

The Story of Carnival Club



common  wheel

Charity no. SC031798

What is Carnival Club?



Carnival Club is a visual arts programme where participants meet once a week to work with a professional artist. Together they design and produce pieces of visual art that are showcased at various events across Glasgow.

- The idea is to introduce the group to techniques for making visual art and to facilitate them to develop ideas and designs individually. These normally tie-in with a wider theme.
- We aim to create a studio type of environment where people can learn and create their own work at their own pace but with a real-world commission to work towards as a team.
- Carnival Club is for people managing or recovering from mental illness and people can join no matter what their artistic experience. The group is open to people with any amount of artistic experience.
- The sessions run in blocks throughout the year with the group meeting once a week for two hours at Campbell House.

- Before Carnival Club became an official part of Common Wheel, the organisation participated in the West End Festival.
- In 2004 they created a dragon for the parade.
- In 2006 Senga and Stripey the dragons were created along with a couch bike.



"Trying something new has been great. This is the first time I've worked with willow - I'm enjoying it. I'm looking forward to seeing it all come together" - Feedback from Participant about the Pilot project

- Carnival Club became part of Common Wheel in 2016.
- A 12-week pilot programme was carried out in the Autumn of 2016 in conjunction with Bridgeman Arts.
- During this participants were involved in the creation of artworks and props for the 2016 Glasgow Loves Christmas Style Mile Carnival.
- The success of the pilot programme led to Common Wheel continuing Carnival Club with blocks running throughout the year.

The Importance of Carnival Club

"It's great to see friendly faces and have something creative to work towards - an actual goal." - CC Participant

"I always come away from each class feeling better than when I arrived" - CC Participant

"Without a doubt, it is the highlight of my week, and a real lifeline, something that I look forward to, and which brightens my routine." - CC Participant

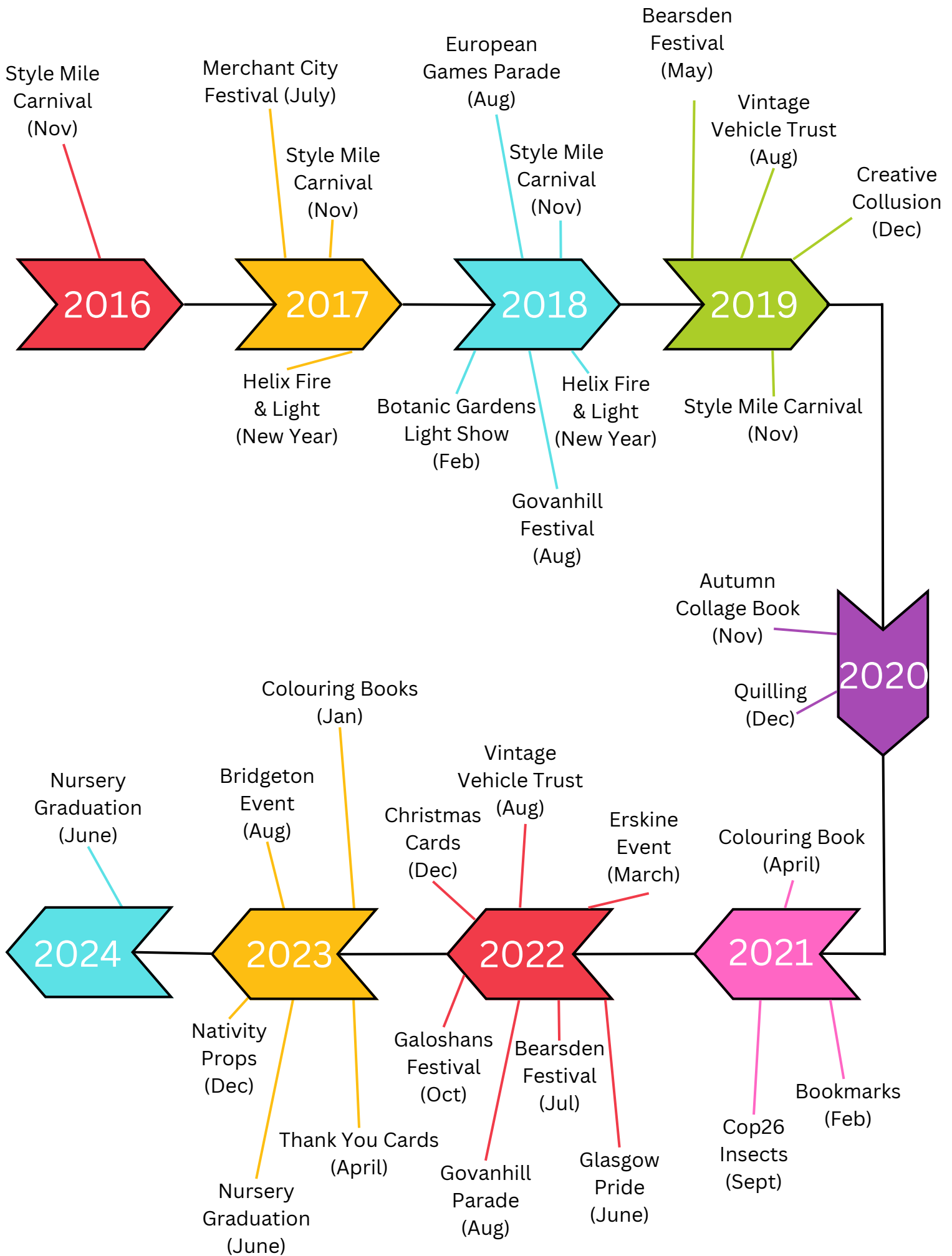
"Zoom was a mystery to me previously...Since using it with Carnival Club I now feel quite the expert, lol.

Taught me a new skill and gifted me with some self confidence." - CC Participant

"I have really enjoyed re joining the group, being involved has helped me a great deal." - CC Participant

"I found Carnival Club a great support. A godsend to be honest." - CC Participant

"I would like to thank the staff and everyone at Common Wheel for giving me this opportunity to become myself." - CC Participant



Style Mile Carnival



The Glasgow Loves Christmas Style Mile Carnival ran annually and Carnival Club made a number of pieces such as a giant Christmas tree, and a giant crocodile which was paraded around by bike engineer Neil dressed as Captain Hook.



2016



2017





2018



Since the Carnival Club's pilot programme the project has made work for and has taken part in the Style Mile Carnival each year until it stopped happening after lockdown.



2019



Merchant City Festival

In July 2017 Carnival Club participated in the Merchant City Festival procession in Glasgow city centre.

The artists created a giant Mr Kibble at the event which had been inspired by a trip to the Glasgow Botanic Gardens.



Helix Fire & Light

Carnival Club created Lanterns which were displayed as part of the the Helix Fire & Light Festival (2017 & 2018) in Helix park at the Kelpies.



Botanic Gardens Light Show



Carnival Club created Lanterns which were on display at the Botanic Gardens in February of 2018.



Govanhill Festival & Carnival



The group designed and crafted giant versions of their favourite sweets.

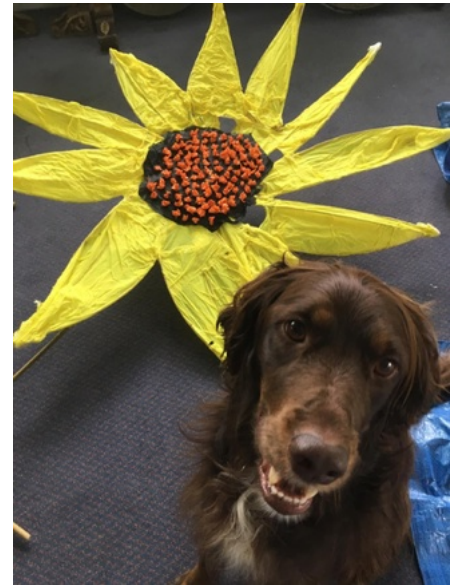
These colourful sweets were involved in the 2018 Govanhill Baths Festival & Carnival as part of the procession as well as decorating the Baths.



Bearsden Festival



In 2019 creations made by Carnival Club became part of the Bearsden Festival, which “celebrated the positive impact of arts on our mental health and wellbeing”.



During the festival flowers, animals, characters and a totem pole were on display bringing colour and a sense of fun to the festival.





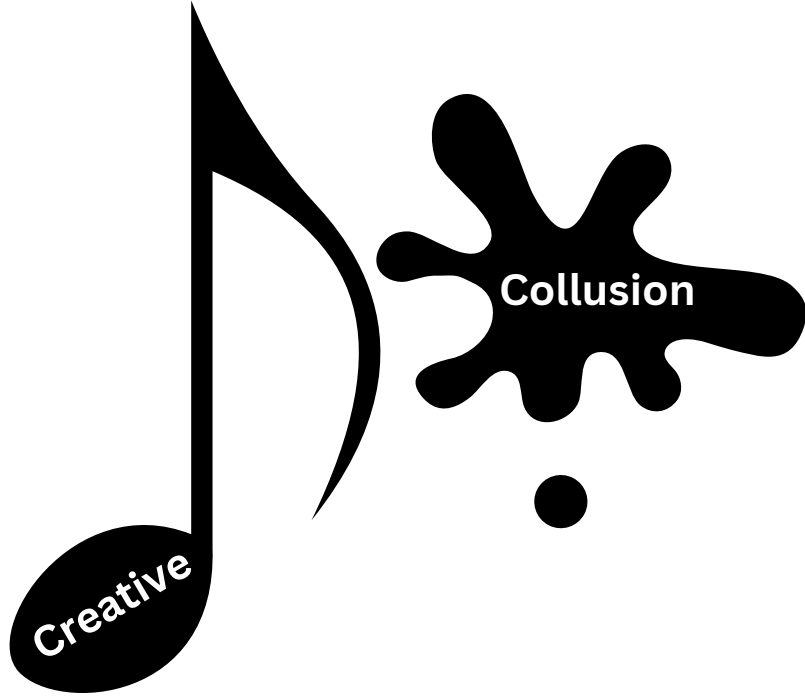
Common Wheel's Bridgeton bike workshop is located within the Glasgow Vintage Vehicle Trust bus garage, which has an amazing range of vintage passenger and commercial vehicles.



As part of an open day in 2019 the Carnival Club created large puppet bus conductors which were worn by Alison and Wendy throughout the day.

It was a whole organisation affair as the music team ran activities from a double decker bus and the bike engineers took part by servicing and repairing bikes.





The Creative Collusion project began with the idea for a creative challenge which brings Common Wheel's community music and visual arts projects together.

The theme "Light" was chosen and our musicians and artists were asked to interpret the theme in whatever way they wished. Between August and December (2019) the groups incorporated the theme into their activities with the final performance event taking place in December at the Gartnavel Royal Hub.

Creative Collusion
a collaboration of art and music
Please join us for a performance exploring the theme of
light
Hub Café space
Gartnavel Royal Hospital
Starts 6.30pm - Ends 7.30pm
Friday 13th December 2019
Free
All Welcome



2020



2020 brought many challenges to Common Wheel and due to COVID-19 face-to-face workshops were no longer able to take place and all public events and carnivals were cancelled.

Carnival Club were creative and moved workshops online with the artists creating smaller pieces at home.

Artists were sent materials, video tutorials and learning tools were posted online and participants meet on Zoom weekly to share and discuss their art.

Autumn Collage

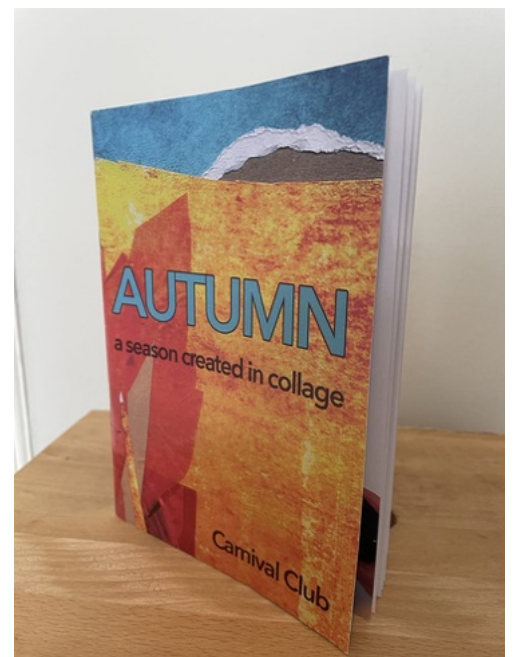
Carnival Club ran virtually in September 2020 working on a new project involving collage.



Materials were posted out and the group met once a week to catch up on Zoom. There were also a number of video tutorials and learning tools posted online.

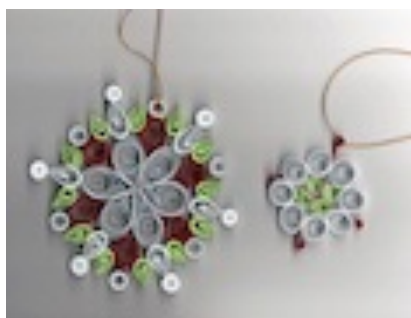


The artists each made a number of collages and an artists' book called Autumn was created and printed showcasing their work.



Quilling

Over December of 2020 the group continued to run on Zoom. This time they tried out the technique of quilling.



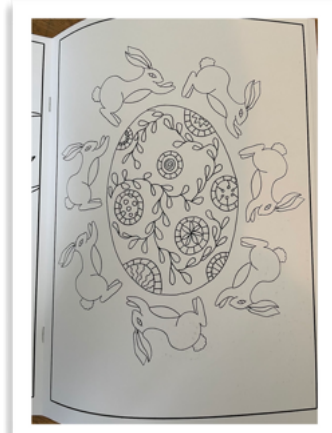
Common Wheel ran a Creative Writing project in the Spring of 2021.

Carnival Club were commissioned to create bookmarks (loosely based on the theme of quotations) which were sent out as part of the resource package being sent out to patients on the wards.



Colouring Book

In the spring of 2021 Carnival Club created adult colouring books. These were then handed out on the wards at Gartnavel Royal Hospital.



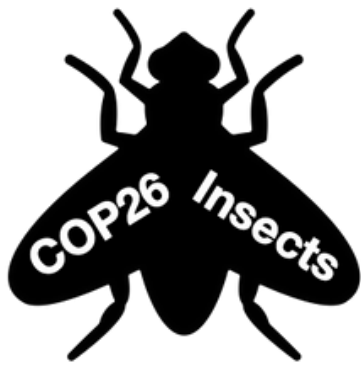
Govanhill Festival



Carnival Club were asked to make banners to celebrate the anniversary and these were displayed at the Govanhill Festival.

In 2021 it was the 25th Anniversary of the Govanhill Baths Occupancy.





The first in person project after lockdown was in September 2021 when Carnival Club were commissioned by the COP26 Insect Ambassador to create Stean Punk Insects out of junk.



These were displayed at the Glasgow Botanic Gardens to raise awareness of the impact Climate Change has on insects.



Common Wheel & Erskine Veterans Event

Common Wheel partnered up with Erskine to deliver our 'Build Your Own Bike' course for 20 Veterans over 2021-2022.



At the end of the partnership (March 2022) we had a celebration event at Erskine's Reid Macewen Activities Centre. There was music, bikes and Carnival Club created a lovely bike sculpture.

You are invited to the build your own bike party day! 25th March 2022 from 11:00 in the courtyard of the Erskine Reid Macewen Activity Centre in the grounds of the Erskine estate PA7 5PU.



Join the Erskine and Common Wheel team, bring your bike and have a go around the estate. We will have our side by side bike out for runs, live entertainment with the Carnival Club and Charlie Gorman. A pizza lunch and some sweet treats.



Glasgow Pride

Carnival Club tried their hand at Screen Printing for the first time in the summer of 2022.



They decided to create flags that the group then flew at the Glasgow Pride March.

Bearsden Festival

In 1981 a unique 330-million-year-old fossilised shark was found in Bearsden. It is the only complete shark fossil of its kind in the world and is now known as the Bearsden Shark.

The 2022 Bearsden Festival was inspired by the Bearsden Shark and Carnival Club were asked to make a sculpture of the creature.



Since 2022 was the year of storytelling the 'Bearsden Shark Show' was created as part of the festival. The show travelled around all of the local schools, telling the story of the shark.



During the festival Jane delivered some workshops allowing children and families to create their own mini Bearsden Sharks.



Govanhill Festival



Carnival Club continued with screen printing over the summer of 2022. This time they created flags for the Govanhill Festival Parade.



Using the same templates as for the Govanhill Festival, Carnival Club created more screen prints which were on display at the Glasgow Vintage Vehicle Trust Open Day.



At the Open Day Common Wheel had an 'Interesting Bikes' display which showed off some of the more unusual bikes in our collection.



Galoshans Festival

In the Autumn of 2022 Carnival Club worked on creating some lanterns for the Galoshans Festival.



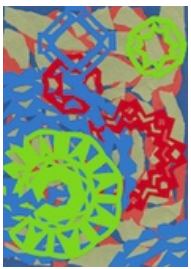
The festival is centred around Halloween traditions and its aim is to celebrate the wealth of art and culture that Inverclyde has to offer.

Christmas Cards

For the final project of 2022 the artists at Carnival Club created Christmas cards.

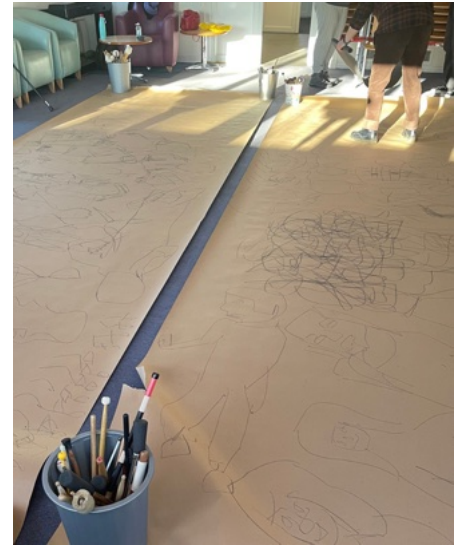


These were sold in the Hub at Gartnavel Royal Hospital and raised just under £200 for Common Wheel.

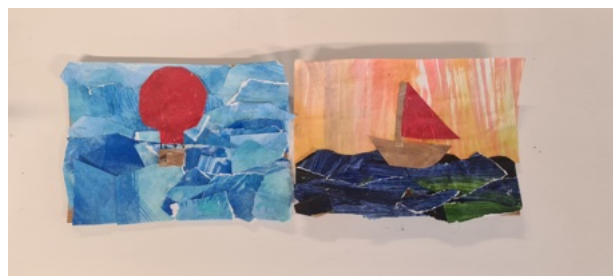
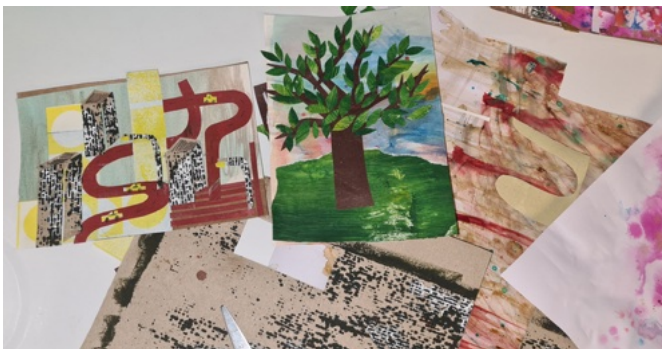


Colouring Book and Thank You Cards

Following the success of the last one Carnival Club created another adult colouring book. The group had a trip to the newly refurbished Burrell Collection to gain inspiration.



Later that block they created lots of gorgeous designs using collage techniques with lots of textures to create landscapes and cityscapes. The designs have been used to create Common Wheel cards.



Nursery Graduation

Carnival Club made creations for Westbourne Gardens Nursery Graduation Parade.



They created a giant bird puppet for one of the staff to wear.



They also went down to the nursery to run a workshop where the children all created their own bird hats and birds on sticks to carry during the parade



Nativity Props



Later that year the group made the props for the nurseries nativity.



Bridgeton Event

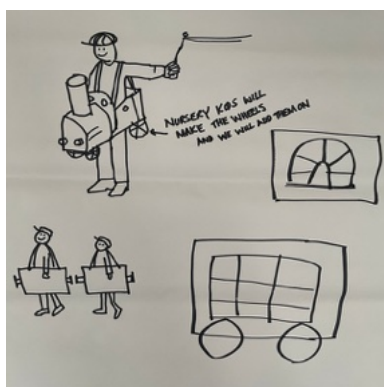
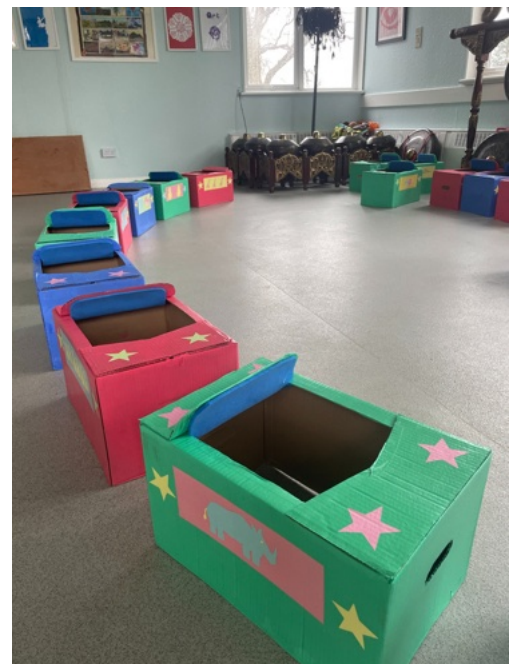
Glasgow hosted the UCI World Cycling Championships in August 2024. Common Wheel decided to launch the reopening of our Bridgeton Bike Workshop as part of the community events happening around Glasgow..



Carnival Club created gorgeous screen prints linked to the Common Wheel projects.

Nursery Graduation

In 2024 Carnival Club once again made creations for Westbourne Gardens Nursery Graduation Parade.



This time they created train carriages and an engine which were worn by the children and staff during the parade.