

Welcome!

During winter 2023 and 2024, we spent time with 13 different community groups of people who live, work and/or volunteer in Gateshead. We asked what they'd like to see happening along the Tyne Derwent Way to engage people in the rich heritage, nature and culture along Gateshead's rivers. *48 Things* was an idea that was popular with everyone. It's really exciting to be sharing it, brought to life by Paulina's beautiful artwork. The "48 things to do" in this activity book were sourced from local people at our launch event in April 2024 – thanks to everyone who contributed, we hope you can spot your idea in some form. Enjoy exploring the Tyne Derwent Way, and the limitless things to do along it – including these 48 things to get you started!

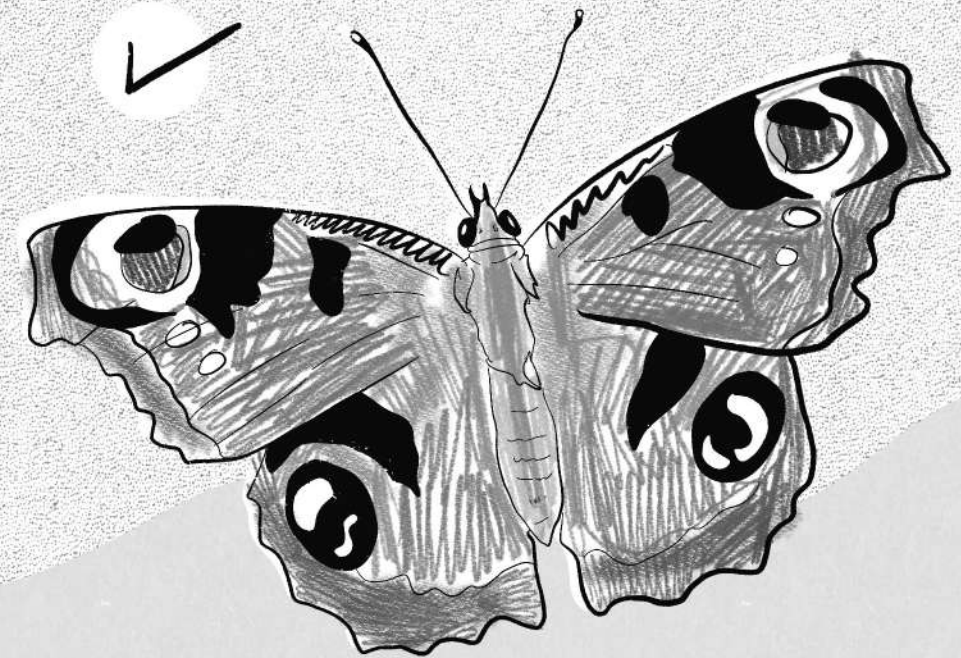
Lucy Zwolinska
Community and Participation Consultant
Tyne Derwent Way

March 2025

How to get started?

We are inviting you on an adventure along the Tyne Derwent Way! Grab this activity book and discover 48 activities that await you. The whole book is designed so that you can contribute to every page! You can enjoy it the way it is, or colour in everywhere you want.

Once you complete a task, just tick the circle in the book!



THROUGHOUT THE BOOK, YOU WILL FIND A FEW SYMBOLS TO HELP YOU COMPLETE THE TASKS



Most of the activities in the book are free, but a few places require tickets. This symbol shows which ones. Be sure to check their website for information about the prices!



Every place where you can find a stamp has a stamp symbol next to it.

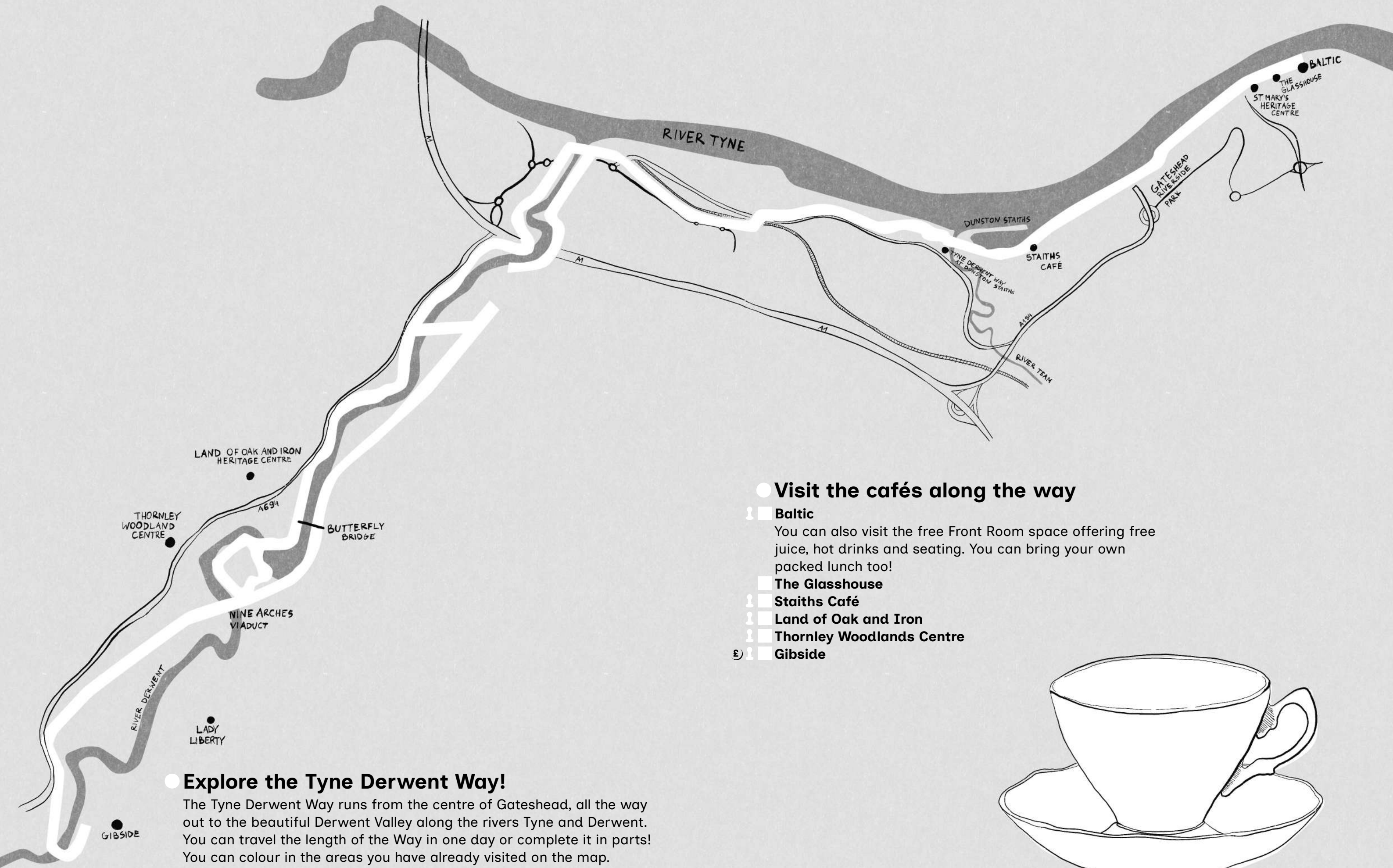


SPRING SUMMER AUTUMN WINTER

Some of the tasks are best completed during specific seasons. In those cases, you will see one of these season symbols.



Some of the things to do are harder to complete than others. You can recognise which ones by the star placed next to them.



● Visit the cafés along the way

■ Baltic

You can also visit the free Front Room space offering free juice, hot drinks and seating. You can bring your own packed lunch too!

■ The Glasshouse

■ Staithe Café

■ Land of Oak and Iron

■ Thornley Woodlands Centre

£ ■ Gibside

● Explore the Tyne Derwent Way!

The Tyne Derwent Way runs from the centre of Gateshead, all the way out to the beautiful Derwent Valley along the rivers Tyne and Derwent. You can travel the length of the Way in one day or complete it in parts! You can colour in the areas you have already visited on the map.



○ Visit St Mary's Heritage Centre

St Mary's Heritage Centre is based in the former St Mary's Church, built in the 13th century. Today it is a place where we can connect with Gateshead's rich history. Throughout the years the building has been changed and adapted and even served as the only school in the borough from the 1600s until 1870! You can also discover the impact of The Great Fire of Gateshead and the redesign of the building by the local architect John Dobson. Can you help complete the drawing?



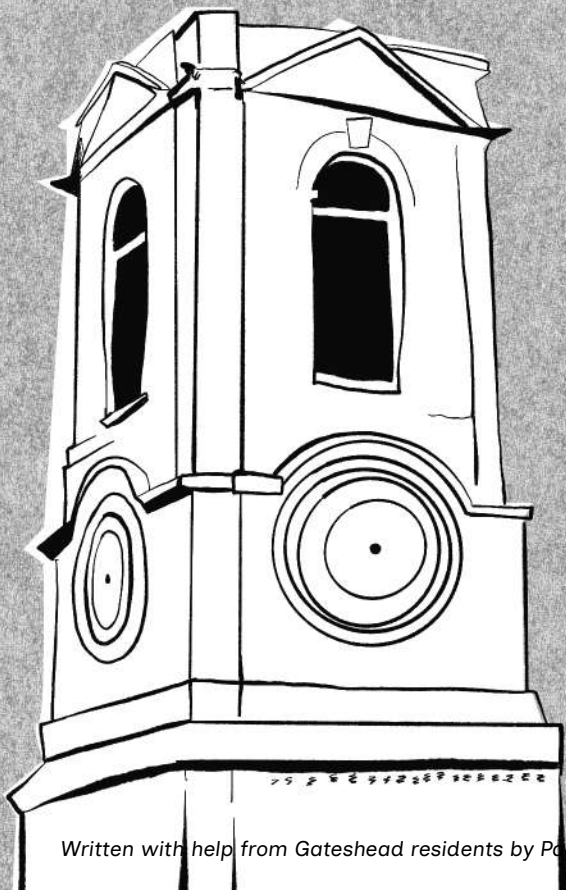
○ Can you guess which pillar is wonky?

One of the pillars inside St Mary's is not like the others.
Can you guess which one?

St Mary's Heritage Centre
Oakwellgate, Gateshead
NE8 2AU

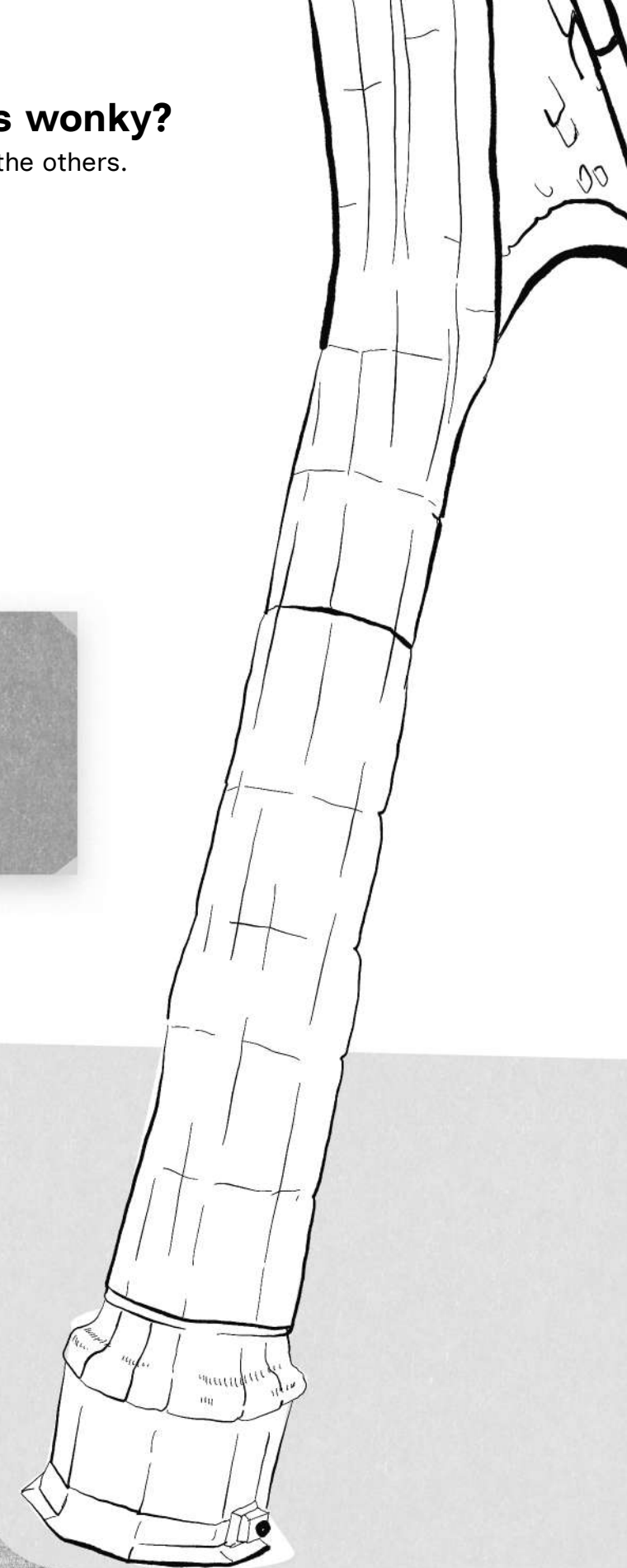
Check the website to find out about
opening times and events:
www.twbpt.org.uk

● What time does the clock tower show?



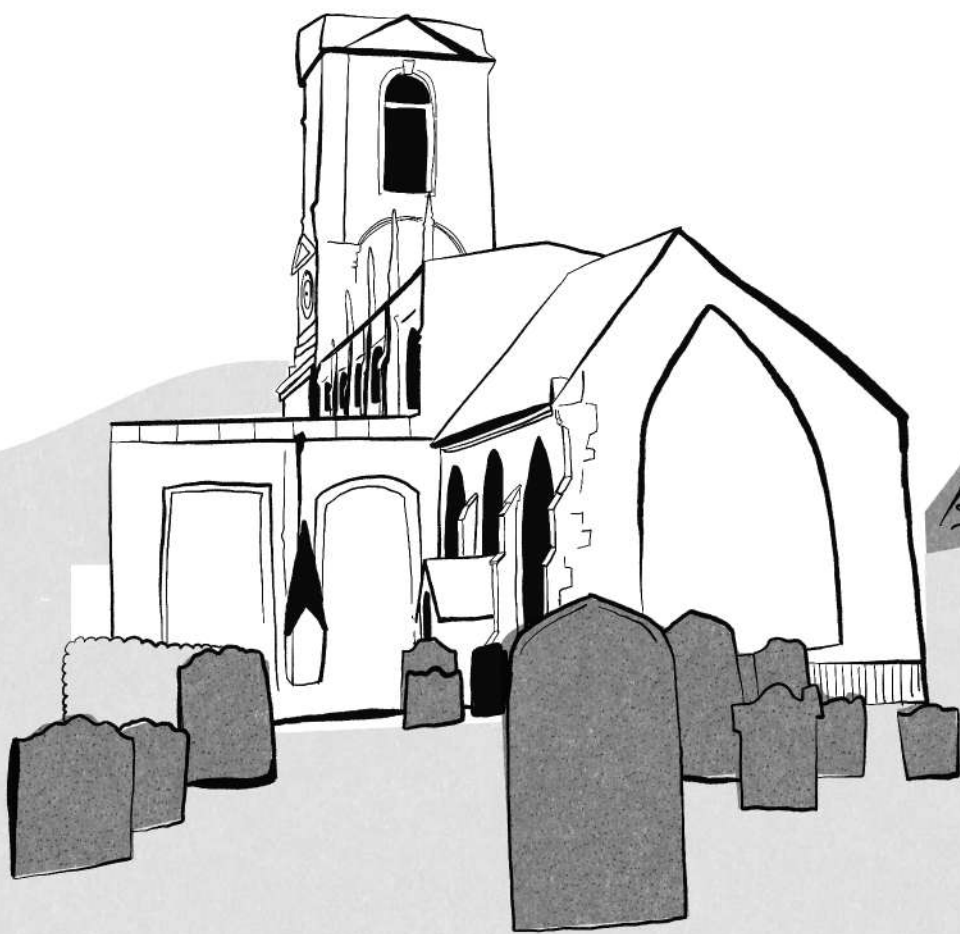
● Have a walk around the St Mary's Graveyard

You can learn more about it on the next page!



○ **Discover The Witch’s Burial Site**

During the archaeological dig made in preparation for building The Sage (now The Glasshouse) the skeleton of a woman in an unmarked grave was unearthed. It was discovered that she was accused of being a witch! Learn more about what is known about her by visiting St Mary’s. The burial site is just outside of the main gates.



● **Find the oldest grave**

The oldest grave in St Mary’s graveyard is Elizabeth Gray’s and it is located along the south wall of the church. Can you see what year it shows?

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● **Can you find the upside-down grave?**

St Mary’s graveyard is full of curiosities. One of them is a rare upside-down grave. Can you read which name is the right way up?

○ **Find five Memento Mori**

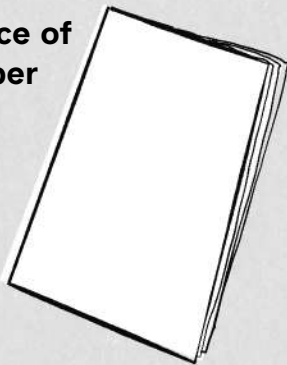
Memento Mori is Latin for ‘remember death’. It serves as a reminder of human mortality and can be found on the gravestones in St Mary’s graveyard. The images range from skulls and bones and hourglasses to flowers and cherubs. Which ones can you find?



CREATE A RUBBING

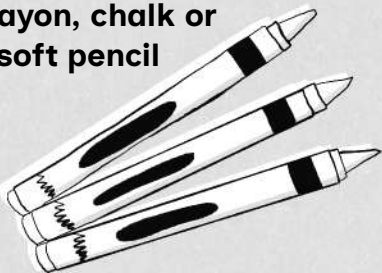
You will need:

piece of paper



masking tape (optional)

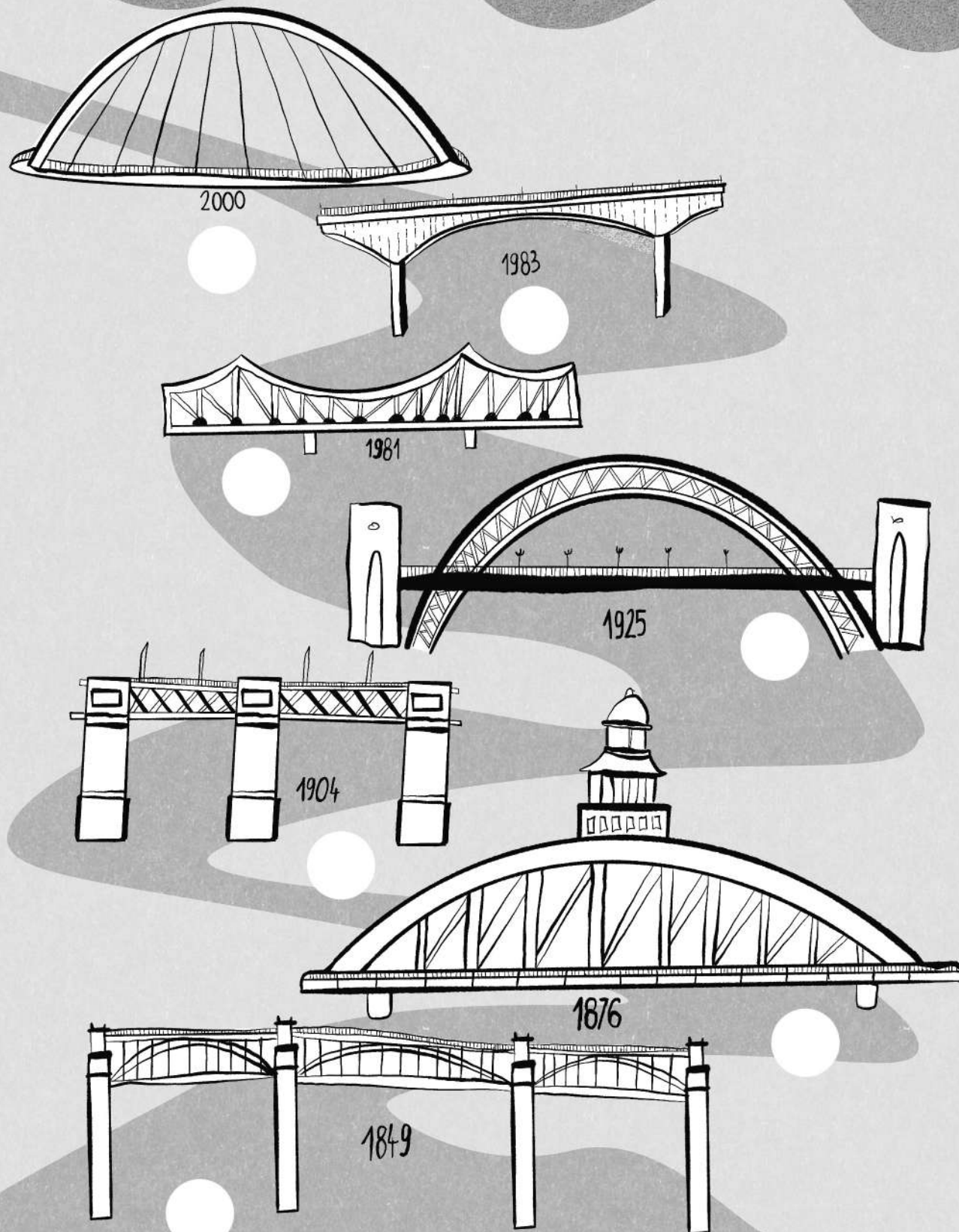
crayon, chalk or a soft pencil



1. Place paper on the top of the gravestone you would like to use for your rubbing. You can tape your paper to the surface to ensure there will be no movement when you make your rubbing.
2. Use your pencil, crayon or charcoal on the surface of the paper. Start with just a little bit of pressure and add more if you need to. Different surfaces react best to different strengths and directions of rubbing!
3. Once you are happy with the result, take your rubbing off the gravestone. Now you have made your first rubbing! Make a small note of the date and place where you took it.

● Learn about the bridges

Can you name them all? Here they are organised in order of the year that they were built. Number them to show what order they stand in, in real life.

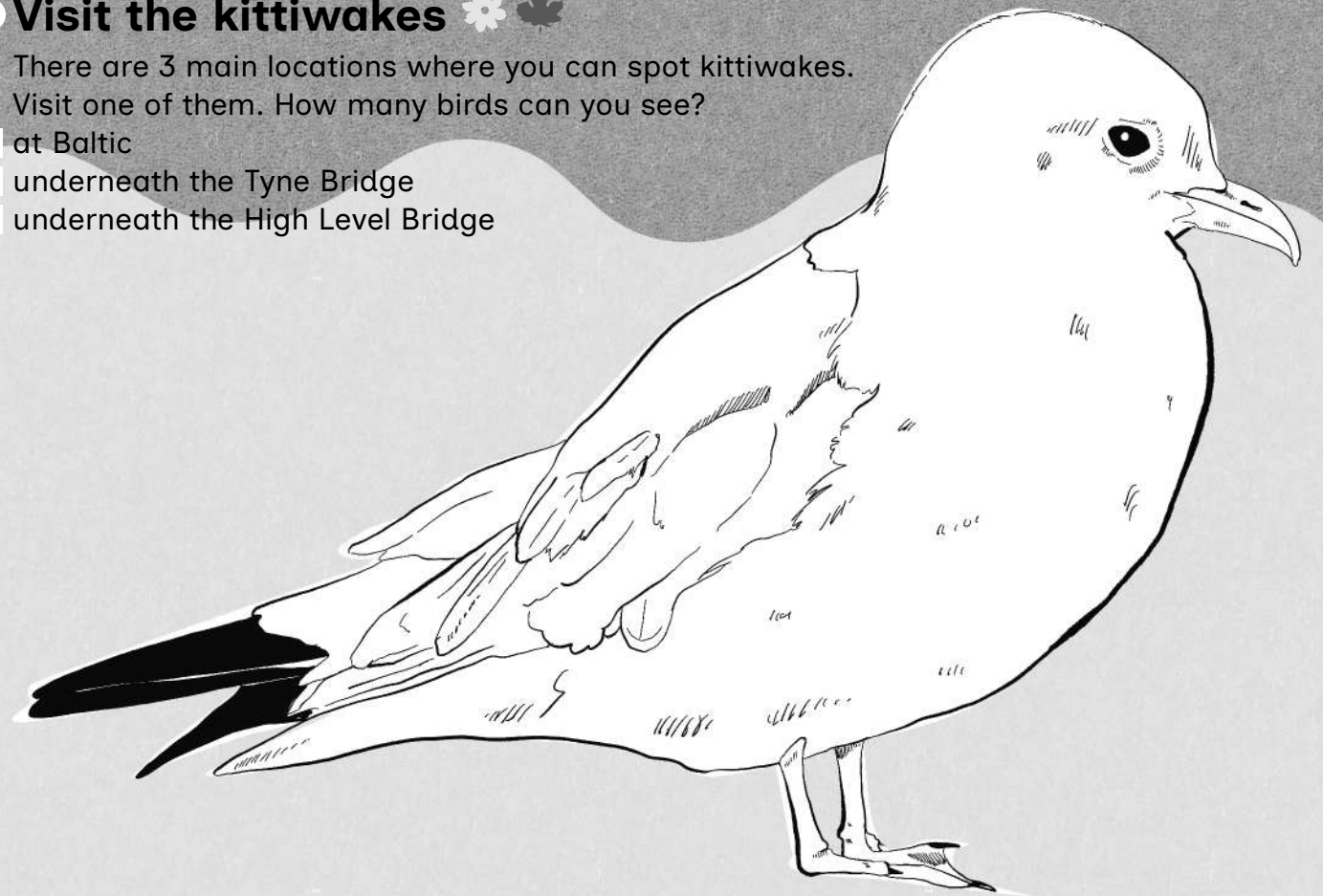


● Wave to the trains and Metros as they go over the bridges!

● Visit the kittiwakes 🌸🍁

There are 3 main locations where you can spot kittiwakes. Visit one of them. How many birds can you see?

- ☐ at Baltic
- ☐ underneath the Tyne Bridge
- ☐ underneath the High Level Bridge



SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT KITTIWAKES

- Some of them live up to 28 years!
- Courting (which is a little bit like a bird version of dating!) between them includes bowing, food begging and head bobbing. Sometimes the same couples stay together for years! They lay 2-3 eggs and can start breeding when they are 3 years old.
- Kittiwakes come back from the sea to nest in March. Males tend to choose the location where they were born.
- They normally prefer coastal areas, but the local colony has a taste for urban life! But that is not the only unique characteristic – they are also the furthest inland group in the world.



BINOCULARS are great for watching birds. You can zoom in and get a much closer look! 8x magnification is enough for you to start discovering the species along the way. You can also join one of the local birdwatching groups or borrow a pair from the Tyne Derwent Way!

● Discover all the sculptures on the Riverside Sculpture Trail in Gateshead Riverside Park!

Draw details on the sculptures you visit and match each one to the description below.



1. RISE AND FALL, Lulu Quinn
2. CONE, Andy Goldsworthy
3. ROLLING MOON, Colin Rose
4. THORNBIRD RAILINGS, Marcela Livingstone
5. RIVERSIDE RIVETS, Andrew McKeown
6. ONCE UPON A TIME, Richard Deacon
7. PHOENIX COBBLES, Maggy Howarth
8. RIVERSIDE ENTRANCE, Keith Barrett
9. FOLIATE FORM, Gilbert Ward
10. GOATS, Sally Matthews
11. ROSE STREET FEATURES, Graeme Hopper

● Take a walk on Dunston Staiths £ 🍁

'Staith' comes from the Old English word 'stæth' meaning 'shore' or 'bank'. Dunston Staiths is thought to be the largest wooden structure in Europe. It was opened in 1893 by the North East Railway Company to load coal directly onto waiting colliers (coal ships) ready for the onward journey to customers in London and abroad. At the coal industry's peak, around 5.5 million tonnes of coal was moved this way each year. Imagine what it would have sounded like in 1910 with all the activity loading the coals from the trains to the boats!



Visiting Dunston Staiths

It costs £3 per person unless you live in an NE8 or NE11 postcode – in that case, you can go on for free! It's open regularly in the summer months – check out the Tyne Derwent Way website for dates and times.



● Listen to the roosting birds 🍁 🍁

The Staiths is a high tide roost for hundreds of wading birds that spend winter on the Tyne Estuary. High tide roosts are important resting places for wading birds like redshanks – up to 200 of them roost on the Staiths. When the tide covers the rich mudflats where the birds feed, they use these roosts to rest and sleep. Wading birds roost together in large numbers to help spot predators like peregrine falcons. In the late summer and autumn, up to 400 migrating lapwings visit the Tyne Estuary. They roost on the Staiths for a brief period in late summer/early autumn, which is an incredible spectacle.

Can you spot some of the rarer species that visit the Tyne Estuary?

★ Kingfisher ❄️

You'll be very lucky if you've seen a kingfisher sitting still on a perch - but it does happen! You're much more likely to see one zipping past, shouting 'peep peep' as it goes, with a flash of bright blue. They can be spotted along the Tyne Derwent Way but are best seen at the Staiths during winter!



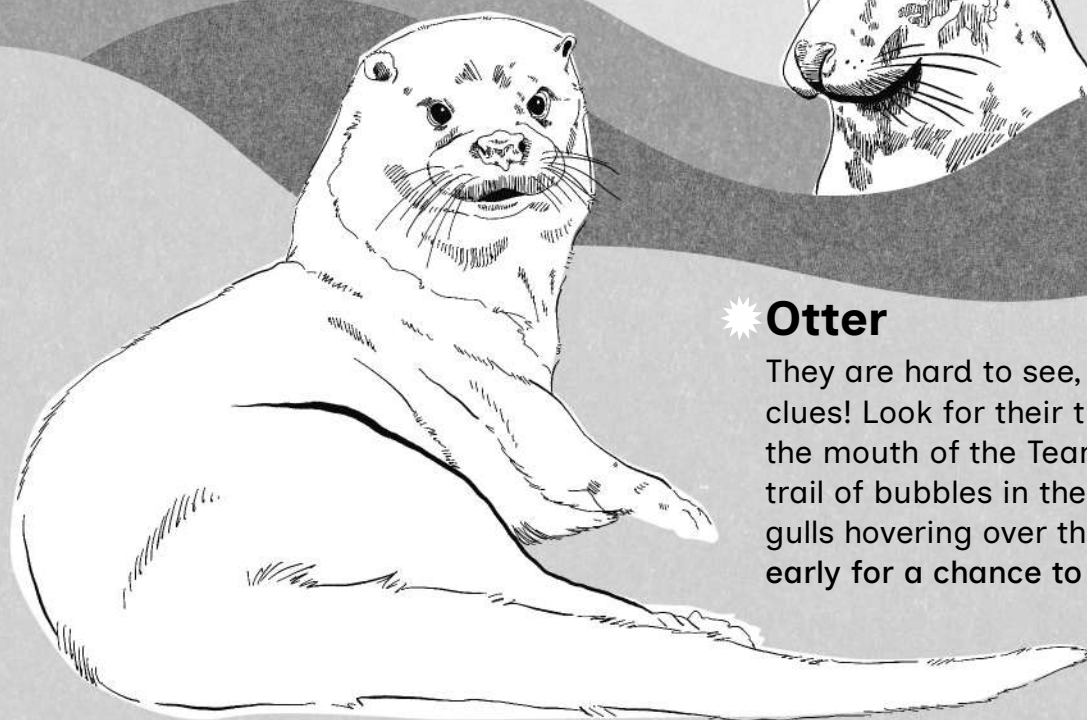
★ Grey seal 🌸 🍁

While you are not likely to spot grey seals on the mud, you can look out for their shiny heads in the river. The best times of year to spot them are spring and autumn.



★ Otter

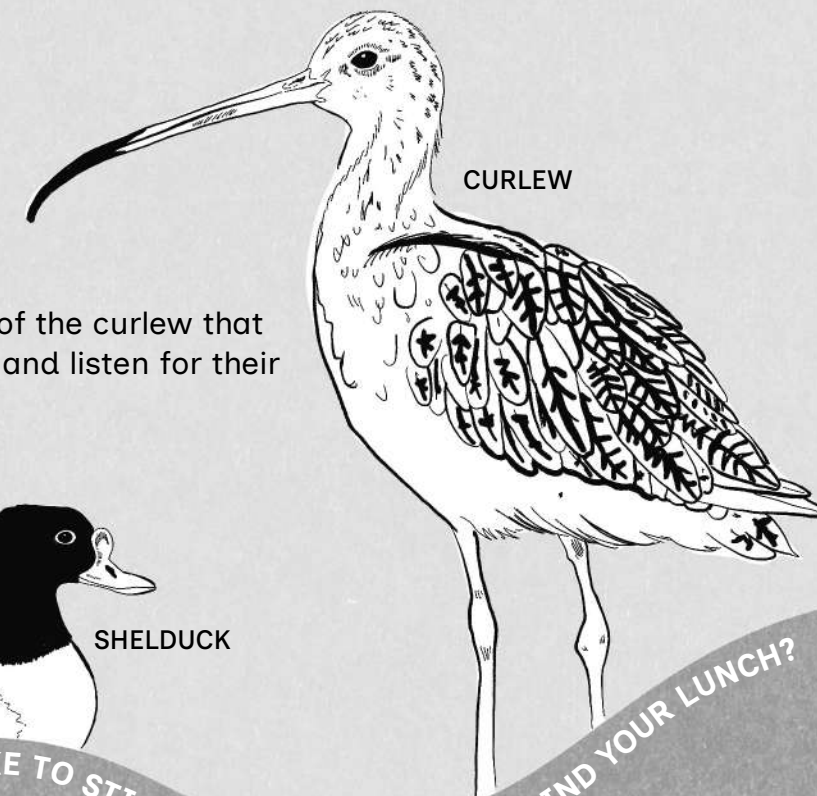
They are hard to see, but you might find clues! Look for their tracks in the mud at the mouth of the Team or the Derwent, a trail of bubbles in the water, or a flock of gulls hovering over the water. Best to get up early for a chance to see otters!



Why should you look out for gulls when trying to spot otters? Both species share the river habitat, and gulls flock around otters to alert all other species that there is a predator about!

● Look around for waders

Waders are shorebirds that have long legs and bills - handy tools used for feeding on small invertebrates such as worms and crabs hiding in the mudbanks. The Tyne Estuary attracts many waders in late summer, autumn and winter such as curlew, redshank and lapwing, which are best spotted along the Staiths.



CURLEW

Look for the elegant, long, curved bill of the curlew that probes deep inside the mud for food, and listen for their distinctive, bubbling call. 🌸 🍁

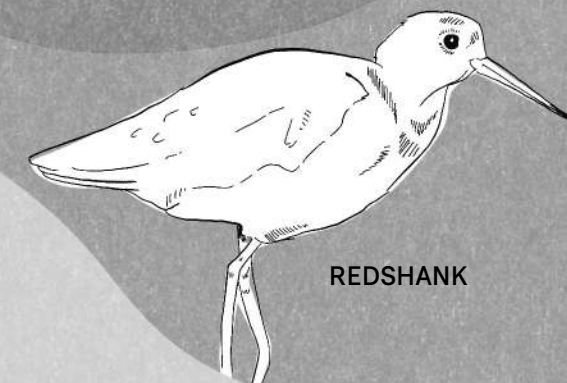


SHELDUCK

WOULD YOU LIKE TO STICK YOUR FACE IN MUD TO FIND YOUR LUNCH?



LAPWING

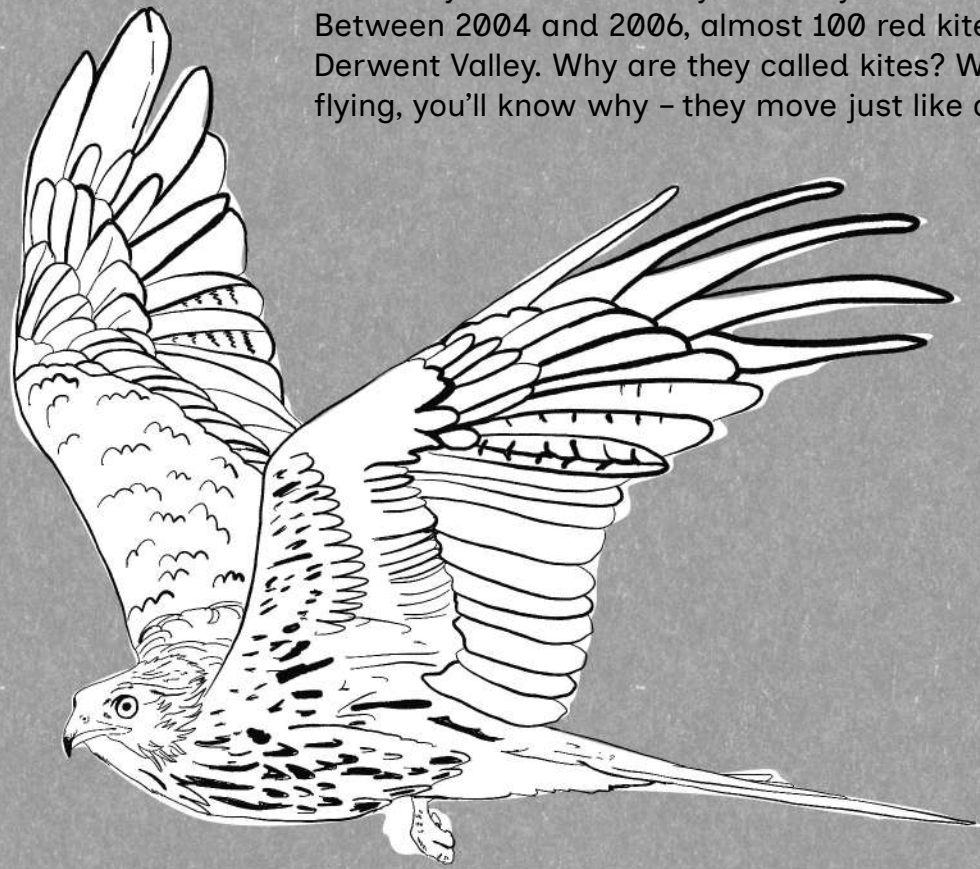


REDSHANK

An estuary is the wide, muddy part of a large river where salty water from the sea meets the freshwater from the river. The Tyne Estuary on the Tyne Derwent Way is a wonderful spot for watching wildlife!

● Spot red kite in the Derwent Valley

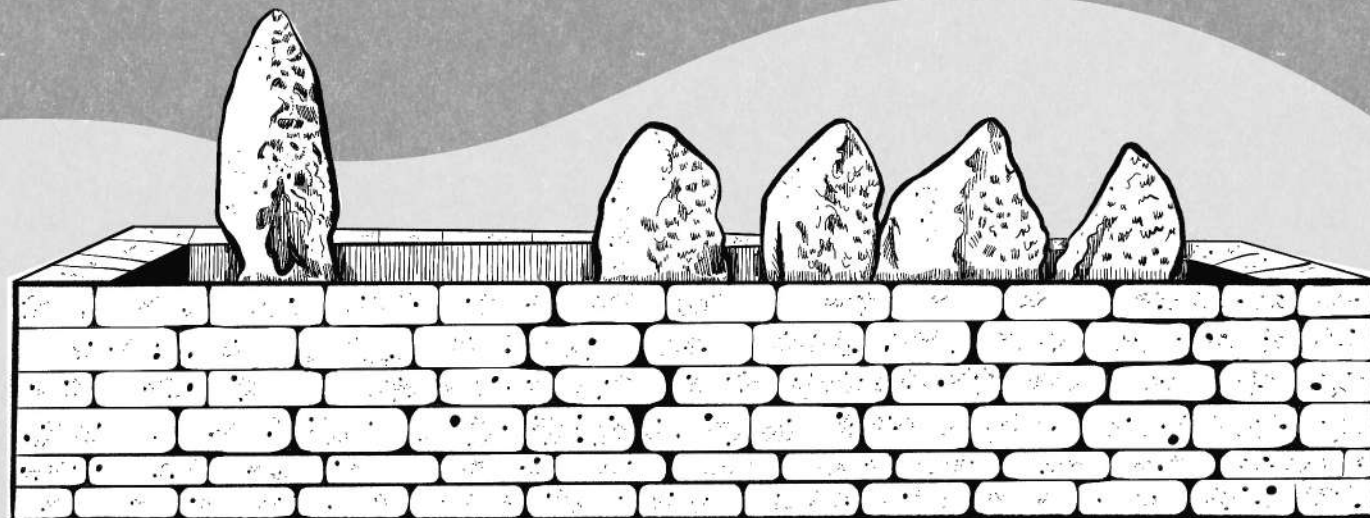
Just over 20 years ago, you would NEVER see a red kite around Gateshead, or anywhere else in the whole of the UK except for a few places in Wales. They were once common birds but were almost extinct by the 19th century – so they needed help to come back. Between 2004 and 2006, almost 100 red kites were released in the Derwent Valley. Why are they called kites? Well, when you see one flying, you'll know why – they move just like a kite!



● Visit Stones Garden in the Derwent Valley

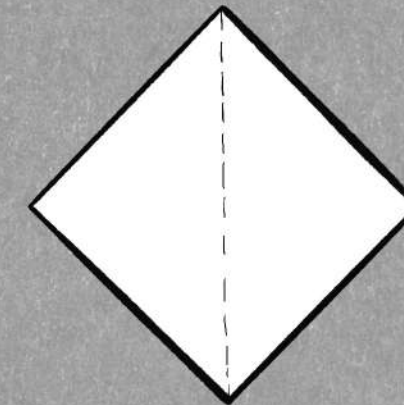
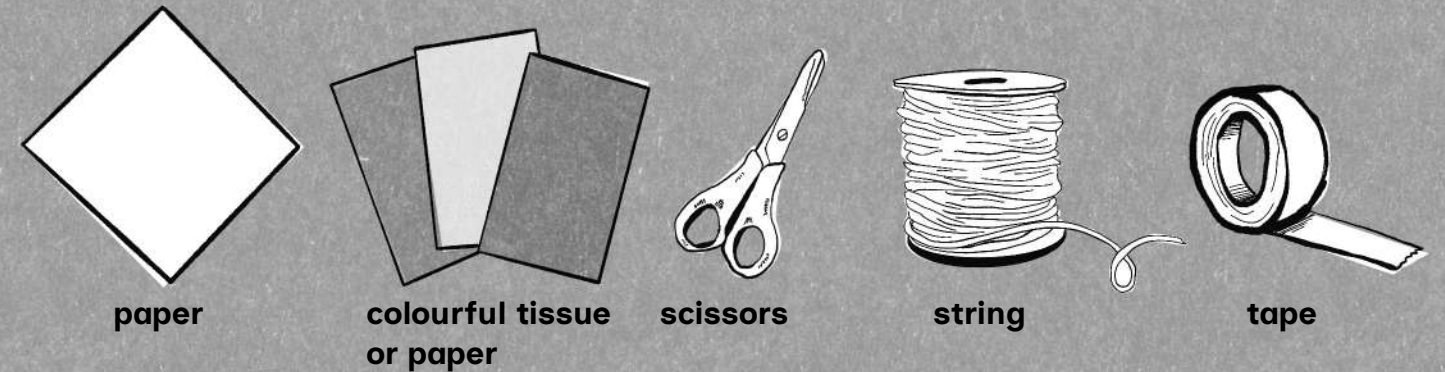
Stones Garden is part of a sculpture series called the Four Seasons Project. Each of them represents a different season, and this one symbolises autumn. The five upright stones are named The Mother Stone, The Waterfall Stone, The Cave Stone, The Moon Stone and The Boat Stone.

You can see a 'stones garden' at the former Derwenthaugh Coke Works from the Tyne Derwent Way, within the site of the old viaduct.

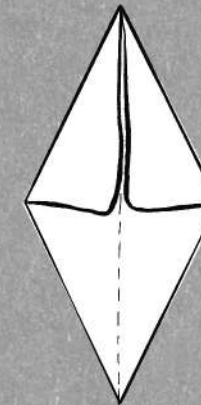


MAKE A KITE

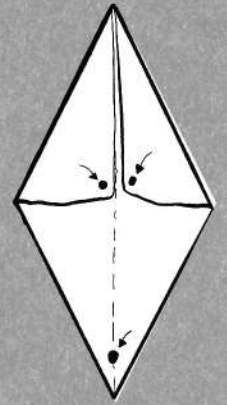
You will need:



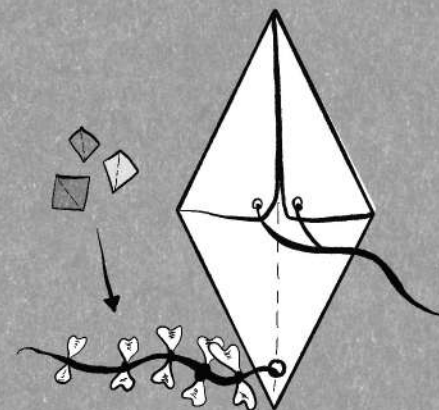
1. Prepare a square piece of paper, at least 30 cm or 20 inches, and fold it in half.



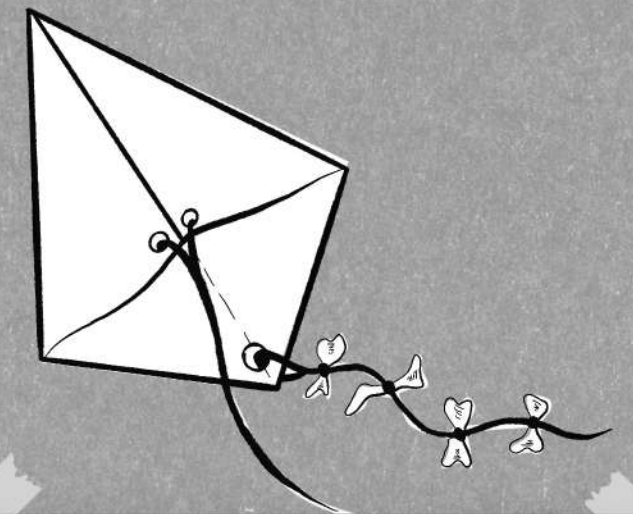
2. Pick the left and right corners, and connect them along the fold in the middle.



3. Make 3 holes where the arrows are pointing.



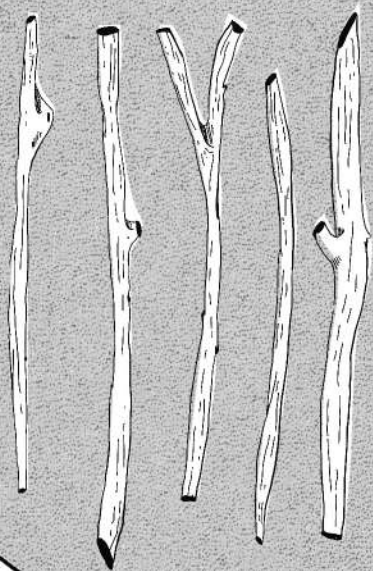
4. Thread the string through the top 2 holes. Cut the squares from the colourful tissue and tape them in the middle to create bows. You can attach it to the bottom of your kite!



Explore Red Kite Trail

It is a circular path 18 km (11 miles) long that starts in Derwenthaugh Park. It overlaps with parts of the Tyne Derwent Walk, so you can consider it an extra challenge! Check the website for more details:
friendsofredkites.org.uk

To learn more about her, look at the next few pages! She resides near Gibside.



● **Play Pooh Sticks at the Butterfly Bridge**

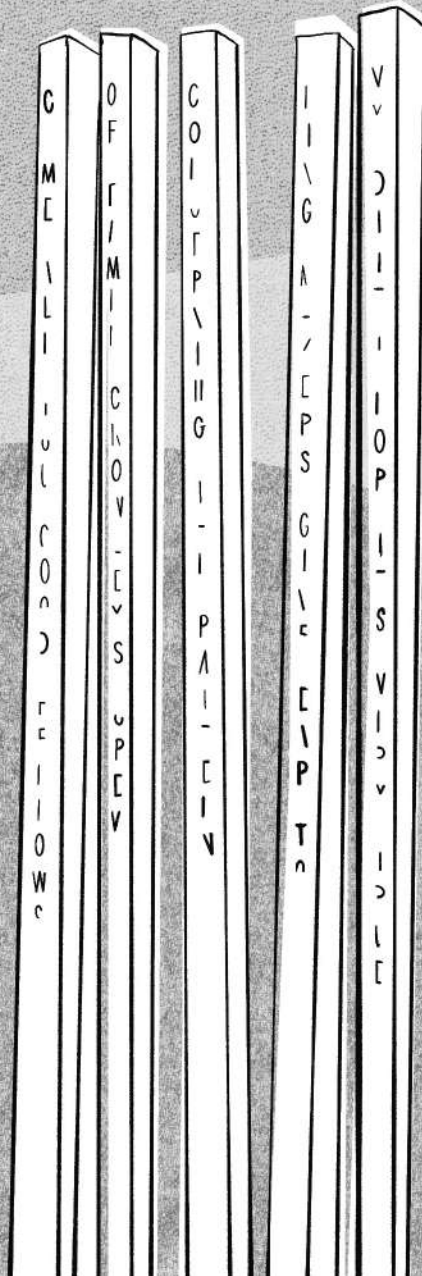
You will need at least two players. Look around for sticks that you think will travel fastest and bring them to the bridge. Check in which direction the water flows – you want to be sure you are on the correct side, so that the sticks will race under the bridge. On the count of three all players drop their Pooh Sticks into the river. Head to the other side of the bridge to see which appears first. The fastest stick wins the game!



● **Visit The Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre**

You can discover plenty of local stories by looking at panels installed on the surrounding land. If you spot the wooden sculpture in this picture, try to work out what is written on it!

Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre
Winlaton Mill, Near Blaydon
NE21 6RU
Check the website to find out about
opening times and events:
landofoakandiron.org.uk



● Follow the Sculpture Trail at Thornley Woods

In 2011 Tommy Craggs created 10 incredible sculptures around Paddock Hill Wood. The trail is 0.5 miles (0.8 km), takes around 20-30 minutes, and is family friendly. Each of the 10 animals is carved into a fallen tree. Can you guess what animals can be found along the trail?



● Visit Thornley Woodlands Centre

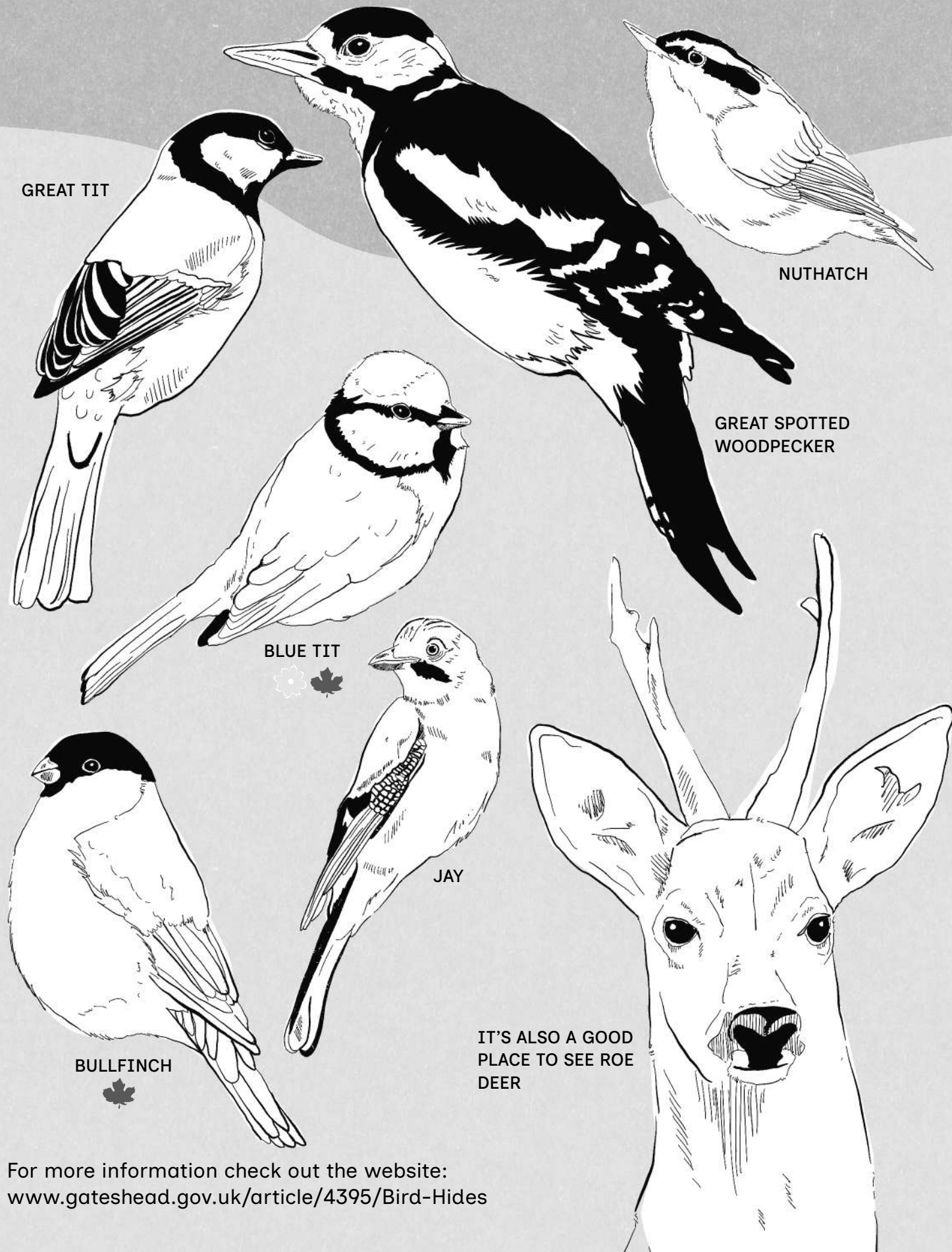
You can stop for refreshments and learn about the Derwent Walk and Gateshead countryside!



Thornley Woodlands Centre
Lockhaugh Road, Rowlands Gill
Gateshead
NE39 1AU
OPENING TIMES:
Every day, 10 am to 4 pm

● Visit Thornley Wood Observation Hide £

The hide is open all year. You will need a key to have access – you can buy one from the Thornley Woodlands Visitor Centre and it will give you access to an additional six hides across Gateshead: Far Pasture Wetland Hide, Shibdon Pond Local Nature Reserve (LNR) Hide, two Clara Vale LNR Hides, and the Lamesley Pasture Hide. What birds can you spot?

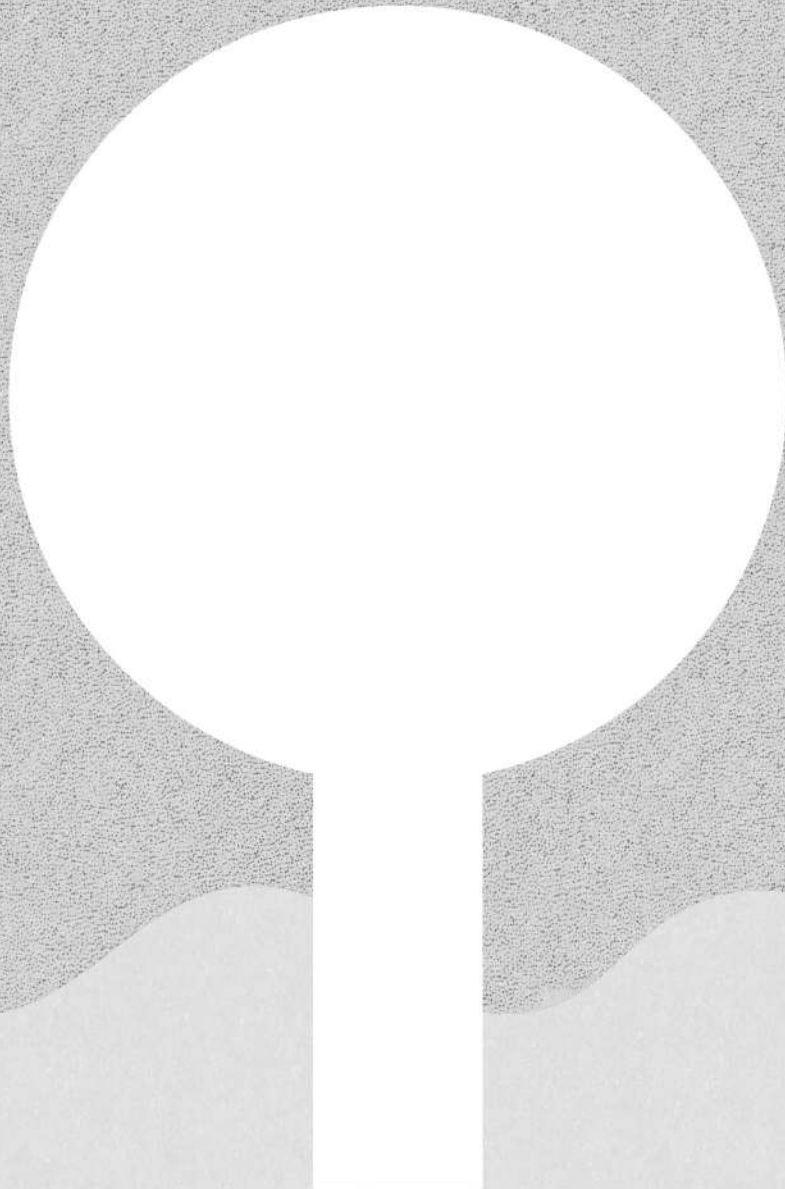


For more information check out the website:
www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/4395/Bird-Hides

● **Choose your favourite tree from the walk – and give it a hug!**

What can you learn about it?

Can you guess how tall it is?



DRAW A LEAF OR NEEDLE

NAME

TYPE

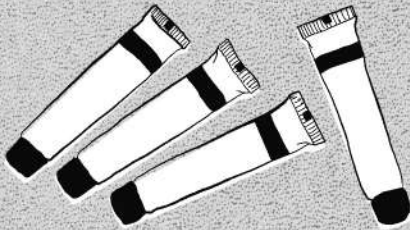
AGE (MAKE A GUESS!)

DRAW ITS FRUIT OR BARK

● **Collect fallen leaves on your walk and make nature art** 🍁

- 1. Collect some leaves during your walk. You can place them inside a book to flatten them for later.
- 2. Paint the leaves with a brush. You can choose one colour or create patterns with different colours and shapes.
- 3. Press leaves onto paper and look at the results! You can try overlapping prints to create a unique pattern.

You will need:



paint



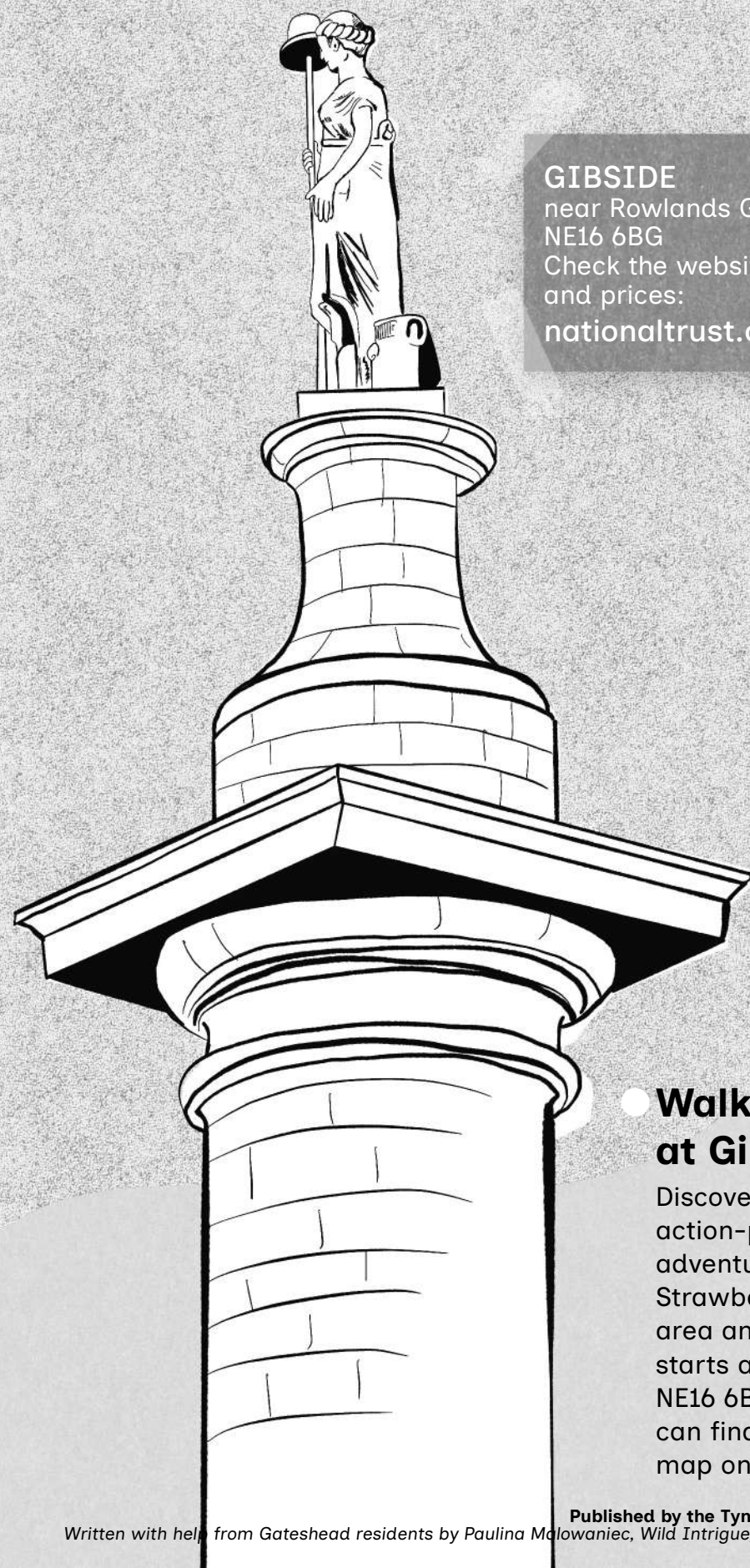
brushes



leaves

● Spot Lady Liberty

Lady Liberty is a statue that stands atop The Column of Liberty, a 121 ft (43m) tall tower that was completed in the mid-18th century. It can be seen from the Derwent and Tyne Valleys.



GIBSIDE

near Rowlands Gill, Gateshead
NE16 6BG

Check the website for opening times
and prices:

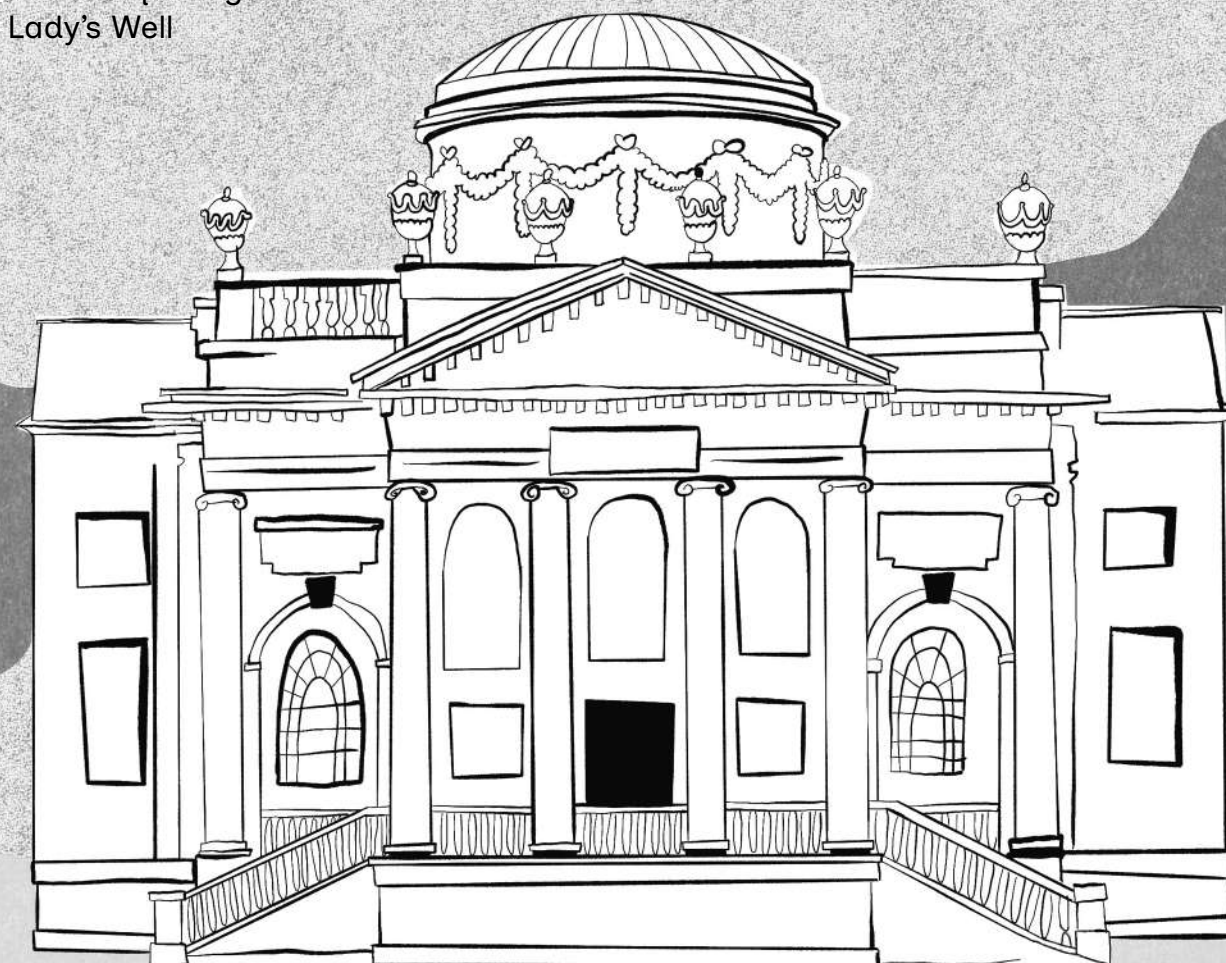
nationaltrust.org.uk

● Walk the family-friendly trail at Gibside

Discover the fun side of Gibside with an action-packed circular walk of family adventure highlights including the Strawberry Castle play area, a den-building area and the low ropes course. The trail starts and ends at Market Place, Gibside, NE16 6BG and is 2.2 miles (3.2 km) long. You can find more information and a detailed map on the National Trust website!

● Visit all the landmarks at Gibside £

- Gibside Hall
- Gibside Chapel
- Garden Cottage
- The Orangery
- The Stables
- The Column of Liberty
- The Banqueting House
- ★ Lady's Well

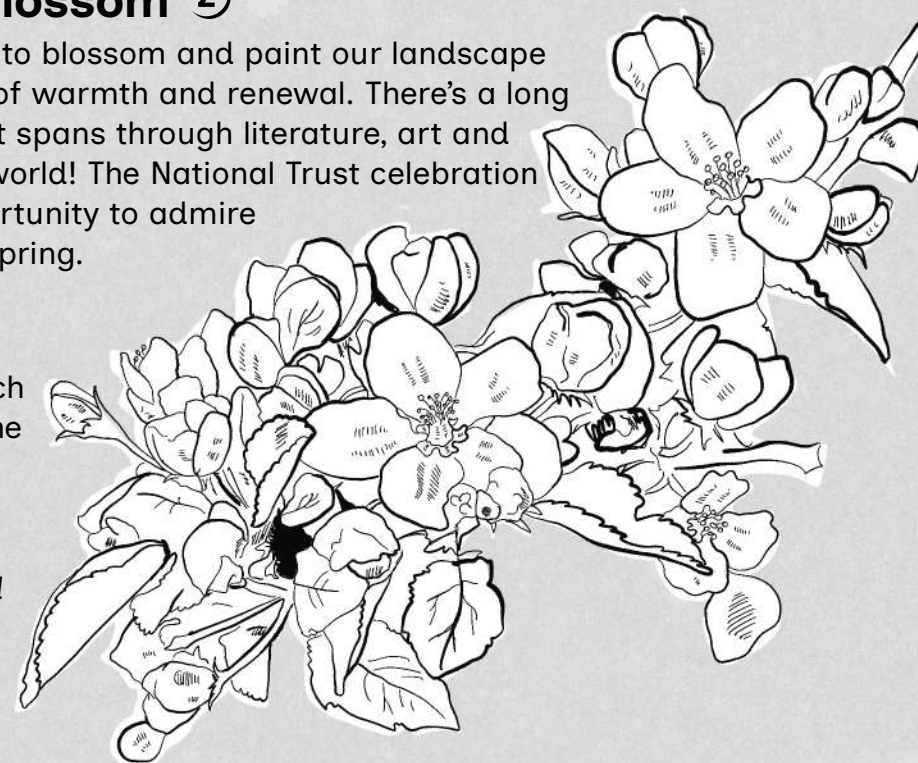


● Attend the Festival of Blossom £

Every year during spring, trees start to blossom and paint our landscape with many colours and the promise of warmth and renewal. There's a long tradition of celebrating this time that spans through literature, art and music and can be seen all over the world! The National Trust celebration of the Festival of Blossom is an opportunity to admire nature and appreciate the signs of spring.

At Gibside you can find chairs and blankets in the Walled Garden, and enjoy your time attending events such as the Blossom Trail, meeting with the beekeepers and a chance to join a pollinator survey.

You can find and enjoy the trees and shrubs in blossom all along the Tyne Derwent Way!

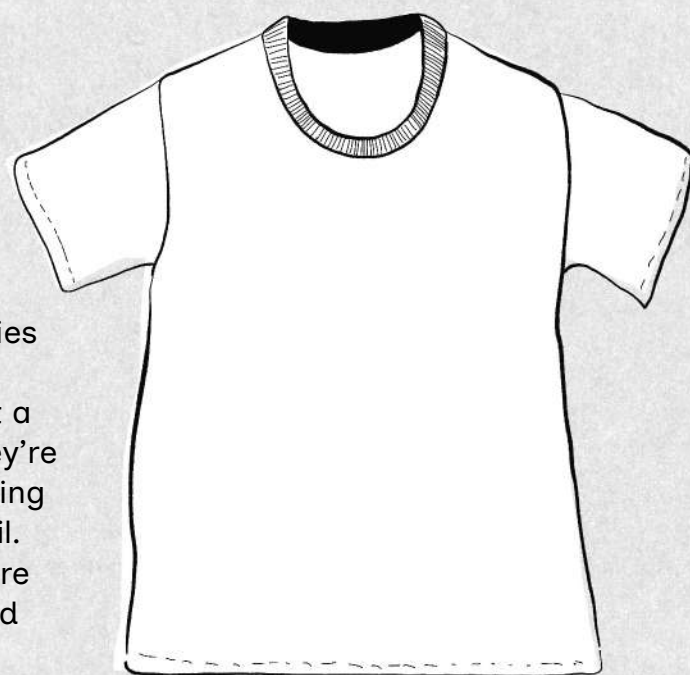


● Salute five magpies

This is a tradition from as far back as the 1700s to avoid bad luck! One magpie on its own means sorrow, according to the old nursery rhyme, so people salute magpies if they're on their own. If there are two, that's fine – it means joy!



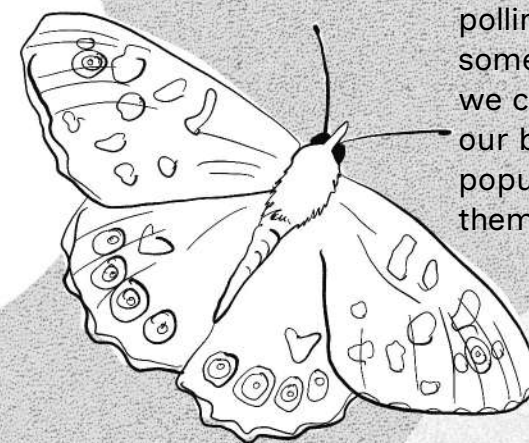
Good morning, Mr. Magpie!



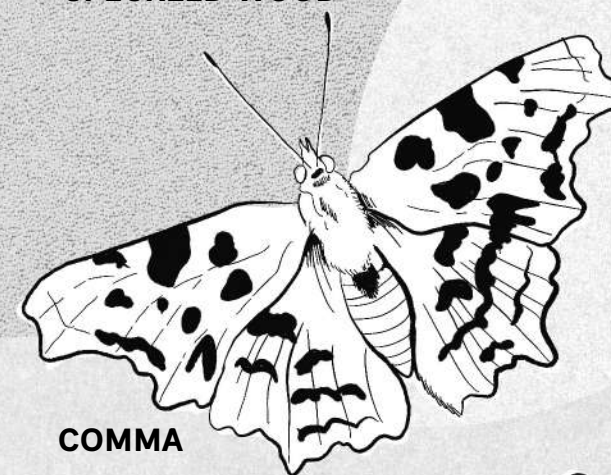
Newcastle United's nickname is The Magpies because the football team's players wear black and white shirts. However, if you get a really good look at a magpie, you'll see they're not just black and white – they have amazing blue-green feathers on their wings and tail. What colours have you spotted? If you were to design a bird-inspired t-shirt, which bird would you choose? Use the blank t-shirt outline to bring it to life!

● Join the Big Butterfly Count 🍁

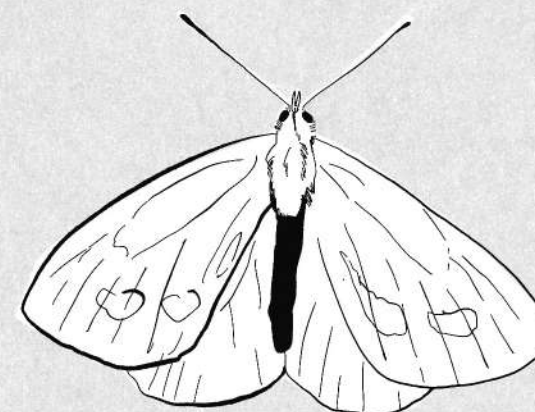
Enjoying beautiful weather, while butterflies fly around pollinating plants and bringing colour to the world, is something that we all take for granted. To make sure we can experience it in the future, we need to look after our butterflies. You can help assess and survey the population of butterflies – all you have to do is count them!



SPECKLED WOOD



COMMA



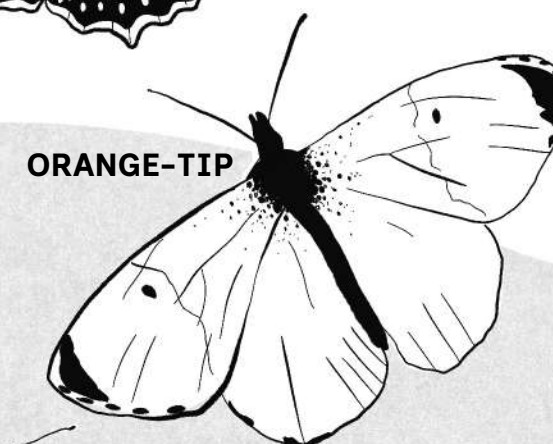
GREEN-VEINED WHITE



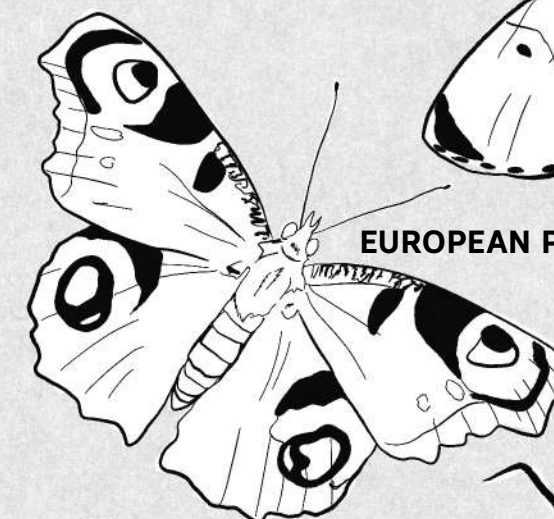
RED ADMIRAL



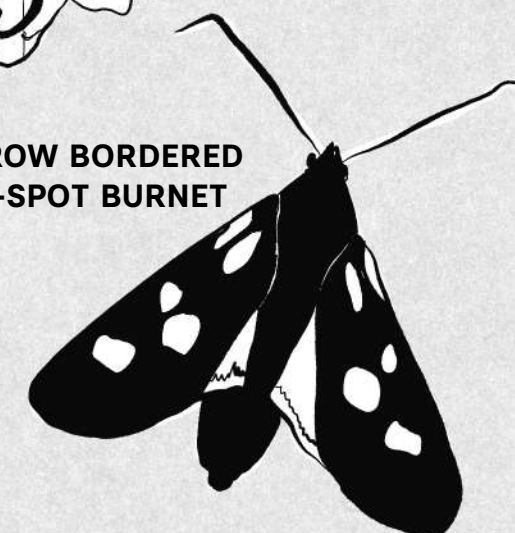
SMALL TORTOISESHELL



ORANGE-TIP



EUROPEAN PEACOCK



NARROW BORDERED
FIVE-SPOT BURNET

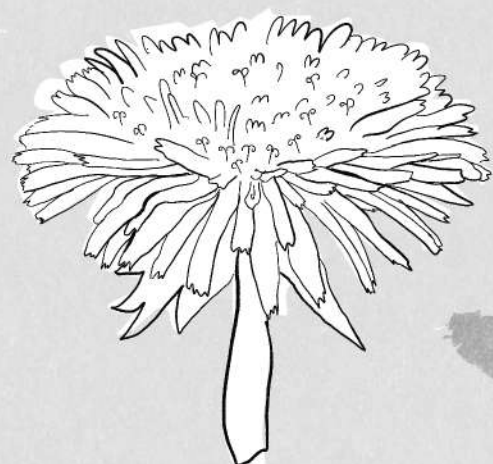
For more details visit:
bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org

☀️ **Can you spot an orange ladybird?**

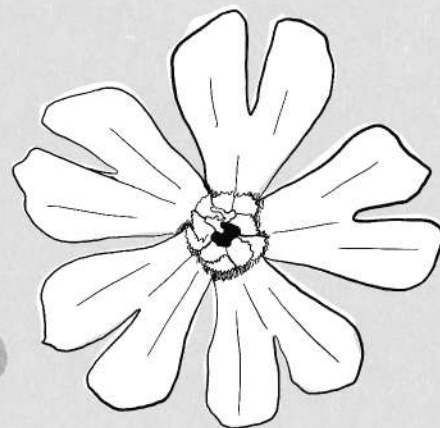


● **Identify 3 (or more) flowers** 🍁

Once you identify one of the flowers, colour it in!



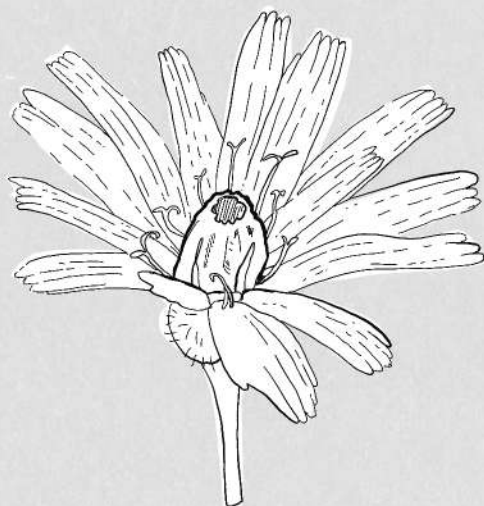
DANDELION



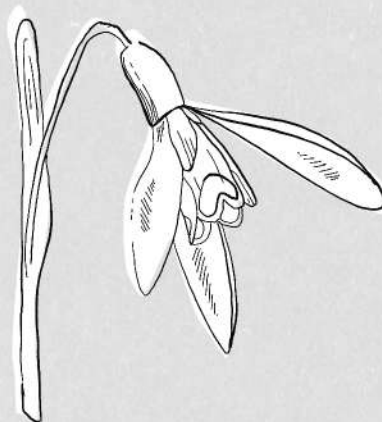
RED CAMPION



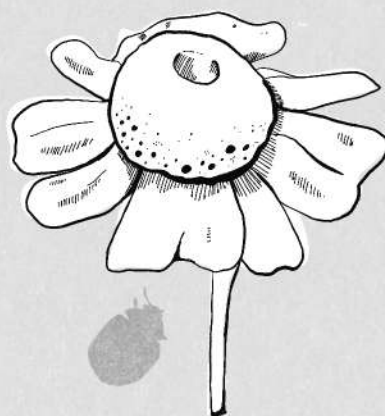
DOG-ROSE



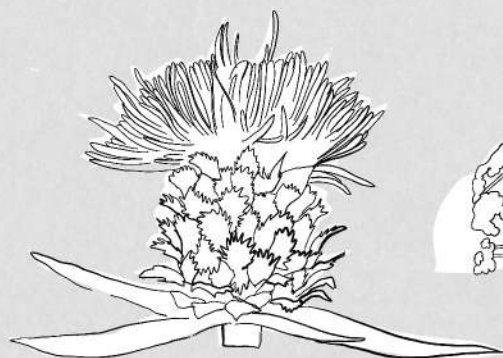
AUTUMN HAWKBIT



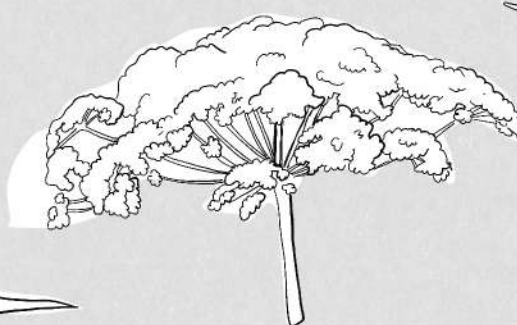
SNOWDROP



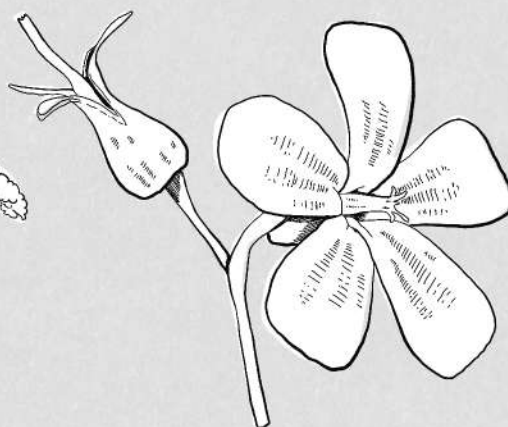
FEVERFEW



KNAPWEED



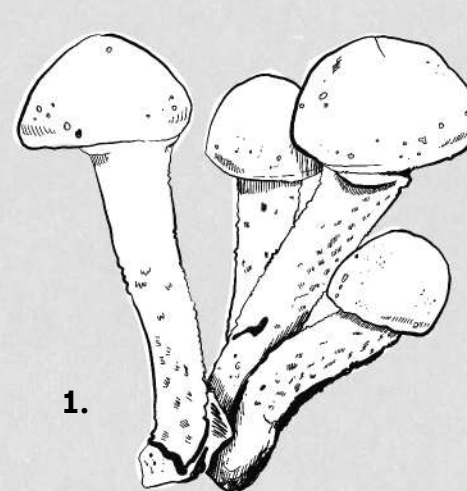
COW PARSLEY



HERB ROBERT

● **What fungi can you find?** 🍁

The best time to go fungi spotting is in autumn, after it rains! Can you identify any from the list below?

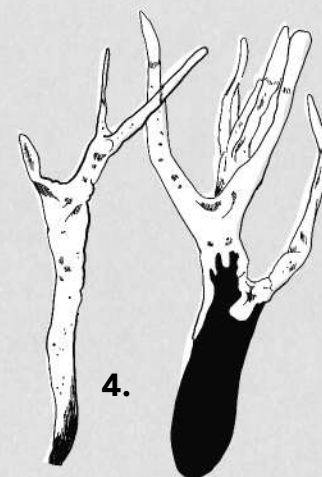


1.

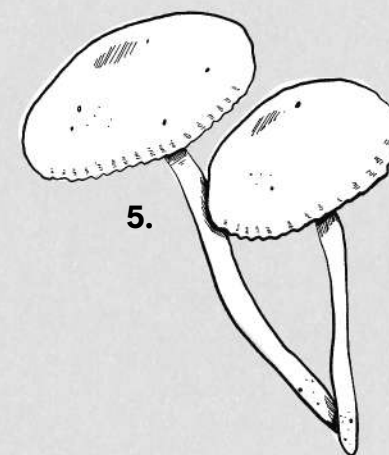


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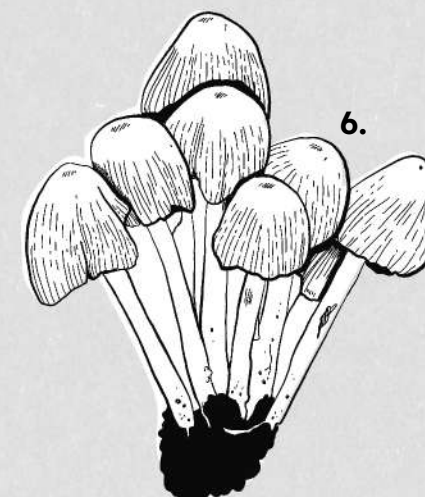
3.



4.



5.



6.

1. **GENUS HYPHOLOMA** grows on dead wood, but sometimes you can find it in moss.

2. **RED EDGE BRITTLESTEM** can be found in woody areas with lots of trees.

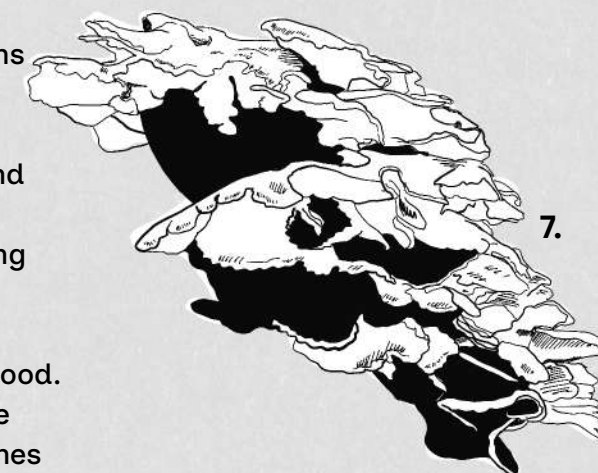
3. **ALDER TONGUE GALL** can be seen around alder trees. It starts green and eventually turns red – a bit like a back-to-front traffic light!

4. **CANDLESNUFF FUNGUS** grows in groups and likes dead or rotting wood! It can be found on stumps and branches.

5. **GENUS COLLYBIA** usually grows on decaying wood – and on other mushrooms!

6. **MICA CAP** can be found in clusters surrounding bits of wood, stumps or buried wood.

7. **BLACKENING POLYPORE** can be seen at the base of the trees. Look out for oaks and beeches especially! It grows in layers and has a wavy shape like a rosette.

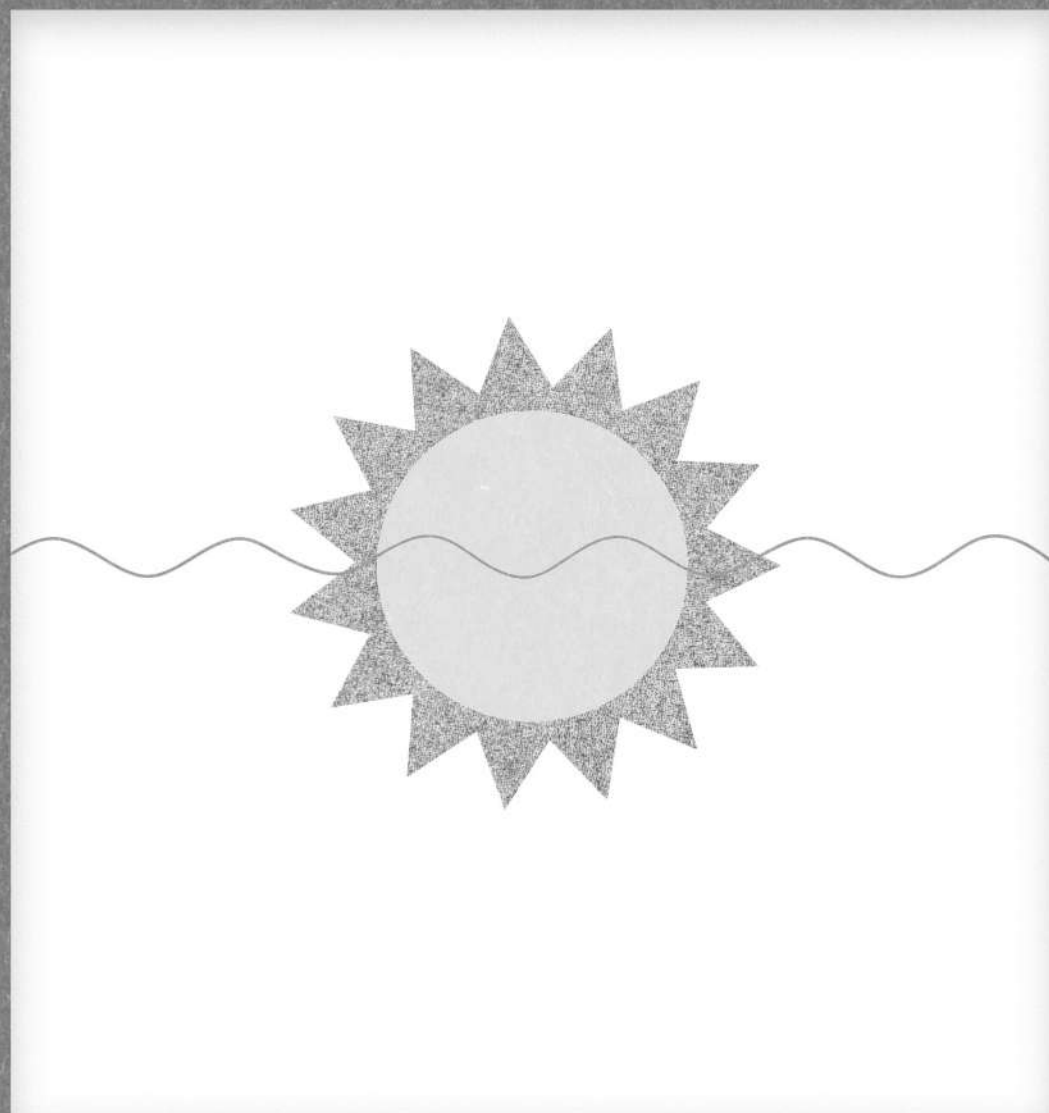


7.

● Watch the sunrise...

● And sunset!

What was the colour of the sky? Use the space in the frame to record the colours of the sunset and sunrise that inspired you!



Watch the river during:

● high tide

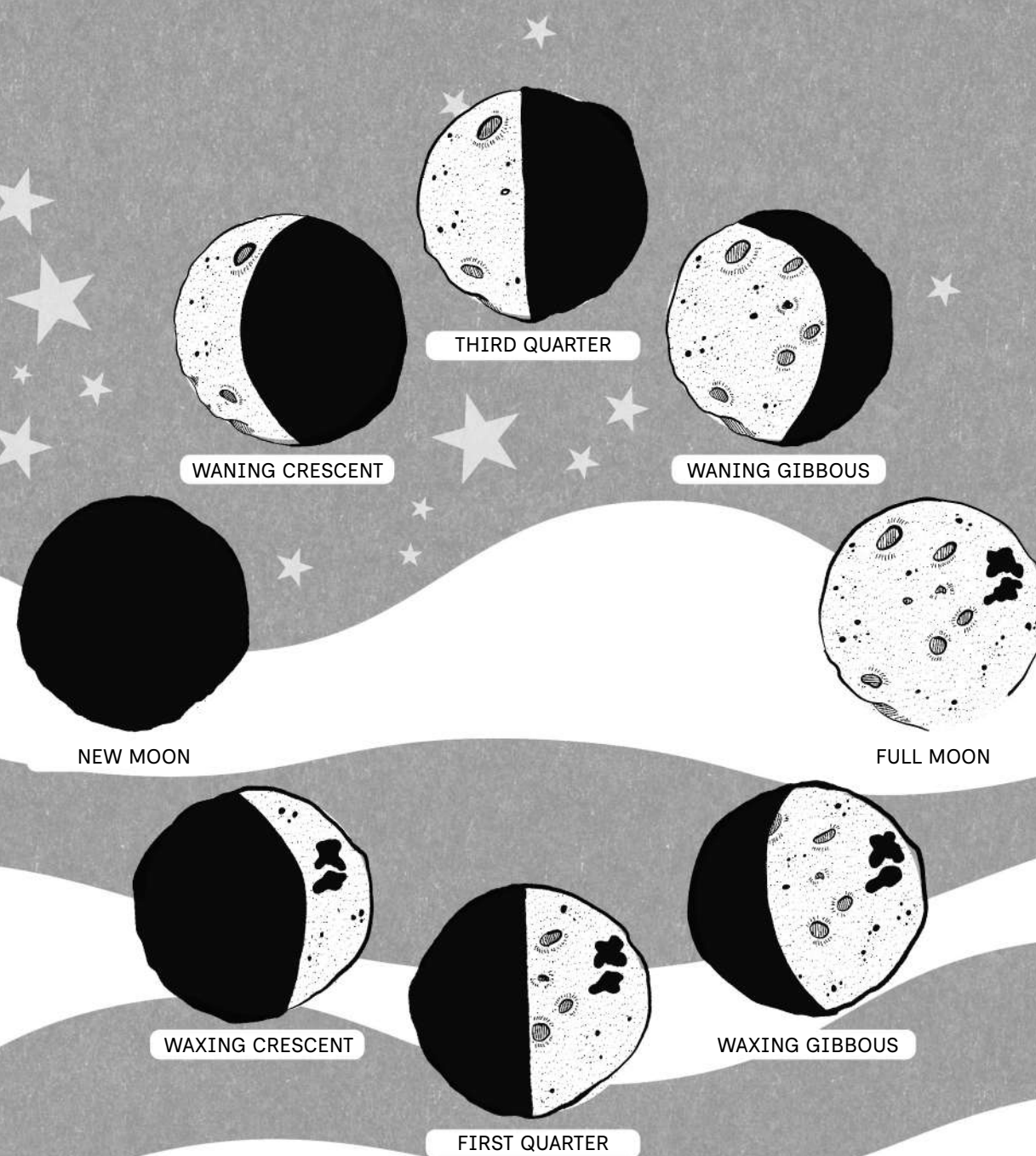
● low tide

● Spend an evening stargazing

Earth's moon is a powerful thing! It helps our planet regulate its climate and has a strong impact on Earth's rotation, atmospheric pressure and even the tides in the sea! The River Tyne is considered a tidal river for its final 14 miles. That means that the flow of the river mixes with the tide from the sea. The river's final stretch is part of the river-estuary system that ends in the North Sea.

The River Tyne has one of the highest tidal ranges in Europe – an average of four metres! That means you can see a huge difference in height between high and low tide.

One of the sculptures on the Riverside Sculpture Trail is inspired by tides and the moon. Can you guess which one?

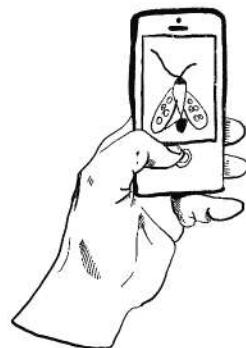


Become a citizen scientist: iNaturalist

Do you enjoy being out in nature and seeing wildlife close to home? If so, and if you have access to a smartphone, you could play an important part in recording the different species that live alongside us on the Tyne Derwent Way.

iNaturalist is a free online network where you can upload photos of what you've seen, from a wildflower or insect to an otter or grey heron, and it doesn't matter whether you know what it is or not – experts are on hand to identify it for you!

We're working with our nature partners, Wild Intrigue, to record and improve biodiversity (the variety and mix of species and habitats and how they exist together) all along the Tyne Derwent Way, but in particular, we want to know more about the nature in Gateshead Riverside Park.

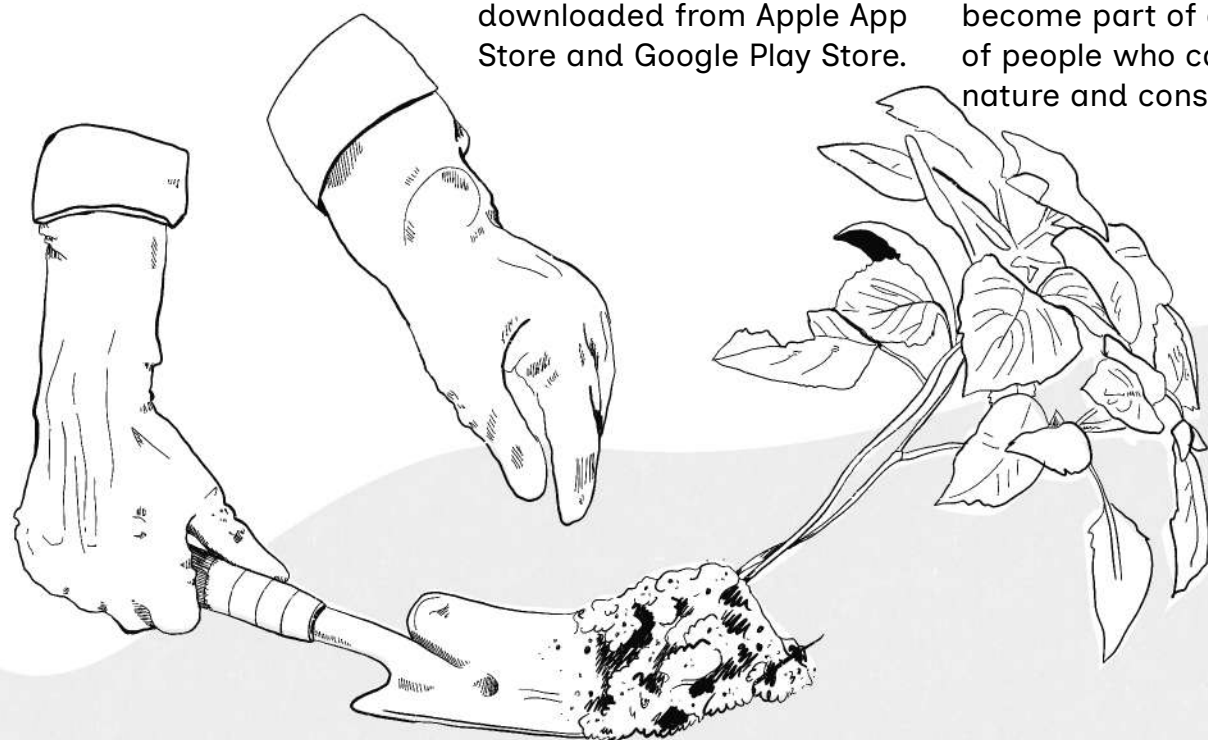


Narrow-bordered five-spot burnet
Zygaena lonicerae

1. Look around for plants, birds and insects while visiting the Tyne Derwent Way.

2. Once you spot something new or interesting, take a photo and upload it to the iNaturalist app. It can be downloaded from Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

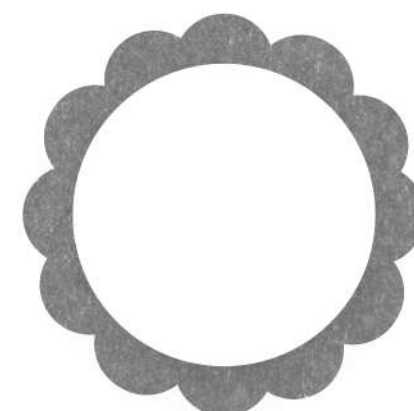
3. Once you've uploaded the photo you can identify what you have seen, discover what others have spotted and become part of a community of people who care about nature and conservation!



Join our Green Team volunteers

Tyne Derwent Way's Green Team works with Wild Intrigue. You can get involved in litter picking and helping to manage green spaces for nature, including tree planting and installing bird boxes. What we do is guided by the seasons, so activities change throughout the year. We usually meet on the third Saturday of each month from 9:45 am for a 10:00 am start and aim to finish at 12 noon. Each session focuses on a different area, so please see our website and social media channels to find out the details for each session.

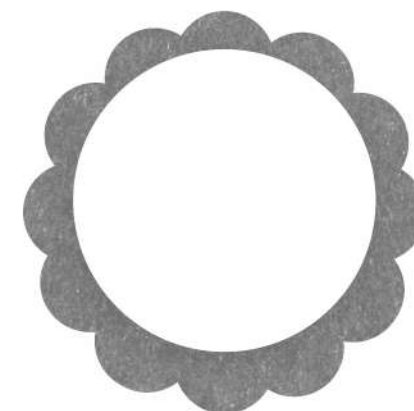
Collect all of the stamps placed along the way!



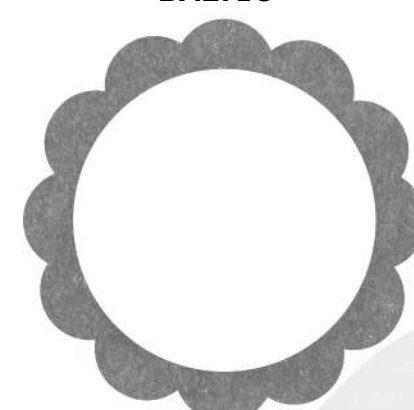
ST MARY'S
HERITAGE CENTRE



LAND OF OAK AND
IRON



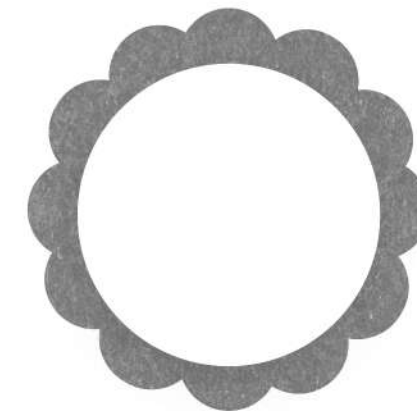
BALTIC*



STAITHS CAFÉ



GIBSIDE**



TYNE DERWENT WAY AT
DUNSTON STAITHS



THORNLEY WOODLAND
CENTRE

* You can find the BALTIC stamp at the 'hello desk'

** Gibside stamp is located at the visitor reception by the carpark – you don't need to pay for admission to get it!

○ Stop for refreshments and have a picnic along the way

It is an amazing opportunity to relax after a walk and connect with nature. Look around and enjoy your time!

