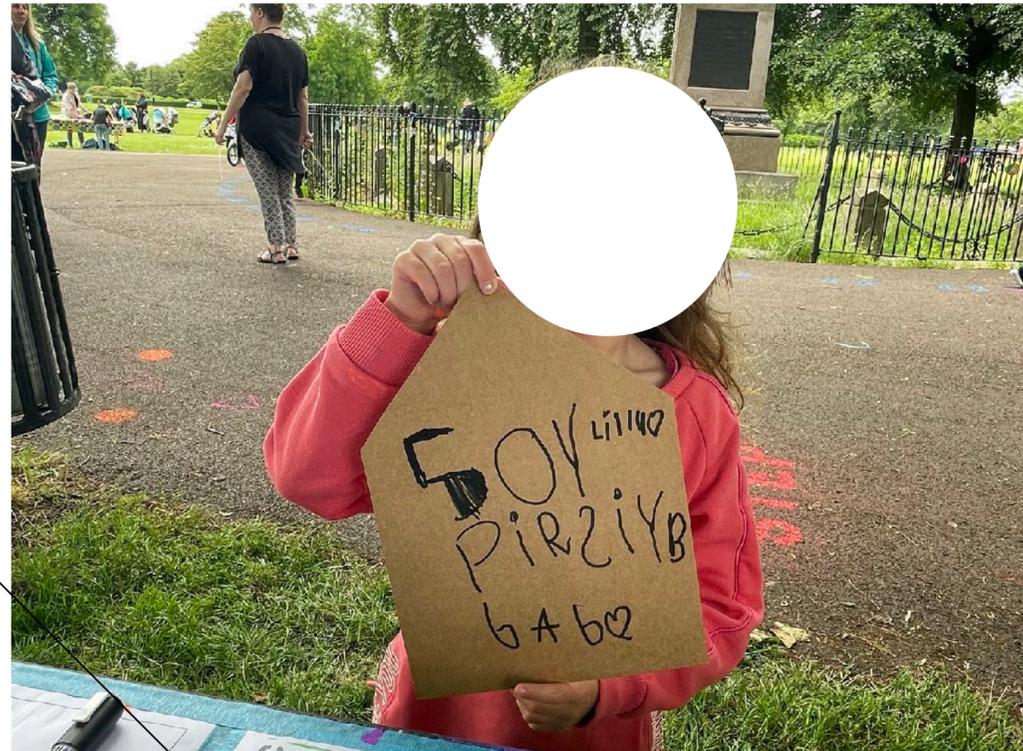


GHA 50th Mural

Consultation Findings

SWG3 have been commissioned to design and install a gable end mural to celebrate 50 years of Govan Housing Association



Throughout the summer we lead consultations with the community, children and young people in schools and local community organisations

Govan Housing Association

<http://www.alastairmcintosh.com/kandinsky/A-History-of-Govan-to-2011.pdf>



Govan Housing Association has a rich history of development and innovation. Founded in 1971 under the name Central Govan Housing Association, Govan Housing Association was the first community-based housing provider, leading the way for social housing provision in Scotland.

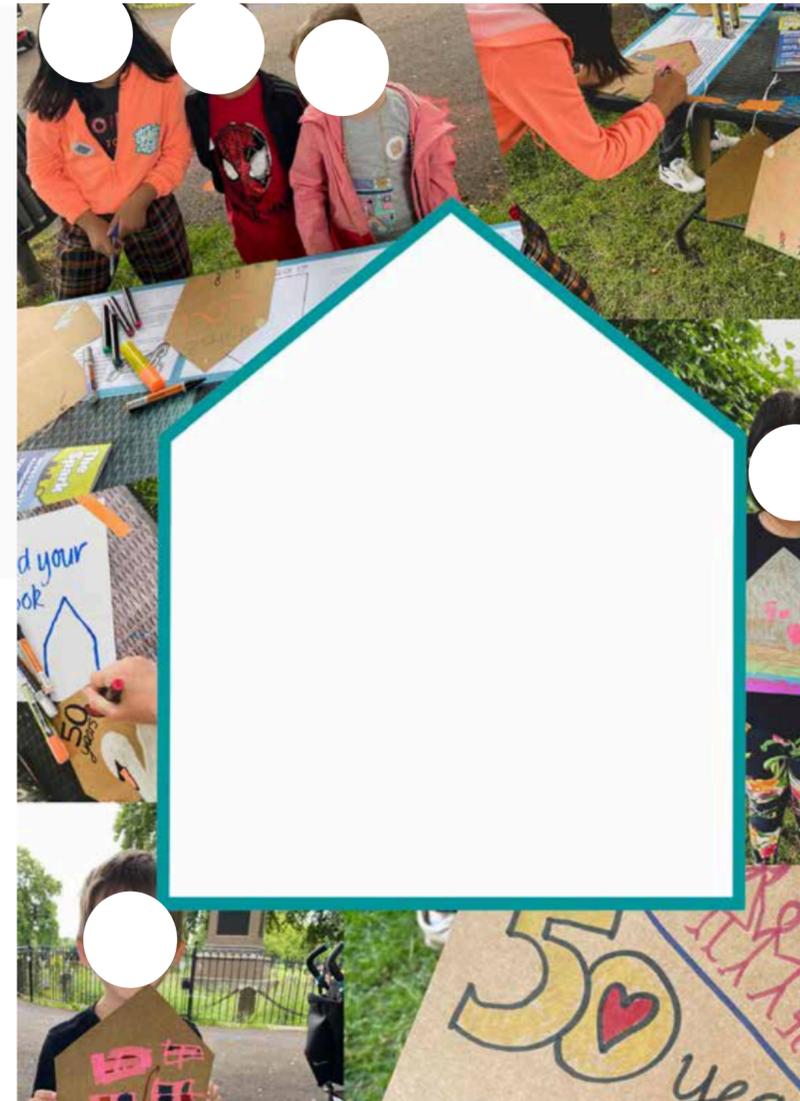
The Association was initially set up to carry out tenement rehabilitation of 212 flats in the then Taransay Street Treatment Area.

Since then, the Association has taken on the ownership and management of over 1,600 properties in the local area and delivered a number of award-winning new build developments to assist with the continual development and regeneration of this proud and historic area.

Govan Housing Association is the parent company of the Govan Housing Association Group. In May 2017, we launched our **Govan Home Team** subsidiary and our group structure. The **Govan Home Team** has been registered as a Community Interest Company, meaning that profits will go directly into the communities that we serve. This enables us to invest locally in order to allow people and communities to thrive and develop in an environment where their aspirations are nurtured, they are encouraged to achieve the unexpected and they respect the Govan area as their home.



**WHAT
WOULD
YOUR
MURAL
LOOK LIKE?**



What did we learn?

We asked what was important to the community and what should be represented in the mural that we install.



Themes/Features

Govan's People & Places

Working together

Active lifestyle

Trams/Subway

Industry

Annie's Loo

Folklore

Govan Stones

Nature

Nothing without work

Annie's Loo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VbF0aPPHfI4>

February 10, 1972. 2.30pm. A big black car sweeps into Luath Street in Govan and stops outside number 10. Pat Lally, the chairman of Glasgow Corporation's Housing Sub-committee on Clearance and Rehabilitation (later to become a well remembered Lord Provost) steps out of the car, and walks up the three flights of tenement stairs to the house of John and Annie Gibbons. He declares their new bathroom open. The significance of Annie's Loo may have been lost on some of the crowd of well-wishers that day but in the annals of Glasgow and Scottish housing policy and practice it was a day to remember. Raymond Young tells the story of how from small beginnings a major movement grew.

The Govan Cat

This great poem by Anne Melvin sums up the main legend of the Govan Cat on the Brechin's building, there was indeed an open midden where William Pearce's Statue is (see sketch), next to the midden were old cottages named "Oakum Bay", it is said the cottages were occupied by families who earned their living by picking oakum (old rope) that was used as caulk between the boards of a ships. The midden and the cottages were said to be overrun by rats and the "Govan Cat" got rid of them all leaving the king rat until they met in a fierce fight and both died.



THE GOVAN CAT
There is a place called Govan
Which was over run by rats
In fact there were so many
They outnumbered dogs and cats
They terrified the people
And made them ill at ease
You can hardly blame them
For they carried such disease
A cat was brought to Govan
To the job it set about
It killed the rodents one by one
And King rat it sought out
Cat and rat came face to face
And fought with all their might
But no one was a winner
As both died in the fight
The cat is no longer with us
It lies somewhere alone
but you will see it on the Brechins wall
as its memory cast in stone.

The Govan Baby



<https://getintogovan.com/content/uploads/Aug-13-Copy-of-AMF-Booklet.pdf>

The Cherub in the centre of the Dr John Aitken Memorial Fountain at the head of Water Row, Govan Crodd. Situated on the south side of the River Clyde, you can just see the outline of the new Riverside museum on the north bank.

The overworked Dr Aitken was in his early forties when he died, having served as a doctor to the workers of the collieries at Ibrox and Drumoyne, and a police surgeon and medical officer to the Burgh of Govan. The inscription reads 'Erected by the inhabitants of Govan in affectionate remembrance of John Aitken M.D who died 11th March 1880 aged 41 years'

Govan's Daffodil King



Among the emerging fresh green leaves and buds, there was that wonderful wash of yellow; daffodils, all nodding their petalled-heads, like so many street corner gossips. The scene reminded me that, had it not been for a Govan man, daffodils would never have found fame in Britain. So, take a bow, Peter 'the Daffodil King' Barr. Barr was born one of 12 brothers in Govan, in 1826, the son of a weaver. His father was an avid grower of tulips and young Peter took an interest and got a job as an errand boy in a local seed shop. During the mid-Victorian period, daffodils weren't considered fashionable. No one really understands why. There's one theory that Victorian gardeners were a bit snobbish and the daffodil was considered too "easy" to grow. Another theory claims yellow was an unfashionable colour at the time.

Govan's Industrial History

Weaving



[https://www.theglasgowstory.com/
image/?inum=TGSE00456](https://www.theglasgowstory.com/image/?inum=TGSE00456)

Govan has a diverse industrial and vocational heritage one resident quoted 'the butcher, the baker the candlestick Maker' recalling that there were a lot of different trades and industries operating in Govan.

Coal Mining



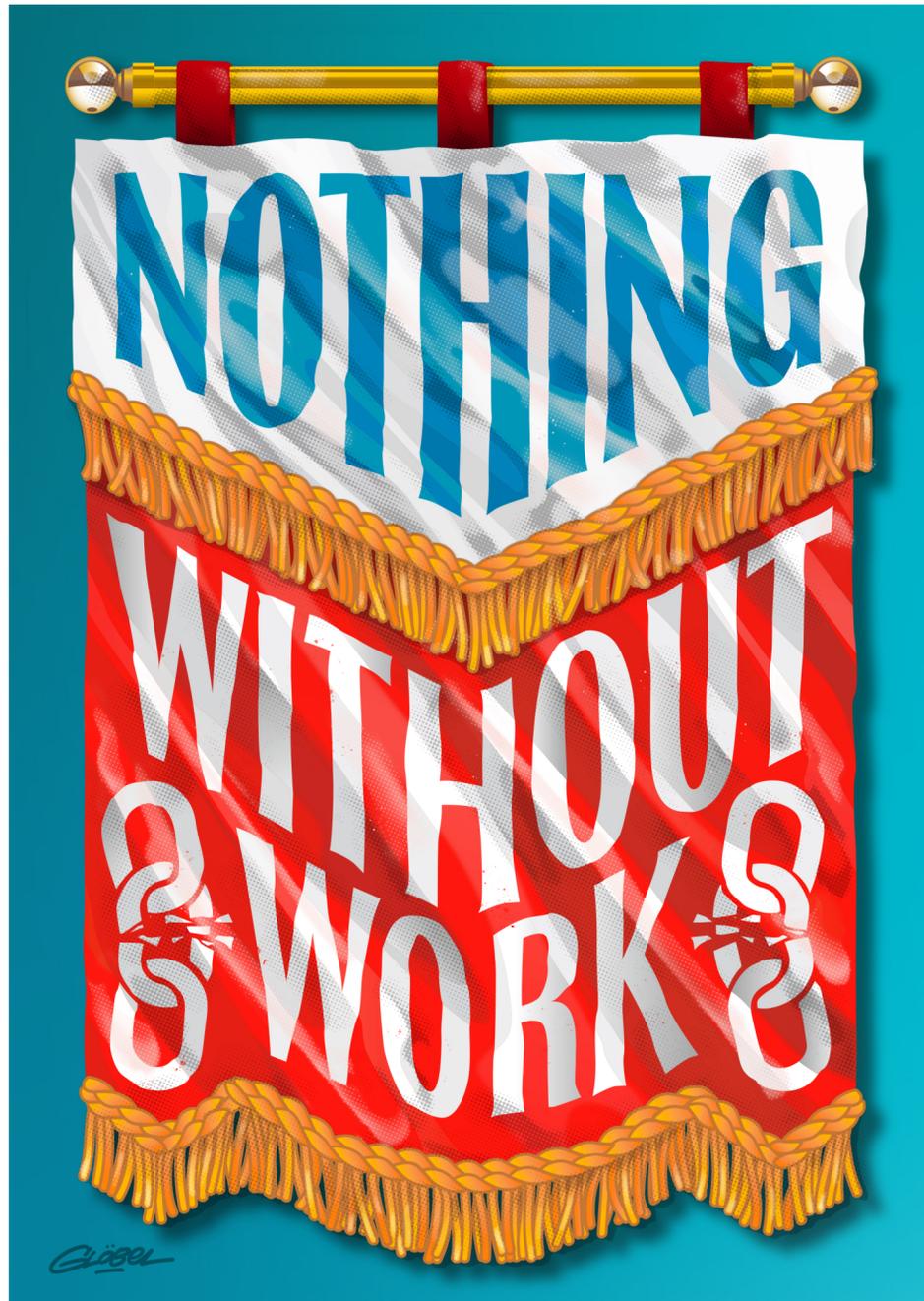
Shipbuilding



[https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-
scotland-glasgow-west-24820573](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-24820573)

Govan Motto

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jT32eX1O5YU>



Govan's People

Govan is a rich and tenacious community full of passion and activism, the faces of Govan old and new represent people who strive for change and improvement from Mary Barbour to Alex Ferguson.

Govanites are proud of their place and what it stands for.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:People_from_Govan



[Mary Barbour](#)



[Isabella Elder](#)



[Alex Ferguson](#)

Govan Fair

The Govan Fair Procession, led by the Govan Police Pipe Band, on Langlands Road, perhaps 1940s or 1950s. The famous sheep's (more accurately, ram's) head is borne aloft behind the band.

The Govan Fair appears to have originated at the end of the 15th century. The Govan weavers revived the annual festival in 1757 and the procession on the first Friday of June became one of the most popular events of the year. It continued until 1881 when, with the traditional weaving trade in terminal decline and the old village swamped with newcomers seeking work in Govan's engineering and shipbuilding industries, the celebrations ended through lack of support.

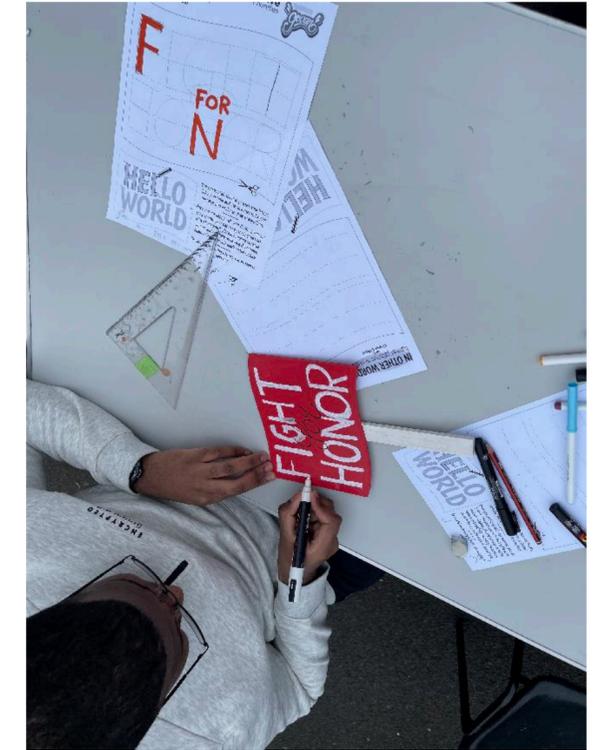
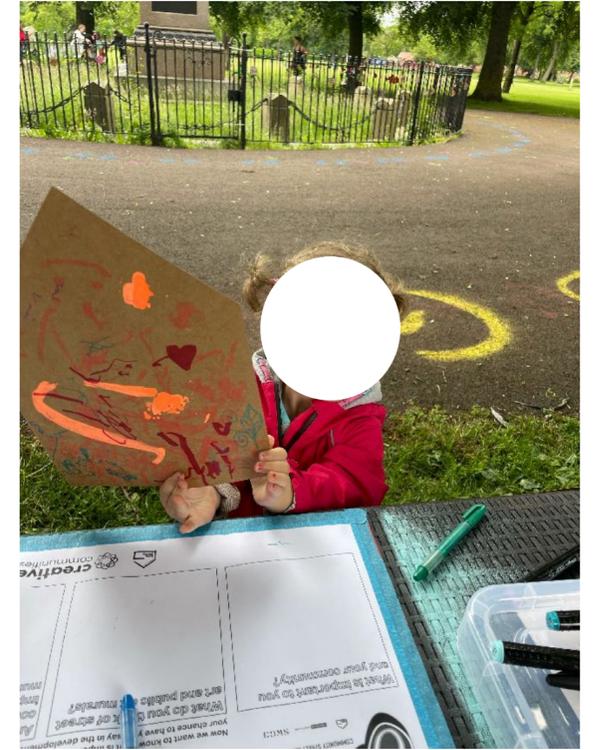
Members of the Old Govan Club revived the Fair in 1920. It is now organised by the Govan Fair Association, which donates all proceeds to charity.

THE GOVAN FAIR

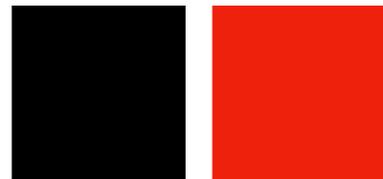
AN ANNUAL CELEBRATION BY THE PEOPLE OF GOVAN LONG BEFORE 1756



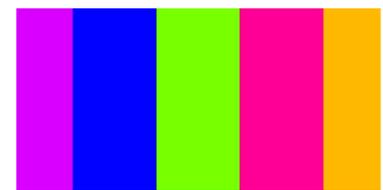
Aesthetic



Colours



Black and Red are the civic colours of Govan - which is why Rangers traditionally played in black and red socks



Children favoured bold/neon colours in their designs

Imagery

The people we spoke to were keen to see images of Govan throughout the years, rather than life like representations they said that, stencil style representations would be their preference. Children drew images of parks, green spaces and activities like football and playing.

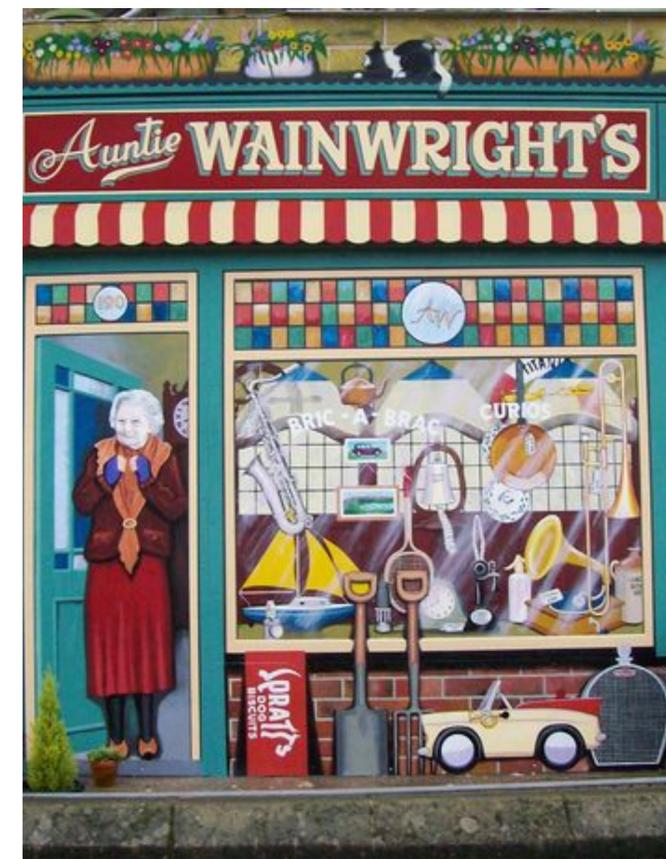
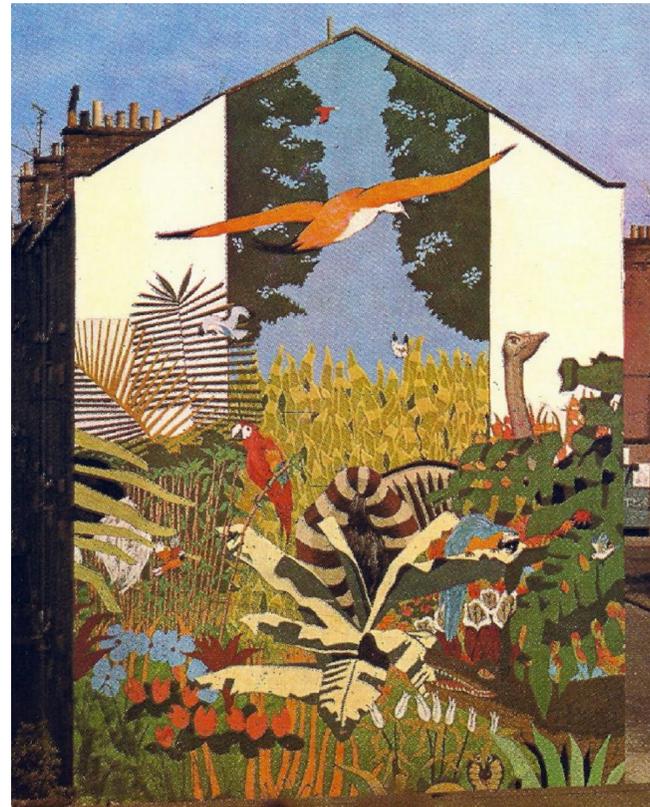
The reminiscence group were keen to see Govan's people represented, people who have contributed to the community and also local legends such as the daffodil king and the govan cat.

A number of people mentioned the swans from Elderpark. Parks and green spaces were a strong theme through all the consultations as was the spirit and character of Govan. The children thought the Annie's Loo story was very funny but the older people said that the story could be represented but not with imagery of a toilet!

Style

From the people we spoke to it was clear that a traditional mural style was preferred something stylised similar to what you might see in traditional travel posters. More imagery than text was the preference and everyone agree that mural should be bold and bright like Govan.

These were some of the murals that the people we spoke to liked.



Online Feedback

- 'I think something reflecting Govan's heritage such as the shipbuilding, I also like the old shop style'
- 'I grew up in Govan and Govan was shipbuilding. The gates would open and the workers would flood out. I went to school opposite the shipyards and it was the hub of Govan. Also the people of Govan make it, everyone knew each other and would do anything for each other, us kids would all play big Street games together, the Pearce Institute was also a main focal place for us, where we went to youth club.'
- 'something that reflects what Govan was like in the 60/70's when you didn't need to go into town for shopping we had it all. Also our history shipyards, Govan Fair, etc, and don't forget the cat on the wa''
- 'maybe the whole mural is a shop front and everything in the window represents Govan and it's stories? and maybe a couple of known Govan folk looking in the window , Johnny Beattie, Alex Ferguson, etc .'
- 'Govan baby would be good in it also the Govan fair'
- 'The shop one could be like a wee high street highlighting shops, venues and pubs that local people remember and invoke nostalgia... Woolies, Nicols, McLarens Newsagent, Foulgers Licensed Grocer, The Preggo Chippy, The Lyceum and/ the Plaza Cinema, Various Pubs, etc.'