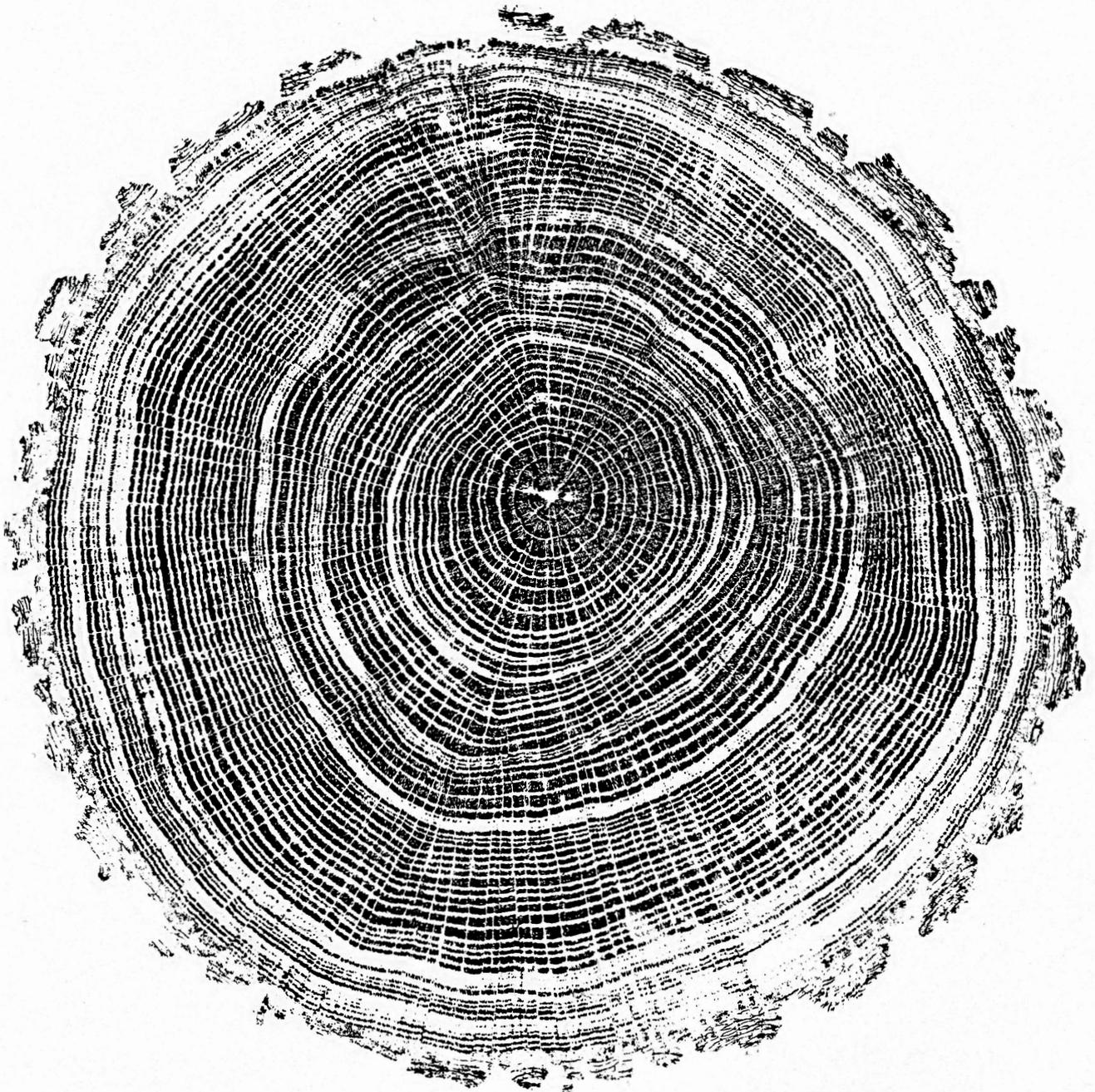


The Lost Woods

From Little Acorns Grow
Project Proposal - Mar 2020



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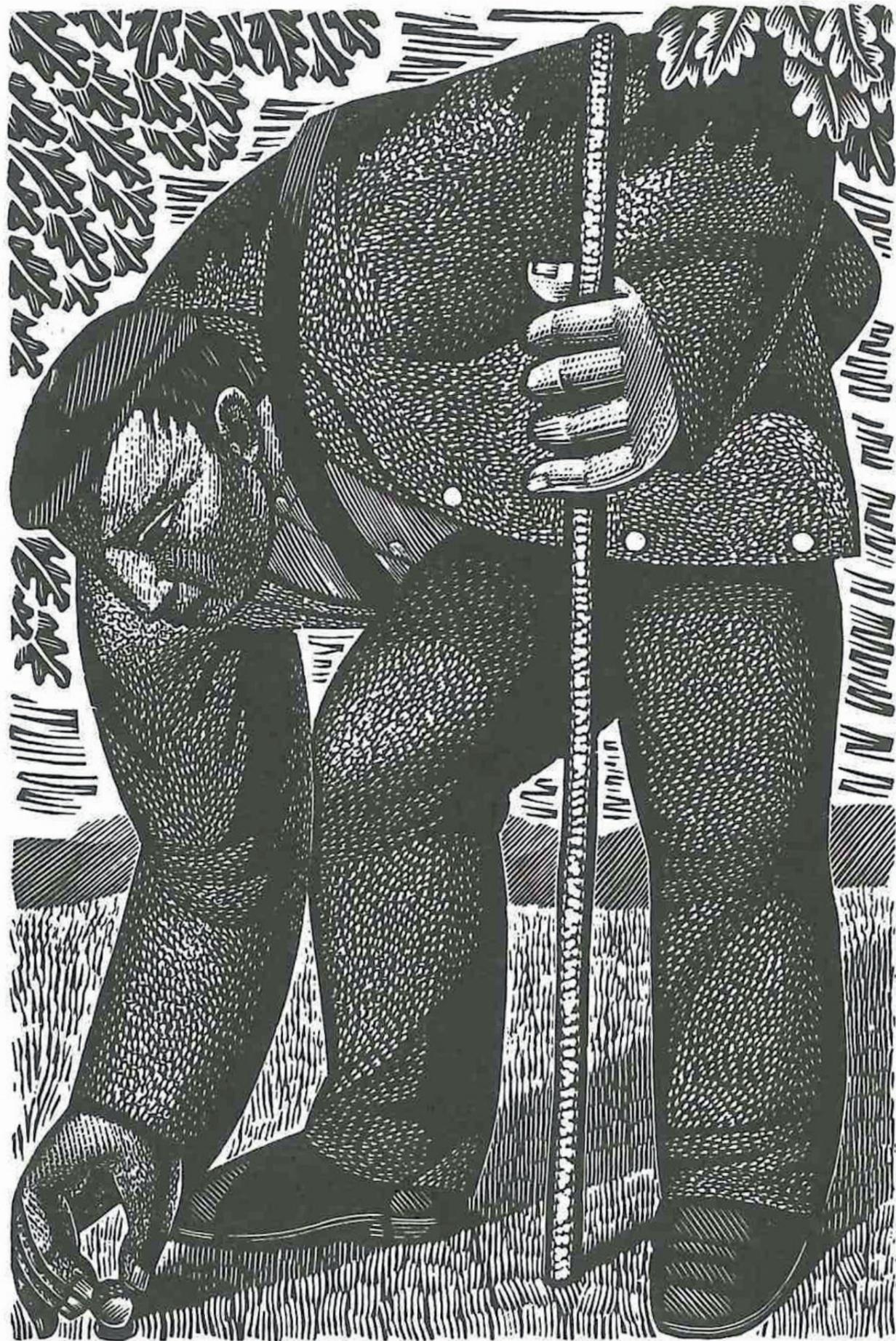
Background: A Dear Greener Place

‘Glaswegians are proud of their city. Make them proud that we are standing up as a leader in tackling climate change action. Make it a central plank of every initiative and action. Demonstrate the work that can flow from these actions and the benefits it will bring. Make our children see this form of action as a right’

The report and recommendations of Glasgow City Council’s climate emergency working group.

2020 is being described scientifically and politically as the world’s ‘last chance’ to do something meaningful about climate change. 2020 is also when a ‘spotlight’ shines on Glasgow as climate leader.

Building on its radical plan to become the UK’s first carbon neutral city by 2030,



1. Illustration by Harry Brockway from the book 'The Man Who Planted Trees' by Jean Giono.

Glasgow will be the stage for the largest climate summit that the UK has ever hosted - the UN Climate Change Conference COP26 (9-20 November 2020).

This project supports Glasgow's commitment and rallying call for urgent climate emergency action. We want to play our small part in supporting the recommendations made by Glasgow City Council's Climate Emergency Working Group.

Spurred on by the City's momentum and urgency, the project is an opportunity for Glasgow our 'Dear Green Place' to become greener. And for its people to create a proud legacy for future generations of nature enthusiasts and climate leaders.

During COP26, we would like Glasgow's children to have the opportunity to kick-start a hopeful and lasting movement which can inspire the rest of the UK & beyond.

Who We Are

1

Who We Are :
From Little
Acorns Grow

*‘Large Streams from little fountains flow,
mighty oaks from little acorns grow’*

Anon, Proverb.

From Little Acorns Grow (FLAG) is a community group formed by people from all different backgrounds. We’re independent. We don’t align to any political party and we encourage diversity in our group.

FLAG believe nature is a fundamental tool that must be used as part of the solution to repair our broken environment Our goal is to support and facilitate young people to actively engage and participate in shaping their environment.



1. 'Chief Amu of Govanhill' photograph from project by Recollective of artist Chief Amu who works with the community of Govanhill. Recollective is an award winning collective of writer Alison Irvine, photographer Chris Leslie and artist Mitch Miller.

We believe that the creative arts have a fundamental role to play in economic, social & environmental improvements. We will collaborate with established arts, education, community and environmental groups.

We propose to support and facilitate children in the creation of wilderness spaces & corridors throughout Britain's cities through tree growing. These interventions will promote biodiversity, provide access to vibrant wild spaces and support children in directly engaging with environmental issues.

By utilising the creative arts we aim to inspire children to actively engage and influence changes to their environment. The 2020 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26) will be taking place in Glasgow, we believe that it is the ideal location for the pilot project.

COP26 has the potential to be an important catalyst for improvement and also serve as a platform for promotion of the project.

The Lost Woods

2

The Lost Woods:

*'I held a forest in my arms and my heart
was changed'*

*Extract from 'The Promise' by Nicola
Davies*

In 2020, we propose that primary school children grow trees from seed to be planted in various selected sites which we are naming 'The Lost Woods'.

Through direct, practical action they will transform their environment into vibrant spaces, with new trees that will take carbon out of the air and lock it away, improve air quality and promote biodiversity. Bringing climate optimism and learning to life.

Our purpose is to inspire and empower children from all backgrounds to shape their environment by creating beautiful, wilderness spaces and corridors throughout Britain. Beginning with Glasgow as a pivotal 2020 pilot project.

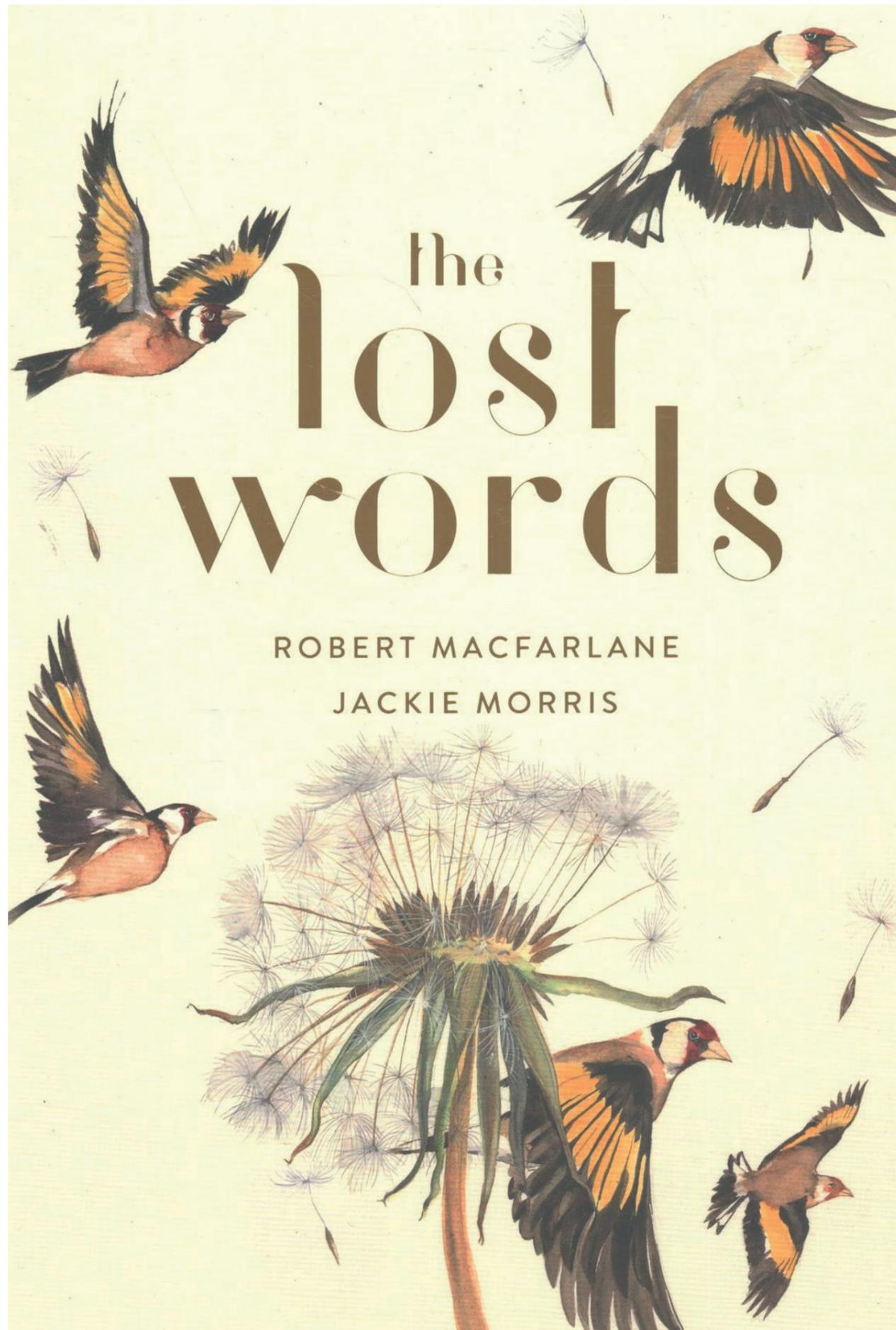
As ‘little acorns’ themselves, we want to fire up school children’s imaginations and grow their confidence that ‘no-one is too small to make a difference’ (to quote activist Greta Thunberg).



1. 'No one is too small to make a difference' Greta Thunberg inspired a worldwide movement with her school strikes.

Our Inspiration

3



3. Our Inspiration: Storytelling & Magic Machines

‘There’s so much good to fight for now, even though it feels both the most serious and the most hopeful time I’ve known. Culture can take on surprising political force and drive for change in ways that polemic can’t’

Robert Macfarlane, Writer

1. Cover of *The Lost Words* by Robert Macfarlane and illustrated by Jackie Morris.

Conjuring nature into glorious life - ‘The Lost Words’

‘The Lost Words’ book by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris is a ‘spell book’ with a wild, magical aim to enchant nearby nature again into the imaginations of children.



1. Illustration by Jackie Morris for the Spell Songs tour.

It seeks to restore words which describe our natural world, such as acorn, beech, conker and otter, that have been removed from the Oxford Junior Dictionary to make way for more common usage words like 'broadband'.

Described by Jackie Morris as 'a beautiful protest', the book fired up the public's imagination and grew into a movement promoting connections with the natural world. Community groups and individuals crowd funded for copies of it to be in local primary & secondary schools. It inspired an album 'Spell Songs' and sell-out tours. Importantly, a variety of free resources for The Lost Words were created for use by teachers to make nature accessible and engaging.

TREES!

First here

and there,



1. Detail of illustration from *The Promise* by Nicola Davies and illustrated by Laura Carlin.

'There is a magic machine that sucks carbon out of the air, costs very little, and builds itself. It's called a tree.'

George Monbiot, Writer

From *Little Acorns Grow* has been fuelled by the creative forces of culture and nature:/ Planting seeds has the power to transform people - 'The Promise'.

'The Promise', written by Nicola Davies and illustrated by Laura Carlin, is a powerful allegorical tale in which a young girl from a difficult background transforms not just herself but the people and the city around her through the simple action of planting seeds.

We love how Nicola Davies's work is rooted in a belief that our human relationship to nature is vital and needed now more than ever to renew it.



**Green spread through the city like a song,
breathing to the sky, drawing down the rain like a blessing.**

‘Magic Machines’ with ‘mind-blowing potential’ - Trees

Last but not least, those ‘magic machines’ - trees. Described by scientists as having ‘mind-blowing potential’, trees absorb carbon out of the air as they grow and then lock it away. Studies not only demonstrate their improvements to air quality & biodiversity but also our mental & physical health.

We want to utilise tree growing & planting as a fundamental tool for change and foster optimistic action (especially against the bleak backdrop of a climate emergency). We believe natural climate solutions are an essential part of the solution to repair our broken environment and are at the core of our project.

1. Detail of illustration from The Promise by Nicola Davies and illustrated by Laura Carlin.

The Power
Of Small
Actions

4

The Power Of Small Actions:

‘People sometimes ask what difference Glasgow can make in a global context.

The answer is simple: every action we take makes a difference, no matter how small.’

The report and recommendations of Glasgow City Council’s climate emergency working group Extract

The enormity and complexity of the climate emergency can leave us all with a profound sense of paralysis and powerlessness. For children, it can overwhelm (‘eco-anxiety’) or alternatively result in disengagement with the issue.



1. Cover of book Rebel Girls 'Dr Wangari Maathai Plants a Forest' Elena Favilli & Francesca Cavallo.

We believe that small, tangible and achievable actions at grassroots level can counteract this and empower children. Activists such as Greta Thunberg or the Kenyan environmental and social activist Wangari Maathai have been potent reminders of 'people power' that starts with 'small' actions.

In 1977 Kenyan activist Wangari Maathai founded the green belt movement to address the environmental issues caused by mass deforestation by the government. Maathai started small by organising local women from her tribe to grow and plant trees from seeds they collected. The idea spread and grew into a widespread movement which expanded beyond Kenya. Under the Green Belt Movement fifty one million trees have been planted, Maathai was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her innovative work which identified and harnessed the power of simple actions by individuals.



1. 'The Moving Forest' Temporary landscape project for the 2008 Urban Play Festival, Amsterdam by NL Architects. The project is based on a childrens story of a forest that moves during the night.

We propose that in 2020 primary school children in Glasgow will participate by growing a tree from seed. These seeds which will eventually be used to transform a derelict/vacant site/s into vibrant wild spaces called 'The Lost Woods'.

Through tree growing activities children will learn about the various ways that trees benefit the environment (absorption of carbon dioxide & airborne pollutants, increasing biodiversity, improving health etc).

As well as planting trees at The Lost Woods sites; it may be possible (after seeking professional guidance) for each school to plant a tree/s within their own grounds or in large containers which control tree heights and root growth.

‘The fastest way to empower children is to make their work matter in the real world. By creating an environment where their effort will impact other people, you can help children recognise the tremendous power they can have’

Great Grounds Education, Trees for Education Case Study.

The project provides many opportunities to link with the Curriculum for Excellence and Outdoor Learning. We believe that the act of planting and nurturing a seed into a tree is a simple and powerful educational tool to foster a sense of ownership.

We propose to involve artists, designers, and writers to create engaging pieces which celebrate and brings the project to life in a way that fuel children’s imaginations in an engaging way.



1. Acorn growing vases by Ilex Studio.



1. Illustration of a brown trout by Jackie Morris.

We will also document the process and outcomes of the project to create resource guides, freely available to use by anyone who wishes create similar projects to transform their surroundings.

Other school projects promoting practical experience have been very successful. For example, Clyde in the Classroom is a hands-on project focused on the life history of the native brown trout to promote awareness of river ecology. Children are responsible for rearing brown trout from eggs and work with Clyde River Foundation Scientists. The project is delivered by the Clyde River Foundation and is a great basis for outdoor learning and STEM education.

Critically, the project has created learning across the curriculum, from poetry and prose to scientific recording via artwork, songs, plays, film production and presentations to peer and community groups.

How We Will Grow

5

How We Will Grow:

'The Time To Act Is Now'

Wangari Maathi, Environmental Activist.

Currently we are :

- Seeking suitable sites for The Lost Woods. We are looking for Glasgow City Council's vital assistance in this site appraisal process.



- Raising funds and organising to deliver tree seeds and support to all of Glasgow's primary schools. The time scales for this activity are dictated by the required seed planting times (by the end of March).

- Seeking support from various people working in the arts & education to hold a series of events during COP26 which both celebrates & raises awareness and support for the project.

The Beginning

6



The Beginning

'This means everything to me'

Aisling, 7 year old resident of Glasgow

FLAG believe that The Lost Woods project has the power to inspire people to action. We believe that the project is vital, the benefits to the children involved and the resulting environmental improvements are endless.

The simple act of encouraging all primary school children to grow a tree from seed, nurture its growth & creation of new vibrant spaces will be a wonderful legacy to the COP 26 climate summit. Glasgow can be a beacon of hope for the world in November 2020. Please Support Us.

Image Credits

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The Lost Woods logotype is designed by Graphical House.

Page 06 - Illustration by Harry Brockway from the book *The Man Who Planted Trees* by Jean Giono, published by Vintage Publishing.

Page 12 - 'Chief Amu of Govanhill' photograph by Chris Leslie.

Page 18 - Photograph of Greta Thunberg by Mark Campanella for the Guardian.

Page 22 - Cover by Jackie Morris of the book 'The Lost Words' by Robert McFarlane, published by Penguin Books.

Page 24 - Spell Songs illustration by Jackie Morris.

Page 26 - Illustration by Laura Carlin from the book 'The Promise' by Nicola Davies, published by Walker Books.

Page 28 - Illustration by Laura Carlin from the book 'The Promise' by Nicola Davies, published by Walker Books.

Page 28 - Illustration by Laura Carlin from the book 'The Promise'.

Page 34 - Cover of *Rebel Girls 'Dr Wangari Maathai Plants a Forest'* by Elena Favilli & Francesca Cavallo, published by Timbuktu Labs.

Page 36 - Photograph of 'The Moving Forest' by NL Architects.

Page 38 - Photograph of acorn growing vases by Ilex Studio.

Page 40 - Illustration of brown trout by Jackie Morris.

Page 46 - Lithograph, artist unknown.

Page 50 - Photograph by Vasantha Piyasena.

Contact Details

Email : info@thelostwoods.earth

We're Growing,
Please Support Us !

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This document is not intended for printing.

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