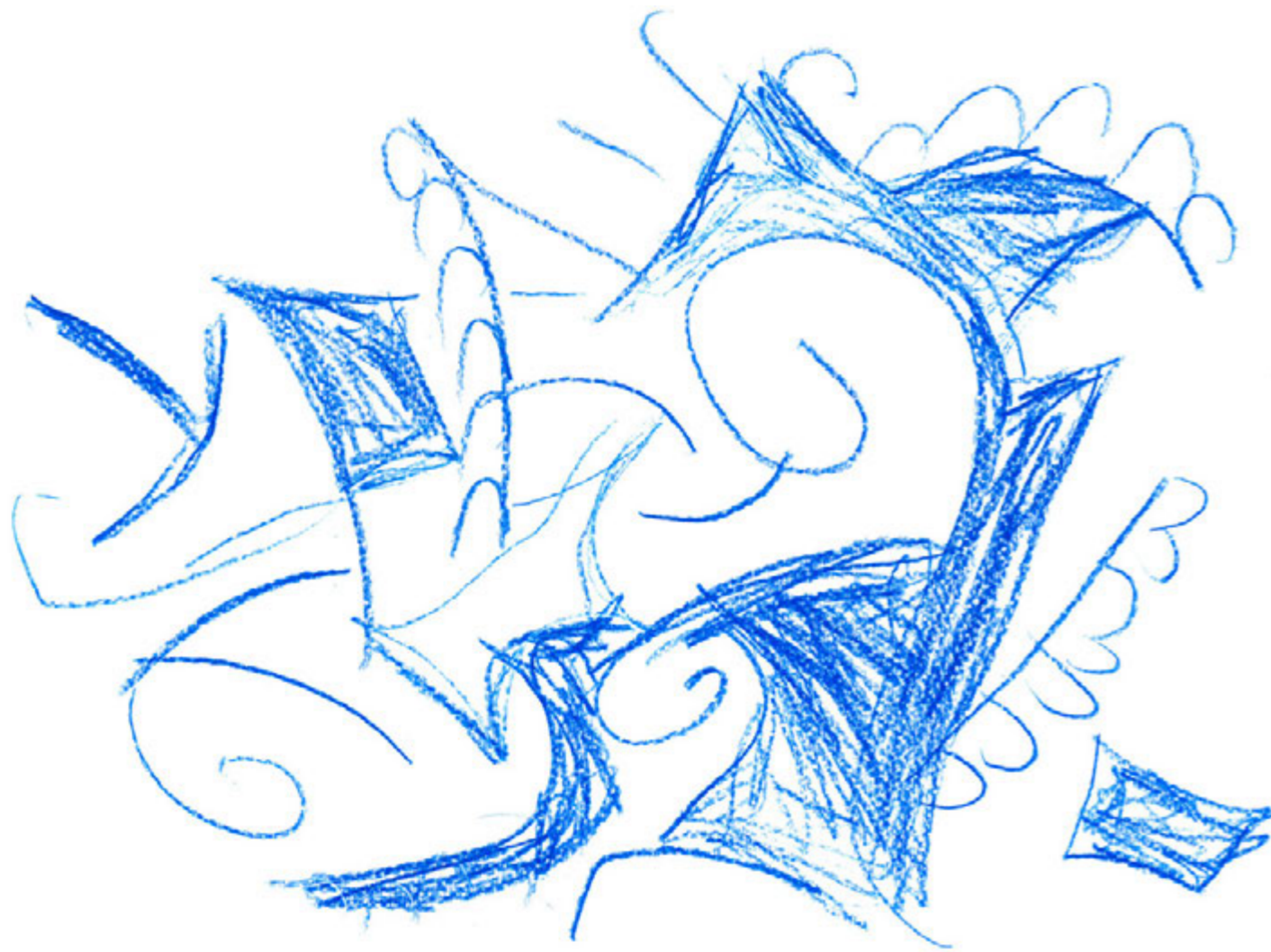
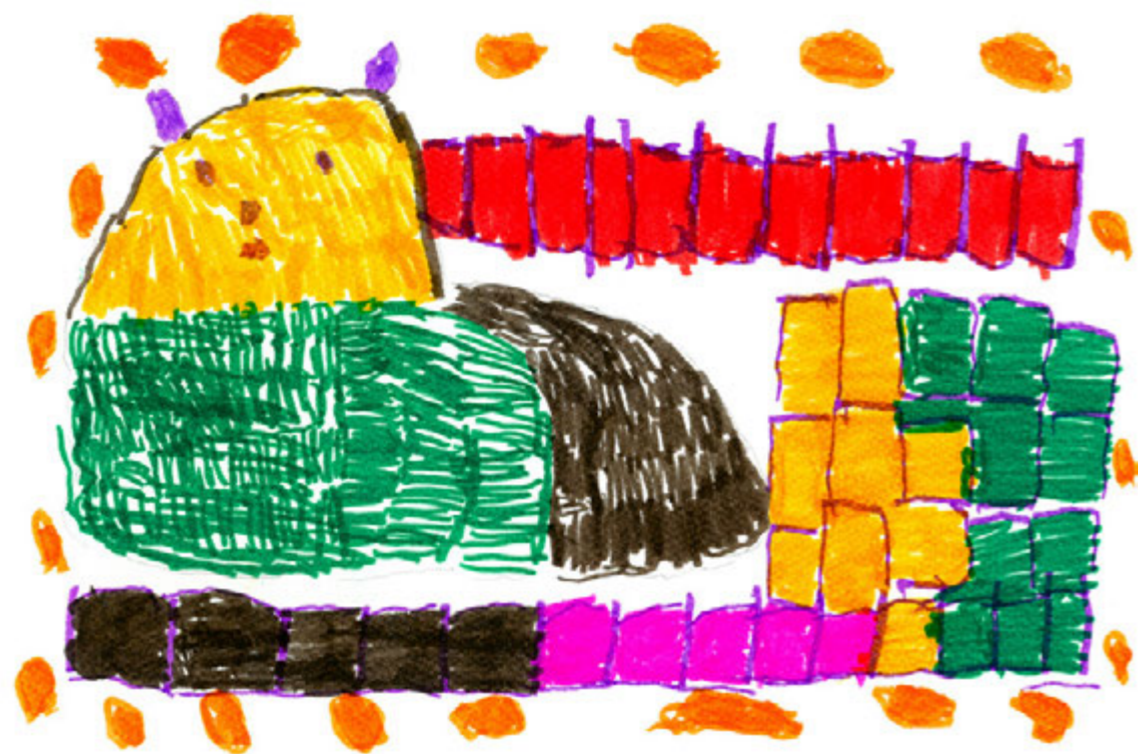


Community Almanac



Artwork by Michelle



Artwork by Alisdair Aitken

Glasgow Science Centre Community Almanac

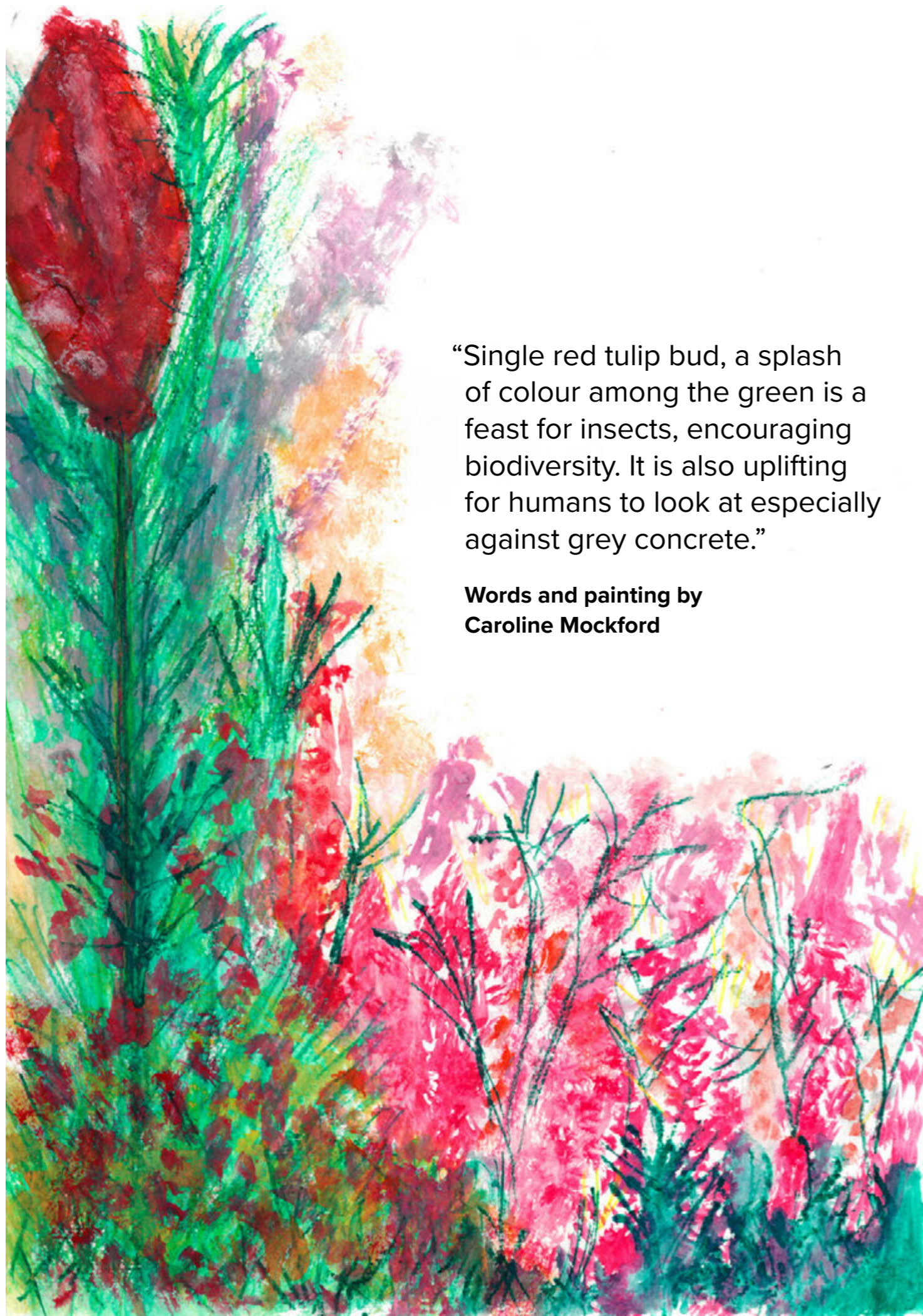
Foreword from Glasgow Science Centre's community learning team

Traditionally an almanac is a book that provides information about a particular subject, such as astronomy, weather, farming, or culture. It usually includes data and statistics such as the phases of the moon, the movements of the planets, the weather forecast, or the dates of cultural events. Some almanacs also include articles, stories, and other literary content. Almanacs are often published annually and are designed to be used as a reference or a source of information over the course of the year.

Our local community has a rich history and a vibrant present, with a wealth of stories, traditions, and experiences that make Govan, and Glasgow a unique and special place. To celebrate and showcase this, we've created a community almanac. This almanac will be a collaborative effort, bringing together the voices, memories, and perspectives of the people who live, work, and play in Govan and wider Glasgow, reflecting on the community's past, present, and future. Through this almanac, we hope to capture the essence of our community, its people, and its spirit, and to share it with the wider world. Whether you're a long-time resident or a newcomer to the area, there will be something for everyone in this almanac, which will serve as a lasting tribute to the unique character and rich heritage of the Govan and Glasgow community.



"I was born in the Gorbals. I was born 300 yards from the Clyde, so the Clyde is a big part of who I am" - **Livi**



“Single red tulip bud, a splash of colour among the green is a feast for insects, encouraging biodiversity. It is also uplifting for humans to look at especially against grey concrete.”

**Words and painting by
Caroline Mockford**

Memories of Govan

“I was born in Govan in 1959. My history about Govan is - my dad worked in the shipyards for many years. He was an insulating engineer, his name was Joe Mullen, he did a lot of campaigning for sufferers of asbestosis and that's what fatally killed him at the age of 64. Govan holds a lot of happy memories growing up as a child in that area we used to go and visit my nana, like on a daily basis. My aunt, who's my godmother, lives in Carmichael Street, which was also facing the Graving dock.

I am a community theatre actress, and I took part in a wonderful production called “Turn” (2016) in the Graving dock area, it was the month of September, and it was the unison of the low tide and the turning of the Lunar moon. The director, he was called Nick Green, invited women to come along and speak about turning points in their life and formed a community group called Ringer Singers, where each community project which took part got a bell made. We still have those bells that were made in Galgael in Ibrox. Govan brings back lots of wonderful happy memories, it's like a magnet and always calls me home.” - **Margaret McMillan**

New Year noise

“Our New Year was fantastic. I mean, we couldn't wait for the bell. Mum opened the window, as did a lot of people... because you were letting the old year out and the new one in. All you heard was the horns on the Clyde, all tones, all sizes, all sound, and it went on and on and on, and we loved that, didn't we?... and one, there's another, and it was all different. It was like an orchestra of horns. It was fantastic”

- **Janice MacKenzie & Sandra Kane**

The Govan Shipyards

The Govan shipyards are a historic shipbuilding site located on the banks of the River Clyde in the Govan district of Glasgow, Scotland. The shipyards have a rich history dating back to the early 19th century, when they were first established to meet the growing demand for ships during the Industrial Revolution.

Over the years, the Govan shipyards have played a vital role in the development of the British maritime industry, producing a wide range of vessels, including warships, cargo ships, and luxury liners.

During the 20th century, the Govan shipyards became a key part of the British defence industry, producing many of the Royal Navy's most important vessels. The shipyards were also known for their innovative designs and cutting-edge technology, which helped to keep the British maritime industry competitive on the global stage.

However, in recent years, the Govan shipyards have faced significant challenges, including declining demand for British-built ships, increasing competition from overseas shipyards, and changing global economic trends. Despite these challenges, the Govan shipyards remain an important part of Glasgow's industrial heritage, and efforts are underway to revitalize the site and create new opportunities for the local community. The Govan shipyards are a testament to the resilience and ingenuity of Scotland's industrial past, and they continue to inspire new generations of workers and entrepreneurs in the region.



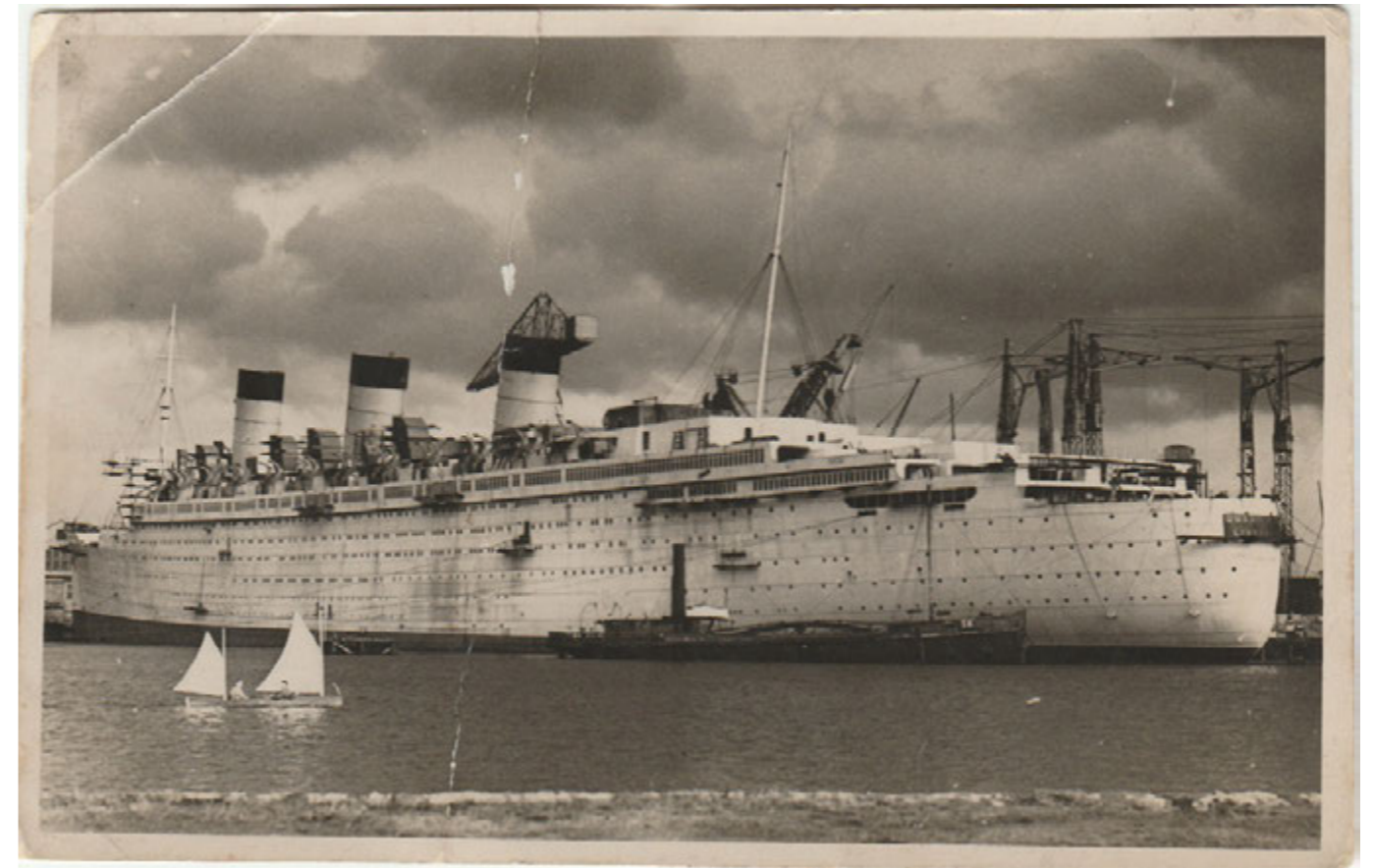
Photos courtesy of Douglas Nicol

“I have so many memories of the Clyde as my father and grandfather, my great grandfather were shipbuilders, and I was a shipbuilder. So, but just general labourer, which is something everybody's got to do their bit for a ship to be built. So I've got quite a lot of memories cause the Clyde is the river of my youth. It's the river of, you know, as a child, I think I was dipped in it. I was told never to swim in it. Every Loch and river in Scotland has a monster to teach us not to drink the water. So yeah, I've learned to swim in her. Built boats and sailed her. So yeah, the Clyde. All of it has so many memories for me as a young man.” - **Livi**

Govan



Photos courtesy of Douglas Nicol



“This photograph shows the Queen Mary not long after her launch at John Brown’s in the year, I think, 1934. She still has the drag chains attached from her launch. And in the foreground is a tiny little two man canoe with two sails which contains my father and my uncle who were sailing from Dumbarton to Inchinnan and a press photographer caught the tiny little vessel beside the huge Queen Mary.”
- **Charlie Ritchie**



Photos courtesy of Charlie Ritchie

Mallard Duck

Anas platyrhynchos

Also known as wild duck, males have purple patches on their wings. Females have brown speckled plumage. They eat plants and small animals.

Mallard ducks are a common sight on the River Clyde. These beautiful birds are easily recognised by their striking green heads, yellow bills, and brown bodies. Mallards are highly adaptable and can be found in a variety of aquatic habitats, from ponds and lakes to rivers and streams. They are omnivores, feeding on a range of foods, including insects, plants, and small aquatic animals. Mallard ducks are also popular among hunters and have been domesticated for meat production. Despite facing threats from habitat loss and pollution, these resilient birds continue to thrive on the Clyde and provide a source of natural beauty for locals and tourists alike. They can often be found dabbling in the wetlands next to the IMAX at Glasgow Science Centre.



By Monica Kadwe



By Marie



By Marie Rose Aitken



By Paul



Moorhen

Gallinula chloropus

Moorhens are a common waterbird species found in Glasgow and can be spotted in various aquatic habitats such as lochs, ponds, and canals.

These black-feathered birds have a distinctive red beak with a yellow tip. They are omnivores and feed on a range of foods, including aquatic plants, insects, and small fish. Moor hens are known for their aggressive behaviour towards other birds during breeding season. Despite facing threats from habitat loss and pollution, moorhens have adapted well to urban environments and continue to appear in Glasgow's wetlands. In recent years their numbers have declined, scientists expect losing quality farmland and wetland could be the cause.



By Andrea Gillespie



“I picked him as they are a symbol of resourcefulness and of discovery and transformation. Grey herons have the ability to live in cities where habitats and nesting are available.”

Words and painting by Kim Flower

Grey Heron

Ardea cinerea

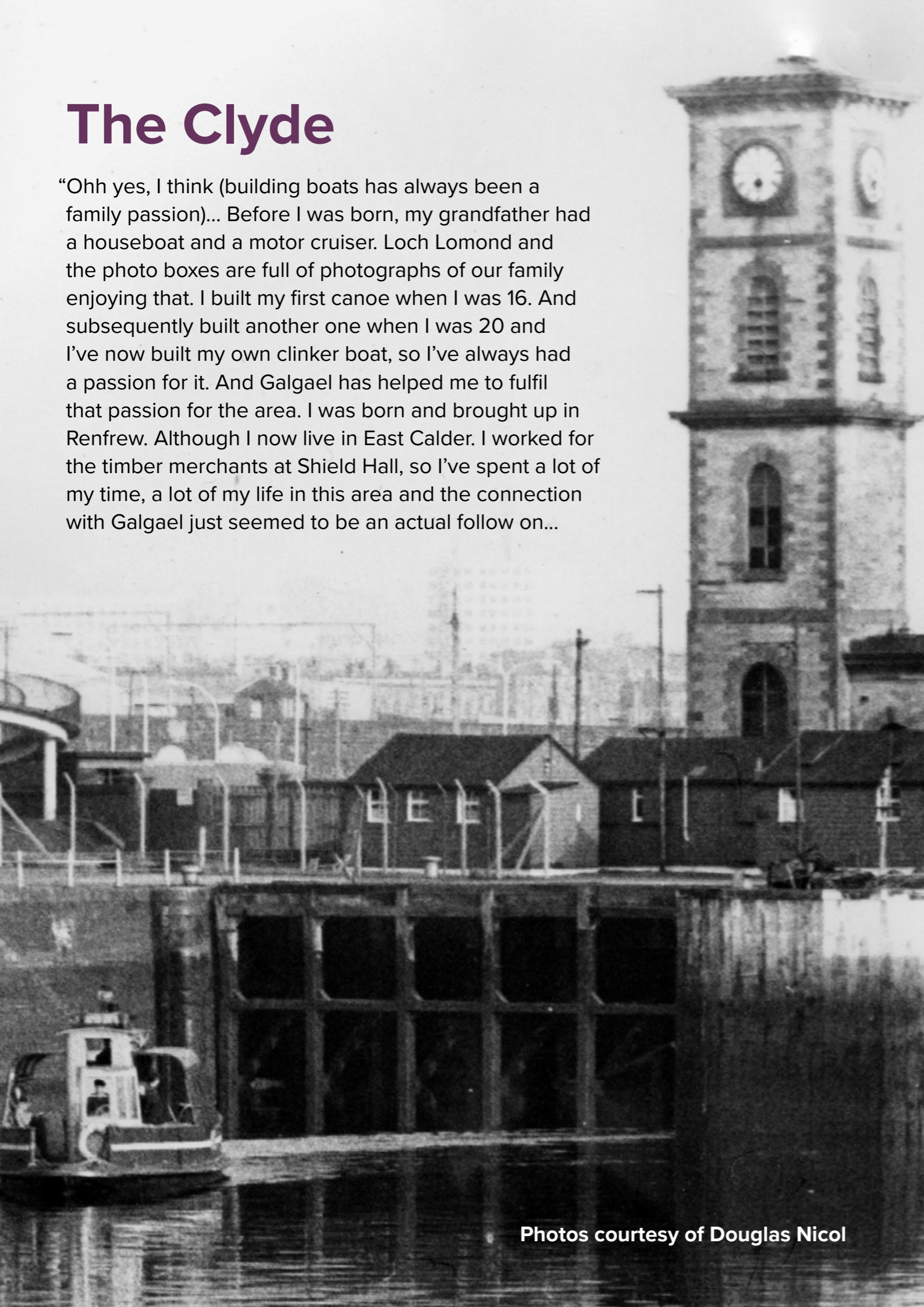
Grey herons are a familiar sight across Scotland, and can be found in a variety of aquatic habitats such as rivers, ponds, and canals.

These tall, grey-feathered birds have a distinctive long, yellow bill and are known for their graceful movements and patient hunting behaviour. Grey herons are carnivores and feed on a range of prey, including fish, frogs, and small mammals. Despite being a common species in the area, they can still be a thrilling sight to see as they stalk their prey or take off into the air with their impressive wingspan. The presence of these majestic birds adds to the natural beauty of Glasgow’s parks and waterways, making them a popular subject for photographers and nature enthusiasts.



The Clyde

“Ohh yes, I think (building boats has always been a family passion)... Before I was born, my grandfather had a houseboat and a motor cruiser. Loch Lomond and the photo boxes are full of photographs of our family enjoying that. I built my first canoe when I was 16. And subsequently built another one when I was 20 and I’ve now built my own clinker boat, so I’ve always had a passion for it. And Galgael has helped me to fulfil that passion for the area. I was born and brought up in Renfrew. Although I now live in East Calder. I worked for the timber merchants at Shield Hall, so I’ve spent a lot of my time, a lot of my life in this area and the connection with Galgael just seemed to be an actual follow on...



Photos courtesy of Douglas Nicol



Photos courtesy of Douglas Nicol

“...on a Sunday morning my father used to take myself and my sister on a walk down to the Renfrew Ferry where we would get onto the ferry and go across to Clydebank. Ride and come back to Renfrew. It was a free ride because the pay booth was on the shore at the Clyde bank side so we could get on at Renfrew, go across, come back and not pay anything. That was an adventure when we were very small children. The old Govan ferry, which I believe is now lying down at Kelvin Harbour, he used to take us on that as an exciting trip as well, and we actually had a name for that ferry. We called it the Techuqita, because of the noise the engine made, it used to go to techuqita, techuqita, techuqita... That’s the way the ferry sounded, so these things are childhood memories”

- Words by Charlie Ritchie

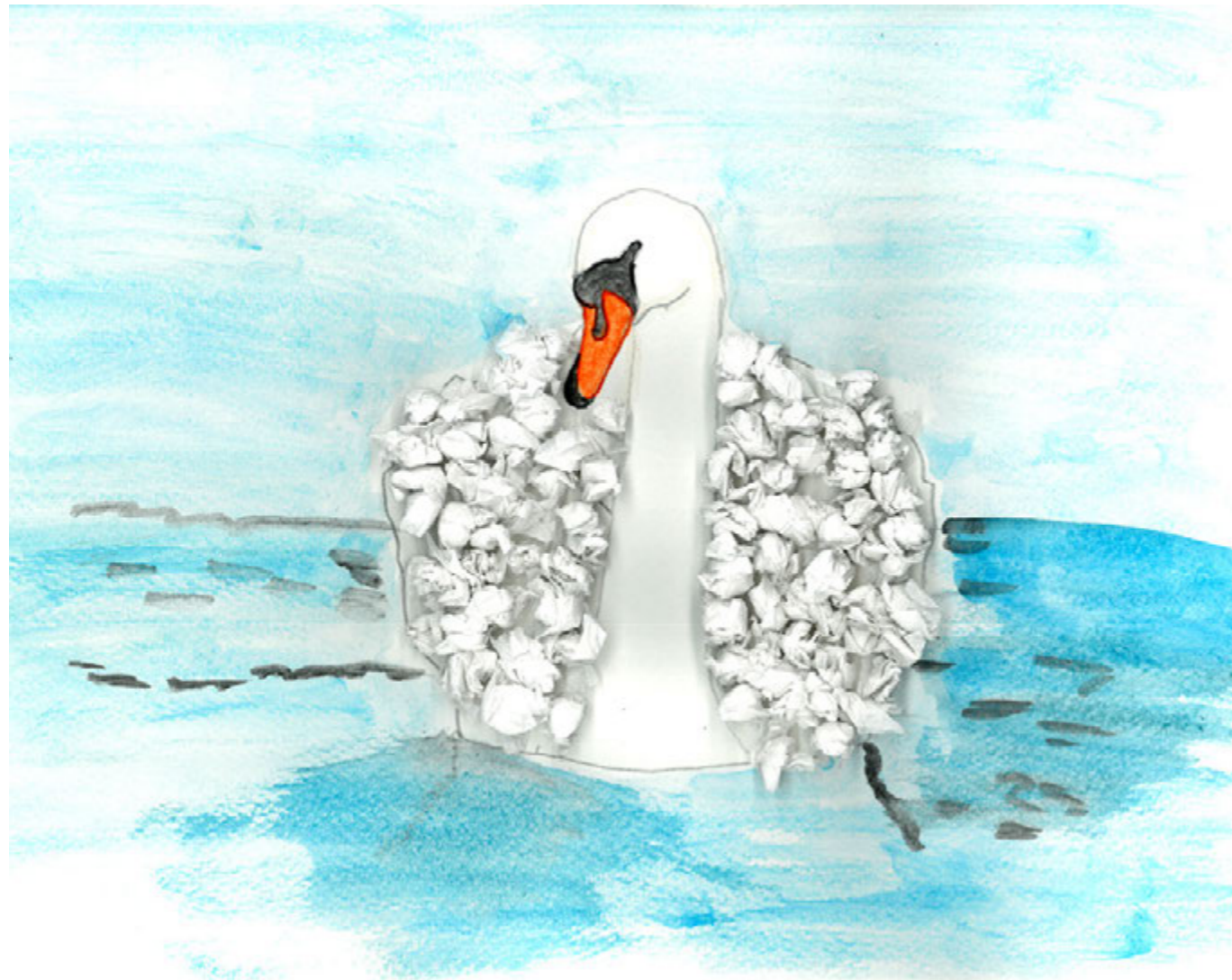
Mute Swan

Cygnus Olor

“I chose this animal because it is beautiful. I always love them. Secondly because of their meaning, they represent beauty, excellence, purity, transformation and grace.”

In love, swans form monogamous pair bonds that can last for many years and even for life. I think we can learn from nature and animals. Swans are a good example of a life that everyone should think about.

A good fact about swans we should all know is that they feed by dabbling (not diving) in shallow water for aquatic plants. Swans often tuck one foot over their back. Male swans are called cobs and females are called pens.”



Words and artwork by Nancy Górdoba



“Swans are very elegant.”

- By participants at Leverdale Recreational Art Therapy Centre



“The swan is long and graceful.”



“The mute swan, one of the heaviest flying birds, is a highly intelligent bird, if you have treated a swan kindly it will remember you as its friend forever.

Mass: Males 11-12kg, females 8.5-9kg
Wingspan:: 2-2.4m Length: 1.2-1.7m.”

- By Violet Brown



“I picked it because I like the look of it and it is a good animal. The mute swan is a species of swan and member of the waterfowl family and is native to the UK.”

- By Stuart Cochrane



“I think swans are beautiful and I used to feed them as a child in Switzerland, there was loads of them on the lake near us. Swans can fly up to 60mph! Their wing spans can reach up to 10ft. They mate for life” - **By Luke Murphy**

“The mute swan is a very large white water bird. It has a long shaped neck and orange bill with a black base. It flies with it’s neck extended. The population in the UK has increased recently, perhaps due to better protection of this species.

I love swans because they are very beautiful and they fly from other countries. Sometimes when I go to the park I look for the amazing swans and love the little ones. I think we need to care for these beautiful swans and I love the nice colour and shape, they make me smile. They are part of the environment and we need to protect them. I love swans, do you?”

- **By Suzy Cruz**





Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo

Cormorants are a large waterbird and can be spotted in various aquatic habitats such as rivers, canals, and lochs and coastal areas.

These black-feathered birds have a distinctive hooked bill and a long, snake-like neck. Cormorants are skilled swimmers and divers, using their powerful legs and webbed feet to propel themselves through the water in search of fish, their primary food source. Despite facing some challenges, including habitat loss and disturbance from human activity, cormorants have adapted well to urban environments and continue to thrive in Glasgow's waterways. Their striking appearance and impressive fishing skills make them a popular subject for birdwatchers and photographers alike.

"I picked it because I like how it looks. It is a large black water bird and it often seen standing with its wings held out to dry. Hated by anglers, they are greedy fish eaters"

- By Tina Devine

"I like birds, I got interested in birds from an early age."

- By Jane Proudfoot



Atlantic Salmon

Salmo salar

Atlantic salmon are an iconic species of fish that can be found in the River Clyde, which flows through Glasgow.

These silvery fish are known for their remarkable journey from the sea to their freshwater spawning grounds. Atlantic salmon are anadromous, meaning they spend most of their lives in the ocean but return to the river to reproduce. Despite facing numerous threats, including overfishing, habitat loss, and pollution, efforts to restore the Clyde's ecosystem have led to increased populations of this species. The presence of these magnificent fish is not only important for their ecological role but also for the recreational opportunities they provide to anglers and nature enthusiasts.



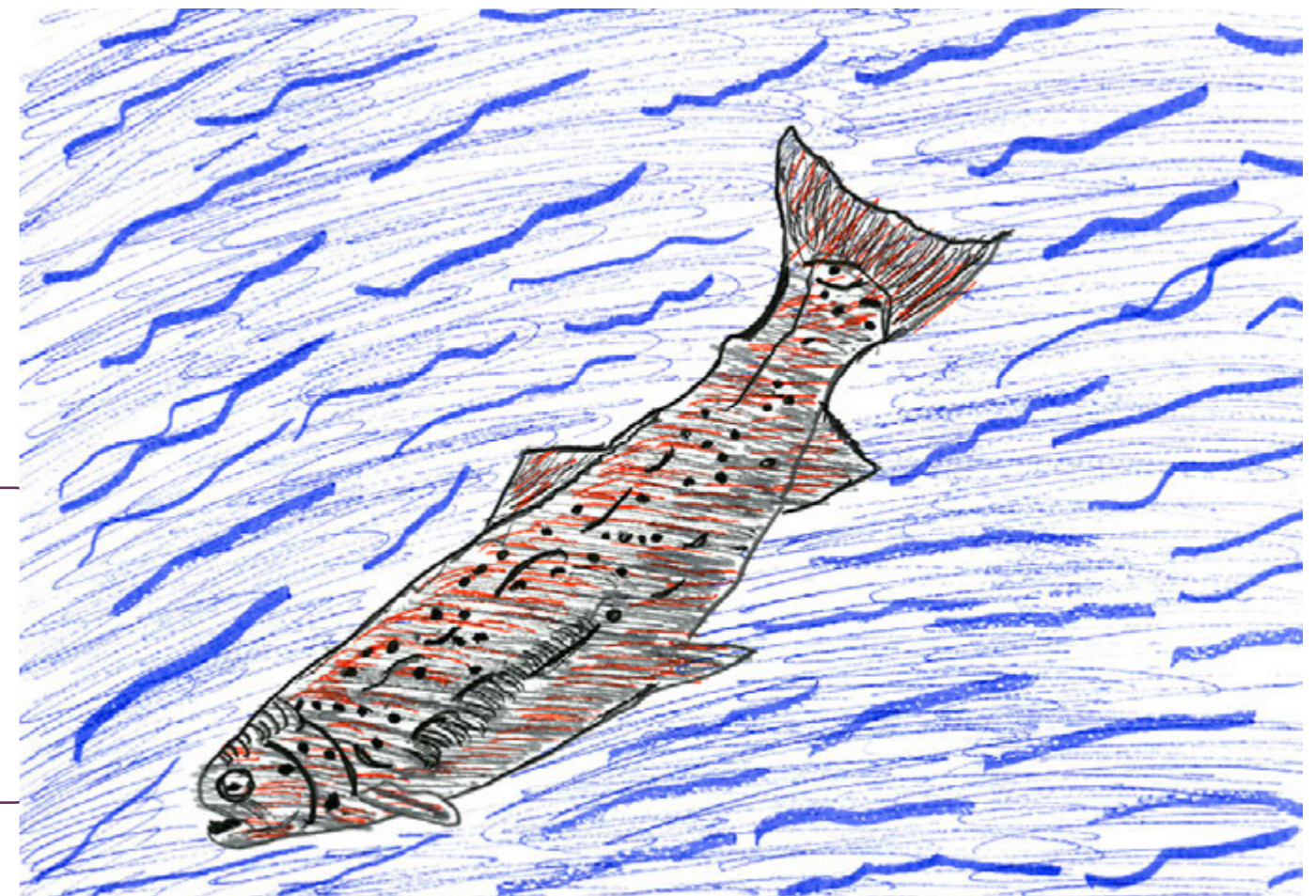
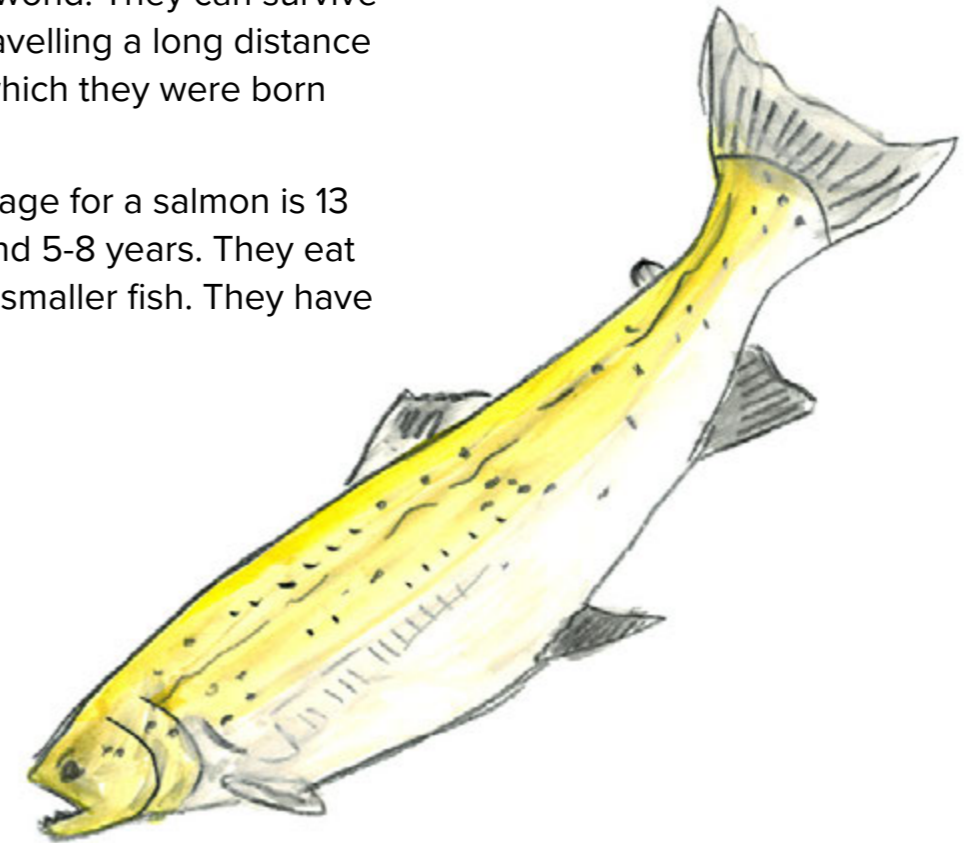
“There are Salmon in the Clyde. A group of salmon is called a school. There are different types of salmon and all of them change colour and spend 5-7 years in the ocean.

I chose the salmon as I have a son who goes fishing and I have a lovely photo of him with a very large salmon.” - **By Annabelle Halliday**

“Salmon live in both the North Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and are intensively produced in aquaculture all over the world. They can survive in salt and freshwater, travelling a long distance to return to the river in which they were born to spawn.

The maximum recorded age for a salmon is 13 years but most live around 5-8 years. They eat insects, amphibians and smaller fish. They have a strong sense of smell.”

- **By Zamzam Ghanem**

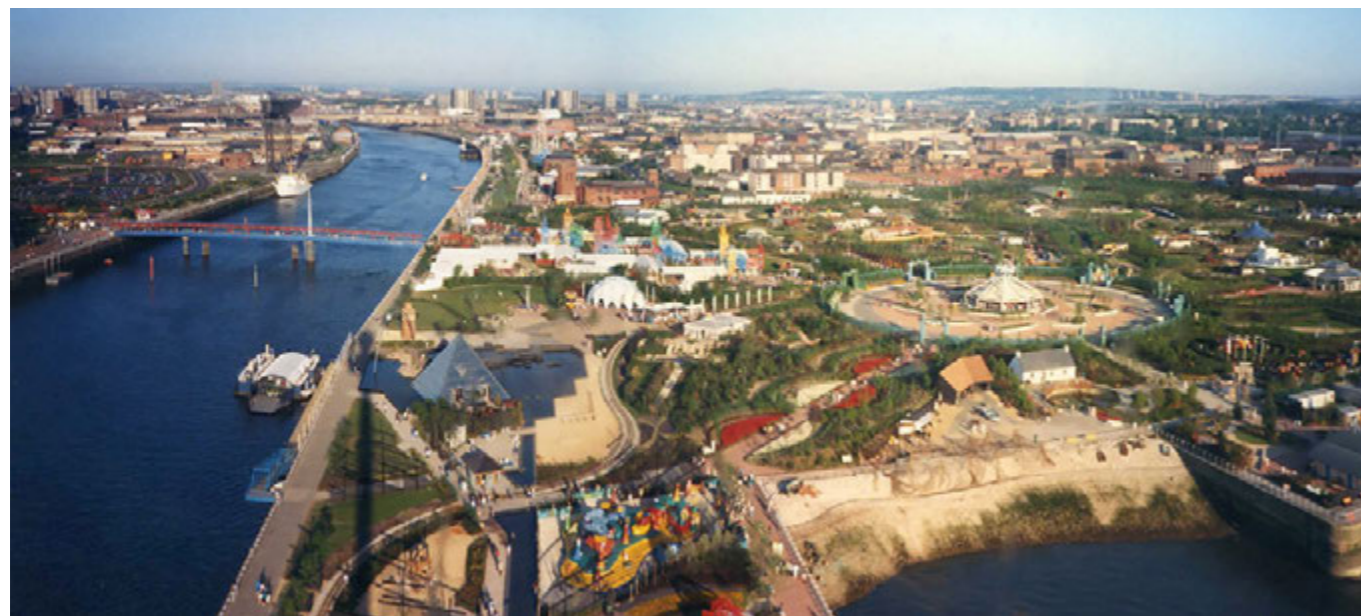


The Garden Festival

The Glasgow Garden Festival was a major event that took place Glasgow during the summer of 1988. It was a six-month long celebration of horticulture, landscape design, and environmental sustainability, featuring over 50 themed gardens, a variety of performances, exhibitions, and events, and attracting around 4.3 million visitors from all over the world.

The festival was held on a former dockland site in Govan, on the banks of the River Clyde, which had been extensively renovated and landscaped for the occasion. The site featured a central dome-shaped building called the Festival Hall, which housed a range of exhibits and displays, as well as a large outdoor arena for concerts and shows. The gardens were designed by a team of over 800 horticulturists and landscape architects, and included themed areas such as the Japanese Garden, the Scottish Garden, the Children's Garden, and the Water Garden.

The Glasgow Garden Festival had a significant impact on the local area and the wider region. It helped to regenerate a previously neglected and rundown part of the city, creating new jobs and boosting the local economy. It also raised the profile of Glasgow as a cultural and tourist destination, showcasing its rich history, architecture, and natural beauty to a global audience. Additionally, it fostered a sense of community and civic pride, bringing together people of all ages and backgrounds to celebrate the joys of nature and creativity.



“So my Gran, whom I adore, she was born in Govan 1900, lived through two world wars, the Great Depression. She was so excited... she would be 88. And I've got good memories insofar as by that age she was beginning to lose her mobility, and I would always try to convince her we can go out in a wheelchair.. But she was so excited about this garden festival that that was the first time she agreed to go in a wheelchair and we went. I was wasn't happy with it cause I thought this is just a big con, what is really going to come out of this? But my Gran was really, “oh, this is wonderful.” – **Dorothy Graham**

Photos by Jim McDougall

“When I think of the Clyde,
I think of the Garden Festival.”



For this, I've got the emblem of the Garden Festival with the blue, red and yellow flowers. I put into it a representation of the wee teddy bears that were everywhere... they were in all different colours. I put them in technically, the daffodils are growing out of the teddy. The flowers are in front of the water and the tap.

The fuchsias are growing down onto the Rotunda because it is where the city came through and now the flowers are coming through. And I think it's amazing that they're now bringing flowers back.

...I think it's brilliant. I think it's a big full circle, and I'm really excited to see how it goes." - **Words and artwork by Louise Downes**

“When hearing about the project in the Canting Basin of the Floating Wetlands, it obviously immediately reminded me of the (Glasgow) Garden Festival.

I was five years old, and my family had a season ticket for the entire family, which was a big deal because there's six kids. Well, there were five at that time, but for the five kids, it was a thing that we could do that wouldn't cost extra, to get there and back. So, we were there at least once every week through the summer, probably more than that.

There were these beautiful gardens all over made up with patterns, there was the Celtic one famously and the woods and everything.

When I think of the Clyde, I think of the Garden Festival...

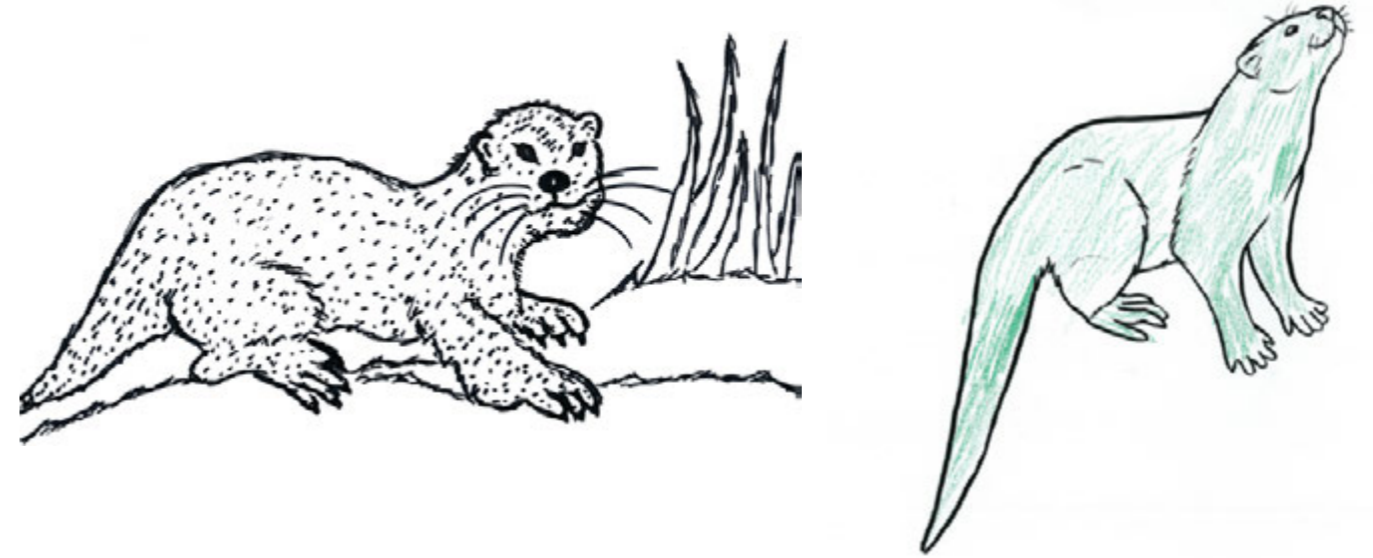


Eurasian Otter

Lutra Lutra

The Eurasian otter, also known as the European otter, can be found in the River Clyde.

These charismatic animals have long, slender bodies and thick brown fur that provides excellent insulation in cold water. Otters are excellent swimmers and divers, using their powerful tails to propel themselves through the water in search of fish, their primary food source. The presence of otters in the Clyde is an important indicator of the health of the river's ecosystem. Despite facing threats from habitat loss and pollution, conservation efforts have led to increased otter populations in recent years, providing locals and visitors with the opportunity to observe these fascinating animals in their natural habitat.



By participants at Leverndale Recreational Art Therapy Centre



"Make Glasgow more greener."
- By Maddie



- By Stephen Mulgrew

"I love this otters cheeky face."
- By Louise





“The Eurasian Otter, also known as the European Otter is a semi-aquatic mammal.

I chose this animal because of how they behave and how family oriented they are. They are currently threatened due to loss of habitat and water pollution. They are a grey-brown colour with dark eyes and a broad snout.

A relative of the mink family, the otter has a larger size and broader face. The length of the Eurasian otter is 60-80cm. They can weigh 6-8kg and their average lifespan is 5-10 years.”

- By **Jessi-Belle Pyres**

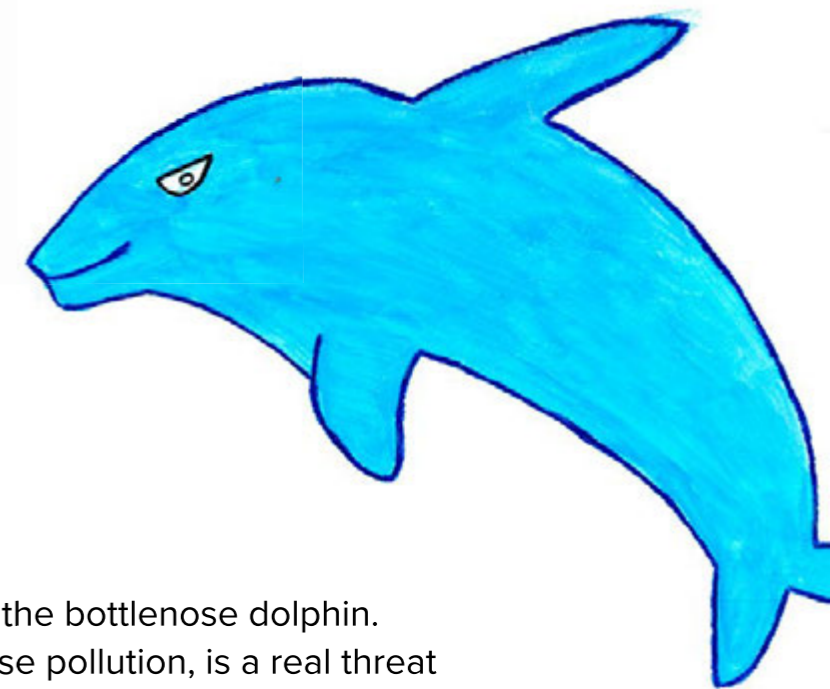


Bottlenose Dolphin

Tursiops truncatus

Bottlenose dolphins are a charismatic species of marine mammal occasionally spotted in the River Clyde.

These intelligent mammals are known for their playful behaviour and acrobatic displays, such as jumping and tail-slapping. Bottlenose dolphins are carnivores and feed on a range of prey, including fish and squid. While sightings of these dolphins in the Clyde are rare, they add to the natural beauty and biodiversity of the area. The presence of these magnificent animals highlights the need for continued conservation efforts to protect their habitats and ensure their survival in the wild.



“In Scotland, in the Moray Firth we have the bottlenose dolphin. However, pollution and in particular, noise pollution, is a real threat to these beautiful creatures. I chose the dolphin as I found these animals to be very intelligent and I would really like to see one swimming in the Clyde and outside the Science Centre.”

- By **Heather**

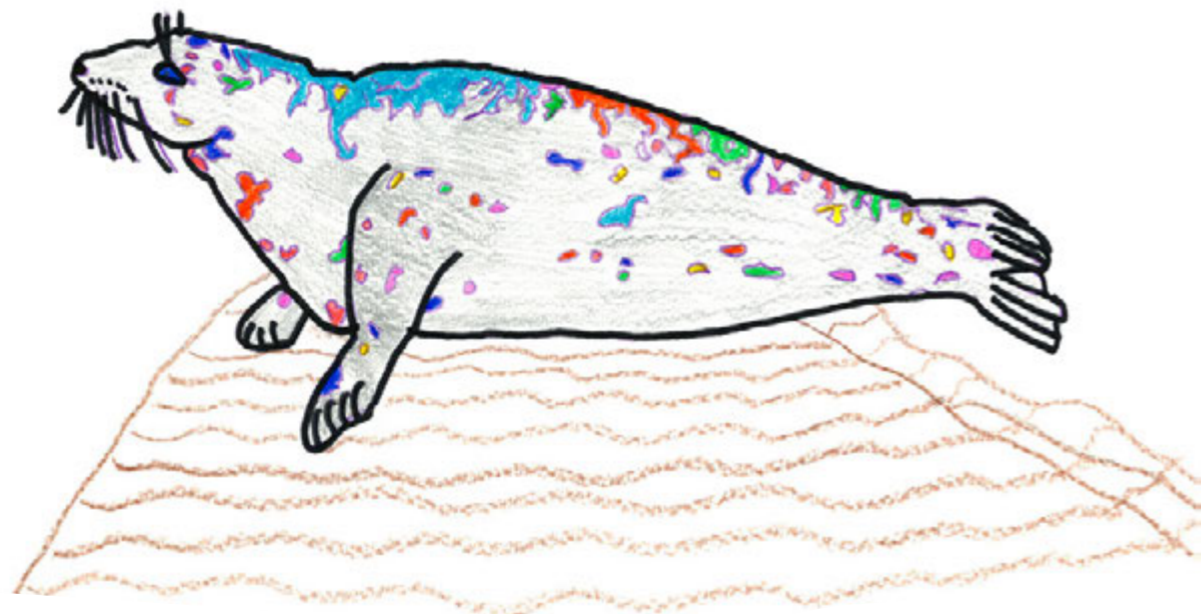


Grey Seal

Halichoerus grypus

Grey seals are a marine mammal often spotted in the River Clyde.

These large, charismatic animals have a thick layer of blubber. Grey seals are carnivores and feed on a range of prey, including fish and squid. While they are primarily a marine species, they can occasionally be seen basking on rocks and sandbanks along the river and nearby coast. The presence of grey seals in the Clyde is an important indicator of the health of the river's ecosystem as they tend to be seen wherever there is a healthy fish population.



By Jane Fedigan

Water Forget-Me-Not

Myosotis scorpioides

Water forget-me-not is a beautiful plant species found in Scotland's wetland habitats, such as riverbanks, ponds, and marshes.

These plants have small, blue or purple flowers with yellow centers that bloom in clusters above bright green leaves. Water forget-me-not is an important part of Scotland's ecosystem, providing food and habitat for pollinators such as bees and flies. They are also popular ornamental plants, often used in water features and garden ponds. The plant's name is derived from the German word "Vergissmeinnicht", meaning "forget-me-not", and is associated with the symbolism of love and remembrance.



"Water Forget-Me-Not is more commonly known as scorpion grass because its curled clusters of flowers resemble a scorpions tail.

They are found in riverbanks, marshes and ponds either submerged in shallow water or surrounding grounds. They flower from June to September.

I chose this flower as nobody should be forgotten. Our memories should live on forever." - **By Margaret McMillan**

Yellow Iris

Iris pseudacorus

The yellow iris, also known as the flag iris or water flag, is a species of flowering plant native to Scotland.

These striking plants can be found in a variety of wetland habitats such as ponds, marshes, and rivers. Yellow iris have distinctive bright yellow flowers with a red or brown stripe on the petals and sword-like leaves. They provide an important source of nectar for pollinators such as bees, hoverflies and moths. Yellow iris are also known for their traditional medicinal uses, including the treatment of inflammation and as a diuretic. In Scotland, these beautiful plants are often used as a symbol of resilience and strength.



“Respect grass, respect flowers, respect animals, respect the smallest.”

- By a participant from Gilded Lily



By Nasrin Ahad



“I picked this as I often cycle along canal towpaths and I love how this flower adds a beautiful splash of colour: sunshine yellow.”

- By Anne Livingstone



Water Lily

Nymphaeaceae alba

Water lilies are a beautiful aquatic plant species found in Scotland’s wetland habitats such as ponds, lochs, and slow-moving rivers.

These plants are characterized by their large, showy flowers that float on the surface of the water and their broad, round leaves that provide shade and shelter for aquatic wildlife. Water lilies are an important part of Scotland’s ecosystem, providing a habitat for a variety of insects, amphibians, and fish. They are also popular ornamental plants and are commonly featured in garden ponds and water features. The beauty and cultural significance of water lilies have made them a beloved symbol of Scotland’s natural heritage.



“The water Lily is a beautiful plant that can aid biodiversity by creating food and providing shelter for aquatic and non-aquatic wildlife. I chose to do a view from below as we often only think of it from above. It reduces light levels below and discourages algae growth both essential for life underneath.”

- By Ashley Blair

“Flower June-August – blooms open in sunshine. Provides shelter for frogs and early nectar for insects.

Produces the UK’s largest flower – grows up to 20cm in diameter and comprises of 20-25 petals.

I chose this plant because I think it looks quite an exotic plant to be native to Scotland. It has also featured in art a lot. Lastly, it makes me smile!”

- By Louise Sutherland



Cuckoo Flower

Cardamine pratensis

Cuckoo flowers, also known as lady's smock or milkmaids, are a delicate wildflower species native to Scotland.

These plants can be found in wetland habitats such as damp meadows, marshes, and stream banks. Cuckoo flowers have clusters of pink or lilac flowers with four petals and a distinctive, delicate scent. They are an important food source for pollinators such as bees, flies, butterflies and moths. The name "cuckoo flower" refers to the flowering time of the plant, which coincides with the arrival of cuckoos in Scotland in spring. These charming flowers are a welcome sight in Scotland's countryside and are often used in traditional herbal medicine.



"Green leaved plant, also has yellow flowers. I really liked the shape of the leaves and the fact it spreads. Looks delicate but it spreads and can come back each year. It is suited to the edges of ponds and wild gardens."

- By Sally



"This reminds me of my birth. I was born in September. I like leaves in Autumn, when I see the leaves change."

- By a participant at Leverdale Recreational Art Therapy Centre



"Lady-Smock. Wildflower, flowers April-June. Seen in grassy places like meadows, ditches, riverbanks and roadside verges.

I chose this flower as it reminds me of great memories, paddle boarding and seeing these flowers by riverbanks. I hope to see these growing on the floating wetlands." - By JJ

Creeping Jenny

Lysimachia nummularia

Creeping Jenny, also known as moneywort, and native to southern England is a low-growing, creeping plant species that is common in Scotland's wetland habitats, such as damp meadows, marshes, and riverbanks.

These plants have bright green, round leaves and small, bright yellow flowers. Creeping Jenny is an important plant species in Scotland's ecosystem, as it helps stabilize riverbanks and prevent erosion. It is also a popular ornamental plant, often used in garden borders, rock gardens, and hanging baskets. In traditional medicine, Creeping Jenny has been used to treat a variety of ailments, including wounds, inflammation, and skin conditions. Despite its invasive tendencies, it remains a beloved and useful plant.



Floating Wetlands

Objective:

The Canting Basin has been a largely unused area of water, to the rear of Glasgow Science Centre, with limited specific space for wildlife to build their own habitat. This provided the ideal opportunity to install floating wetlands to enhance biodiversity, showcase environmental sustainability, and encourage community conversations around the future vision of the Clyde.

A baseline survey and development of an evaluation and monitoring plan, by the University of Glasgow, will allow for the wetlands to be used as a living-laboratory and a test-bed for future projects to 'green the grey' in our cityscapes.



Outcome:

The Canting Basin has been transformed with the addition of 3 floating wetlands, spanning 200m², with over 2000 native plants and trees. Nesting platforms provide a habitat for local wildlife and interpretation boards and binoculars on the decking to the rear of the IMAX allow visitors to learn more about the history of the area and investigate the wetlands and the benefits they can bring.



“I think it’s really good that something is being developed along the river in Glasgow because it is drab and though you’re walking along and you see some Swans and birds, there’s not much greenery.” - **Sally Gollogley**

“I think it’s a wonderful idea. Anything that brings biodiversity back...the Clyde is a very, very special river, and she needs all the help she can get because we’ve polluted her. We’ve really done a lot of damage to her. So anything that brings back even a small 1% would be enough.” - **Livi**

“I would love to see (people interacting with the river) because again, we can start talking about biodiversity, why it’s important, what changes could be ahead for people. So it’s a way to begin conversations. And also I want to reconnect people to the Clyde. My dream would be that the communities of the Clyde Get connected somehow outdoors, nature on water activities, growing wetlands, so it offers real opportunities.”

- **Dorothy Graham**



Thoughts on the Floating Wetlands

“I was really looking forward to seeing the floating wetlands. I can’t wait for that. Really looking forward to it. And we did a little art project while I was here, and I drew a ladybird. It’s the first time I’ve picked up a pencil in years and years, so I was quite pleased with it that it actually looks like a ladybird. I think the thing that excites me the most about the wetlands coming to the Clyde would be just regeneration of the Clyde. It’s something for people to come and see. My dad would be absolutely thrilled because he was a gardener, so the fact that there are going to be plants I’ve been thinking about him a lot today since I’ve been here.” - **Marlene McCrorie**

“I think it’s an amazing project, (Floating Wetlands) what they’ve already done and it just brings life to empty spaces like that space at the Science Centre, the Canting Basin, at the moment, there’s just nothing. Well, there’s wildlife, you see cormorants. I believe the occasional seal, although I’ve not seen one there, but I’ve seen one out by the Millennium Bridge. So, it’s really going to bring a lot of life and just the greenery will attract more people as well.” - **Anne Livingstone**

Fishing for well-being

“I know a lot of people who used the Clyde and Dalmarnock fishing. A lot of people who are really on the margins, excluded from school. I know people that don’t have GP’s. They are really excluded. And their survival depends on taking a fishing rod down to the Clyde. So I know lots of people whose mental health, if I didn’t have the Clyde and I couldn’t go fishing, wouldn’t be here. Some guys have told me that. So I think opportunities where people can continue to fish (should) continue... Keep the brown trout there. It’s vital for people’s well-being.” - **Dorothy Graham**

Black Headed Gull

Chroicocephalus ridibundus

The black-headed gull is a common bird species found in Scotland's coastal areas, wetlands, and urban environments.

Despite its name, these gulls only have a black head during the breeding season, with the rest of their plumage being white or light grey. Black-headed gulls are opportunistic feeders, feeding on a variety of small animals and plant matter, as well as scavenging for human food in urban areas. They are important predators of small insects and molluscs, and their presence can help control pest populations. Black-headed gulls are also an important part of Scotland's biodiversity, providing a food source for larger predators such as eagles and foxes.



"It stood out, I like the texture. I would love to see a painting of the gull because I love the texture."
- Cameron Mosson



"I painted the black-headed gull because during summer it actually has a chocolate-brown head, rather than a jet black one. It's head turns white for the rest of the year with black ruminant spots on either side of the head, which makes it look like the bird is wearing headphones.

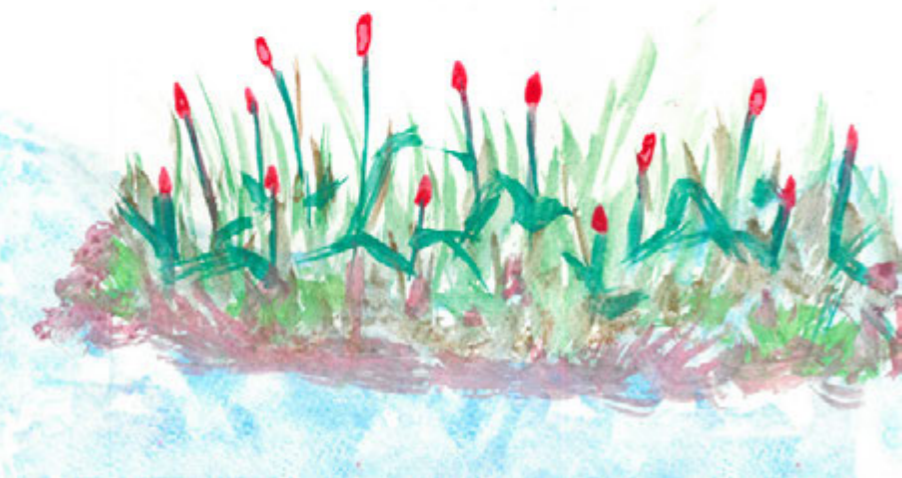
I like the beautiful wings in flight, it's an elegant small gull. I love how it changes colour through the seasons. Cute little thing." - **By Sarra Mehmi**

Lesser Black-Backed Gull

Larus fuscus

The lesser black-backed gull is a large bird species found in Scotland's coastal areas and wetlands.

These gulls have dark grey or black wings and back, with a lighter grey body and yellow bill. Lesser black-backed gulls are opportunistic feeders, preying on small fish, crustaceans, and other animals, as well as scavenging for human food in urban areas. They are also known to steal food from other birds and marine mammals. Lesser black-backed gulls are an important part of Scotland's coastal ecosystems, and their presence can indicate the health and diversity of these environments. However, they can also be a nuisance to human populations due to their scavenging habits and noise pollution.



Water Arum

Calla palustris

Water arum, also known as wild calla, is a non-native plant species found in Scotland's wetland habitats, such as ponds, marshes, and slow-moving rivers.

These plants have large, heart-shaped leaves that are bright green and glossy, and produce distinctive white flowers with a yellow spike in the center. Water arum is an important part of Scotland's ecosystem, providing shelter and food for aquatic wildlife, such as insects, snails, and small fish. Despite its toxic properties the plant is also sometimes used in traditional medicine to treat a variety of ailments, including respiratory issues and digestive problems.



"The 5-10 inch water arum has fleshy, jointed stalks and heart-shaped leaves on upright stems. The flowers are white with a hint of green.

The reason for participating in this group is to learn more about the environment, plants and their role in life. The role of plants in the ecosystem has a significant impact on life and with more knowledge, more importance is given to the environment. I am glad that I participated." - **By Nasrin Ahad**

"This plant produces simple white arum-like flowers in late spring, followed by red berries in autumn. It has heart shaped leaves.

I chose this because it is a serene representation of the water in pastel."
- **By Alice**

This plant is toxic - you should not consume it!



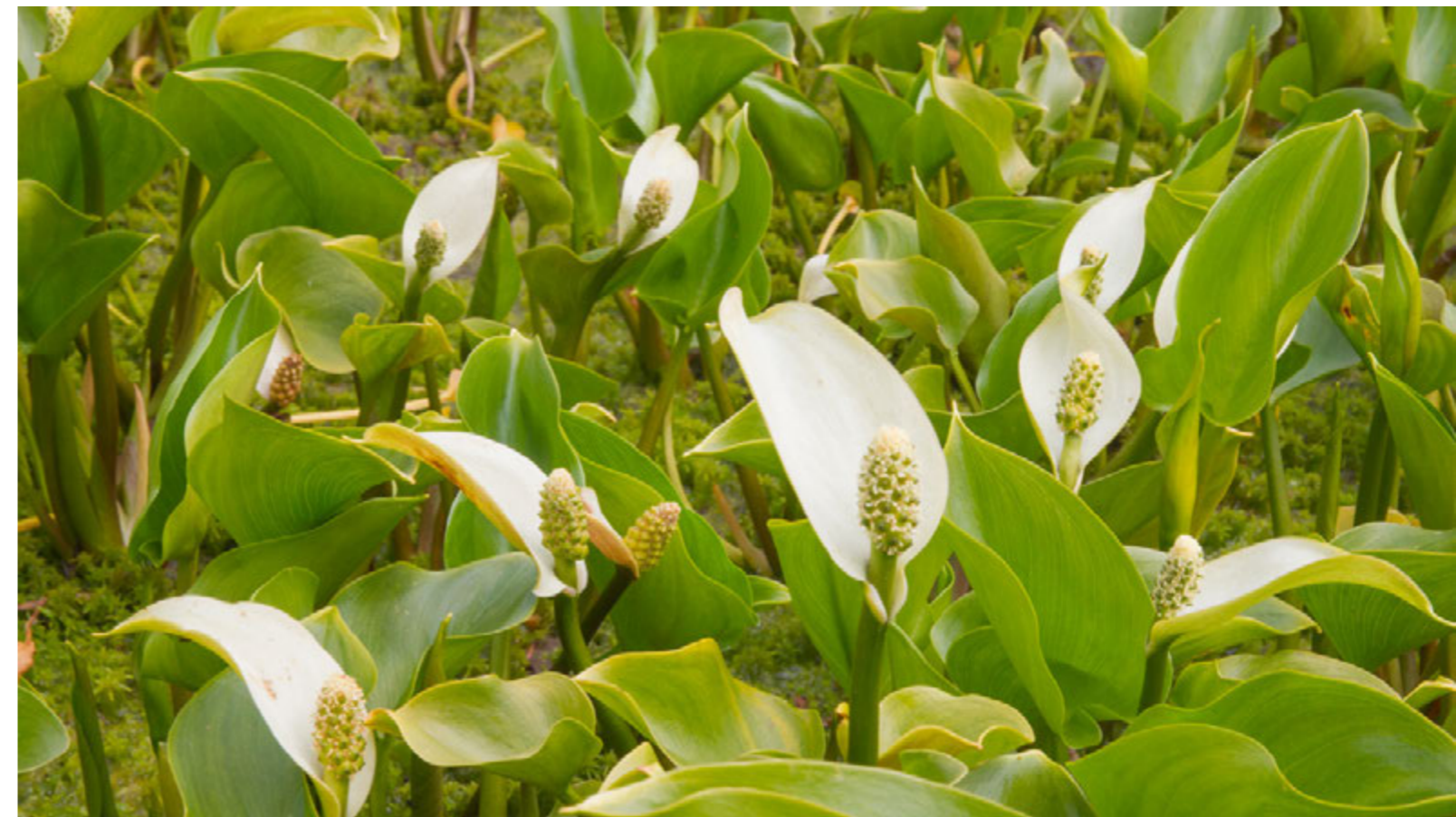
By Ali G



"I picked it because it is very natural, gives oxygen, good energy and is good for wellbeing.

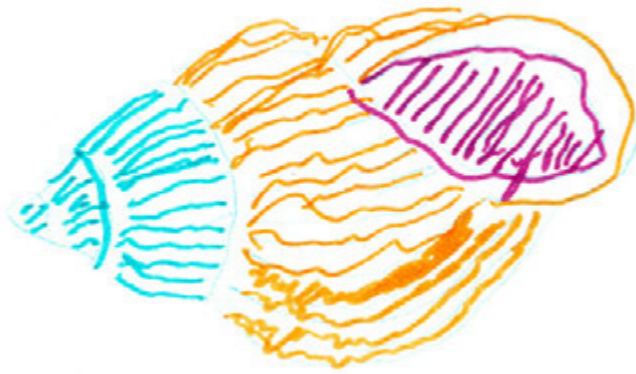
Some people believe the roots can be used to make medicines to treat colds."

- **By Diman Manguri**

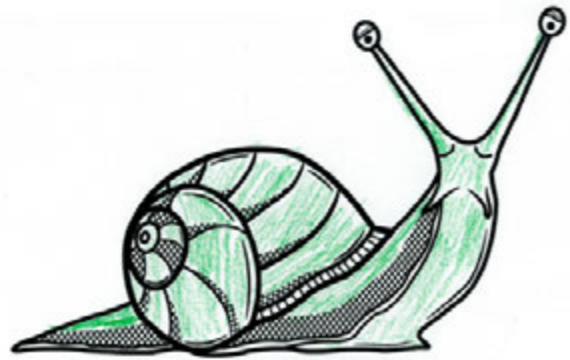




By Tommy



By Michael Devlin



“I like the shape of the snails shell.”
- By a participant at Leverndale
Recreational Art Therapy Centre



Snails

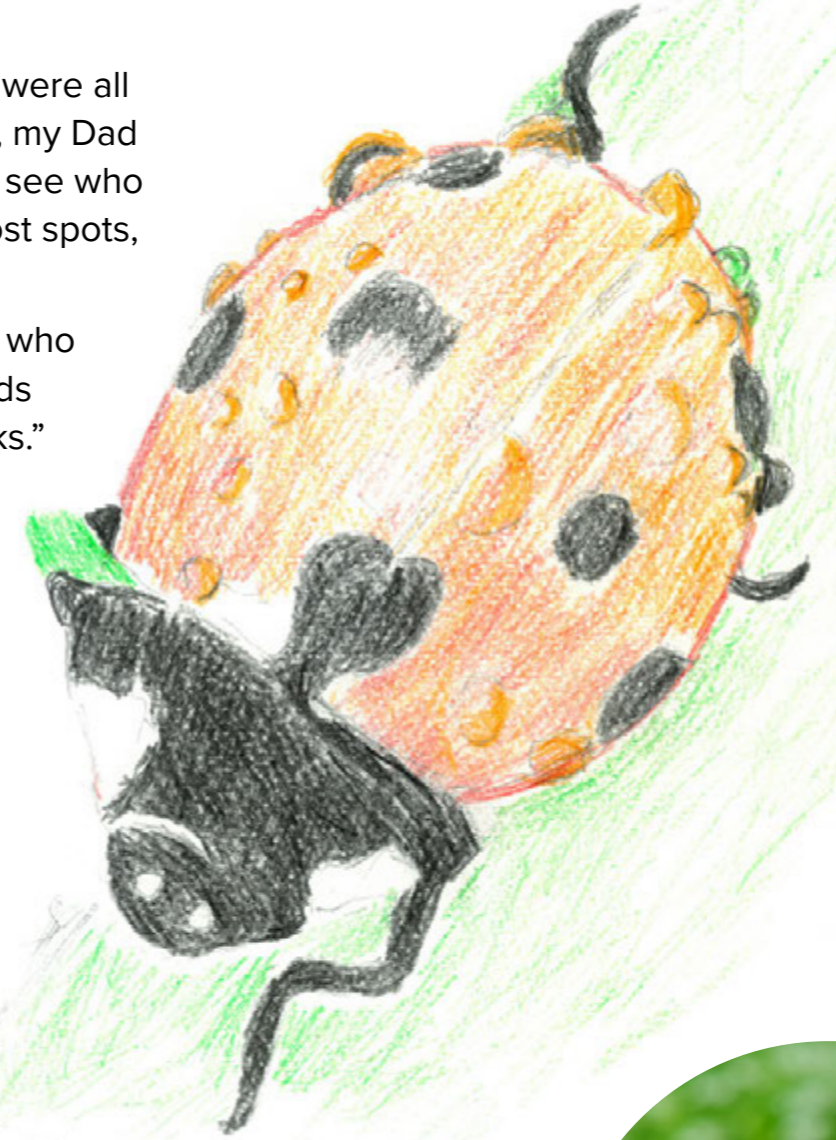
Family: *Subulinidae*

Snails are a common sight in Scotland’s gardens and woodlands. There are many different species of snails found in Scotland, including garden snails, banded wood snails, and grove snails.

Snails are known for their slow movement and their characteristic shells, which provide protection from predators and harsh weather conditions. They are important decomposers, breaking down dead plant matter and recycling nutrients back into the soil. Snails also serve as an important food source for many animals, including birds, amphibians, and small mammals. While some gardeners view snails as pests due to their tendency to feed on plants, they play a valuable role in maintaining healthy ecosystems.

“When I was little and they were all over everybody’s gardens, my Dad and I had a competition to see who could find one with the most spots, the most we found was 7.

My Dad was an electrician who worked on the switchboards on ships at the Clyde Docks.”
- By Marlene McCrorie



Seven-Spot Ladybird

Coccinella septempunctata

The seven-spot ladybird is a common species of ladybird found in Scotland.

These beetles have bright red wing cases with seven black spots, and are easily recognized by their distinctive appearance. Seven-spot ladybirds are important predators of aphids and other small insects, and are considered beneficial insects in many agricultural and horticultural settings. They are also popular with gardeners, who often welcome them as natural pest control. Despite their small size, seven-spot ladybirds are a beloved and iconic species in Scotland’s biodiversity, and their presence is a sign of a healthy and diverse ecosystem.





Butterflies

Butterflies play an important role in many ecosystems, including those found in Scotland.

As pollinators, they are essential to the reproduction of flowering plants, helping to transfer pollen from one plant to another. This process is crucial for the production of fruits and seeds, which provide food and habitat for a variety of other species. Butterflies are also an important food source for predators such as birds and small mammals, and their presence in an ecosystem can indicate a healthy and diverse environment. Additionally, butterflies have cultural and aesthetic value, inspiring art and literature and providing enjoyment for nature enthusiasts.



By Sadia

“The swallowtail is one of the rarest and most spectacular butterflies. I picked this butterfly because of its beautiful colour and pattern.” - **By Nazia Azam**

The swallowtail butterfly, is an endangered species in the UK, with all its breeding sites located within a small area of Norfolk.



ہوڈر فلائی بھارے ماحول میں پائے جانے والے پوری نیوز میں سے ایک ہے۔
بہ زیادہ پوسن نہیں پکارتا

- **By Samima Waqas (left hand)**

“The hoverfly is one of the most important pollinators in many ecosystems. Although they can’t carry as much pollen on their bodies as bees, they can travel greater distances and make more flower visits. The bright yellow colour makes them look like bees. Hoverflies are in fact true flies and don’t sting.”

- **By Samima Waqas (right hand)**



Hoverflies

Family: *syrphidae*

Hoverflies, also known as syrphid flies, are a diverse group of insects found in Scotland’s meadows, woodlands, and gardens.

These flies have distinctive black and yellow striped markings that mimic those of bees and wasps, but they are harmless and do not have stingers. Hoverflies are important pollinators, visiting a wide variety of flowering plants and transferring pollen from one plant to another. They are also important predators, feeding on aphids and other small insects, making them valuable natural pest control agents. The presence of hoverflies in an ecosystem is a sign of a healthy and diverse environment, and their role in pollination and pest control is crucial to the health of many plant species in Scotland.

Bees

Family: Apoidea

Bees are important pollinators in Scotland, playing a vital role in the reproduction of many plant species, including fruit trees, vegetables, and wildflowers.

There are several species of bees found in Scotland, including the honeybee, bumblebee, and solitary bee. Honeybees are commonly kept by beekeepers for their honey production, while bumblebees and solitary bees play an important role in pollination, especially in wildflower meadows and other natural environments. Bees are under threat in Scotland and around the world due to habitat loss, climate change, and the use of pesticides. Conservation efforts are underway to protect and promote bee populations, including creating pollinator-friendly habitats and reducing the use of harmful pesticides.



"I have chosen the honey bee as she is my spirit animal and my middle name, Deboarah, means honey bee. Bees are at the heart of the network of life on Earth, connecting plants, animals and human beings."

- By Hannah Salome

"I chose bees because they are nature's magicians. They are here to make the world beautiful, more green and more sweet with the honey they produce."

Bees pollinate fruits, nuts and vegetables." - By Farkhonda Kabiri



"Bees make honey."

- By a participants at Leverndale Recreational Art Therapy Centre



"I have chosen a bee. I like honey and think bees are very important."



By Stephen



By a participant at Leverndale Recreational Art Therapy Centre



"I chose the variable damselfly as it's similar to the dragonfly and I find their group of insects fascinating. They are so symmetrical and have beautiful, vibrant colours. It's not often that you come across them, but when you do see one it's almost magical. I hope the new floating wetlands will help to encourage more of these insects."

- By Amanda Bogle

Variable Damselfly

Coenagrion pulchellum

Variable damselflies, also known as variable darners, are named for their ability to change their colour and pattern, making them difficult to identify.

These damselflies are found throughout the UK and can be seen near bodies of water such as ponds, lakes, and streams. They are fast and agile predators, feeding on other insects such as mosquitoes and flies. Variable damselflies are important to their ecosystems as both predators and prey, and their presence can be an indicator of a healthy aquatic environment.



Dragonflies

Family: *Libellulidae*

Scotland is home to a diverse range of dragonflies, with around 22 species.

These include the beautiful demoiselle, the golden-ringed dragonfly, and the common hawk. Dragonflies can be found in a variety of habitats, from fast-flowing rivers and streams to lochs, ponds, and marshes. They are important indicators of freshwater quality, with some species being particularly sensitive to pollution. Dragonflies are also important predators, feeding on other insects such as mosquitoes, midges, and flies. Scotland's dragonflies are a fascinating and important part of its biodiversity, and efforts are being made to protect their habitats and ensure their continued survival.

- By Eliot



- By Friq



By a participant at
Leverndale Recreational
Art Therapy Centre

"The Variable Damselfly is a European damselfly. Its behaviour is much like that of the azure damselfly, staying close to vegetation. Immature damselflies are often found in adjacent meadows or grassy areas."

- By Deborah Pollock



This project is supported by the Scottish Government's Nature Restoration Fund, which is facilitated by the Scottish Marine Environmental Enhancement Fund (SMEEF) and managed by NatureScot.

We would like to thank the project collaborators, University of Glasgow, and the specialist installation contractors, Biomatrix Water Solutions.

Special thanks to the wonderful community groups and their members who took part in the artwork, allowed us to ask endless questions and attend some of their own events, including:

Children 1st
Galgael
Gilded Lily
Glasgow Disability Alliance
Govan Men's Shed
Govan Reminiscence Group
The Hidden Gardens
Leverndale Recreational Arts Therapy Centre

Community
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