

# As

# and when.

A photographic exhibition with residents and community groups from local Newtowns

In collaboration with artists Gary Bratchford and Robert Parkinson

**Launch: 12pm 1st of July**

Exhibition: 01/07/2017 - 02/09/2017

The Brindley, High St, Runcorn WA7 1BG

# As and When

Community group name - Women of Windmill Hill

Number of members - 3-5

Project dates - January-May 2017

Windmill Hill is a contested space. It is a place that is alive and active whilst at the same time, fighting for what it has and mourning what it has lost. Pitted with health and social issues, the recent closing of the local GP services was but one of many issues on contention noted on our weekly photo-group meet ups.

Working with Irene, Jackie and Margarete; Robert Parkinson and Gary Bratchford introduced photography as a means of communicating thoughts and issues related to the local environment. The work produced, all of which is that of the community members, represents a number of discourses that, overly or otherwise, came to the fore in many of our exercise. Through photo-walks, disposable camera projects, writing exercises and archive work, the women group of Windmill Hill worked both impulsively and in response to themes and key words such as safely, green space and community.

The work within this exhibition reflects these discussions, narratives and process.

Following this project the group have decided to continue and expand their photographic group. The monthly meetings are open to anyone local to Windmill Hill.

'and the day came when the risk to remain tight in the bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom'

Anais Nin

# As and When

Community group name - Widnes Rugby R.L.F.C Golden Generation

Number of members - 16

Project dates - January-May 2017

The Golden Generation are a collection of Widnes Viking R.L.F.C fanatics, club statisticians and the custodians of innumerable memories, both good and bad. An open-access, pro-active group for those 50+ which meet each Friday afternoon at the Select Security Stadium the group's 16 members were tasked with producing a photo-story that documented a 'day in the life'. Taking on board the groups concerns regarding their limited technical ability and un-wanting to alter the core-function of the groups regular meet ups, as social activities related to the all things Vikings, the members and lead photographer, Gary Bratchford sought to conceive an agreeable and appropriately accessible outcome that didn't impinge upon their time together as a group.

After regular discussions, brews and biscuits, it was agreed that each group member would be issued with a disposable camera and tasked with documenting what they do and where they go outside of their group meetings. Choosing to either document their daily activity, on the run-up to a game or documenting whatever the so wished over a two-week period, the participants produced a series of telling and insightful images. With well-being central to the group's function, each photo-story highlighted the diversity of the group, whilst sharing a significant core interest of rugby. Each photo-story, individual and personal in their narrative, made a claim, a pronouncement that attested to each member's energetic social life, acts of citizenship, mobility and active participation in clubs and groups.

In addition, a sub-committee was created with the sole purpose of helping construct the narrative of the exhibition, including the curation of fellow member and dementia sufferer, Mike Flynn's personal archive of club photographs taken between the 1970s and 1990s. A significant aspect of the process, the sub committee became archives, curators and ambassadors of Mike Flynn's legacy.