

Take a wander through your neighbourhood & notice some of the amazing nature hiding in plain sight, some treasures to look for are pointed out here, then have a go at some of our nature doodle prompts

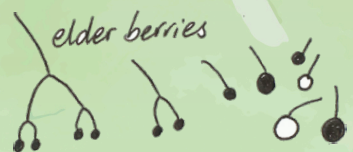
DIY WALKSHOP*

A creative nature treasure hunt through the seasons
by botanist Sarah Lambert & artist Kathryn Parsons

Art Pop-Up

Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND
LOTTERY FUNDED

Two mature Large-leaved Limes have heart-shaped leaves — some of these have Nail Galls caused by a small, harmless mite. The perfumed flowers in July are very attractive to Honey Bees and other insects. In late summer there are bobble-shaped fruits.



Hedges run along both sides of the footpath. Look for Hawthorn, Elder, Dogwood, Wayfaring-tree, Holly, Bramble and Ivy which flowers in early autumn, and attracts many insects.



Butterfly-bushes are abundant along north edge of an area of former garages — in mid-summer look out for butterflies on the sprays of purple flowers. Cracks in the paving have been colonised by survivors, including White Stonecrop which has succulent leaves that can be seen all year round.



Horse-chestnut trees are interesting all year round. In winter they have large brown 'sticky buds', while in late spring the spikes of white flowers, patterned with red and yellow attract bees. And of course there are conkers in autumn.



Swedish Whitebeam is widely planted. It has white flowers in late spring, but is at its best in autumn, when the leaves turn orange and it has red berries.



The Wild Cherry near the entrance to the community orchard has fruiting bodies of Cushion Bracket fungus. The tree also has resin oozing from its trunk which is clear and golden, and some of its branches have joined together making window to peep through.

In the Orchard compost corner are tall plants including Common Nettle and Greater Bindweed clambering up the hedge. Summer brings Opium Poppy flowers and the tall yellow spikes of Greater Mullein with its rosette of softly-hairy greyish leaves. The Old Hawthorns have Ivy round their trunks, their blossom in May is sweetly-scented and the autumnal dark-red haws are eaten greedily by many birds. At the north end are many wildflowers under the fruit trees: in spring, the sweetly-scented flowers of Sweet Violet, in early-summer Ox-eye Daisy, Yellow Rattle, Meadow Crane's-bill, Red Clover and Common Vetch.

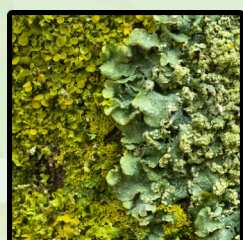


Mown grass verges support a wide range of wild flowers, most of which have low-rosettes of leaves that can be spotted all year-round. These include Dandelion, Ribwort Plantain and Autumn Hawkbit. Look for Dandelion flowers in spring and Autumn Hawkbit from August — both provide pollen and nectar for bees and other insects.

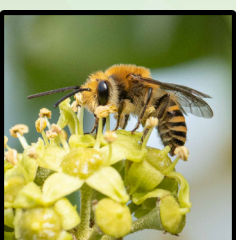
In spring look out for white blossom on these Wild Cherry trees which is followed by red cherries that are very popular with birds. In autumn the leaves turn fiery shades of red and orange. The tree trunks have lots of lichens growing on them with very varied shapes and colours. See if you can find lichens on the path too — they prefer the edges.

In winter Ash trees have black buds, followed by clusters of purplish flowers in early spring, and bundles of fruits - Ash keys - in summer. These act like gliders and help the trees to colonise new places. The trunks are also very good for lichens.

Did you know...?



Lichens are made up of both fungi & algae. Fungi provide a safe structure & the algae use sunlight to create sugars from the air. Together they are able to live in some of the most inhospitable places on earth! Their shapes & colours are very varied, especially when viewed up close or through a magnifying glass.



The Ivy Bee was a new species in 1993 & first recorded in the UK in 2001 in Kent, they have travelled only through Southern England and Wales so far!



"The Orchard"
Nature treasures to be found across the year in green spaces around the orchard at Christ Church Close



Let's get creative! You don't have to be 'arty' to have some fun - try our simple nature activity prompts

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Nature has so many patterns and tiny details

Take a close look and then have a go at some of the following ideas:

Treasure Hunt

Search at different times of the year and you'll find different things, so do this more than once and see what you can find!

- Collect fallen twigs, leaves, feathers & other treasures! How many different coloured leaves can you find? How many different shaped leaves can you find (eg pointy ones, heart-shaped, lobed, round & etc)
- Make a pattern with your finds - either at home, or on a safe place away from the road & pavement
- Take your leaves home to make leaf prints (paint on a leaf & print with it), or collages of imaginary leaf creatures
- String your treasures together to make a garland

Hunt For Wildflowers

Notice the wildflowers that are thriving here and in the pavement cracks. Even in January you might find some flowering! How many different flowers can you find? Enjoy nature-doodling their different shapes!

Mini-worlds

Look closely for tiny details...

- Find the tiny lichen on tree-bark, walls, fence posts and pavements
- Find the tiniest flower, or leaf you can
- Notice the small patterns of the tree bark... and see how different each tree is!

Nature-doodle some of your mini-world finds, or photograph them

Wander with a camera

Go for a walk and photograph the plants that catch your eye.

If you've got a magnifier or zoom on your camera, try zooming in to see details that are hard to see... you could nature-doodle the patterns you find.

Fungi Foray

In the autumn after the rain go fungi-hunting, look on the ground and also in the trees. Don't pick or eat - just enjoy the hunt.

The best time to look for fungi is usually a few weeks after it has rained. You could photograph them & share with us @ArtPopUpUK

Befriend a tree

By visiting often, notice how a tree changes through the seasons

- Touch the bark, how does it feel? knobbly, smooth, bobbly, rough, flaky?
- Make bark and leaf rubbings using wax crayons
- Collect fallen leaves or seeds, and press them in a book to make a lasting memento of your tree-friend. After a few weeks, when the leaves / seeds are dry you can make a collage by sticking them on paper

Nature's Songs

On a breezy day stand under a tree and listen to the sound of the wind in the leaves.

Different trees sound different! What sounds or words does it make you think of? Listen for birds singing in the hedge & the trees too

Blossom Time

In spring stand in the orchard and smell the blossom - listen for the insects' happy hum!

Near the Community Orchard...



Hunting for treasures is great fun, but ensure you keep safe:

- Don't eat anything you find
- Wash your hands well with soap after you've handled any natural objects
- Watch out for dog poo & avoid it!
- Always watch out for traffic and cyclists on the pavement

What is nature doodling?

Doodling is simple mark making

- Start by noticing the shapes and patterns that catch your eye. Look at leaf shapes, flowers & seeds, bark patterns, lichen etc
- Using whatever you have to hand (pencils, crayons, pens etc.), doodle the basic outlines of these treasures - keep them really simple. You could even use coffee and a stick to doodle.

Try folding a piece of paper in to 4 or more squares, then unfold it and fill each square with a pattern of doodles inspired by your finds. You could put one pattern in one square, repeating it lots of times, or fill each square with different doodles.

About Art Pop-Up

We're a multi-award winning, non-profit community arts organisation based in Stamford. As cultural engineers & community builders, we create inspiring, thought-provoking opportunities for our community to get creative, from workshops to festivals and community events.

To find out what programmes we're running currently, check our Facebook page @ArtPopUpUK or website ArtPopUp.co.uk

Photos & map by S Lambert, doodles & activities by K Parsons, design by S Roddan.

WALKshops

In autumn 2022, Art Pop-Up commissioned botanist Sarah Lambert and artist Kathryn Parsons to host guided nature walks incorporating an art workshop: WALKshops. Engaging with nature and creativity has huge benefits for wellbeing.

These DIY guides to the walks are the project legacy, introducing local communities to the amazing nature on their doorsteps in 3 urban locations in Stamford: Casterton Road, Masterton Road and the Community Orchard at Christ Church Close. The free guides are available on our website.

Find us at www.artpopup.co.uk
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