



SURF
Scotland's Regeneration Forum

SURF : sharing experience : shaping practice

Speaker Biographies

Professor Douglas Robertson | Sociology & Housing Specialist | Academic



For 28 years Douglas taught both sociology and housing at the University of Stirling, before retiring last autumn. During that time, he also undertook research on a variety of housing policy matters including regeneration and renewal, private property ownership and its management, social housing in Europe and Scottish housing & planning history. He has also long been sought out as a commentator on housing policy matters involving topics such as political parties housing policies, housing association development & management practices, stock transfers (and, in particular, the controversial Glasgow stock transfer), home improvement and repair grants and, latterly, tenancy and regulation matters within the vastly expanded private rented sector. His sociology research focused primarily on different aspects of place, belonging and identity.

Douglas retains a special interest in popular understandings of both 'home' and 'neighbourhood' and their relationship with wellbeing. This work also ties with the social influences upon neighbourhood identity, especially both class and social stigma. His review piece published in *Bella Caledonia* last November brings some of that thinking together:

<http://bellacaledonia.org.uk/2016/11/23/groundhog-day-explaining-50-years-of-failed-renewal/>.

In October 2009, the then Housing Minister, Alex Neil, invited Douglas to chair the Scottish Private Rented Sector Strategy Group, whose recommendations fed into the Private Rented Housing (Scotland) Act, 2011, the Scottish Government's private rented strategy - '*A place to call home*' - and later the PRS elements in the Housing (Scotland) Act, 2014. Douglas was then asked by Nicola Sturgeon, then Deputy First Minister, to undertake a review the PRS tenancy regime, whose recommendations became the basis of the Private Housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Act, 2016, which later this years will bring into being a modern tenancy for all private tenants. In accepting the invite Douglas was assured it would just involve just a few meetings, up to Christmas 2009. However, it ballooned somewhat, lasting just over seven years. This did, however, provide a unique insight into the time, vagaries and realities of policy-making in Scotland.

Ian Manson | Chief Executive | Clyde Gateway



Appointed Chief Executive of Clyde Gateway in 2008, Ian has almost 35 years' experience in planning, economic development, business growth and regeneration throughout the UK and has been based in Glasgow since 1991.

Over the past nine years, Ian has overseen delivery of a number of projects including the Olympia, Eastgate, Red Tree Business Suites, and Clyde Gateway East Business Park; all of which contributed to the ongoing physical, social and economic transformation of the community and have attracted substantial private sector investment.

Ian is also a member of various partnerships tasked with delivering the Legacy for the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Gehan MacLeod | Programme Director | GalGael Trust



Gehan Macleod is one of the co-founders of the GalGael Trust. She prefers to think of herself more as a disruptive innovator than social entrepreneur or community regeneration practitioner - coming from a background in activism to her current role as Programme Director at GalGael. Similarly, GalGael prefers to think of itself as an organisation of social solidarity rather than a charity engaged in community development.

They rekindle work and meaning in communities where there is little of either. The work is created through the making of craft items, processing timber for furniture and firewood, rural projects as well as events and boat building. The work creates dignity and respect as well as value. And as often as not - the work inevitably generates as many unanswered questions and thorny issues as it does solutions.

Kate Wimpres | Board Member | SURF



Trained in fine art Kate has worked for arts organisations across Northern Ireland and Scotland since 1990. Currently Director at North Edinburgh Arts Kate previously led Edinburgh's Capital City Partnership *Arts For Inclusion* programme.

North Edinburgh Arts provides opportunities for individual and community development through contact with the professional arts. The organisation is active in the local regeneration process advocating the role of the artist, and creativity as positive forces within the dynamic of a community in flux.

Kate's particular area of interest is how art can change the public realm and public imagination, working with artists whose practice takes them beyond the boundaries of the institution, studio or

theatre. She was a founder member of the National Cultural Planning Forum, and currently sits on the boards of Tinderbox Orchestra and North Edinburgh Childcare, as well as that of SURF.

Andy Milne | Chief Executive | SURF



SURF is Scotland's regeneration forum for practitioners, policy makers and academics. By sharing and channelling the experience, views and ideas and of its extensive membership of over 250 cross-sector organisations, SURF helps to inform better policy and practice for more successful and sustainable community regeneration throughout Scotland. SURF is primarily concerned with shared efforts to tackle the causes and degenerative impacts of poverty and inequalities.

Andy became Chief Executive of SURF in 2003. Since then, it has expanded its capacity, range and influence. In addition to its extensive networking activities and information outputs, SURF's Alliance for Action programme delivers practical and shared learning benefits across a range of place based, cross sector, community regeneration collaborations.

Prior to his SURF role, Andy spent 10 years as co-ordinator of the Wester Hailes Representative Council; frequently cited as a model of genuinely community led innovation, representation and service delivery. He found his way into independent community development work via studying architecture and an interest in politics. He is a director of the Community Development Alliance Scotland.

Suzanne Lawns | Business Development Manager | Urban Union



Business Development Manager – Suzanne Lawns has worked in housing since 2002 and in development for the past nine years. During her time in development she has project managed large scale regeneration projects such as the Anderston development in Glasgow, the Donside Village project in Aberdeen, and the Cumbernauld High Rise Project in North Lanarkshire.

She has lead in negotiating land purchases, compulsory purchase orders, development of community space and offices as well as smaller scale urban development projects and the procurement of consultants and contractors.

She led on the marketing and sale of over 300 residential properties across Scotland. She holds a BA in Leisure Management and an MSc in Housing.

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