

Community Membership Scheme Newsletter

Welcome! Spring is in the air!

We have had a busy start to the new year. So far this year we have welcomed **79 local community groups** to our Community Membership Scheme, ten of whom have already helped kick-start the 2026 programme.

The **Community Gardeners** are back in the Schools' Garden, clearing and planting the beds (see below).



Co-researchers, from last summer's Community Research Project enjoyed a series of **creative sessions** with artist Annabel Lee. They painted an interpretation of the Garden using artist Patrick Heron for inspiration (see an example below left). They also used paper to make cherry blossoms inspired by this year's blooms on the Yoshino cherry tree (below right).



Creative writing flourished in our first Seasonal Poetics workshop. Open to everyone, bring your members to join the next one (more details, see right).



We would love to welcome you and your organisation's beneficiaries in the Garden this Spring. Why not **book a guided walk** or join one of our activities, choose from our exciting programme of workshops for budding creative writers and artists. Book a group visit, see the flowers and trees in bloom!

Workshops are for all experience levels and free of charge. Subject to availability, minimum number of participants is required. Spaces are limited.



Visit us this Spring

Help us create a Garden which gives our local community a sense of belonging. Book a free activity for your group. We'd love to hear your members' thoughts afterwards so that we can continue to improve the Garden for community visitors, as we address the five themes from our community research project: *Social relevance and Connection, Creativity, Wellbeing, Communication, Accessibility and Inclusivity*

Wellbeing **Forest bathing**

Led by Gurpran, artist and yoga teacher, Monday 18 May 10-11:30am

Bring your group members for a forest bathing session. Enjoy a slow, gentle, sensory-immersive walk in nature accompanied by guided mindfulness practice and breathwork. These nature-immersive moments are designed to deeply engage the senses and create a feeling of wellbeing.

Creativity **Prints from Packaging – Recycle and Recreate!**

Led by printmakers from Studio 84, Monday 11 May 10am-4pm
Discover how to create unique and beautiful intaglio prints. Design your image by scratching, cutting and peeling away the surface of discarded packaging materials. Ink and print your image on a table-top press.

Remember to bring your 2025 membership card or let us know if you need a replacement.

Creativity **Writing workshops**

Summer Seasonal Poetics
Saturday 13 June, 10:30am-12:30pm, led by author Caroline Druitt

Explore the changing seasons through poetry, prose and careful observation. After a Garden walk to provoke the senses, we move indoors for guided readings, discussion and creative exercises.

Writing the Garden *Wednesday 1 July, 10am-1pm, led by author Lynn Fraser*

Inspired by the Garden, explore ways to use places to inspire and make stories more effective. There will be prompts to help you get started and ideas to try out.

**For more information email
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