



# SENSING PLACE

Film Hub Scotland and Sensing Place present...  
**Archive Film & Storytelling: Talk & Workshop**

2-5pm, Saturday 16 July 2016

The Usual Place, Academy Street, Dumfries, DG1 1BZ

@TheUsual\_Place / [www.theusualplace.org](http://www.theusualplace.org)

Thanks to everyone who came along and responded to  
the workshop research questions:

**What stories would you want to tell/hear about as part of Sensing Place?**

**How would you want to tell them?**

**What is not happening? What is important to you?**

# Fragmentation

Economic Fragmentation  
Land/Forestry  
= casual jobs

Cities > Countryside  
Countryside > Cities  
(Diaspora)  
= **Demographic crisis**  
in rural areas

"I couldn't find myself in any film" > Narda joined MIMC

Kilmarnock  
THEN: choice of jobs  
NOW: No industry; no jobs for young people  
**How do you get it back?**

# Migration

**Intergenerational project done:**  
Photographs of George when younger > telling stories to young people

# Meditation

(entirely within something, e.g. watching a film, playing walking football)

**BACK TO THE LAND**  
Self-sufficiency / Hippies  
Interest in exploring:  
Samye Ling Centre (D&G)  
Chisholme House (Hawick)

Collective, sharing, uplifting, nourishing e.g. group of people in contemplation  
> **Beyond sharing to inspiration**

**Cultural impact:**  
**sows the seeds**  
**of Moniaive**

**Apocalypses:**  
1950s = nuclear  
1990s = environmental  
> Another way of living?

# Decline of community

De-industrialisation  
> Narrative of a boom & decline

Intergenerational:  
gathering people together

Using the work that gets people together (communal)

Finding the small voices

How do you get to the people who don't normally tell their stories?

**Story:**  
"The coming of the forests"  
  
- Afforestation & rural depopulation, esp. uplands

**Balfour Castle/Afforestation  
Kilmarnock/'The Scheme'**

**ARCHIVES** = resource to observe what was valuable (e.g. floor beds)

> issue of "what's valuable"

So, Archive film as a record & also what was considered **valuable**

What is not happening:  
Borders Film & TV Archive – let us in!

- > History into the future
- > What is the future looking like?
- > What lies ahead?

# Dumfries High Street

**Slum clearances** – people  
relocated to outskirts of the town  
> Now town has very little  
residential housing

**THEN: Streets used to be bustling...**  
**NOW: Streets feel very empty**

Pedestrianisation &  
retail parks kill a town

**Kilmarnock**  
Deteriorated since  
1940s – industry  
declined

Was known for:  
booze/carpets/shoes

**Want younger  
generation to know  
about Kilmarnock's  
former industry**

**Want to counter the image  
of Kilmarnock presented in  
'The Scheme'**

**CARLOPS:**  
History of local industry,  
e.g. weaving, brick-  
making, 'tourism'

**KIRKGUNZEON:**  
I'd like my local school to  
interview the elder  
members of the  
community

Changing of the High Street,  
names of shops etc.

Audio  
Video  
Archive  
Photo  
Storytelling

Mostly ghostly: night  
time tour through the  
town

Local – Global  
Story – Contemplative

Story of the river –  
flooding?

History of the town –  
could go back 100 years  
– cows through town?

FUTURE of  
Dumfries?

- The importance of not getting stuck in other people's narratives that emphasise what your place looks like to them (fragmented etc.) as exemplified in The Scheme
- The potential in intergenerational work to enrich young people's experience of living in an area, and to stimulate new stories that support older people to re-evaluate the potential of their current situation / the place where they live
- The depth and complexity of rural culture in relation to contemporary issues relating to spatial and economic planning and the social life of different demographics.
- The value of collective working, including the potential of extending this approach across the three areas.