

The Glasgow We Know

Snapshots of Govan,
the Southside and
the Westend



Natural
Environment
Research Council



Welcome

Welcome to the GALLANT (Glasgow as a Living Laboratory Accelerating Novel Transformation) Photobook.

In 2022, GALLANT embarked on a five-year journey towards a more sustainable and resilient Glasgow, funded by the Natural Environment Research Council.

What is GALLANT?

GALLANT is a dynamic partnership between the University of Glasgow, Glasgow City Council, and local communities. Our mission is to pioneer innovative, sustainable solutions for Glasgow's evolving landscape in the face of the climate crisis. We understand that our city's vitality depends on working closely with the people who call it home – our diverse communities.

A Community-Centric Approach

We firmly believe that the power of transformation lies within the community. Together, we can unearth solutions and tackle challenges head-on. We're here to collaborate with, listen to, and learn from you – the people of Glasgow.

Join us on this journey towards a more sustainable, vibrant Glasgow.

For more information, visit:
CommunityCollabGlasgow.co.uk.

Our Five Focus Areas are:

- **Flood Risk:** Climate change brings more rain and shifts in tides, raising the risk of flooding. GALLANT explores creative ways to harness the power of our rivers to mitigate these challenges.
- **Biodiversity Loss:** As climate change looms, preserving a rich tapestry of plant and animal life is vital. We're mapping Glasgow's biodiversity and crafting strategies to enhance it, with benefits ranging from flood protection to improved urban living.
- **Vacant and Derelict Land:** Have you ever wondered about those abandoned plots of land? GALLANT is exploring ways to revitalise these spaces to reduce CO₂ emissions and return them to the community for transformation according to its needs.
- **Active Travel and Inclusive Mobility:** Cars are major CO₂ emitters. GALLANT is researching active travel options, like cycling and walking, to curb emissions and improve air quality and public health.
- **Sustainable Energy:** Rising energy costs and environmental concerns call for change. Our Sustainable Energy team is developing community-based, low-carbon energy solutions to empower communities.

Photomapping for GALLANT: Capturing Community Perspectives

In 2023, GALLANT's Community Collaboration researchers joined forces with participatory photography CIC Open Aye to embark on an inspiring journey of community photography - this collaborative effort aimed to recognise and connect with sustainable community initiatives already underway in Glasgow.

Over six months, Open Aye facilitated a five-week participatory photography programme working with 37 local community members.

The photographs in this exhibition were taken by these 37 local community members who actively participated in these transformative workshops within their own diverse Glasgow neighbourhoods: the Southside, the inner Westend, and Govan.

Over 12,000 photographs were taken during the workshops - photographs that invite us to explore the core GALLANT themes from a hyper-local perspective. We believe that the people living in these communities are experts when it comes to their surroundings.

Often, they possess a clear vision of the sustainable changes they wish to see. This exhibition presents a narrative woven from their local experiences with the GALLANT themes: Flood Risk, Biodiversity Loss, Vacant and Derelict Land, Active Travel and Inclusive Mobility, and Sustainable Energy.

These photos not only provide insight but will also guide collaborative community research throughout GALLANT's duration.

You might encounter images of Govan's streets submerged during an unexpected downpour, reflections on the diverse state of active travel infrastructure across the city, or the community's dedicated efforts to repurpose vacant or derelict land near their homes.

Many participants joined five photo walks in their neighbourhoods and engaged in local gatherings focused on photo mapping. Through these activities, they raised concerns about social inequalities and cohesion, highlighting their interconnectedness with local and global environmental issues, including various forms of pollution and the climate crisis.

Some photographs radiate the joy and hope fostered by community gardens and secondhand shops, while others underline the necessity of sustainable infrastructure to facilitate sustainable transition. There are also images that capture environmental and social activism through street art.

Each photograph provides a snapshot of places in time that critically reflect on what we have now whilst offering hope for the future by showing what is possible in a more sustainable future. By mapping these three explored areas through photography, we deepen our understanding of the journey towards sustainability amidst the climate crisis, all on the neighbourhood scale. In doing so, we emphasise the importance of inclusive and accessible sustainable pathways for all.

Want to get involved?

We are setting up community-led, place-based research projects across Glasgow. Want to get involved? Contact us at ws2gallantpublic@gmail.com or visit CommunityCollabGlasgow.co.uk

Explore our Maps

We've curated dynamic online maps featuring participant photos that are open to the public and continuously updated. These digital maps are designed to uncover the rich and intricate connections between people, place, and history, offering a deeper understanding of our unique environment.

We invite a diverse range of contributions to enrich this experience.

Discover with QR Codes

You can access and contribute to these interactive online maps using the QR codes below!



Govanhill



Central/West



Govan



Add your photos or stories about Glasgow via this QR code

We collaborated with renowned local artist and illustrator Libby Walker, who created the maps below, to celebrate the photo team's invaluable contributions. Libby created beautiful maps inspired by participant photos.



Govan



Central/West



Govanhill

You can pick up printed versions of Libby's stunning illustrated maps for all three areas at local outlets.

Special Thanks

We want to give a special thanks to the community photographers who made this exhibition possible. They are ...

Southside Team: Alex, Dylan, Erik, Gary, Giulia, Henry, Hok-Hay, Marissa, Mary, Orla, Patricia, Luca, Patrick and Rhys

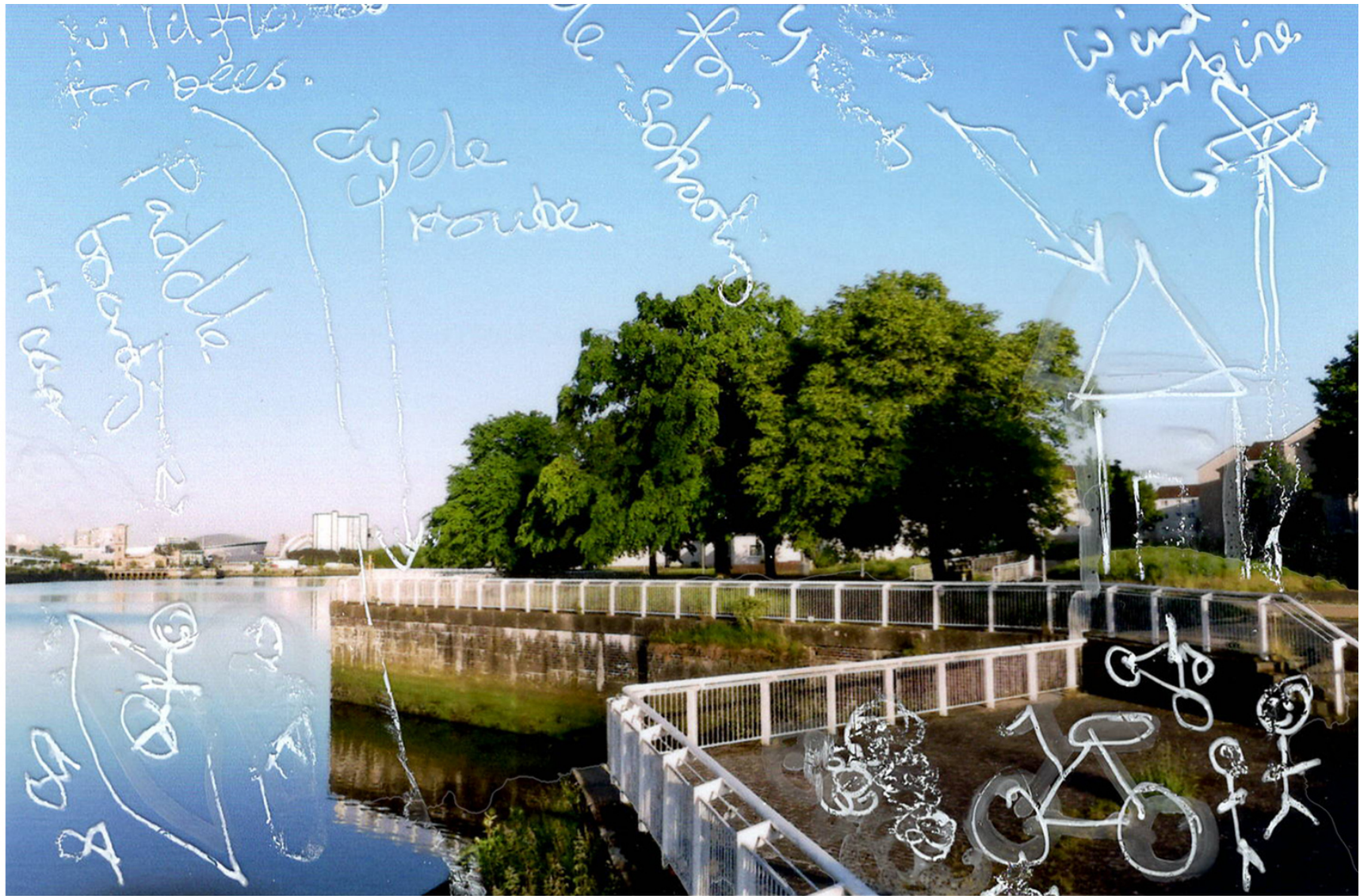
Inner Westend Team: Charlie, Elaine, Emily, Helena, Issac, Michael, Noy, Patricia, Pedro and Yuchen

Govan Team: Bushra, Declan, Jafaar, Jenny, Maeve, Meg, Michael, Patsy, Sahaj, Hidayat, Simone and Sophie



We would also like to thank the community groups, organisations and venues who supported us in our local research and the delivery of participatory workshops ...

ApparelXchange, Merry-go-Round, Bike for Good, Boiler Room at the Hidden Gardens, Friends of Elder Park, Friends of the River Kelvin, G3 Growers, Glasgow Community Energy, Govan Men's Shed, Govanhill Community Newsroom, Hidden Gardens, MILK Café Glasgow, Moogety Gardens, Libby Walker, Make Do Grow, Partick Hill Bowling Club, Parveen's Canteen, Pearce Institute, Soul Food Sisters, Southseeds, SWG3, and Turnip the Beet, The Pyramid @ Anderston, Urban Roots, Yorkhill Green Spaces and to the GALLANT Community Collaboration Steering Group members for advising on phase one of the community collaboration research.





"Since we cleared it, people have been coming out of the woodwork. Someone from Glasgow Uni set up a bug hotel and bird nesting boxes ... people come down with toddlers and use the mud kitchen"



“When I walk there in the morning, you see people on bikes, with their briefcase on the bike, and, I mean, it’s so much better than using public transport in town; it’s just so beautiful”



“The power is inherent in the people. So I like the word democratic function, where a small group of individuals can have a voice and make a lot of change... The smaller groups and the solutions they offer are in the community's best interest. It's within the best interest of nature”



"You get the sense of touch, the sense of hearing and the sense of smell, and I think that's what nature gives to us ... things that really help us every day... plants and flowers really help to start positive emotions"



“Sometimes the older generation feels a wee bit scared to tell you, the younger generation...and then the younger generation feels scared of what is gonna happen in the future. But... I think it's good to educate them because once they know that, like some changes that are gonna happen, they will see and then act upon the changes”



"Flooding had been a major issue many times with FORK at the river Kelvin. They've been flooded many times. And we've had to do cleanups, special cleanups, as a four-girl volunteering team ..."



Solar panels

— living walls

green wall



"The whole like vibe of the South Side, I feel, is very like independent business, very like anti-corporation. There's not that many chains, especially in Govanhill"



"We are trying to cover the big hole with a small plaster. We need a radical change. For me, the universities need to be more active. And now, for example, it's been interesting how changed the university's philosophy to be closer to the communities"



"You're more likely to support green spaces if you walk by them. Yeah. And then, where you're more likely to see derelict land and be like, oh, can we do something with that as a community?"



*I really enjoyed the night,
like walking through
Festival Park. I think that it
was kind of like a funny
little trail. I think
everybody had a little bit
of discovery together,
and that was fun”*



"I've had a few good times in Moogety Gardens. I did some project a few years ago, and they're using that to make a storytelling hub in the Moogety, and they're using some of my work"



"Bike lanes have been added in the Southside, and the amount of cyclists you see is more than it ever was. I'm definitely more comfortable cycling on a bike lane..."



"Now we've got electric buses, but the people of Govan are only worried about the timetable of the bus"



"This year on our walks, we haven't seen that many bumble bees ... and we haven't seen many butterflies this year; we've seen some, but considering we are out and about every day"

"I did notice it the night we were in Govan, and it poured with rain, and there were multiple drains that immediately filled with water, and the whole street corner flooded. Yeah. So yeah, that was quite stark because we've been chatting about it. And then it was like, oh, and they're it is happening before your eyes"



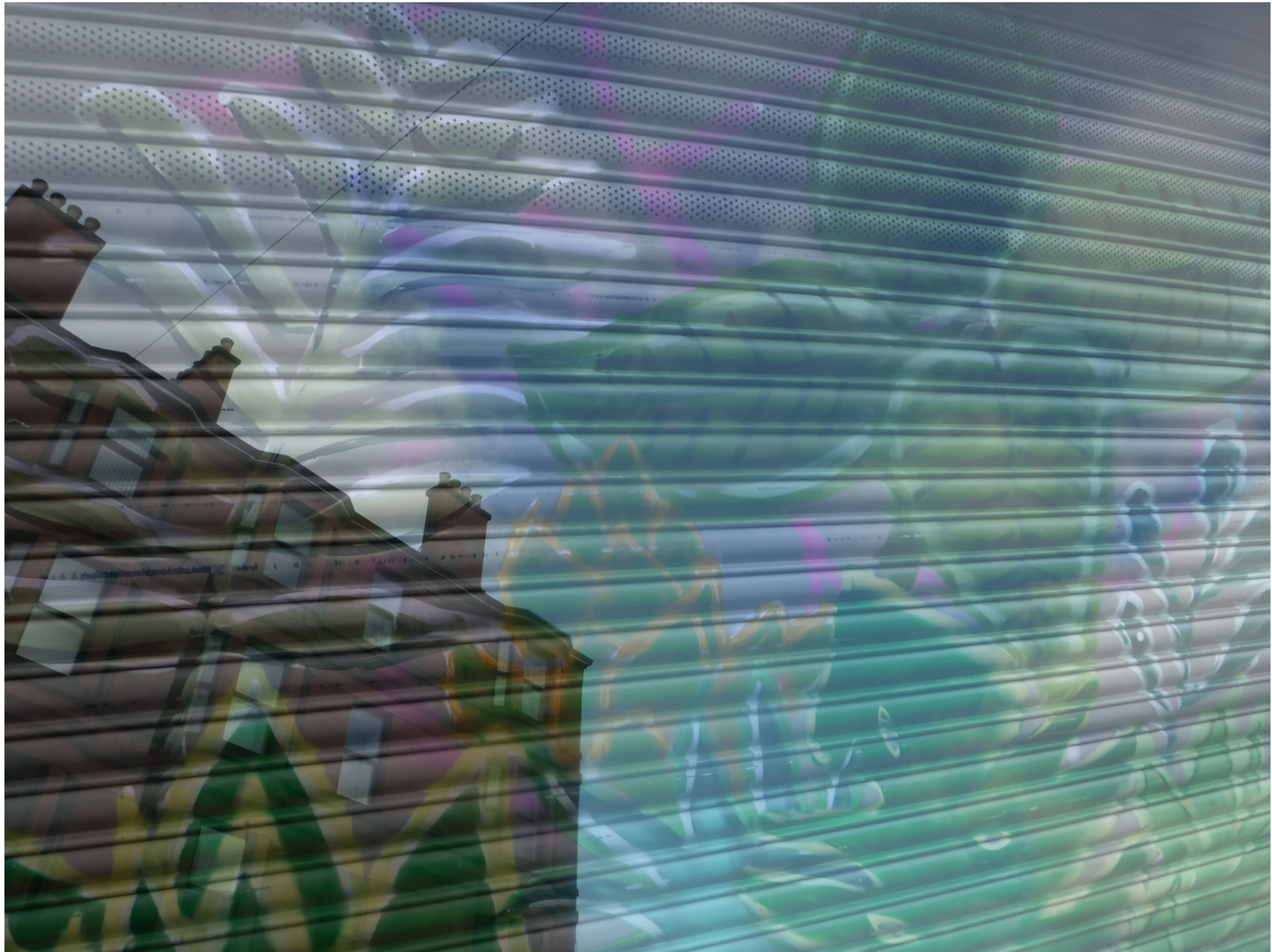




SWG3s new garden - WOW! They replanted trees used at COP26 and put in other natural plants. And they have a storage unit underneath it all, which is part of their community energy system, capturing body heat from dancers at their club nights!"



“Before I did photography, I would walk around my community and environment, and I would see things that I wasn’t so happy with ... I feel that photography is a way to document what's happening”







“So Merry Go Round is a really pivotal part of the community, and you can go in and buy all the clothes as well. Aye, sustainable, reasonable, and totally for the community because you could ask anything about anything”



“One time, in particular, I was shopping. And I was in there for nothing in particular. And sometimes, when I get stressed out and my head’s going to explode, I need to go somewhere quiet. And this time, the Hidden Gardens was only 10 minute’s walk away. So I went there and just calmed”



“Not everyone has a garden. And I think that sometimes I think we need to really help people to go out and explore”



“I never had a bike as a child, right, and I had a go at my sisters, and I knocked myself out, and I never got over it; I’m 62 now; it’s not going to happen”



When COP26 was on, they said it should start at the top. I think we start up individually. Because then we can spread ... if we wait for the politics, we wait forever."



“So, the community gathered and decided that that place would be a recreational area and a little gardening space for the community ... people can come out of their flats and sit there and just be intertwined with nature ... sit and enjoy it. That solution, if it was replicated in every neighbourhood, is already a change at a massive level. And then you don't need a politician to pass a bill”



I am trying to buy a house. I just realised how poorly insulated the building stock is in this country, but in Glasgow, there are a lot of tenements that are quite difficult to retrofit, so I was really impressed when we went to see the building on Niddrie Road that they managed to retrofit"





"I cycle quite a lot, but I'm getting too old for it now because of my ankle injury. I'd rather use that than the bus, but the weather is so changeable. I really don't like getting wet and generally, if it's raining, it's also windy and it's dangerous. I'm more of a fair-weather cyclist now"



"Recently, we went to Southseeds to get an energy consultant. Because we live in a 70's building with the original windows, our energy bills are really high ... We use the Tool Library quite a lot as well. We just bought our flat a year ago, so we were getting the drill on loan every week to put up shelves, blinds, and stuff"

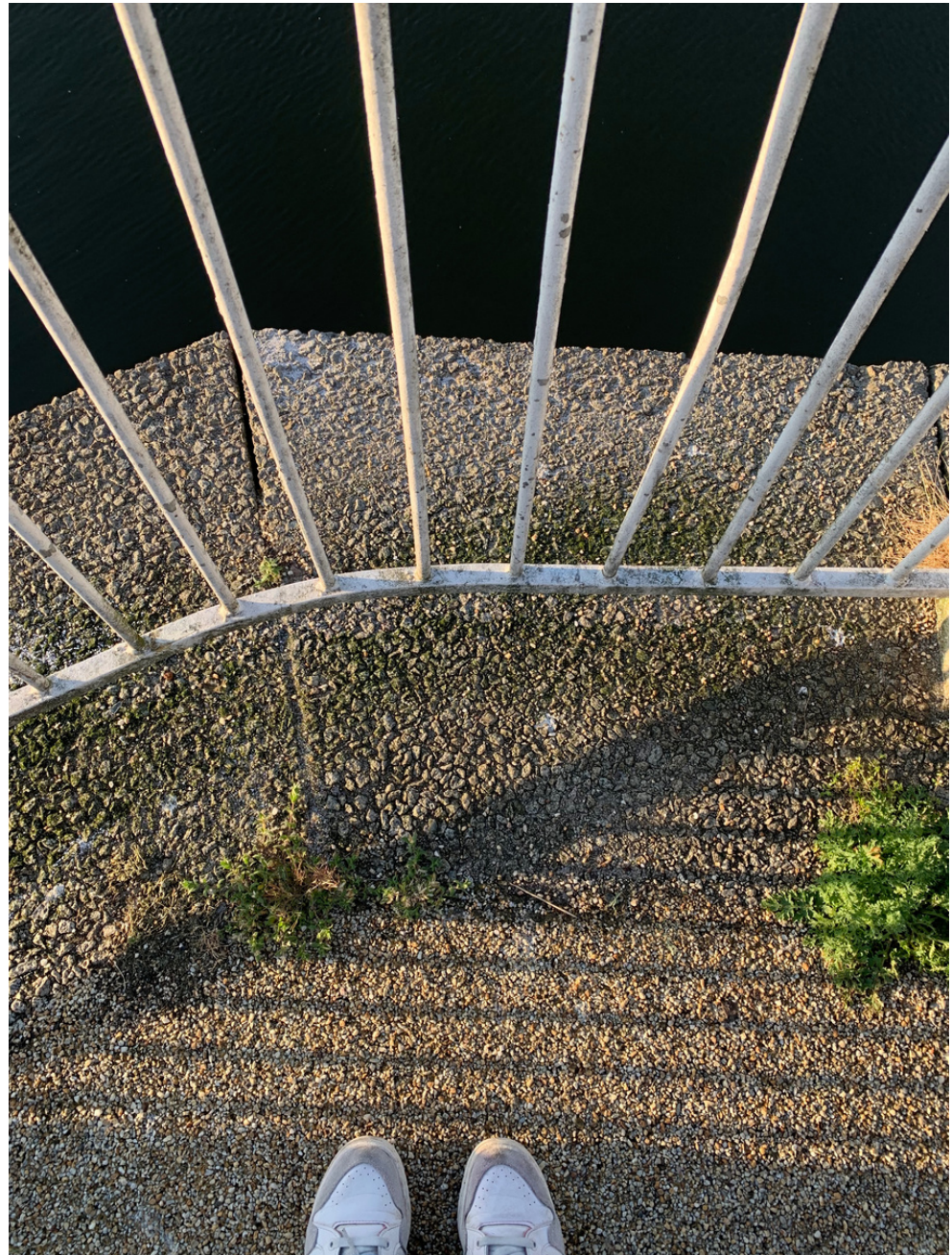


“Use those bits of vacant land for biodiversity and bringing the community back together. We could have a tennis park or whatever you want to have. You could reduce the era of land use for asphalt pavement and make more green space for kids to explore”



"It's really important to get local opinion. You must get local opinion on how it's been used. But also go to agencies that can help you give the community what it needs"

"The River Clyde is right there, but mostly it feels separated from us"





"The bridge is like really interesting from, like, the active travel perspective, because it will like totally transform it"





"Sometimes people don't treat nature as well as human beings, like us, and I think people need to see nature to see how beautiful it really is"

*"It irritates me that there
are these beautiful
stretches of cycle path, but
they're not quite connected.
You get to the end of it.
There's just a little blue sign.
There's an end to it. And
where am I meant to go?"*





“Under the bridge, it was crazy, how on top it was all the noise and everything else, but it was slightly more peaceful down below. And the light was shining through”

*"I think we need to try
and sort out the
cycling areas. It's quite
awkward as a
pedestrian sometimes
when you come to a
crossroads. It can be a
bit disorienting"*



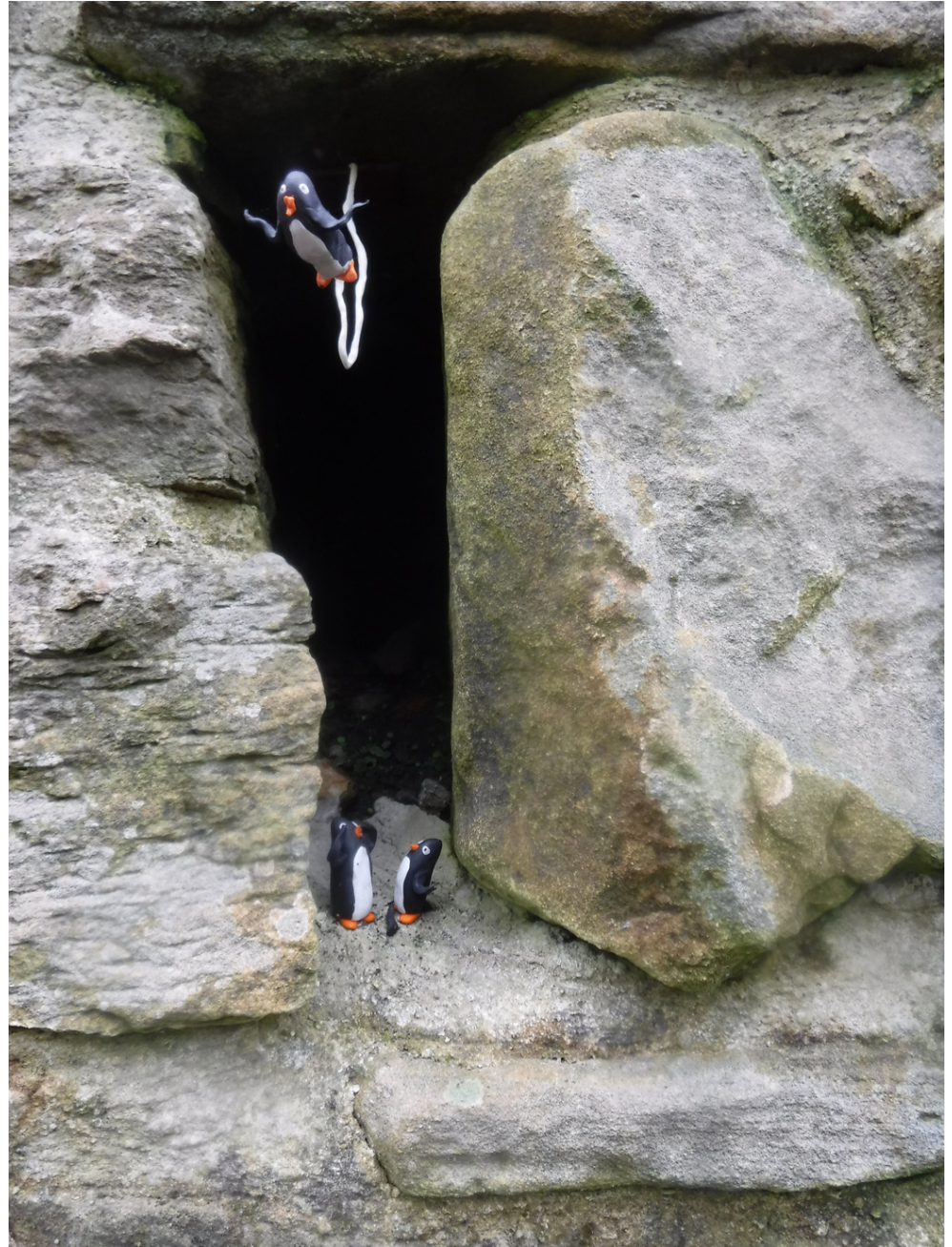


"I think Govan's got such a lot to offer. I really do... It's just that, unfortunately, it's not seen as a place to love"

"I don't know much about the Community Energy stuff. I see solar panels dotted around on people's roofs. I see wind turbines when I go out of the city into the outskirts. But I don't know much about how that was organised or how people get together"









“Govan’s got so much to offer, but I know people who live there who have never been to the Govan Stones or the Fairfield Museum”



"I love the Magpie's Nest. They keep the prices down for the people of Govan"



GALLANT Community Collaboration Research Team: Dr Ria Dunkley,
Dr Florence Halstead and Dr Sarah Gambell

Photo-map Project Facilitator: Becky Duncan, Open Aye CIC

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) funding supports this exhibition and the GALLANT programme. The GALLANT team would like to thank NERC for supporting this research.



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