

The Ruglen Ropewalk



Grow 73

Grow 73 is a community group aiming to help people of all ages and abilities to grow their own produce, learn how to lead more sustainable lives and support local biodiversity.

Through shared gardening activities, environmental improvements and events we aim to improve the health and wellbeing of our community and make Rutherglen the place to be!



These are the stories of people who use Overtoun park, live near it, walk their dogs in it, lunch in it: tales carried with them as they walk its paths. These are the stories, the history of Rutherglen.

Ropes and Yarn were once part of the fabric of life in Rutherglen, from the rope works at East-field Ropery, manufacturing rope vital for the safety of those working locally in mines and ship-yards, to the fabric washed in the laundry and recycled in the paper mill.

Rope linked stories throughout this project: Kitchen pulley rope, parachute cords, string borrowed for go-cart building, washing lines criss-crossing drying greens... Ropes and Yarn are vital, they save lives. In the same way, shared stories, green spaces and art are vital, an essential part of the fabric of who we are. So let's weave stories, as we walk through the park.



More stories can be found at <https://grow73naturetrail.wordpress.com/>

Website: www.grow73.org



@Grow73



@Grow_73



@grow.73

Sculptures by Rob Mulholland
Stories by Amanda Edmiston, Botanica Fabula

GROW 73 **TESCO** Bags of Help

Design and illustration by Rosemary Cunningham - illustrationetc.co.uk

The Richmond Laundry

Folk walking this way may remember the huge Richmond Laundry, or using public drying greens: washing lines linking pine-cone finial topped posts. Our story is of a girl working in the laundry in 1939, when community growing and make do and mend got folk through tough times. She walked this way to dry her washing and share a yarn with her neighbours.

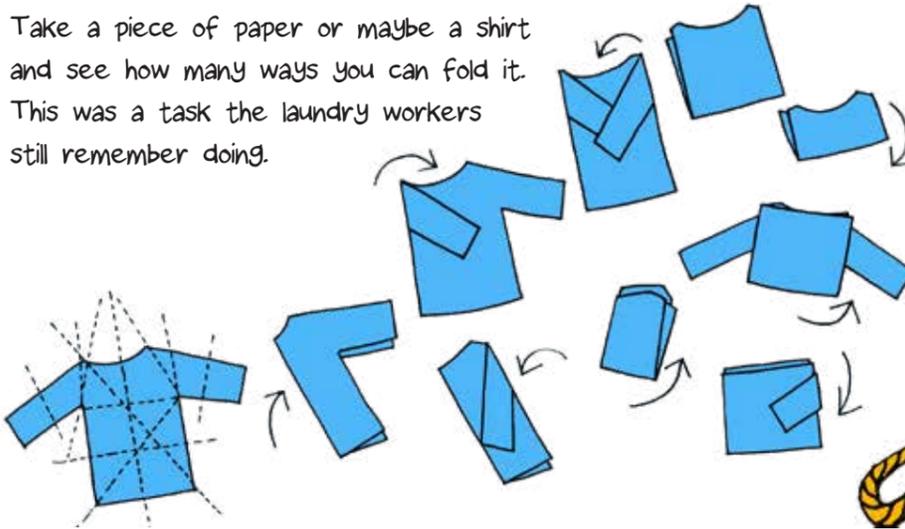
When she fancied a new dress for the work's dance her brother gave her the silk parachute that had saved his life. She washed it in dream-scented lavender water, cut, sewed and made a beautiful dress. When she fell in love, she cut and sewed once more, transforming it into a wedding gown. A year later she cut and sewed, turning it into a christening gown for their baby, later with a snip and a stitch it became a parasol for a pram, and finally a lavender bag to scent socks and save memories, memories of wash days and communities coming together to share a story.

Laundry Activities



Bring a skipping rope or a length of string, tie to a laundry post and throw a blanket over to make a den, or tie just one end and use as a spare hand for a skipping rope.

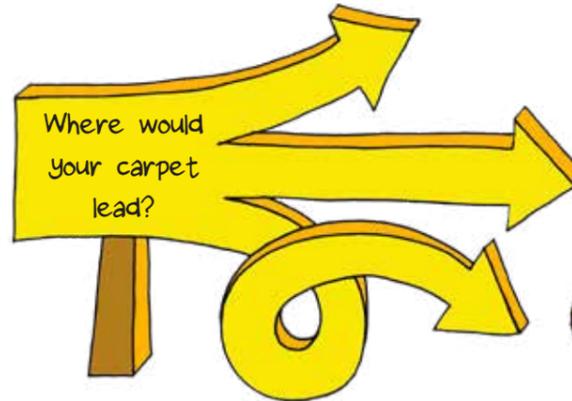
Take a piece of paper or maybe a shirt and see how many ways you can fold it. This was a task the laundry workers still remember doing.



Carpet Activities



Whose feet would you have walk down a treasured carpet? What brought them here?



Can you find natural objects in the park and use them to weave a decorative border around the Templeton's Carpet sculpture?



The Templeton Carpet Factory

Rutherglen once had cottages for employees of Templeton's carpet factory: makers of fantastical floor-coverings. One tale tells how a local lass was invited to her friends for tea, ushered into the entrance, she was told to remove her shoes. Later that evening the secret of the soft velvety hallway rug was revealed: an offcut of the carpet created for the Queen's coronation! It's also said there's a bit of the White House carpet made for President Lincoln gracing a pigeon-loft hereabouts...so it's always worth paying attention to what's under your feet in Rutherglen!

A group from Calderwood Primary School worked with residents of Rodgerpark Care Home, creating patterns for a magical carpet inspired by residents' stories about whose feet they would want to walk on their carpet.

Find sticks and stones and follow in the Pech's footsteps by building a magical creation of your own.



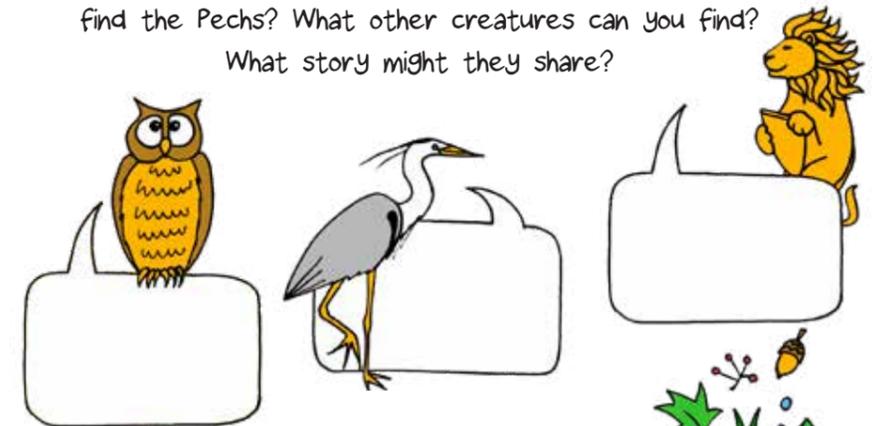
The Pechs of Rutherglen

The area around Overtoun Park was said to once be home of the Pechs: folk, who according to legend, were part Pictish, part faerie and incredibly skilled builders. Rutherglen in the 12th century was bigger than Glasgow, so when architects were commissioned to design and oversee the building of a cathedral in the smaller town, they elected to stay in wealthier Rutherglen. Building went slowly, hampered by bad weather, it looked as though local men would lose their jobs. Then overnight things changed: every sunrise the cathedral looked bigger and better. A lad was tasked with watching to see how this happened. He reported seeing small blue men coming from tunnels, working stone with uncommon strength, building the Cathedral of St Kentigern stronger and quicker than any human could.

A piper was sent down to play and investigate the tunnels and the mysterious Pechs. The sound of his pipes floated upwards from under the River Clyde and then onwards to Rutherglen Old Parish Church, mysteriously vanishing, until the piper himself was found, silenced by things seen on his travels. Had he seen the Pechs? We will never know. Either way, the magical Pechs were known to be great builders who had a love of Rutherglen and its beautiful green spaces.

Pechs Activities

Go searching for magical creatures in the park. Will you find the Pechs? What other creatures can you find? What story might they share?



Can you mix up a faerie potion? They're said to love green places so a few leaves and flowers might be good ingredients to start with...

