

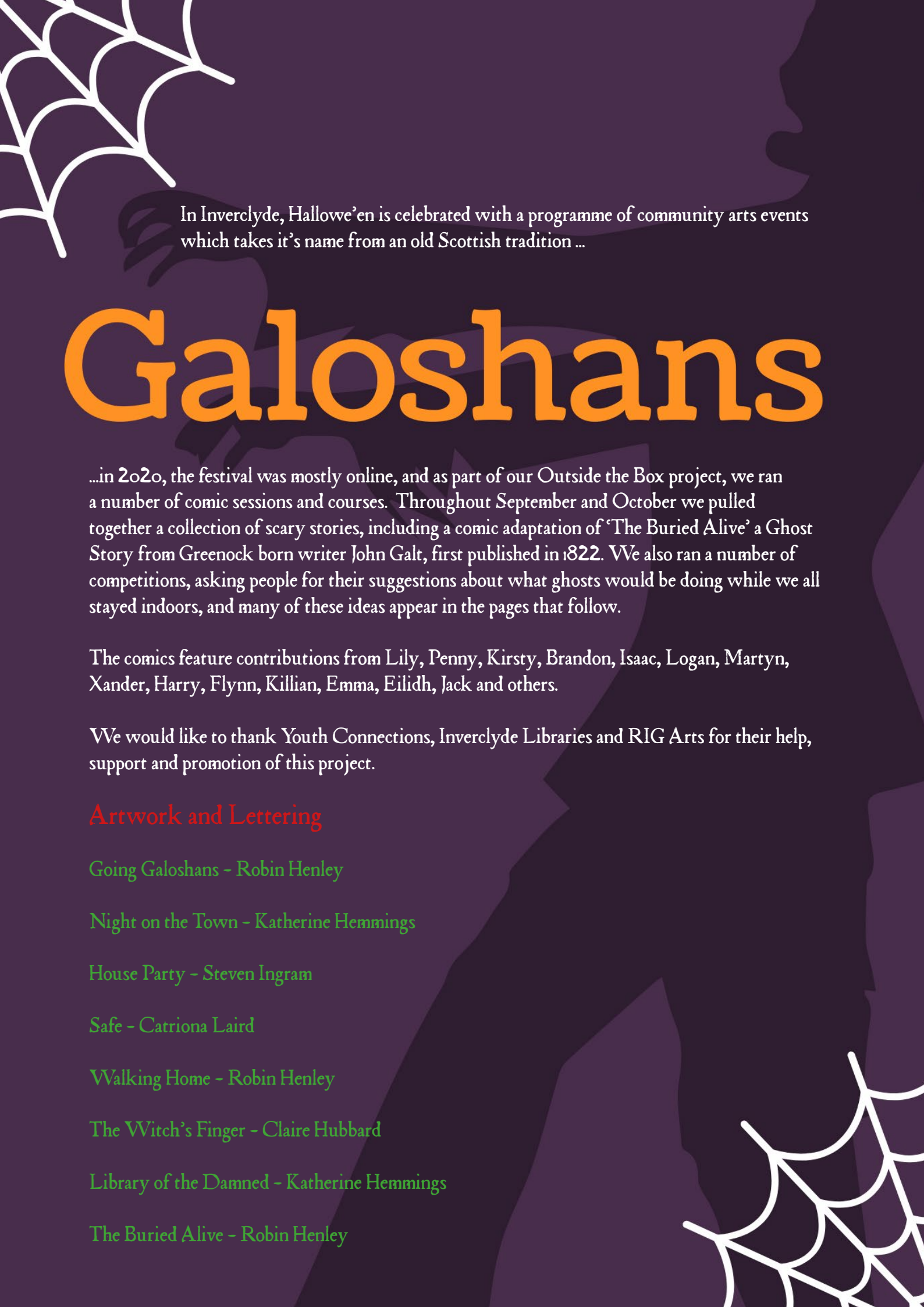


# TALES OF THE OAK



# GHOST TOWN





In Inverclyde, Hallowe'en is celebrated with a programme of community arts events which takes it's name from an old Scottish tradition ...

# Galoshans

...in 2020, the festival was mostly online, and as part of our Outside the Box project, we ran a number of comic sessions and courses. Throughout September and October we pulled together a collection of scary stories, including a comic adaptation of 'The Buried Alive' a Ghost Story from Greenock born writer John Galt, first published in 1822. We also ran a number of competitions, asking people for their suggestions about what ghosts would be doing while we all stayed indoors, and many of these ideas appear in the pages that follow.

The comics feature contributions from Lily, Penny, Kirsty, Brandon, Isaac, Logan, Martyn, Xander, Harry, Flynn, Killian, Emma, Eilidh, Jack and others.

We would like to thank Youth Connections, Inverclyde Libraries and RIG Arts for their help, support and promotion of this project.

## Artwork and Lettering

Going Galoshans - Robin Henley

Night on the Town - Katherine Hemmings

House Party - Steven Ingram

Safe - Catriona Laird

Walking Home - Robin Henley

The Witch's Finger - Claire Hubbard

Library of the Damned - Katherine Hemmings

The Buried Alive - Robin Henley





ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS AGO OR MORE IN GREENOCK, ON HALLOWEEN NIGHT, CHILDREN WOULD GO AROUND THE HOUSES TO PERFORM THE 'GALOSHANS PLAY'.



CHILDREN MAY HAVE LEARNED THE PLAY FROM OLD COPIES OF THE GALOSHANS BOOK HANDED DOWN THROUGH FAMILIES.

OTHERS JUST REMEMBERED THE WORDS OR WERE TAUGHT THEM BY FRIENDS.



THE GALOSHANS PLAY USUALLY TOLD THE STORY OF ST GEORGE AND THE DRAGON, OR OF A BATTLE BETWEEN TWO KNIGHTS.

I'LL CUT YOU UP IN INCHES, IN LESS THAN HALF AN HOUR!

WHATEVER STORY WAS TOLD, THERE WAS A SWORD FIGHT.



AND OUR HERO WOULD DIE, FALLING WOUNDED TO THE FLOOR.

ALAS! I AM NO MORE!



ONLY TO BE RESURRECTED BY THE MARVELLOUS DOCTOR BROWN WHO COULD CURE "THE ITCH, THE PITCH, THE PALSY AND THE GOUT..."

IF A MAN HAS NINETEEN DEVILS IN HIS HEAD, I'LL CAST TWENTY ONE OF THEM OUT!



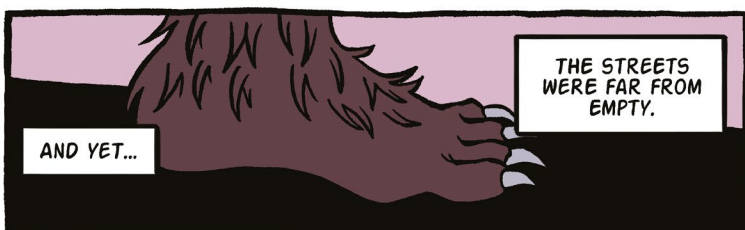
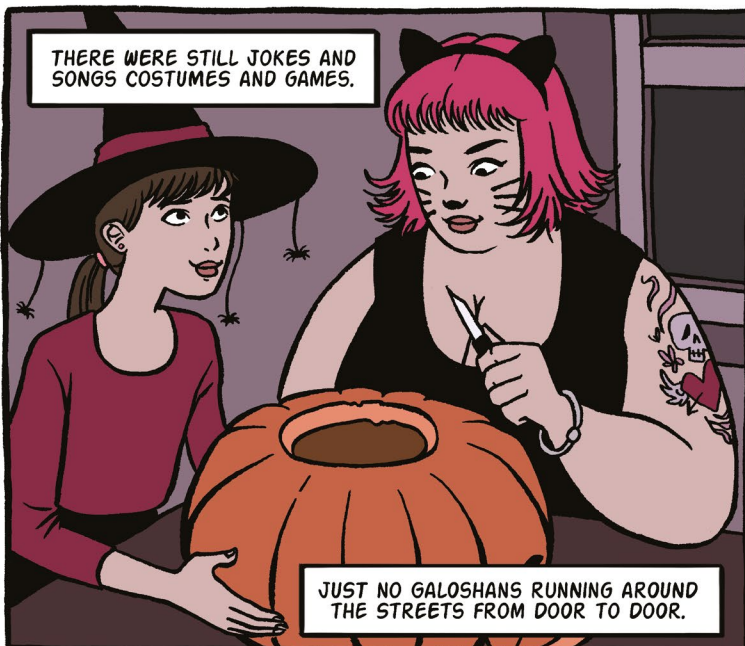
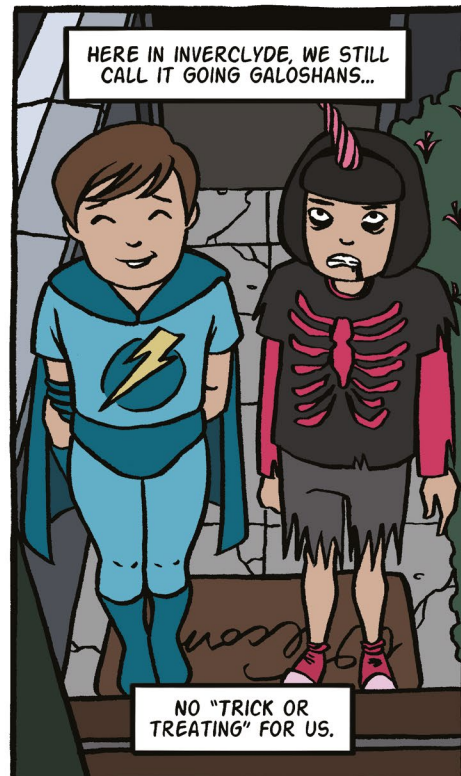
IT'S A RESURRECTION STORY, TOLD IN THE DARKEST MONTHS, TO REMIND US THAT LIGHT AND LIFE WILL RETURN.



AND AFTER EACH SUCCESSFUL PERFORMANCE, THE WEE TROOP OF GALOSHANS WOULD COLLECT IN THEIR REWARD...

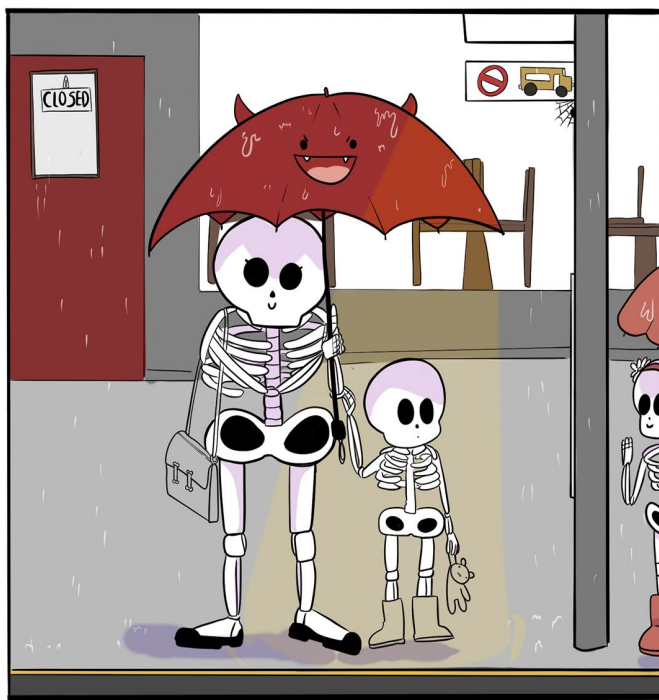
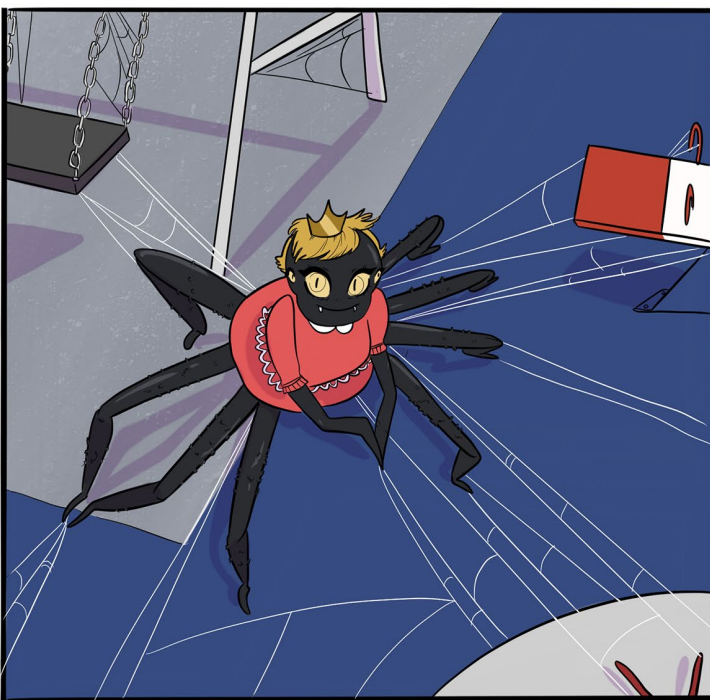
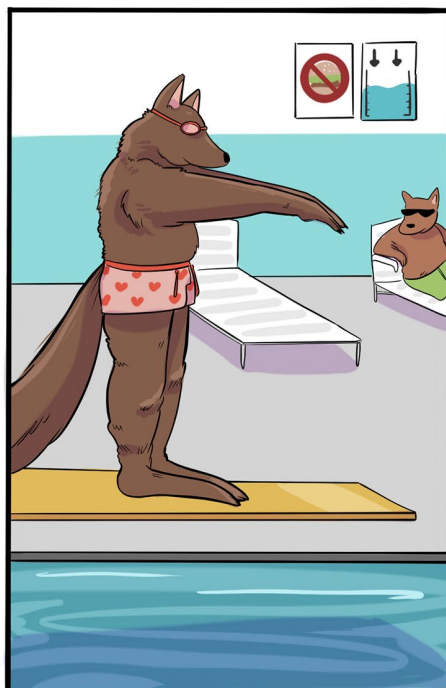
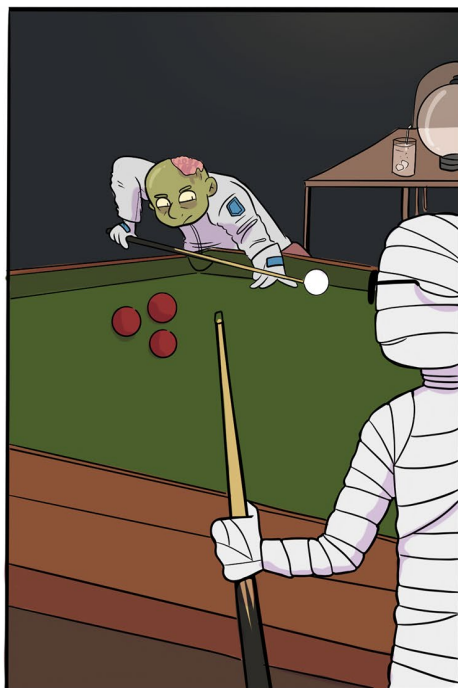
...AND MOVE ON TO THE NEXT HOUSE TO TELL THE STORY AGAIN.







Free from Ghostbusters, witchfinders and monster hunters, creatures were free to live their best life...

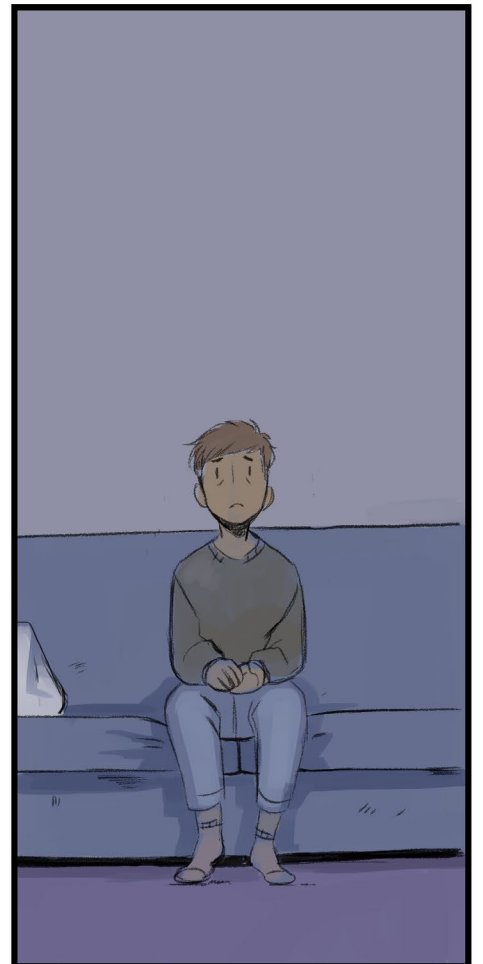
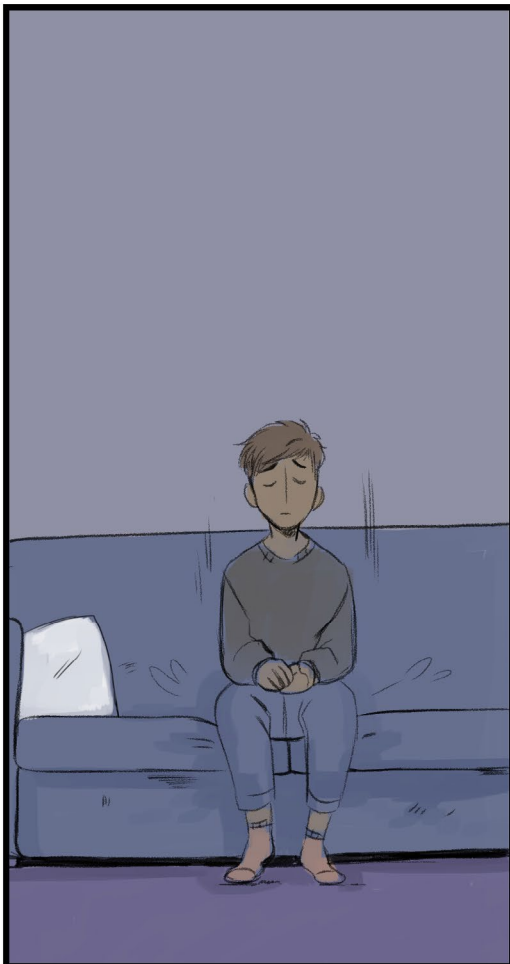
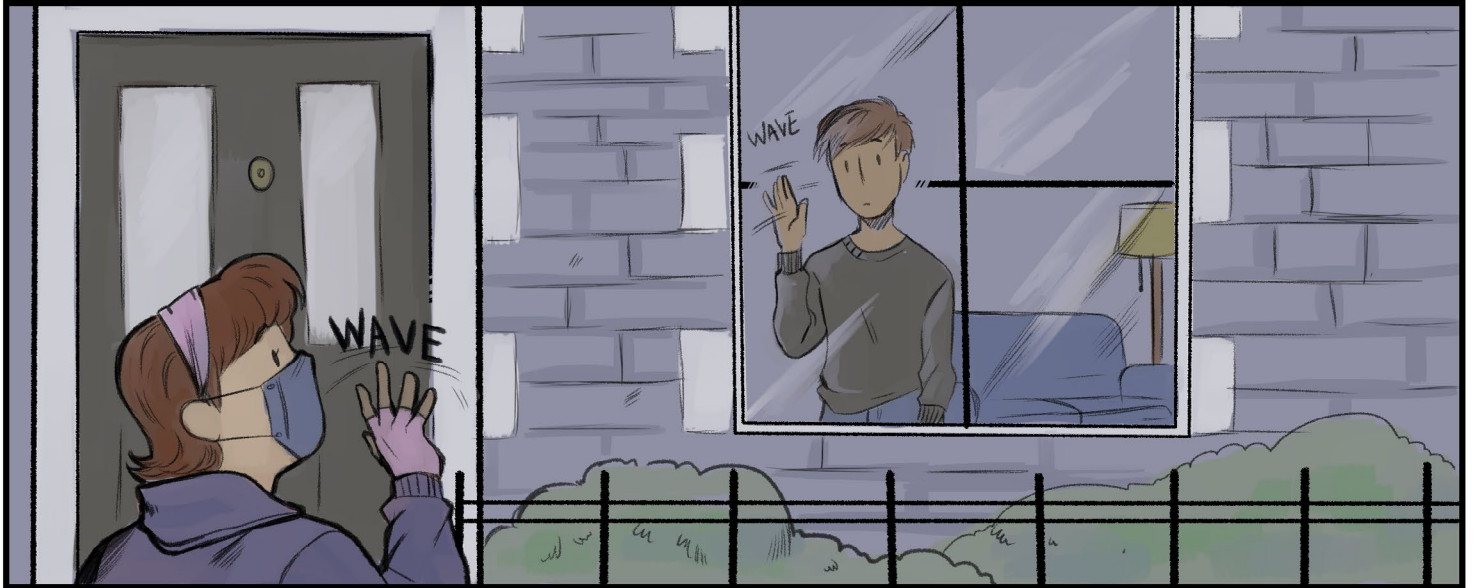
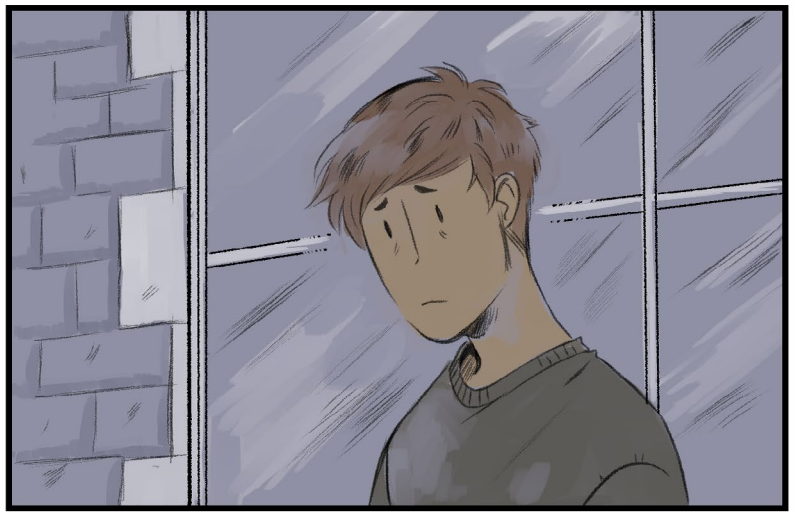








# SAFE



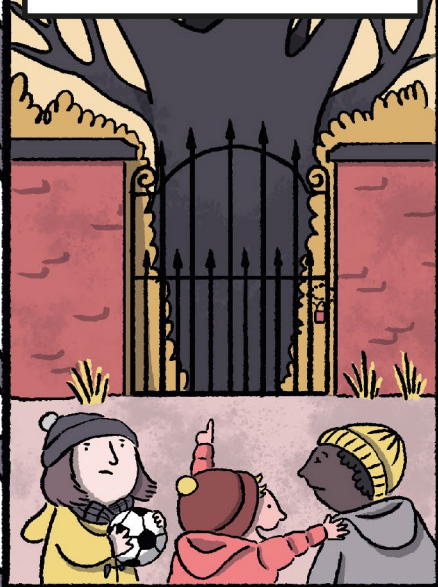






# the Witch's Finger

AT THE BACK OF THE PLAYGROUND, THERE'S AN OLD GATE.



BEHIND THE GATE, THERE'S AN OLD TREE, THAT USED TO BE A WITCH.



SHE STRETCHES OUT HER BRANCHES, DOWN TOWARDS THE GATE.



AND EVERY YEAR, THE CHILDREN DARE THEMSELVES TO REACH OUT AND TOUCH THE WITCH'S FINGER.

EVERYONE LAUGHS NERVOUSLY, NOT QUITE TRYING TOO HARD TO REACH.



BUT EVERY SO OFTEN...



...SOMEONE WAKES THE WITCH.

AND THE GAME IS OVER FOR ANOTHER YEAR.









I HAD BEEN FOR SOME TIME ILL  
OF A LOW AND LINGERING FEVER.



MY STRENGTH  
GRADUALLY WASTED.

I COULD SEE BY THE LOOKS OF  
MY DOCTOR THAT HE DESPAIRED  
FOR MY RECOVERY...



...AND THE SOFT AND WHISPERING  
SORROW OF MY FRIENDS TOLD ME  
THAT I HAD NOTHING TO HOPE.



ONE DAY, THE CRISIS TOOK PLACE.  
A RUSHING SOUND WAS IN MY EARS.  
THERE WAS LIGHT.

I TRIED TO MOVE BUT COULD  
NOT AND A TERRIBLE CONFUSION  
OVERWHELMED ME...

HE IS DEAD.



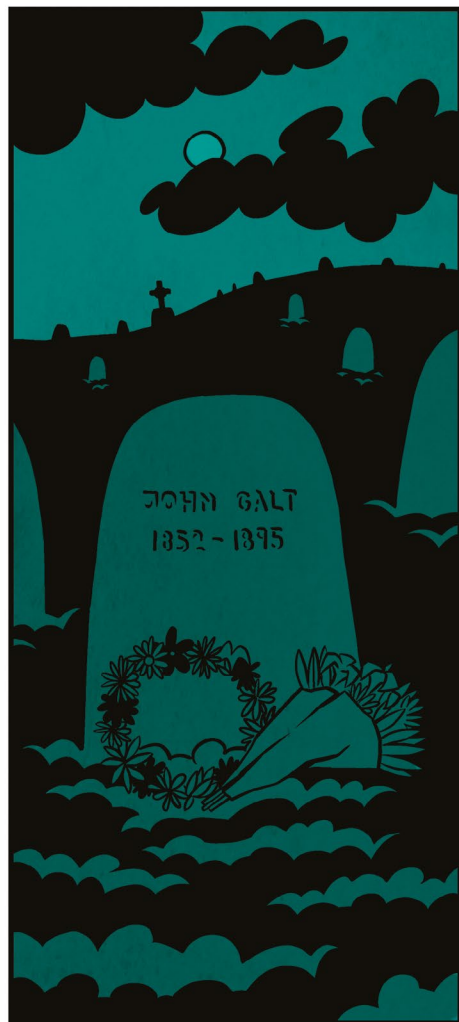
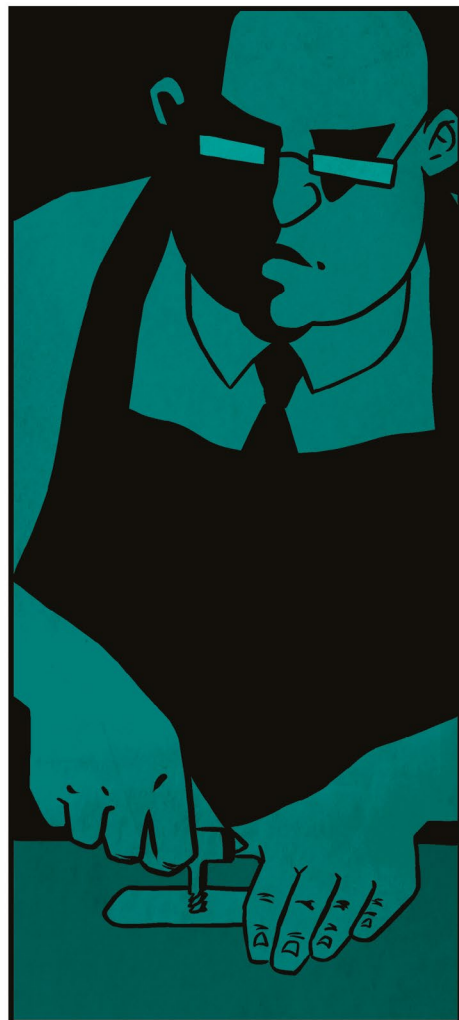
I CANNOT DESCRIBE WHAT  
I FELT AT THESE WORDS.



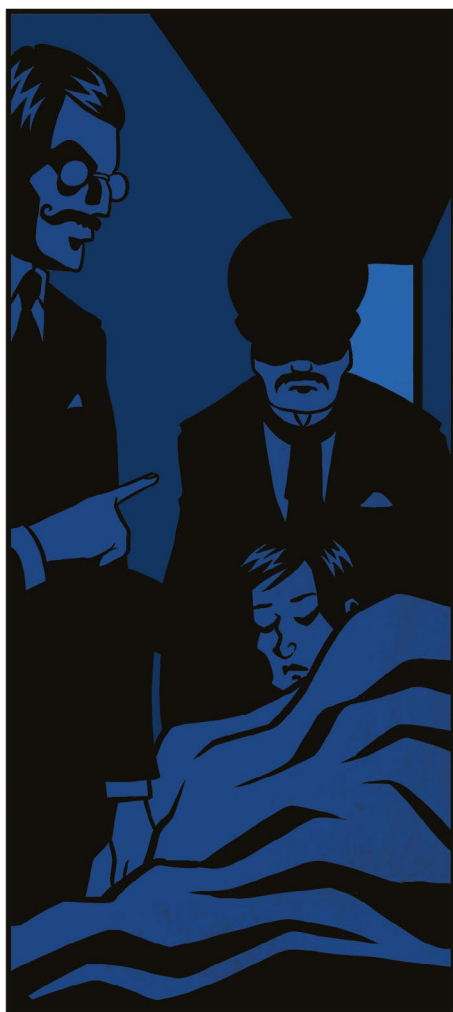
THE WORLD WAS  
THEN DARKENED.

BUT I COULD  
STILL HEAR AND FEEL  
AND SUFFER.

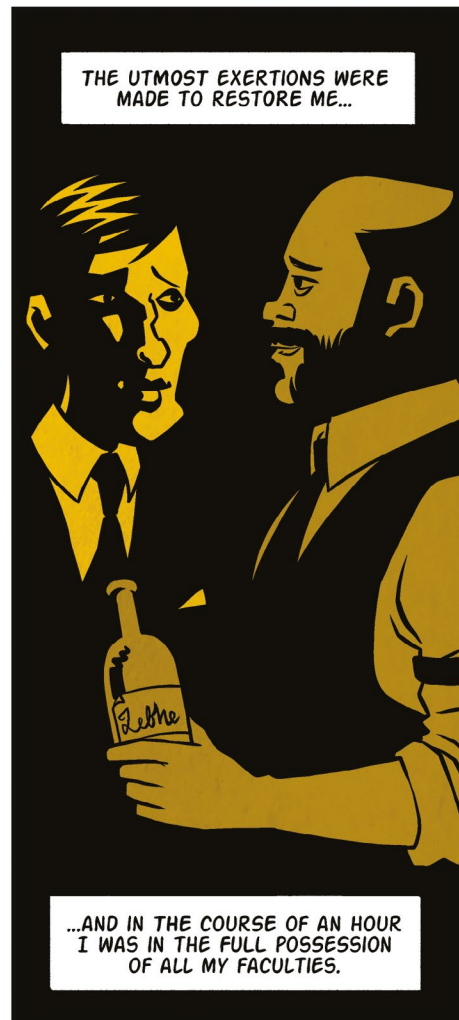
















Some scary work in progress from Kirsty Hutton...



Paul prepares to open the box of nightmares,  
in our Galoshans weekend zoom class...



# DARE YOU... GO GALOSHANS?!

A CHILLING COLLECTION OF LOCAL  
TERROR, CREATED WITH YOUNG PEOPLE  
ACROSS INVERCLYDE DURING THE  
GALOSHANS FESTIVAL 2020.



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