

# FAIFLEY - PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

## The Project Aim

To produce gable artwork based on the drawings and paintings of P7 children from St. Joseph's and Edinbarnet Primary Schools, that represents "Faifley in the Past, Present And Future", increase sense of place, responsibility, ownership and foster community spirit within children and people living within the area of Faifley.



Fifty one children took part in a ten week project to create artwork that would be transformed into the Faifley 'Past, Present and Future Project'. Using a variety of media and working in two hour sessions for ten weeks the children produced around three hundred and fifty individual works, a few of which are illustrated here. The subject matter studied included Celtic art, wind in the landscape, self portraits, Pictish art, dream homes, Clydebank tenements and flying birds.

The enthusiasm of the children and the standard of the work was exceptional, making the final choices for the gable artwork difficult in the extreme. It would be no exaggeration to say that there was enough work produced for at least six major works and it is a pity that the final work dictated that strict selections had to be made across the wide variety of artwork produced. The support of the schools was excellent and all involved worked hard to ensure that the project had a successful and colourful outcome.





## The Origins of Faifley

The origins of Faifley and indeed many similar housing projects lie in the aspiration that many greater benefits could be had for any community that lived out with the grime of an industrial town.

Living next door to the factory that you worked in had many disadvantages. The most detrimental effect was undoubtedly to health. Industrial chimneys pumped tons of grime and fumes daily into the populated areas of lower Clydebank.

Lung disease was high amongst the population and consequently family health very poor.

When it was decided that new housing would be built to accommodate Clydebank's expanding population, the fields and hills above the town seemed the most obvious and healthiest choice.



Clydebank Tenements

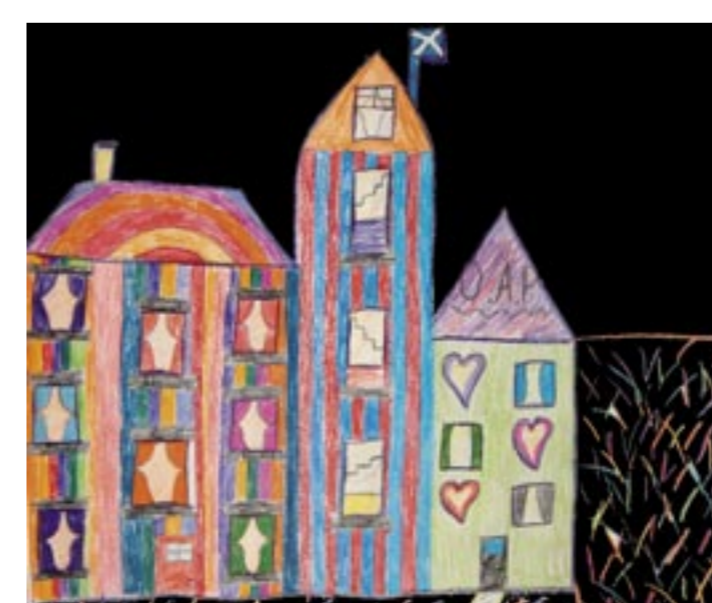


## Dream Homes

The children also looked at architectural drawings and created their own idea of what houses may look like in the future.

Illustrated are some of their dream homes, the homes that they would like to live in the future.

A selection of these drawings were used to create the future Faifley in the final artwork.





## Self Portraits (Flying)

The Knowes, high above Clydebank had a reputation for being a breezy place, clean fresh air being a desirable commodity. The area was well know to local people and was popular for walks, being easily accessible

The mature trees that belonged to the nearby estates supported a massive population of rooks and crows. The children painted portraits of themselves flying with the rooks, illustrating a feeling of freedom and a sense of fun.





## The Seven Winds of Faifley

The Knowes area even had its own mythology, being the site of 'Seven Winds', the origins of this are unknown but it perhaps relates in some way to the 'Tower of Seven Winds', Plaka Greece.

The children looked at how other artists had looked at how to paint the effects of the wind on the landscape, in particular Vincent Van Gogh.

Portraits of the wind were drawn in oil pastel in imaginative and expressive colour blowing above the Knowes with the grass beneath swaying the gusting blasts.



## The Cochno Stones



The area that is now Faifley has a long history of being populated by peoples throughout the ages. Its most famous inhabitants being the Picts and the Romans, both of which left remnants of their existence.

The children studied the patterns and the mysterious marking that the Picts left on many stones within the area and in particular the Cochno Stone pictured above. Using mixed media techniques the children created their own stones with the emphasis on texture and pattern, some of which are illustrated here.





## The Artwork is Put in Place

The  meters by eight meters, the banner now hangs on a gable on Faifley Road, situated across from Edinbarnet Primary School.

The  by Community *Links* Scotland. Faifley and Knowes Housing Associations would like to thank Edinbarnet and St Joseph's Primary Schools for all of their hard work on the project. The children's creative work was down to local artist Tom Mckendrick, assisted by Gemma Stevenson, and members of Faifley Art Club.



# The Final Artwork

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The image is designed to illustrate a feeling of childlike charm based on the ancient and modern aspects of the Faifley area. Brightly coloured flying children, blown by the wind, impart a sense of belonging, joy and happiness.

In the creation of the works creative references were made to, the artists Marc Chagall and Vincent Van Gogh, Celtic Scroll and Knot Patterns, Tower of the Seven Winds, architectural drawings, bird drawings and the Cochno Stone.

Discussions were also conducted into the reasons behind the building of Faifley, pollution, the Celts, Picts and the ancient historical past of the region.

The artwork follows the shape of the gable. At the bottom of the work, reference is made to the industrial town and tenements in the lower reaches of Clydebank, from the chimneys smoke rises and transform into the Pictish patterns found on the Cochno stone. The patterns transform into the Knowes onto which Faifley was built. A fantasy Faifley composed from the houses designed by children sits on the Knowes, above the houses is a pictorial rendering of the Seven Winds. 'Self portraits' of the children flying in the wind dominate the upper portion of the work. The children share the sky with the Rooks, thousand of which dominated the heavily wooded area in the past.

