

Clusters in Time

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Five Clusters

- The Devon Guild of Craftsmen and Dartington Hall (1950s -)
- The British Artist Blacksmiths Association (1970s -)
- Medway - Fashion and Creative Industries (2001 -)
- Folkestone Creative Quarter (2002 -)
- China and The World (2005 -)

The Devon Guild of Craftsmen and Dartington

- Elmhursts use money from industry to revive Dartington Hall - using artists and craftspeople to refurbish ruined buildings.
- Related activities developed - with echos of the medieval manor house
- Dartington Crystal developed using Swedish glass expertise
- Dartington Pottery - builds on historic tradition
- Dartington weavers, the farms, studios, gardens
- Dartington College of Arts, Schummacher College, Music Summer Schools, Cider Press Centre

The Devon Guild of Craftsmen, and Dartington

- 1951 and 1952 Dartington conferences - Bernard Leach - Guild begins in 1953, based around Dartington
- Rural crafts tradition, pottery and wool industries, arts revival in the region - St Ives, Newlyn, etc.
- Post-war opt-out, alternative lifestyles, pleasant place to live, tourist area
- 1970s craft revival, 1980s house price inflation, 1990s regeneration and growth
- Crafts Council, Arts Council, LA, RDA, private funding

www.crafts.org.uk

The British Artist Blacksmiths Association

- Mechanization of agriculture - the village general smith (blacksmith, farrier, mechanic, fabricator...)
- The effects of WW1 and WW2
- Post WW2 support for blacksmiths to help agriculture, plus design, welding and cold-bending
- 1960s decline - modernist architecture, tractors not horses, replace not mend
- Rural Development Commission 1909, CoSIRA 1968, the Bolton Report
- Training, business advice, technical advice, drawing

The British Artist Blacksmiths Association

- 1973 Crafts Advisory Committee, 1975 Crafts Council - shared Chair with CoSIRA
- Crafts Council funded conferences built on research funded by the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust about the USA, Germany and France
- BABA formed in 1979 - conferences, magazine, Forge-ins, collaborative projects, international network, collective purchasing, books, web-site www.baba.org.uk

Medway - fashion and creative industries

- Dockyard closed in the 1980s after several centuries as a major naval base for the manufacture and repair of ships, etc.
- Medway Unitary authority formed from the five Medway Towns - strategic plan for revival
- City of Culture, Learning and High-technology Manufacturing
- Higher Education growth - Universities at Medway
- SME development and advice, managed workspace, industrial estates, easy in/out

Medway - fashion and creative industries

- RDA (SEEDA) policies - Enterprise Hubs and Gateways
- Partnership around HE (KIAD/UCCA), LA, Chamber of Commerce, Business Link, leading businesses, private individuals
- Enterprise Gateway begun in small building with space, computer equipment, staff, etc.
- Larger Gateway in progress, Art Centre growing, Enterprise Hub built near BASystems, HE growth, Thames Gateway
- Funding: HEIF, LA, SEEDA, BLK, KNTI, CC

Medway - fashion and creative industries

- Fashion Interreg3 project with Lille/Roubaix
- Exchange of collections, manufacturing and distribution (Lille), creative approaches and London, display and design studio space
- Fashion Trail and links to other projects
- Harriet's Muse and Carnaby
- London Olympics 2012

Folkestone and the Creative Foundation

- Port with no ferry, resort with no visitors
- Urban decay, poverty, poor planning, unhelpful private property developers
- Saga doing well, iconic buildings, Metropole Gallery rescued
- Creative Quarter planned, Saga sold, 70 buildings and the harbour bought
- Sculpture park, HE campus, Enterprise Gateway, Marina, Ferry reinstated, managed workspace, creative community, Channel Corridor links
www.creativefoundation.org.uk

China and The World

- MA work, PhD project
- Existing links in China and Taiwan
- Working with Landbond
- Working with Mayland - 2 million sq.m.
- Lifestyle research and development centre
- International network of researchers and practitioners UK, Brazil, China, NZ, Italy, Ireland, Finland - maybe Turkey, Egypt...
- Conferences, exhibitions, research, design, consultancy, OEM branded manufacture, etc.

What has worked?

- Partnership and friendship
- Shared enthusiasm, common goals
- Genuine expertise and practical ability
- Local, regional, national and international strategic integration
- Links to other projects, networks and organizations
- Mixture of private, LA, RDA, Government and European (ESF, Interreg) funding and 'in-kind'
- Good links to market
- Co-ordination and champions