

Why and how we used arts-methods to reach new understandings of nature's influence on mental health, and why we'd do it again

Jo Birch, Clare Rishbeth, Brendan Stone, University of Sheffield Sarah Payne, Heriot Watt University

@_JoBirch www.iwun.uk



Why this study, why these methods?

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|---|--------------------|---|
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The value of arts & story



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How we did it



















Why would we do it again?



The scrub land by the roadside is always different. It ebbs and flows like the sea. In winter, it retreats and collapses, has skeleton twigs, ghostly dead frothy bits and looks untidy. There is a discarded hi-vis vest in amongst it. When I can see it, it tells me it's winter again. It signals the seasons. In spring, it will disappear again, hidden behind the leaves and brambles and flowers.

'Karen'

Always spend half an hour every day in nature

When busy make it an hour

By 'Steven'



Connections

A

as they say goodbye, something else is coming. It's all connected, all linked – one big dance

Jen'



'This stuff did me more good than the stuff that's supposed to do me good'



I have walked this way many times and many times I have felt emptiness, despair and loneliness, searching for that next fix; a person; a substance; anything to fill the empty space.

Today I noticed things, the freshness of the air filling my lungs, trees I have walked past many times without noticing the beauty the colours of oranges, reds, yellows and green. Never pondered or appreciated their presence. Today is different. I notice things; the leaves remind me of colourful sweets from childhood; pear drops I think, rhubarb and custard. There's danger and temptations but I'm not tempted I feel safe and contented and warm. I am connected.

(Amy)