



John Scott
65th Chieftain of the
Shotts Highland Games

"In 1991, the cromach was presented to Shotts Highland Games as a tactic to keep Ravenscraig in peoples' minds, part of the campaign to save it. There was heavy engineering and ironworks in Shotts, so it was like a mini-version of what happened to the whole of Lanarkshire. I have the cromach for a year. It's an honour and privilege. Without the steel industry, Scotland wouldn't be the nation it is."



David Wilson
'Second-chancer',
New College Lanarkshire

"I left school when I was 17. I had a job but got paid off, then I was unemployed for about five months. It's hard enough getting a part-time job, never mind a full-time one. I like it here. When they speak to you, they don't get your hopes up but they say that even if you don't get a job, they'll still be here for you. It's all about getting experience; it's a stepping stone. I'm very hopeful. Fingers crossed."



Terry Currie
Chair, Steelworkers'
Memorial Committee

"I've been involved with Ravenscraig both as an employee of British Steel and from working in the economic development and regeneration of the site. We're going to erect quite an iconic structure here as a memorial to the people who lost their lives in the Scottish steel industry. This is not a Mickey Mouse memorial we're putting up. It's the real deal, and it's Andy Scott who is doing it."



DOCUMENT
SCOTLAND

Voices of the Craig

Colin McPherson

In addition to the landscape images which were made for *The Fall and Rise of Ravenscraig*, photographer Colin McPherson interviewed a number of people whose lives have been touched by the legacy of the former steel mill.

These conversations, which took place in the summer of 2014, offer a glimpse of the past whilst shedding light on the future of Ravenscraig, an area of Lanarkshire occupying a piece of land equivalent to 700 football pitches - or twice the size of Monaco.

Those featured here are bound together by a common story, one with chapters which are still being written.



Declan Smith
'Second-chancer',
New College Lanarkshire

"It's not the best place to get a job. You apply, but never hear back. Since leaving school, I've worked in a lot of temporary jobs. Then I applied for this course at the college. It's given me the perfect opportunity to get a placement or an apprenticeship. It's important now to get the qualifications and get a trade behind you. I'd like to be an electrician or a painter-and-decorator."



Tommy Brennan
*Former union convener,
now campaigner*

"I've been closely linked with the Scottish steel industry all my life. Ravenscraig was a good plant and it wasn't losing money. We had a lot of highly-skilled, clever, intelligent people working there. They were breaking world records. When it closed, many of them couldn't get jobs. Some never worked again. They were excellent workers and they deserved a re-birth."



Dylan Simpson
*'Second-chancer',
New College Lanarkshire*

"I think my grandfather was involved in the steel industry, but my dad was an electrician. I'd been unemployed since I left school last November. Then I got an interview here and got in. It's a 12-week course and I'm doing painting-and-decorating, brick-laying, joinery and plumbing. The best thing about it is meeting new people and getting a taste of all the trades. I'd like to be an electrician."



Kaylee Darragh
*General operative,
Enemetric Ltd, Wishaw*

"I worked in McDonald for nine years. I was a manager in there, but when new owners came in it all changed and I wasn't enjoying my job any-more. So I did a course at New College while I was still working. It was called construction, but you did everything - painting and decorating, plumbing, brickwork, joinery. Then I got my placement here at Enemetric and that's how I got the job."



Margaret Thomson
*Former clerical worker
at Ravenscraig*

"It was in the day when women were there to do the clerical work and make tea. There were two structures; the management and the clerical. It took many years to climb the greasy pole. I'm not a womens' libber by any means but it seemed unfair that you could be doing the same job as a man but there was a pay differential. They would say there was something slightly different in your job."



Sandy Logan
*Retired former loco
driver at Ravenscraig*

"When they announced that it was going to shut, most of the men were saying 'Give us the dough and let us go'. But I was 47 when it closed. If you reached 50 they gave you your pension. So I was in no-man's land. I'd been there for eight years, but had been at another British Steel plant before that. So we moved. I got a job at Port Talbot, south Wales and ended up staying till I retired."



Billy Dalrymple
*Ex-Ravenscraig, now
4th dan tukido student*

"I watched the demolition with a heavy heart. I'd worked in there as a mechanical fitter from 1982-92. I started tukido in 1986, but we've been at the Regional Sports Facility for two years. It was surreal coming back to the place, seeing it flattened with just this building in the middle of it. It's a good motivational thing for me to come and train at my old work-place. It will always be in my blood."