

CYCLE ARTS festival

RENFREWSHIRE

1st-7th
August
2022



@cycleartsrenfrewshire

www.cycleartsrenfrewshire.co.uk



An Outdoor,
Site-specific
Arts & Climate
Change Festival.

Report 2022

About the Festival

The second Cycle Arts Festival presented a unique outdoor site specific mixed arts programme created for the Paisley to Lochwinnoch Cycle Route. The Festival was developed by Place Partnership at OneRen in collaboration with a range of Renfrewshire organisations, local artists and Sustrans. The idea was to push boundaries of creativity in linking an array of artists of mixed practice with Renfrewshire's unique biodiversity and environments and the enjoyment of cycling.

Commissioned artists working in various media presented site specific creative interventions tied to places along the cycle path routes working in collaboration with the local communities.

Using interesting buildings, views and unusual locations the festival delivered a narrative of place for Renfrewshire linking to ideas of environmental sustainability, wellbeing, embedded local cultures, history of place, cycling and social change.



Images: Diana Finn



Image: Muriel Ann Macleod

Aims of the Festival

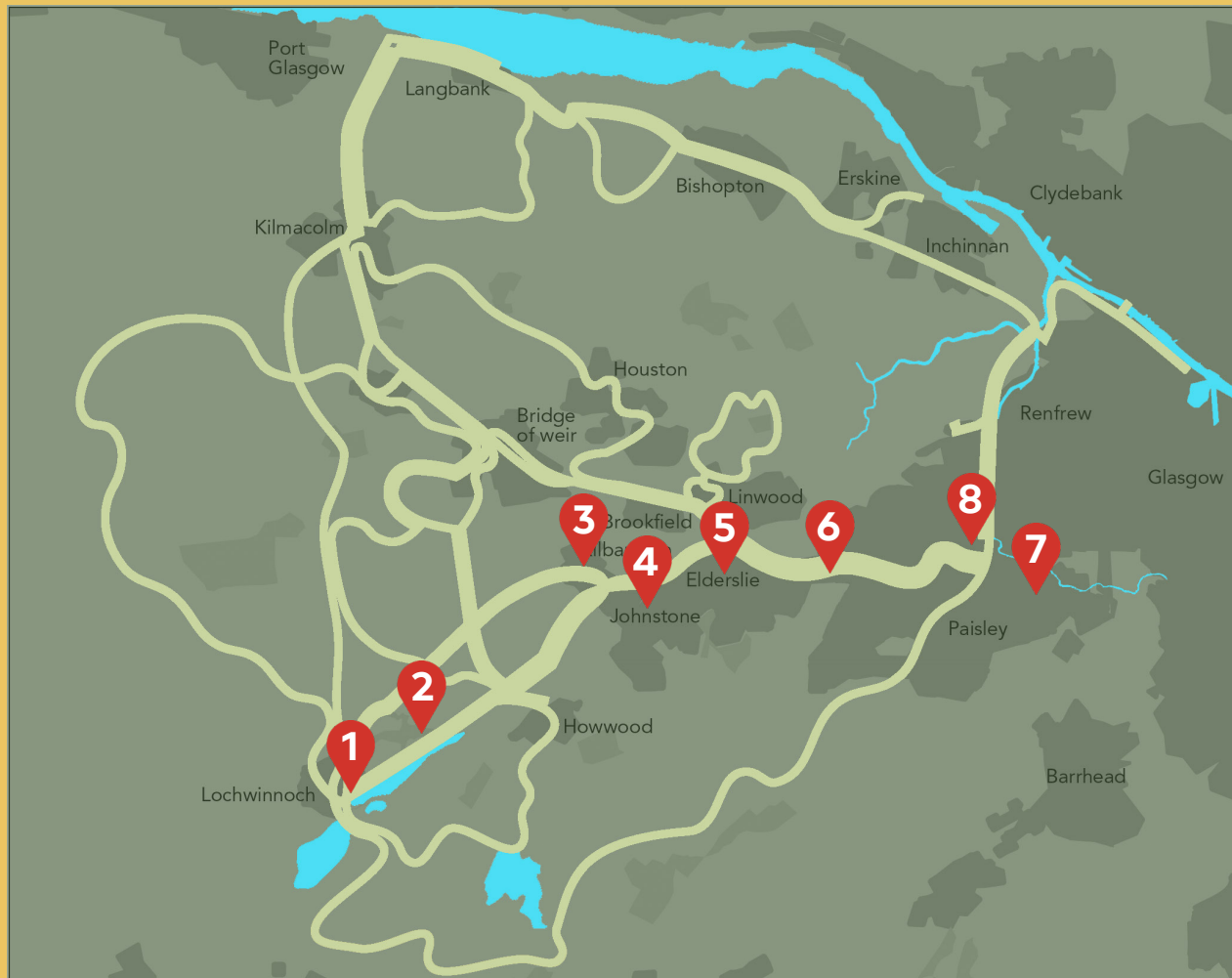
- To increase the use and value of Renfrewshire Cycle Routes by the wider public – linking communities in Paisley, Johnstone, Elderslie, Kilbarchan and Lochwinnoch.
- To develop a strategic arts event which both delivers innovative outdoor arts experiences and promotes health and wellbeing in Renfrewshire, encouraging cycling for wellbeing.
- Push boundaries of creativity in linking Arts and Cycling to Renfrewshire's unique biodiversity.
- Change perceptions and understanding of environmental actions and the climate emergency.
- Event established as key event in the calendar with multiple partners supporting its future development.
- Quality of Artistic Output recognised as critical to the success of the event achieving against step change "Cultural Excellence"

Locations and Partners

The Cycle Arts Festival was developed by Place Partnership at OneRen in Partnership with Sustrans, Castle Semples Visitors Centre, Cycling UK, Renfrewshire Council, ReMode, The Scope Network, Morrisons at Johnstone, Lochwinnoch Arts Festival and Lochwinnoch Development Trust, Kevin Cameron Film maker and Gillian Steel textile artist



Image: Zul Bhatia



Locations

- 1 Castle Semples Visitors Centre
Lochwinnoch; Lochwinnoch
Community Garden
- 2 Courtshaw Hill and Parkhill Woods
- 3 Kilbarchan Old station platform
- 4 Morrisons Johnstone car park and
by the cycle path; Johnstone
Houston Sq Bandstand
- 5 Elderslie Greenspace by Elderslie
Village Hall
- 6 Millarston Woodland
- 7 The Alexander Wilson Park,
Seedhill
- 8 Paisley Town Centre

Festival Events

Outdoor Arts Commissions for the Cycle Arts Festival

Pigeons, Patter and Pathways

Pigeons, Patter and Pathways is a participatory art project presenting uplifting poetry and a permanent mural, inspired by and exploring our connection to nature, the pigeons and other birds that live along the cycle route. Walk through the tunnel leading off Easwald Bank up to the cycle path and enjoy an ascending mural of birds morphing towards bursting positivity of colour & words. A permanent Installation. Artists Philippa Tomlin and Karen Herbison with accompanying sound design by Scott Clark.



Images: Will Carey



Image: Diana Finn



Images: Philippa Tomlin



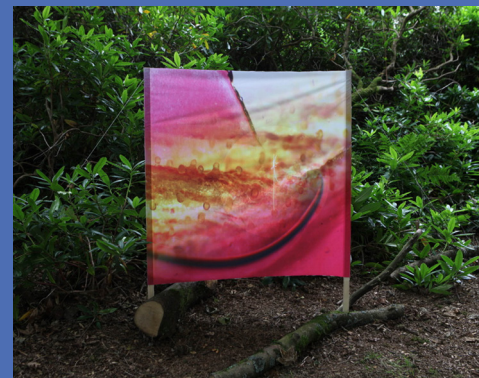
Image: Diana Finn

Waulking to the Beat of the Sea

A modern interpretation of an old Renfrewshire waulking song, (about a woman who has lost her love to the sea and is asking for it to release him back to her) comprised of a series of drawings printed and installed via strips of paper 'graffiti transfers' on to Bridge 15 at Elderslie Old Road. The three women's images are installed on printed paper as a temporary exhibition. A recording of one of the Gaelic songs performed by the Inverclyde Waulking Group can be accessed by QR code link to your mobile phone as you pass under the bridge or as you stop to look at the artwork. Artwork by Daniel Gough.

Vista Di Ninfa

Vista di Ninfa by Sita Pieraccini was a series of prints inspired by looking at organic matter from the local biome under microscopes and presented in a small clearing on Courtshaw Hill in the Parkhill woods near Lochwinnoch. Surrounding a central tree were presented seven elemental prints. *Vista di Ninfa* drew on Sita's collaborative work with artist Jamie Wardrop in their live performance work, *Strange Loop*. In this piece, Sita sang open portals to worlds within worlds, led by the ever evolving, projected microscopic imagery co-created with the audience in a playful attempt to facilitate a reconnection to the magical continuity to all living organisms.



Images: Diana Finn

Outdoor Touring Work

Strawboys

by Rob Heaslip Dance Company
A vibrant and energetic outdoor pop-up performance. Featuring luminous straw dancers whirling to Balkan inspired beats, the work is a unique interpretation of the cultural tradition of 'the strawboys', also known as mummers, guisers, burdie boys, skekklers and wren boys; identified by their ornate straw masks while out rambling streets, fields, towns and parks, parading their merriment to the joy of onlookers.



Image: Muriel Ann Macleod

Cat-Sith

by Ludic Acid Productions
Something is prowling through the local streets and green spaces. Is it an errant endangered Scottish Wildcat, an ancient mythical highland spirit, or a modern vernacular cryptic perhaps? Join Sammy, cat catcher extraordinaire, as she tracks and stalks this elusive beast in an interactive, light hearted engrossing spectacle. Cat Sith is fusion of high paced acrobatic puppetry (drawing on Lion Dance and pantomime horse) and physical theatre. Performers :Lizzie Clapham, Rachel Still and Jonah Russell.



Image: Muriel Ann Macleod

Terrific Tales of Lochwinnoch

local storyteller Anne Pitcher, takes us on a journey through the tales of Lochwinnoch, along with her mischievous puppets, curious sound makers and sing along songs. Childrens and Family performance.



Image: Anne Pitcher

Fèis Phàislig Ceilidh Trail

The Fèis Phàislig Ceilidh Trail performers, a group of 6 young traditional musicians, gave a relaxed acoustic performance at Courtshaw Hill, performing a selection of traditional songs and music relating to the changing landscape.



Image: Fèis Phàislig

Tales Out of the Box

Storytelling inspired by Scotland's ever-changing landscape, featuring the great Celtic hero, Fionn McCoul and his Hunting Party and mythical tales from the time of the Great Caledonian Forest. Conjured out of the magical Kamishibai, the bicycle theatre box as told by Harriet Grindley of *Tales out of the Box*.



Image: Diana Finn

Special Events

Cycle Powered Music Showcase

Located outside the Castle Semple Visitors Centre, the stage delivered an unusual showcase of local musicians. The small stage, which amplifies the music of up to 4 Musicians at a time, requires 5 bikes with cyclists riding them for the entire period on the event. Musicians included Silver Threads, (Evelyn Laurie, Neil Thomson and John McGee perform the songs of William Tannahill), Archie Collingridge Watt (singer-songwriter), Linzie Clark (singer-songwriter), Deep Fliff and Lochwinnoch band Scunnart.



Image: Muriel Ann Macleod

Eco screen at Parkhill Woods

The curated short film programme offered an eclectic mix of short films from Scottish and International film makers including *Mrs Pia* by Pachedu and Kevin Cameron, *Laymun* award-winning animation by Catherine Prouse and Hannah Quinn, *The Art of Weaving* by Jeremy Seifert, (Global Oneness, USA), *Black Pete* by Pachedu and Kevin Cameron, *Stealing Our Future* by ReMode.



Image: Muriel Ann Macleod

Exhibitions

Scope Outdoor Arts Exhibitions

Scope artist collective embraced the outdoors with a Pop-up, open air art exhibition presented along the cycle route. The creative display featured works of varying disciplines including painting, ceramics, textiles, kinetic sculptures and other art forms. Presented at Millarston Woodland and Kilbarchan Old Station platform during the Festival week.



Image: Diana Finn

Clouture by Gillian Steel

Clouture presented a PHD research project in progress that spotlights the potential for Scottish communities to challenge existing environmentally damaging clothing industry models, by conjuring locally appropriate future solutions. Ones that draw from local experiences, cultures, folklores, knowledge, and skills, using locally grown plants and fibres to meet clothing needs.



Image: Diana Finn

Workshops

ReMode Outdoor Craft Workshops

ReMode presented a series of four outdoor crafts workshops which look at using local plants and undergrowth to inspire organic artistic pieces. Each workshop focuses on different skills, Botanical Printing, Natural Dyes, Block Printing and Botanical Stitch. Led by artists Gillian Steel, Keng Keng and Nikki Taylor.



Image: Diana Finn

Paisley Circus Workshops

Anyone can learn to unicycle! the opportunity to learn from the experts at Community Circus Paisley was provided throughout the festival week, giving a crash course in how to mount, balance and ride as well as a chance to see the pros at work.



Image: Community Circus Paisley

Gardening Workshop & Nature Walk

Froglife hosted a Wildlife Gardening Workshop to share skills for gardening to encourage wildlife followed by undertaking a guided nature walk to explore the site and find local Renfrewshire wildlife.



Image: Diana Finn

Cycling Events

Guided Bike Rides including Women On Wheels

Guided trip along the festival route with trained bike ride leaders. Each ride stopped along the various exhibitions and interesting points along the route. Women on Wheels (SCIO) is a Glasgow based community cycling hub for women and provided a led ride specifically open to women and children.

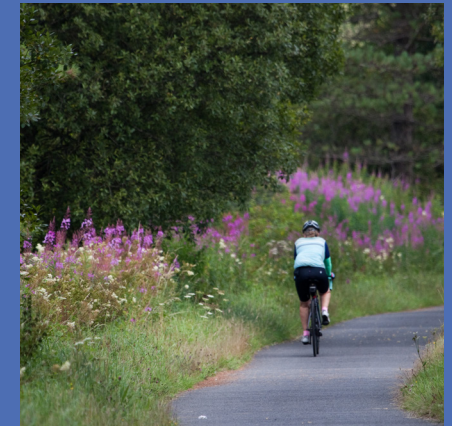


Image: Zul Bhatia

Bike Packing demonstration

This demonstration by Alasdair Brady was the perfect chance to check out what kind of kit is needed for long-distance and overnight camping trips, with resident expert on hand to answer all queries.



Image: Alasdair Brady

DR Bike with Bike for Good

The opportunity to bring your bike along to Dr Bike stall, provided by Bike for Good to have it looked over. At Dr Bike, bikes were checked over by a trained mechanic, who made any on-the-spot adjustments and fixes that need doing right there and then, free of charge.



Image: Dr Bike

Audiences of **2270** attended events during the Festival week.

33 Artists participating

Total of **22** events in **11** locations on or near the Cycle route.

7 live performances, **5** exhibitions (**3** installations)

6 workshops

5 Cycling events including **3** guided rides

2 days of short film screenings

1 Cycle powered music showcase

Image: Muriel Ann Macleod

Audience Demographic

2270 people engaged with the Festival during the Festival week. 1360 of them attended events, performances or exhibitions and their age was recorded by Festival stewards.

Sample Ages were:

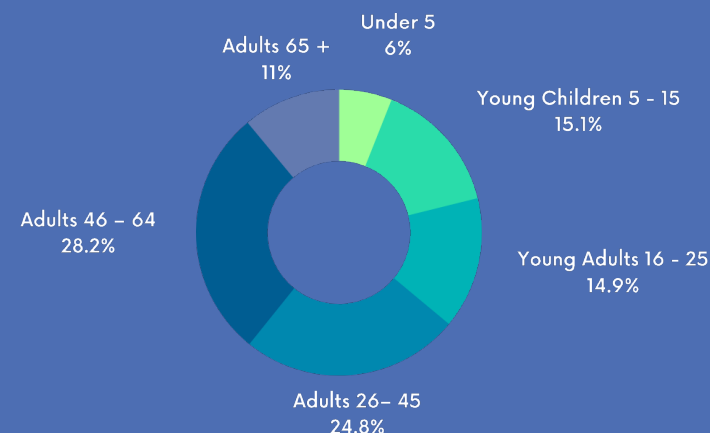


Image: Zul Bhatia

Audience Feedback

"The use of recycled materials brings a unique perspective to the environment the art is placed in. Renfrewshire could definitely use more exhibits like this throughout the year. More Community Engagement!"

"Strawboys connected remarkably to the Lochside environment. Fantastic performance, so energetic, beautiful and engaging!"

"Great to see a familiar place used for something different."

"There is an abundance of Musical talent right here on our doorstep. More Please!"

"... lovely to give people a reason to congregate in the woods!"



Image: Muriel Ann Macleod



Image: Zul Bhatia

"Discovered a Cycle Arts Festival which demonstrated a real passion for these Renfrewshire cycle routes, all the different artists and partners taking part here demonstrate a great value being placed on Renfrewshire Landscapes. Can we have more of this please!"

"Leaves and pigeons and water sprites. Weird and quirky things that made me look at the cycle track in more magical detail."

"Renfrewshire has so much creative talent and it needs to be showcased and funded more."

"The Paisley to Lochwinnoch cycle route is maintained by volunteers from Sustrans, there needs to be more profiling for all the local communities to value their greenspaces and their streets. So much has been left uncared for and

unmaintained for a long time."

It's a beautiful and unusual location to host a very cool, self-sufficient gig! Amazing event!

"Festivals like this draw attention to the great landscapes we have in Renfrewshire. I hope this group of partners can continue the Cycle Arts Festival for everyone in the regions benefit."



Image: Zul Bhatia

Some Outcomes

- The linking of Arts to Environmental awareness was recognised as an important part of the work of the festival and the outdoor arts commissions which were part of it.
- There was a change in thinking about what it was possible to do creatively outside, how to use our spaces differently, greenspaces that have been taken for granted have been given new value.
- Integrating cycling into how the public attend the Festival events, and seeing events powered by bikes or using bikes as part of the delivery of the arts work is pushing boundaries and changing perceptions.
- By encouraging the audiences to discover the Festival events, the public could seek out events using the Route map or just discover the arts events while out for a walk or cycle rather than book in advance. Some events did have set times other were in location for many hours which gave a relaxed atmosphere and the public seemed to stay around chat to the artists and discuss the art and live work they had seen.

If you would like to get involved in the Cycle Arts Festival in 2023 as a cyclist attending events or powering our Cycle Power stages, or as an environmental artists with work to present or if you just want to promote your cycling event in Renfrewshire on the Cycle Arts Renfrewshire Website please get in touch by email to info@cycleartsrenfrewshire.co.uk

Image: Muriel Ann Macleod

The Cycle Arts Festival was developed by Place Partnership at OneRen in collaboration with local communities and artists and funded by

ONE
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Future Paisley is the radical and wide-ranging programme of economic, social and physical regeneration using the town's unique and internationally significant cultural and heritage story to transform its future.

www.cycleartsrenfrewshire.co.uk