PLACE
WORK
FOLK
OUR LEGACY, THEIR FUTURE
Foreword
Petra Biberbach, Chief Executive, PAS

*Place, Work, Folk: Our Legacy Their Future* is the first PAS project to be funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund. The title is taken from the idea of Patrick Geddes (a founding father of modern day town-planning and an influential figure on Scottish town-planning and on PAS) that there is a synergy between place, work and folk, with each influencing the other.

*Place, Work, Folk* is an inter-generational project that seeks to promote active citizenship through engagement with cultural heritage and raise awareness of the impact on place through industrial change. The project not only examines the cultural heritage of the different communities but actively contributes to the changing historical environment of the areas, and of Scotland, by capturing stories about change. The project has inspired the young people to engage more readily with the cultural heritage of their region, exploring more positive perceptions of places often portrayed in a negative light, while valuing the experiences and contributions of the older members of the communities.

As suggested by the title, the project captured the interconnectedness of place, work and folk. PAS sessions highlighted how the three elements formed a dynamic, intricate and often complex web of influences in each of the subject areas. However, it was apparent that at the heart of this web of influences were the communities that lived in these areas. Geddes acknowledged that neither ‘place-planning’ nor ‘work-planning’ alone would be successful and that planning needed to be ‘folk-planning’; involving the people and considerate of their needs and wishes.

This ethos of ‘folk-planning’, of engaging people with creating place in the broadest sense and through the planning process, is at the heart of PAS. *Place, Work, Folk* has brought often disparate elements of the community, the young and the old, together to share their thoughts about the places they live and work in. By facilitating this discussion about place and heritage between the generations PAS has encouraged the people, and especially the young people, to look afresh at their place and heritage. *Place, Work, Folk* has shown that it is the people who are the major influence on place. Only through individuals and communities being actively involved do places and heritage thrive.
Place, Work, Folk: Our Legacy, Their Future –

The Project

PAS is a national charity offering a free planning advice service and helping, through engagement consultations, training and educational means, to facilitate an efficient and effective planning system in Scotland. Place, Work, Folk: Our Legacy Their Future is the first PAS project to be awarded funding through the National Lottery’s Heritage Lottery Fund. The title is inspired by Patrick Geddes’ interconnected triad of place, work and folk. The intergenerational project builds on Geddes’s legacy and promotes active citizenship through an exploration of cultural heritage.

PAS worked in four target areas – Fife, Glasgow, Renfrewshire and West Lothian – leading sessions with young people that introduced the young people to PAS, the project and Patrick Geddes. PAS sessions also introduced planning but more generally looked at placemaking and how the respective local communities had developed, including students participating in personal map-making exercises. By facilitating a process where the younger people interviewed older people who have been active in their communities PAS developed skills that the young people could use later in life and encouraged intergenerational understanding. The older people felt that they, their experiences and their contributions to their communities were valued. The younger people learned from the experiences of the older people and were inspired to become ‘active citizens’, feeling they could make a difference in working for a sustainable community and engaging with the cultural heritage of their region.

In Fife PAS worked with teacher June Bouaoun and her S3 English class. Students had been working on activities related to the film, The Happy Lands, focusing on Fife miners during the general strike in the 1920s. PAS linked into this by exploring how mining, and the decline of mining, had shaped Fife. PAS liaised with a number of organisations, including heritage groups, mining museums/groups/websites and community councils, and identified and contacted interviewees who had worked in the mining industry: Duncan Gilfillan, Stan Bell, Joe Miller and Ian Terris. The students worked in ‘film crews’ greeting, interviewing, recording and filming each interviewee.

Town-planning is not mere place-planning, nor even work planning. If it is to be successful it must be folk-planning.

Patrick Geddes
In Glasgow PAS co-operated with Royston Youth Action, particularly Harry Young and Alice Duncan, and a S6 citizens group that they were holding in St Roch’s High School, Royston. Here PAS sessions focused on the impact of major international events in Glasgow and particularly the East End, such as the recent 2014 Commonwealth Games, the 1988 Garden Festival, the 1990 European City of Culture and the 1999 UK City of Architecture and Design. Royston Youth Action also helped PAS make contact with the interviewees who had been active as volunteers within the Royston community: Tilly McIlroy and Tilly’s grandson, Martyn Griffiths. These interviewees talked about how Royston had changed over the years and in particular how it had been affected by international events such as the Commonwealth games.

Renfrewshire saw PAS looking to the town of Linwood and its development through the years from small rural village through the rise and decline of the motor industry associated with the town and recent regeneration. Here PAS worked closely with Linwood High School, giving a preliminary session to the S2 year-group, approximately 80 students, before delivering sessions to a smaller S2 elective ‘personal development’ group. PAS then approached a number of local contacts to identify possible interviewees who could discuss how Linwood had developed: Jeanette Anderson, Chairperson of the Linwood Community Development Trust, Alan Morris a retired local planner and Stewart Crawford who had worked in the Rootes Car plant.

In West Lothian PAS focused on the town of Bathgate and, after making contact with a local group, Bathgate Historic Conservation Society, explored the conservation of heritage in Bathgate and in West Lothian in general. Here PAS worked with Claire Davidson’s S3 Geography elective class at Bathgate Academy. Interviewees came from the Bathgate Historic Conservation Society: Clainie and Joe Welsh, Dorothy Slater, Robert Harkness and Bill Millan, and talked about changes in Bathgate in general but particularly restoration and conservation projects that they have been associated with.

The different classes that were involved in the project reflect the cross-curricular nature of the project, as befits a project inspired by Patrick Geddes. The skills and knowledge that these workshops helped develop are also cross-curricular in nature allowing learners to develop and achieve inter-disciplinary learning, project work, team working, confidence and many outcomes from the Scottish Government’s Curriculum for Excellence.

PAS enabled the young people to turn the older generation’s intangible stories into tangible elements of the historic environment. This interview material has been posted and promoted on Youtube and Soundcloud and made accessible through various websites. The project is also celebrated in this exhibition and accompanying booklet, which as well as celebrating the work of those involved and presenting one take on the heritage of the areas involved also presents some themed photographs to illustrate the project commissioned by PAS from photographer James Thomson.
Patrick Geddes was born in 1854 at Ballater, Aberdeenshire. He is considered to be the father of modern-day town-planning and worked on plans to develop places in Scotland, Ireland, Palestine and India. His approach to planning in many ways reflected his interest in botany, biology and evolutionary theories. As a scientists Geddes advocated the need to observe before experiment, to “survey before alteration”. As a social scientist Geddes believed that all intellectual endeavours should have practical implications and contribute to ‘active life’. Drawing on the theory of evolution Geddes also believed that, like organisms, towns and cities best developed slowly, retaining features that worked while making small modifications where appropriate, “conservative surgery”.

For Geddes this idea of ‘conservative surgery’ also helped towns and cities retain features that reflected their, and their people’s, past. This allowed towns and cities to become “open-air museum[s] of the centuries” where all could learn about the abilities, aspirations and values of those that had gone before and build on them.

These ‘museums’ were open to all, used by all, inspired all and, therefore, for Geddes, everyone was entitled to contribute towards their development. Geddes believed that “the city is only to be elevated in proportion as the citizens elevate themselves” and he continually evoked the importance of civic engagement.

An important element contributing towards increased civic engagement was education. Geddes was a constant champion of education: holding the Botany Chair at Dundee University, with his Summer Schools and Outlook Tower in Edinburgh and the Scots College at Montpellier. But for Geddes education needed to be interdisciplinary and have practical outcomes for “active life”.

This emphasis on the interdisciplinary nature of education reflects Geddes’s understanding of the holistic nature of life and the environment, where everything influences everything else. In planning terms it was reflected in his belief in the synthesis between place, work and folk and the interconnectedness between these three aspects.

Our *Place, Work, Folk* project seeks to bring these many strands of Geddesian thought together.

*Civics as an art, a policy, has thus to do... not with imagining an impossible no-place where all is well, but with making the most and best of each and every place, and especially of the city in which we live... a new tide of civic initiative may and must be evoked.*

Patrick Geddes

*Social science is thus no mere abstract study, apart from practical problems... it arises from active life, and it returns thither with fresh suggestiveness, new invention.*

Patrick Geddes
Sarah, Abbeyview, Dunfermline photographed by James Thomson
Fife is an area of marked contrasts: with farmland and gently rolling hills; prestigious historical sites, such as St Andrews and Dunfermline; windswept cliffs, rocky bays, small fishing villages and sandy beaches. Fife also has industrial areas: ports, such as Burntisland and Methil; the Mossmorran plant and Kirkcaldy, once famous for linoleum. But one industry in particular has been a major influence on how Fife as a place has developed – mining.

In the PAS led sessions at Woodmill High we explored how mining contributed to Fife’s development as a place. We saw how the 19th century industrial revolution led to increasing demands on the mining industry, drawing more people into Fife where villages swelled into towns and ‘new towns’ arose, many reflecting their origins in their names, such as Coaltown of Wemyss.

Increasing coal demand also contributed to Fife becoming well-connected. The Forth and Tay rail bridges were constructed in part to allow easier distribution of coal from Fife to the rest of Scotland. The many ports along the north of the Forth, such as Methil and Rosyth, also developed largely due to the trade in coal.

Mining activity also had detrimental effects on the landscape: the land sank, there were coal dumps, or bings, and water was polluted.

During the 20th century the mining industry declined. PAS and the Woodmill High students explored how Fife has moved from a ‘black’, coal-based economy to a ‘greener’ one. Areas once subject to mining activity are being transformed into parks and nature conservation areas, such as Lochore Meadows and Townhill Park. Methil, once a major coal distribution port, is now a renewables Energy Park and across Fife wind turbines are blossoming. Mining now is a heritage issue, commemorated throughout Fife in numerous ways.
Fife has many different working traditions associated with it: farming in the rural interior and north; fishing, in the East Neuk; and linoleum manufacturing in Kirkcaldy. However, mining is perhaps the longest and most prominent industrial tradition in Fife dating back to at least the 1200s. In certain parts of Fife mining, and the miners, set the agenda for whole communities.

The location of Fife's coalfields, to the south near Edinburgh and Glasgow and close to Fife ports, allowed easy transport to both domestic and other European customers. Growth in heavy engineering and ship building, the increased use of coal as a domestic fuel, the expansion of the British Empire (created a guaranteed market abroad) and progress in mining technology all contributed to the expansion of the coal industry during the 19th century. In the PAS sessions with Woodmill High we explored how conditions in this vastly expanding industry were often condemned as deplorable.

Growth in the industry proved unsustainable. During the Woodmill sessions the students explored how increasing costs of production, failure to effectively employ new technologies, increased competition in the domestic market from foreign sources, the loss of foreign markets as the influence of the British Empire waned and competition from new energy sources such as oil, gas and latterly renewables and nuclear power all contributed to the industry's decline. Throughout Fife pits closed until, with the closure of Longannet in 2002, only open-cast mining remained in Scotland.

Other industries have developed in Fife: the naval dockyards at Rosyth, the petro-chemical industry at Mossmorran, Silicon Glen-type industries around Glenrothes, the Amazon distribution centre in Dunfermline and the renewables industry, such as Methil's green Energy Park. For some the passing of the mining industry and the development of alternative industries is no bad thing. However, mining is now being commemorated across Fife, emphasising its importance to Fife and the people of Fife, and offering heritage employment opportunities.

Fife has really turned into more of a Silicon Glen with the electronics that have come in and the light industries... I think Fife's identity has changed quite a bit. I would say really for the good because who wants men to go working underground... you go in the morning and it's pitch black and you go down and you're working in the black all day and you come back up in the afternoon and it's still pitch black; you hardly ever see the sunshine.

Ian Terris (Interviewee)
In 2013 Fife was the third largest local authority in Scotland by population. Its population has risen dramatically since the 18th century, particularly after the opening of the Forth Bridge in 1890. The Bridge improved Fife's connections with the more industrial central belt of Scotland, it made Fife more attractive as a commuter hub for Edinburgh and improved the profitability of the coal industry in Fife, drawing more to work in and service this industry. Many who came to work in Fife were set up in small, close-knit communities, often in purpose built places close to the pits, such as the Coaltowns of Wemyss and Balgonie.

Given this clustering of mining communities, their shared hardship in the industry and a collective opposition to the actions of some pit owners, PAS and the Woodmill students’ exploration of mining communities found that such communities often had a high degree of comradeship and solidarity. These were thriving communities with deep and extensive cultural outlets. This social cohesiveness often manifested itself politically: thus the Woodmill students’ preliminary exploration of the independent film *The Happy Lands* about the 1926 General Strike in Fife and the repercussions of this for the local communities.

With one group being the main focus of social solidarity came an inherent danger. When pits closed following the industrial unrest of the mid-1980s, whole communities were affected. The more sporadic, mobile, lighter industries that have partially replaced mining, such as Silicon Glen-type industries, mail distribution centres and the renewables industry, have not replaced the cohesive social unity that once existed. This perhaps partially explains the drive for locals to commemorate the miners, their families and the communities that they helped create.

*The unfortunate thing is with smaller industries they lack that huge family spirit... where the comradery and the solidarity of the miners existed, and people are dispersed in smaller groups now. So that’s lost.*

Duncan Gilfillan (Interviewee)

*...whenever you said to anybody ‘oh aye I worked under ground’ if he did there was an immediate bond... they knew what you’d experienced was the same as what they’d experienced and nobody in this world has experienced anything like it.*

Stan Bell (Interviewee)
GLASGOW: PLACE

North-east of Glasgow city-centre stands one of the highest points in Glasgow, Royston Hill with its Spire. Today Royston Hill and Spire stand over the M8 motorway and are overshadowed by multi-storey blocks. In the past the M8 valley was occupied by the Monkland Canal and the construction that overshadowed the area was Tennant’s Lum, rising above the St Rollox Chemical Works.

Royston, previously Garngad, largely developed around the industries that lined the canal which brought raw materials from the nearby mines of Lanarkshire. The pollution from such works, as well as the poor housing conditions provided for the low-paid, manual workers, made Garngad an unattractive place.

The Garngad was subject to a series of 20th century ‘make-overs’, including: early slum clearances, a 1940s rebranding as Royston, post-war decanting programmes to new peripheral housing and the creation of multi-storey flats in the 1960s. Such spatial disruptions had knock-on social effects. However, those who remained often had a strong sense of community solidarity, with a love of this area and a sense of continuity, manifested by the maintenance of the Garngad name.

PAS sessions explored how late 20th century attempts to regenerate Glasgow’s image and physical environment included staging major international and domestic events, ranging from the 1988 Garden Festival to the recent 2014 Commonwealth Games. They brought physical regeneration to certain parts of the city, such as the development of the Commonwealth Games Emirates Arena. Arguably, however, these have not touched Royston.

St Roch’s students and PAS explored how Royston’s regeneration has been largely locally driven. Local initiatives and groups have helped preserve the Spire and created a park here. Local housing groups have also been crucial partners in the regeneration of local housing.
GLASGOW: WORK

Tennant’s Lum was, on construction, the world’s fourth highest construct servicing the world’s largest chemical works, St Rollox – operating from the late-18th century till the mid-1960s, demonstrating the importance of industry to Garngad (now Royston). The Monkland Canal terminated nearby and conveyed raw materials from Lanarkshire mines to such industries. Industrial decline increased poverty and unemployment in Garngad and across Glasgow. The city sought to tackle such issues, in part, by promoting the city as a more attractive and prosperous place through a series of international and domestic events, that also provided employment opportunities. However, in Royston, local efforts to combat poverty and unemployment have been particularly prominent.

Garngad’s early industries involved largely low-paid, manual labour. According to historian Ian Mitchell it brought ‘its workers and those who lived around it much nearer to an earthly hell’ with the heat and the pollution that came with it. From the 1870s such industries increasingly faced competition from newer, more scientific industrial processes. By the 1960s most of this industry had gone and, despite programmes of slum clearances, decanting to peripheral estates and falling population rates, poverty and unemployment remained high.

PAS sessions with St Roch’s students saw how, in part, Glasgow tried to address poverty and unemployment by hosting a series of international and domestic events, such as the 1988 Garden Festival, the 1990 European City of Culture, the 1999 UK City of Architecture and Design and the recent 2014 Commonwealth Games. Such events presented Glasgow in a better light, improving inward investment and business prospects, while also providing jobs and additional training for people in the city. Arguably such events did not benefit the people of Glasgow alone, with employment and training opportunities available to people across the UK and even the world.

In Royston community-led programmes were also trying to address poverty and unemployment at a local level. Local housing groups, such as Spire View Housing Association, focused on working to improve the housing within the area. Other groups, such as Royston Youth Action and Rosemount Development Trust, have helped provide training and better job opportunities within the community. Initiatives include: organising food co-operatives, working with different community groups in the Rainbow Halls community centre, working to save the Royston Spire and create the Spire Park and generally working for the betterment of the whole community in Royston.
Royston, previously Garnogad, developed as an industrial centre and home for the associated workers, mostly immigrants. Throughout the 20th century Garnogad experienced a series of social experiments affecting its physical and social environment. However, its community spirit survived. In the 1990s, as Glasgow sought to re-define itself as an attractive, welcoming city, hosting major domestic and international events, Royston also emerged from years of challenges. Royston now has very active and effective community organisations run by and for the people of Royston.

Early industries around Garnogad, built largely on low-paid, unskilled labour, housed in cramped, poor conditions, polluted the environment and affected the people’s health. 20th century attempts to rectify this included some of Glasgow’s earliest slum clearances, and Glasgow’s first council housing at Garnogad Square (1918-20). In 1942 Garnogad was renamed Royston and a 1954 Development Plan saw many residents decanted to peripheral housing estates. 1960s attempts to redress this exodus saw the development of the multi-storey flats. The M8 also developed between Royston and the city centre.

All these changes posed challenges to the community. Poverty and unemployment remain serious problems while family cohesion and mobility are also issues raised by some. Yet PAS sessions with St Roch’s students discovered that despite such challenges Garnogad had and still has a good sense of community.

While Glasgow focused on major international events towards the end of the 20th century to improve the perception and the reality of Glasgow. There is still debate in Royston about the effect that such events have had on Royston. However, there is no debate that Royston has undergone a remarkable regeneration over this last 25 years, both as a community and as a place. The regeneration work of local community organisations and projects has been celebrated both locally and even in the Scottish Parliament in a debate on 24 June 2014. Such work is ongoing and there are currently moves to develop a Royston Community Vision and Action Plan.

Oh Father dear and did you hear, new houses they have built
Some of them in Easterhouse and some in Castlemilk
Balornock and Barmulloch too, they’re building them like mad
And now they’re taking our friends away
From the dear old Garnogad.

From Mick McLaughlin’s 1953 poem “Farewell to Garnogad”
Jay (centre), Buchanan Street steps, Glasgow photographed by James Thomson
John, Linwood Skate Park photographed by James Thomson
RENFREWSHIRE: PLACE

Linwood is a small commuter town located 3km west of Paisley, in Renfrewshire. Prominent characteristics of the area include: modern social housing; the recent regeneration of the town centre with the addition of a Tesco and the new Tweedie Hall and public library; the Sports Facility called On-x and the Phoenix Retail Park. Little can be found of the original town, with the St James’ Business Centre, on Linwood Road, being one of the last remaining administrative buildings for the Rootes car factory.

Students at Linwood High explored the history of Linwood, how the town expanded with the introduction of the purpose built Rootes car plant and then subsequently suffered with the decline of the motor industry and closure of the car plant in 1981.

The Rootes car factory was important to Linwood and the wider Renfrewshire area economically and arguably opened the area up to the world through the popularity and affection for the Hillman Imp (the car manufactured under the Hillman brand from 1963 until 1976). Investment in Linwood brought about new homes and the construction of schools, churches, shops and improved road and rail links. Wages from jobs created were spent locally which boosted the quality of local services.

With the loss of the car plant Linwood deteriorated. It was awarded Urban Realm’s 2011 Carbuncle Award for the most ‘dismal’ town.

Efforts to regenerate Linwood include the work of Linwood Community Development Trust which focuses on helping upgrade community facilities for local residents and on making Linwood a better place to live.

When I came to Linwood [1947], in the beginning, it was a very, very small village, it didn’t have any of the new houses and I loved it, it was a lovely place to stay, very good community. And then when they started to decide to build the Rootes car factory Linwood became huge.

Jeanette Anderson (Interviewee)

At one time it [Linwood] used to be a very pretty country village...it’s since been swallowed up by housing in every direction so it no longer has its own special identity.

Stewart Crawford (Interviewee)

I don’t really go there [the skate park] so much anymore because it’s really badly built... I think it should have been built by people who actually ride BMXs... they know what is good and what’s not.

Linwood High Student
In 1963 Rootes Motors Ltd opened a new car factory in Linwood, building on the presence of the Pressed Steel Company which had existed since 1948. Built to house the expanding Rootes company, construction of this new car plant marked the beginning of the short-lived Scottish motor industry.

At Linwood High students discovered how the motor industry in Linwood brought about a thriving community. High wages gave workers hope for setting up a future for their families and approximately 11,000 people were employed over the lifetime of the factory with around 4,000 working there at any one time.

During the Thatcher era, widespread strikes over pay and working conditions took place all across the country and Linwood was no exception. Despite a buy-out by Chrysler in 1967 and a takeover by Peugeot (which became Talbot in 1979) continuing management and production problems led to closure of the plant in 1981. An estimated 6,000 jobs were directly lost and a further 7,000 disappeared in the wider economy, forcing workers to move away with their families to take up new employment elsewhere. This resulted in a dwindling number of local services and the town centre which had thrived for twenty years fell into disrepair towards the end of the 90s.

Linwood has recovered greatly from many of the unemployment, poverty and social problems it has experienced, and it is now home to many car dealerships alongside the new retail and leisure uses.

During the Thatcher era, widespread strikes over pay and working conditions took place all across the country and Linwood was no exception. Despite a buy-out by Chrysler in 1967 and a takeover by Peugeot (which became Talbot in 1979) continuing management and production problems led to closure of the plant in 1981. An estimated 6,000 jobs were directly lost and a further 7,000 disappeared in the wider economy, forcing workers to move away with their families to take up new employment elsewhere. This resulted in a dwindling number of local services and the town centre which had thrived for twenty years fell into disrepair towards the end of the 90s.

Linwood has recovered greatly from many of the unemployment, poverty and social problems it has experienced, and it is now home to many car dealerships alongside the new retail and leisure uses.
Linwood’s community suffered when the motor industry declined. The loss of jobs meant some individuals never worked again. Friends and families who had created strong bonds were torn apart as workers at the car plant who had backgrounds in shipbuilding, engineering and other factory work left; contributing to a marked population decrease.

Social problems arose in Linwood, reflecting the desolate town centre, characterised by empty shop units and signs of vandalism, which was set to be demolished along with the old community centre. *Urban Realm’s Carbuncle Award* and the local webpage *linwoodsucks.com* highlighted the physical and social issues facing Linwood.

Despite the hardship faced by many champions amongst the community started to appear and people started to take an active interest in the future development of the town. Residents wanted change with better facilities for the community such as a new community centre, a post office within less than a mile and a half and somewhere for young people to go to socialize.

Linwood High discovered information from a key group who have made sure resident’s voices have been heard: the Linwood Community Development Trust. The Trust has ensured that the regeneration efforts to secure the long term sustainability of Linwood has been community driven. Residents were involved in community visioning as part of a Community Action Plan and at the heart of all the hard work has been the commitment of volunteers and those expressing an interest in the wellbeing of their community. This wave of change for the area has also seen community projects such as the Linwood Community Garden in 2010 and *Hearty Lives* Renfrewshire, based in Paisley, established to provide a catalyst for neighbourhood and community development and to improve lives by addressing health inequalities in Linwood.

*Linwood has a great community spirit and there are good people in Linwood. If you’ve to do anything they always come out and they’re always very positive about everything they do.*
Jeanette Anderson (Interviewee)

*If it changed in the future I would happily live in Linwood, because most of my family live there.*
Linwood High Student

*If you get the Council to hear you, and you do it in the right way, you could change the village.*
Linwood High Student
WEST LOTHIAN:
PLACE

Bathgate and the wider area of West Lothian was originally largely rural, home to farming and weaving until the introduction of heavy industries, such as mining, foundries, brickworks and the associated railways. Bathgate's central location between Edinburgh and Glasgow, strong transport links and the presence of coal, shale and iron justified the area for industrial growth.

Subsequently a substantial part of the land became blighted with coal pits and shale bings and other drastic changes to the landscape. Villages and housing for workers also sprang up around Bathgate as a result of the work introduced to the area, creating communities of workers and their families. Later, car production and engineering became prominent.

Many of these industrial perceived blights were later removed and West Lothian nowadays is recognisable for being a much more pleasant place in which to live. Industry now consists mainly of electronic and service industries which are kinder to the physical landscape. Activities such as fishing, golf and walking are widely enjoyed alongside opportunities to visit the 4,000 year old prehistoric burial site at Cairnpapplehill, stately homes such as Hopetoun, House of Binns and Linlithgow Palace and green spaces such as Kirkton Park. Through the preservation of physical heritage focal points, the work of Bathgate Historic Conservation Society (BHCS) and other such groups, the history of Bathgate is kept alive today.

Members of BHCS shared with the Bathgate Academy students the work of the society and the broader issues of heritage in West Lothian, focusing on three main restoration projects. A key aim of the society was to ‘advance education, knowledge and interpretation of heritage and development of the town of Bathgate’ and this linked well with the Place, Work, Folk project and the learning outcomes of the Geography class at Bathgate Academy.

The restoration projects explored were: the McLagan Fountain, located in Bathgate town centre; the marble monument of Robert Burns and Highland Mary which previously stood in Bathgate's Kirkton Park and was subsequently vandalised; and the Kirkton Gates built in 1952. During school sessions site visits to see these heritage restoration projects were scheduled.
PAS, together with the Bathgate Historic Conservation Society (BHCS) and students from Bathgate Academy, explored how Bathgate as a place has been shaped by changing industry. Students discovered how members of the society have experienced changes themselves from when they first moved to Bathgate and the effort they have put into promoting and protecting Bathgate's historic identity.

Bathgate students discovered that major industry in Bathgate during the 1900s consisted mainly of heavy works such as oil shale mining, brickworks, foundries and agriculture. Notably the first oil producing works were introduced to the world with James Young’s discovery of candle coal in the Boghead area of Bathgate and the opening of the Bathgate chemical works. Scottish shale oil remained competitive and even supplied oil powering the Royal Navy. Existing rural agricultural land was overtaken by large industries and housing of poor quality constructed for the growing population.

The birth of industries and the subsequent influx of employees and families resulted in close knit communities. Artefacts and relics of this history can be seen at the Bennie Museum (a museum of Bathgate’s history run by community volunteers).

A fall in demand for raw materials after the Second World War and exhausted reserves eventually led to industry closure and widespread unemployment for these communities. However, prospects of new service and retail industries and post-war new towns such as Livingston gave hope for new employment opportunities and economic recovery.

Elements of Bathgate’s working heritage, still visible today, have been successfully preserved through the voluntary work of BHCS and other members of Bathgate’s community.

When I was in my teens I enjoyed going to the Pally to dance. That used to be the old corn exchange. Times change with work in your life, but even at this time now, I’m still dancing.

Robert Harkness (Interviewee)
Projects undertaken by the Bathgate Historic Conservation Society (BHCS) and the work they have contributed to restoring Bathgate's cultural heritage was a key focus for this area. This revealed to students the importance of community members having a say in how Bathgate should develop and what needs to be protected to retain its individual identity and its historic past.

Students undertook a class session exploring the relationship between planning and heritage and were asked to pick something in Bathgate they would preserve, encouraging them to think creatively and critically about features of their urban environment, how it affects communities and how communities may affect it.

The outcomes achieved by the BHCS show that people in the community can take steps to advance heritage in their area leading to greater appreciation of the stories behind the heritage and creating places which people enjoy.

The McLagan Fountain was gifted to Bathgate by the wife of the politician Peter McLagan in 1873. The decorative iron work fountain provided free clean drinking water for the public, and was located at the intersection of Hopetoun Street and Engine Street. Later it was relocated to the steelyard, reportedly to avoid drinkers from a nearby pub using it as a gathering place. The BHCS was instrumental in the restoration and replacement of the heron which sits atop the fountain.

The marble monument of Robert Burns and Highland Mary was sculpted by the artist Hamilton C. McCarthy in the 1870s. Bathgate received the statue in 1952 and during the 70s it became the victim of vandalism losing its heads, arms and legs. BHCS organized the restoration of the statue in 2011 and it can now be seen fully restored in the garden of the Bathgate Partnership Centre.

The Kirkton Gates mark the entrance to Kirkton Park, a large historic public park home to much green open space, play areas, tennis courts and a bowling club. The current metalwork on the gates dates to 1952 and was recently restored by the BHCS.

The three projects are notably examples of public heritage in the Bathgate area rescued and restored by the efforts of members of the community.
Members of Bathgate Historic Conservation Society photographed by James Thomson
Project Legacy

This booklet and accompanying exhibition are part of the physical legacy of the *Place, Work, Folk* project. The other major ‘tangible’ legacy is the material generated throughout the project – the students maps, the interview material and photographs generated over the course of the project. This material will be used to further promote aspects of the project, both online and in exhibits across the four council areas and beyond. But the project has always been about more than just physical material. As the name suggests the project is also about folk and the work of these people and here too there is a significant legacy from the project.

*Place, Work, Folk* has brought the generations together to explore the local heritage of the four target areas. It has not only identified and examined this local heritage but has also contributed to it by recording the thoughts and stories of the participants, and raised its profile beyond the area by sharing the outcomes online.

PAS sessions in the schools have introduced the students to Patrick Geddes, the planning system and the more general considerations of ‘placemaking’. Connections made between the schools, PAS and the local authorities may also facilitate further joint projects, such as PAS school programmes IMBY, YEP! and Young Placemakers, in these areas, expanding on the topics introduced.

Participating students have been helped to develop beneficial skills and attitudes, including: oral history interviewing and digital recording; interpersonal and intergenerational communication and increased confidence. These will help improve the life-chances of the individual students.

*Place, Work, Folk* has also developed new attitudes and behaviour among the participating students. PAS sessions, while improving awareness and appreciation of local heritage, have also encouraged the idea that everyone has a role to play in shaping their communities. The students’ confidence to participate in shaping their communities as active citizens has therefore developed significantly. From the PAS sessions, and the example of the older participants’ work in the community, the students have learned the skills and confidence to participate in local planning and ‘placemaking’ in general. As well as benefiting the individual students this knowledge will increase the social capital and assets of the communities involved.

*Without the people you get nothing done. It’s the people that put the heart into the town.*
Robert Harkness (Interviewee)

*it’s good that the different generations meet together.*
Jeanette Anderson (interviewee)
Bringing the generations together has been another legacy of the project. Students and older participants have benefited from this. The students have learned from the experiences of the older interviewees, not only about their local heritage and communities but, in many cases, about the efforts and challenges that have contributed to the development of such local heritage and communities. The older participants have received acknowledgement of their role in helping to shape their communities, have felt valued for their contributions to their area and learned about the aspirations of the younger people.

For PAS too there is a legacy. We have made many new friends in the different communities we have engaged with, amongst the schools, local authorities, local third sector organisations and the wider communities. We have developed our understanding of the different locals that we have engaged with which will benefit us in any future engagement we have with these areas. PAS staff and volunteers have also developed skills from participating in the project and training materials have been developed to use with other community groups in the future.

Everyone that has contributed to Place, Work, Folk contributes to the legacy of the project. There could be no more fitting legacy than engaged communities, ‘folk’ of all ages, actively contributing to the betterment of their ‘place’ through their hard, thoughtful and considerate ‘work’.

*Just speak up and don’t be scared about what you say cos it could make a difference.*

Linwood High Student

*I think it’s [important] to hear the voices of an older generation.*

Woodmill High Student

...we enjoyed visualising Bathgate and drawing all the buildings.

*Bathgate Academy Students

Learning how to use the technical equipment...taught us skills we may need in later life.*
Credits

This project would not have happened had it not been for the funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund which enabled PAS to implement this project. Thanks in particular need to go to Audrey Dunn and Katherine Wynn of Heritage Lottery Fund for their assistance.

Before this project even started we were given assistance by a number of people who offered us letters of support, contributing to the success of our funding application. This includes the Heads of Planning in the four chosen areas: Bill Lindsay, Service Manager (Development Plan); Fife, Forbes Barron, Head of Planning and Building Control; Glasgow; Fraser Carlin, Head of Planning & Economic Development, Renfrewshire; and, Craig McCrorriston, Head of Planning & Economic Development, West Lothian. Other letters of support came from: Elia Macqueen, Director of Archaeology Scotland; Tim Kendrick, Partnership and Policy Manager with Fife Council’s Corporate Services; and, Diana Murray, Secretary of RCHAMS.

We could also not have completed this project without the assistance and co-operation of many in the four chosen planning authority areas that were the subject of the project. This includes people in the local authorities, other third sector individuals and groups, the schools and the people who generously agreed to be interviewed.

In Fife this included: Dunfermline’s Woodmill High School, notably June Bouaoun and her S3 English class, and the interviewees Duncan Griffian, Stan Bell, Joe Miller and Ian Terris. Others who helped us with information and contacts in this area include: Ashley Birrell, Project Officer at Fife Environment Trust; Linda Cowan, Secretary of Townhill Community Council; Neil Sutherland, Chairman at Fife Environment Trust; Linda Cowan, Secretary of RCHAMS.

In Glasgow this included: St Roch’s High School, Royston, and Royston Youth Action, particularly Harry Young and Alice Duncan, and their 56 citizens group at St Roch’s and the interviewees Tilly McIlroy and her grandson, Martyn Griffiths. Others who helped us with information and contacts in this area include: Julian Clarke, Chief Executive of Volunteer Glasgow; Mari Binnie, Arts Producer (North-East) of Culture and Sports Glasgow; Neil Orr, Legacy and Engagement Co-ordinator with Glasgow Life; Anna Tait, 2014 Support Officer with Glasgow City Council, Education Services; James Dean, Events and Outreach Manager with Platform; and, Lesley Riddle-Robertson, Education and Access Officer with Architecture + Design Scotland.

In Renfrewshire this included: Linwood High School, notably Deputy Head Craig Melrose, S2 Year Head Gail Cowan and teacher Lesley Hynde and her S2 elective ‘personal development’ group, and the interviewees Jeanette Anderson, Alan Morris and Stewart Crawford. Others who helped us with information and contacts in this area include: Catherine Harbon, Cultural Co-ordinator with Renfrewshire Arts & Museums; Neil Bristow, Creative Links Officer with Paisley Museum & Art Galleries; Mhairi Cross, Arts and Museums Manager with Paisley Museum & Art Galleries; John Kennedy, Community Learning Officer with Active Renfrewshire, Youth and Sport Services; Joe Ferrie, Delivery Operations Manager with Engage Renfrewshire; Cheryl Ewing, Local Network Development Officer with Generations Working Together; Julie Anderson, Home Care Manager with Renfrewshire Care at Home Services; and, Nicola Hanssen, General Manager with Reaching Older Adults in Renfrewshire (ROAR).

In West Lothian this included: Bathgate Academy, notably Head Teacher Grant Abbot and Claire Davidson and her S3 Geography class, and the members of Bathgate Historic Conservation Society, Clannie and Joe Welsh, Dorothy Slater, Robert Harkness and Bill Millan, who agreed to be interviewed. Others who helped us with information and contacts in this area include: Camille Archer, Public Arts Officer with West Lothian Council; Lorraine Gillies, Community Planning Development Manager with West Lothian Council; and, Sybil Cavanagh of the West Lothian Local History Library.

Other individuals and groups that have helped the Place, Work, Folk project include: the Sir Patrick Geddes Memorial Trust; RCAHMS, including Neil Gregory, Operational Manager; Neil Fraser, Customer Service, Rebecca Bailey, Education and Outreach, Helen Foster, Education Officer, and Andrew James, Education Officer; Gemma Wild, Heritage and Design Officer, and Rachel Thibbotumunuwe, Project Officer, at The Scottish Civic Trust; and, Alan Ross of Ross Consulting.

Of course PAS could not exist without the support and work of our many volunteers. Place, Work, Folk has enjoyed support from many of these volunteers but has been particular helped, in terms of class sessions, IT support and the exhibition material, by Alan Morris, Alison McCandlish, Chiquita Elvin, James Thomson, and Mohammad Amjar. Likewise, Place, Work, Folk has benefited from the help and support of all the staff at PAS but particularly the Project Co-ordinator Carol Stobie, and her successor Russell Moran, and planning graduate and Researcher Helen Allan.

Lastly, PAS would like to thank James Thomson and Amy Redman of Melt Communications and Andy McGregor, of Andy McGregor Design + Media Ltd, who have contributed so much to the realisation of the exhibition and booklet for Place, Work, Folk in terms of photography and design.

Credits

This project would not have happened had it not been for the funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund which enabled PAS to implement this project. Thanks in particular need to go to Audrey Dunn and Katherine Wynn of Heritage Lottery Fund for their assistance.

Before this project even started we were given assistance by a number of people who offered us letters of support, contributing to the success of our funding application. This includes the Heads of Planning in the four chosen areas: Bill Lindsay, Service Manager (Development Plan); Fife, Forbes Barron, Head of Planning and Building Control; Glasgow; Fraser Carlin, Head of Planning & Economic Development, Renfrewshire; and, Craig McCrorriston, Head of Planning & Economic Development, West Lothian. Other letters of support came from: Elia Macqueen, Director of Archaeology Scotland; Tim Kendrick, Partnership and Policy Manager with Fife Council’s Corporate Services; and, Diana Murray, Secretary of RCHAMS.

We could also not have completed this project without the assistance and co-operation of many in the four chosen planning authority areas that were the subject of the project. This includes people in the local authorities, other third sector individuals and groups, the schools and the people who generously agreed to be interviewed.

In Fife this included: Dunfermline’s Woodmill High School, notably June Bouaoun and her S3 English class, and the interviewees Duncan Griffian, Stan Bell, Joe Miller and Ian Terris. Others who helped us with information and contacts in this area include: Ashley Birrell, Project Officer at Fife Environment Trust; Linda Cowan, Secretary of Townhill Community Council; Neil Sutherland, Chairman at Fife Environment Trust; Linda Cowan, Secretary of RCHAMS.

In Glasgow this included: St Roch’s High School, Royston, and Royston Youth Action, particularly Harry Young and Alice Duncan, and their 56 citizens group at St Roch’s and the interviewees Tilly McIlroy and her grandson, Martyn Griffiths. Others who helped us with information and contacts in this area include: Julian Clarke, Chief Executive of Volunteer Glasgow; Mari Binnie, Arts Producer (North-East) of Culture and Sports Glasgow; Neil Orr, Legacy and Engagement Co-ordinator with Glasgow Life; Anna Tait, 2014 Support Officer with Glasgow City Council, Education Services; James Dean, Events and Outreach Manager with Platform; and, Lesley Riddle-Robertson, Education and Access Officer with Architecture + Design Scotland.

In Renfrewshire this included: Linwood High School, notably Deputy Head Craig Melrose, S2 Year Head Gail Cowan and teacher Lesley Hynde and her S2 elective ‘personal development’ group, and the interviewees Jeanette Anderson, Alan Morris and Stewart Crawford. Others who helped us with information and contacts in this area include: Catherine Harbon, Cultural Co-ordinator with Renfrewshire Arts & Museums; Neil Bristow, Creative Links Officer with Paisley Museum & Art Galleries; Mhairi Cross, Arts and Museums Manager with Paisley Museum & Art Galleries; John Kennedy, Community Learning Officer with Active Renfrewshire, Youth and Sport Services; Joe Ferrie, Delivery Operations Manager with Engage Renfrewshire; Cheryl Ewing, Local Network Development Officer with Generations Working Together; Julie Anderson, Home Care Manager with Renfrewshire Care at Home Services; and, Nicola Hanssen, General Manager with Reaching Older Adults in Renfrewshire (ROAR).

In West Lothian this included: Bathgate Academy, notably Head Teacher Grant Abbot and Claire Davidson and her S3 Geography class, and the members of Bathgate Historic Conservation Society, Clannie and Joe Welsh, Dorothy Slater, Robert Harkness and Bill Millan, who agreed to be interviewed. Others who helped us with information and contacts in this area include: Camille Archer, Public Arts Officer with West Lothian Council; Lorraine Gillies, Community Planning Development Manager with West Lothian Council; and, Sybil Cavanagh of the West Lothian Local History Library.

Other individuals and groups that have helped the Place, Work, Folk project include: the Sir Patrick Geddes Memorial Trust; RCAHMS, including Neil Gregory, Operational Manager; Neil Fraser, Customer Service, Rebecca Bailey, Education and Outreach, Helen Foster, Education Officer, and Andrew James, Education Officer; Gemma Wild, Heritage and Design Officer, and Rachel Thibbotumunuwe, Project Officer, at The Scottish Civic Trust; and, Alan Ross of Ross Consulting.

Of course PAS could not exist without the support and work of our many volunteers. Place, Work, Folk has enjoyed support from many of these volunteers but has been particular helped, in terms of class sessions, IT support and the exhibition material, by Alan Morris, Alison McCandlish, Chiquita Elvin, James Thomson, and Mohammad Amjar. Likewise, Place, Work, Folk has benefited from the help and support of all the staff at PAS but particularly the Project Co-ordinator Carol Stobie, and her successor Russell Moran, and planning graduate and Researcher Helen Allan.

Lastly, PAS would like to thank James Thomson and Amy Redman of Melt Communications and Andy McGregor, of Andy McGregor Design + Media Ltd, who have contributed so much to the realisation of the exhibition and booklet for Place, Work, Folk in terms of photography and design.