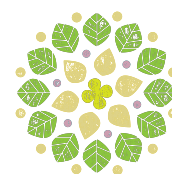


Seasons at Boundary Way

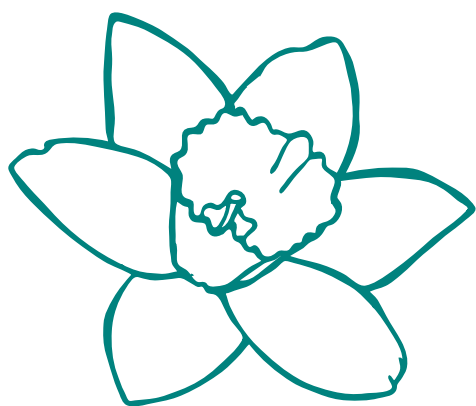
Spring!



Boundary Way

After the long, cold winter, gardeners look forward to spring when they can start getting their plots ready for the growing season. There are also lots of other changes in spring. The days are getting lighter and warmer, spring bulbs start appearing, and birds make their nests in the trees.

It can be said that spring starts at the beginning of March and ends on the last day of May. Alternatively some consider the first day of spring to be the Spring Equinox, the 20th or 21st March, when day and night are the same length.



Yes!

☐

Can you spot a: Daffodil

Where to look: Damp woodlands, clearings and grassy verges. There are lots in the storytelling area at Boundary Way.

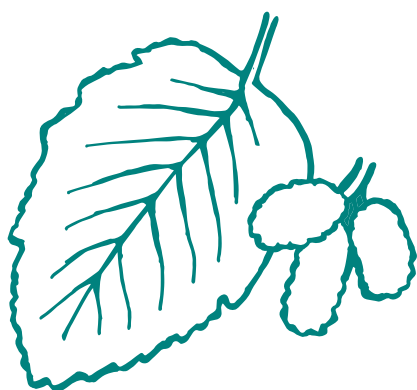


Yes!

☐

Can you spot: Cleavers

Where to look: Hedgerows, gardens, farmland. Around the edges of the polytunnel at Boundary Way.

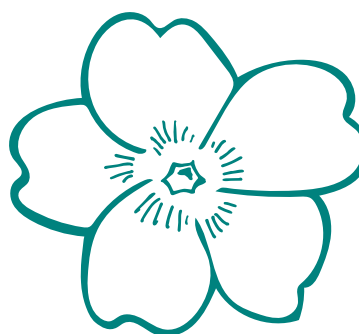


Yes!

☐

Can you spot an: Alder

Where to look: Alder likes to have its feet in the water so look for water courses and damp boggy places. At Boundary Way there are alder near the pond area.



Yes!

☐

Can you spot a: Primrose

Where to look: Old woodland and hedgerows, grassland and churchyards. On the banking and behind the orchard at Boundary Way.



Plants waiting to go in the ground
on The Crafty Gardener's plot



Getting beds ready for planting
on The Crafty Gardener's plot



Prepared beds



Daffodils

These cheerful flowers start appearing in late winter and early spring. They are one of the few plants that are able to grow through snow!

Larger ones are found in gardens but our wild ones are smaller and paler.

The daffodil is the national emblem of Wales and is said to flower for the first time on St David's Day, the Patron Saint of Wales (1st March).



Cleavers

An annual that clammers around sometimes up to several meters. Covered in small hooks that help it attach to anything it touches. It has leaves that radiate from a single point with tiny white flowers which are followed by pairs of small ball like fruit. Most children know this plant as 'sticky weed' or 'sticky bobs'.

Fresh young shoots can be seen in late winter/early spring depending on how warm it has been. It becomes easier to spot in early spring. Flowers May to August.



Alder

In spring the alder is unique in that it has both the male catkins and female cones visible just before the leaf buds burst open. The male catkins release clouds of pollen and the female cones start out purple then turn to green. Due to its love of water the alder is an important building wood for things like lock gates in canals. The twigs, bark, catkins, leaves and wood chips can yield a surprising array of dye colours: pink, black, green and brown.



Primrose

Perennial plant with large crinkly green leaves from a clump with pale yellow flowers. Cowslips look very similar to them yet have flowers on tall stalks. Look for primroses in early spring. Primroses (and cowslips) are one of the early blossoms. Their name stems from 'prima rosa' or 'first flower'.

The flowers provide a nectar source for brimstone and small tortoiseshell butterflies. The common silkworm feeds on the leaves.

Seasons at Boundary Way

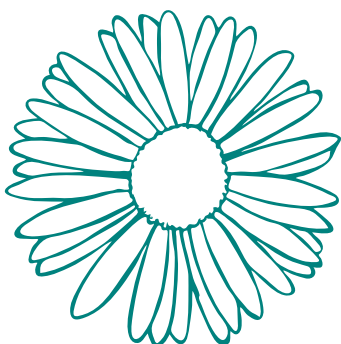
Summer!



Boundary Way

Summer is the warmest of the four seasons. The days are longer meaning the plants and flowers get more of the sunshine they need to grow. You'll also notice lots more insects flying, creeping and crawling around the Community Gardens!

It can be said that summer starts at the beginning of June and ends on the last day of August. Alternatively some consider the first day of summer to be the Summer Solstice, 21st or 22nd June, the longest day of the year.

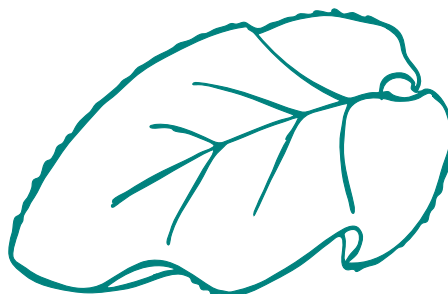


Yes!

☐

Can you spot a: Daisy

Where to look: Grassy areas, lawns, fields and verges. Look in the orchard at Boundary Way.

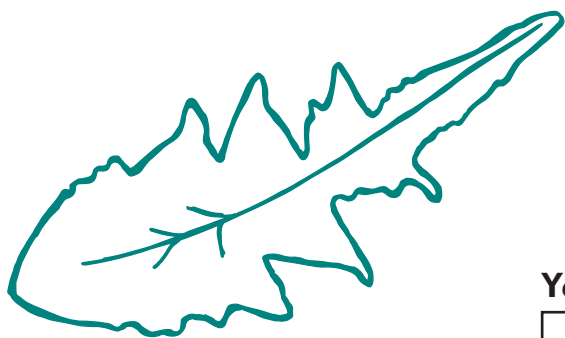


Yes!

☐

Can you spot a: Dock leaf

Where to look: Verges, edges of fields and cultivated land. Found in the story telling area and back edges of the orchard at Boundary Way.

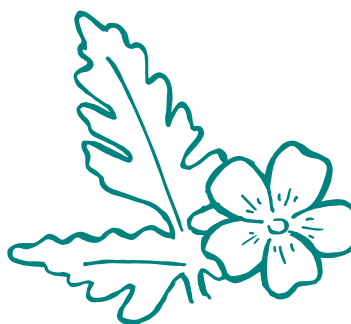


Yes!

☐

Can you spot a: Dandelion leaf

Where to look: Grassy areas, verges, lawns, fields – just about anywhere and everywhere!



Yes!

☐

Can you spot: Herb robert

Where to look: On the wild edges and in the nooks and crannies, herb robert likes the forgotten corners of gardens and woodlands and grows where there is bare earth. At Boundary Way look in the Storytelling area.



Looking in insect hotels at Boundary Way Community Garden



An oriental poppy



A newt was found in the Community Garden



Daisy

Daisies are small white flowers with lots of petals and sunny yellow centres. Their leaves lie flat on the ground and sometimes their petals can be tinged pink on the edges.

Daisy gets its name from 'Days Eyes' because the flower closes up when the sun goes to bed (sometimes you can see this on a really dark and cloudy day too – its like they've decided to have a lie in!)

Daisies can be threaded together to make 'daisy chains'.



Dock

Docks have long tall leaves with wavy margins and can grow over a metre tall. It flowers between June and October and one mature plant alone can produce up to 60,000 seeds and those seeds can lay dormant in the soil for up to 50 years before germinating! The leaves are edible but not very tasty, however it was used in times of hardship as a vegetable. Use dock leaves to treat nettle stings by scrunching up the leaf and rubbing the juice onto the stings.



Dandelions

Spotting weeds is a sign that the ground is fertile, and it is the time of year to start sowing and planting.

The first bright yellow flowers appear in the middle of spring, followed by dandelion clocks and a second flowering in late summer. The leaves can be found all year round.

Dandelions are important for bees, providing an important source of nectar and pollen early in the season.



Herb robert

Herb robert is a pretty plant with small pink flowers with five petals, red tinted stems and delicately patterned leaves. Some people think the leaves smell like celery and some people say they stink like foxes, this is because the plant is a member of the geranium family and the leaves contain chemicals which scare away biting insects. The flowers turn into beak-like seed pods which explode when ripe, scattering seed for several metres.

Seasons at Boundary Way

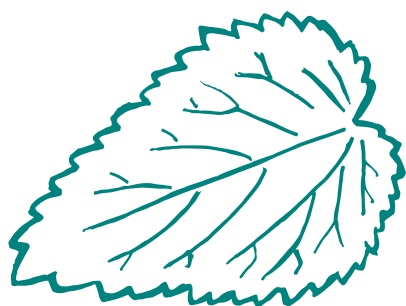
Autumn!



Boundary Way

Autumn is the end of the growing season, and the plots can start to look empty. Gardeners harvest the last of their fruit and vegetables ready to store over the winter months ahead, and roaring bonfires are lit to clear their plots of all the plants and wood that isn't needed any more.

It can be said that autumn starts at the beginning of September and ends on the last day of November. Alternatively some consider the first day of autumn to be the Autumn Equinox, the 20th or 21st September when day and night are the same length.

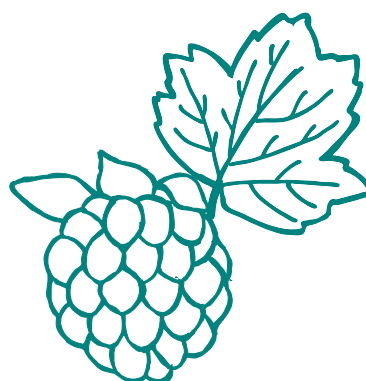


Yes!

☐

Can you spot a: Nettle leaf

Where to look: In borders and around hedgerows - but don't touch!

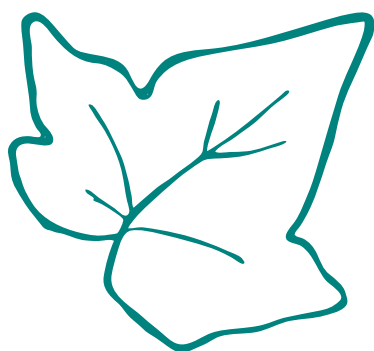


Yes!

☐

Can you spot a: Bramble

Where to look: Often found in woodland and waste ground. Easy to spot in the hedgerows around Boundary Way.

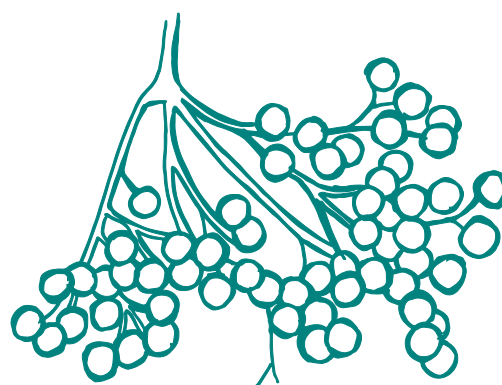


Yes!

☐

Can you spot: Ivy

Where to look: Climbing up the trees and fences and anything it can find. At Boundary Way you will find it in the hedgerows around the edges of site.



Yes!

☐

Can you spot: Elder

Where to look: Hedgerows, woodlands, riverbanks and wastelands. Look in the storytelling area at Boundary Way.



Gardeners from Beacon with their harvest at Boundary Way Allotments



A row of brightly coloured squash at Boundary Way Allotments



A misty morning on the main path at the allotments



Nettles (stinging nettles)

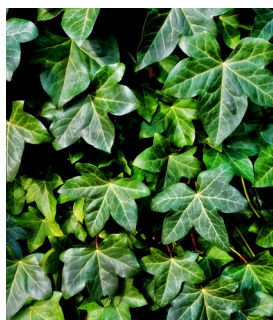
You will find this wonderful spiky plant growing tall during the summer months when it can have small pale green flowers. It has stinging hairs on the stem and leaves which cause itchy hives (lumps) when brushed against the skin.

Nettles contain lots of vitamins and can be carefully prepared and made into teas and herbal remedies.



Bramble

Brambles really are at their best in autumn. Brambles are sprawling bushes that ramble through hedges and woodlands with their thorny shoots that can be incredibly long. Brambles also have pretty pink or white flowers which turn into delicious blackberries. There are around 400 different types of bramble in the UK alone. If you pick blackberries from different areas and look at them closely you will see that they can be quite different; some are big and some are small, some are very sweet and some quite tasteless. We suggest picking them on a warm day and making into jam (if you haven't already eaten them all).



Ivy

Ivy is an evergreen climbing plant that scrambles over trees, hedges and fences. In fact it will grow up just about anything if it stays still for long enough. It is thought that ivy damages trees, but in fact it only takes water up through its roots and botanists argue about whether it is damaging to trees or not. Mature plants form flowers from September to November which are in small clusters known as umbels and are yellowish green in colour. Ivy leaves can be made into a paste which is useful for treating burns.



Elder

Elder is said to be the 'medicine chest' of the plant world and has many uses. The best time to spot it is in autumn when the fluffy white clouds of blossom of late spring have turned into dropping clusters of dark purple berries. Birds love these berries and they are an important autumn feed for many species. The easiest way to gather the berries is to comb them from the plant into a bowl using a fork. You can then make a delicious cough medicine or experiment making art with them as they leave very messy dark stains.

Seasons at Boundary Way

Winter!



Boundary Way

During winter, the days are shorter and this means the plants and flowers have very little of the sunshine they need to grow. Many animals go into hibernation (a long sleep) to save their energy over the coldest of the four seasons.

It can be said that winter starts at the beginning of December and ends on the last day of February. Alternatively some consider the first day of winter to be the Winter solstice, the 21st or 22nd of December, the shortest day of the year.



Yes!

☐

Can you spot a: Dog rose

Where to look: Hedgerows, woodlands and wasteland. Look by the wildlife pond at Boundary Way.



Yes!

☐

Can you spot a: Hawthorn

Where to look: Hedgerows, woodlands and wasteland. Look between the polytunnel and the orchard and along the track on the rear hedge at Boundary Way.

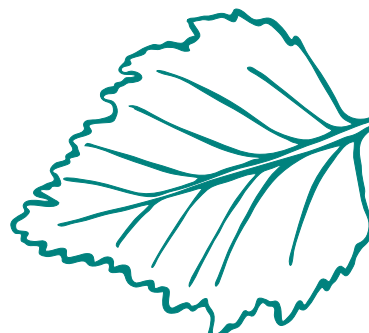


Yes!

☐

Can you spot a: Plantain

Where to look: Grassy verges, on playing fields and walkways. In the orchard at Boundary Way and along the tracks.



Yes!

☐

Can you spot a: Silver birch leaf

Where to look: Woodland, hillsides, moors, heath and gardens. You'll find me hiding amongst the other trees in the more wooded parts of Boundary Way.



Frost on a cabbage at Boundary Way Allotment



Snow on the ground in front of the polytunnel



Robin on a branch



Dog rose

Dog rose is clambering, deciduous shrub with thorny stems. In spring it has pink or white flowers, which are followed in winter by bright red rosehips. The rosehips remain firm and solid and slowly ripen as the year draws on, until they are hit by the first frost when they become squishy and mushy. They are loved by wildlife as an important winter food. Rosehips contain lots of vitamin C and during wartime around 450 tons of rosehips were gathered each autumn to be made into delicious rosehip syrup to keep children healthy.



Hawthorn

Hawthorn has many uses and is an important plant for many reasons. The fresh green spring leaves and flower buds are edible and make for a tasty addition to any salad. The blossoms which can be white or pink (known as the Midland hawthorn – have you seen a pink one?) make a delicious tea but the scent is very strong and sometimes smells quite horrid – this is due to the presence of chemicals that are also found in rotting flesh! Ewww! In winter you can easily spot hawthorn due to the small bright red berries which will stay on the plant throughout winter and provide valuable food for birds during the coldest weather.



Plantain

Plantain can be found all year long but is more noticeable when the flower heads are up. It has long thin leaves with ribs/parallel veins growing from a rosette of leaves. The black flower heads have a ring of white like a crown atop a tall thin stalk. It particularly likes to grow where people walk – across the world it has been known as 'white man's footsteps' and it would grow where ever white men colonised new areas as settlers carried the seeds as a foodstuff.



Silver Birch

The silver birch is a tall elegant tree with silvery sometimes papery bark with black markings. The smaller twigs at the tops of the tree during winter look reddish and give the tree a kind of fluffy look when there are no leaves. They can be quite easy to spot at night in a woodland – the white bark reflects any light around to make them glow slightly. The sap is delicious to drink and full of vitamins and minerals that keep us healthy.