

# FILM NIGHTS

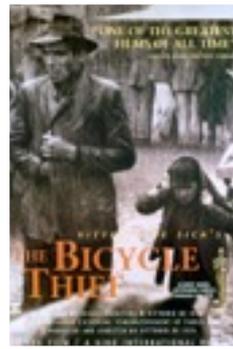
SUMMER SEASON  
COMMON GOOD AWARENESS PROJECT

Salt of the earth





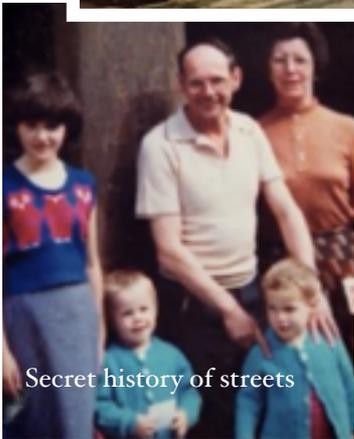
Given to the people



The Frustration Game



Salt of the earth



Secret history of streets

## FILM & DISCUSSION

A series of films exploring what folk do in spite of the odds stacked against them. The creative force in communities, when people work together in solidarity, learning and the spirit of self determination takes centre stage. Watch a film, have a chat, see what we can learn.

### PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH PROJECT

*Part of the PAR To increase understanding and encourage participation in helping to build local institutions where research can be shared, discussed and developed with others.*

### About the films

Where do people find the energy when all else seems to be draining it. What learning did the women in the communities in New Mexico, need when they took their place in the strike in the 1950s. What learning was needed in the community around Duke Street Glasgow, against the municipal thoughtlessness and arrogance of the city council, when the people refused to leave their community for the schemes and succeeded in staying in and upgrading their homes. How do we learn to create community economic and social models that are relevant to the values and aspirations of the community, not the planners and banks. These are the themes that are explored in these films

Would you like to host a film screening , know a place to show one or help out in organising screenings. Contact: [info@inthecommongood.org](mailto:info@inthecommongood.org)

The first series of films will be held on a Tuesday evening at The Portal, Plantation Productions <http://plantation.org.uk/> 6:30 Starting on 30th June. Please refer to website for confirmation of venue and times as we will also be encouraging other places to host screenings around the community. Website for details: <https://commgood.wordpress.com>

### **FILMS PLACES AND TIMES - SERIES 1:**

#### THE SECRET HISTORY OF OUR STREETS

2012 BBC documentary                      The Portal, Plantation Productions: 6:30 on 30th June 60:00

1980s. It was a traditional tale of municipal thoughtlessness and arrogance - the Gorbals and other areas that had degenerated into slums were cleared by decanting people into new housing schemes that contained no banks, community centres, restaurants, public loos, dole offices, dance halls or anything else that might unify the new neighbourhood - but it was given a new twist by one group of residents.

#### GIVEN TO THE PEOPLE

2008 Simon Yuill Artist                      The Portal Plantation Productions: 6:30 for 7 on 14th July 36:17

Given To The People is a study of the Pollok Free State. The Free State was initiated by the actions of local resident, Colin Macleod, who began a tree top protest against the building of the M77 motorway through public woodlands in Pollok, Glasgow, in the early 1990s. Over several years this grew into a series of camps across Pollok.

#### THE FRUSTRATION GAME

1989 John Calder & Gary Johnston. The Portal, Plantation Productions: 6:30 for 7 on 28th July 20:37

Drumchapel The Frustration Game is a short political critique of Municipal Socialism in Drumchapel, then a local authority housing estate in Glasgow.

#### GROWN IN DETROIT

2009 Mascha & Manfred Poppenk                      The Portal, Plantation Productions: 6:30 for 7 on 11th Aug 60:00

Grown in Detroit focuses on the urban gardening efforts managed by a public school of 300, mainly African-American, pregnant and parenting teenagers. In Detroit alone, there are annually more than 3,000 pregnant teenagers who drop out of high school. This school is one of three that focus on urban gardening and this population located in the United States.

#### SALT OF THE EARTH

1948 Vittorio De Sica.                      The Portal, Plantation Productions: 6:30 for 7 on 25th Aug 94:00

All had been blacklisted by the Hollywood establishment due to their alleged involvement in communist politics. This drama film is one of the first pictures to advance the feminist social and political point of view. Its plot centres on a long and difficult strike, based on the 1951 strike against the Empire Zinc Company in Grant County, New Mexico.

Bicycle Thieves                      The Portal, Plantation Productions: 6:30 for 7 on 8th Sept 93:00  
1954 Michael Wilson, directed by Herbert J. Biberman, and produced by Paul Jarrico.

Unemployed Antonio Ricci (Lamberto Maggiorani) is elated when he finally finds work hanging posters around war-torn Rome. His wife, Maria (Lianella Carell), sells the family's bed linens to retrieve Antonio's bicycle from the pawnshop so he can take the job. However, disaster strikes when Antonio's bicycle is stolen, and his new job is doomed unless he can find the thief. With the help of his lively son, Bruno (Enzo Staiola), Antonio combs the city, growing increasingly desperate for justice.

## CONVERSATION STARTING POINTS

The secret history of our streets

The people of Reidvale, hadn't a clue what they were doing when they set up a community housing association. A model that is now used all over the UK. What drove them is they knew what they wanted as well as what they didn't want.

Given to the people

What started as a motorway protest, became GalGael. The same theme applies. Knowing what you want as well as what you don't want. Tactics have a sell by date. Building vision always gives you someplace else to go.

The frustration Game

A harrowing tale of Drumchapel in the 80s, Banished to the peripherals, the schemes folk were shoe horned into, disconnected from their communities, families and associations (See Reidvale) and offered the minimal of resources in which to build new ones. Why should we revisit Drumchapel today?

Grown in Detroit

One of the ironies about Detroit is the devastation was so near complete that communities were left with a clean drawing board. Should they fight for new supermarkets or grow their own food. Should they fight for new schools, that educate their kids for jobs that do not exist. Or should they rethink education. Cathy Ferguson Academy, for pregnant teens, indicates how some Detroiters started to answer these questions.

Salt of the earth

The only film that was banned in America. It would have to be about unionisation and liberation. Made around the same time as the contrasting anti union film On the waterfront. There are no Hollywood stars in Salt of the earth, just ordinary workers, learning about themselves. One of the first pictures to advance the feminist social and political point of view.

Bicycle Thieves

A beautiful film set in Rome after the second world war. Like Salt of the earth That some actors' roles paralleled their lives off screen and added realism to the film. What is striking is the sense of taboo at the time, of what is and is not acceptable even in the poorest communities\*. Where do the taboos stand today in contrast. "If I don't do it somebody else will", is often put in place of, "Where I drawing the line". This film could offer reflection on modern day principals and ethics.

\*Understanding there could be religious and political implications at work to.

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Not just to entertain, which is nice, but to motivate

The point of this series is to appeal to new audiences who may need to be encouraged to engage, learn and share experience. Not so much about going over again and again the bad things that are happening, although this has its place. But about building solidarity around community issues; by making critical connections around the work folk are already doing, to avoid reinventing the wheel. Sharing our resources economically and freeing up time for fresh ideas to development the other work that is needing done in our communities if we are to sustaining our movement.

Suggestions for films themes discussion collaborations welcome. If anyone has a passion for any of these themes, topics, improvements, variations and want to talk them up, help out in organising and presenting them, Let us know.