

THE SEARCH



KERRY & BEN
CATHERINE WHEELS
14 JUNE- 7TH AUGUST
FRINGE BY THE SEA 2021



Image: Search participant

PROJECT TIMELINE

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS
DUCK? 14 JUNE

DUCK TRACKS &
CLUES 17 JUNE

RUBBER DUCKS ON
DOORSTEPS 21 JUNE

FUNish FAIR 4 JULY

SAIL & STORY
DROP 21 JULY

EVENT INFO 30 JULY

BOAT DECORATION 6 AUG

THEATRICAL
TREASURE HUNT AT
FRINGE BY THE SEA 7 AUG

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH FILM](#)

90 + HOUSEHOLDS

5

STREET
HAPPENINGS

3

IN-PERSON
EVENTS

7

PERFORMERS

20

ONLINE DUCKS

24

COMMUNITY
PAINTERS

26

SAILS

62

TREASURE
HUNTERS

PROJECT STORY



HAVE YOU SEEN THIS DUCK? 'Missing' posters appeared overnight along the street.

DUCK TRACKS & CLUES chalk sprayed duck prints and our duck symbol appeared overnight along pavements and walls.

RUBBER DUCKS ON DOORSTEPS every household on Lochbridge rd received an unexpected visitor. It included a request to decorate the duck and tell its story. We made a website where people could upload photos and stories of their decorated ducks on ifoundaduck.co.uk

FUNish FAIR

A run-down fairground arrived in town with a 'Hook the missing Duck' games stall & Clairevoyant. This was a chance for us to playfully collect story ideas from residents

SAIL & STORY DROP

A mysterious scroll with a poem penned by a lost fisherman and sail piece posted through all doors. With the instruction to design part of a new sail and drop it into the 'sailbox' inside the local shop who were keen to be part of the project.

EVENT INFO

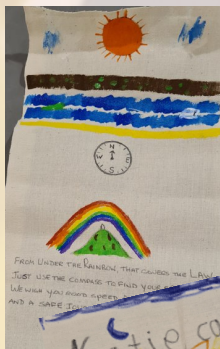
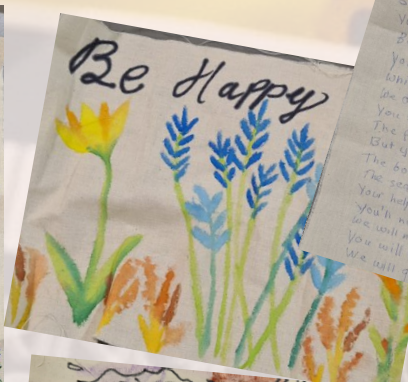
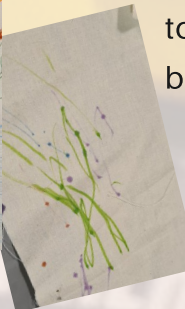
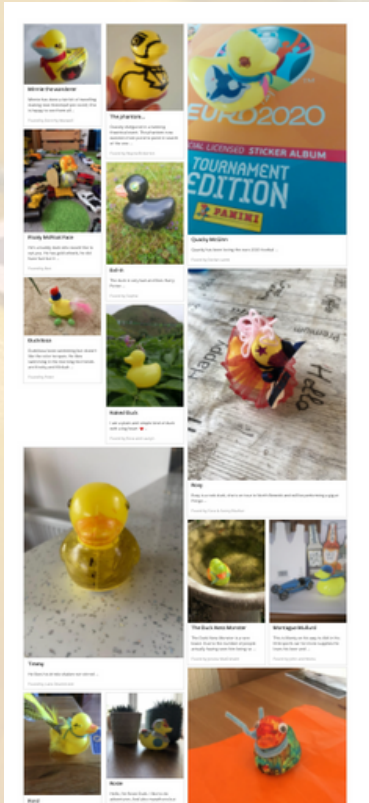
A letter arrived through all doors with information and an invitation to come along to decorate the boat and attend the Treasure Hunt.

BOAT DECORATION

Residents painted and decorated the boat with the community using spray paints and continued to decorate sail scrolls.

THEATRICAL TREASURE HUNT - during the Fringe by the Sea Festival

Performers and clues transformed Lochbridge Rd for the day in the quest to find The Fisherman and his boat. Hidden treasure awaited them at the beach.



THE SEARCH

Aim

Our aim was to connect with the community of Lochbridge road using a variety of art forms which would culminate in a theatrical treasure hunt as part of North Berwick's Fringe by the sea. The level of connection grew over time as events also became bigger and bolder.

We chose this style of work to encourage others to be creative in their community and bring/envoke play in everyone, no matter what age.

We wanted to make this project as green as possible so we chose to really limit the buying of anything new. Using items from the Catherine Wheels store, found and second-hand items, and borrowing as much as we could.



The Story unfolds...

We wanted to build the story of the search in conjunction with the residents of Lochbridge Rd and so started with a series of provocations that would evoke and inspire story. The ducks were useful in getting the residents to think about character and story and we kept it deliberately secret that we might use some of the stories at a later point in the project. We didn't want to put pressure on people to come up with the story of the search.

The FUNish fair was a playful way of collecting responses that we would later use in the narrative. Our clairvoyant posed questions and had residents look at images. Responses to this led to the idea of The Fisherman, his being stranded on The Law and the ducks leading him to the street.

Decorating the boat was a real success. It allowed us to feed in snippets of story in conversation and also informed lots of the improvised play on the day of the treasure hunt.

REFLECTIONS

What we would do again

The duck was the thing, with the help of the Catherine Wheels team, we searched their store for inspiration and found hundreds of ducks from a previous production, it was really satisfying as artists to re-use props and items already in existence from previous Catherine Wheels shows, this is a model we'd like to work with again in the future. The decoration and display of ducks worked well across all age groups and we were delighted with the number of uploads to the website and ducks displayed on doorsteps and in windows. It was comforting to have a clear symbol to connect all the pieces of the project up, the duck was not just a part of the story but became our brand. One couple decorated their windows with over 100 ducks to enhance the look of our Treasure Hunt starting point and created a game themselves for families to do whilst they were waiting to start.

The invitation to create the sail together also felt like a very successful element to the project and it was beautiful to see everyone's works of art across age groups. On reflection, the final sail should have been on display for longer for people to view the work of others on their street. The co-creation with ducks, spray painting the boat, and bringing together all the pieces of the sails felt like special and important work.

The key to us feeling truly connected to the community was through our key stakeholder in the street - the local shop. The staff at the shop worked and lived on the street and were advocates of the work and very keen to help. As artists, this really helped make us more confident in the work and helped us to keep a connection when we were not present.

What we would change

On reflection, we wish that we had been slightly bolder, in the beginning, to grab people's attention and give a bit more clarity but equally, we know this may have risked alienating some of the community.

If we were to repeat the project or continue it at a later date we would like to spend more time connecting with individuals, collecting more stories across all age groups, and seek out other stakeholders in the community.



An extension to the project could have also been to include community performers alongside the professional artists involved and equally, we could have included more people in the build for the main event, which would have been great. With a project like this, there are so many possible angles and avenues to take it is hard to settle and not question every direction, however, within the time frame we were very happy with what we accomplished and the response from the community across the generations was fantastic.



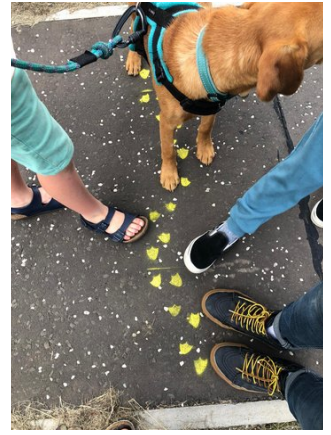
**"I can't believe
this is
happening right
outside my
door, it's just
wonderful.**

Lochbridge
rd resident



There were many highlights to this project and we very much achieved our aim to bring play to the street through art and performance; adults played together, parents played alongside their children and many members of the community shared their stories and creations with us. We had so many positive responses from across the age ranges and it felt like the community really came to life and had fun. One lady shared her thoughts with us on the 'Boat Decoration Day' **INSERT VOXPOP HERE**

THEATRICAL TREASURE HUNT



PERFORMERS



THE NAVIGATOR - Matthew Leonard



THE LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER - Kerry Cleland



THE RIGGER - Samuel Jameson



THE FISHMONGER- Alison McFarlane



THE CASTAWAY - Rachel Colles



THE COASTGUARD - Callum Younger



THE FISHERMAN - Ben Winger

THE SEARCH
by
KERRY CLELAND & BEN WINGER



CATHERINE WHEELS THEATRE COMPANY

BY THE
SEA
6-15 AUGUST 2021