

# John Pearce Memorial Lecture

## "The Senscot Story - reflections and thoughts on 20 years of social enterprise in Scotland and what the future may hold"

Lecturer: **Aidan Pia**, former Executive Director of Senscot

**TUESDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2022, 5PM - 7.30PM, DEEPROSE LECTURE THEATRE, GOVAN MBEKI BUILDING, GCU**

The Yunus Centre for Social Business and Health at Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU) would like to invite you to the annual John Pearce Memorial Lecture which takes place face to face on Tuesday 11th October 2022. In 2011 John donated an important collection of papers and books to the GCU Archive Centre establishing the Social Enterprise Collection (Scotland). Since that time the Archive Centre and the Yunus Centre for Social Business and Health have worked together to develop this Collection, and the annual lecture celebrates this collaboration and the legacy of John's work. The 8th annual John Pearce Memorial Lecture will be preceded by an introduction from University Archivist Carole McCallum reflecting on 11 years of the Social Enterprise Collection (Scotland).

The lecture sponsored by the Yunus Centre for Social Business and Health will host Aidan Pia, formerly Executive Director of Senscot, presenting "**The Senscot Story - reflections and thoughts on 20 years of social enterprise in Scotland and what the future may hold.**"

**This is a free online event but please register via [Eventbrite](#) to ensure your place.**

### Programme

5.00pm	<b>Registration:</b> (Tea & Coffee)
5.30pm	<b>Welcome:</b> <b>Professor Pamela Gillies CBE FRSE</b> , Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Glasgow Caledonian University. <b>Introduction:</b> <b>Carole McCallum</b> , University Archivist, reflecting on 11 years of the Social Enterprise Collection (Scotland).
5.45pm	<b>John Pearce Memorial Lecture:</b> <b>Aidan Pia</b> , former Executive Director of Senscot: " <b>The Senscot Story - reflections and thoughts on 20 years of social enterprise in Scotland and what the future may hold.</b> " <b>Q&amp;A Session Chaired by:</b> <b>Professor Cam Donaldson</b> , Yunus Chair & Distinguished Professor of Health Economics, Glasgow Caledonian University.
6.30pm	<b>Reception</b>
7.30pm	<b>Close</b>

### John Pearce (1942 - 2011)

John Pearce, who died from cancer aged just 69, was a major and influential force in community development and in particular was a pioneer in community enterprise - the precursor to social enterprise. For nearly fifty years, John's ideas, inspiration and talent for clear thinking were a driving force behind people-centred development and especially around the principles and practice of collective and community enterprise. He wrote extensively throughout his working life with an insight well-illustrated in his seminal work: *Social Enterprise in Anytown* (2003). He was a thinker who managed to turn theories into practice and directly helped the development of communities in Scotland, the UK and wider afield.

### Aidan Pia



was Executive Director at Senscot from 2001 until stepping down from that role in June 2020 at the time of Senscot's merger with Social Firms Scotland. During his time at Senscot, Aidan was directly involved in all of Senscot's activities - including the establishment of local and thematic SENS as well as, in partnership with others, the formation of a number of the organisations that now make up much of the social enterprise support infrastructure in Scotland (e.g. DTA Scotland, Firstport, the Social Enterprise Academy etc). Aidan also represented Senscot in helping to co-ordinate, with others, the sector's contribution towards the Social Enterprise Strategy for Scotland. Since stepping down from his role with Senscot, Aidan continues to carry out some freelance work on a part-time basis.