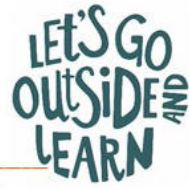


OUTSIDE INSIDE



HOME BASED NATURE ACTIVITIES FOR HOUNSLOW RESIDENTS IN 2021

Funded through the Hounslow Thriving Communities Response Fund
Let's Go Outside and Learn CIC Registration 9435120

Newsletter 30 / February 2021

Welcome to our newsletter!



Trees as a home

Next time you are out and about, have a look at the trees and their structure. If you look carefully you can see that some creatures use the branches to build their home.

How many nests can you see in this tree?



Looking closely at trees in winter

The trees in our parks and streets look beautiful at the moment whether the sky is brilliant blue or a steely gray.



If you look carefully you may find that there are nests high up in the branches which are hidden in summer when the tree is covered in leaves. They can often be found at the junction of branches.

Which bird built this nest? Was it a bird?

How to identify garden bird nests

Nesting birds

Our good friend Trudi, has written an article for us about birds' nests. In the past she has entertained us all with her collection of abandoned nests that she has put together over the years. They are amazing pieces of engineering, often beautifully put together.

In the article Trudi talks about how you can help birds build their nest by leaving out items for them to include in the construction.

You might like to put up a bird box, but make sure that it is out of reach from the local cats, or clear out an existing box.

LET'S GO
OUTSIDE
AND
LEARN



Nesting Birds

By Trudi Morgan

www.lgoal.org
CIC Registration 9435120

The nests often take up the shape of the boxes. These two old nests were found in nest boxes last month. The blue patches in one are bit of a mystery. It could be that the birds have collected fluff from blue tennis- type balls thrown by dog walkers.



Birds build nests in a variety of shapes, from simple shallow scrapes to cups to elaborate hanging pouches or cave like structures. The type of nest, size, location and building materials all help to identify the occupants.

Nesting birds article

Other things to look out for in the branches of trees



Mistletoe

Sometimes you can see other things among tree branches that are not birds nests.

This is mistletoe, a parasitic plant that relies on a host tree for water and minerals to survive.



Lots of animals, including birds, depend on mistletoe for food, eating the leaves and young shoots, and the sticky seeds. The sticky coating remains on the seed and when it touches a stem, it sticks fast and hardens so that the seed attaches firmly to the host, where it germinates and penetrates the sound bark.



You might see a bundle of leaves high in the tree. This is a squirrel nest. It is called a drey and it is slightly larger than a football and constructed of twigs, leaves, bark and grass. Grey squirrels breed in between January and April and may have a second litter in the summer.



The strange shapes in these lime trees are not nests, as you might think at first glance, but instead the remains of wounds where the trees were once pruned. Where the limb has been severed strange knuckles form with lots of fingers reaching out. This is often seen on street trees including the London Plane.

Chinese New Year

12th February 2021

At the weekend it was the Chinese New Year. 2021 is the Year of the Ox, an animal that symbolises strength and determination. Something that we all need at this difficult time.

We would love to hear from you if you celebrated the festival and what you did.

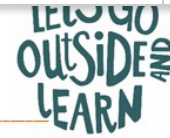


Stay In Touch

At this time of year, it's really important to stay in touch. Bring your cuppa to the phone for a chat.

We are always available for a chat on a Tuesday from 11-12 on our free conference line. Please get in touch if you would like to join in. We always have really interesting conversations and a bit of fun too!

OUTSIDE INSIDE



HOME BASED NATURE ACTIVITIES FOR HOUNSLOW RESIDENTS IN 2021

Funded through the Hounslow Thriving Communities Response Fund
Let's Go Outside and Learn CIC Registration 9435120

If you are still isolated in your home by the Coronavirus or want to meet new people, join us and use nature as an inspiration.

Take part in our nature-based activities to learn something new, awaken your senses and connect with others via a weekly telephone chat. In addition, there are weekly activities on the website and regular project newsletters. TO JOIN IN PLEASE REGISTER

Website www.lgoal.org

Email outdoor.learning@outlook.com

Phone Mairi 07939001731 or Frances 020 8401 6837

facebook.com/LetsGoOutsideAndLearn/



**Click here to look at our website for more ideas of things to keep
you busy over the next few weeks**

Copyright © 2020 Let's Go Outside and Learn CIC Reg No 9435120, All rights reserved.

Newsletter 30

Our mailing address is:

outdoor.learning@outlook.com

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Let's Go Outside and Learn CIC · 43 Bonser Road · Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 4RQ · United Kingdom

