

Ignite 2017

Funded by Foundation Scotland
from the A'Chruach Community Fund



Lochgilphead's Finest Night



Bonfire night is regarded locally as *Lochgilphead's finest night*, the one night of the year when the town feels like the Heart of Mid Argyll, when all the small surrounding village communities come together to enjoy a colourful light-filled spectacle.

The one night when culture and celebration shine above everything else and the one night when communities and individuals share their creations. For over a decade the traditional carried lantern works wound through the town stopping traffic and parading past the hundreds of people who lined the streets.

The logistics, volunteers and organisation required for a parade on previous scales has yet to be found from within the current community of Lochgilphead, but Artmap endeavours to keep the night a spectacle of light and creativity.

This coming together of the smaller communities along with the specific areas covered through the A'Chruach windfarm funding helped us imagine Lochgilphead as the stage for a mini "World Exhibition" of Lantern pavilions.

The fund specifies we work with Dunadd, Lochgilphead and West Loch Fyne Community Council areas so it is from these communities we found local landmarks and groups to work with in creating the works.

The overall concept evolved after discussion with the working group of artists and teachers to become inspired by Iconic Architecture and Landmarks from around the globe. One aim was to place our local landmarks and buildings next to those from International fiction and fact.

The funding we were successful in gaining was 50% of what we proposed for the original event idea and although we were unsuccessful in finding the matching 50% we chose to join with Digital Media Artists at talc. in Tarbert for Ignite 2017. This collaboration is a continuation of working together first established during Argyll Youth Arts (AYA) 2016.

talc.'s success in receipt of a Creative Scotland – Youth Music Initiative (YMI) funding award proved to be the ideal opportunity to combine sound and light.

Inspired by architectural ideas and using geometric modular construction, the 19th Argyll Scouts created structural metalwork sculptures to also be used beyond the Bonfire night event. Thus adding to the beneficial legacy beyond AYA which funded our 2016 event and provided some of the equipment and technology reused in 2017.

It is always our aim to build up a resource of useful equipment, tools and technologies for the creative communities to share and use beyond individual events.



Lanterns

It has been 4 years since Lochgilphead had a lantern parade and although this is still very much in the hearts of the community we discussed the pros and cons of the previous parades. We enjoyed the idea that although there would be no parade where the lanterns were walked through the town carried by their makers but that the public and proud creators could instead walk amongst this village of small replicas and enjoy travelling with their imaginations around the globe.

From the furthest west of our reach we had Kilmartin Primary P5-7 class keen to work with us and so with 3 of our artists they created a large landmark from their Glen in the form of a standing stone festooned with cup and ring marks from Neolithic history.

From the furthest East we had Minard & Furnace PS who along with one artist and their Art teacher Alison McAlpine worked to create an iconic replica of Bel Pol's cottage from Auchindrain township and local landmark to them.

Traditional willow construction skills were learned by all, with Kilmartin linking this into their maths learning on concentric circles, and Minard/Furnace on their local history project about Auchindrain.

The Lochgilphead High School Art Dept were also a prominent part of previous Lantern events so we chose to approach them and it fitted that we work with the S3 Art & Design students.

As a start we gave them the outlines of a design brief and asked them to come together in teams of 3-5 and research Iconic architecture from life or also from fiction.

The brief included certain limitations they would be required to work within:

- Constructions must be made from willow, bamboo, wire or stick materials covered with tissue and latex to create a lightwork/lantern
- Final pieces must fit through the school door – as one or in sections
- Be structurally sound and able to stand
- Students must consider the engineering involved with constructing their Icon and relate this to the original building/landmark.
- Overall limit of materials so be realistic about scale
- The work would be temporary

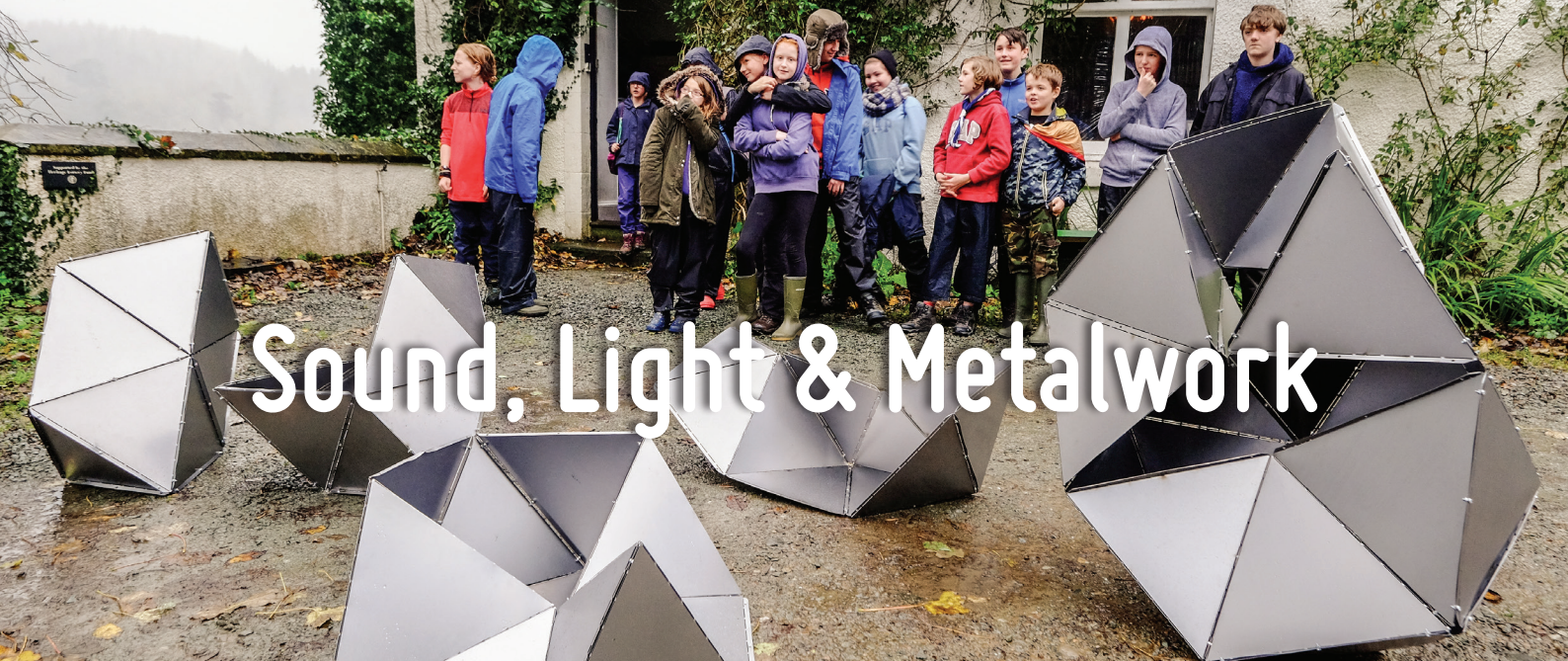
What followed was an intense two week long project showing great examples of resourcefulness, creativity, imagination, design and teamwork as day after day the willow and bamboo was transformed into:

1. Leaning Tower of Pisa
2. The House from "Up"
3. The Armadillo
4. Big Ben
5. Skerryvuile Lighthouse
6. The Clock Lodge
7. Golden Gate Bridge
8. Glasgows Squinty Bridge
9. CN Tower
10. Disney Castle
11. Burj Khalifa
12. Burj al Arab

The selection from the High School was added to and complimented by the families who attended the 3 days of community workshops held up at the LJC Main Hall.
Created during these days were:

1. The Eiffel tower
2. The Forth bridge
3. Eillen Donan Castle
4. Selection of small carriage lanterns of houses and pyramids
5. The Pyramids of Giza were created in collaboration with the Learning Centre pupils and staff and also through the public workshops.



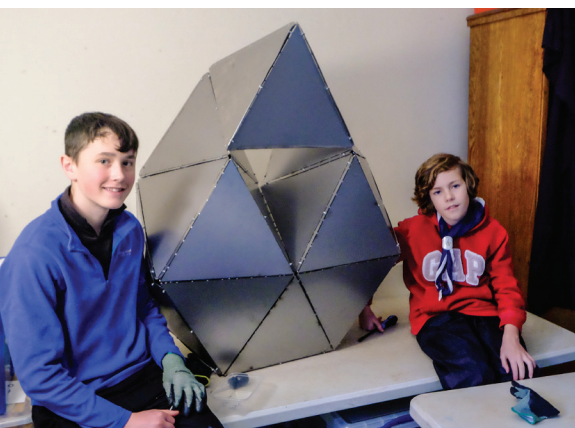


Sound, Light & Metalwork



workshop activities

- learn about temporary architecture and shelters
- create metalfold sculptures
- create LED animations
- record and edit sounds in relation to natural environment (elements and animal sounds)



future activities

- develop large scale canopy for shelter and event
- reuse metalfold parts as modules for spaces, sound sculptures, installations
- off the grid location possible due to independent and quiet power supply





Support & Collaboration

- Artmap sourced and provided materials and lights for all lanterns, with the schools giving space to work in and store constructions and materials in between work times.
- 5 artists were employed to support the students and public during workshops, school timetable and on the event night.
- Mid Argyll Round Table organised the road closure, stewarding and safety on the night without which the event would be impossible.
- The Main Hall at Lochgilphead Joint Campus was rented from Live Argyll for the weekend workshops.
- We received in kind support from Kilmartin House Museum through the use of their Education Room and Library for the Talc Scouts workshops and storage of the sculptural pieces in the Museum garden.
- Teachers, parents, group leaders and artists all gave more time to the event and workshops than could be reasonably expected with many going above and beyond reasonable hours to help pull everything together and then deconstruct in the wind and rain.
- DA McDonald donated a Lorry and time to move the Lanterns from the Joint Campus to the Front Green and then on to be deconstructed and disposed.
- A monetary donation was given by Lochgilp Tai Chi Group and donations were gathered at the weekend workshops.

Those who took part in creating the Ignite 2017 Artworks were:

Children under 12	38
Youths 12-18	64
Adults	24

Overall the event was a huge success and has very much kept the idea of Lanterns alive for the local community and visitors alike. New relationships were formed, partnerships reinforced and arrangements to collaborate further in future agreed.

Along with the technology and lights which can be used again we have reinforced in the hearts and minds of the local people how important the coming together to celebrate creativity is as a community and particularly as a wider cluster of small settlements.

Contact is underway with the Mid Argyll Round Table to further collaborate next year to increase the cultural experience on offer. Culture, Heritage and Arts (CHARTS) and Argyll College UHI came together to make mini lanterns to give out and promote CHARTS on the night.

All groups we worked with are keen to explore ideas for next year and we hope this will be the catalyst for more groups to add contributions and collaborate for Lochgilphead's finest night 2018.