Looe MCG** 07880 746379 john.meakin@virgin.net
c/o John Meakin

**For more information or to put forward ideas please contact
Yvette Hayward at Liskeard Town Council on office@liskeard.gov.uk**