

# FRAMING IT DIFFERENTLY



'OUR WORDS, THOUGHTS AND IDEAS  
WILL SCATTER TO SEED THE FUTURE'



# THE PROJECT

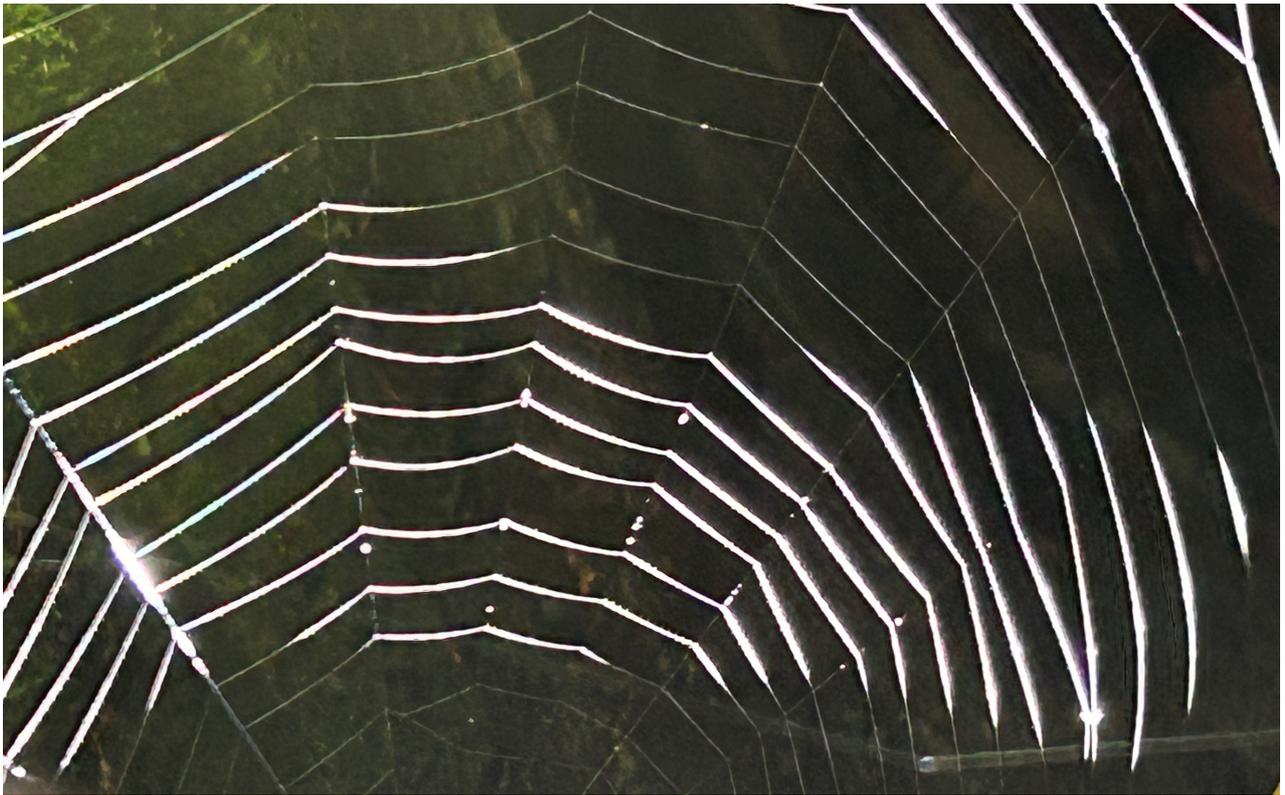


'Framing it Differently' has been a collaboration project between Beamish Museum and Exeter University's Enliven Project. Over the past 12 weeks this group has explored the natural environment which makes Beamish Museum such a unique and beautiful place.

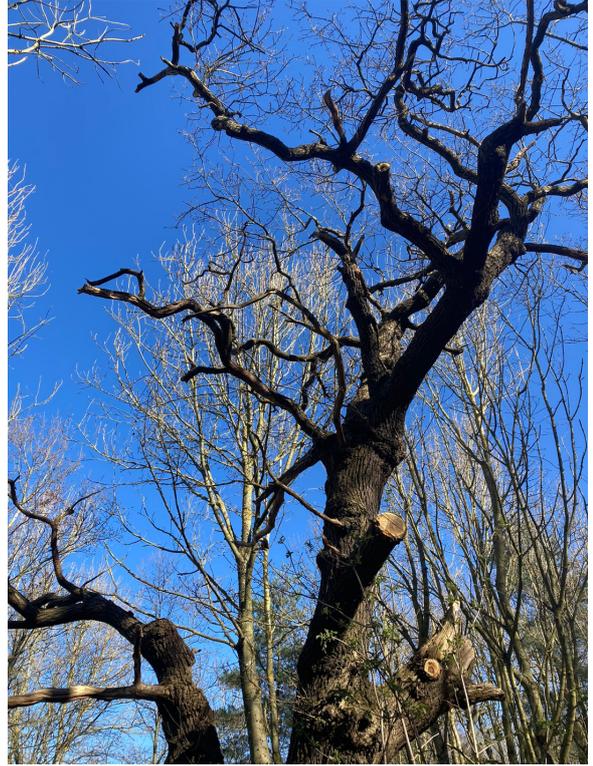
Each week we have walked and photographed the changing landscapes through the spring and summer months. Embracing the mindful act of watching and noticing the natural elements of the museum come to life.

We have also incorporated workshops throughout the project to help us to learn more about photography and the historical techniques which have revolutionised the practice throughout time.

This booklet includes images taken by each member of the group and shows the range of different areas which they have discovered, and the natural beauty they have found throughout the museum grounds. The words were created by the group whilst taking part in a poetry workshop, and echo the images taken throughout our journey.



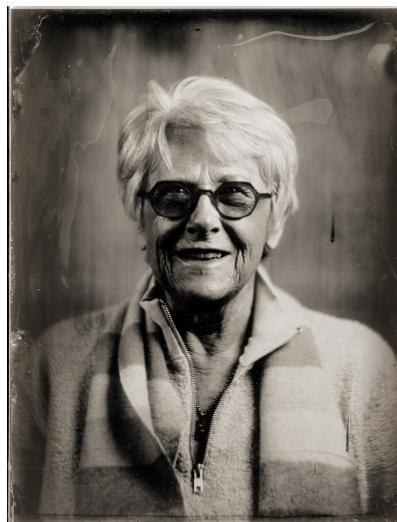
The grass was dewy and covered with spider's webs. The early morning had a freshness only known after a storm. The grass had just been cut and the air smelt of spring. The daffodil heads were just popping through the ground. The land was a haven for the wildlife, rabbits, birds and insects who called this home. There was a stillness in the air with just the sound of bird song in the distance. Everything was at it should be. Everything was one.

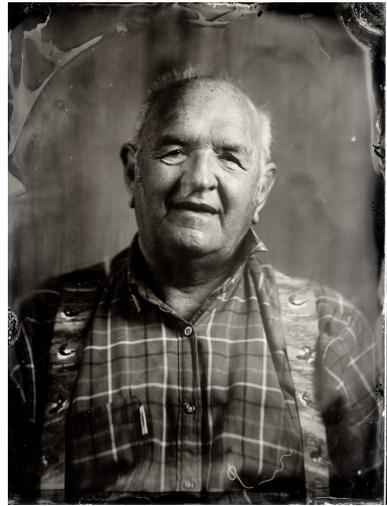


# TINTYPE PHOTOGRAPHY



Local photographer Andy Martin came along to one of our sessions to teach us about the process of creating Victorian Tintype photographs, this technique dates back to 1851. The method involves coating metal plates in a collodion solution before placing it into silver nitrate. Once sensitised by the silver, the plate is loaded into the camera and the exposure is made. The plate is then returned to the dark room to be developed and fixed. The images here show each member of the group.







We used the art space above Norman Cornish's House as a make shift studio to take the photographs. Here are some of the behind the scene images.





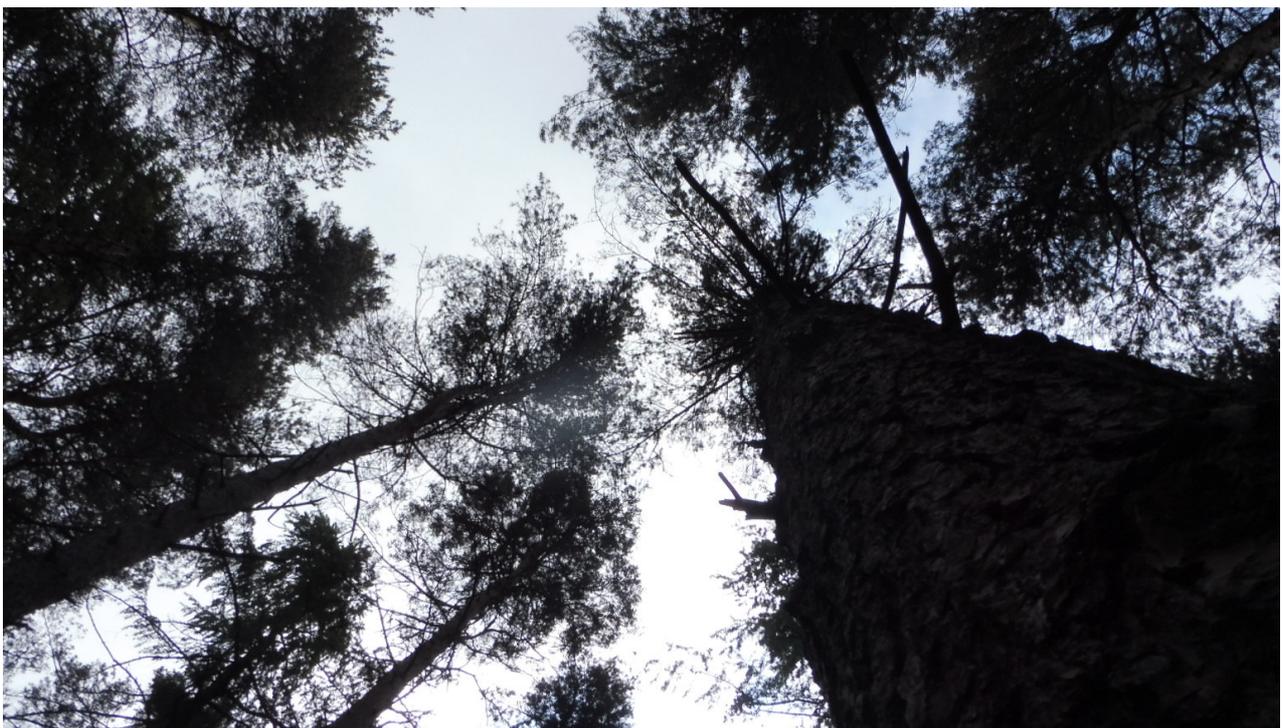
The tree was oak, it stood in the middle of a meadow where sheep grazed. The sheep protected their young lambs and I felt all their attention shift to me as I walked past. Animal's eyes can be so knowing, so human. It's strange the way they seem to be able to read your mind. So full of wisdom. Amid the leaves of the oak tree the birds twittered and sang as they went about their daily tasks. I tightened the dogs lead as he was interested in the woolen animals and wished to play with them as well.

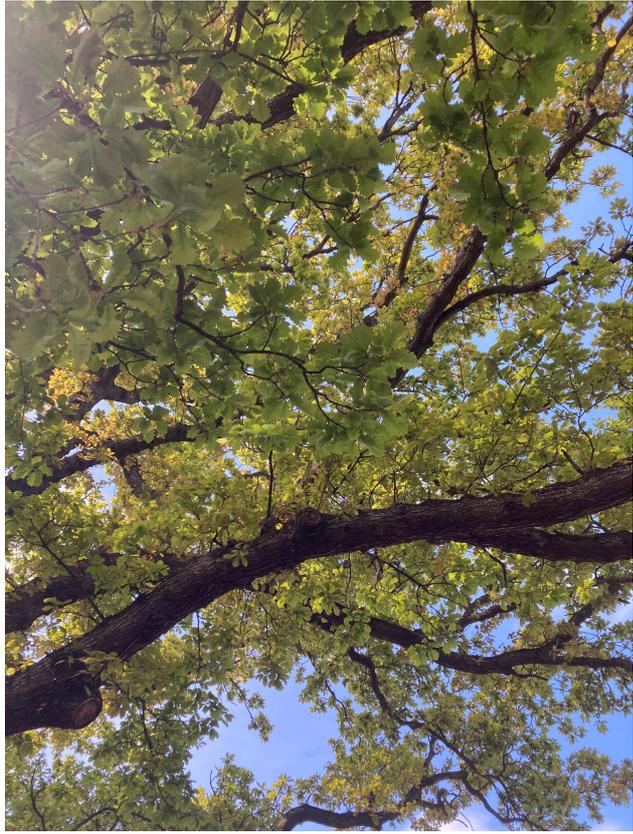






The fence was old and rickety, all aged from the sun and covered in moss. It was an entrance to some very dark woods which were even older than the fence. You could just see the yellow of the sun between the branches above, casting long shadows over the path. It was completely silent, except for the sound of one lone raven. The sound of its call seemed to pass straight through me. I guess I'll never know who the raven was calling to or why, but the sound was haunting and will stay with me forever more.



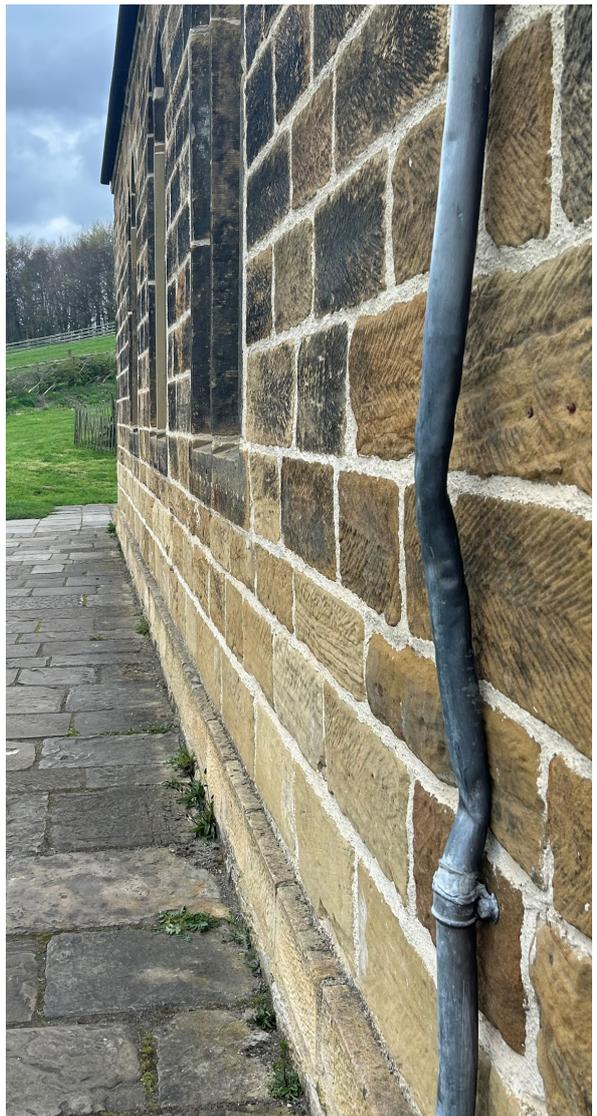


# CYANOTYPE PRINTING



These images were created using cyanotype printing which as a technique dates back to 1842. It uses a mix of potassium ferricyanide and ferric ammonium citrate which is coated on the paper. Once exposed to sunlight this causes a chemical reaction which gives the paper the blue hue. To create our images we used wildflowers which were selected and hand pressed by the group from different areas of the museum.







The sky was a bright vibrant light blue with the clouds floating on the gentle breeze. It was filled with thousands of beautiful dandelion seeds, blowing to and fro like the whispers of half-forgotten childhood secrets. Watching the scene a child caught one in their hand and with eyes half closed muttered a quiet wish and saw it on its way with its precious cargo.



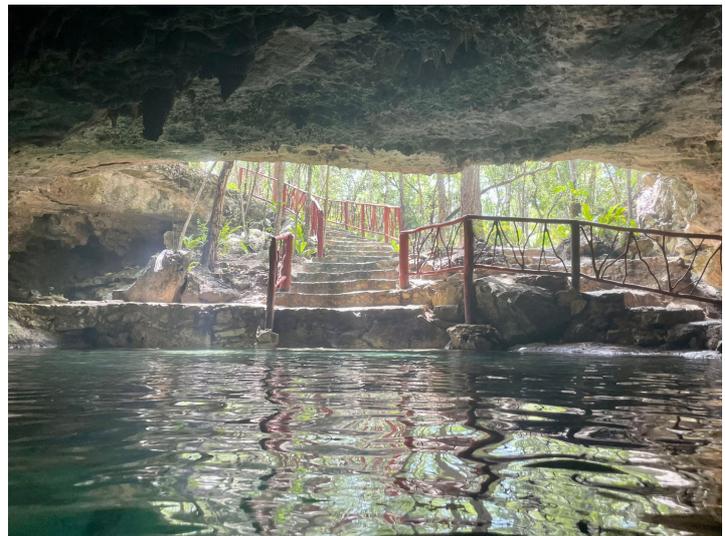




The bee was flying through a meadow at breakneck speed. It was clearly in a rush, heading towards a certain point. He was a busy little bundle of black and yellow with faint signs of pollen dotted on his backside. Then the butterflies emerged along with the cat stealthily moving towards the fence where the birds were feasting on the berries of the hawthorn bushes. Just beside the hawthorn was a white daisy flower. The little bee sat with a swallow perched next to him. All of this activity in a peaceful meadow - at first glance it may seem to a passers-by that nothing was going on. On closer inspection it was a hive of industry.

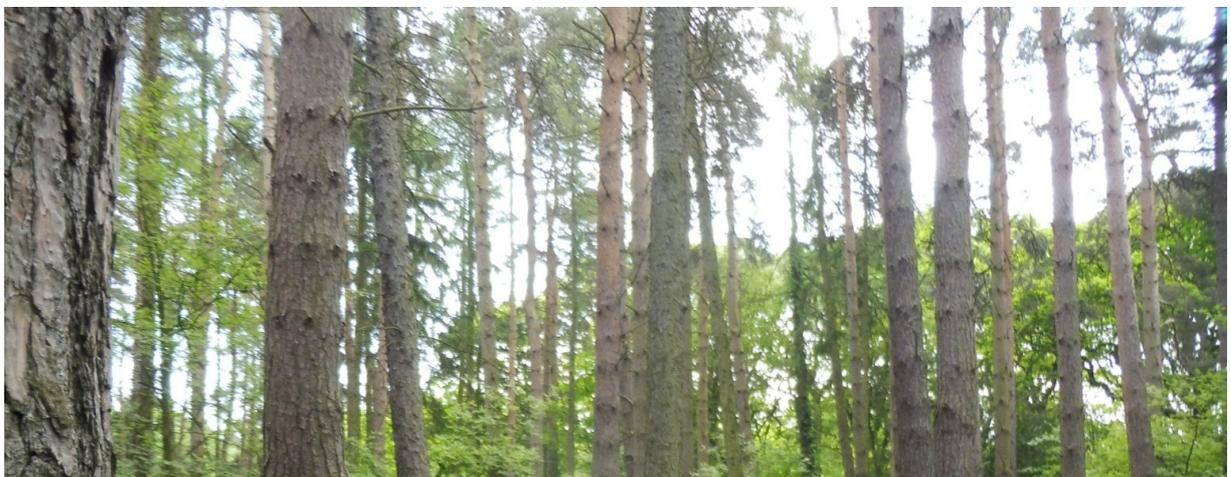


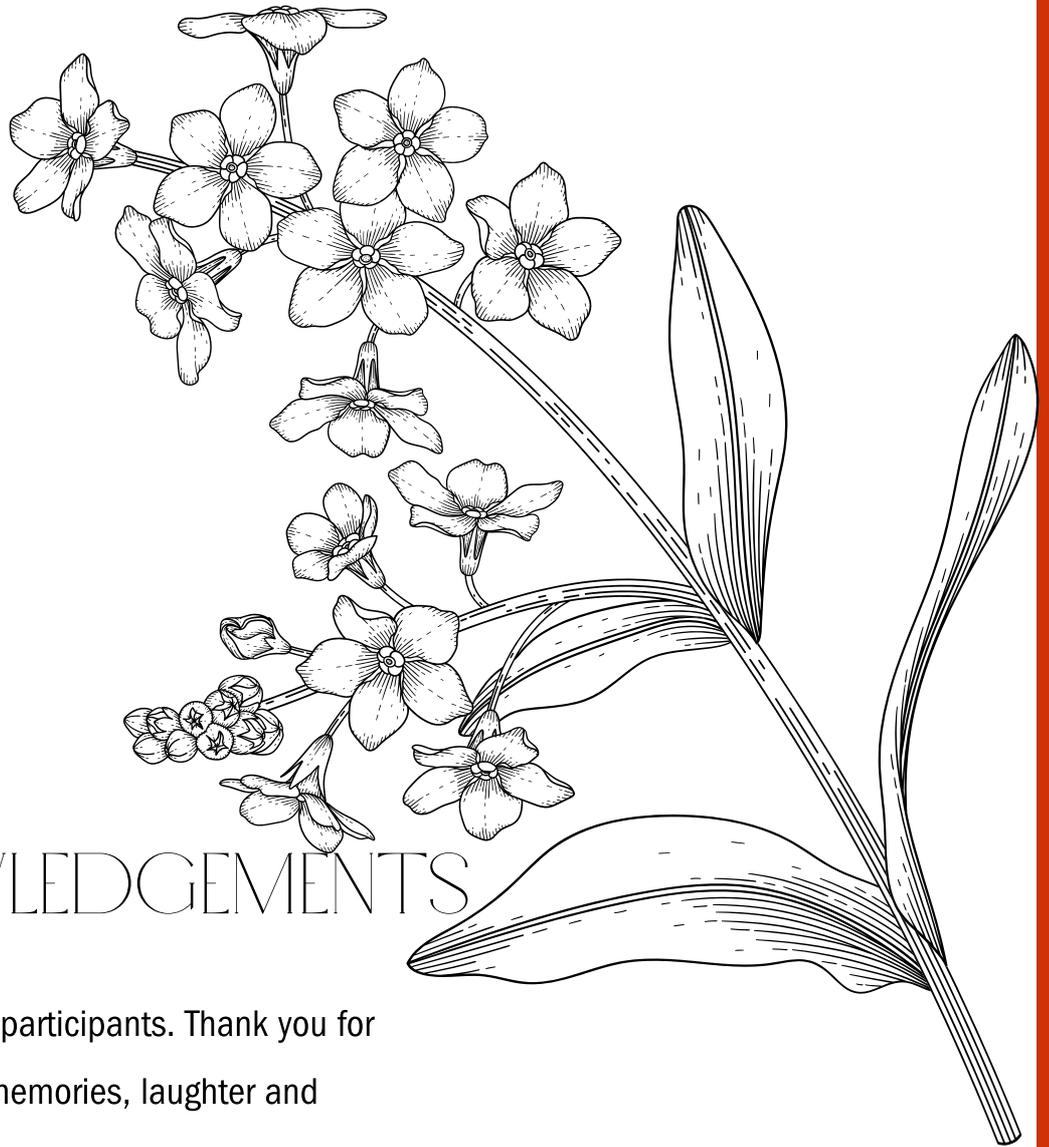
During the twelve weeks of 'Framing it Differently' one of the participants was on holiday in Mexico for three weeks. This didn't stop them still taking images to be part the final project.





The river was full of fish, they were jumping as I tried to find the right pattern of artificial fly. Relaxing on the edge of the river I sent the fly out. My mind wondering 'what I can catch today', 'what will be gently tugging on the line'. My thoughts drifted off while I sat waiting for a bite - the sound of birds in the trees and the river as it meandered by. It brought me back to my childhood and those long hazy days learning from my father the ways of the river.





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to our participants. Thank you for sharing your stories, memories, laughter and friendship.

Thank you also to the many talented artists who have helped us learn, reflect and develop. Especially Ian Beesley for all of his help and for showing us the beauty of dandelions, Rowan McCabe for helping us put into words the way nature makes us feel and Andy Martin for teaching us the history and importance of photography.

And a final thanks to our funders the Enliven Project and Exeter University. To find out more about the enliven project visit: [enlivenproject.co.uk](http://enlivenproject.co.uk)