

BLUEPRINT

Choral piece co-created with Newtownstewart community

Chorus x3 Put it to me in the kitchen, I'll brush it out the door.

Sperrins, the townland of Ligfordrum,
The mountains of Bessy bell and Mary Grey,
Strule, Glenelly, Owenkillew, Meeting the Derg and forming the Mourne.

Chorus x3

Utter dismay,
Mud everywhere,
Slick of oil,
smell of oil and burning of eyes,
Water, black water
Wedding album floating away,
All gone.

Chorus x3

Scary noise,
Water running in the dark,
Brave people that night, putting their lives at risk.

Chorus x3

Goldilocks and the three bears,
12 foot high,
River reassuring and calm,
Tyrone with the Anglo-Celt cup,
All of a sudden, this force,
Flooding ripped through,
Steel structure and strapped,
Baby bear lifted and tossed,
Goldilocks 7ft tall her dress in mud.

Chorus x3

It is our life and our house,
It will happen again,
People still changing nature,
It will happen again,
What's going into water, what runs off fields,
It will happen again,
Water can't take much more,
It will happen again,
It changed our relationship with the river,
How prepared are we for next time?

Chorus x6

Listen here



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Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council



BLUEPRINT

Poetry piece co-created with Eglinton community

This poem represents three key voices in a flood event
**the community members directly impacted, the unaware
community members** and the river itself.

*I felt the clouds gathering, before I saw them.
Floating in space, on a tether to what?
The sun rose red with no warning given.*

*The sky goes dark, before I saw it.
Swirling from the centre of the milky way gathering momentum.
People moving unaware of what's to come.*

*The storm gathered outside while I busied myself inside.
Carried by a powerful energy from an unknown force, to where?
Gentle breeze calmed to a still.*

*It started with raindrops dancing happily in the yard.
Its deep dark centre swirling me out into more intense but
brighter colours,
The raindrops fell, and fell, and fell.*

*A welcome break in the tension of the atmosphere.
Gaining momentum, speeding up intensely, then
When would they stop?*

*How long did it take before I noticed the warm air cool,
and the drops becoming sheets of grey?
Slowing down into calmer colours of blues, lighter and lighter.
Swirling, racing black water.*

*When did the 'noticing' begin because I was warm and safe
and how, could the storm affect me?
I can see white, but I can not touch it but my tether isn't the
reason.*

Overpowered defences, homes, families.

*A bolt of thunder and a flash of lightening caught my eye,
Diversion only for a moment as the TV was on, and I was
engaged elsewhere.
Watching helplessly into the distance –
Chaos ensued in the community.*

*The water was rising and it was staying.
Almost waiting for another force to carry me / get me there!
It stopped. But it didn't.
*A novelty only for us as it hadn't reached our steps.
Help came. But didn't. Trauma resides.**

The poem ends with a powerful all to action on
climate resilience.

Flood risk is not being addressed fully in
Northern Ireland.
The lower level of quality evidence available,
relatively limited climate related policy in
force
increases the uncertainty around future
climate impacts.
The dominant source of flooding.

Low profile buildings plays second to the
natural environment.
Planning policies are dated and not reflective
of current trends and experiences.
It is orange and juicy and sweet.

There is no more time left. It is not our side
anymore.
I wish someone would listen and value our
lived experience
as equally as an 'experts opinion'.
We have become experts.
I am overcome and overwhelmed.

I wish someone would listen
and value our lived experience
as equally as an 'experts opinion'.

We have become experts.



[Listen here](#)



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BLUEPRINT



An **immersive sound and light installation** co-created by artist Sara Walmsley and the participants of the BluePrint project. This poetic reflection, which includes sonification of historic and predicted rainfall data, draws on the **lived experience** of two communities who, in having to deal with the realities of flooding, are already learning to live with the impacts of climate change.

An 8-month **artistic co-creation process** included creative workshops and interviews, this piece weaves together the voices and sounds that tell the stories of two devastating flood events that affected the people and places of Eglinton and Newtownstewart in 2017 and 2022.

It includes melodic, polyphonic harmonies of **St. Eugene's Church choir** as they give music to the words of members of their community whose homes were destroyed and lives endangered by flood water. **A play**, performed by the Visible, Invisible and Self, takes us on a narrative journey through a community which saw their joyful totems of leisure and togetherness tumbled and sodden by a beloved natural element turned wild. **A poem**, written and performed by those who witnessed the rolling in of a sudden and unexpected storm, represents the voices of the key actors in a devastating event - the flooding victims, the wider community, and the river itself.

The installation highlights the **voices of those striving to adapt to our changing climate**, those who are responding to the urgency by finding solace, hope, strength and courage in the unending and **unsurprising resilience and creativity of our communities**.

As our climate changes at a rapidly accelerating rate, the North West of the island of Ireland is particularly vulnerable to an **increased frequency of devastating flood events**.

We invite you not just to listen, but **to act and demand change** that will protect our climate into the future.

[Listen to an extract](#)



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About the BluePrint project



The BluePrint project is a recipient of the Creative Climate Action fund, an initiative from the Creative Ireland Programme. Led by MaREI at University College Cork, in collaboration with The Playhouse, Derry City & Strabane District Council and Mayo County Council, the project works with flood affected communities in Eglinton and Newtownstewart.

We used socially engaged art practice to explore and capture the lived experience of communities, leading to the creation of multiple artistic outputs (song, poetry and sound installation) and research-based toolkit that speaks to the ways communities have learned to adapt and respond in the face of devastating flood events.

Participants worked with artist Sara Walmsley through a co-creation process, to explore new creative ways to understand and communicate climate risk within their communities and with policymakers.

BluePrint Toolkit: bridging creativity and climate risk communication through co-creation

The toolkit captures lessons from Derry-Londonderry, Tyrone and Mayo to inspire future artistic co-creation and partnership between government authorities, artists, researchers and communities at-risk.

We share guidance and tips for setting up a project partnership, implementing a co-creation process with communities to generate creative outputs and developing pathways to resilience with communities through continued dissemination and collaboration.



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Access resources:

