



Community Membership Scheme Newsletter

Welcome!

It has been a busy few weeks for communities in the Botanic Garden as the warmer weather means we have welcomed an increasing number of community visitors. A group from Girlguiding's Rainbows thoroughly enjoyed their adventure in the Garden to find butterfly's eggs on our Easter trail. We were also delighted to welcome back residents from the Independent Living Service for their seasonal visit to the Garden, this time for our plant growth workshop.

The Garden is starting to bloom with irises starting to flower and the *Paeonia suffruticosa* looking particularly stunning on Lynch Walk, near the Garden Room with its large white flowers. The handkerchief tree in the Woodland Garden is also worth a look with its white flowers arranged along the branches said to resemble a flock of doves.

For those of you interested in learning more about coloured dyes from plants found in the Botanic Garden, we have a brand new 'Dyes from Plants' trail. This has been developed in collaboration with Artist-in-Residence Nabil Ali. This and all our other self-led trail maps are available for free from ticket offices.

Contact us to discuss how we can help you get the most from your visit: communities@botanic.cam.ac.uk

Find out more online:
www.botanic.cam.ac.uk/learning/communities



Plant Dye Workshops with Nabil Ali

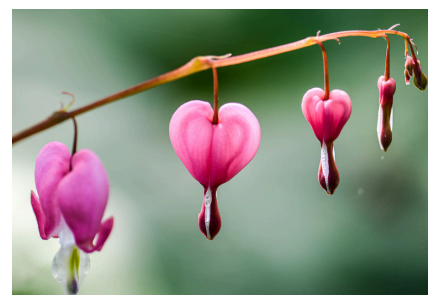
We were very happy to welcome Camtrust and Rowan to the Garden recently for Dye From Plants workshops led by our Artist-in-Residence, Nabil Ali. Everyone was treated to a multi-sensory exploration of a selection of plants, their extracts and the colours that can be obtained from them. Plants that featured include sweet box (purple), buckthorn (yellow) and woad (blue). We were particularly excited to learn that a black ink can be made from oak galls - abnormal growths caused by wasp larvae on oak trees. Nabil Ali has developed an online Dye Research Index which can be found [here](#) on the Botanic Garden website.

Nabil's residency is supported by Arts Council England funding.

Curious Adventures in Nature Workshop

We are delighted to be offering a free 'Curious Adventures in Nature' smartphone photography session. This will be on Monday 17 June with artist Graham Fudger. After sharing a selection of photographs that outline Graham's approach to looking closely at nature in search of the aesthetic, the session will take participants into the Botanic Garden. Here, the sensory stimulus of sight, scent and sound will provide a therapeutic space to explore the principles of visual art practice. If this might be of interest to your members, we would love to hear from you. Please email our [communities team](#) for more information.

Please note: Participants must have their own fully charged smartphone; sessions will be postponed in the event of poor weather. Subject to availability.



Credit: Graham Fudger