

## TVNP Community grant Case Study

This is a case study for Tees Valley Nature Partnership written by Kirsty Childs from [Eston Arts centre](#).

### Eston Arts Centre - February 2022

#### Proposal

The TVNP grant panel awarded Eston Arts Centre a grant of £350 towards work towards funding to buy art materials for our outdoor painting group that we would like to set up. It would look at the ecology of the area. The amount would pay for easels, paint, canvas, paper, stretchers, pencils and brushes.

The aim of the project was to enable local residents to take an interest in the natural world by leaving the house and going on nature walks where people will be able to paint (en plein air) and draw in a friendly and sociable way. Close attention to nature will be encouraged, as will specific field trips where we will examine and study wildlife and plant life specific to Teesside.

#### What happened

With the money, the arts centre bought packs for the group with each pack containing 32-35 pieces including watercolour materials, oils, drawing materials and all the other art mediums needed. This all came with a carry bag and a Collins book of wildlife to help the group ID their finds.

The group were also sent regular info sheets on wildlife and nature (such as moths, butterflies, geology, etc.), they had a talk from a wildlife artist and went on a nature walk with their sketchbooks to see what they could find to draw on the walk.

There will be 3 in-person sessions which include a walk and drawing session followed by an exhibition at the end of the year.

#### Unexpected results

All have been involving others in their work (one member of the group has been taking her grandchildren with her). The group have also been swapping and sharing materials so they can try out different mediums to capture the flora and fauna that they see.

One member works with Age UK and has been sharing the wildflower work that they have been doing with a client with dementia who has an interest in wildflowers but couldn't go out to visit them - bringing the wildflowers they love to them.

The group set up a WhatsApp group where they share their finds and the updates they make in their sketchbooks/nature journals. Due to this and operating during a pandemic, the group became more self-directed deciding the route that they would like to take with the artworks and journaling.

## **Planned Results**

The group had an exhibition at the Eston Arts centre at the end of the year which the Nature Partnership Officer attended, below are some photographs from that event.