

Carnivalista Learning Log

You are a Carnivalista helping to create The Trashcatchers' Carnival. This takes place in Tooting on **Sunday 4 July 2010**. Creating beauty from trash, the Carnival uses recycling as a metaphor for change: change in how we live where we live.

Over the next 10 years or so, celebrations like the Carnival can help us work out how we will transform a high energy using society to a low energy using society in our own neighbourhoods – imagining a future when we will live within the earth's limits to sustain life on our beautiful earth. It's an exciting time and there is a lot we can learn from one another. We are innovators and our experiences are important to reflect on. This log allows you to keep a record of what you are learning and how we can piece all the things we are learning together.

Here's one way to think about this:

The earth is full of wonders. How does a caterpillar for example turn into a butterfly? This happens through metamorphosis, meaning 'a change in form', or 'transformation'.

The biological term for the important cells in this process are called 'imaginal cells'. When the caterpillar is busy being a caterpillar munching through lots of green leaves, these cells are found all over its body. They are the bits of the caterpillar that hold the key to becoming a butterfly. When the caterpillar gets sleepy and full, it curls up in its chrysalis and then the imaginal cells get busy: they shout out

to each other – 'hey I've got a wing bit' 'I've got a leg bit', another has a 'blue and green bit' and another a 'head bit'. They experiment with their different pieces as though they were fitting together a big jigsaw puzzle which they finally manage to assemble and hey!!! A BUTTERFLY emerges thanks to the cells that could 'imagine' being a butterfly.

So in the process of transforming our neighbourhoods, we can think of ourselves like the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle – or 'imaginal cells': we can be doers, thinkers, makers, imaginers, celebrators, designers, songwriters, dancers, growers, engineers, doctors, bakers, scientists, teachers.

Use this book to jot, draw, make notes, sketch ideas, stick things in, make lists, how you feel, what you saw, what you remembered. Write in the morning, or the afternoon or before you go to bed. Reflect, question, explore, consider, confront. Use it like a box you just chuck bits and pieces in to look at another day. Use it freely, jot down days, place, time. What did you give to the Carnival? What did you gain? The log is a place where your ideas can be caught and kept for a while in case you forget them. After the Carnival we can look at what we learnt together.

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