



# Photography activity pack

This activity pack is brought to you by the Royal Horticultural Society, working with photography organisations Open Eye Gallery and Street Level Photoworks. We've put together some top tips and easy photography tasks to help you document your community garden and share the good work happening in your area. This pack features seven prompts to make up a week of creative activity – although how you choose to use this resource is up to you.

Created with

**OPEN  
EYE  
GALLERY**



**STREET LEVEL  
PHOTOWORKS**



Image © Gwen Riley Jones and Plot to Plate

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The RHS is working with the **Socially Engaged Photography Network** to encourage and upskill communities in creative storytelling, through regional projects that follow the stories of local groups throughout the growing year and their experiences, motivations and activities.

# Getting started

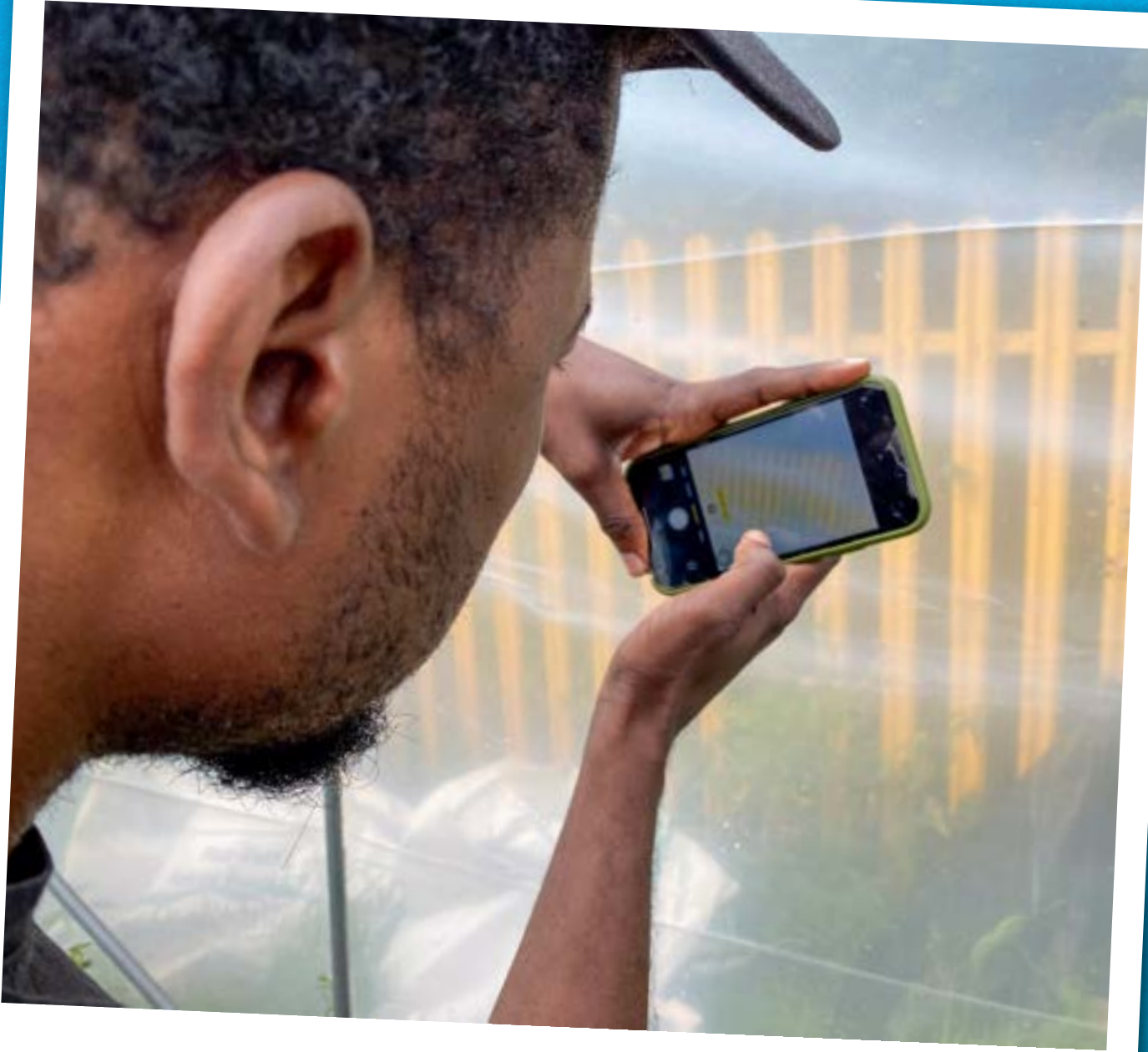
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Artist partnership **Coulson & Tennant** have put together some top tips for getting started with smartphone photography. You don't need to have the most up-to-date camera phone to get great shots – what is most important is that you take the photograph in the moment and capture that memory.

## When shooting photographs with your phone

- Focus is overrated! Use it creatively
- Search for the light
- Use natural elements to create frames
- Look up! Look down! Camera phones are great for getting different angles, experiment with this
- Fill your frame with your subject
- Play with reflections, movement and distortion
- Get to know the functions of your smart device, such as panoramic mode, burst mode, grid function, portrait mode, or time lapse and slow-mo videos
- Experiment with the photo editing app built in on your phone and other apps, such as Instagram and Snap Seed

Smartphone photography workshop delivered by  
Coulson & Tennant at Cranhill Community Garden



**“The best camera  
is the one you have  
with you.”**

**Chase Jarvis**

# 1 Points of view

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One way to document the people and places around you where your images might stand out is to explore different viewpoints... The world around us can seem completely different depending on what angle we are looking at it from. Today, why not try to capture some images in your garden, from the following viewpoints:

**Birds eye view:** Looking down, from above – what do you see?



**Worms eye view:** Looking up from below – what do you see? This can be a really good angle if you want to make something look bigger and more powerful!



Images © Coulson & Tennant



**Waist high view:** Hold the camera at your waist, click and the camera will do the rest – what do you see?

# 2 It's all in the detail

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Today let's try out looking at our surroundings from **really close up** and from **far away**. You might find that your camera can only focus on things at a certain distance but you can use the **W** and the **T** button on most digital cameras to **zoom in** and **out**.

If using a smart phone or tablet you should see a line at the bottom of the screen with a **-** and a **+** which you can use your finger to scroll along to zoom in and out. You can also use the flash option on your camera to make things a bit sharper when taking pictures of things really close up.



Try to photograph objects from both a really close up angle and from as far away as you can safely be – **let's take a closer look!**

# 3 Finding a rainbow

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Whatever the season, whatever the weather – we can find all sorts of colours and tones in nature. Can you photograph **every colour of the rainbow** in your garden? Remember you might need to zoom in or zoom out to get the best shot of your colour. **Can you note down what each object is and why you chose it?**



Image © Eileen at PIER

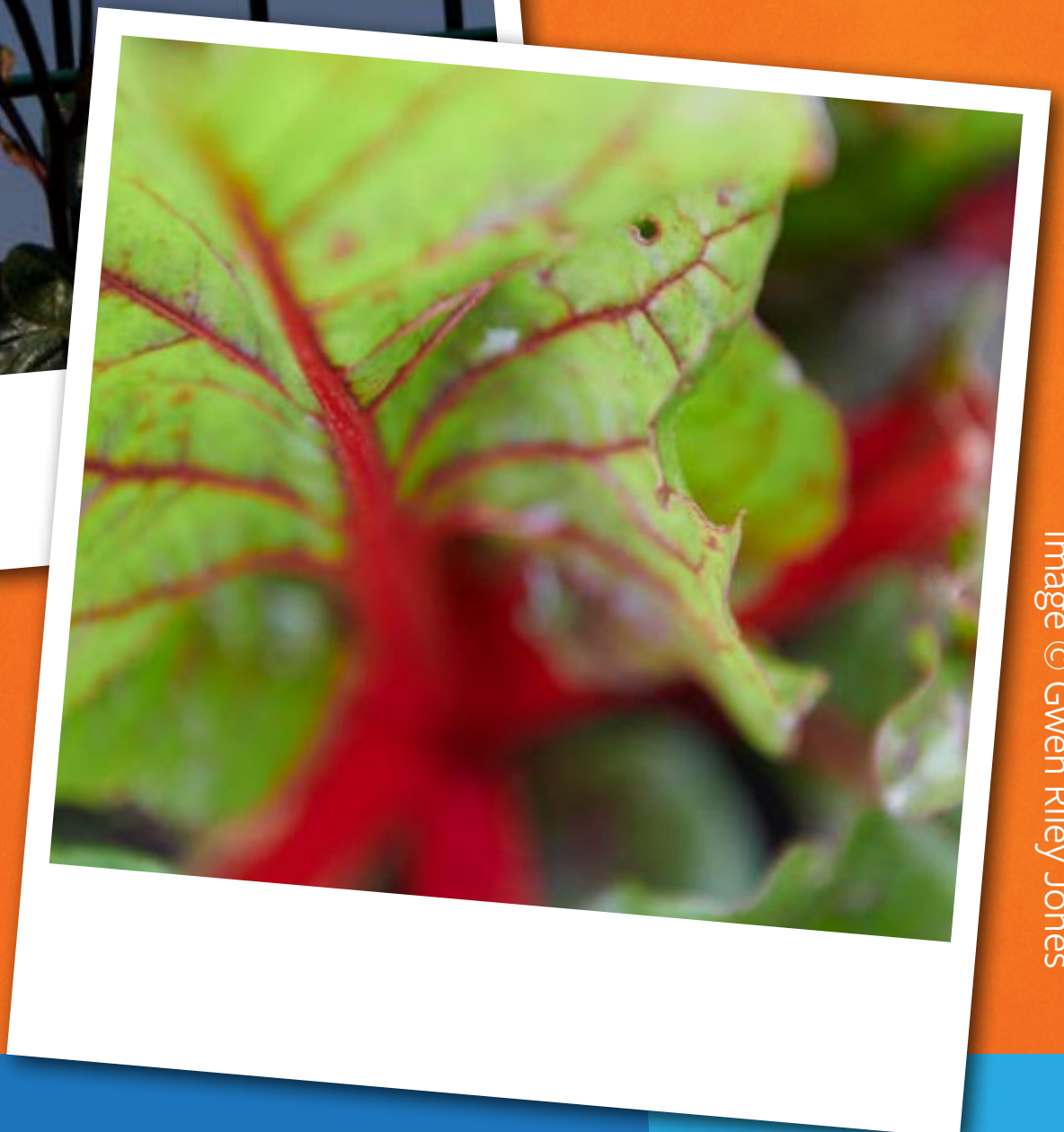


Image © Gwen Riley Jones



# 4 A day in the life

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We'd love to find out more not just about the garden but about you!

Can you take a photograph **on the hour every hour** from 10am - 6pm of what you are up to? **What does a day in the life of a community gardener look like?**



# 5 Who makes up your community?

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Throughout the growing year, we often come together and if we documented this we'd really find out more about who makes up the community!

**Can you photograph the people who make up your group?** Why not try the 'action shot' approach:

## Top tips for taking action shots

- Pre-focus your shots. When you're working with a moving subject, it's important to anticipate where the action is likely to take place
- Experiment with low angles to make the ordinary look extraordinary
- Shoot in bursts...lots of pictures of the same shot give the best chance to capture that quick action shot



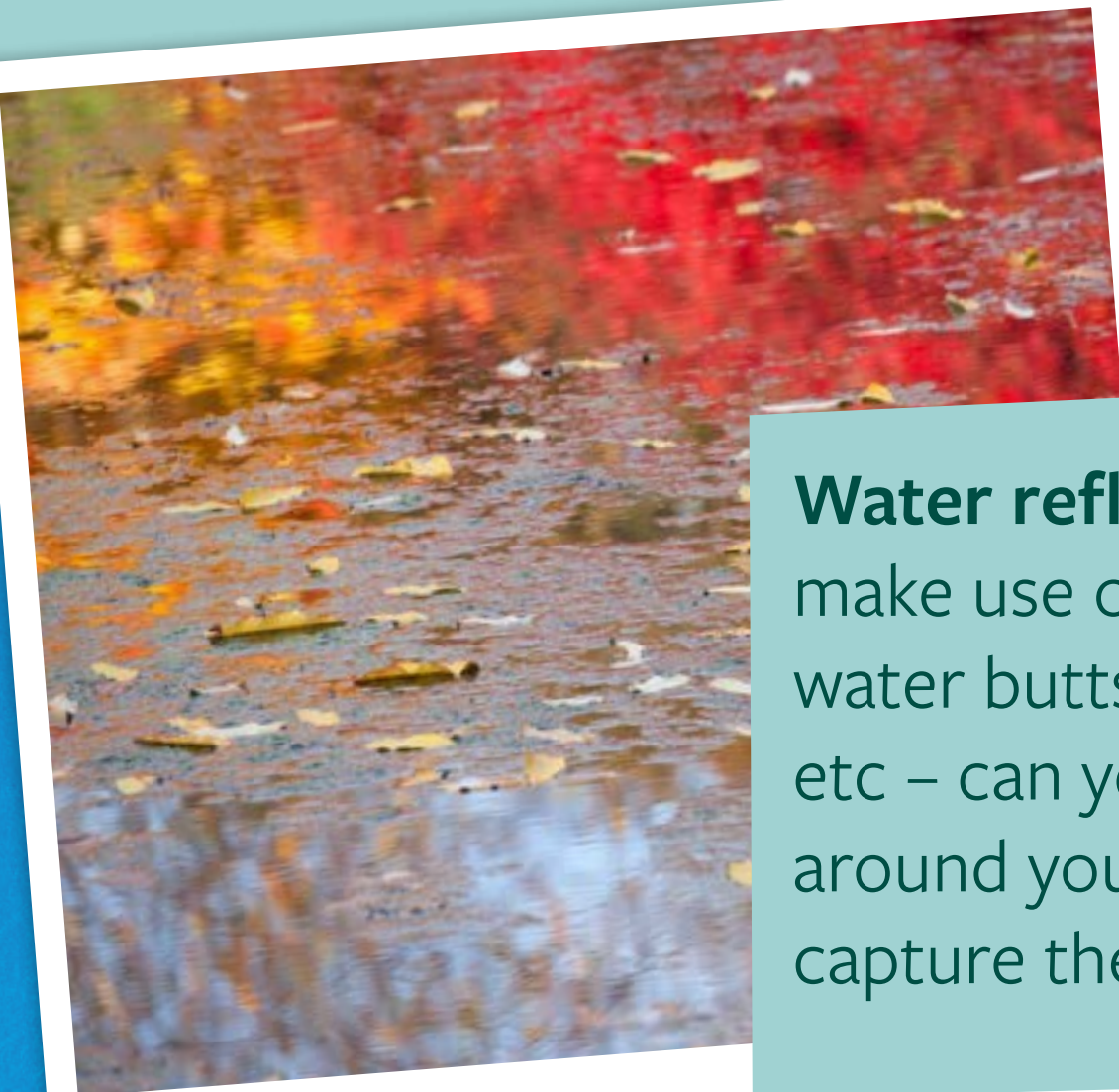
# 6 Reflections

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You can have some fun with reflections when using photography. When looking through your camera you can focus on the reflection to create a self-portrait and highlight your surroundings, or even open the windows at an angle to see a different view. Try these below:

Look through your camera and focus on your reflection in a window or a piece of glass (this could be from a shed window or greenhouse) to create a **self portrait**.

**Keep checking** your window/piece of glass throughout the day. As the light changes it will create reflections on surfaces you could photograph too.



**Water reflections:** You can make use of water found in water butts, puddles, ponds etc – can you find the water around your garden to capture the reflections?

# 7 Nature collage

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- Go into the garden or **take a short walk** round your nearest green space
- Look for interesting **shapes and colours** and pick up some leaves, twigs, flowers or specific natural materials relevant to your growing space to bring home
- When home, take a piece of card and lay out your objects onto the page to **create a collage**
- Take a picture** of your nature collage



Anthotype prints being created at PIER Garden, Rochdale with Gwen Riley Jones

# Photography consent

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If you are taking photographs of other people, it's important they are **aware**, and you have their **consent**. Sharing photos is a great way to keep us updated and promote your activities. If you'd like to share photos with us, there are some steps to take first:

- When taking photos or filming it is you/your group's responsibility to **display notices** on the day
- Where possible, **tell people ahead of time** that photography is taking place, so that they are aware of how they can opt out
- Photos of vulnerable individuals/groups and children **must** be accompanied by a 'model release' or consent form signed by their legal carer or parent/guardian
- If these steps have been taken then consent forms aren't needed for all adults (**unless they are the main focus of the image, easily recognisable or anyone who is named or quoted**)

For more guidance, and template forms and notices, see our [\*\*Community Events Toolkit\*\*](#)



# RHS



Images © Coulson & Tennant

Share your photography creations with us on social media using #RHSGrowWithIt

 @rhsgrassroots

 rhscommunitygardening | rhsschoolgardening

 @RHSBloom | @RHSSchools