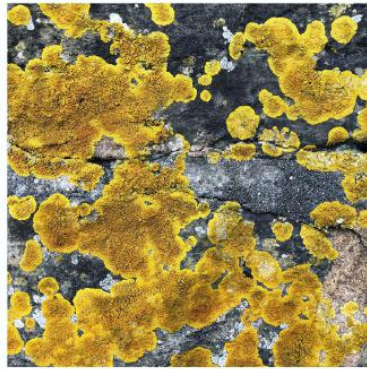


A biosphere journal by Isle of Wight artist Laura Hathaway exploring the ecosystems around Sandwon Bay and the Isle of Wight for Hullabaloo at Home.



Follow Laura's biosphere journal here:  
[www.instagram.com/lh\\_artist\\_hullabaloo\\_at\\_home](https://www.instagram.com/lh_artist_hullabaloo_at_home)



What a beautiful day to begin my project with Hullabaloo at Home. Surrounded by wildflowers, blue sky and a fresh breeze I had a lovely afternoon on the clifftops overlooking the bay, taking in all the flora and fauna around me.



Walking along the clifftops at Yeverland making my way to the gloriously sunny bay.



Surrounded by swathes of meadow buttercups dancing in the breeze on my walk along the cliff tops. The Latin word for buttercup is 'Ranunculus' which means 'little frog'.



Collected on my first afternoon exploring the Sandown Bay area, this little sprig of 'American Wild Carrot' or 'Rattlesnake Weed' begins my collection of natural finds to be transformed into a series of cyanotype prints.



Today I had a lovely afternoon exploring Bembridge Beach at low tide, I was completely mesmerised by all the different kinds of seaweeds in the shallow bay, the colours were incredible!



Gutweed, dulse, carragheen, kelp, laver.  
I lost count of the sheer variety of seaweeds in the bay!



I discovered lots of this seaweed 'Wireweed' washed up on Sandown Bay yesterday. I've collected little fronds of it and have begun pressing and drying them at home ready to make cyanotype prints. It was just beautiful seeing it growing in the shallows around Bembridge this afternoon at low tide.



Olive fronds of wireweed.



An afternoon meandering along the bay as the tide went out revealing lots of different kinds of seaweed, pebbles and barnacles.



Lots of incredible 'Acorn Barnacles' encrusting the eroding sand breaks around the bay. Barnacles are crustaceans and are related to crabs and lobsters, the 'Acorn Barnacle' is the most common barnacle found around the British coast.



There are so many kinds of seaweed along the shoreline, another beautiful specimen added to my collection.



'Gutweed' also known as 'Sea Lettuce' and 'Grass Kelp' growing on a piece of eroded sand break in the bay. I loved the amazing form and vibrant green of the seaweed clinging all around the wood. I managed to collect some small pieces that had washed up along the shore to dry and press.



Exploring the shallow waterway at Gurnard Bay as the tide trickled into the harbour. It was absolutely teeming with life, I saw an incredible amount of crabs merging and scuttling in and out of the seaweeds, shrimps, prawns, shoals of tiny fish and even an eel!



It was absolute joy swimming in Gurnard Bay collecting seaweeds that were floating around me in the shallows. I've collated quite a large selection of seaweed species and have begun experimenting with a couple of prints and compositions.





I found this beautiful lichen and rock samphire growing on a windy walk through Ventnor and Bonchurch yesterday afternoon. Rock samphire also known as 'Sea Fennel' is an edible flowering plant which is part of the carrot family.



Oxeye daisies are flowering everywhere. I think they might be my favourite flower! Collected and added to my large pile of natural finds being dried and pressed.



Found on my morning walk, 'Sea Purslane' a beautiful perennial coastal herb.



Laying out my foraged sea purslane and lots more specimens collected on my morning walk around Gurnard Bay.



When you take the time to look closely there is so much life! There were so many different kinds of grasses, flowers and insects existing together in this meadow in Ryde, it was lovely sitting in a small spot observing them under the sun in the cool breeze.



'Field Clover' or 'Hop Trefoil'. Another beautiful day in nature discovering wild flowers in Ryde. I love exploring the island and all the incredible plants I'm coming across.



Today I hung up some past experiments to get a little inspiration. As you can see depending on the strength of sunshine and length of time left outside a whole range of blues can emerge.



Collating and laying out all of the plants, seaweeds, feathers and shells I have been gathering over the last couple of weeks ready to begin making cyanotype prints. It's really interesting examining their transparencies and delicacy once they have been dried and pressed.



Some huge mussel shells found on a rainy walk in Gurnard Bay yesterday. I keep getting so many ideas for cyanotypes the possibilities feel never ending!



I've found so many feathers on all my island walks. Today I'm coating up some paper to make a cyanotype completely dedicated to all the beautiful feathers I have been finding and collecting.



I tested out exposing feathers on a smaller scale before attempting to make a large piece. It's a mammoth task but I'd like to make individual cyanotypes of every natural artefacts I have collected during this project.



I love how the cyanotype photographic process captures forms in such detail. The darker blue tones show areas of colour on the feather whereas the white shows the lighter tones.



Weathered feathers in Sundown Bay.



After a lovely walk around the Blue Lagoon in Sandown amongst all the birds and wildflowers I collated all the feathers I have been collecting on my walks and created this cyanotype in the late afternoon sunshine. I love how it has captured their imperfect shapes from being blown in the wind and washed up in the tides and the contrast between the pristine feathers in perfect condition.



Discovering Alverstone Mead Nature Reserve and Sandown Community Orchard on the outskirts of Sandown. It was so incredibly peaceful wandering along the Eastern Yar, finding pathways through areas of woodland. I picked this beautiful 'Wood Fern' which has been added to my collection of finds being dried and pressed at home.



After a day of planning different compositions and turning my bathroom into a darkroom I managed to catch the last of the sunshine and expose my first print watching the sunset over Gurnard Bay.





Fern, thistle, clover and lots more transforming.



I've had a few practice runs testing out length of time needed to expose prints, levels of sunshine and exposing indoors and outdoors. I think I've managed to get the balance right and this is the first print with all the elements coming together before I stop the exposure process and wash the chemicals off.



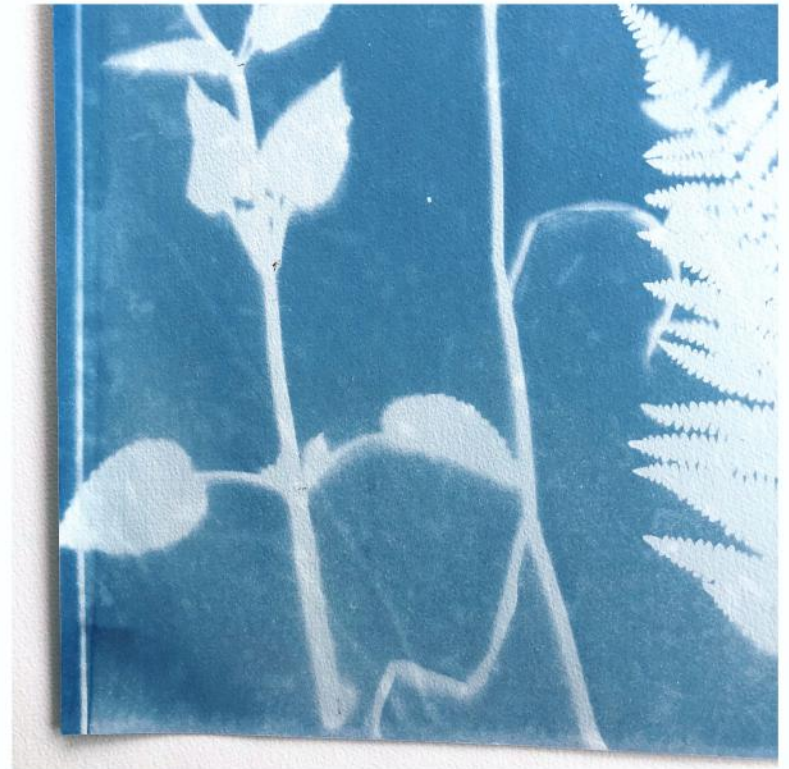
Discovering the last of the buttercups  
along the banks of a little stream.



'Hedge Woundwort' or 'Hedge Nettle'  
along my daily dog walk in the park.  
There's a little stream that runs along  
the edge of green space with so many  
kinds of wildflower and hedgerow  
plants. There are intriguing secret  
intersections where creatures have  
made runways through to the meadow  
and forest beyond the park.



Buttercups, wild pea, waters dropwort, wild carrot. Another piece ready to wash and reveal the print beneath. A collection of wild flowers gathered and pressed over the last few weeks as I explore the islands ecosystems.



Detail of hedge woundwort and fern on one of the large scale cyanotype prints I have been experimenting on for Hullabaloo at Home which celebrates one year of being recognised by UNESCO as a biosphere.



A collection of seashore finds exposing in the early morning light. I loved composing all my treasured finds together; shells, seaweed's, sea shore plants, crab shells, claws and my collection of Micraster fossils found on walks around the island.



A dried thistle found on a wild walk along the cliffs to Thorness Bay.



It's incredible what you can find if you take the time to look closely. In a small area of nature so much variety and life can be unearthed. Crab claws are becoming a favourite thing for me to forage for.



I love the moment when the print is ready to reveal the forms left behind. This seashore piece was left exposing for some time as I began the process very early in the morning and the light was quite grey. When it takes longer I always feel more excited to see the final piece.



Every walk I go on new seaweed species reveal themselves.



Native 'Sea Kale' or 'Sea Cabbage' growing on the shingle shoreline along The Duver.



Acorn barnacles thriving on the rocks and covering limpets along the rock pools of The Duver.



An afternoon exploring life on the Duver. A stunning place to explore rock pool life and lots of gnarly seashore feathers.



I've found quite a few animal bones on my beach walks around Gurnard Bay. There are some incredible shapes where the sea has eroded, weathered and bleached their forms. I've added my finds to my own collection of found bones discovered over time on lots of island walks.



As the sun exposes the print the chemicals react and darken. If it is a sunny day the process is quicker and the print can easily overexpose, on a grey day the process can take much longer.





I felt quite excited revealing this print,  
The forms left behind appear like soft  
shadows.



Water stops the chemical reaction, as  
the print dries the blue colour will  
darken. Each print has a slightly  
different blue tone depending on length  
of time under UV light and how sunny  
the day was.



A huge cuttlefish bone found on my last walk around Sandown Bay before Hullabaloo at Home begins. The common cuttlefish is the largest cuttlefish found in our seas and comes into shallow waters amongst the seaweeds and seagrass to lay their eggs between April and July.



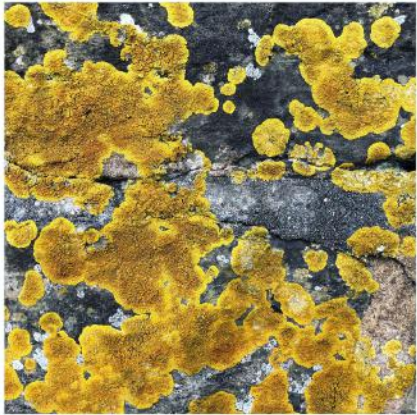
Incredible 'Common Salsify' seed heads growing in a wild area outside Dinosaur Isle.



'Rock Samphire' and 'Buckhorn Plantain'  
emerging and surviving in the cracks along  
Sandown seafront.



Swathes of 'Common Chicory' blooming and  
swaying outside Dinosaur Isle. There were  
lots of sparrows flying in and out feeding and  
perching amongst the seeds and flowers.





## Laura Hathaway Artist

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## Laura Hathaway Creative Therapy

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