

# Woodland Rambling & Brambling

### Report

Contact dates: 2nd – 3rd Oct 2015

Venue: Newhailes House, Musselburgh

Date: 21st March 2016

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# Woodland Rambling & Brambling

# **Completion Report**

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### 1. Introduction

**Woodland Rambling and Brambling** was an inter-generational event held over two days at Newhailes House, Musselburgh. Activities took place in the Newhailes Estate and were complemented by Ranger-led activities in the grounds. The event was organised by Creative Art Works CIC and formed part of The Luminate Festival.

"Luminate is an annual festival that takes place across the length and breadth of Scotland each October, offering the chance to celebrate creativity, share stories and to explore what ageing means to all of us."

www.luminatescotland.org

The event was aimed at the "Over 50s, and their parents" but was open to all ages and abilities.

Activities included:

 Culinary: demonstrations, tastings and hands on creation of foods, drinks e.g. bramble jam, jelly and cordial, blackberry leaf tea and blackberry vinegar.

- Creative: bramble inspired arts and crafts including card making, bramble dye prints and bramble "henna" hand painting.
- · Foraging for brambles.
- Ranger led walks through the woodland, meadows and rough pastures surrounding Newhailes House.
- · Bramble facts and folklore.
- Bramble Nature Detective and trails for the youngest participants, which invite participation from their more experienced family members.

All the activities were run on a drop-in basis, with sessions repeated throughout each day. **Woodland Rambling and Brambling** was promoted to a range of targeted organisations in the run up to the event but was also open to the general public. As the event was part of The Luminate Festival it was publicised via their website www.luminatescotland.org.

Transport was provided for groups of visitors from some of the hard to reach/BME communities in Edinburgh. These are communities that Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) has been working with to build relationships and to encourage in them the confidence to engage with, and enjoy, Scotland's outdoor spaces and woodlands. Two BSL (British Sign Language) interpreters were provided on one of the two days.





# 2. Participating Organisations and Individuals

The event was devised, created and delivered by Creative Art Works CIC (see Appendix 3). The core team included:

**Joanna Boyce** (Creative director, community liaison, capacity building and artistic delivery)

**Fay Purves** (Administrative director, project development promotion and onsite management)

**Lindsay Snedden** (Project development, on-site management, promotion and Photography)

Additional help and support was provided on the day by:

Philip Knight (Poetry and creative writing workshop)

**Stuart England** (Technical and artistic support and delivery)

Lyver Chavez (Art Assistant)

**Monica Wilde** (Ethnobotanist, bramble recipes and food preparation)





The ancient Greeks, believed blackberries were to be a cure for diseases of the mouth and throat, as well as a preventative against many ailments, including gout. It used to be said that the first blackberry spotted growing each year could banish warts

A cat born on Michaelmas Day is said to be a 'blackberry cat' and will be mischievous all its life Ian Thomson (Over 50s, volunteer)

Rob Walker (Over 50s, volunteer)

Although not part of the core team Monica Wilde played in important role in the event. Monica created the "bramble recipes" and prepared, cooked and served various bramble dishes throughout the day.

The following organisations also participated in the event delivery:

- Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS)
- National Trust for Scotland (NTS)
- National Trust for Scotland Ranger Service (NTSR)
- The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)

Two BSL (British Sign Language) Interpreters were present for Saturday's Event.

# 3. Aims and objectives

- Provide an event that would feature as part of the Lumiante Festival programme of events.
- Encourage the Over 50s, to experience and enjoy outdoor spaces .
- Bring together groups of Over 50s, from differing social and ethnic backgrounds in shared activities.
- Explore the natural environment in and around Newhailes House Estate.
- Investigate the medicinal, culinary, literary cultural and symbolic nature of the humble bramble.
- Explore the architecture and history of Newhailes House.
- Investigate the wildlife living in Scotland's hedgerows.
- Provide taster sessions in group creative writing.
- Provide a relaxed social space to meet, picnic and relax.
- Encourage visitors to forage for editable berries.

# 4. Promotion, Community Engagement and Capacity Building

### Community engagement

Prior to the event Joanna Boyce (of Creative Art Works) approached the leaders of several local communities to initially gauge interest then to coordinate and organise group visits to the event. These groups included (but were not restricted to):

- The Sikh Sanjog, Edinburgh
- The Edinburgh Gurwara
- The Nepal Scotland Association
- NSA Women's Group
- Positive Future Lunch Club
- Edinburgh Inter-faith Group
- Milan (Senior Welfare Organization) Ltd
- The Minority Ethnic Health inclusion Service (Mehis)

In addition Fay Purves (of Creative Art Works) canvassed interest from retirement homes in and around the local Musselburgh and East Edinburgh area.

An important aspect of engaging with some of the "hard to reach" groups is the provision of suitable transport for both individuals and community groups and a key part of the community engagement was and sourcing and coordinating mini buses and/or group taxis.

### **Promotion**

Additional promotional activity included, a listing on the Luminate Festival website, leaflet distribution around the local area and posters placed around Newhailes Estate prior to the event.

Newhailes Estate is a popular walk for many locals to the area and we anticipated that the event would attract some "passing trade" and this proved to be the case.

The bramble was a sacred plant of the Celts. In Scotland the bramble, along with the rowan and the yew, had magical powers. Some lore suggests that the blackberry belongs to the fairy folk!



If Brambles are planted near a home, a vampire couldn't enter because he would obsessively count the berries and forget what he was about!



In times past, creeping under a blackberry briar was supposed to cure whooping cough, especially if done nine times- repeating one of the following rhymes: 'Under the briar and over the briar, I wish to leave the chin cough here'

A good crop of blackberries would foretell a good fishing season, in particular for herring

### **Capacity Building**

An established link between FCS and the NTS Ranger Service was already in place with FCS keen to stage an event of this type at a suitable NTS property. After some discussion it was decided that Newhailes would prove to be a good location as it combined a historic building (as a point of interest) with extensive mature woodland. In addition Newhailes house and the adjoining "Stables Courtyard" offered the opportunity to access the buildings facilities and activity spaces including the exhibition space, cafe, shop, toilets, and disabled toilets. The involvement of FCS, the NTS Ranger service and, in theory, NTS offered the opportunity for all these organisation to contribute to the event activities.

TCV were also approached and were keen to become involved. They provided activities over both days which proved to be very popular.

# 5. Project Delivery

There were two main strands to the event. These were designed to compliment each other, with aim of combing gentle physical exercise with creative, educational and social activities.

The two main strands were:

### a. Walks and foraging

The event was designed to provide visitors with a structured "ramble" through the Newhailes Estate. Although visitors were free to explore the grounds by themselves there were two suggested routes provided, one of approx 1.5km (0.9 miles) and a slighter longer route of 2km (1.5 miles). Both routes were relatively flat and easily accessible and led through mature woodland, open pasture and past buildings and other features of historical interest. Guided walks were provided by TCV and the NTS Rangers.

Visitors were encouraged to "forage" for brambles from the numerous bramble patches around the site. Information and bramble recipes were provided by Monica Wilde and artwork projects using brambles were provided by the Creative Art Works artists. Full risk assessments were undertaken with regard to the proposed routes, the foraging and any subsequent creative and/or culinary activities.

### b. Woodland Activity stations

In addition to the designated rambles there were six main activity areas, two were staffed by Creative Art Works the other four by Monica Wilde,

FCS, NTS Rangers and TCV respectively. It was also planned to have tours of Newhailes House led by NTS Guides.

These activities were described in the promotional material as follow:

- Get the creative juices flowing; try composing a group poem, get inspired by Seamus Heaney's "Blackberry Picking" and readings of work by other leading poets. Create a Blackberry Haiku, print your own greeting card using bramble leaves and berries or just relax and enjoy the tranquillity of the secluded Cabinet Garden.
- Print your own greeting card using bramble design stamps and printing blocks, using natural paints and dyes made from bramble leaves, berries and other Autumn flora.
- Brambles have a huge culinary potential come and explore a few of them with Monica Wilde - food and foraging expert. From bramble jam to tea, vinegar and baking, see foraged foods being cooked on a Soyer Stove, try some samples and maybe take home a recipe or two.
- At the Forestry Commission Scotland Tent come and find out more about the forests and woodlands found all across Scotland. In addition to leading guided walks through the Estate's beautiful mature woodland FCS will also be providing containers for collecting brambles and maps to help you find your way around the site. FCS will also be offering activities, information and activity sheets for the younger members of the family, which parents and grand parents will be able to enjoy too.
- You are invited on a journey through Enlightenment history, with bramble folklore and wonderful wildlife at Newhailes Estate with NTS Community Outreach Ranger, Emily Sanderson. Her walk will lead you through the designed landscape allowing you to understand NTS conservation in action on the estate and to learn why Newhailes is a special place for everyone. Walks will last around 45 minutes and start/finish at the NTS Ranger tent at the picnic area (event hub), departing at 12pm and another at 2pm on both days. Maximum 15 people. The walk will be on a combination of surfaces access paths and informal paths suitable for buggies/push chairs and wheelchairs. The walk is aimed at all ages and abilities.
- Discover 300 years of Scottish history through this magnificent and carefully
  conserved neo-Palladian villa. Newhailes is famed for having some of the
  finest rococo interiors in Scotland. A major part of the house's charm is its
  mellow feel. Newhailes has been allowed to grow old gracefully through
  a pioneering conservation policy which does 'as much as is necessary, but
  as little as possible' to keep the house in good order without disturbing its
  'untouched' atmosphere. Guided tours by appointment only.
- The Conservation Volunteers help hundreds of thousands of people each year
  to reclaim local green places. Through our own environmental projects and
  through our network of 2,000 community groups, we see people every day,
  and all across the UK taking responsibility for their own local environments.
  On Friday and Saturday we will be carrying out a hedgerow survey looking
  at why hedges are important for biodiversity and we will have a closer
  look to see what may be living in and living off the hedges at Newhailes.













In Ireland, if a man crawls under a blackberry arch, he will see the shadow of the woman he will marry



We will be using the Open Air Laboratories (OPAL) Biodiversity survey to discover what lurks within the hedges at Newhailes and our finding will be submitted to OPAL as part of their record collection.

The original idea was to place the Woodland Activity Stations at strategic locations around the designated rambles. In theory this would have added additional points of interest and places to stop, relax and learn (see Appendix 2). However it was found that spreading the activities out across the site wasn't ideal so we revised the plan to concentrate all the activities in one area. This was supplemented with guided walks led by both the TCV Team and the NTS Rangers.

The final layout of the event saw the Activity Stations arranged in and around the main picnic area. This focused the day's events and allowed easy access to the cafe and toilets in the "Stable Block" adjacent to the site Focusing on this one area allowed for easier site management, mutual support between the various participating groups and easier interaction with the public. It also made it easier for TCV and NTS Rangers to organise to deliver their guided walks.

Whilst "tasters" of the various bramble recipes were provide visitors were encouraged to bring a picnic. The weather on both the Friday and Saturday was excellent and various community groups were able to dine "al fresco" in the picnic area. Visitors were also encouraged to make use of the cafe, which recorded one of it's best trading days of the year. With the exception of the guided tours of Newhailes House (see recommendations) all the activities proved to be very popular.

The guided walks by TCV and NTS Ranger Service were repeated several times over the two days and were well attended. Both TCV and NTS Ranger Service proved to be very flexible in their approach, delivering both the agreed "timetabled" tours and "pop up" tours to meet any additional demand

The poetry readings didn't seem to catch visitors imagination, however the Creative Art Works group poetry writing worked very well on both days. The multi lingual nature of the community groups gave a new dimension to the activity and added greatly to the experience. Several poems written in a combination of English and Sanskrit were produced (see Appendix 2) with Sadia Ismail of FCS interpreting the written words.

The planned card printing activities were supplemented by visitor led "henna" hand painting using bramble paints and dyes prepared by Creative Art Works for the occasion. Importantly these activities were enjoyed by both young and old.

# 6. Particpant Monitoring

Age and Gender of those involved			
	Male	Female	
0 - 4 years	3	4	
5 - 11 years	13	16	
12 - 15 years	1	3	
16 - 25 years	2	0	
20 - 60 years	27	53	
+ 60 years	20	41	
Total male/female	63	117	
Overall total	180		

Numbers of those who are registered disabled			
	Male	Female	
Physical disability	-	3	
Visual disability	-	-	
Hearing disability	-	3	
Mental disability	1	2	
Learning disability	-	1	
Other disability	2	3	
Total male/female	3	12	
Overall total	15		

Participants ethnic background				
	Male	Female		
White British	39	62		
White European	1	2		
Mixed Race	-	-		
Asian/British Asian	5	38		
Black	1	3		
Nepalese	14	14		
Other	0	1		
Total male/female	60	120		
Overall total	180			



A wreath of blackberry brambles could be hung on the barn or house to protect them from witches or evil spirits, hoping to catch the spirit as it passed through

Woodland Rambling and Brambling and Brambling

# 7. Image Gallery



















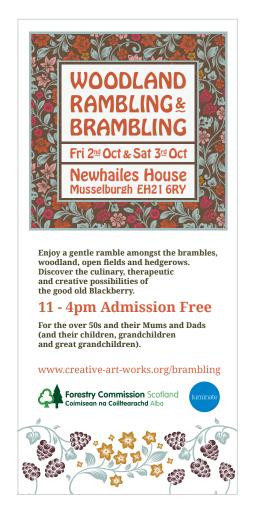














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# 9. Fit to FCS Engagement Strategy

"Assist community participation; Enhance opportunities for health, well-being and enjoyment Contribute to growth in learning and skills."

#### a) Assisting in community participation:

The **Woodland Rambling and Brambling** event gave the Over 50s, especially from several BME communities an opportunity to meet and enjoy activities together in the woods:

- Many Participants had communication needs and /or came from hard to reach communities
- **Woodland Rambling and Brambling** provided a meaningful reason for some Over 50s, and often-isolated members of BME communities to engage with and be active in their local woodlands.
- Connections were made with the FCS Engagement Officer, National Trust for Scotland, National Trust for Scotland Ranger Service the Conservation Volunteers.
- This type of active participation should: lead to greater understanding, participation and responsibility in such activities in the foreseeable future towards stewardship of the woodlands and caring for the environment.

#### b) Enhancing opportunities for health and Enjoyment:

There were several Health and well-being benefits for participatory groups and individuals who came to the **Woodland Rambling and Brambling** event:

- Many Participants had enjoyable first experiences of Scottish woodland.
- The venue within a woodland, the guided walks and the rambling and foraging activities meant that participants – who included many elderly men and women - were encouraged to take a healthy minute walk through wooded pathways.
- FCS and TCV staff along with local Artists and other facilitators engaged public in nature inspired activities and directed participants in the enjoyment of woodland relatively close to Edinburgh city.
- Public were shown how to access their woodlands and given ideas of activities to enjoy there.
- The positive feedback verifies that participating in the Woodland Rambles and Brambles contributed to a sense of well being, confidence, joy and solidarity.

• The Welcoming atmosphere and a BSL sign interpreter enabled the Central Scotland Deaf Community to feel totally accepted.

#### c) Contribute to growth in learning and skills:

- Through the involvement in Woodland Rambling and Brambling participants were being able to gain knowledge and understanding of how to access and enjoy their local woodland.
- Passing public and local Edinburgh and Midlothian communities were able to learn about and Brambles recipes folklore and traditions.
- Participation in the day, both facilitators and participants' could practise communication, leadership, interpersonal and social skills.
- The cross-cultural element especially evident during the group poetry writing encouraged inter-cultural dialogue and understanding. For many it was their first experience of creative writing.

#### d) Woods for Health

- **Woodland Rambling and Brambling** motivated many individuals, groups and families to visit the woodlands and take exercise.
- The community picnic atmosphere created opportunities for participants to socialize, laugh, joke and relax among trees.
- The inter-generational engagement encouraged young and old to enjoy the great outdoors together.
- Facilitators encouraged interpretation of the local woodlands and group ownership and personal stewardship of the woodland.
- Several under represented groups were involved. Follow-up work with FCS engagement strategy could provide opportunities for future participation in woodland enjoyment, conservation and volunteering

#### e) WIAT programme.

- **Woodland Rambling and Brambling** encouraged local woodland use through the creative arts and community celebration.
- Transport support meant isolated groups were able to visit and enjoy Scottish woodlands not far from the City.
- Participants could be inspired to return to accessible urban woodlands.
- Communities and individuals were invited to continue to use and enjoy their local urban woodlands, thereby improving the quality of their lives and potential for outdoor learning – and giving them equal opportunities for enjoyment through outdoor activities.









Woodland Rambling and Brambling Woodland Rambling and Brambling



#### f) FCS Engagement Strategy

- The **Woodland Rambling and Brambling** event meant that several individuals from various different community and faith groups were visiting the woods often for the first time.
- Many participants expressed an interest in FCS hosting other community based events relevant to their particular community group.
- All opportunities to encourage discussion and example of how we can become responsible active citizens who respect wildlife and take responsibility for the stewardship of local woodlands, were maximised.



# 10. Participant feedback

At the main exit from the event a 'How's it Bean?' stand was set up. Dried beans were left in a tub beside jars marked with a sad face, straight face and happy face respectively and visitors leaving **Woodland Rambling and Brambling** were encouraged to place a bean (or more) in the appropriate jar to reflect their experience of the day. Whilst not a scientific measure (as people could place as many beans as they wished in a jar), it did give a very positive reflection of the event as a whole, with an overwhelming 'happy' response. The final counts across 2 days were:

• Sad face: 6 beans

• Straight face: 52 beans

• Happy face: 404 beans



We received a very warm welcome and everyone particularly enjoyed being outdoors with each other. The ladies really liked participating in the different events. Also, transport being provided was very helpful.

Everyone enjoyed the guided walks. Also the natural products used for the colouring. We all enjoyed making the cards and using the colours to draw designs on our hands.

It had become a little too cold to sit outside and the café let us use their premises to eat our own food. Many places would not do this, so it was very much appreciated. Hopefully it was also positive for the café and gift shop as people did buy some things.

Enjoying time with friends

Loved the pancake with bramble jam and card making with natural resources.

Enjoyable day

A really enjoyable day full of high spirits and positive energy.

The ladies were wary of being asked to write poetry at first but the fun and simplistic way they were shown how to compose a poem resulted in it being a really good and very different experience for them.

Fresh air, meeting people, becoming aware of Newhailes house and the grounds, getting closer to nature.

Lovely day

As discussed with Joanna we were disappointed at the cost of entry to Newhailes house, meaning we couldn't visit. Sikh Sanjog would have paid part of it but the ladies would have still had to cover a lot of the cost and we felt that it was too expensive.

It was an enjoyable experience... Many thanks.

We all had the most lovely day - the whole atmosphere was lively and positive and uplifting .We really did all have the best day out . We didn't know that lovely place existed! We really enjoyed ourselves wandering in the woods and trying out all the lovely activities. We learned so much we didn't know before about brambles and the woodland plants. Writing the poems was a very unifying experience - everyone enjoyed themselves relaxing in the calm environment. We had a. We had such a lovely lunch sitting and laughing in the sunny courtyard. The whole day was nice and peaceful - and fun too. All the way home we chatted and sang about the day. All in all it was a wonderful day that really lifted our spirits. We would be more than happy to participate in any other up and coming FCS events.

All said they had a wonderful day and the children also really enjoyed it.







I personally thought it was really good an all the different uses of brambles were amazing.

I love the trees

Especially appreciated this opportunity to get out into the wild outdoors, explore the countryside and to gather together under the trees to pick brambles, chat and share the day.

The art activities were really popular with even the oldest and most infirm in the groups putting sticks aside to experiment with the natural blackberry dyes and make their own greetings cards as a souvenir of the day.

A very happy atmosphere all round.

Not strictly feedback but very much of, and in the spirit of, the day. A poem

#### Last Of Summer's Wine

written by one of the participants.

(Sonnet for autumn)

October's here. Cold winter's on its way But now the sky is blue. I'll try my luck And head into the fields this sunny day To look for autumn blackberries to pluck.

Along the hedgerow down a muddy track

I find rich fruits awaiting me at last;

Clusters of berries, red and glossy black

Reminding me of happy summers past.

The brambles have their thorns but what care I.

I reach for juicy fruit, black, purple, red.

The sun is shining in a cloudless sky.

I fill my basket planning feasts ahead.

So in my autumn there are pleasures still.

With last of summer's wine I'll take my fill.

### 11. Recommendations

- First time visitors to the woodlands included 11 Sikh men from the Edinburgh Gurdwara. We were successful in rallying this group partly because the Gurdwara had recently completed a consultation which showed a lack of targeted activities for Men in general but most importantly we listened to advice from within the Sikh community and acting on that Joanna made both a preliminary visit to the home of one of the Sikh elders where she gave both an informal chat about the plans for Bramble day and how it could work for the men's group and also a more formal presentation at the Gurdwara to 5 Male community leaders. We cannot underestimate the importance of this personal approach. We were delighted when the Mens group turned up with picnics and lots of positive energy.
- The women and mens group both requested that their visists were on separate days - allowing maximan freedom and relaxation for all groups on the day.
- Transport is a key prerequisite to involving urban BME groups in activities out-with the main centres of population. More groups could have been invited if the transport budget was bigger.
- Much of the promotion for this event was done via personal contact with either the leaders of the various community groups and/or group members. This requires access to an active and ongoing system of networking and informal engagement with these groups. Whilst promotion via more established means of communication (leaflets, posters, websites) etc. are important their role is really to provide support to the informal networking that underpins this type of event. As such the formal marketing collateral needs to be tailored to the needs of informal networking. So for example leaflets should be designed as a means of validating information given to community groups via personal contact. Consequently the role of the maintaining and managing an informal network should be recognised as an important element in the development of community based projects.
- Allowing additional time in the pre-planning phase to identify and approach potential co-sponsors could be beneficial.
- Specific support is vital for encouraging certain groups to attend (for example deaf and deaf blind interpreters).
- The multi generational/cross cultural aspect of the event was very successful however it may be valuable to consider more specific activities for the elderly.
- Problems arose with regard to liaising with NTS. It's is important here to distinguish between NTS the NTS Ranger Service. The team from the Ranger Service were very positive about the project and helped greatly towards it's success. Relationships with NTS however proved to be slightly more problematic. Whilst we understood that both FCS and NTS were keen to see an event of this type hosted at Newhailes, we found that reaching agreement on costs was very difficult. For example several of the groups invited to the event were keen to take a guided tour of Newhailes House.

Woodland Rambling and Brambling Woodland Rambling and Brambling

However the costs that we were presented with meant that even at the "discounted" rate members of our groups would have been considerably cheaper taking the tour as a member of the general public. Whilst the groups would have been happy to pay for the tour the costs presented to us were prohibitive. Many groups were disappointed by the high costs of visiting the house. Discounted prices would have meant an excellent diverse visit from hard to reach groups - which could only been good for NTS audience/visitor targets. As a consequence we were not able to offer guided tours which was a great disappointment to us and a missed opportunity for NTS.

- Allied to this was the time taken to agree on these costs, Following initial (positive) discussions it took several weeks before NTS confirmed costs to us making cost planning very difficult.
- Related to the above it will important for future events for us to communicate
  more clearly to potential partners/suppliers clearly who has initiated the
  project making it clear that the event is a community event and not intended
  as a profit making commercial venture.
- Thought going into the layout of the stalls is really important. Where as we hoped spreading the activities around the site would encourage movement across the site and inspire short walks In practice it was better to have the stalls forming a chorale where groups could gather ,get their bearings and form picnic areas . the walking happened naturally with the handing out of bramble collecting pots All group s quickly understood that collecting the woodland fruit was the focus of the day and needed little encouragement to get picking and follow the paths leading to the blackberry bushes.
- Having someone open and friendly to receive groups at the car park and stay
  with them to present the activities and order of the day was really important
  . Although Fay and Joanna both did their best to fulfil this role it was hard
  to be in lots of places at once. Several FCS volunteers in t-shirts in this role
  could have been a helpful addition.
- Many of the older generation found sitting on the ground difficult all the chairs we put out were quickly occupied - more seating /logs to perch on would have been great. NTS had offered us the use of chairs but this was another "cost" option that we did not have to budget to cover.

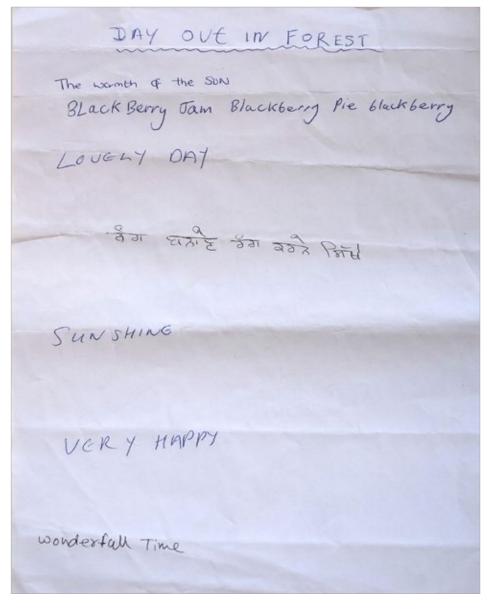
## 12. Appendices

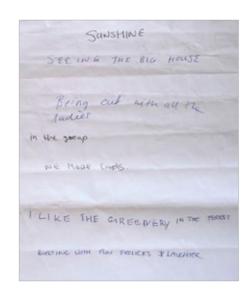
### Appendix 1. Site Map

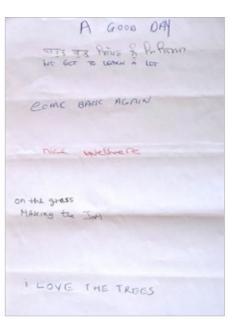


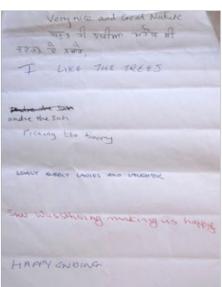
Woodland Rambling and Brambling Woodland Rambling and Brambling

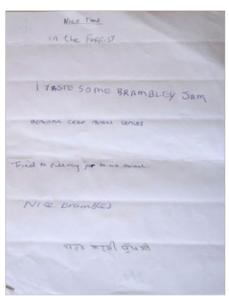
### Appendix 2. Group poetry













### Appendix 3.

#### Creative Art Works Mission Statement

Creative Art Works offers a unique combination of creative, professional and organisational skills with experience that ranges across the commercial, financial, artistic and not for profit sectors.

Our aims are to:

- Use art and drama to facilitate creativity and expression in others, using artistic engagement as a tool for analysis, discovery and learning.
- Help corporate and third sector organisations make informed decisions through a creative use of market research, concept development and project management.
- Plan, create and deliver projects, programmes and events that engage with all sections of society including hard to reach and minority groups.
- Promote, record and report using the written word, the visual arts, print, photography, design and the web.

We work with public, private and third sector organisations and strive to provide everyone with access to our services. Whilst we offer cost effective solutions to all our clients we are committed to directing any profit we generate towards supporting our work with groups engaged in social and educational projects.

Creative Art Works has particular interest in projects which promote sustainability, maximise social capital and engage with hard to reach and out of reach social groups. We believe in creating benefit beyond the immediate project remit and, when possible and appropriate, we will offer work and development opportunities to people looking for employment.

www.creative-art-works.org



## Blackberry picking

Each year I try To pick them hard and whole Shiny black sugar laden A handful cupped in the palm Before being thrown On to the fruity cushion of the rest The summers final cornucopia A reminder in this electric age Of the battered planets turning year Each autumn Mist ghosted trees tinged with gold Make an island Of these tangled brambles **Timeless** Pricked and ruddy hands Reaching back through Many many summers

by Philip Knight

