

Art at Home Monthly Newsletter

June 2020

Hello!

As we look forward to the summer months we hope to be having some more sunshine on the way although we do need some rain to help the flowers and crops grow! Maybe you are a keen gardener yourself even if it's just a herb pot on the kitchen window sill, although that is much easier to water!

We enjoyed hearing about your favourite holidays and trying out the *Museum of Me* activity from last month's letter – you can see Julie's response to that below:



My museum includes:

The cards I've received through the post during 'lockdown'.

The framed flamingo which is a cross-stitch gift I received from my closest friend Sophie a few years ago.

The book-end is of a young ballerina and says 'Swan Lake' on the book. It's a treasured keepsake from my childhood.

It's not too late to try making your own 'Museum of Me' if you haven't yet!

This month the **Royal Parks** encourage you to do some wildflowers spotting. How about writing down and sending us your stories of seeing wildflowers in your childhood? Start by writing a list of what other types of wildflower you can think of...

Then our **Artist of the Month** Sam Haynes takes you through how to make art without art materials by using our recyclables and our imagination!

We hope that you keep busy and active whatever the weather, and **let us know** what activities you enjoyed during the month. We would also love to hear any 'green finger' tips if you are growing vegetables (if you have a garden) or maybe herbs on your windowsills.

You can **contact us** on:

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Best Wishes,

Kathryn and Julie



Identifying Wildflowers

Many of us aren't able to go outside at the moment, so we thought we would bring the outdoors in to your home with the help of **The Royal Parks**. If you have a garden, see if you can spot any of these wildflowers – they can pop up anywhere!



Sweet Violet - *Viola orodata*

These small, scented flowers are often found in gardens in spring. There are ten UK species of violet, but you can tell the sweet violet by its dark colour and scent which is used in perfumes. Another feature to check is the “spur” on the back of the flower head. In dog violet, another common species, the spur should be paler than the face of the flower, unlike in this Sweet Violet.

Daisy - *Bellis perennis*

Everyone loves a daisy! These lovely little flowers open when the sun shines on them, and close in the evening, which is where their name comes from – day's eye! They do well on short, but not over-mown grass, especially where people have walked, sometimes forming pathways across fields! Why not make a daisy chain?



Herb Robert - *Geranium robertianum*

This pretty pink flower can be found all over. Its leaves turn red in the autumn, which might be where the name comes from, as the Latin for red is “ruber”, but it might also be after King Robert of Normandy. If you crush the leaves they give off a strong scent, earning this plant the nickname “Stinking Bob!” Look for the pink, five-petaled flower and lacy leaves.

Wavy Bitter-Cress - *Cardamine flexuosa*

There are several kinds of bitter-cress, but they all have long thin seedheads and tiny, four-petaled white flowers. They have rounded leaves at the base, and longer, more pointed leaves higher up the stem. The wiggly stem on this bitter-cress means it's wavy bitter-cress.



For more wildflowers go to the link: <https://bit.ly/2WQUEuz>

If you have a garden, or you encounter some very common wildflowers on your neighbourhood walks, why not make a card by pressing flowers in tissue paper between some heavy books to send to somebody during the lockdown?

Artist of the Month

Each month we are featuring one of our lovely volunteer Creative Befrienders, whose role includes supporting us in our projects and events or offering art sessions in people's own homes. As we now can't see them in person, it is wonderful to connect remotely!

This month we meet:

Sam Haynes

Artform / Interests: I am an artist facilitator and sculptor who has been creating temporary and permanent public art installations for over 25 years, often bringing together different groups of people to challenge boundaries and raise awareness. I am now working on a series of small scale sculptures using materials and objects found in my home.



Where are you living at the moment? Wandsworth - I've been here for 20 years now

Tell us what you can see:

I am lucky to have a South facing balcony, looking over a very quiet secondary school with trees in the distance that catch the evening light.

What's keeping you busy at the moment?

Lots of things really... researching and making art, keeping an eye on the home schooling of my 13 year old son, and learning French!

Tell us your favourite thing about practising your art form?

The opportunity to meet and work with people of all ages and abilities, learning from their experiences and outlook.

What would you like to share today?

This beautiful artwork made by a member of Wandsworth Asian Women's Group. I love the idea of small pieces being assembled together to create an artwork, rather like a mosaic. Read on for how you can still make something lovely, even without traditional art materials – with no need for glue!



What are your suggestions for what we can do at home?

While many of us are busy shopping online and eating in, we find ourselves with even more cardboard and packaging in our recycling bins. Making art at home doesn't need to use lots of specialist art materials. It's an opportunity to look at our everyday environment with fresh eyes and experiment creatively with what we have to hand.

Step 1: Find two or three different pieces of recycled cardboard (cereal boxes, egg boxes, old cards). Cut or rip them up into small (but not too small!!) pieces - different shapes and sizes are fine.

Step 2: Find a space in your home to lay them out on a contrasting background. This could be on a carpet, settee, bed, table or on a piece of material that you might have.

Step 3: Create a symbol, pattern or picture with your pieces using the different colour card for different areas. The good thing about this glueless process is that you can experiment until you create something you're happy with. You can also add recycled paper or plastic to your artwork, leaving some gaps to see the surface below. My advice is don't make life too difficult for yourselves - keep it simple!

Optional: If you can, take a photograph of your artwork before someone opens the door and it gets blown all over the place! Share it with friends and family so that they can appreciate your great artistic talent. Hope you have fun!



Please come and visit me at:

www.sam-haynes.co.uk

@samhaynessculpture



I have been growing tomato plants on my window shelf from seeds, and growing courgettes in the garden. I was told to put egg shells around the seedlings to protect them from slugs. I think it looks rather lovely, don't you? A bit like Sam's artwork. It also looks like the letter 'Q'. How many 'letters' can you find by looking around your home and garden? Can you collect an alphabet? - Kathryn