

... some strong parallels with my own practice ...

conversations between Jane Bailey and Richard Keating about researching with
communities

headings for our conversation

- community engagement with arts led/cross disciplinary projects - artists making contact, finding the context, enabling participation,
- making work with communities - how does this shape our practice....
- practice and theory in action research - what's the relationship, how do we define the philosophical questions, limit the field...

artists making contact, finding the context, enabling participation,

Richard

my work engages community in landscape and my PhD is researching how to use arts practice in engaging people with landscape change; it focuses on Landscape Aesthetics. I'm interested in active participation rather than community consultation. Much of my work is undertaken as Walking the Land (www.walkingtheland.org.uk) so my research is based on walking and drawing/talking/taking photographs with people.

Currently I'm focusing my work around Stroud and have helped develop a number of contexts for my research, including:

- The Weave - developing community vision and process for ensuring that the canal restoration in the Stroud Valleys delivers a raft of community benefits including economic, environmental and cultural based upon a shared landscape aesthetic
- Folly Wood management plan - working with a group of 60 local families who have bought a woodland and are looking at how to manage it. In particular developing a process to combine recreational, aesthetic and ecological aspirations
- Involving people in Landscape Character Assessment and Green Infrastructure Planning

Jane

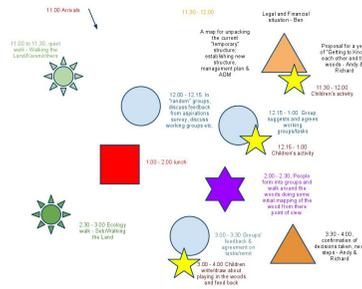
I am working closely with people from communities in North Cornwall on an art led research project, and I'm interested in notions of exchange, both as this occurs in the research practices and in terms of people's 'connectivity' within their lived landscapes.

My research project, *UnCommon Ground*, aims to engage and articulate the 'places' and 'connectivity' of older people in rural communities, through walking, talking and small collaborative interventions.

- *Pack o Cards*
- *Sounds of St Breward*
- *UnCommon Quiz*

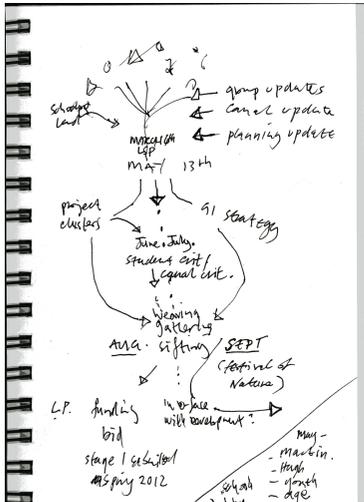
making work with communities 1 - how does this effect our practice ?

Folly Wood



making work with communities 2 - how does this effect our practice ?

The Weave



practice and theory in action research

the theory I'm looking at includes:

landscape and natural environment
art, drawing and participation
aesthetics of the natural environment
relational aesthetics
walking

My hypotheses relate to:

- Kant's theory of "disinterest"
- the integration of subjective and cognitive appreciation of nature
- the ability of an arts practice to enable participants to develop an engaged aesthetic for nature

I am reflecting on my practice in the context of these theories and hypotheses.

