

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **GRASSROOTS GIRLS – PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION**

**BARNSTAPLE LIBRARY FRIDAY 22 APRIL 2022 TO WEDNESDAY 4 MAY 2022**

#### **Photography Exhibition Celebrates Female Football in North Devon**

From Friday 22 April to Wednesday 4 May 2022, Barnstaple Library will be hosting an exhibition of photographs celebrating female football. Alongside the exhibition there will be fun, football-themed family activities and a chance to meet and talk to some of the players, parents, coaches and club representatives.

Supported by an Arts Council England DYCP grant, photographer Amanda McCormack spent six months capturing images of Fremington FC's female teams from the Wildcats, who start at 5 years old, to the women's team aged 16 and up.

The project has been about more than just getting action shots says Amanda: "I wanted to show the strength and resilience of the girls' sport at grassroots level. I got much more than that. There have been many exciting moments but the quiet, off pitch scenes have also provided some beautiful images telling the story of what grassroots sport is all about."

Amanda says she is indebted to the coaches, players and their families who have helped this project come to life "The club really is a family (hashtag #FremmyFamily) and I felt welcomed into it. I found the story behind the women's team inspirational and it really does sum up the ethos of the club. Women's team coach, Jodie Dixon explains: "The hope was that if we started a women's team the girls' youth teams would see a future in football. They would see that football doesn't end for them like it used to for us." adding "What we didn't expect was how big it would get and how much of a family we would become. The women on the team are an incredible bunch of ladies and will do anything to make sure women's football is represented in a way it has always been deserving of."

Senior Supervisor at Barnstaple Library, Lisa D'Alberti is delighted to be able to provide the venue for the exhibition, hoping to inspire more women and girls to take up football. Supporting the health and wellbeing of individuals and local communities is one of Libraries Unlimited's core purposes and Lisa believes that the free exhibition and associated activities are a fun way to do that, saying "The team here at Barnstaple are all very excited and full of ideas for activities to support Amanda's Grassroots Girls exhibition."

The Grassroots Girls project and exhibition has been supported using public funding by Arts Council England.

*Notes for editors overleaf*

## Notes for editors (not for publication)

Barnstaple Library

Grassroots Girls photography exhibition is on at Barnstaple Library from Friday 22 April until Wednesday 4 March 2022 during normal library opening times:

Mon 09:00 - 18:00

Tue 09:00 - 18:00

Wed 10:00 - 18:00

Thu 09:00 - 18:00

Fri 09:00 - 18:00

Sat 09:00 - 17:00

Saturday events during the exhibition will run from 1pm to 5pm, more details available from the library.

Both exhibition and activities are free to attend.

Contact Lisa D'Alberti, Senior Supervisor: Resources and Information

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## Amanda McCormack

Is an artist and photographer based in north Devon. Amanda received a Developing Your Creative Practice grant (DYCP) from Arts Council England to move her creative practice from community film making (with North Devon Moving Image CIC) to socially engaged photography. As a part of this funded activity period Amanda has spent six months with Fremington FC's female teams – from the Wildcats (ages 5-11) to the Women's (16 plus).

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