

the unfamiliar

documentary and editorial
photography
UCW 2022



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Weston Redeveloped

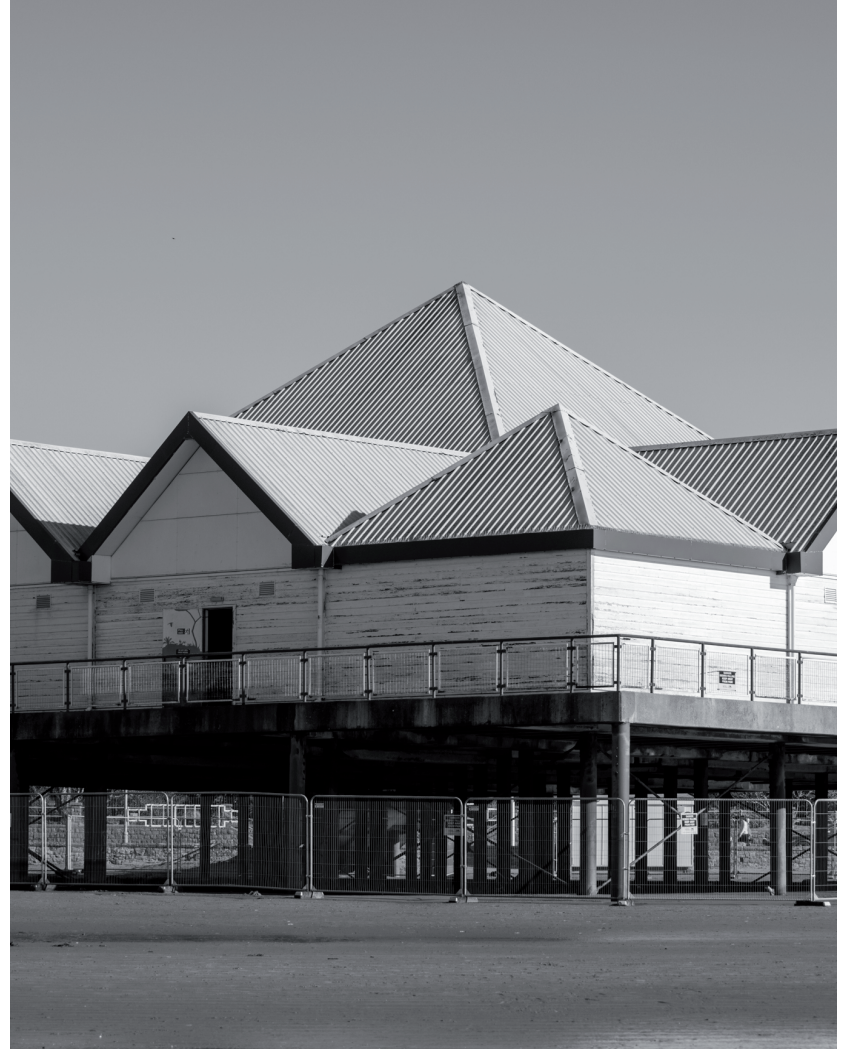
Weston-Super-Mare is full of old architecture. Some of which is now being redeveloped. These buildings are being turned into spaces we can use in today's society while keeping their original look. They have been redeveloped into apartments, events rooms, tourist attractions and more.

The Winter Gardens was re-opened on its 90th year after going through a £15 million renovation. The building was sold by the Council for a pound to Weston College. This was due to lack of funding to refurbish the building themselves. When it was refurbished they tried to follow the buildings previous look while also modernising it to work a more contemporary programme of events.

The grand pier suffered a major fire in 2008 which destroyed most of the pavilion. Due to the structural integrity being sound they were able to rebuild the pier which then opened again in 2011.

The Royal Sands was previously a chapel for The Royal Hospital. However once it closed it was taken over and renovated into flats. These flats are high end properties due to the price, the location and the building's heritage.

These buildings have a lot of history and there are many which have been refurbished beyond recognition. While it is bittersweet this means that the architecture can still be enjoyed by future generations. It means that the memories are not lost or destroyed.





The Winter Gardens Pavilion- This venue went through a £15 million renovation.

Royal Sands- Former Chapel of The Royal Hospital



The Grand Pier- After a fire in 2008 the pier reopened on the 25 July 2011.

Master Glass at The New Manor Farm

By Dimitrios Panagiotopoulos



I was on the way to Bath, when I stopped for coffee at The New Manor Farm. I saw a sign “Handmade Glass” outside a shop. Curiosity led me to walk in to explore. To my pleasant surprise it wasn’t just a display of ornaments, vases, bowls and Christmas baubles, but a fully equipped studio for glass blowing.

That’s how I met Steve Baker. Steve has more than 30 years experience in the glass industry, and as former Manager of Bristol Blue Glass has a very impressive career. Steve and his associate Chris Pons agreed to let me take photos of their work. Glass blowing in real-time, step by step.



Glass is a material with contradictions, it can be transparent as well as opaque, coloured or colourless, hard and bullet proof but fragile too.

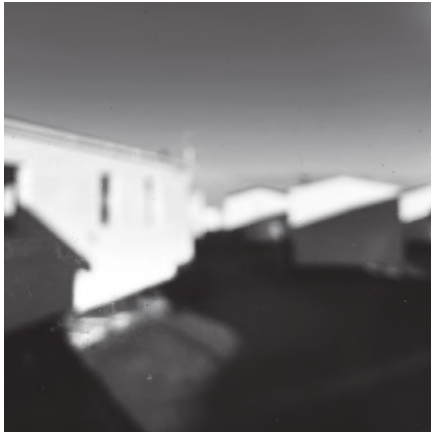
However all these attributes are determined by only one factor “Temperature”.



hidden living

brodie sutton



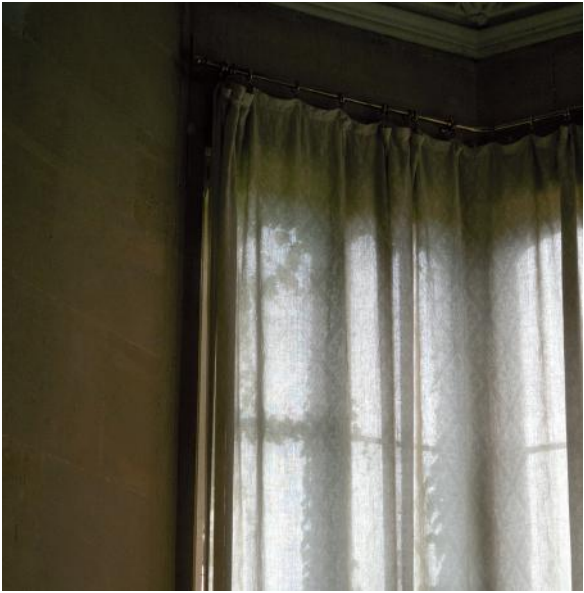


With some of my shots I managed to capture the shadows of the noisy seagulls flying around what they probably think is their playground. I guess looking at it in this way, even though we as humans think these buildings on this specific ground are for us, there are more living things up, down, left, right and center that were not aware of.

On a cosy stay-in-bed kind of day, I filled the hours with peeking out of the window at passersby who were also staying in the caravans surrounding us. And later in the day, catching the shadows of the setting sun. The shadows added character to the caravans and an abstract feel.

After sizzling my bacon it was time to figure out what me and my partner were going to do for the day. Did we want to adventure into the cold? (It was Baltic!) Or instead try to picture the layout of the caravans next to us by the way the windows were shaped, and which curtains were hung...that's what I did. My partner watched the football.





a look into photography's past

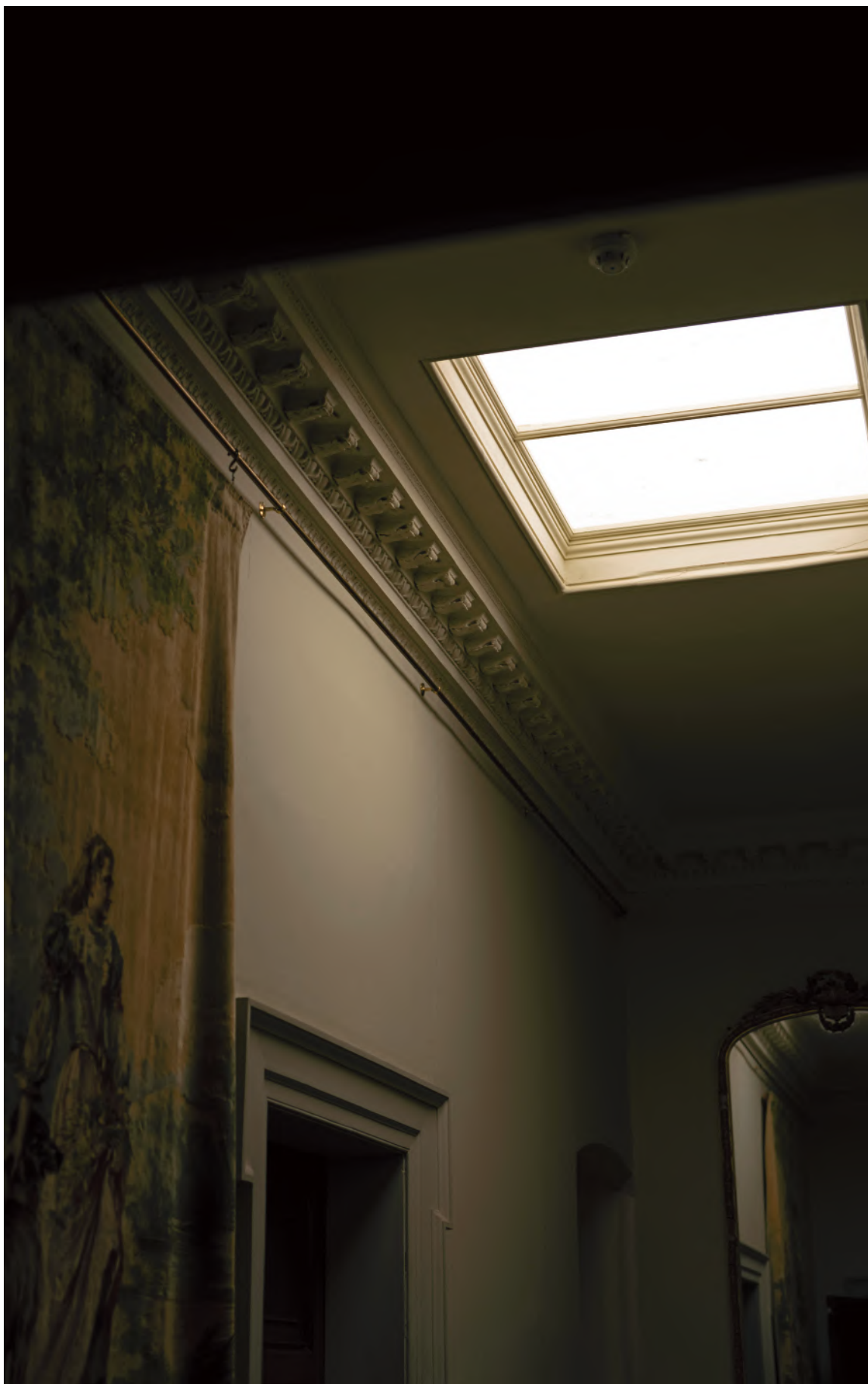
zoe harris

When visiting Lacock Abbey, I found myself drawn to take photos of the windows within the Abbey, which reminded me of the origins of photography. Coincidentally, Lacock Abbey was the birthplace of the photographic negative, the first of which was also taken of one of the grand windows. Therefore, my images point towards the importance of windows within photography, as well as the progress of photography as a whole.

Camera obscura's have been made by blacking out a window, followed by cutting a small hole in the centre, acting as an aperture (or as a lens). This results (under the right conditions) in a flipped image of whatever is outside the window, caused by the compression of light. This simple process was the beginnings of photography and provided the basis for modern-day cameras and lenses.

Following on from the camera obscura was the first photo ever taken, which you'll never guess... was taken out of a window! Using an 8 hour exposure to take this image, it shows the patience and perseverance of the photographer, Joseph Niepce. Furthermore, it shows the rapid advancement of photography, turning an 8 hour exposure into modern-day 8000ths of a second at the click of a button.

A direct comparison is shown in my images, between modern day photography and the more basic beginnings. I wanted to photograph old windows to create a link between old and new, bringing a new lease of life to these historical buildings and windows.



Not a Necessity

Ellen Harding



Pernicious Anemia

My mum suffers from pernicious anemia which is a condition where the body can't make enough healthy red blood cells because it doesn't have enough Vitamin B12. Vitamin B12 is a nutrient found in meat, fish, milk, cheese, eggs etc. The body needs this nutrient in order to make healthy red blood cells and to keep its nervous system working properly. People with pernicious anemia can't absorb enough vitamin B12 from foods, because they lack intrinsic factors, this is a protein made in the stomach called the glycoprotein which allows the body to absorb vitamin B12. A lack of this protein leads to a vitamin B12 deficiency. People with Pernicious anemia need a B12 injection in order to increase the level of B12 in your blood.

Although, the pernicious anemia society believes that the active B12 test is flawed, the NHS still uses it. My mum agreed to the active B12 test, which came back low B12. This is different from pernicious anemia; therefore, my mum was still unable to access treatment. A year after having no treatment my mum's symptoms started getting worse, she was very fatigued and started having pins and needles in her fingers. This led to my mum wanting to look after her own health. So, she researched into self-injecting B12. She now sources her own supplies from a 'credited medical website'.

What Happened to my Mum?

In 2009 my mum was showing signs of pernicious anemia, it can be a hereditary condition, which her mum suffered from. My mum went to the doctor, explained her symptoms and her mum's history. He advised a blood test, from that he diagnosed pernicious anemia. From 2009 to 2020 my mum received B12 injections once every eight weeks from the nurse at the doctor's surgery. When COVID 19 hit in 2020, most GPS in England suspended B12 injections, deeming them not a necessity. In the summer of 2021 when the GP had reinstated B12 injections, the doctors refused to restart my mum's treatment as her diagnosis had not been done via a test called the active B12 test.

Where she is Now

My mum still experiences fatigue but it's still early days and my mum has started to notice that the pins and needles have stopped, which is great news.

I decided to photograph my mum self-injecting herself and some of the visual symptoms of pernicious anemia. I hope they will give an insight into my mum's daily struggles as she battles with pernicious anemia while looking after her family.





STOMPA SOUNDS

Charlotte Barton



This was the perfect event to end summer! The venue, The Fox Cafe and Bar, a small place just behind Bristol Temple Meads Train Station. The owners pictured here, welcomed people to their gig. After Covid having had such an impact on artists, especially musicians, it was important to many people at the event to let go and celebrate being around old and new friends.

An Embrace of Love

"It's amazing to see another photographer just starting up, if you ever need a place to stay, please hit me up! I've just moved to Bristol and it's a beautiful place!" - Josh Hitchcock (A photographer I met at the music event). It was an amazing day into night event full of wonderful people, smiling, dancing and enjoying themselves.

What a surprise, catching a loving moment with an old friend from primary school! The garden of this Cafe/Bar was filled with all kinds of exotic plants, an old beautiful mirror, fairy lights and vintage decorations. You would have never known how beautiful the inside of this garden was just from looking at the bar from the outside. Setting up DJ equipment in this tiny area seemed like such an effort to go through but definitely worth it to see people enjoying themselves once again after being so isolated from Covid.

Weston - Renovations...



Outside Weston Odeon

I wanted an insider view of Weston-Super-Mare, from the perspective of shop owners and residents, and how they feel about the renovation of their town. While walking through Weston town-centre, looking for potential photographs, I began interviewing locals.

First, I went to a jewelry store I frequently walk past on Regent Street. The shop's name, logically, is Regent's Jewelers'. The owner was unavailable for a chat, however a passionate Westonian running the till was happy to talk to me, at their request I don't disclose her name.

I asked this kind cashier what she thought of the coming renovations, and if Regent Street was due any. She hastily responded with disdain for the project, wishing that Weston would stay the same. Most of her anger was directed not at the coming renovations, but updates made a few years prior; she decried the flattening of the Italian Gardens, saying they were beautiful before and now it is just a haven for skateboarders. Her words made it clear how some of the older generation feel about what's happening to their town. I had to investigate further to see if the feelings spread to younger generations.

While I wrote up the notes of my first interview, I bumped into another elderly woman who boasted of having one of the oldest families in Weston. During our conversation she helped me fill in the blanks of how Weston became the town it is today, however she left before I could request an actual interview. Having lost a good interviewee, I moved on to see a different perspective.

Ordering a coffee at the Costa Coffee on the High Street, I sparked up a chat with the member of staff making my cappuccino. They seemed excited for the developments being built, but were upset at how it hindered their routes in the meantime. They japed that the older patrons in their shop are probably upset because of this too – so not much because of the town's changes and renovations, but simply because it was harder to navigate around all the roadworks and construction sites.

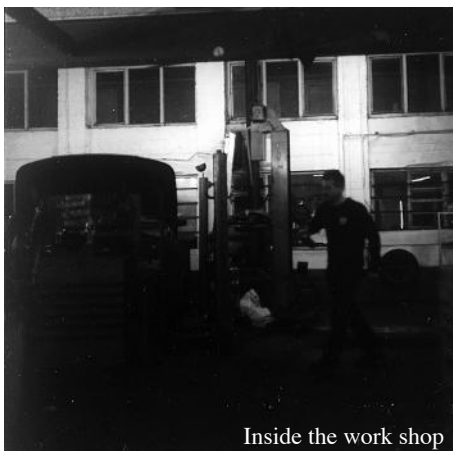
With my notes completed, my coffee drank, and my small talk all dried up, I moved on to interview Paul Betts, the head of Weston Culture. He owns an award-winning store called Outdoors and Active, which specialises in clothing for harsher climates, hiking, and exercise. He is also in charge of the food markets that take place in the Italian Gardens. I began by asking if any of the redevelopments had reached the shopping district his shop was located in, on Meadow Street.

He told me there was no need for it on his street, and they weren't going to make any changes. He added that a fair few shops on the street were quite famous – folks came from Bristol and beyond to shop at these locations. His issue with Weston's infrastructure lay in the disused shops; due to heightening rent prices and the business-destroying COVID-19 pandemic, many properties were being left unused and wasted. Betts hoped that new owners would fill their place, and create a thriving Meadow Street shopping experience.

Chris Hall Motor Engineers 100 year annaversery

My last stop on the whistle-stop tour of Weston-Super-Mare lay at an old car repair shop on Baker Street. This shop, reaching its 100th anniversary in 2022, was once a monster garage spanning the entire side of the block. The man running this business took over from the original owner after they passed away, and now runs it with their daughters. Half of the garage, which in 1960 was a car sales shop, has been sold off and turned into a gym, and the owner worries the rest of the historic building may go too as the road leading into the garage becomes one-way. The owner disclosed with me during the interview that the terraced housing opposite their site was once meant for the local hospital, giving me another glimpse into the history behind Baker Street.

I asked the owner of this repair shop if Baker Street was getting any benefits from the renovations happening around Weston, and if he even wanted any. He stated he was happy with the street, aside from the potential one-way system that may be implemented, but still finds it unfortunate that no changes or upgrades will be coming to his side-street of Weston-Super-Mare.



Inside the work shop



Outside the shop



The front of the shop

and Reflections - Luke Gregory

Through my research for this article, I was lucky enough to be given access to Weston-Super-Mare council's newspaper archives. I was hoping to access the lore and history of Weston, focusing on the architecture and street style, but it has now turned into more of a general history of Weston.

One of the places I researched was Ridgeway Avenue, where in 1983 Weston council announced that they would be building a light industrial sector on the other side of Weston train station, hopefully to be used as an extension to the railway. Residents were shocked to find out that their pleasant view was being used for industrial companies, and the outraged Westonians protested against this, saying that the government did not give sufficient notice of the developments. After several months of petitioning, the council finally admitted that they had not given sufficient notice to the new addition to Weston, but were still going ahead with the light industrial sector. In a bid to please the general populace they initiated a plan called Yes to Trees, where they immediately planted trees along the railway so that residents would not have to look at the industrial sector. Unfortunately, residents were still not happy as many of them moved to that area due to the pleasant open scenery of Weston.

Another one of the streets I looked into the history of is Baker Street. Baker Street was one of the more popular shopping high streets back during the 1990s, and this shopping district once included a post office, hospitals and, as I learned through my research, an old buried taxi rank that was discovered while building work was being done on the street. The taxi rank is believed to be around 100 years old - possibly even older - and was later used by a man called Levi Baker who passed away in 1914. He recalled the 'wheelchair man' (which back in those days meant taxi driver).

From looking at these old pictures of Baker Street, it was once a lush green lane with lots of old stone brick buildings akin to those built by Westonian architect Hans Price. It's sad to see that in recent years those old buildings have been reclaimed by the council and turned into flats and cheap rented homes. Over time they have become debased, making the street look run-down. One passer-by who I overheard while strolling down the street stated that it was the 'rough' part of Weston.

I found out the history of the hospital on this road while interviewing the owner of Chris Hall motor engineers. He says just across the road from the garage, there used to be hospital accommodation for the nurses and doctors that lived in Weston-Super-Mare. From what I can see these halls have been reclaimed as flats and residential buildings - as has most of the street.

Out of all of the Victorian buildings on Baker Street that have stood the test of time, only the old post office and Chris Hall's garage are still being used today.



Tiger next to the arcade



Upper Church Rd, The Shopping Basket



Sovereign Shopping Centre car park



Next to The Carrot on Weston high street

Black History Month in Weston

Terri Brearley



Weston Museum held some events to celebrate and highlight the Black History Month which is held in October for UK and Ireland. They are hoping to celebrate every year as it was enjoyed by all. These events have provided a great educational opportunity for the community.



‘An Evening with Johnny Mars’, was an interview about his Life. It was interesting to hear about the childhood of the American Electric Blues Harmonica player, who will be 80 years of age next year. He has played along side many famous people, such as Jimi Hendrix, Bananarama and Spencer Davis. He played one of his harmonicas, of which he has many, to some backing blues music. The room was quiet while everyone listened to the unique sound of his playing, a hugely talented gentleman.



TwoManTing were a former drummer and guitarist in a band called Le Cod Afrique, they joined together in 2004 to form TwoManTing. With their sunshine filled afro roots music and the way they used guitar, live loops and percussion, the whole museum crowd felt like dancing.



Drummer Jah-man Aggrey, involves the audience with demonstrating movements which go with their song.



There were many people attending these events, lured in by the sound and joining in with the gestures to the music.

A DAY TO REMEMBER AS SAIL GP TAKES OVER PLYMOUTH

JOSH LOMEN

It was a day to remember for sailing fans and the people of Plymouth as they welcomed Sail GP to Britain's Ocean City for the first time.

Sail GP is an international sailing grand prix which takes place in several cities around the globe each year attracting thousands of fans to go and watch the racing as well as millions watching online. Eight teams take part each year and those teams are: Australia, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Japan, New Zealand and USA.

It was an action-packed weekend of racing with 3 races taking place each day with Sunday hosting the grand final so race goers were spoilt with plenty of action and drama across the weekend.

The people of Plymouth certainly welcomed the event to the ocean city as 30,000 spectators lined the waterfront of The Sound to show support to our home team and to enjoy the adrenaline of the fast-paced racing.

The racing conditions were tough for the sailors as they had to combat low wind speeds and extreme heat but the huge support from the crowds helped them forget about the difficult conditions and they put on a great performance. In the first fleet race Great Britain caused drama by receiving a start line penalty which pushed them to the back of the pack made it difficult for them to catch the leaders with team GB finishing in last position. Australia took first place in the first fleet race all thanks to an early lead.

Fleet race two was won by Australia with Denmark taking second after both teams were neck and neck. As they crossed the line the official judges had to look back at the replays to decide the winner.

The final race of the first day was one to watch with Spain causing many dramas and receiving penalties resulting in disqualification from the race. USA took the win after climbing four places to reach victory and ending the first day of racing on a high.



Plymouth raises the national flag to show support to our home team.

A portrait of the Spanish Sail Gp team as they glide through Plymouth sound.





Sail GP Japan's racing yacht being taken back to the pit after a difficult days racing.

The final day of racing was a much calmer day with all eight teams taking points in both of the final fleet races. Japan took victory in fleet race 4 and Great Britain had a better start to the day, taking third place in the race.

The final fleet race of the day was won by our home team Great Britain. After their disappointing start on Saturday they really turned it around in day two's racing.

The final race of the day was the Grand Final, with the top three teams on the leader board going head-to-head to take the title of Sail GP Plymouth Champions. The three teams battling it out were France, Australia and USA.

In the previous GP race in Bermuda Great Britain defeated Australia so it was smiles all round as Australia got revenge on British waters and took the title.



Fans enjoying the view of Smeatons Tower on a glorious day for racing.



The USA national team take victory in the overall fleet races.



Photographers:

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Luke Gregory

Terri Brearley

Josh Lomen

