

Perspectives On Digital Access

Speaker Bios

Helen Manchester

Helen Manchester is an Associate Professor in Digital Inequalities and Urban Futures at the University of Bristol and is currently running a research project '[Connecting through Culture as we Age](#)'. Helen is interested in ageing futures, co-design, social connectivity, culture and the arts. She develops methodologically innovative approaches to research in collaboration with artists, technologists, civil society organisations and policy-makers.

Ruthanne Baxter

Ruthanne Baxter is Civic Engagement Manager for the University of Edinburgh Heritage Collections and founder of Prescribe Culture, a heritage-based non-clinical initiative for health, social care and wellbeing, which won the Tech4Good Arts & Culture Award 2021. Ruthanne provides consultancy on developing heritage-based cultural and social prescribing internationally, is Co-Investigator of the U-Flourish project, Canada, and the UKRI funded research project, Prescribe Heritage Highland. Ruthanne also sits on the Steering Group for the Scottish Social Prescribing Network and the UK Personalised Care Inter-professional Education Group.

Karin Diamond

Karin Diamond works with Re-Live (Age Cymru) Re-Live is an award-winning charity providing a dynamic programme of Life Story Theatre, Arts in Health group work and experiential training. She will talk about creating theatre digitally with their Company of Elders.

Ross Dowd

Ross Dowd is a Dublin-based industrial and interaction designer who focuses on designing meaningful interactions. He is a two-time winner of the IDI Award for Universal Design, and the 2021 Global Design Challenge winner. He has designed exhibits for Science Gallery, D'Days Design Festival Paris, Inspirefest and Ireland's Edge, and was Industrial Design Lead at Nokia Bell Labs (2016-2020). He currently lectures Interaction Design at NCAD, and is the co-founder and CEO of Spree, an exercise app for reducing the onset of frailty in older adults.

Phyl O'Connor

Phyl O'Connor has been retired for almost 14 years and lives in a very rural area in North West Donegal Gaeltacht with her partner. Phyl's background is in teaching and Education Management and later in TV Research. She has received training in and learned how to use basic programmes for use as Teaching aids, Children's IT training-and recording & reporting.

Schedule

11.00am- Introduction & Housekeeping with Tara Byrne and Helen Manchester
11.05am- Speaker 1 Helen Manchester
11.15am- Speaker 2 Ruthann Baxter
11.25am- Speaker 3 Karin Diamond
11.35am- Speaker 4 Phyl O Connor
11.45am- Speaker 5 Ross Dowd
11.55am- Comfort break
12.00pm- Chaired discussion & audience questions
12.30pm- Thanks and Credits

ORGANISING PARTNERS

Age & Opportunity/ Bealtaine Festival

Age & Opportunity is Ireland's leading organisation in developing arts initiatives with and for older people. Through our Arts programme, we support the meaningful participation and representation of all older people in cultural and creative life in Ireland through celebrating the arts as we age. We also aim to underline the importance of the arts to positive ageing and to influence policy and practice in the area.

Website: <https://ageandopportunity.ie/>

Gwanwyn

Age Cymru's Gwanwyn Festival celebrates creativity in older age and highlights our ability to renew, grow and create. The festival began in 2007 and offers opportunities for older people to become involved in arts and creative activities either as practitioners, organisers or audience members.

Website: <https://www.gwanwyn.org.uk/>

Age of Creativity

Age of Creativity is a network of thousands of people delivering and experiencing creativity and culture in later life. The Age of Creativity Festival celebrates the networks' achievements across England Each May. Both the Network and the Festival are part of a

Bealtaine Festival

An Age & Opportunity **arts** initiative



wider programme of work recently launched called 'Creative Later Life 2025', delivered by the Creativity Team at Age UK Oxfordshire.

Website: <https://festival.ageofcreativity.co.uk/>

Luminate

Luminate is Scotland's creative ageing organisation. It works to ensure all older people in Scotland can enjoy high quality arts and creative activities, whatever their background and circumstances and wherever they live.

Luminate advocates for the arts and creativity to be valued in our lives as we age. It provides professional development opportunities and brings people together to share their knowledge and experience of creative ageing.

Luminate's Principal Supporters are Creative Scotland, the Baring Foundation and Age Scotland.

Website: www.luminatescotland.org