VISUAL DIARY

Lucy Beckett- Photojournalism in Context

PHOTO ESSAY

Ideas



Document what it is like living through a pandemic



Document what it is like being a ‘key-worker’



Make a piece about my local area



Think about any problems in my area at the moment and document them

Proposal

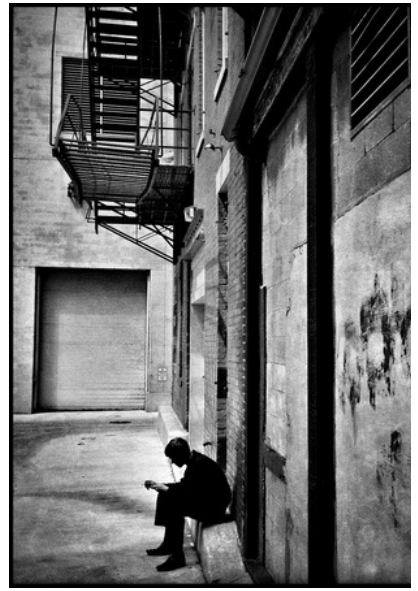
During the Coronavirus Pandemic there has been widespread media coverage of the intense and difficult time experienced by keyworkers like doctors, nurses, teachers and supermarket workers etc., yet I feel there has been little shown of the more mundane experience that other keyworkers, such as a myself, have had.
With this project I want to bring light to the ordinary truth of what it is like to work in an increasingly quiet environment of a coffee shop within a hospital and how this juxtaposes the busy and overrun scene of a covid swept hospital.
At a time when people feel more alone than ever, this story would be good to bring a connection to people who perhaps feel they are living a life a million miles away from those of ‘key-workers’ but in reality, they are not. tThis story is one that will help people feel closer and more of a community as it was during the beginning of the pandemic.

These photos will demonstrate how quiet and isolated it can be working during this time and how this has had an effect on the business, supplies and waste. They will show a different side and style of the images that we have seen produced over and over, which will draw in an audience.

David Ingraham

I was inspired by this photographer and in particular his series 'IPhoneography-B&W' because of the use of the camera on his phone. I felt that he was able to capture very interesting shots because of the easy accessibility of his phone camera and also be more tactful with his photos as the phone seems far less intimidating than a large DSLR camera for example. This way of working caught my attention as I feel in order to authentically document how it is to work during the Pandemic, using my phone to photograph would be the best option to remain incognito. Additionally, as I am planning to photograph throughout a shift it will allow me to take photographs quickly and whenever I feel I need to capture the scene. It will avoid the setup time of using a camera and also mitigate the risk of putting people off or disrupting the scene as it will not be obvious. I think this will also be a good way to challenge myself within my work as I will have to adjust to working with my IPhone camera in a different way than I am used to. I know it is easy to take a quick snap on my phone but how easy will it be to create interesting and meaningful images using only my mobile phone. This is something that is exciting me and I am looking forward to seeing what I am able to produce and how much of a difference there is.







Eugène Atget

Although most of his work was produced during the early 1900's I found that I am able to draw a huge amount of inspiration from the work. I was attracted to these photographs because of the way they depicted scenes where people were completely absent. The photographs have a haunting and ghostlike feel to them, you know something has happened in the frame before the photo was taken yet the scenes are devoid of any information telling you that. These photographs were also striking to me as they resemble the scenes we have experienced through lockdowns and how although the photographs are empty for different reasons they are not too dissimilar. As I am working in quite a quiet environment I am inspired by these images being so telling yet simultaneously still. The choice of angles and viewpoints mean that the images are still able to capture attention and leave viewers asking questions without doing anything. I am hoping that I will be able to recreate this feeling through my own photographs of a quiet working scene

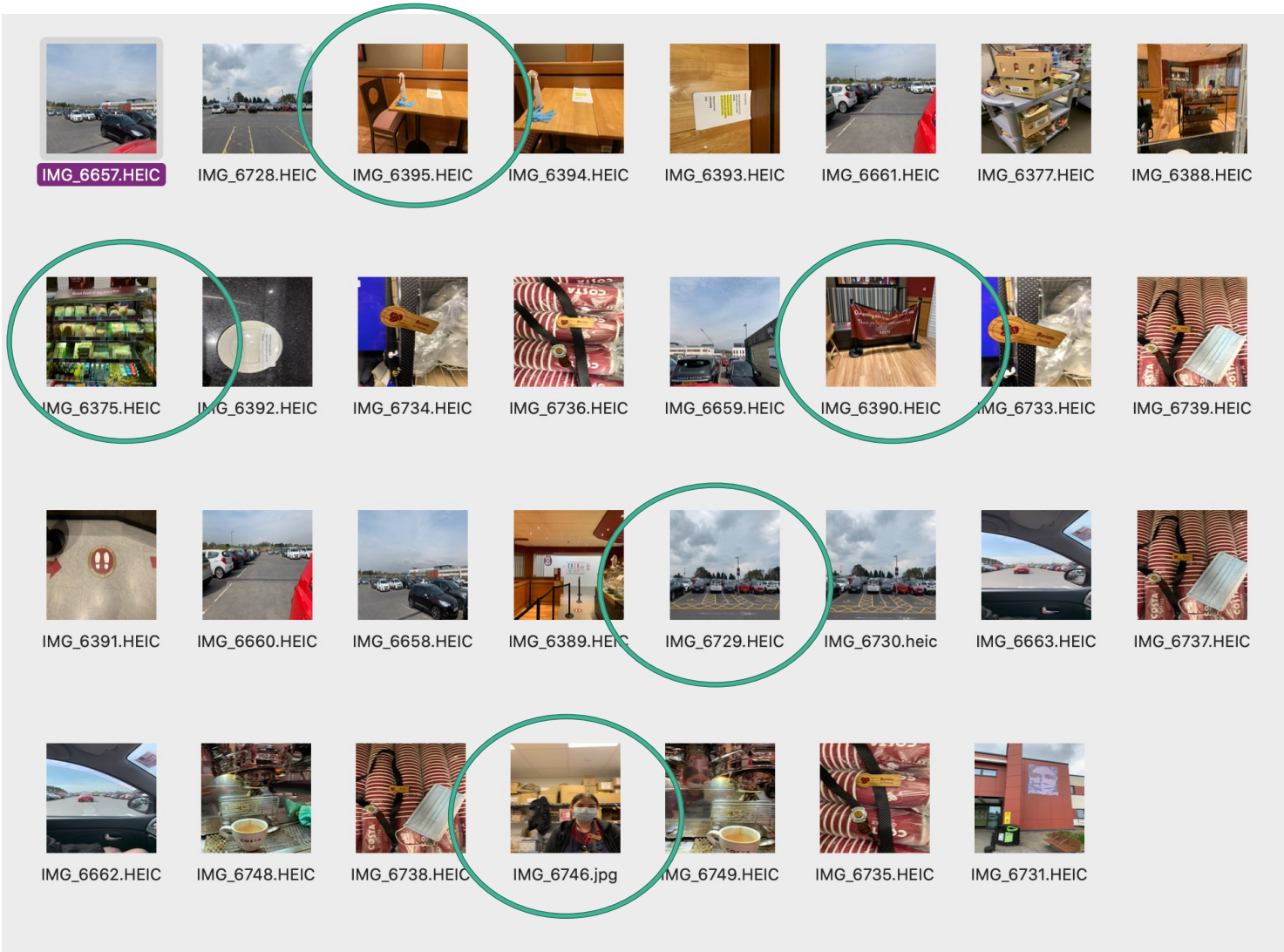






Contact Sheet

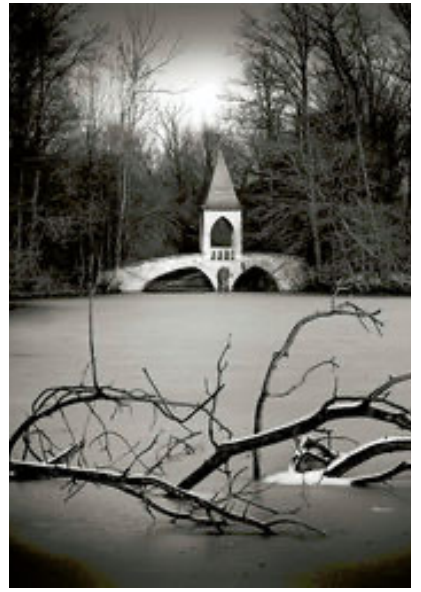
These are my initial photographs from shooting over a couple of weeks, it was hard to take more than a couple of photos per shift as it was very quiet and where I work is not that big so it took time for me to think of interesting shots. I was happy after putting all the photos together that I was able to see some images that I felt could possibly be used in my final outcome, these are the images that I have circled on the contact sheet. I felt some of the images would be stronger when edited so this is what I moved onto next.



Jerome LeTellier

Similarly to Eugene Atget this photographer initially caught my eye because of the many scenes captured devoid of people. I was also captured by the feel that the black and white gave them, I felt it gave the photographs a new meaning that really told you the photographs had a purpose and they weren't just pretty scenes. When I am editing my photographs I will experiment with using black and white as I feel this could help to give them a more atmospheric feel and help to emphasise the loneliness and quietness I am showing.

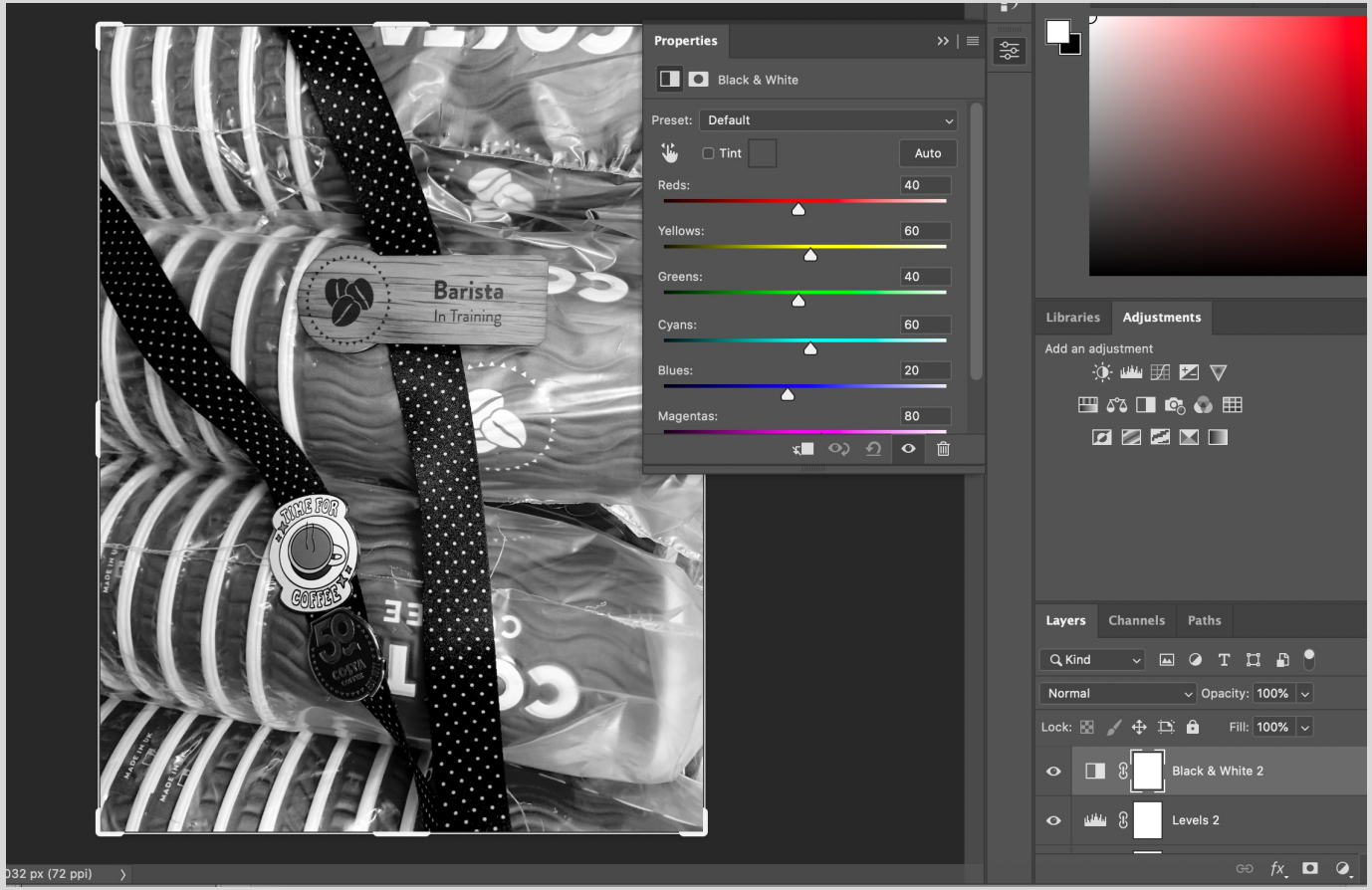






Editing

I used Photoshop to edit all of my photographs as this is the software I feel the most confident using which I feel means it will allow me to create the best results possible. I kept my editing technique quite simple as I wanted the photos to speak for themselves and not be overpowered by extreme edits.







Final Selection



















Within my final selection I decided to go for a ,mixture of black &white and full colour images because I felt that some of the images needed the colour to speak and some didn't. I think these images will all work together in a layout and perhaps grouping the photos together will help to give each one the desired feel. I am happy with my selection of images.

Evaluation

Overall I am happy with how my final outcome has turned out, this project was a challenge but one I enjoyed and also one that I feel has helped me to stretch my abilities as a photographer. I feel I picked a difficult topic to work with as there was not much going on in my photos and therefore, I had to make sure that the images themselves would be able to carry the narrative and I think that this is something I have achieved.

My favourite images are the one depicting the empty shop floor of the coffee shop





and the still life showing my training badge. I feel these are both strong images and are two of the most important for carrying the narrative of my photo essay. I found it very interesting using my IPhone to photograph as I felt I had less control and the phone was more likely to take charge of the image compared to using a DSLR camera manually. I did enjoy experimenting with different modes such as 'Portrait Mode' in order to achieve the self-portraiture image, although once again this was something I felt I had minimal control over

Potentially in the future I would like to do a follow up project where I use my Canon 4000D to take similar photographs and compare the outcomes. Additionally, I really enjoyed setting out my photographs in a layout and this is something that has piqued my interest and perhaps I would explore more in depth in further projects or work.

MOVING IMAGE

Ideas



Document my daily routine work, uni etc.



Document what it is like being a ‘key-worker’ and link it with my photo essay

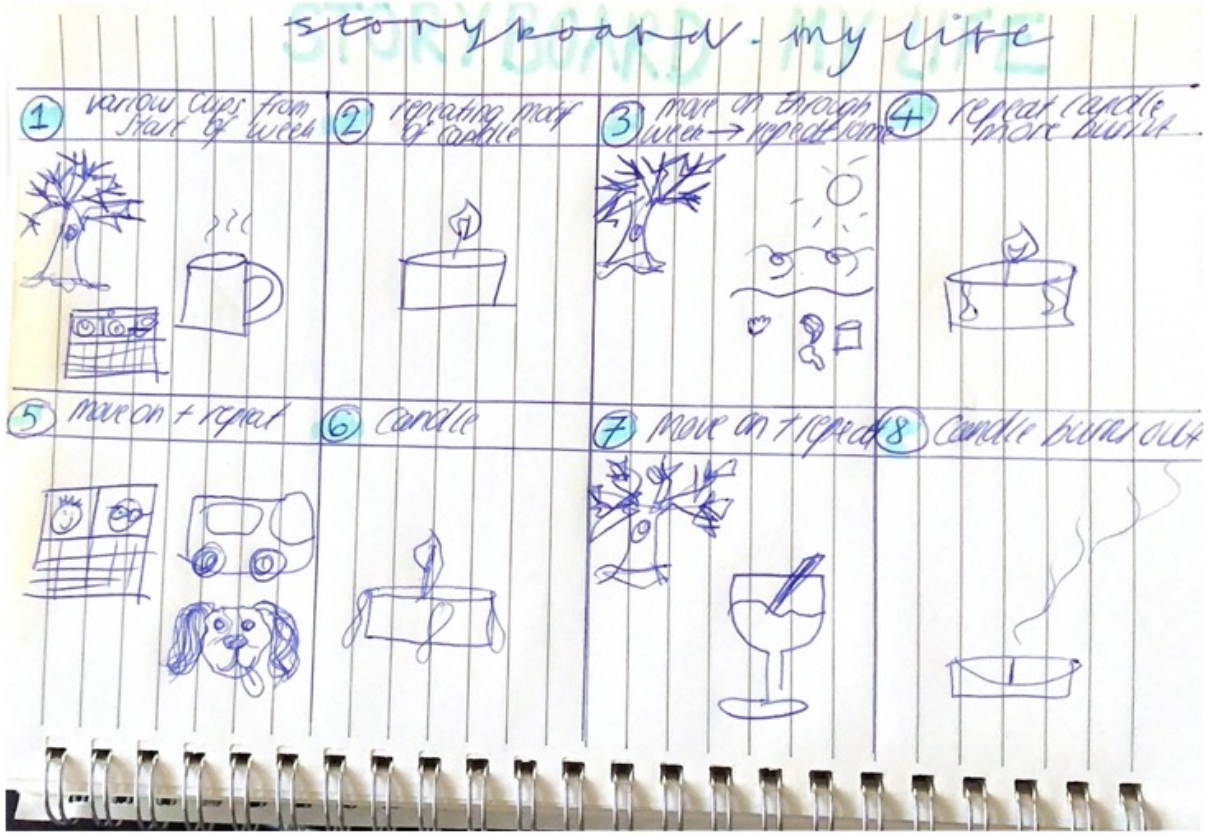


Make a piece about my local area, perhaps considering any issues



Think about my art practise

STORY BOARD


storyboard - my life
1 various clips from start of week
2 repeating most of activity
3 move on through week → repeat some
4 repeat candle more burnt
5 move on + repeat
6 candle
7 move on + repeat
8 candle burns out

Shot List

- Various mixed shots of day to day activity
- Shoot various shots of outside- demonstrating all we are allowed to do at the moment
- Shoot close up of making a cuppa
- Shoot opening laptop to show online uni
- Moving shot when driving

Ground Hog Day

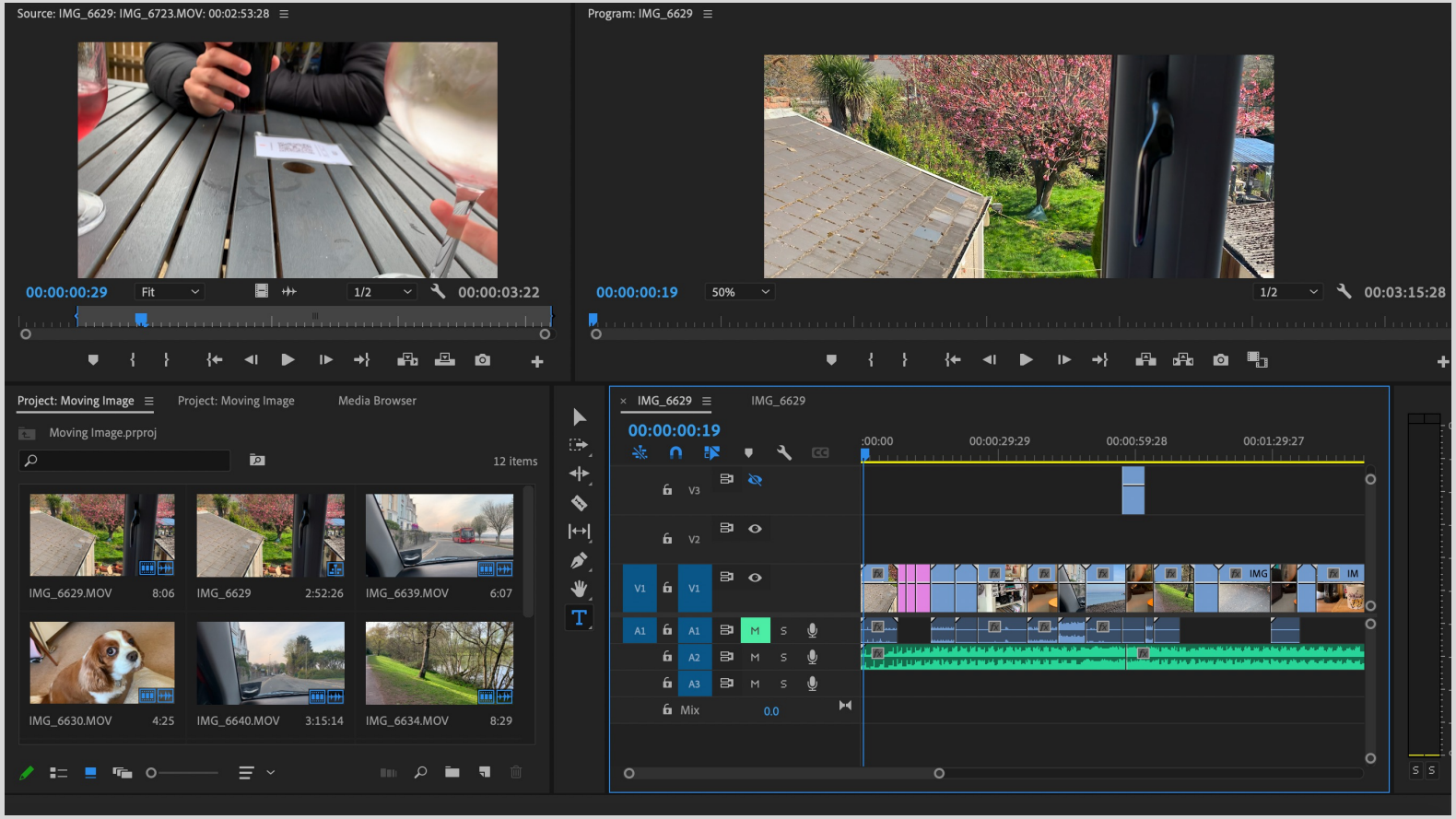
For my moving image piece I was inspired by the idea of the film 'Groundhog Day' the idea that every day was the same yet small differences occur. The idea of the recurring motif through the alarm clock is something that really inspired me to want to include my own version of this in my moving image piece. I went for a candle as I felt candles and light are very representative as a symbol of life and therefore it would help to demonstrate how life is just passing by whilst we are stuck in what feels like a time loop. I also want the candle to slowly burn out through the video which will be a subtle difference yet will show time is not only passing but passing without us knowing.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XD2ZC11pPPQ

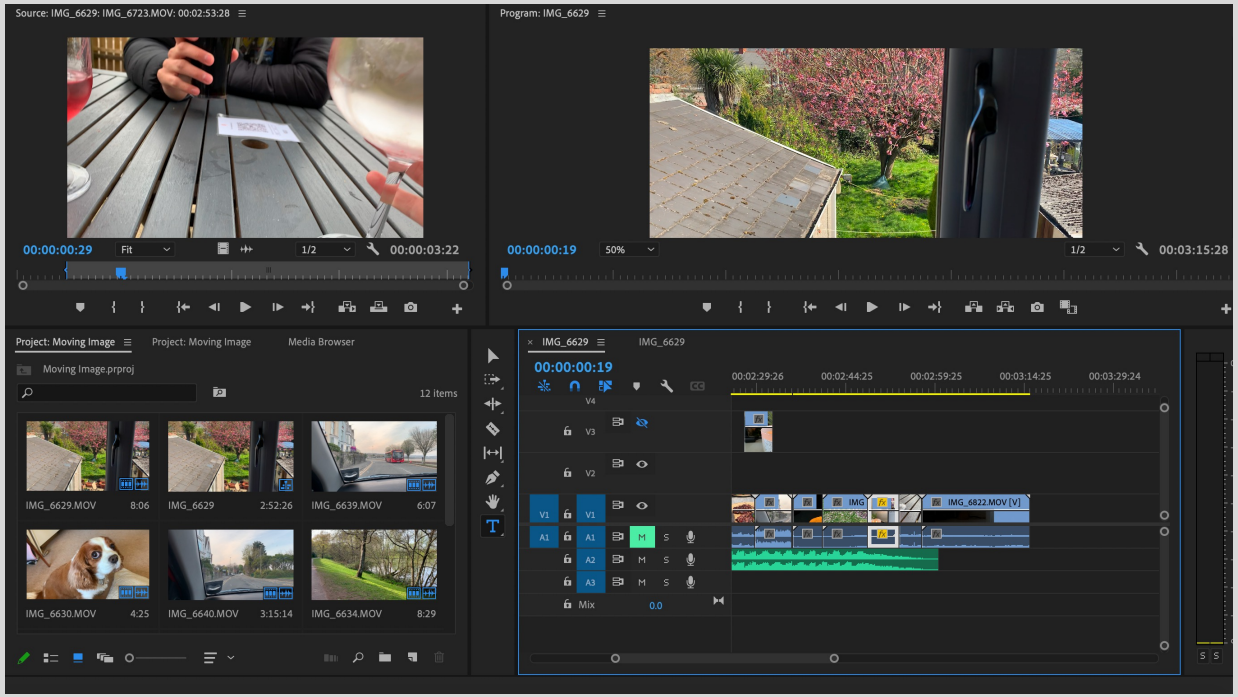




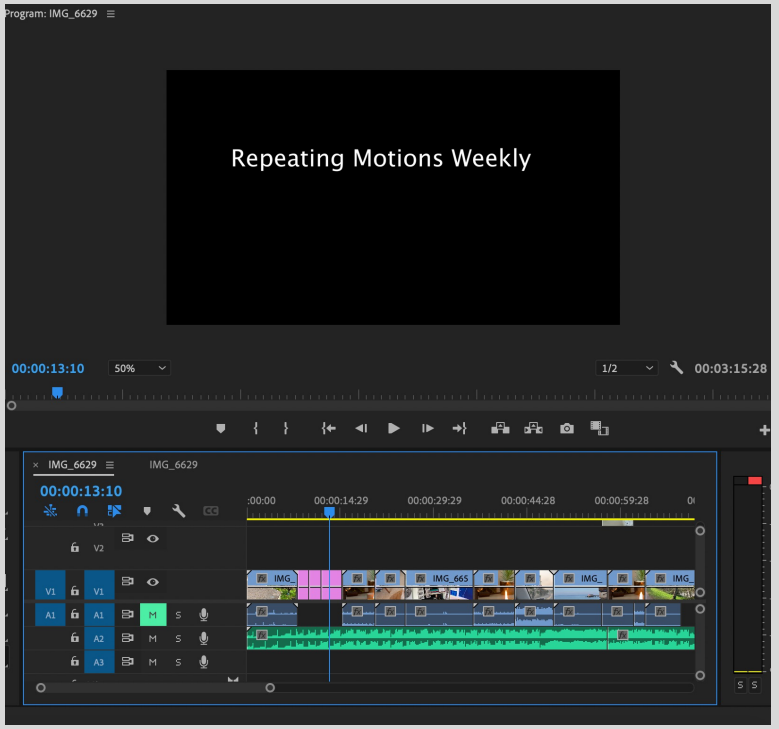
Editing



I used Premier Pro to edit my video which is a piece of software I have never used before. This meant that it was a challenge for me to edit the video and took many attempts before I felt confident enough to finally put together the finished outcome. I did however come to like the software as I felt I was able to fine tune everything and had a wide range of control of my footage, this meant that once I figured it out I was able to create the video exactly the way I wanted.



I kept my editing quite simple with each video clip rolling into the next one, I did decide to add music to the whole video except for the last clip, I feel this has helped to pull the piece together as a whole and also because the music stops when the candle goes out it brings significance to this moment and allows people watching to pause for reflection



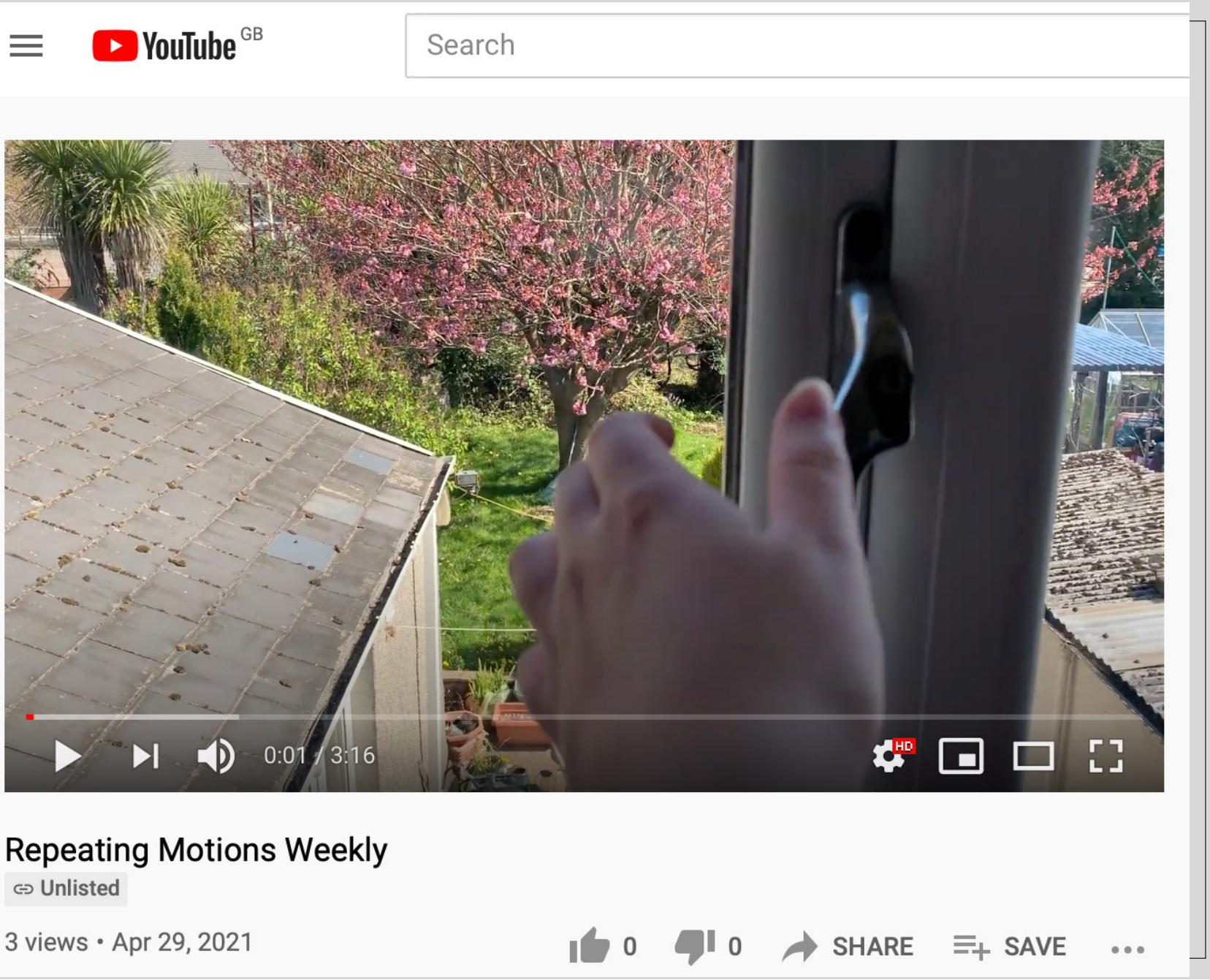
Additionally, I used the text function to add a starting screen to my video which has helped the narrative of the video be understood. I found this very easy to use and therefore experimented with the words popping up at different times to give it more of a dynamic feel as opposed to a static one.

Outcome

My final outcome has been posted privately to YouTube as for me this is the easiest video sharing platform to use

Link to the video:

https://youtu.be/Dsc5ggShiXE



Evaluation

In conclusion I am pleased with the outcome of my moving image piece, I think I have been able to create something that is visually interesting whilst also carrying my idea successfully. I am glad that I decided to base this video off a different idea than the photo-essay as I feel I was able to pull more and be more expressive with this piece. The recurring motif of the candle is something I think I have been successful with and therefore is probably my favourite aspect of the video. A feeling of routine and repetition is something that can be seen through the moving image. The music I selected also has repetitive qualities which tie in with the narrative of living the same day or week over and over again. I would have liked to be able to do this project during normal times as I feel there would have been much more I could look at or advocate for in my video, however, I am happy with the outcome I have achieved in the circumstances.