

ARTSPEAK

at home

"To live a creative life we must lose our fear of being wrong."

CREATE

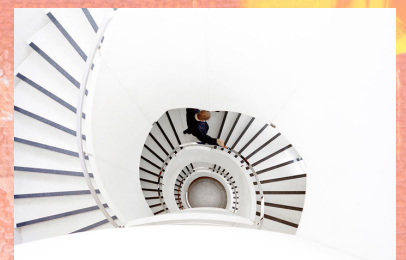
PARTICIPATE

NEWS

ARTSPEAK AT HOME IS AN ACTIVITY GUIDE AND NEWSLETTER AIMED TO INSPIRE YOU TO KEEP CREATIVE AND STAY ENGAGED IN THE ARTSPEAK PROGRAMME AS WELL AS THE BROADER CULTURAL OFFER IN NOTTINGHAM AND FURTHER AFIELD.

WITH EACH EDITION, THERE WILL BE NEW TASKS, ACTIVITIES, NEWS AND OTHER CREATIVE CONTENT TO ENJOY. IT IS ALSO A PLATFORM FOR MEMBERS WORK TO BE SHARED AND CELEBRATED.

CREATE



MAY 2021



INSPIRED BY... MAY

For the May issue of *ArtSpeak At Home* we're looking to the seasons for inspiration and all that there is to be celebrated as we head into the later spring and summer months.

May Day Traditions:

In England, May Day traditions have been observed for centuries with maypole and Morris dancing, markets and fairs, all in celebration of the coming of summer.

May Day which is usually celebrated on May 1st or the first Monday in May, was once known as Beltane, meaning 'The fire of Bel'. Holding particular significance with the Celts who divided their year by four major festivals. Beltane represented the first day of summer and was celebrated by hosting bonfires.

Through the centuries May Day has been associated with fun, revelry, and fertility. Village people would mark the day with a range of festivities including the selection of the May Queen, making garlands to carry in the procession, performing the ceremonial dance around the maypole, and the dancing figure of the Jack-in-the-Green. Due to growing political frictions after the Civil War, May Day celebrations were banned by Oliver Cromwell and didn't return to village greens until the restoration of Charles II.

The duty of the May Queen is to begin the May Day celebrations. For each parade a May Queen would have been chosen to ride or walk at the front of the May Day parade.

She symbolised the stillness of nature, standing for purity, strength and the potential for growth. The May Queen is also known as The Maiden, The Goddess of Spring, Flower Bride, Queen of the Faeries or The Lady of the Flowers. A character with great significance to Nottingham and English Folklore and often associated with The May Queen was Maid Marian.

May Day and May Day Queens have been depicted by many artists throughout history including Nottinghamshire based painter Herbert Wilson Foster (1846 - 1929) Foster painted many Victorian people and scenes including 'The Procession of the May Queen.'

This painting is set in Bradmore village just a few miles from Nottingham and this type of ceremony went on all over the country in various guises.



The Procession of the May Queen,
Herbert Wilson Foster, 1893
(Rushcliffe Borough Council)

The tradition of May Day was also explored through literature and largely popularised by poet Alfred Tennyson through his long poem 'The May Queen'. Tennyson was Poet Laureate during much of Queen Victoria's reign. His work 'The May Queen', is a meditation on beauty, vanity and wasted youth and was hugely popular in the Victorian period.



So you must wake and call me early, call me early mother dear,
Tomorrow'll be the happiest time of all the glad New Year,
Tomorrow'll be of all the year the maddest, merriest day,
For I'm to be Queen of the May, mother, I'm to be Queen of the May!



Extract from Alfred Tennyson's Poem, The May Queen

Another key feature of the May Day procession are the Garlands that are made and carried. They were once so strongly linked that in parts of Britain the day was referred to as Garland Day. Garlands are typically formed of a hoop or two hoops positioned inside each other. Leaves, ribbons and wildflowers are braided and sometimes a doll is placed inside to represent the May Queen.



The hawthorn tree has ancient associations with May Day. A pagan symbol of fertility, love and protection in Celtic mythology. The hawthorn was the ancestor of the Maypole and its leaves and flowers were the source of May Day garlands, also appearing in 'Jack in the Green' wreaths.

The hawthorn is also named after the month in which it blooms - the 'may tree' and is a sign that spring is turning to summer. The pale green leaves appearing in the hedgerow, with an explosion of pretty white blossom tinged with pink, teems with wildlife from bugs to birds. (Woodland Trust)

Have a go...

What could you forage in the garden or your local area to create your own May Day inspired spring wreath?

Search for leaves, berries, and flowers that you can weave together to make a table decoration or door hanging. You could use wire to weave your materials onto and form the structure, or soaked willow withies work really well.



Experiment with flowers in your favourite colours, or go neutral and keep it simple and fresh.

Finish with ribbon and spray with water to freshen the blooms and foliage.



Spring flowers to look out for and include:



Helleborus



Daffodils



Grape Hyacinth



Crocus



Iris



Fruit tree blossom



Tulips



Daisy



Jack in the Green Festival, Hastings

The tradition of the Jack-in-the-Green is thought to have stemmed from the creation of flower garlands used to decorate buckets that were carried by milkmaids during the 17th century. Over time the garlands became more elaborate. Buckets were replaced by headdresses and then by conical wicker or wooden frames, decorated with leaves and flowers that were worn by milkmaids, and chimney sweeps. (British Folklore)

Each year across Hastings, a four day Jack in The Green Festival takes place. As the 2020 event couldn't go ahead, local organisation 'Love Art for Schools' called for members of the local community to contribute to a collaborative piece of artwork by designing a leaf.

Over 350 designs were submitted and were combined to create the huge 'Jack in the Green' artwork.



Jack in the Green, Love Art For Schools 2020

Have a go...

Why not have a go at drawing and decorating your own leaf and Jack in the Green inspired artwork? There are unlimited opportunities, including which art medium to use and some interesting results could be achieved through using mixed media.

You could begin by drawing your leaf, take a photograph or create a stencil and then add shade, colour, texture, pattern and depth with stitching techniques, paint, pencils, pens or pastels.



ArtSpeak recently worked with artist Jane Stockley to run a stencil painting workshop. It's a really fun technique to try and requires no previous experience. Jane has produced a step by step guide to show you how to approach the painting process and give some tips on how to create a stencil.

What you'll need:

- Sponge (A basic bath one is good)
- Masking tape
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint (Children's ready mix works too!)
- Paper (Slightly thicker is better to paint on)



Step 1: Stretch the paper and stick down on a protected surface with masking tape making sure there are no gaps.



Step 2: Paint over the surface of the paper. N.B. don't add any water to your paint.

Let the paper dry



Step 3: Making your stencil.

To create a stencil you could look for ideas in books or take inspiration from everyday objects. Look for simple and clear shapes.



Step 4: Experiment with folding your paper in different ways to create a stencil.

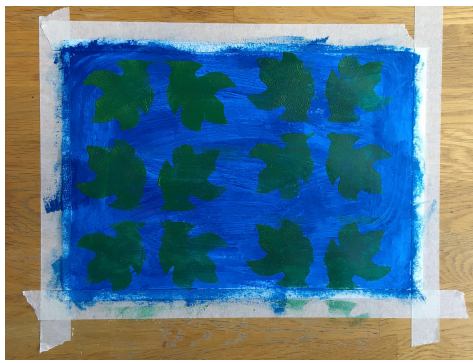
Always cut from the fold.



For this workshop, Jane was looking at patterns in nature. Here are two examples she produced, the first from seed pods and the second from leaves.



If the paper tears or the join breaks when you cut your shape, you can use masking tape to stick it back together as illustrated here.



Step 5: Painting

It's a good idea to start with two primary colours and white to mix.

Jane uses blue, yellow and a white paint.

Using a sponge she first mixes a dark green and applies it. She then gradually adds more yellow and lightens the colour for each different layer.

Don't overload your sponge, keep your paint smooth and apply light pressure.

Have a go at experimenting and mixing up different tones. If you wait for each layer to dry you will get a different effect from layering wet on wet.

Lastly, Jane adds white to the green. The lightest shade adds highlights to the composition.



Take the masking tape off when the painting is dry. This will give you a nice flat painting with a ready made border.

The Great Outdoors

Going outdoors and spending time in green spaces can help you feel more relaxed, improve your mood and reduce feelings of stress. With the days getting longer there's plenty of opportunity to get outside and enjoy what the outdoors has to offer.

As spring progresses, take notice as plants and flowers come into bloom. If you've got some outside space, the warmer weather also means it is the perfect time to give it some tending to.

If you've got an area of the garden, balcony or patio you want to brighten up, how about growing some sunflowers? The ever popular flower is known for being a happy flower and symbolises adoration, loyalty and longevity. They are unique in their ability to provide energy in the form of nourishment and vibrancy. Birds love their brown hearts which are full of seeds at the end of the summer.

The time to sow sunflowers is now. Throughout April and May, sow the seeds in pots and plant out when all risk of frost has passed. You can expect them to bloom from summer into autumn.



With various varieties such as the tall 'American Giant' and the shorter 'Moulin Rouge', there's plenty to choose from depending on what size you want and whether you want to grow them in the ground or in pots, and bring them indoors as a cut flower to brighten up a room.

The distinctive, bold and bright design of sunflowers are regularly the source of inspiration for artists. Those working during the Impressionist era were especially fixated on the flower; most famously French painter and founder of Impressionist Painting, Claude Monet (1840 - 1926).



Bouquet of Sunflowers,
Claude Monet, 1881, THE MET

While living with his family at Vétheuil, a small suburb on the Seine northwest of Paris, Claude Monet took up floral painting, both outdoors in the garden and indoors with cut flowers. From 1878 until 1883, he completed twenty floral still lifes, including this painting of sunflowers in a vase. Bouquet of Sunflowers was shown at the seventh Impressionist exhibition of 1882. (THE MET)

Through his work, Monet consistently depicted the landscape and leisure activities of Paris and its surroundings as well as the Normandy coast. Monet developed a unique style of painting the same scene numerous times to capture the changing light and passing of the seasons. His ability to capture on canvas the very act of perceiving nature was what made him the leading figure to twentieth-century modernism.

It was the work of Monet that notably influenced and educated Vincent Van Gogh (1853 - 1890) during his visit to Paris from late 1886 to 1888. The sombre colour palette of Van Gogh's Dutch period canvases progressed as a result of the time he spent exploring Impressionism. He later adopted a rich and vibrant colour range and produced a series of Sunflower still life paintings during a year spent in Arles in the South of France.

Van Gogh's paintings of Sunflowers are among his most famous. He did them in Arles, in the south of France, in 1888 and 1889. Vincent painted a total of five large canvases with sunflowers in a vase, with three shades of yellow 'and nothing else'. In this way, he demonstrated that it was possible to create an image with numerous variations of a single colour, without any loss of eloquence.

(Van Gogh Museum)



Sunflowers, Vincent Van Gogh, 1889,
Van Gogh Museum Amsterdam

INSPIRED BY...

JUNE

The first day of summer this year is June 21, also known as summer solstice. It is a significant turning point during the year and is associated with change, nature and new beginnings. The summer solstice occurs when one of the earth's poles has its maximum tilt towards the sun, this is when the sun has reached its highest position in the sky and is the day with the longest period of daylight. The exact date varies between June 20 and June 22 depending on the year and local time zone. In some Nordic countries the sun doesn't set for days or weeks.



In ancient times the date of the June solstice was used to determine when to plant and harvest crops. It is also thought to have been used to organise calendars. Some historians point to Stonehenge as evidence for this. It is believed that the unique stone circle was erected around 2500 BC in order to establish the date of the summer solstice. Viewed from its center, the sun rises at a particular point on the horizon on the day of the June solstice.

June in Artwork

Flaming June by Frederic Leighton (1830 - 1896)

Flaming June is the highly regarded painting by Frederic Leighton, painted in the later part of his career.

The painting shows a woman sleeping in the summer heat, however Leighton was thoroughly ambiguous: the woman has flame-red hair and it is unclear whether June is her name, or if the scene takes place during June, or whether she is the personification of the month. The expression "Flaming June" entered the popular consciousness after the painting's success. (The Guardian)



Flaming June, Frederic Leighton, 1895, Museo de Arte de Ponce

Thanks to Leighton, June will always be associated with drowsy summer heat, even if that can often be far from the case during a British summer!

The painting was allegedly discovered inside a chimney and was on display at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford until 1930 when it was removed and then lost. 30 years later it is believed to have been spotted for £50 in an Antiques Shop by Andrew Lloyd Webber but he couldn't raise the money to buy it. Today, it is the property of the Puerto Rico's Museo de Arte de Ponce, where it is known as the Mona Lisa of the southern hemisphere.

This painting style of the Victorian period known as The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, established in 1848 by William Holman Hunt, was a return to the complex compositions, detail and intense colour of Quattrocento Italian art. Artists who formed part of this movement believed the Classical poses and elegant compositions of Raphael in particular had been a corrupting influence on the academic teaching of art, hence the name. Other artists included Millais, Rossetti, later Madox Brown and William Morris. A lot of this work can be viewed at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, but the largest permanent collection can be found at The Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool.

Scenes of Summer by The Impressionists

Other artists known for capturing the feeling and warmth of summer in their work were the Impressionists. An Art movement developed in France in the nineteenth century.

Impressionism is based on the practice of painting out of doors and spontaneously 'on the spot' rather than in a studio from sketches. Main impressionist subjects were landscapes and scenes of everyday life.
(The Tate)



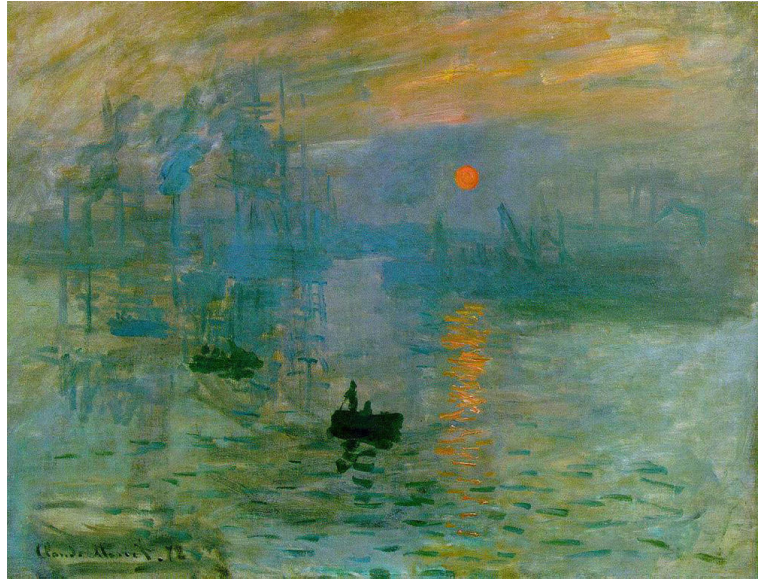
Bain à la Grenouillère, Claude Monet, 1869, (Wikimedia Commons)

By working outdoors in the open air rather than in a studio, the impressionists found that they were able to study and capture the momentary and transient effects of sunlight in front of their subjects.

This observation of how the natural scene in front of them was ever changing built a greater awareness of light and colour. They adapted their painting techniques and opted for rapid brushwork that was broken into separate dabs to accurately portray the fleeting quality of light, enabling them to capture the care free nature of summer.

The term "Impressionism" is derived from the title of Monet's painting *Impression, soleil levant* (*Impression, Sunrise*), which was exhibited in 1874 in the first Salon des Refusés (exhibition of rejects) mounted by Monet and his associates as an alternative to the Salon de Paris.

Other exhibiting Artists included Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Edgar Degas and Paul Cezanne.



Impression, soleil levant, Claude Monet, 1872 (Wikimedia Commons)

Monet was continually inspired by nature and regularly captured the scenic surroundings and leisure activities enjoyed during the summer months within his work.

Some examples of his work that capture several key qualities of the impressionist style include *Bain à la Grenouillère*, *Woman with a Parasol – Madame Monet and Her Son* and *Cliff Walk at Pourville*.



Woman with a Parasol, Madame Monet and Her Son, Claude Monet, 1875 (Wikimedia Commons)

Monet's best-known works are of the water lilies, which he began painting in 1899, part of a landscaping project at his home in Giverny. His lily ponds and Japanese bridge became the key subjects of the large-scale paintings he devoted 20 years of his life to produce.



Cliff Walk at Pourville, Claude Monet, 1882 (Wikimedia Commons)

Other leading Impressionist artists include Camille Pissarro and Berthe Morisot. Edgar Degas and Edouard Manet, all are often associated with the movement.

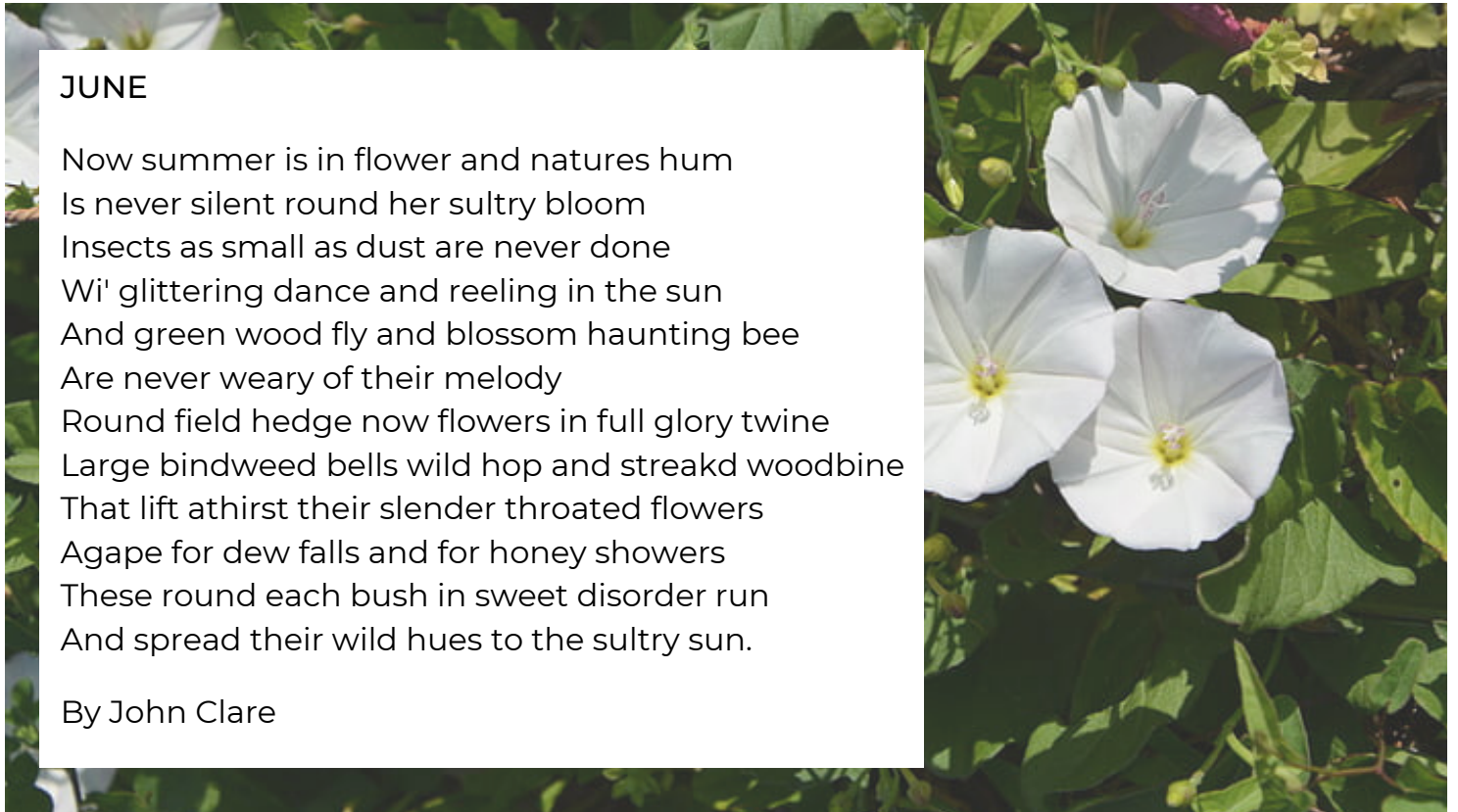
Although originating in France, impressionism had great influence overseas. Core British impressionists included Walter Richard Sickert and Wilson Steer.

June in Poetry

JUNE

Now summer is in flower and natures hum
Is never silent round her sultry bloom
Insects as small as dust are never done
Wi' glittering dance and reeling in the sun
And green wood fly and blossom haunting bee
Are never weary of their melody
Round field hedge now flowers in full glory twine
Large bindweed bells wild hop and streakd woodbine
That lift athirst their slender throated flowers
Agape for dew falls and for honey showers
These round each bush in sweet disorder run
And spread their wild hues to the sultry sun.

By John Clare



John Clare (1793 - 1864) was an English poet known for his writing around the celebrations of the English countryside and sorrows at its disruption.

His poetry underwent major re-evaluation in the late 20th century and Clare is now seen as a major 19th-century poet.

Clare was born in Helpston, Peterborough. His former home can be visited today, known as John Clare Cottage, a literary museum celebrating the life and works of this influential poet.

Have a go...

Why not have a go at writing your own poetry?

Here are some poetry writing tips you might find helpful -

Not sure where to start? The best way to begin is by reading poetry and learning what style you like and dislike. Break the text down and dig deeper into some of your favourite poems to see if you can uncover the true meaning intended by the writer. This should help you understand how to add emotion to your own work.

Listen to poetry. Spoken word events and poetry slams are a really fun way to hear live poetry and discover the lyrical side of the artform. Hearing poetry spoken out loud by a good performer will help you discover the beauty of its construction. Listen to the mix of stressed and unstressed syllables, alliteration and assonance, a well placed internal rhyme, clever line breaks, and more. Poetry readings can be another great source of inspiration.



Familiarise yourself with different forms of poetry. Each form has its own requirements, this might be the number of lines, subject matter, rhyme scheme (the ordered pattern of rhymes at the ends of the lines) or the metre (the basic rhythmic structure of a verse or lines in verse.)

Try this out by starting small. Writing a short poem like a haiku or a simple rhyming poem could feel like a more feasible way to begin.

What is Haiku? Haiku is a Japanese poetry form using just a few words to capture a moment and create a picture in the reader's mind. It is like a tiny window into a scene much larger than itself.

Traditionally, haiku is written in three lines with five syllables in the first line, seven syllables in the second line, and five syllables in the third line.

“The Old Pond”

An old silent pond

A frog jumps into the pond—

Splash! Silence again.

by Matsuo Bashō

This is an example by Matsuo Bashō, one of four great masters of Haiku.

A common mistake made by first time poets is to spend too much time deciding what to write in the first line. Don't over think it, continue writing and return to the first line when you're ready. If you have a story you want to write, try telling it in your poem.

Using a thesaurus or rhyming dictionary is common for lots of poets and worth embracing for the benefit of your writing.

Inserting literary devices will help enhance your writing and develop your writing skills.

Some examples of literary devices to incorporate:

Imagery - Using imagery to help place people, objects and places into your writing is a great way to paint a literary picture.

Metaphor - Used to make a comparison between two things that aren't alike but do have something in common. Eg. The lawn is a green carpet.

Metonymy - A figure of speech in which a thing or concept is referred to by the name of something closely associated with that thing or concept. Eg. Using Hollywood to mean the American film industry.

Synecdoche - A figure of speech in which a part of something is used to refer to its whole. Eg. My new *wheels* instead of my new *car*

Allegory - Used to tell a story within a story and one that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one. George Orwell's *Animal Farm* is a great example of allegory.

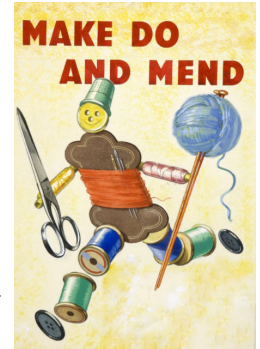
Thinking about the environment this June

5 June – World Environment Day
8 June – World Oceans Day
18 – 24 – Recycle awareness week
20 – 26 – Recycle now week



Recycling and upcycling -

During the second World War the Government introduced clothes rationing and launched the campaign 'Make Do and Mend' urging people to repair, reuse and reimagine their existing clothes. Clothes rationing began on 1 June 1941 and continued until 1949.



Being mindful of how we consume products is becoming an increasingly important aspect of life. Choosing to recycle and upcycle can help reduce our carbon footprint which will have a positive impact on the environment.

Reimagining items and materials to give them a new lease of life or changing their original purpose, can spark a range of innovative ideas. It is a method explored by many artists and creatives. By using their skill and craft to produce some truly unique pieces the original material is often unrecognisable, and can be used to highlight important messages about the environment.

Meet some of the Artists:

Anna Roebuck is a Mixed Media Artist based in the Midlands, who specialises in recycling and recycled plastics. Working under the name 'Bags2riches' Anna makes jewellery, lighting and Artwork from recycled plastics.

Her jewellery range '*Nocean*' is created from recycled plastic bottles that are coloured with her own techniques and transformed into bold, unique and contemporary style pieces of jewellery.



Anna also gets involved in community based projects, and produces large scale sculptures and artwork that are often displayed as part of public events.

As part of the 2016 Nottingham Light Night event, Anna was commissioned to produce an outdoor installation with the community at the The William Booth Birthplace Museum.



Titled '*On Route to the Ocean*', the installation aimed to draw attention to environmental issues but in a fun and accessible way.

"Our fish are on route to the Giant Plastic Garbage Patch in the Ocean, but for now our recycling has kept them upstream."

More examples of Anna's work can be found [here](#)

Michelle Reader is a Nottinghamshire based Artist who creates unique figurative sculptures from waste materials. Working with schools, organisations and galleries, Michelle produces bespoke recycled and sustainable sculptures that often include waste materials relevant to the business or event.

Michelle often takes inspiration from the natural world and her sculptures include birds, animals and insects. They are created using a range of waste materials and are selected due to their shape, colour and texture. Feathers can be made from venetian blinds or coffee cups, a gas mask is turned into the face of a bee and deconstructed remote controls are used to form the spots of a jaguar.



"The sculptures highlight man's effect on the natural world in an age of mass consumption."

More of Michelle's work can be found [here](#)

Sarah Turner is an Eco Artist and designer based in Nottingham. Working with discarded everyday items such as plastic bottles, cans, glass bottles and circuit boards, Sarah uses intricate making skills to produce a unique range of artworks, sculptures, lighting and jewellery.

"Just because a product is made from rubbish it doesn't mean it needs to look like it does!"

Sarah also works on large scale commissions for organisations and events. She regularly delivers workshops in schools to educate and collaboratively produce work that is displayed at public art events.



In 2018 Sarah worked with 20 primary schools to produce 'The Illuminated Tunnel'. The work was exhibited at St Mary's Church as part of the Nottingham Light Night event. Plastic bottles and carrier bags were used to make flowers and leaves which were illuminated with LED lights to create a magical walkway for visitors to enjoy.

More of Sarah's work can be found [here](#)

INSPIRED BY...

JULY

July was named by the Roman Senate in honour of Roman general Julius Caesar, as it was the month of his birth.

Julius Caesar was a Roman general and statesman who played a critical role in the events that led to the demise of the Roman Republic and the rise of the Roman Empire.



The Romans had a huge impact on how we live today, with their innovative ideas and inventions having left their mark on the modern world. This can be seen in our art, architecture, technology, literature, law and even the way we eat.

They were proficient engineers and understood the rules of physics which enabled them to develop aqueducts and better ways to aid water flow. They powered mines and mills with energy harnessed from water and built an expansive road network.

“The Romans were great trend-setters of the ancient world – what they didn’t invent they copied and adapted from others, transporting new ideas across their empire. Their impact can be seen across England, from Dover to Hadrian’s Wall and beyond, and has had a profound impact on our modern landscape and culture.”

(English Heritage)

Food -

Fast food has become an increasingly popular way to consume food and is now a thriving industry in the UK, however it was on trend earlier than you may realise. Eating food on the go was first introduced by the Romans, as access to convenient and tasty food was essential to the 10,000 soldiers based at forts throughout Britain. Vendors could be found in large towns serving a variety of fast food. Staple foods in our diet such as apples, pears and peas were also introduced to Britain by the Romans.

What's in season?

Some of the foods in season and ready to harvest in the UK in July are:

Beetroot, cabbage, runner beans, peas and mangetout, blackberries, blueberries, cherries, gooseberries, loganberries and raspberries.



Towns and Architecture -

Although large settlements existed before the Romans arrived, they were the first to introduce significant towns and administrative centres in Britain.

Roman buildings and structures were built in stone, straight lines and in grand scale, a contrast to the timber, and round buildings of Iron Age Britain. Heavily influenced by ancient Greece, the Romans had the knowledge and capacity to make improvements and put their mark on some of the designs and inventions they borrowed.

Columns used in buildings became more decorative and less structural. Romans opted for curved roofs and large-scale arches, as they could support more weight compared to the post-and-beam construction used by the Greeks.

The oval shapes and tiered seating seen in sports stadiums today, derive from the basic idea the Romans developed.

In Nottinghamshire, the areas Littleborough, Bingham and Brough are all sites of Roman settlements.



(Roman Baths in Bath)

Have a go...

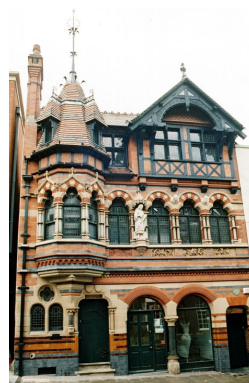
Architecture and Photography -

What is the architecture like in your surrounding area? What was the significant period in which buildings were built, are there still signs of it throughout your local community?

Exploring the City and taking notice of areas with interesting architecture is a great subject matter to explore through photography. Buildings and styles that stand the test of time amongst new, innovative and contemporary designs create an interesting urban landscape.

Some of the most renowned architecture found in the Centre of Nottingham was designed by the British architect Watson Fothergill. He was largely influenced by the Gothic Revival and Old English Vernacular Architecture styles. Fothergill designed over 100 buildings, many of which can still be found throughout Nottingham.

You don't have to go far before you spot this renowned style. Some of the most notable buildings in the City Centre include: The Rose of England pub on Mansfield Road, The Castle Pub on Castle Place in the Lace Market, Watson Fothergill's former office on George Street in Hockley and the former Nottingham Bank, now home to All Saints on Thurland Street.



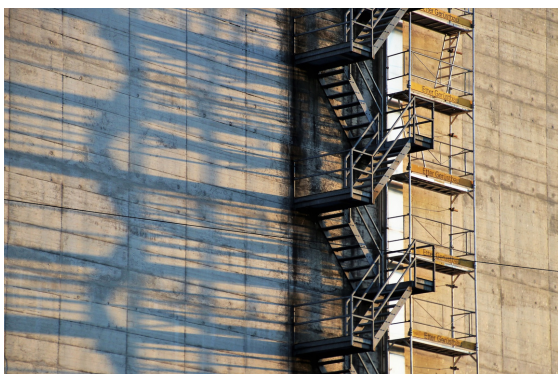
Photography tips for Architecture Photography -

Architecture photography can include shooting building exteriors and interiors, as well as bridges, other structures, and cityscapes.

Key things to consider:

Get to know the building -

Once you have chosen what building you are going to photograph it is always beneficial to spend some time getting to know it by walking around and going inside, if possible. Doing some research to give you a broader context and understanding of how it was built and how it's used could also be helpful.



Timing -

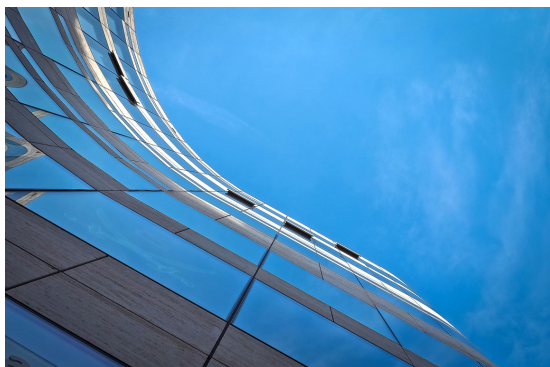
The lighting and weather conditions can make a huge difference to all types of photography and it's no different when working with buildings. Darker wet days might change surface textures and add interest to your image by altering the mood.

Whereas shooting at sunrise or sunset on a brighter day could create golden hues, window reflections or long shadows. Try visiting the building at different times of day and in contrasting weather conditions to capture different aspects.



Angles -

Rather than trying to capture exterior shots of the building in its entirety, aim to find a unique perspective. Get closer and capture some abstract images by focusing on single details or fill the whole frame so that the viewer can't tell where it begins and ends.



If you can, get inside the building to find some interesting interior shots. Can you create a frame within a frame. Are there any leading lines?



For a reminder about tips on vantage point, composition, and framing revisit pages 5 - 7 in our February Artbook. Click [here](#) to view.

People -

Try including people in your images. This could add interest and highlight the relationship between people and the building. If there are too many people in the scene and you're finding that they're becoming a distraction, try using a long exposure so they become blurred.

Famous Photographers renowned for working in this style of Photography -

Ezra Stroller (1915 - 2004) -

Working from the late 1930's into the 1980's, Stroller was best known for his images of buildings. Through his careful attention to vantage point and lighting conditions as well as line, colour, form and texture, Stroller managed to convey the three-dimensional experience of architecture in his images.



The Guggenheim, Almost Empty, 1959, Ezra Stroller (ArtNet)



Seagram Building, 1958, Ezra Stroller (Ezra Stroller/Esto, Yossi Milo Gallery).

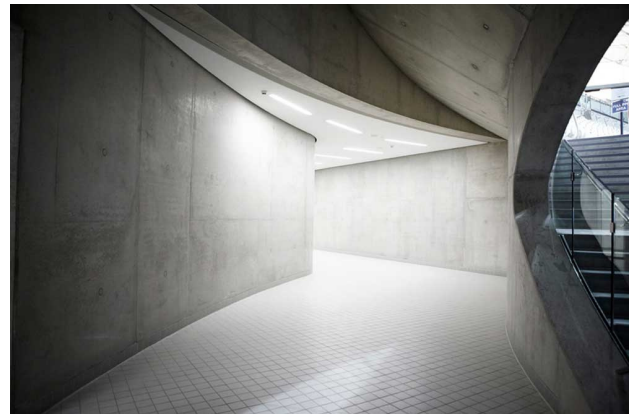
Among the iconic structures he photographed are Fallingwater, the Guggenheim Museum, the Seagram Building, and the TWA Terminal.

Janie Airey -

Janie Airey is a London based Photographer who works in corporate, lifestyle and portrait photography but after being commissioned to document the Olympic Park for the 2012 London Olympics, she continues to build a strong portfolio of architecture photography.



"TateBritain 1/12, Janie Airey, (aireyspaces.com)"

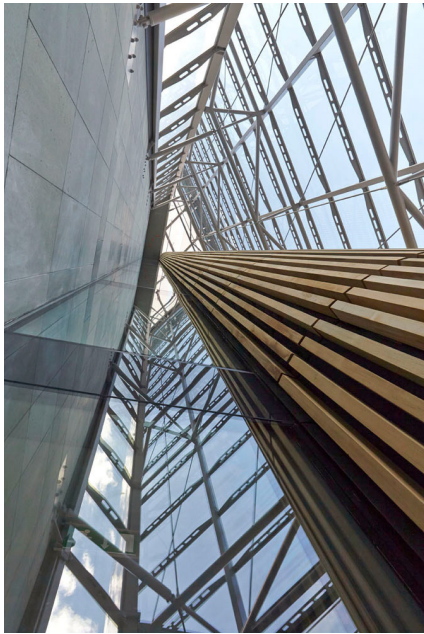


"Aquatic Centre by Zaha Hadid 8/12 ", Janie Airey, 2012 (aireyspaces.com)

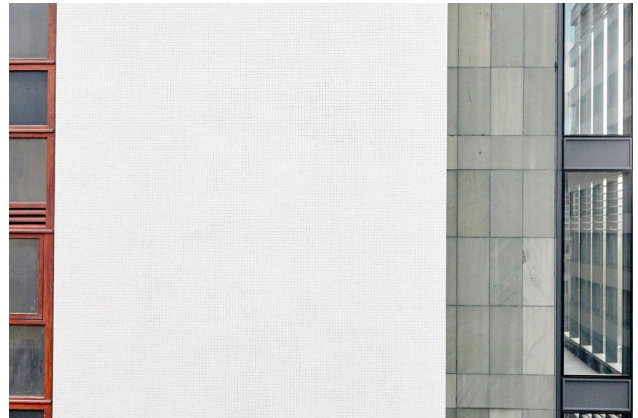
"I don't use a tripod or shift lenses. I hand hold the camera and move around. I climb up things and lie on the floor. I make visual decisions instinctively."

Airey is often commissioned privately and by Architects to photograph their buildings. Some of these buildings include: Longchamp, London flagship store, St Thomas' hospital, and Tate Britain.

Airey's artistic interpretation of architecture combined with careful consideration around the composition, framing and vantage point enable her to capture the unique and innovative features of buildings, producing interesting images that are often quite abstract. More examples of Janie Airey's work can be found [here](#)



St Thomas' Hospital, London,
Janie Airey (aireyspaces.com)



St Thomas' Hospital, London, Janie Airey (aireyspaces.com)

“Be spontaneous. People usually shoot from head height, but lie down, get up high. Look around you every which way. Make sure you get the right shot in the frame from the very beginning.”

Some ideas for interesting Architecture in Nottingham City Centre –

Nottingham Contemporary
Royal Concert Hall
NCN Adams Building
St Mary's Church
Broadway Cinema
Nottingham Playhouse and The Sky Mirror
Nottingham Park Estate

Head out and explore, look up at the tops of buildings, we get so used to modern shop fronts on street level but the rest of the building can have some really beautiful detailing. Look at windows, doorways, step inside and try out some of the featured techniques.

You're invited...

July Photography Walk
Wednesday 21 July
11:00 - 13:00

Our July Photography walk will focus on Architecture Photography.

Learn tips and discuss ideas around how best to approach this subject matter, with Photography Tutor Sammy, during this practical photography walk around Nottingham City Centre. Be experimental to gain new perspectives on key pieces of architecture around the City and search for other interesting structures and buildings to capture some unique images. Sign up [here](#)

Participate

THE LATEST ARTSPEAK PROGRAMME

TUESDAY ART CLUB

Online and Indoor Art Classes

Online sessions - June

Indoor sessions - First & Third Tuesday of each month at 25 Prospect Street

Upcoming sessions:

Colour Explosion - Working with Pastels

1 June, 10:30 - 12:30 (Online)

Create a vibrant and colourful abstract piece of artwork using soft and oil pastels in this introductory session led by artist Amber Bain.

Through a series of experiments, you'll use different techniques and tools to blend both soft and oil pastels and learn how you can mix colours in a variety of ways. After you've practiced the different techniques, you'll discover which are your favourite and combine this knowledge to produce your own unique mixed media abstract artwork.

Things you'll need:

Oil pastels

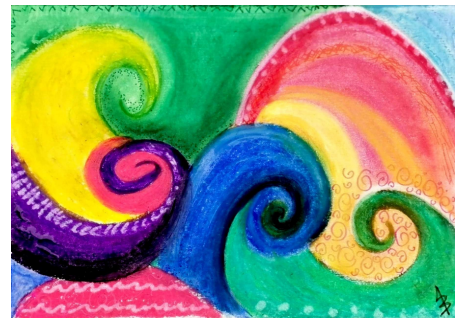
Soft pastels

220gsm Cartridge paper

Paint brushes

Sugar paper

Blending stump/Tortillon



For the full list of resources please view the website listing. Suitable for all levels, no prior experience required.

Session fee - £5. Material packs will be available for £20

Click [here](#) for more details and booking.

TUESDAY ART CLUB AT 25 PROSPECT STREET



First and Third Tuesday of the Month,

15:30 - 17:30

Launching 6 July

Our Art sessions at 25 Prospect Street are a welcoming space for you to explore your creative potential whilst learning and developing skills in a range of art mediums.

Led by our ArtSpeak resident artist, sessions will be fun, engaging and stimulating, enabling you to explore different art techniques and have time for a cuppa and chat.

With the opportunity to try something new each week, there'll be something to suit all interests and abilities. This is a welcoming, encouraging and social space for you to be curious and experimental.



£5 per session. All materials will be provided.

Location - 25 Prospect Street, Radford, Nottingham, NG7 5QE.

Parking is available on site.

Book a space by contacting us at ArtSpeak@radfordcaregroup.org.uk or sign up through the website by clicking [here](#).

PHOTOGRAPHY TALKS AND WALKS

First & Third Wednesday of the month

Our monthly programme of photography talks and walks are an ideal opportunity to develop skills, meet new people, get tips and advice, find inspiration and set new goals.

The 'talk' element will begin online but will move to an indoor setting when appropriate. There will be a chance to develop your skills and techniques whilst exploring different themes and trying out activities and photography tasks set by a photographer.

There'll also be the opportunity to ask questions, discuss ideas, share examples of your work and receive feedback.



The monthly walks will give you a reason to take your camera out and put your skills into practice whilst in the company of other keen photographers. A photography tutor will lead each session and share tips and advice throughout. Locations will vary and be confirmed prior to each monthly walk.

Different areas of photography will be explored during each session and will be determined by the interests of all participants.

£5 per session. Sign up by clicking [here](#)

June Photography Talk

Wednesday 2 June, 11:00 - 12:30

Creating your own Flat Lay

Flat lay photography is a versatile sub-genre of still life. They can be minimalist and simple, containing only key objects arranged in a well-thought composition. Or can include an array of lots of small items, creating a sense of organized chaos.

The best flat lays tell a visual story and contain a few key items surrounded by additional elements that add to the narrative you are building. The colours, shapes and angles you choose to use have an impact on the overall image and effectiveness of your flat lay.

Photographer Sammy, founder of Photography Network, Photography Oddities, will be setting this as your first photographic challenge and giving tips and advice on how to produce your own unique flat lay.

This is a practical workshop. Things you'll need to take part -

- Camera or camera phone
- A lamp/sunlight near a window
- Flat background to lay on the floor/rug/something flat and pretty patterned/desk
- 10 items from an obsession or personal collection
- Tripod (Optional)

Full details and booking click [here](#)

June Photography Walk

Wednesday 16 June , 11:00 - 13:00

Urban Nature

Victoria Embankment and Nottingham War Memorial Gardens

Explore this urban landscape and look at areas along the river in a new light whilst practicing a range of photography tasks with Photography tutor Sammy.

Change your perspective and experiment with different view points and compositions as you seek out nature and foliage in an urban environment. Beauty can be found in unexpected places!

Our Photography walks are suitable for all levels. Routes will be planned to ensure they are accessible for all participants. However, please inform us of any access requirements you have at the time of booking. For more details and booking click [here](#)

Future dates - Photography Talk, 7 July

Photography Walk, 21 July - Full details on page 19



FILMMAKING WORKSHOPS

Our filmmaking sessions are an opportunity for you to develop skills and broaden your understanding of all aspects of the filmmaking process. They're a space to share and discuss ideas, work collaboratively and produce interesting material.

We recently held an introductory phase of workshops covering the three key areas of film. Pre-production, Production and Postproduction. The following three sessions are a continuation and will cover more practical tasks. They will be held online but we will be running more sessions on a fortnightly basis from 25 Prospect Street in the near future, which can be attended in person. (Full details of indoor workshops will soon be announced.)

If you would like to receive the presentations for the pre-production, production and postproduction sessions which include lots of visuals and examples, please get in touch at artspeak@radfordcaregroup.org.uk

Friday 21 May, 15:00 – 16:30

Filmmaking clinic –

Filmmaking clinics are a supportive, informative and encouraging space where you can ask questions, find out about areas of film that you are interested in or unsure of, and receive advice and feedback on your own filmmaking projects.

They provide the opportunity for you to share and discuss ideas with tutor Keith Allott and the rest of the group as well as being a space to gain inspiration and consider potential stimulus for individual projects and future collaborative work.

More clinics will be scheduled for the future as the group sessions progress.

Friday 4 June, 12:00 – 13:30

This session will be a participatory workshop focusing on increasing and developing your knowledge of filming. Through a range of tasks, you'll be encouraged to consider the framing and composition of your shots using your immediate surroundings for content. Support and guidance will be provided by Keith throughout the workshop as you start to experiment and learn through practice.

Additional tasks will be set for you to consider and explore before the third session where you will be invited to show what you have captured.

Friday 18 June, 15:00 – 16:30

This will be a screening of the work produced in sessions, and independently over the past few weeks. You will collectively consider the success of certain shots and think about how else they could be captured to set the scene and build a narrative. Discussions will continue around what subject matters could be covered by the filmmaking group, what initial interests you have and what aspects of filmmaking you would be interested in exploring in future sessions.

These sessions are free but a participation fee of £5 per session will be introduced when sessions take place indoors. To sign up please email us - artspeak@radfordcaregroup.org.uk

News

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST

Create to Connect – Writing for Wellbeing

4, 11, 18 and 25 May at 11:00am

City Arts are hosting some free creative writing sessions to teach you how to use the process of writing to calm your mind.

Led by writer Katie Stone you will spend time throughout the short series of workshops to explore different approaches, exercises and techniques to help you write mindfully. There are four workshops in total but you are not required to attend them all and you don't need any prior experience of writing.

More information and booking can be found [here](#)

Home Alone Together

Home Alone Together in Northumberland is a project produced by Artist Sharon Bailey.

For five months throughout lockdown, Sharon wrote to and called a group of older people living in North Northumberland.



She sent them art materials to make things and kept a diary of their interactions. As Sharon found that the older people she spoke to were feeling increasingly isolated and confined to the indoors, she spent more time outside and began photographing and filming aspects of her surroundings.

Sharon combined these visuals with the words from the letters sent by the individuals, clips of key news headlines and extracts from her own diary to produce a piece of poignant and poetic moving image. She titled the work, 'Home Alone Together in Northumberland'.

"This short piece of moving image combines the words from the letters and my diary, with film extracts from my natural landscape. This is part of an on-going diary, capturing the changes inside and outside, as well as being a tangible way of not forgetting these individuals and their hidden lives".

You can view the film on Youtube by clicking [here](#)

Nottingham Castle reopens its doors

After three years of being closed for a major £30million renovation project, Nottingham Castle will reopen on 21 June.

What can you expect from your next visit?

As soon as you enter the Castle gates, you'll notice the first major change which is the new visitor Centre and gift shop. From here, there is a new Robin Hood experience in the

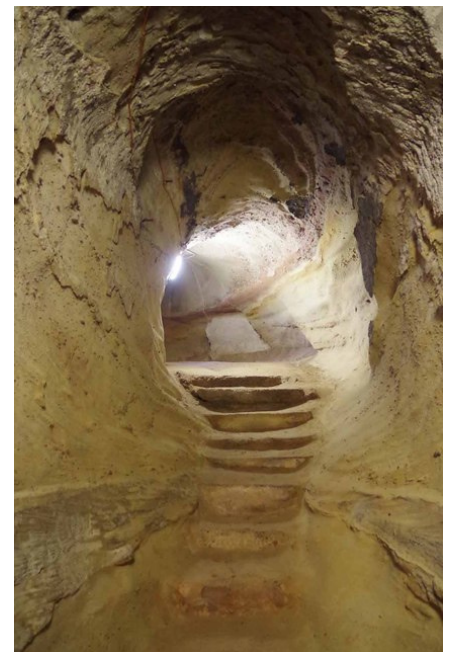


Castle Tunnel where you can immerse yourself in medieval Nottingham and enjoy hearing tales and ballads of Robin Hood through the storytelling screens.

Inside the Ducal Palace, you can expect the same great programme of world class touring exhibitions and shows in the temporary exhibition galleries. There is a new edition of The Rebellion Gallery, which explores the three most riotous moments in the history of Nottingham - The Civil War, The Luddites and the Parliamentary Reform.

Enter the Creative Galleries to be inspired by Nottingham's creative past with the outstanding collections of fine and decorative arts, including Contemporary Photography, Nottingham Lace, ceramics, oil paintings and medieval alabaster.

There's plenty to explore and reacquaint yourself with inside and out. There will also be a number of regular tours you can join to find out more about the fascinating history of Nottingham including tours of the fantastic cave network.



Brewhouse Yard, the Museum of Nottingham life spanning over 300 years, containing reconstructed rooms, shop settings and gallery displays is also set to reopen on 21 June.



For full updates and information about visiting the Castle visit the website by clicking [here](#)

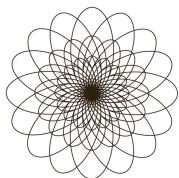


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