

A full transcript is available below.

STOP 1: Rich Mix Mural – Redchurch Street

Welcome to this Rich Mix StoryWalk called the ‘The Clumsy Scottish Giant’.

The walk will take you from our start at Rich Mix and take you to the wonderful bandstand at Boundary Gardens in the middle of Arnold Circus, with a stop at Rochelle Street along the way. For directions just follow your trail map!

In total the walk will take around 30 minutes, including listening and walking, but take as long as you like to enjoy the walk and taking part at each stop on the trail.

We’re going to start right here with a view of the amazing Rich Mix mural. It is quite something isn’t it? I love the colour and how huge it is. Like, it is massive and makes me feel tiny in a really fun and wonderful way. It almost looks like it is about to burst off the building and come to life, like things do in stories!

The story I have to tell you today is giant too. Well... it is about a giant.

It is a story I thought up when I used to live in Scotland. It is called The Clumsy Scottish Giant.

I wrote it because I am very clumsy and sometimes it makes me do silly things that are embarrassing. Are you clumsy? Have you ever knocked over a plate or broken a window playing football and gone, ‘woooooops’? I have, and I felt terrible when I did. But being clumsy is just how some people are, and sometimes clumsy people are some of the best.

Listen close to part 1 of the story to find out what happened to our clumsy giant.

Once there was a clumsy Scottish Giant. Angus McHamish was his name, a good Scottish name. Now Angus didn’t fit in very well with the giant community. You see angus was a vegetarian, which means he didn’t eat meat. And all the giants loved meat (especially people!) Angus was very clumsy, and all the giants were not clumsy at all. And worst of all, Angus was very kind, and all of the giants were rude and grumpy.

The giants, in short, were not a nice bunch. And Angus often felt like he didn’t belong there. But he was a giant. Where else could he go? Well, in the end it wasn’t up to Angus, because he was expelled from the giant community...

Why?? Oh of course – I should explain why! It started like this, you see.

Angus McHamish was having a lovely walk and whistling to himself in the sunshine. Can you whistle or hum a little song? And as he was walking, he saw a kitten stuck up a tree.

'OH NO!' he cried.

(Can you say that? Can you say, Oh no? Very good!)

So, being a kind giant, Angus climbed up the tree.

(Can you pretend to climb up a tree?)

He got to the top, and his tip toes went, diddle-diddle-di along the branch. He picked up the kitten and it was saved. Hooray! But then...SNAAAAAAP, went the branch, and Angus started to fall, and he did a big crash! Shall we do a big crash together?

(3, 2, 1, CRASH!)

He fell through the roof of the chief giant's house, while the chief giant was having a very important dinner party.

"Naughty, naughty, Angus!" shouted the chief giant and wagged his finger.

(Can you do that with me? Wag your finger and say, "naughty, naughty, Angus")

And the giants, you see, they had a three-strike system for bad behaviour. Three strikes and you guessed it, you're out.

So for Angus, that was strike number one.

Strike number two came on a Tuesday. A lovely Tuesday! The wind was blowing in the trees and the air was cool and sweet. Angus was trying to make a little girl laugh by eating hot, hot chillies. Now, I don't know if you know this, but Scottish people can't eat chillies. Have you ever eaten a whole chilli? It makes your mouth go very, very hot, like there is hot coal in it. Can you imagine that?

Because that is what Angus did. He looked for water but could only see a pond. And he drank all the water in the pond. Even the fish (for which Angus felt very bad since he was a vegetarian).

Now this pond was the chief giant's favourite to take his bath in. You can imagine what he said, he wagged his finger and said... "Naughty, naughty Angus!"

And that was strike number two.

Strike number three came when Angus was admiring a particularly beautiful bull in a china shop.

Behind him was a little old lady who was struggling with her bags. And, of course, Angus tried to help her with them.

But Angus, as well as being clumsy, had a very big bum, and when he bent down his very big bum nudged one of the china pieces just the tiniest bit, but it tipped over and crashed into the next piece and the next piece and... have you ever played dominoes? You know how one knocks into the other and knocks everything over. Well – that is what happened.

In a few moments the whole shop was in pieces and can you guess who owned the shop? It was the chief giant! Behind the counter he wagged his finger and said,

“Naughty, naughty Angus!”

That was strike number three. And Angus McHamish was banished from the giant community. They didn’t care that all of his strikes had come because he was trying to be kind. Because remember, they weren’t kind people, the giants. So, Angus went off into the world, not knowing where to go....

And that is the end of Part 1! When the music plays head off to the second stop on the map which is just straight up the road and at the intersection of Montclare and Rochelle Street.

Enjoy these lovely buildings and shady walkways created by these gorgeous trees. Find yourself a good tree to stand under and I will meet you there.

PAUSE

STOP 2: Under a tree on Montclare St / Rochelle St

Hello again, welcome to Part 2 of the story. I hope you are having a nice walk so far. Isn’t this street amazing, the buildings are so fantastic and interesting to look at. And these trees are so tall and wonderful. I wonder if one of them is about the size of Angus’ giant legs, ha ha.

Now at this point you have a choice, grownups – up and to your left is the lovely Arnold Circus. The next part of the story involves a lot of walking, so if you want to walk up to the circus and walk round and round, please do. However, if you think it is too busy or just want to stay still, please feel free to stay under your tree and maybe do some walking on the spot.

OK, whatever you are doing – it is time for part 2!

Angus headed out into the world and found that it was very lonely. He tried to be friends with people, but people were afraid of him – because remember, some giants ate people! They wouldn’t believe him when he said he didn’t eat any kind of meat. And Angus got very lonely and sad.

At night when he was very sad, he would sing to himself. He would sing, “lay-oo, lay-ooo, lay-your sadness down”.

(Join in if you like? Lay-o, lay-o, lay your sadness down!)

It made him feel a little better. But he was still very sad and lonely. Then one night, when the stars were shimmering and the moon was silver and full, Angus saw a dragon flying across the sky. Can you imagine a dragon flying across a starry sky? It would look amazing, wouldn't it?

At first Angus wished he had wings so he could fly away from his loneliness. But then he thought that the dragon looked lonely too and wondered if it needed a friend. In the next moment the dragon fell suddenly from the sky! "Oh, no!" cried Angus.

(Can you say, 'oh, no?')

The dragon must have fallen because something had gone wrong. Angus had been sat in the same spot for a very long time. But for the first time in a long time, Angus decided he was going to move. By the time the sun's pink rays kissed his chestnut brown cheeks, Angus had travelled far. But even for his giant-sized legs, he was still a full day's walk away.

In the morning of his walk, Angus came across a strange sight. A group of people were running around a huge boulder like ants around a rock. Angus, as he got closer, realised that the boulder was blocking the road. No matter how hard they heaved...

(Can you heave?)

and shoved... (Can you shove?)

and pushed... (Can you push?)

They simply couldn't get the boulder to move.

The people were afraid of Angus at first, but when he offered to move the boulder, they gave him a chance. To move the boulder, Angus came up with a plan.

(Can you do your best 'I am thinking of a plan' face?)

His plan was a very good one. Because he was a giant, he decided he could simply push the boulder out of the way by taking a big step. It was a good plan. But he forgot that he was so clumsy! And he hadn't considered a particularly slippery patch of slippery mud, and he certainly hadn't considered what might happen when his foot slammed into it.

Well, he was sent flying high into the morning sky and he fell down with a CRASH!
Shall we do it together again?

(3-2-1 CRASH!)

His big bottom smashed into the boulder so hard that it split in two. The road was cleared, and the people cheered. 'Hooray!' they said.

They all agreed that Angus' methods were strange, but very effective. They said they would tell tales of his kindness. And Angus, with a slightly sore backside, wandered into the afternoon...

In the afternoon, Angus came across another strange sight. A flash flood had flooded a river and split up a family! The grownups were on one side, and the children were on the other. Can you imagine being split up from your grownups? It would be very scary wouldn't it!

Well, Angus went to help – they were scared at first but when he promised to get them back together, they gave him a chance.

Now Angus came up with another plan. He was a giant – he would simply stand in the middle of the river and pass the children across. This was a good plan. But Angus had forgotten how clumsy he was. He hadn't considered a particularly slippery patch of slippery grass, and he certainly hadn't considered what might happen when he stepped on it. Well...

He was sent flying high into the afternoon sky and he came down with a...

(3-2-1 CRASH!)

With his head on one side of the river and his legs on the other, the children thought that he had made himself into a bridge and ran over him into their grownups arms. Hooray! They were saved. Everyone agreed that Angus's plan was strange but effective and that they would tell tales of his kindness.

With a mild concussion and a smile on his face, Angus walked into the evening...

And that is the end of Part 2! Whatever you were doing, head to the bandstand in the middle of Boundary Gardens, it is raised up nice and high and maybe you can imagine that you are climbing a mountain as you do? It is such a cool view, so I can't wait to see you up there!

PAUSE

STOP 3: The Bandstand at the top of Arnold Circus

Wow, this is amazing, isn't it? Standing much higher than the street, you can almost imagine what it would be like to be stood on top of a mountain! I love places like this in London – they are so exciting and interesting. Well, that is where Part 3 of the story starts, with Angus McHamish on top of the highest mountain in Scotland. What do you think he could see from there? Rivers, rolling fields, even the sea?? Well imagine it all as we start Part 3.

From where he was standing Angus could see for miles and miles. And he could see the dragon. “Oh no!” he cried. It was in the giant territory; they were the ones who had shot the dragon down and it looked like they were preparing to eat them.

Angus was going to have to do something incredible to save the dragon. He came up with a plan – he would jump up and down and shout very loudly and start an avalanche of snow and ice. That would knock the giants over and the dragon would be saved because of their fiery breath. It was a good plan. But Angus had forgotten how clumsy he was. He hadn’t considered a particularly slippery patch of slippery snow beneath his feet and he certainly hadn’t considered what might happen when he jumped on it. Well...

He was sent flying high into the evening sky and he did the biggest ever...

(3-2-1 CRASH!)

And he started to roll down the mountain side, and snow and ice came with him. The plan was working – woo-hoo! Angus was caught in the middle of the plan, but he would work that out later. The avalanche crashed into the giants and the dragon was saved. Wheey!

But Angus was stuck. Can you imagine being stuck under snow? It was cold and dark and impossible to move. Angus couldn’t get free, no matter what he did. He was worried that he might not get out. And in what he thought was his final thought, he was just happy he had helped so many people in only one day.

But then it was warm! How was it so warm? The dragon had saved him with their fiery breath, of course! They also saved the other giants, who promised to be much nicer from now on in return. As you may know, giants don’t eat people or anything anymore, they are all vegetarians, and even veganism is a growing trend in giant communities!

Thanks to Angus, people and giants after that got on very well indeed.

Dragon looked at Angus and said, thank you, is there anything I can do to repay you?

Angus said that there was no need for payment, but if they wanted to be friends that would be lovely. Dragon did want to be friends – they had been rather lovely as well it turned out. And Angus and Dragon became a famous duo.

Eventually they even fell in love. Aww! And one night Angus and Dragon were looking up at the stars and Angus remembered the first time he had seen Dragon, and how he had wished for wings to fly away from his loneliness.

“My wings are detachable; you can borrow them if you like,” said Dragon.

But Angus said he had no need to be flying anywhere now he was with dragon. They smiled and that seems as good a place as any to end our story of the clumsy Scottish Giant.

Did you enjoy the story? Wow, what an adventure that was! So much happened, but an important lesson is that being kind is always the best thing we can do no matter what silly things we might get up to.

Well, we really hope you enjoyed our StoryWalk and well done to you for taking part. Have a lovely day and do your best to be kind whenever you can!