



CoedLleol  
SmallWoods

# **Coed Lleol (SmallWoods)**

## **The Barkive**

### **An Archive of Tree Memories**

Produced by the participants, stakeholders and staff at Coed Lleol (SmallWoods) and  
Dr Natasha Simons (Research and Evaluation Officer)

## Introduction



## Coed Lleol (SmallWoods)

Coed Lleol (SmallWoods) is part of the Charity, Small Woods (established 1988). Small Woods is a National Organisation for Small Wood Owners and has a significant track record in Social Forestry. Coed Lleol (Small Woods in Wales), established in 2002, develops and delivers community and social forestry activities throughout Wales that help to connect people to their local woodlands. Coed Lleol (Small Woods Wales) aims to protect and develop woodlands for current and future generations by encouraging the use of woodland resources for the long-term health and well-being of people and the environment – creating healthy woodlands and healthy people.

Coed Lleol (SmallWoods) has four central focuses,

- 1) Health and Well-being
- 2) Training
- 3) Research and Evaluation
- 4) Conservation & woodland management

The work that Coed Lleol (SmallWoods) undertakes helps people to connect to nature for the benefit of their mental and physical health. It also reinforces the understanding of the importance of nature as part of our lives and helps to encourage people to value and care for nature by building their skills and knowledge.



## The Barkive



To celebrate the significance of trees in our lives, Coed Lleol launched the Bark-ive - an archive of tree memories during their 2023 consultation which had the theme of resilience and sustainability.

Stakeholders, who included participants, referral partners, support organisations, outside providers, health professionals and staff, were asked to contribute to the Barkive. Stakeholders were engaged at Celebration events across Wales and through an online survey.

Each person provided a short story or memory of a significant tree in their lives accompanied by a drawing. The type/genus of the tree (when known) and the area where the memory was collected were also recorded.

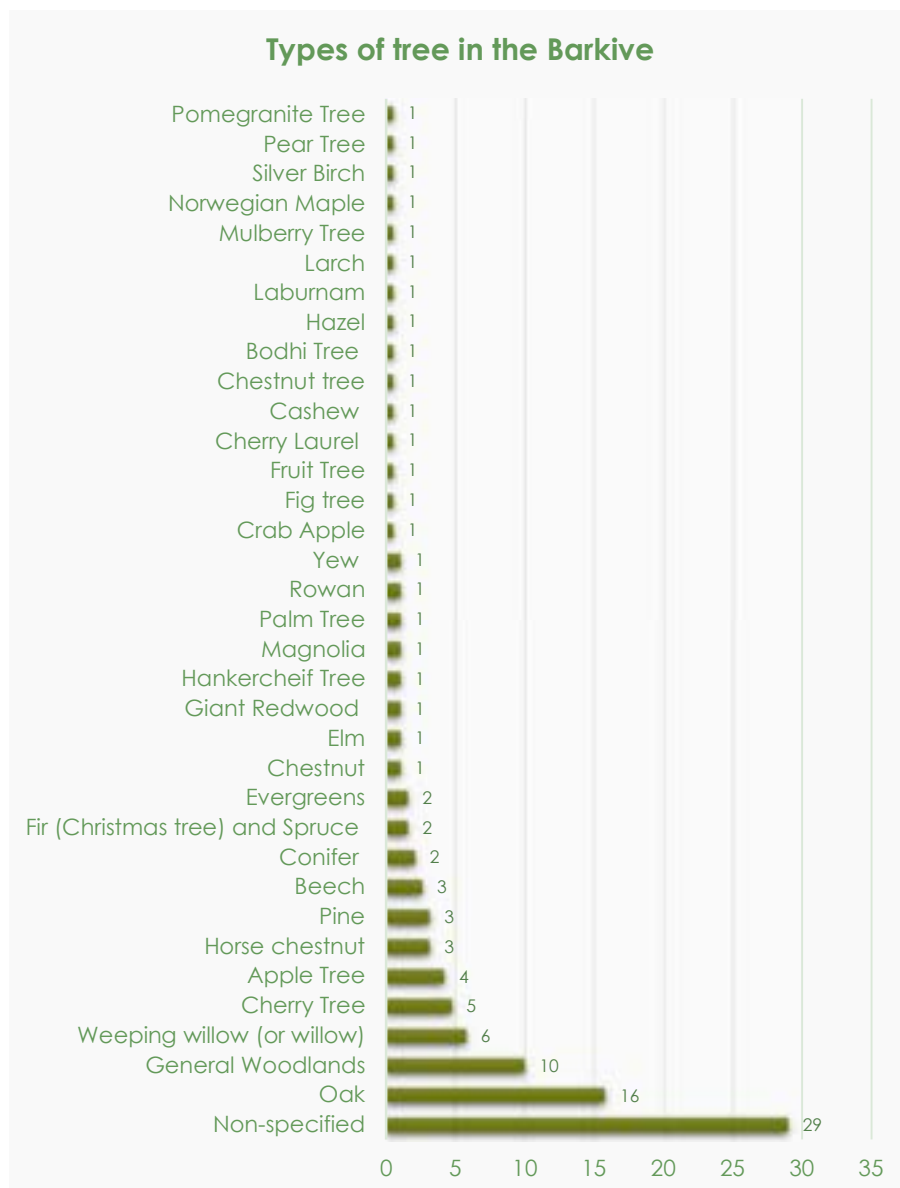
This project was inspired by Coed Lleol's (SmallWoods) participation in a collaborative, cross-disciplinary university research project called **Understanding Memory of UK Treescapes for Better Resilience and Adaptation (MEMBRA)**. MEMBRA is a UK Treescapes project that looks at the Memory of trees using cutting-edge molecular biology techniques to understand how past stresses are maintained and transmitted through generations.

MEMBRA also explores how our understanding of tree memory impacts the language that describes treescapes and this influences human interactions. It is a unique project that brings together artists, classicists, geographers, molecular biologists and partners who work in forestry and has an overall aim of improving future Treescapes.

The Barkive received 192 entries from 14 counties across Wales (Conwy, Anglesey, Gwynedd, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire, Swansea, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil, Ceredigion, Wrexham, Powys, Torfaen and Newport).

## Theming

The entries illustrate a rich connection between trees and people. Tree memories were collected from trees as far away as Africa and America and closer to home in UK gardens and parks, many of the entries connected to childhood – many related to trees situated in their grandparents’ gardens. Although most of the entries were not specifically allocated to a genus/type of tree (29%) and many specified a general woodland environment (10%), those that were named represented a range of native and non-native species with the Oak tree being the most mentioned species (16%) followed by the weeping willow (6%). The chart below shows the range of significant trees represented currently in the Barkive. Certain trees were selected for their beauty, with the Cherry Tree blossom featuring almost exclusively in the theme ‘beauty’.





The entries were grouped into 12 key themes (some entries fell into more than one of the themes, and in this case, a judgement was made as to which theme it was most relevant).

The key themes that people's tree memories are related to are:



**Connection**

**Play**

**Up And Ouch!**

**Magic**

**Freedom and Growth**



**Healing**

**Loss and Memory**

**Belonging and Home**

**Survival**

**Support**

**Beauty and Happiness**

**Giving**

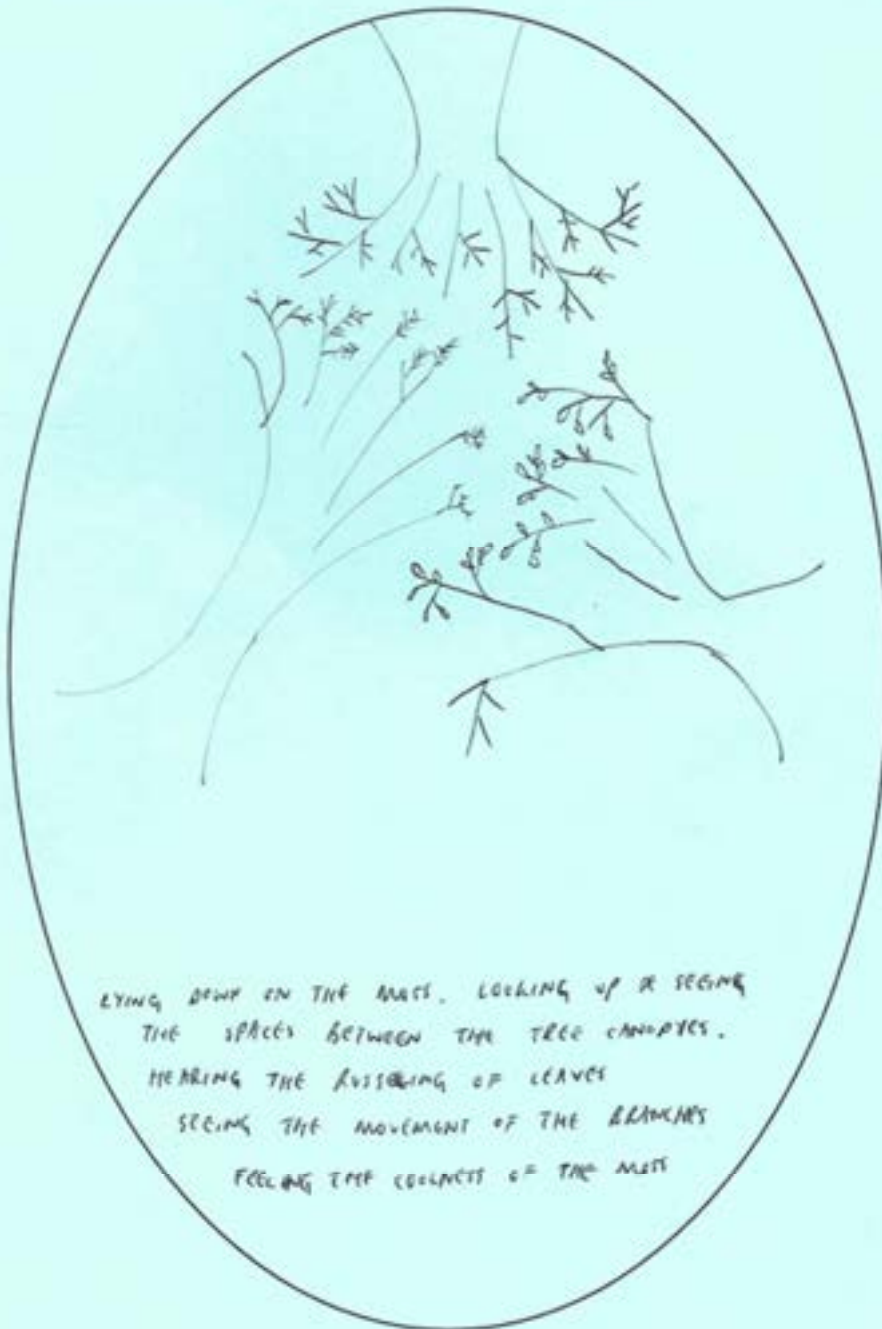


The following sections present the tree memories of Coed Lleol participants, stakeholders and staff. Unfortunately, we could not include all the wonderful illustrations, but have selected a few to illustrate each theme. We hope that you enjoy reading these as much as we did.

## Connection



Draw a tree at the top of the oval.



LYING DOWN ON THE MATT, LOOKING UP & SEEING  
THE SPACES BETWEEN THE TREE CANOPIES.  
HEARING THE RUSHLING OF LEAVES  
SEEING THE MOVEMENT OF THE BRANCHES  
FEELING THE COOLNESS OF THE MATT

Write about a tree or woodland memory at the bottom of the oval.



**Area:** Swansea **Theme:** Connection **Type of tree or woodland:** Woodlands

**Tree memory:**

Trees to me = happiness, fun and peace. Spare time spent in nature with my young children. They play with nature and are so calm and happy and I am calm and happy too.



**Area:** Gwynedd **Theme:** Connection **Type of tree or woodland:** Woodlands

**Tree memory:**

Walking in the woods noticing the moss, lichen and buds.



**Area:** Gwynedd **Theme:** Connection **Type of tree or woodland:** Willow

**Tree memory:**

Sitting in a cool willow wood on a far too hot summer afternoon - being still. A young fox mooched up and saw me. (S)he was a little startled and gave me a quizzical look - and then carried on. I was part of nature in the woods and I felt good.



**Theme:** Connection

**Area:**  
Ceredigion

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Not specified

**Tree memory:**

Lying down on the moss. Looking up or seeing the spaces between the tree canopy. hearing the rustling of leaves - seeing the movement of the branches and feeling the coolness of the moss.



**Theme:** Connection

**Area:**  
Ceredigion

**Type of tree or woodland:**

Unspecified

**Tree memory:**

My Memory is of the first time I saw a tree creeper in the woods at Devils Bridge in Wales. Now I have them in my own garden.



**Theme:** Connection

**Area:**  
Ceredigion

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Pine Forest

**Tree memory:**

My tree memory is of a pine forest in Bournemouth. Every year we'd go on holiday to Bournemouth to visit my aunties. I loved the formation of the trees all very organised and very tall, and the smell ... I still love that smell!



**Theme:** Connection

**Area:**

Wrexham

**Type of tree or woodland:**

Woodlands

**Tree memory:**

Too many memories that then have blurred into a fuzzy montage. I remember the experience more - especially a small Celtic rainforest I visited near Harlech.



**Theme:** Connection

**Area:**

Anglesey/Sir Fon

**Type of tree or woodland:**

Non-specified

**Tree memory:**

Conway Falls April 2023. A fallen leaf. Feeling a deep connection with the tree. A gift. An overwhelming feeling is that this tree is so powerful, strong, and resilient.



**Theme:** Connection

**Area:**

Pembrokeshire

**Type of tree or woodland:**

Oak, Willow, Hawthorn, Rose

**Tree memory:**

My son, as a toddler, picked up an acorn and planted it. We put it in his grandparent's garden, and it was cherished. After that, it planted a seed in my mind, and I always associated my son with an oak tree. As my subsequent children were born, I gave them a tree or a bush as a middle name. We have Willow, Rose and May (as in Mayflower). I planted the said tree for each of them. This was important to us as we are not religious, but it gave us a ceremony and a connection to trees.



**Theme:** Connection

**Area:**

Neath Port Talbot

**Type of tree or woodland:**

Not specified

**Tree memory:**

There is a tree in Brynmill Park, Swansea. We have been going there for a long-time taking photos of my children in the tree. I have noticed that others do the same. It is known as the 'photo tree'!



**Theme:** Connection

**Area:**

Ceredigion

**Type of tree or woodland:**

Not specified

**Tree memory:**

I have a precious memory of sitting in a tree whilst on holiday – with a dog nearby – on holiday as a child.

Draw a tree at the top of the oval.



Sitting in a cool willow wood on a far  
too hot summer afternoon, being still

A young fox mooched up minding his own  
business and saw me! She was a little  
startled, gave me a quizzical look,  
and carried on.

I was part of the nature in the  
wood and I felt good.

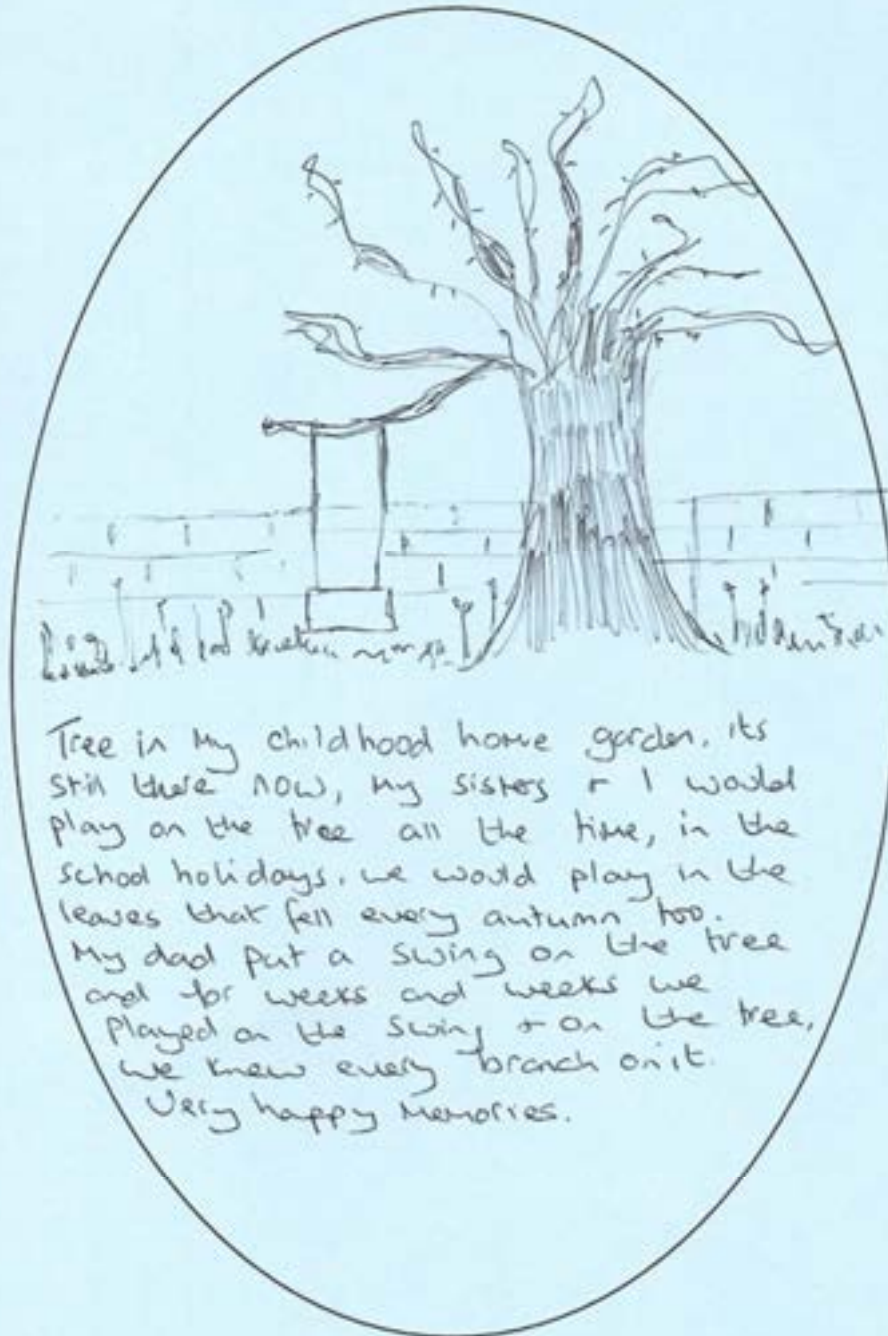
Write about a tree or woodland memory at the bottom of the oval.



# Play



Draw a tree at the top of the oval.



Tree in my childhood home garden, its still there now, my sisters + I would play on the tree all the time, in the school holidays, we would play in the leaves that fell every autumn too. My dad put a swing on the tree and for weeks and weeks we played on the swing + on the tree, we knew every branch on it. Very happy memories.

Write about a tree or woodland memory at the bottom of the oval.

**Theme:** Play  
**Area:** Torfaen  
**Type of tree or woodland:** Horse Chestnut

**Tree memory:**

When I was young, there was a wall-lined narrow lane down a steep hill which was adjacent to a local park. Overhanging the road were 2 huge horse chestnut trees. In autumn and on the way home from school we'd stop to throw sticks up the trees to try and knock down the biggest conkers before they fell naturally and into someone else's conker bag. The thrill of opening the shell was really exciting with the disappointment of a white underripe one to elation for a massive brown potential champion. Whenever I see a conker tree now I feel happy at the memories and sad that there are often so many brown conkers lying unwanted on the ground. The temptation is still there to pick up a stick and throw it up the tree, especially if nobody is looking.



**Theme:** Play  
**Area:** Conwy  
**Type of tree or woodland:** Not specified

**Tree memory:**

My Memory is of a tree in my childhood home garden. It is still there now. My sisters and I would play on the tree all of the time. We played in it during the school holidays, and we would play in the leaves that fell every autumn. My dad eventually put a swing on the tree and for weeks and weeks we played on the swing in the tree. We knew every branch of it. These are very happy memories.



**Area:**  
Conwy

**Theme:** Play

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Apple and Oak

**Tree memory:**

We had oaks and apple trees growing up. I was one of six children, so we spent the majority of our childhood building dens, climbing, making swings and scrumping for apples!



**Area:**  
Conwy

**Theme:** Play

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Not specified

**Tree memory:**

My tree memories are from childhood experiences of making dens, climbing trees and being in nature.



**Area:**  
Conwy

**Theme:** Play

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Not specified

**Tree memory:**

We had a rope swing in our garden in the 1960s. It was next to the Andersen shelter that had been left over from the war!



**Theme:** Play

**Area:**  
Rhondda Cynon Taff

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Oak

**Tree memory:**

I was brought up in suburban London, so my idea of being in nature was going to the park. Luckily, the greenbelt meant that we had some huge parks nearby. My dad would take my two sisters and me to Trent Park so that we could all get some exercise and fresh air – Unfortunately for him, we often spent most of our time in the car park where a giant tree had long since fallen and created an amazing hollow-log home for us children to explore. All the local children would gather at this log, local Greek and Turkish families would set up huge BBQs nearby – so the air was scented with lamb, lemon and salt. As we all played happily in and on the hollow log.



**Theme:** Play

**Area:**  
Swansea

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Woodlands

**Tree memory:**

Growing up next to a forest in Resolven. My tree memories are of playing the game Fox and Hounds, climbing trees to hide in and getting covered in sap.





**Theme:** Play

**Area:** Swansea

**Type of tree or woodland:** Handkerchief tree

**Tree memory:**

Standing alone in the middle of a field was the 'Granny Napkin' tree – no one knows why it was called that. Coming on childhood holidays to a rural village in the Vale of Glamorgan I was fascinated by very old trees whose branches rested on the ground. My mother had played on it as a child and so did I!



**Theme:** Play

**Area:** Swansea

**Type of tree or woodland:** Not specified

**Tree memory:**

The Squiggly Tree was in a patch of waste ground next to my parent's garden. It was completely covered with ivy and made a perfect fortress for my friends and me.



**Theme:** Play

**Area:** Gwynedd

**Type of tree or woodland:** Oak

**Tree memory:**

I remember playing in the woods after Sunday School. There was a big oak tree outside of the village called 'Goedan Dew'.



**Theme:** Play

**Area:**  
Ceredigion

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Not specified

**Tree memory:**

My tree memory is getting my kids to go for a walk with the treat of going on the wonderful tree swing!



**Theme:** Play

**Area:**  
Ceredigion

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Weeping Willow

**Tree memory:**

My tree memory is from childhood. We had a weeping willow tree in our garden that was next to our trampoline. We would play with the branches while bouncing on the trampoline.



**Theme:** Play

**Area:**  
Wrexham

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Hazel

**Tree memory:**

My childhood memory of making dens in the 90s – of two hazel trees. My friend would be in the hazel a few metres away and it was our space to play.



**Theme:** Play

**Area:**

**Type of tree or woodland:**

Rhondda Cynon Taff

Weeping Willow

**Tree memory:**

My Memory is from childhood, we had a weeping willow in a school field behind the house I lived in. We called him Freddie! I spent many hours just sitting and climbing Freddie.



**Theme:** Play

**Area:**

**Type of tree or woodland:**

Rhondda Cynon Taff

Conifer

**Tree memory:**

My nanny Peg and Aunty Sue had four huge conifer trees in their back garden. As a child, they created a whole world for me. Climbing them, adoring them, talking to them, playing under them. I loved how big and green they were and how tall they stood. They were full of birds that sang their songs into the garden as a backdrop to my playing.



**Theme:** Play

**Area:**

Anglesey/Sir Fon

**Type of tree or woodland:**

Not specified

**Tree memory:**

I remember a grand old tree in the estate that I lived in as a child – all of the kids played there.



**Theme:** Play

**Area:**

Anglesey/Sir Fon

**Type of tree or woodland:**

Not specified

**Tree memory:**

(picture of a tree with a swing) Welsh caption “Chwarag Yn Ty Nain” (Playing in the garden of my grandmother's house?)



**Theme:** Play

**Area:**

Neath Port Talbot

**Type of tree or woodland:**

Woodlands

**Tree memory:**

I was lucky because when I was a child my garden was part of a large wood. I have lots of memories of playing hide and seek with my friends – we had plenty of trees to hide behind.



**Theme:** Play

**Area:**

Neath Port Talbot

**Type of tree or woodland:**

Not specified

**Tree memory:**

My tree memory is of the tree down by Pwll Du Bay. It had a rope swing. I have lots of childhood memories of me delaying the walk to the beach by playing for far too long with cousins, siblings and friends on this tree.



**Theme:** Play

**Area:**

Neath Port Talbot

**Type of tree or woodland:**

Not specified

**Tree memory:**

My Memory is from my childhood in Port Eynon in the Gower. There was a set of twisted trunks that I always poke through to surprise everyone. When I took my daughter there years later – she did exactly the same!



**Theme:** Play

**Area:**

Neath Port Talbot

**Type of tree or woodland:**

Beech

**Tree memory:**



Trees have always been featured in my life and they provide a very special environment and different trees often provide memories of different people. Childhood experiences seem to be the strongest and all too often feature play – from building dens in the garden to exploring bigger trees in the local wood specimen trees from all over the world in a nearby stately home. So, I've chosen a tree that I visited regularly with my older brother and other children from the road where I grew up. It was a large beech tree in a clearing in what was probably quite a small patch of woodland, accessed by a lane at the far end of the village, alongside the (re-instated) steam railway. This was a great tree to climb, as well as being our base in the woods, and 'home' in any game.



**Theme:** Play

**Area:**  
Rhondda Cynon Taff

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Oak

**Tree memory:**

I have a lot of memories regarding trees as I always feel comfortable and totally at ease when out in nature and in particular amongst trees. When I was a child I would spend hours playing outdoors and would walk to a field in which stood one huge oak tree of which the branches twisted and turned in an elaborate pattern up to the skies to me as a child it looked like a gentle peaceful giant and the shape, texture and size of it fascinated me. I went back as an adult with my children to show them this tree that had been magical to me. I went back hopefully to find it still there, as many trees in the area had already gone. Thankfully it was there and still, it amazed me at how beautiful and serene it was. I noticed the birds in the branches and the sun peeping through the leaves and I felt privileged to have noticed the beauty of this one tree in particular. I was glad and happy that this tree was here and to personally understand the sheer importance of this one tree and all it has to offer, all for free.



**Theme:** Play

**Area:**  
Conwy

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Handkerchief tree

**Tree memory:**

A Woodland Memory – I was brought up in my family home on Anglesey. I have strong memories of a collection of trees that were protected – one of these was a handkerchief tree – this was of specific interest to me!



Draw a tree at the top of the oval.



The Squiggly tree was in a patch  
of waste ground next to my parents  
garden. It was completely covered  
with ivy, and made a perfect  
fortress for my friends  
and me.

Write about a tree or woodland memory at the bottom of the oval.

## Up and Ouch!!



Draw a tree at the top of the oval.



I have many fond memories of climbing a pine tree with younger cousins. We nicknamed it the 'aeroplane tree' as it had long low hanging 'bouncy' branches which would bounce vertically + sway horizontally when sat straddling the branches. My Nan would watch on, laughing.

Write about a tree or woodland memory at the bottom of the oval.

**Theme:** Up and Ouch!

**Area:**  
Swansea

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Fruit trees

**Tree memory:**

The apple tree in my grandparents' garden. They lived in a council house semi and had a long garden with a vegetable patch at the end and several mature fruit trees in the middle. I loved climbing the apple tree and felt very adventurous – apparently, this made me a tomboy, but I didn't care!

The tree is very much part of my memories of summer days at their house.



**Theme:** Up and Ouch!

**Area:**  
Gwynedd

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Pine Tree

**Tree memory:**

So many memories, but I remember climbing to the top of a pine tree as a young adult that as a child I used to leap-frog over! It always amazes me how fast some trees grow!



**Theme:** Up and Ouch!

**Area:**  
Ceredigion

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
not specified

**Tree memory:**

Growing up there was a big tree on the grass by the leisure centre. My friends and I would climb it and people watch.





**Theme:** Up and Ouch!

**Area:**  
Ceredigion

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
woodlands

**Tree memory:**

My tree memory is from the top of Gogerddan Woods – by the seats with a view where my grandchildren loved to climb.



**Theme:** Up and Ouch!

**Area:**  
Ceredigion

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Oak

**Tree memory:**

I remember an oak tree in a neighbouring field that I would climb as a child.



**Theme:** Up and Ouch!

**Area:**  
Ceredigion

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Rowan

**Tree memory:**

My memory is of a Rowan Tree. It was really easy to climb. It had beautiful berries.



**Theme:** Up and Ouch!

**Area:**  
Rhondda Cynon Taff

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Conifer

**Tree memory:**

Many fond memories of climbing up the huge conifer tree in my grandfather's garden and using the seeds to 'bomb' him with below!



**Theme:** Up and Ouch!

**Area:**  
Pembrokeshire

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Spanish Chestnut

**Tree memory:**

Old Spanish Chestnut Tree in the woods close to my childhood home. It has little foot and hand holds so that I could climb up and sit in the huge space at the top of the main trunk. I used to do this with my dad and my brothers and sister.



**Theme:** Up and Ouch!

**Area:**  
Neath Port Talbot

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Pine

**Tree memory:**

I have many fond memories of climbing a pine tree with my younger cousins. We nicknamed it the 'aeroplane' tree as it had long low hanging 'bouncy' branches. The branches would bounce vertically and sway horizontally when sat straddling the branches. My nan would watch on, laughing.





**Theme:** Up and Ouch!

**Area:**  
Neath Port Talbot

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
not specified

**Tree memory:**

I love trees. My best and most vivid memories are from my childhood spending time up Gnoll Park in Neath. There was one tree in particular that stands in what is known as Strawberry Hill – in between the first and the second pond. I would climb the tree with friends and sit high up in its branches. I fell off the tree once and was winded – but luckily no breaks. Good times!



**Theme:** Up and Ouch!

**Area:**  
Neath Port Talbot

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Oak

**Tree memory:**

I was brought up on a farm with my grandparents. We had many trees on the farm that have created many family memories for me. Especially an old oak tree that we used to climb. It was also a favourite for birds and wildlife to harbour.



**Theme:** Up and Ouch!

**Area:**  
Swansea

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Conifer

**Tree memory:**

Having hit my golf ball into the rough off of the fairway, I tried to hit the ball back onto the green, but it hit a tree and bounced off and flew over my head! I ended up further back from where I had started. I hit the ball again, where it struck the branches of the

same tree, and I ended up back in the first position that I started in! I hit the ball again – it stuck the tree again – this time firmly on the trunk and it ricocheted across the fairway and out of bounds!



**Theme:** Up and Ouch!

**Area:**  
Swansea

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
not specified

**Tree memory:**

My Memory is of Florence almost dying and falling out of a huge tree that she had climbed.

That tree was nearly a ‘death causer’!



**Theme:** Up and Ouch!

**Area:**  
Swansea

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
not specified

**Tree memory:**

I took my grandson to the park to do some bark rubbing. It had been raining heavily and was very muddy. He loved climbing and he was soon up the tree! He fell and landed on his back. I was horrified but he was laughing and covered in mud.

All I could think of was how could I clean him up before I took him back to his parents!



**Theme:** Up and Ouch!

**Area:**  
Neath Port Talbot

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Pear Tree

**Tree memory:**

One day I went out into my grandpa's garden. There was a massive pear tree – it was my grandfather's pride and joy. He would often go out back and take care of the tree and his garden. On this day, one of the pears fell on my head and left a huge bruise. I have never forgotten that pear tree since!



Draw a tree at the top of the oval.



I took my grandson to the park  
to do some bark rubbings.  
It had been raining heavily  
and was very muddy. He  
loved climbing and was  
soon up the tree. He fell  
and landed on his back.  
I was horrified but he  
was laughing and crawling  
in mud. All I could  
think of was how  
could I clean him  
up before I  
took him back  
to his parents.

Write about a tree or woodland memory at the bottom of the oval.

# Magical



Draw a tree at the top of the oval.



A really tall and wide tree stood at the top of a grass slope next to a pond full of ducks and geese. There was a hollow overlooking the pond. My parents told me stories about the owl who lived there. They would lift me up to reach inside the hollow and I'd find a chocolate egg or bag of sweets... but only if the owl thought I had been a kind and nice person. I then walked past this tree as a teenager on the way to school. And I'd still say hello to the owl and the tree. I felt seen, and that my family included this wise owl and his tree.

Write about a tree or woodland memory at the bottom of the oval.



**Theme:** Magical

**Area:**  
Conwy

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Not specified

**Tree memory:**

The lockdown trees – I wouldn't have seen them normally on the side of the road as we would just drive by – but as lockdown hit, we would walk this road up to the Gwydir Forest. There are a few old, twisted trees – that are amazing! Whirling around – they must hold so much history. I look at them every time that I pass now. I've taken photos and drawn them.



**Theme:** Magical

**Area:**  
Neath Port Talbot

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Oak

**Tree memory:**

I was lucky enough to grow up in a garden with three large oak trees. I spent my childhood climbing in them. One had a swing; one had an exposed root system that I used to imagine that fairies lived in. I spent hours playing in the trees. When I was older, I would take a book into my favourite tree and sit in its branches. The trees brought me a great deal of joy and peacefulness. When I think of my childhood I think of those three trees. I moved away from that house 26 years ago and I can still remember how the trees looked and how they made me feel.



**Theme:** Magical

**Area:**  
Swansea

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Not specified

**Tree memory:**

A really tall and wide tree stood at the top of a grass slope next to a pond full of ducks and geese. There was a hollow in the tree overlooking the pond. My parents told me stories about the owl who lived there. They would lift me up to reach inside of the hollow and I'd find a chocolate egg or a bag of sweets. ... but only if the owl thought that I had been a

kind and nice person. I then walked past this tree as a teenager on the way to school. I'd still say 'hello' to the owl and the tree. I felt seen and that my family included this wise owl and his tree.



**Theme:** Magical

**Area:**  
Swansea

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Apple Tree

**Tree memory:**

My childhood garden had a lovely orchard at the bottom. We were convinced that there were fairies there although we never saw any evidence! Apples in abundance though!



**Theme:** Magical

**Area:**  
Swansea

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Weeping Willow

**Tree memory:**

Weeping Willow by the River in Norwich – always felt magical.



**Theme:** Magical

**Area:**  
Swansea

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Not specified

**Tree memory:**

The first tree I hugged – when I looked at it, had my name carved on it. I have a magic tree I go to that has been split open in the middle and I sit in it.





**Theme:** Magical

**Area:**  
Gwynedd

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Oak

**Tree memory:**

My tree memory is of an Oak Tree that I saw at Alton Towers that's meant to be haunted!



**Theme:** Magical

**Area:**  
Gwynedd

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Evergreen

**Tree memory:**

Seeing squirrels race across the branches. Noticing evergreen trees on the back road of my village. Green all year round covering the road in darkness.



**Theme:** Magical

**Area:**  
Gwynedd

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Woodlands

**Tree memory:**

My grandad used to hide chocolate bars in the tree in a local forest. Then he would take me out for a walk to find the 'chocolate tree'.



**Theme:** Magical

**Area:**  
Ceredigion

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Pine forest

**Tree memory:**

My Memory is of standing in my window watching a male hen harrier fly next to the pine tree woodland at the end of one of the farmer's fields in the Beacons.



**Theme:** Magical

**Area:**  
Ceredigion

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Yew

**Tree memory:**

eyne goeden ywen yn fynwent a glwys Nanhyfer sydd yn crio sudd coch sydd yn edrych fel gwaed. Mae llawt o bobl yn mynd yne I weld y goeden.

(Translation: There is a Yew tree in Nanhyfer cemetery that cried red berries that look like blood, lots of people go there to look at the tree)



**Theme:** Magical

**Area:**  
Ceredigion

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Horse Chestnut

**Tree memory:**

Honouring the tree at Bluebell Woods, Penglais Nature Parc in Aberystwyth in the Autumn time.



**Theme:** Magical

**Area:**  
Wrexham

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Not specified

**Tree memory:**

While out walking my dog I used to pass a tree that grew on the upper part – the roots were exposed on the lane. There was a little hollow and I became fascinated by the hole in the tree roots.



**Theme:** Magical

**Area:**  
Wrexham

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Bodhi Tree

**Tree memory:**

While volunteering near Malaga at a meditation centre I was asked to ‘top dress’ and feed their ‘Bodhi Tree’ – a clone of the tree in Bodghia in India where the Buddha attained enlightenment. The leaves of the tree were heart-shaped, and people would leave offerings underneath it.



**Theme:** Magical

**Area:**  
Wrexham

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Not specified

**Tree memory:**

Our Fairy Tree! There is a fairy ring around the roots along with other offerings of gemstones, ribbons and various small objects that the fairies may use.



**Theme:** Magical

**Area:**  
Anglesey/Sir Fon

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Not specified

**Tree memory:**

Coedan oedd ar y ffordd I dros yr aber yng nghaernarfon efo gwynebrana to – dim yna bellach yn anffodus. (dros yr aber – Caernafon 1970's-1980s. )

TRANSLATION: I have a memory of a tree that was on the way to the estuary, Dros yr Aber, Caernarfon. Here, there was a tree with a face on it - - it is no longer there, unfortunately.



**Theme:** Magical

**Area:**  
Anglesey/Sir Fon

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Apple Tree

**Tree memory:**

Coeden afalau Yn y gwaniyn yn llawn blagur. Yn mis medi uawn afalau ond ya ajalaie ydynt?

(TRANSLATION Apple Tree in the springtime full of Blossom Which but which apples are they?)



Draw a tree at the top of the oval.

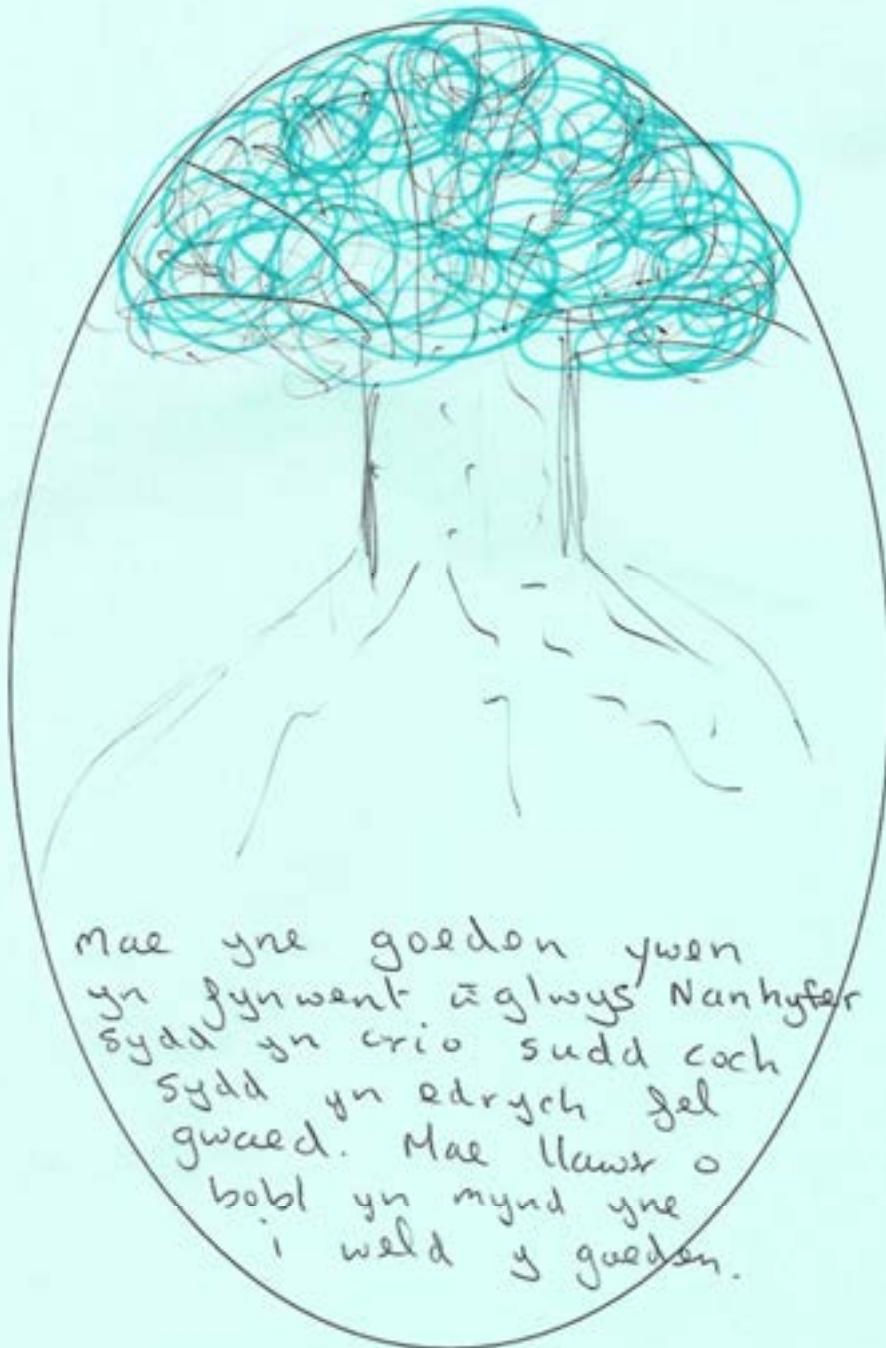


Dros yr Aber - Llaernafon © 1970-80-90

Write about a tree or woodland memory at the bottom of the oval.

Coadem oedd ar y ffordd i Dros yr Aber yng  
Nghaernafon eto gwneb arna fo - dim ym bellach  
yn anffodus ☹️

Draw a tree at the top of the oval.

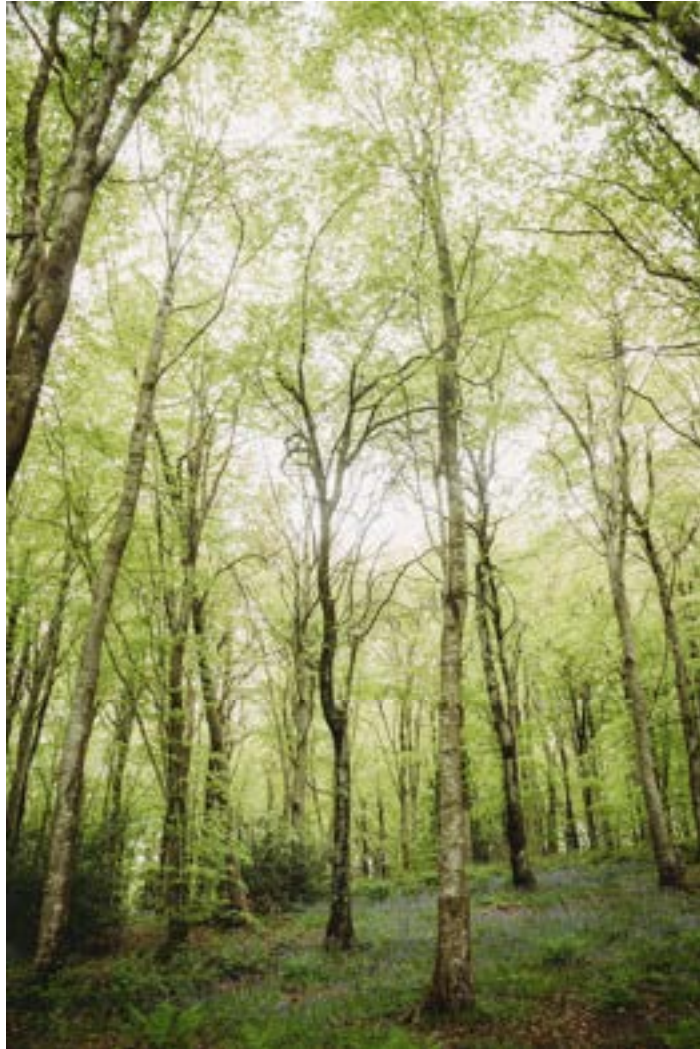


Mae yne goeden ywen  
yn fynwent a glwys Nanhysfer  
sydd yn crio sudd coch  
sydd yn edrych fel  
gwaged. Mae llawr o  
bobl yn mynd yne  
i weld y goeden.

Write about a tree or woodland memory at the bottom of the oval.



## Freedom and Growth



Draw a tree at the top of the oval.



There used to be this beautiful old oak tree at the mid point of our garden. I spent my days climbing on it after school, making seats in its branches, ~~and~~ a rugged rope-swing hung from from one of its arms which held my fondest of childhood memories. The grass underneath was worn to dirt from use. When I was 15, a huge storm hit, and the tree, 50ft tall came crashing down.

Write about a tree or woodland memory at the bottom of the oval.

It was at a time where I felt I was growing up and my days were less spent in the garden. The tree falling down for me symbolised the end of my youth.



**Theme:** Freedom and Growth

**Area:**  
Carmarthenshire

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Oak

**Tree memory:**

There's a very old oak tree opposite my mother's house (childhood home). It's a large tree, and it's impossible to reach your arms around it. I'd always watch my older brothers climbing this tree with envy and becoming old enough to climb it was a big moment in my childhood.

Apart from this sentimental value the tree is a beautiful and knobby oak with a hole large enough to stand in. They always seem so characterful, like an elderly man beginning to tell you a story with a moral value.



**Theme:** Freedom and Growth

**Area:**  
Swansea

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Apple Tree

**Tree memory:**

When I was around five or six, I grew an apple tree from a pip. It started in a pot and when it grew bigger, we planted it in the garden.



**Theme:** Freedom and Growth

**Area:**  
Conwy

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Larch

**Tree memory:**

I was 10 years old in 1973, we had a school project where we had to go into the Dyfi Forest to plant a larch tree. It is now, in 2023, part of the forest soon to be harvested and will go into furniture or chipboard. I'd love to think that this idea of community replanting of native trees (like oak) would create that special Memory for our younger generation.



**Theme:** Freedom and Growth

**Area:**  
Swansea

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Bramley Apple Tree

**Tree memory:**

My Memory is of a Bramley Apple Tree that was planted in the garden of my childhood home. I remember it growing from a very small sapling into an old tree. I remember watching the blossom and then the apples grow each year. I remember shaking the apples off of the tree with our neighbours every year.



**Theme:** Freedom and Growth

**Area:**  
Swansea

**Type of tree or woodland:** Not specified

**Tree memory:**

I remember a really big tree on its own in the middle of Penlleger Woods. Every time we went down there, there was this huge bird of prey sitting in it. The tree is still there now, but it is no longer on its own, other trees are growing around it.



**Theme:** Freedom and Growth

**Area:**  
Swansea

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Oak and woodland

**Tree memory:**

During my youth from the age of ten, my playground was the woodland – whatever the weather. Now I have three oak trees opposite my house which I have watched grow over the last 30 years! I often sit in my living room watching the trees sway in the wind.



**Theme:** Freedom and Growth

**Area:**  
Swansea

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Giant Redwood

**Tree memory:**

A giant redwood in Clyne Park. It's so big that it won't fit in this picture! The biggest giant redwood in the world is in California in the States. The Swansea one is smaller than one branch of the one in the States! I find Clyne Woods very peaceful to walk around and always visit the tree and point it out to friends.



**Theme:** Freedom and Growth

**Area:**  
Swansea

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Conifer (possibly a Lebanese Cypress)

**Tree memory:**

We used to visit Gelli Aur Country Park as a child and there was a huge conifer tree with a branch like a huge arm that my sister and I used to sit upon.



**Theme:** Freedom and Growth

**Area:**  
Gwynedd

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Woodlands

**Tree memory:**

A strong memory for me is of riding my pony through the forest, using trees as poles to weave through. Those were carefree days!!



**Theme:** Freedom and Growth

**Area:**  
Gwynedd

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
not specified

**Tree memory:**

I remember one autumn when I was seven years old. My friend and I took it upon ourselves to head out to The Green near our house. We built a pile of leaves under a tree in the dark. We curled up together to the smell of leaves and the sound of an owl. We were totally at peace.

We woke up to a very worried mum!



**Theme:** Freedom and Growth

**Area:**  
Ceredigion

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
not specified

**Tree memory:**

My first residential school trip aged ten years old. I grew up in Birmingham. We went to an outdoor education centre in Worcestershire from Monday to Friday. A small group of us found a lone tree at the top of a bank and we named this tree 'feather'. We met there anytime we had free time. I don't even really know why, but the tree was like our base, friend, and shelter.

Now 30 odd years later, the tree is all I can remember about that school trip – It was so important to us.

**Theme:** Freedom and Growth**Area:**  
Ceredigion**Type of tree or woodland:**  
woodlands**Tree memory:**

Growing up on a housing estate in the 1970s – we would always be out in the trees building dens. I remember that my mum would always be shouting at us home from the doorstep of our home to let us know that dinner was ready.

**Theme:** Freedom and Growth**Area:**  
Rhondda Cynon Taff**Type of tree or woodland:**  
not specified**Tree memory:**

An oak tree just outside a country park in the early 1980s. We were a group of friends on our first-ever camp. We found a large tree and made a rope swing and camped beneath its branches. We were happy and independent, and we are all still friends now.



**Theme:** Freedom and Growth

**Area:**  
Rhondda Cynon Taff

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
woodlands

**Tree memory:**

This memory is of my child aged four. Their first written note to Mum read, “Alex in the woods”!

Panic ensued when I realised that they had gone off on their own to the woods over the road!



**Theme:** Freedom and Growth

**Area:**  
Rhondda Cynon Taff

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
woodlands

**Tree memory:**

Pembrey Country Park in a forested area – a Memory of childhood with my family. Having picnics and exploring, jumping over fallen trees pretending to be a horse – it made me feel free and my imagination ran wild.



**Theme:** Freedom and Growth

**Area:**  
Pembrokeshire

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Oak

**Tree memory:**

This is my climbing tree when I was young. It was a beautiful oak tree by a brook. My best friend and I spent many days climbing it, writing stories under it, doing stencils of the bark, laughing and fishing in the brook.



**Theme:** Freedom and Growth

**Area:**  
Pembrokeshire

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
not specified

**Tree memory:**

As a kid, we all used to meet by the big tree with the rope swing. No phones, no tech, no screens – just kids playing. Then, we all went home when the streetlights came on.



**Theme:** Freedom and Growth

**Area:**  
Pembrokeshire

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Oak

**Tree memory:**

There used to be a beautiful old oak tree at the midpoint of our garden. I spent my days climbing on it after school. I made seats from its branches and a rugged old rope swing hung from one of its arms. This tree holds my fondest childhood memories. The grass underneath was worn dirt from use. When I was 15, a huge storm hit and the tree – 50ft tall – came crashing down. It coincided with a time when I felt that I was growing up and my days had been less spent in the garden.

The tree falling down symbolised the end of my youth.



**Theme:** Freedom and Growth

**Area:**  
Neath Port Talbot

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Woodlands

**Tree memory:**

It was a school residential tree (circa 1997). We all went on a late-night walk through a really dense and dark woodland. We stopped by a huge tree to tell each other scary stories around the tree. The tree was so big that it made me feel very small. I think it was called the 'witches tree' but perhaps we just named it that on that day. It was a great time in my life.



**Theme:** Freedom and Growth

**Area:**  
Neath Port Talbot

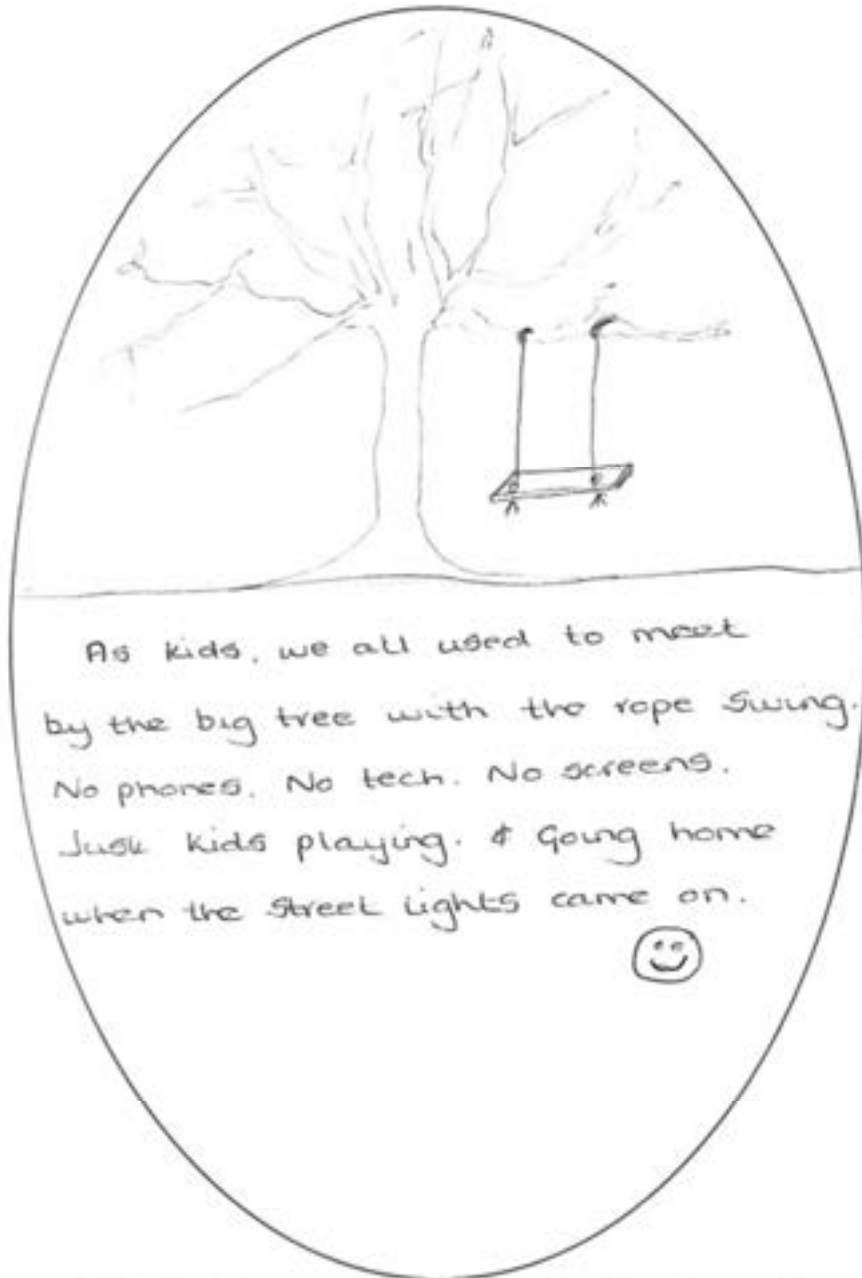
**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Conifer

**Tree memory:**

As a child, my grandparents had a large garden lined with evergreen trees. My brother and I would spend hours running amongst them playing hide and seek. At dinner time, my nan would call to us from the back door of the house – we would take shelter in the evergreen trees to be able to stay in the garden as long as possible.



Draw a tree at the top of the oval.



Write about a tree or woodland memory at the bottom of the oval.

# Healing





**Theme:** Healing

**Area:**  
Rhondda Cynon Taff

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Horse Chestnut

**Tree memory:**

The first tree I remember, was on the field I played football on and walked past every day of my childhood. It provided protection from all weather - and also a fantastic supply of conkers!



**Theme:** Healing

**Area:**  
Powys

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Giant Redwood

**Tree memory:**

On the towpath of the Monmouth- Brecon canal there is a fantastic giant redwood/sequoia and nearby, a bench. It is reasonably easy to access and a wonderful spot to sit. I sit there to think and to watch the boats go by. I use it regularly to re-set my mind and dilute worries and concerns.



**Theme:** Healing

**Area:**  
Carmarthenshire

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Spruce

**Tree memory:**

In one of the Coed Lleol sessions, we had to hug a tree and imagine what that tree might be thinking or what it might have seen.

I was drawn to a tall Bruce the spruce. We shared a lovely deep moment. Whenever I go to the woodland, I check in on him. He listens to all the rubbish I need to get out of my head.

Thank you, Bruce.



**Theme:** Healing

**Area:**  
Ceredigion

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Beech

**Tree memory:**

I was once triggered into a trauma response in a workshop about family and I needed to remove myself from the room. I went outside and leaned against a large beech tree. I felt compelled to place my stomach to its smooth bark. A sense of grounding and peace filled my whole body and I thought “Oh, THIS is why I love trees so much. They are rooted and don’t go anywhere and absorb all that’s happening around them”.

Now, whenever I feel “untethered”, I find a tree and lean into it, knowing it brings me calm and that I will walk away more grounded.



**Theme:** Healing

**Area:**  
Conwy

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Woodlands

**Tree memory:**

Whilst sitting quietly in a woodland I was on a shave horse shaping some ash with a draw knife. I felt years of stress, pressure, anxiety, and worry wash away from me. From this point onwards, I knew that I needed to spend more time in nature and the woodlands.

They have helped to heal me, and I’d like to help others to do the same.



**Theme:** Healing

**Area:**  
Conwy

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
not specified

**Tree memory:**

My memory of a tree is from childhood – of experiencing a grand old tree that still stands. It is more of a feeling than a distinct memory. The feeling I have, remembering how I felt when under it as a child, is of being rooted, of protection, of warmth, shelter, and a sense of peace. It was a place where I was part of a wider part of nature. A place where I could think.



**Theme:** Healing

**Area:**  
Conwy

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Mulberry Tree

**Tree memory:**

When I was a child, living in the USA in the 1960s, I would climb this tree in my back garden. My parents would fight, and I found this tree was my safe space to forget about the problems that my parents were going through. I would imagine that I was in the crow's nest of a ship. This tree comforted me at a difficult time.



**Theme:** Healing

**Area:**  
Swansea

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Weeping Willow

**Tree memory:**

Priorwood Infants School in Taunton had a stream that ran through the grounds with a beautiful huge (weeping) willow tree next to it. At playtimes, I would go and sit inside the willow – no one would know that I was there, and I would just sit and listen to the sounds of the water flowing, the branches swaying and the children playing.

**Theme:** Healing

**Area:**  
Swansea

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Not specified

**Tree memory:**

In 2010 in a town in Sahara, there was only one tree and even that was just a small stump. Yet that tree gave off all the energy and healing that you would experience from a copse. Science has since supported my instructive feelings – even tree stumps work with nature.



**Theme:** Healing

**Area:**  
Swansea

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Oak

**Tree memory:**

I have a favourite oak tree that is on the edge of a stream. A beautiful place to sit with my back to the tree, meditate and listen to nature. On a warm day, I stand barefoot in the stream touching the tree and find it incredibly relaxing and grounding. My refuge when I need space from the outside world.



**Theme:** Healing

**Area:**  
Gwynedd

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Oak

**Tree memory:**

During the COVID-19 pandemic main lockdown, I would go for daily walks/runs up a wooded hillside in the sunshine. The weather was so good that summer and the Covid restrictions meant getting out of the house felt extra precious. On one walk, I came across a glorious oak tree standing tall and strong. There was a real moment of mindfulness using all of my senses as I touched the bark and looked at the light through the leaves. I felt connected to nature.



**Theme:** Healing

**Area:**  
Gwynedd

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Oak

**Tree memory:**

These amazing old 4000-year oaks in Devon – so old and full of stillness, wisdom and mysticism. I sat there for hours. I ate there and fell asleep on the grass nearby. It was deeply peaceful and full of the ‘aliveness’ of nature. There were butterflies, insects, birds – creatures everywhere! I felt healed and recuperated. I learned so much in that woodland.



**Theme:** Healing

**Area:**  
Ceredigion

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Weeping Willow

**Tree memory:**

I remember sitting under a weeping willow when I was younger – this was in our local park. I could watch the birds on the lake while I sat. Later in life, I try to visit woodland when I can. It soothes the soul.



**Theme:** Healing

**Area:**  
Anglesey/Sir Fon

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Oak

**Tree memory:**



A big old oak tree in Wisconsin in the middle of prairie land where we'd walk the dog. It was always really hot – so it offered much-needed shade! We'd sit underneath it and watch butterflies.



**Theme:** Healing

**Area:**  
Neath Port Talbot

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Scots Pine

**Tree memory:**

When I feel lonely, I hold onto a Scots Pine, close my eyes, and let the tree move me. I've done this all my adult life. In the wind, it feels like a cwch (hug in Welsh)



Draw a tree at the top of the oval.



Write about a tree or woodland memory at the bottom of the oval.

## Loss and Memory



Draw a tree at the top of the oval.



Olive tree

A tree potted at the front of my  
home that represents the life  
of my mother.

Write about a tree or woodland memory at the bottom of the oval.



**Theme:** Loss and Memory

**Area:**  
Merthyr Tydfil

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Cherry Tree

**Tree memory:**

When we were growing up, my dad (who was divorced from my Mum) had a huge cherry tree in his garden. We'd go around there often to climb the trees, and every summer we'd have a cherry-picking barbecue around the time of Wimbledon. He'd tell us stories about the world, his past and all things joyous in nature - he'd studied botany and zoology. It was often a major family gathering, typically multi-generational and always inspiring.

Sadly, my dad is no longer with us, and the house/garden is going to be sold soon. I don't know what will happen to that tree. It has been around much longer than I have - I can only hope that it will still be there, but I can't control the future. Like memories of my dad, though, I will hold onto the memories of our beloved cherry tree, the happy times we spent together as a family and the hope of things being better in the natural world.



**Theme:** Loss and Memory

**Area:**  
Conwy

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Cherry Laurel

**Tree memory:**

A childhood memory from the 1980's. Cherry Laurel in the park - a place of play, a piece of furniture, names carved into the bark. My sister getting stuck at the top of it! I returned to the park last year and the cherry laurel was gone! I felt an incredible feeling of sadness.





**Theme:** Loss and Memory

**Area:**  
Swansea

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Oak

**Tree memory:**

As a small child, I could see a huge dead oak tree in a field from my bedroom window. I believed it was struck by lightning. I loved this tree and made-up stories about it. When I was about eleven or twelve, the tree was cut down to build a housing estate in the field. For a year or more after, I refused to look out of my bedroom window or walk past the site of the tree. I felt its loss deeply.



**Theme:** Loss and Memory

**Area:**  
Ceredigion

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Horse Chestnut

**Tree memory:**

The old horse chestnut by the old school pavilion. It flooded the ground with conkers and there, covered by its canopy, we'd set out our conkers to battle. It's gone now – it's just houses, houses, houses – farewell old pal.



**Theme:** Loss and Memory

**Area:**  
Ceredigion

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Elm Tree

**Tree memory:**

We had an elm tree in my garden with an amazing rope swing I loved. It was so huge it hung over both neighbour's fences! Unfortunately, the tree got Dutch elm disease and was cut down – but I loved it while it was still there.



**Theme:** Loss and Memory

**Area:**  
Ceredigion

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Chestnut tree

**Tree memory:**

This is a childhood memory of 'The Tree' on an island at a road junction near our house in Kent. It was very large and flourishing and was a landmark in the village. I think that it was a chestnut tree. It looked permanent – but was cut down 30 years later.



**Theme:** Loss and Memory

**Area:**  
Ceredigion

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Elm Tree

**Tree memory:**

"3 Elms" was an area near my aunt's house. Designated for the three eponymous trees. They succumbed to Dutch Elm disease, but the area retains the name '3 Elms' to the confusion of all outsiders!



**Theme:** Loss and Memory

**Area:**  
Ceredigion

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Beech

**Tree memory:**

My memory is of a very old beech tree in Jewel Woods when I was a child. In the bark are carved the initials of a couple dated 1893 – forgotten people. The tree was overlooking bomb ditches. I would swing from a rope hanging from a branch in the beech and land in the bomb ditch that was full of autumn leaves.



**Theme:** Loss and Memory

**Area:**  
Wrexham

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Rowan

**Tree memory:**

A Rowan tree was planted in my garden 50 years ago. I loved its awakening in Spring, the carpet of white petals, the red berries and the birds visiting – all the berries gone in a day! Sadly, it died – it lost all of its leaves. But I can't cut it down – I will leave it for the birds to perch on and watch the bark peel back.



**Theme:** Loss and Memory

**Area:**  
Rhondda Cynon Taff

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Norwegian Maple

**Tree memory:**

My tree memory is from the 1980s. My dad brought a tree for our back garden – a Norwegian Maple. It was his pride and joy and he planted it, slap bang, in the middle of the lawn in a circular space that he had cut out of the grass. Just like his three daughters, that maple started small and simple, and every year grew larger and more complex!

My mum would photograph us in front of that tree for every special occasion – first day at school, birthdays, and leaving home. We moved out of that house when I was 17, and both my parents have since died. I often wonder if that tree is still there – someone else's pride and joy and someone else's photographic memory.





**Theme:** Loss and Memory

**Area:**  
Rhondda Cynon Taff

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Fig Tree

**Tree memory:**

My memory is of my dad's fig tree which has now grown huge! It gives us loads of fruit every year. Every year we pick and eat the figs and we remember Dad with love.



**Theme:** Loss and Memory

**Area:**  
Anglesey/Sir Fon

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Weeping Willow

**Tree memory:**

A weeping willow at the bottom of my childhood garden. Dad put a swing and a Wendy House in it. He passed last year, and this tree reminds me of him.



**Theme:** Loss and Memory

**Area:**  
Neath Port Talbot

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Cherry Tree

**Tree memory:**

My memory is of a cherry tree in my grandfather's garden. The biggest tree I remember as a kid and the most delicious cherries. Harvested straight from the tree into our mouths. I sat underneath this tree many times in the shade and read books. It was a special tree for me and my nan, as she wanted to lie next to it when her time came.



**Theme:** Loss and Memory

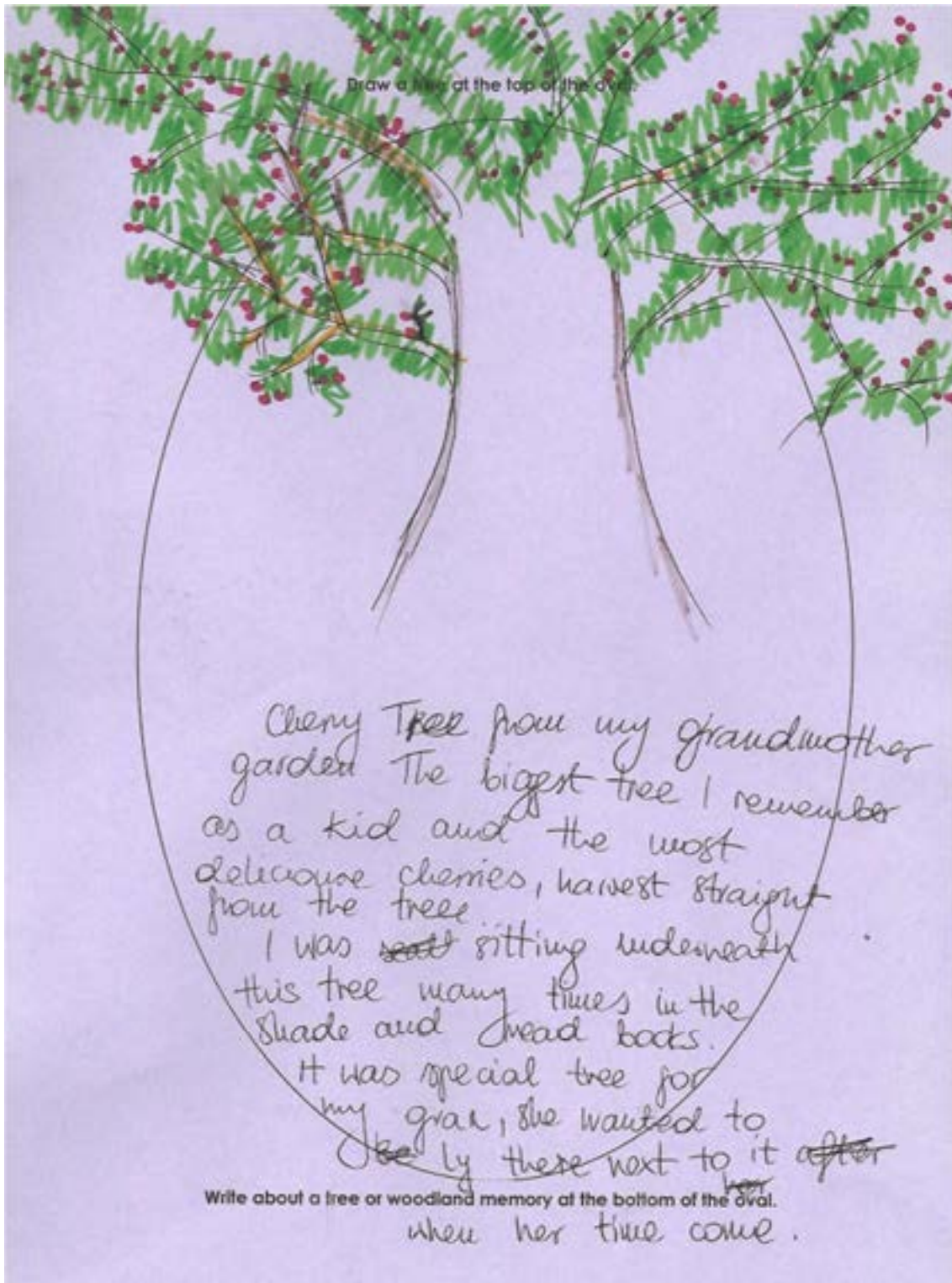
**Area:**  
Neath Port Talbot

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Olive tree

**Tree memory:**

Olive tree – A tree potted at the front of my house that represents the life of my mother.





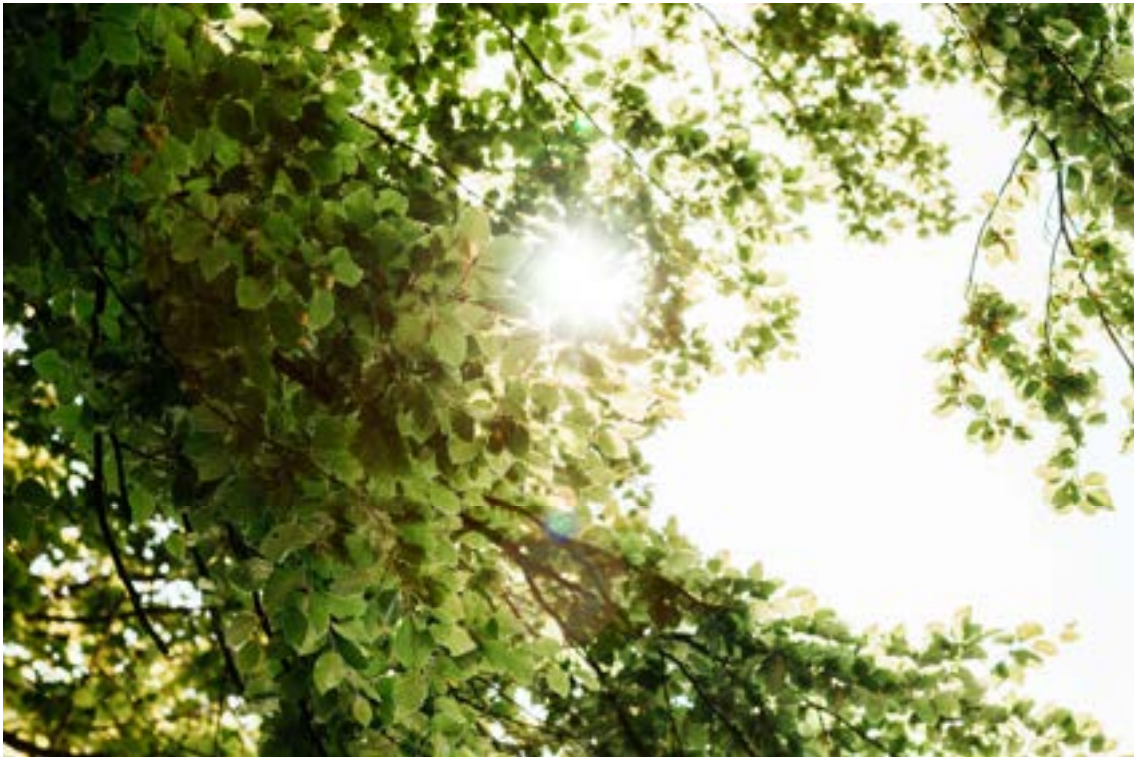
Draw a tree at the top of the oval.



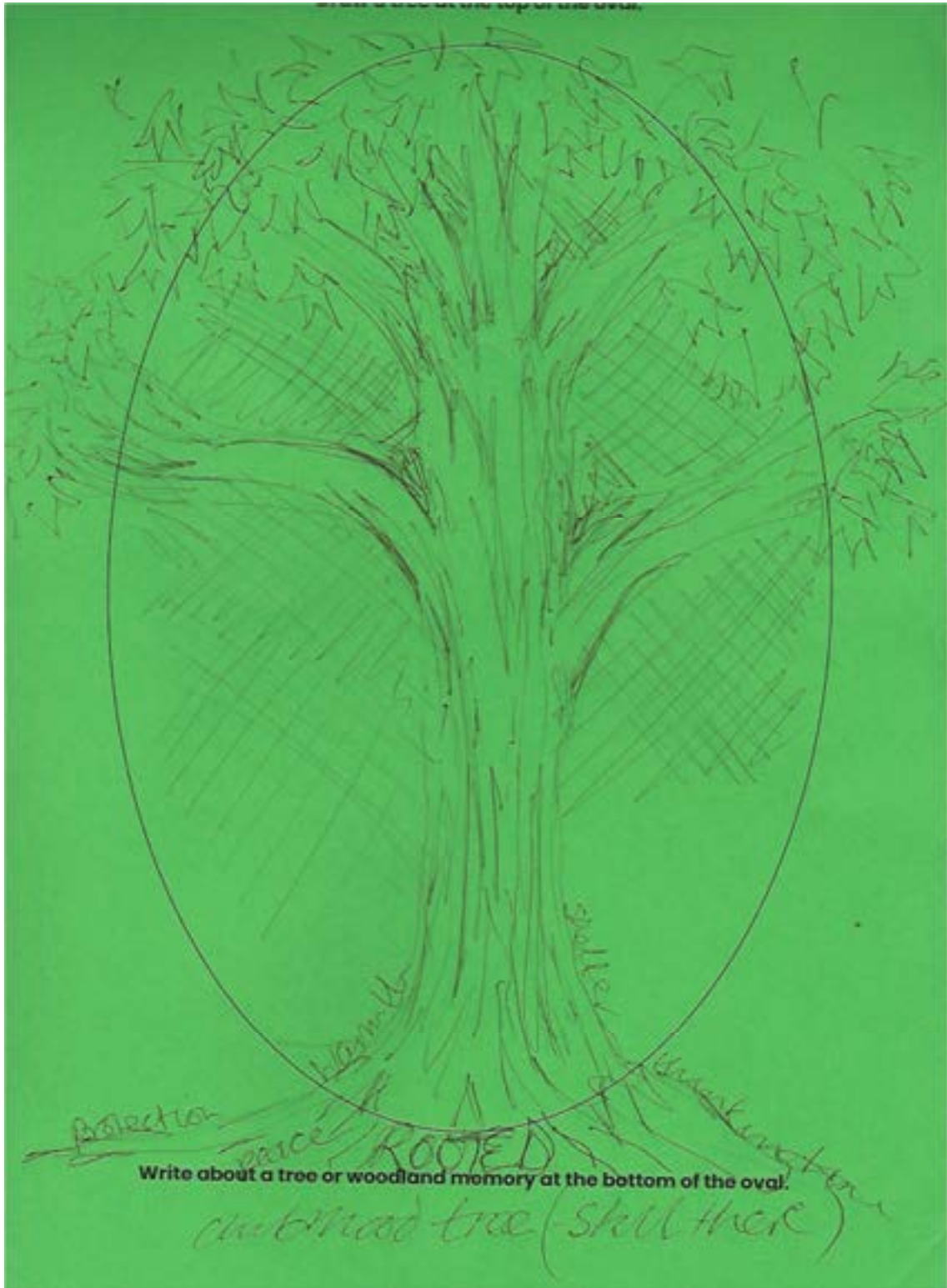
As a small child I could see a huge dead oak tree, in a field, from my bedroom window. I believed it was struck by lightning. I loved this tree and made up stories about it. When I was about 11 or 12, the tree was cut down to build a housing estate in the field. For a year or ~~more~~ more after, I refused to look out of my bedroom window or walk past the site of the tree. I felt its loss deeply.

Write about a tree or woodland memory at the bottom of the oval.

## Belonging and Home







**Theme:** Belonging

**Area:**  
Conwy

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Cherry Tree

**Tree memory:**

Cherry tree in the garden of our family home where I lived for over 30 years. This is where I brought up our three sons. Nothing but happy memories of the home and tree.



**Theme:** Belonging

**Area:**  
Conwy

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Weeping willow

**Tree memory:**

My memory is of a willow tree that I used to sit under in front of a pond.



**Theme:** Belonging

**Area:**  
Conwy

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Oak

**Tree memory:**

My memory, a gigantic oak tree that symbolised home. It was the first thing that I'd see when arriving home. The tree also symbolises my childhood and memories of playing on the swing. The tree makes me think of history and the people here before us. I wonder about all the people and sights that the very old oak has seen.



**Theme:** Belonging

**Area:**  
Swansea

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Not specified

**Tree memory:**

My tree memory is of my reading tree – it was in my back garden, and I used to climb into the tree to read.



**Theme:** Belonging

**Area:**  
Swansea

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Oak & Others

**Tree memory:**

My tree memory is the view from my teenage bedroom window. – which had an oak tree on the horizon. When the sun set immediately behind it created a perfect silhouette of a tree in the setting sun. I also have a woodland memory of a dark-shaded lane around the back of my grandmother's house. There was a tunnel of trees with the deep dark greens of moss and ferns and the heady earthy smell.



**Theme:** Belonging

**Area:**  
Swansea

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Not specified

**Tree memory:**

Circa 2015 – Huge Tree! Rambling with friends, we joined hands around the tree trunk.

We realised,

- 1) how awesome the tree was
- 2) how small we were, and
- 3) how much we enjoyed being friends.



**Theme:** Belonging

**Area:**  
Swansea

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Horse Chestnut

**Tree memory:**

When we moved into our home in the 1990s, we had not had a tree in our garden before as they had been too small. Our new home had a large horse chestnut that had grown from a conker from Fontainebleau. Our sons loved it, and climbed in it, made a tree house, collected the conkers, and rolled in the fallen leaves in Autumn. Thinking about this tree brings pleasure and memories of my sons' childhoods.



**Theme:** Belonging

**Area:**  
Swansea

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Cashew

**Tree memory:**

I love the saying, "Gardens are great places to grow up!". I have always been struck by my African Family and their Friends talking about the role of large trees as meeting places for the villages. I was very moved to visit Tanzania and be part of a community in which all the important decisions, events and activities were in the shade and shelter of a cashew tree.



**Theme:** Belonging

**Area:**  
Gwynedd

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Not specified

**Tree memory:**

As a very small child lying on a blanket and looking up through the leaves – watching the leaves move in the wind and the sunlight coming down and the different shades of green. I remember the sound of the wind rustling the leaves and the smell of the earth. Peace.



**Theme:** Belonging

**Area:**  
Gwynedd

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Oak

**Tree memory:**

Feeling rooted and safe against the age and size of the old oak. Also, I felt the vulnerability of nature – of what we are losing. A walk this morning – a familiar tree.



**Theme:** Belonging

**Area:**  
Gwynedd

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Woodlands

**Tree memory:**

Walking into the woods with my dada at Llyn Brenig. Standing and just listening to the wind, the birds, the water flowing. It was peaceful and grounding as it was just us and nature.



**Theme:** Belonging

**Area:**  
Gwynedd

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Oak and Beech

**Tree memory:**

We live next to a woodland where there are ancient oaks and beech. The whole family used to walk up the hill through the woodlands during the COVID lockdown. We spent time together, got out of the house and were in nature together. The kids used up some energy and it kept us all fit. It was an amazing time.



**Theme:** Belonging

**Area:**  
Gwynedd

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Not specified

**Tree memory:**

Tree at the bottom of childhood garden with swing and old camper van



**Theme:** Belonging

**Area:**  
Gwynedd

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Not specified

**Tree memory:**

Out on a walk at Wepre Park, and we connected with nature and hugged a tree. My children joined in (hubby wouldn't!) – but I remember us all laughing and smiling and feeling so calm and peaceful. It was just lovely!



**Theme:** Belonging

**Area:**

**Type of tree or woodland:**

Ceredigion

Not specified

**Tree memory:**

With help, I made a huge bird made of cane which I hung from a willow branch over the pond. I loved seeing it from the kitchen window, swaying in the wind – sometimes, when the wind was up, it went crazy!



**Theme:** Belonging

**Area:**  
Ceredigion

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Not specified

**Tree memory:**

We found the perfect climbing tree. It had a flat bit at the base of the branches. It was a 'secret' place – we would talk, eat sweets and laugh a lot.



**Theme:** Belonging

**Area:**  
Ceredigion

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Horse Chestnut

**Tree memory:**

Walking amongst an avenue of Horse Chestnuts in Montgomeryshire with my grandad in the early 1970s collecting conkers.



**Theme:** Belonging

**Area:**  
Wrexham

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Oak

**Tree memory:**

An old oak tree in the corner of the garden provided shade in the summer and shelter in the winter. Provided many happy memories for the whole family.

**Theme:** Belonging**Area:**  
Wrexham**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Weeping willow**Tree memory:**

My tree memory is from my childhood. My grandparents had a weeping willow tree in their garden. My Memory is of sitting under the tree, having picnics, playing on the swing and the lawn with my siblings.

**Theme:** Belonging**Area:**  
Wrexham**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Cherry Tree**Tree memory:**

We had two family homes in the 1960s and 1970s – both with flowering cherry trees in the front garden. The first in Teddington and the second in Solihull. My mother loved the blossom but complained about it when it fell. She would prune them viciously ... they always grew back even more abundantly each time!



**Theme:** Belonging

**Area:**  
Neath Port Talbot

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Crab Apple

**Tree memory:**

My in-laws have a wonderful crab apple tree in their garden. They brought my husband the same tree for his 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday. We planted this about six years ago and while I don't have memories of it currently it is something where I am sure that our children will create memories. It's got the most spectacular blossom in the spring, and it is the final resting place of our late dog, Wilson.



**Theme:** Belonging

**Area:**  
Neath Port Talbot

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Not specified

**Tree memory:**

I remember in the 1990s I used to enjoy climbing the hollow tree by the park up in Gnoll Park in Neath. Twenty years later, when my son was little, I'd take him up there too and he would do the same.



**Theme:** Belonging

**Area:**  
Neath Port Talbot

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Not specified

**Tree memory:**

As a family, we used to go to Craig Y Nos Country Park. Me and my two children had a favourite tree that we used to call, "the running tree". The idea was we would run around and around it until we got dizzy. My children are grown up now, but the running tree is still there and always brings back fond memories when we pass it.

Draw a tree at the top of the oval.



My memory, a gigantic oak tree that  
symbolises home, the first thing  
that I see when arriving home.  
The tree also symbolises my childhood  
and memories of playing on  
the swing. The tree makes me  
think of history and the  
people here before us,  
I wonder of all the people  
and sights that this  
very old oak has  
seen.

Write about a tree or woodland memory at the bottom of the oval.

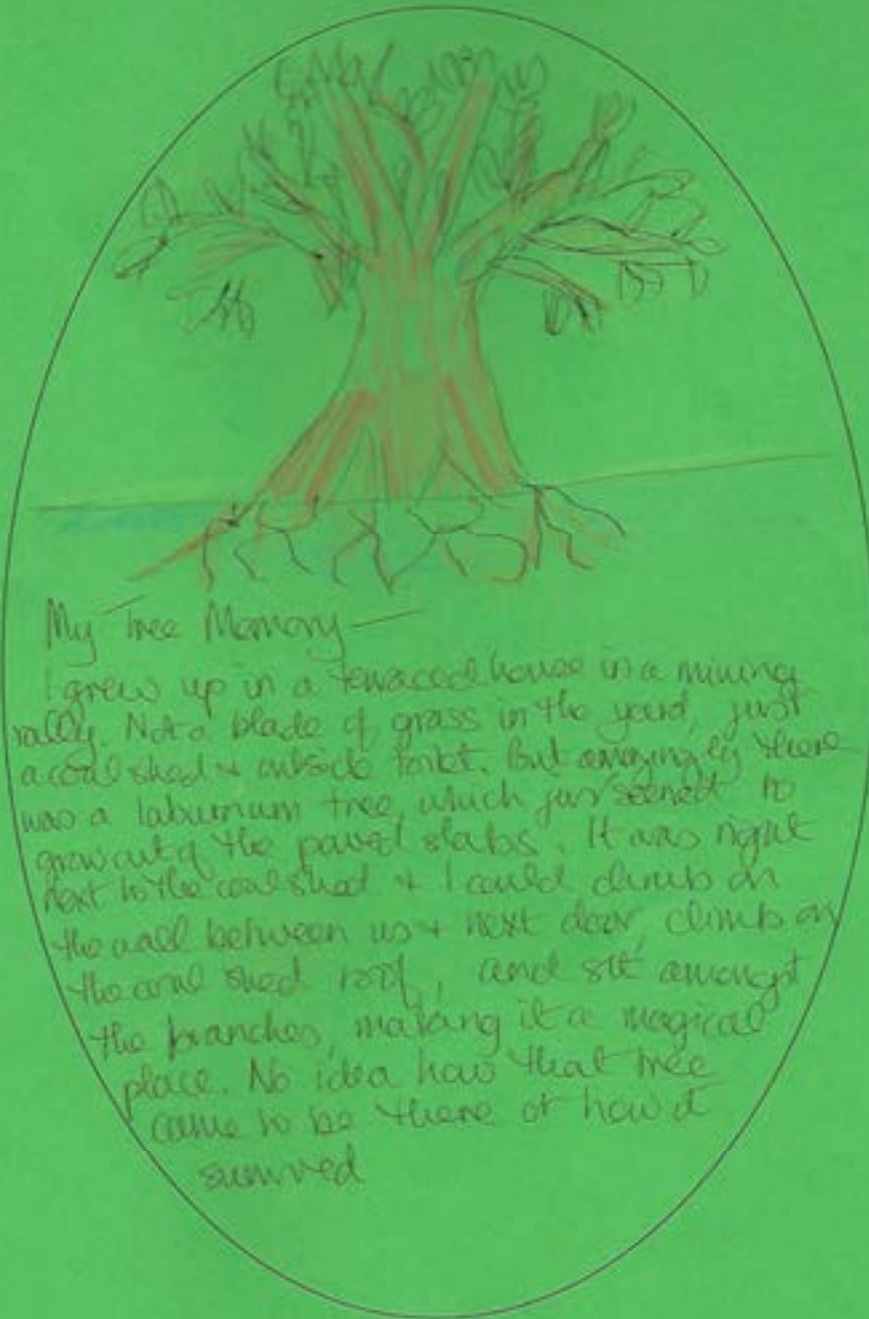


# Survival





Draw a tree at the top of the oval.



Write about a tree or woodland memory at the bottom of the oval.

**Theme:** Survival

**Area:**  
Wrexham

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Oak & Ginkgo Biloba Tree

**Tree memory:**

I recall, very naughty of me, engraving my crush's name on an old oak tree as a ten-year-old.

I recall buying a tree for Dad when he died.

My favourite tree is the Chinese medicinal Ginkgo Biloba. Seven of them to this day survived Hiroshima and the bomb in Japan. They are still alive in a courtyard in Japan.



**Theme:** Survival

**Area:**  
Swansea

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Oak

**Tree memory:**

My memory is of the ancient Oak tree outside the aptly named Royal Oak pub in Meavy on Dartmoor, whilst in decline, was still standing in 2019!



**Theme:** Survival

**Area:**  
Neath Port Talbot

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Oak

**Tree memory:**

There was an old oak tree in a field near my childhood home. Most of the other trees were horse chestnuts and hawthorns. There were some younger oaks too, and some beech. But the old oak was gnarled, twisted, hollow and odd. It had a sort of desolation

that reflected my predominant emotions. I felt very attached to it. It showed clearly that it was a home for many other lifeforms, but it always had a feel of death around it. It felt melancholy, like me.

And although it seemed abnormal and sick, it belonged there. I sometimes seem abnormal and sick. I miss my tree. I wish I identified with a strong, upright tree. My tree has been twisted and dying for all my life and yet, as far as I know, it is still there hosting all its insects and fungi.



**Theme:** Survival

**Area:**  
Swansea

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Laburnum

**Tree memory:**

My tree memory = I grew up in a terraced house in a mining valley in Wales - not a blade of grass in the yard, just a coal shed and an outside toilet. But, amazingly there was a laburnum tree which just seemed to grow out of the paving slabs. It was right next to the coal shed and I could climb onto the coal shed roof and sit amongst its branches. It was a magical place. No idea how that tree came to be there or how it survived.



**Theme:** Survival

**Area:**  
Ceredigion

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Weeping willow

**Tree memory:**

this is the weeping willow tree where I grew up and my dad used to sit under it with a pot of tea and a newspaper. He had to cut a 'fringe' in it when the branches grew to the ground. When our house subsided the insurance company wanted to cut this tree down, but my dad refused. So, we kept the tree, and the house came down!



**Theme:** Survival

**Area:**  
Ceredigion

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Oak (ancient)

**Tree memory:**

My tree memory is of an ancient oak near Llandelio – epiphytes growing mainly on mossy lichen-covered trunks – maybe it is a survivor of ancient temperate rain forests of West Wales.



**Theme:** Survival

**Area:**  
Ceredigion

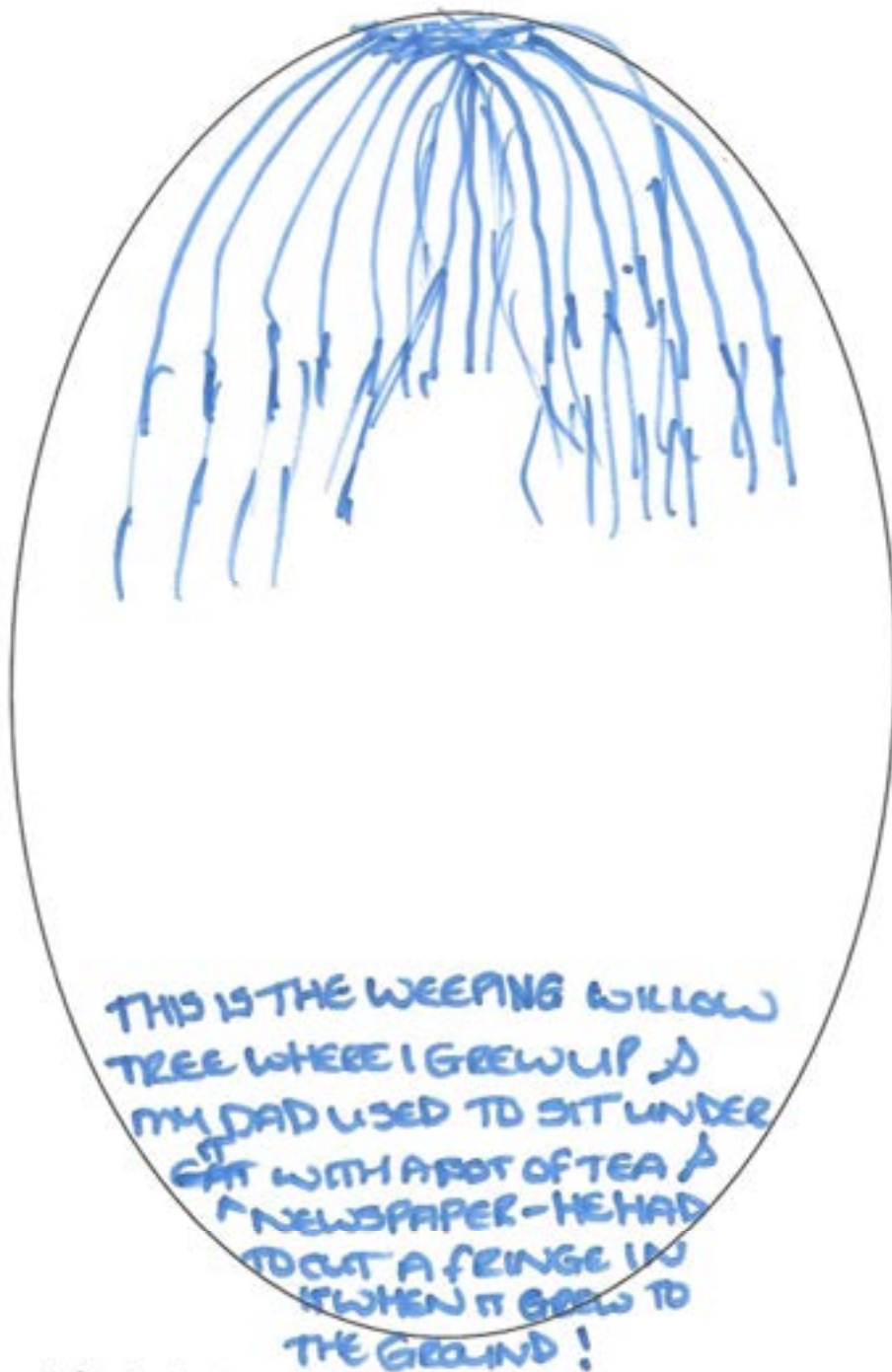
**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Cherry Tree

**Tree memory:**

I used to have an allotment and sadly we had a fire that got out of hand and burnt some of the branches of an old Cherry tree that was close. Thankfully, the tree survived and only a few branches died, and new growth started to come through.



Draw a tree at the top of the oval.



Write about a tree or woodland memory at the bottom of the oval.

WHEN OUR HOUSE SUBSIDED THE INSURANCE COMPANY  
WANTED TO CUT THIS TREE DOWN BUT MY DAD REFUSED  
SO WE KEPT THE TREE & THE HOUSE CAME DOWN!

## Support





Draw a tree at the top of the oval.



The beautiful old oak tree at  
the back of my house watching  
over us was a huge support  
during the pandemic. I  
would often go sit and  
share the space and felt  
its resilience strength  
and vibrancy through  
out the last 15  
years @xx

Write about a tree or woodland memory at the bottom of the oval.



**Theme:** Support

**Area:**  
Wrexham

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Oak and Silver Birch

**Tree memory:**

I planted one hundred oak and silver birch in a forest plot for my MSc project. My studies followed 12 years working at sea, and this tiny forest represented the final stage of my 'escape plan'. Being in 'my' woods for the study was a brilliant experience and 23 years later they are doing well! - Roots where the magic really happens)



**Theme:** Support

**Area:**  
Anglesey/Sir Fon

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Christmas Tree (Spruce or fir)

**Tree memory:**

There is a tree in Newborough forest that I believe is a discarded or planted Christmas tree. It is adorned with Christmas decorations all year round. It is the healthiest-looking tree in the forest. Maybe because it is loved?



**Theme:** Support

**Area:**  
Carmarthenshire

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Oak

**Tree memory:**

I love oak, the tree, representing sovereignty, summer, the warrior archetype, and all things beautiful, I love oak, the ancient tree of the Celtic lands, I love oak for its strength and ancient beauty.



**Theme:** Support

**Area:**  
Ceredigion

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Oak

**Tree memory:**

This is the large oak tree at the viewpoint by the old quarry in Penglais Woods, Aberystwyth. During lockdown in 2020, we visited the tree almost daily with my three children. It became a playground while all other playgrounds were shut and a focus point for our walks. We watched the seasons change from bare branches to a thick canopy of leaves. It was a real privilege to have time to visit frequently and get to know the tree. I had never really noticed it pre-lockdown. Someone in the community put up a swing and we used to leave messages for the other families to read. The tree kept us sane – visiting and enjoying nature – during these challenging times.



**Theme:** Support

**Area:**  
Ceredigion

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Beech

**Tree memory:**

Beech trees in an avenue near my house – they reminded me of the strong, beautiful aunts, grandmothers and mothers in my life. Full of life. Every time I needed to find strength and inspiration growing up, I went and walked with them. I still do when I go back to visit.



**Theme:** Support

**Area:**  
Anglesey/Sir Fon

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Christmas Tree (Spruce or fir)

**Tree memory:**

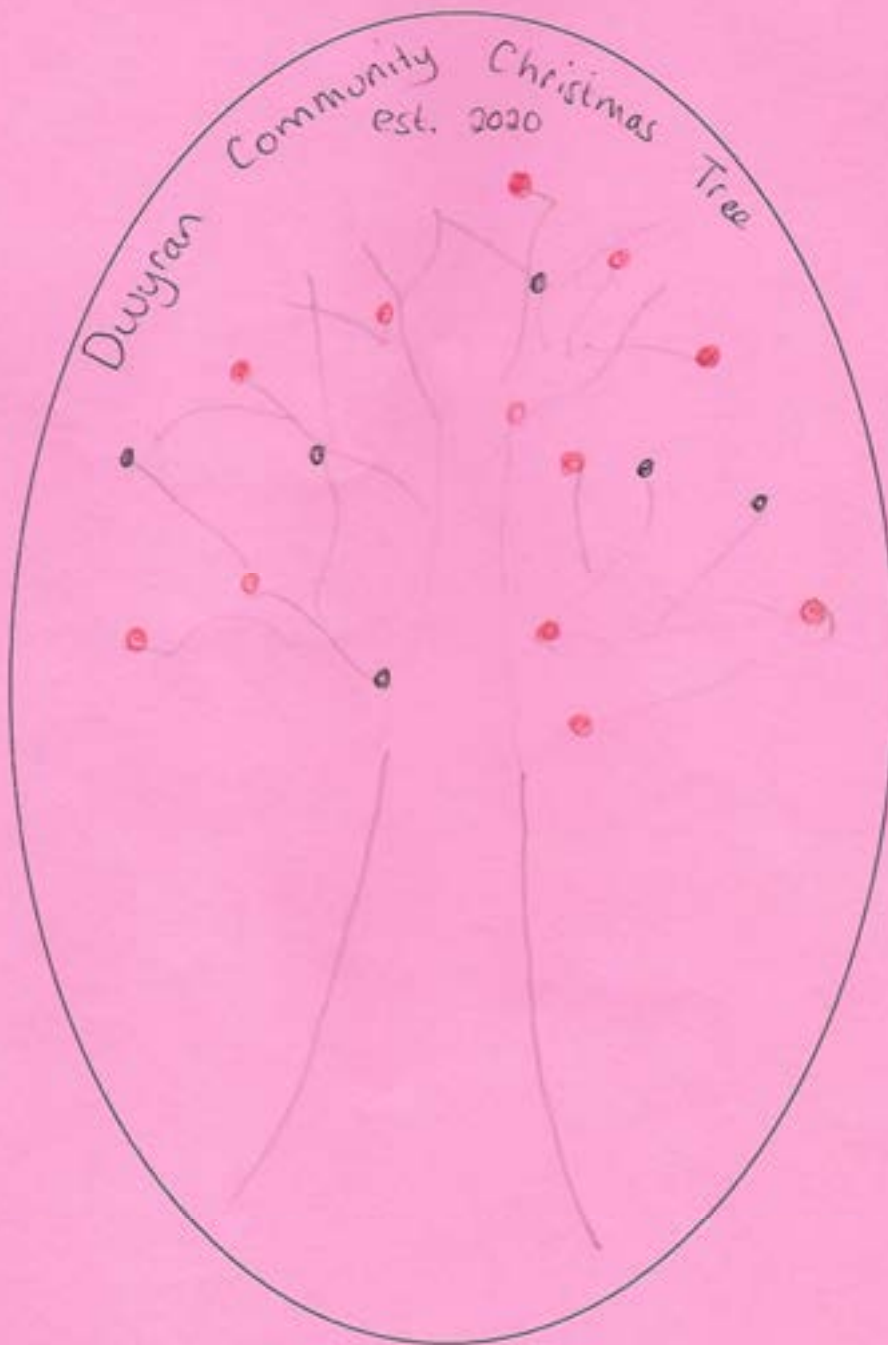
I have a specific Memory of a magnificent community Christmas tree in 2020 in Dwyran. It was put up during the lockdown year to help with wellbeing in the local community.

**Theme:** Support**Area:**  
Anglesey/Sir Fon**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Oak**Tree memory:**

The beautiful old oak tree at the back of my house watching over us all was a huge support during the pandemic. I would often go and sit and share the space and felt its resilience, strength and vibrancy throughout the last 15 years.



Draw a tree at the top of the oval.



Write about a tree or woodland memory at the bottom of the oval.

Community, wellbeing, local.

Draw a tree at the top of the oval.



This is the large oak tree at the viewpoint by the old quarry in Penglan Woods Aberystwyth. During lockdown in 2020 we visited the tree almost daily with my 3 children - it became a playground while all the other playgrounds ~~we~~ were shut, a focus point for walks. We watched the seasons change from bare branches to a thick canopy of leaves - a real privilege to have time to visit frequently + get to know the tree, had never really noticed it pre lockdown. Someone in the community put up a swing and we used to leave messages for other families. It kept us sane, resting and enjoying nature during challenging times.

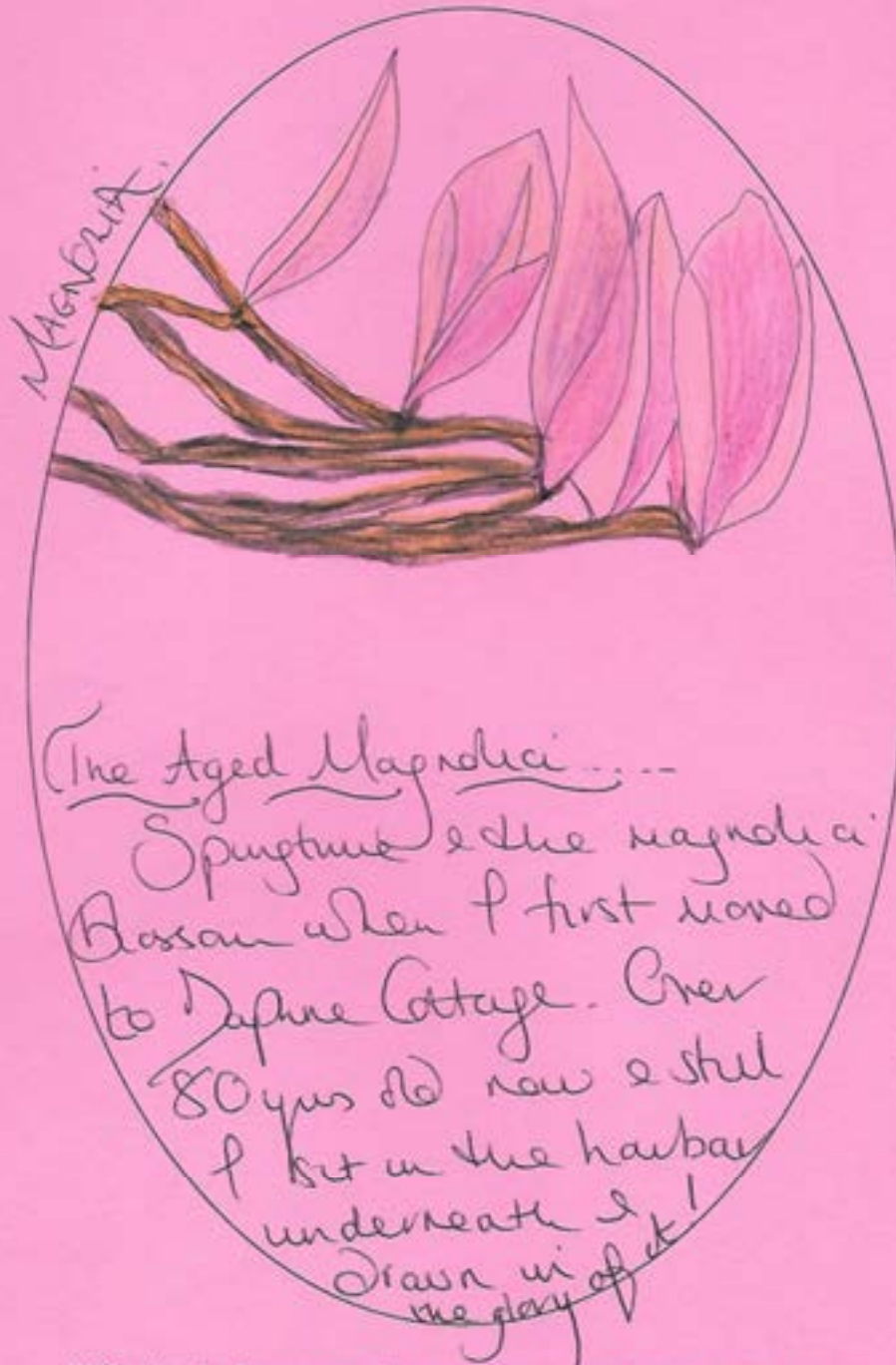
Write about a tree or woodland memory at the bottom of the oval.

## Happiness & Beauty





Draw a tree at the top of the oval.



Write about a tree or woodland memory at the bottom of the oval.



**Theme:** Happiness & Beauty

**Area:**  
Gwynedd

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Cherry Tree

**Tree memory:**

We had a cherry blossom tree in the garden when I was little. I loved that little tree. We loved seeing the blossoms grow and fall carpeting the garden in sweet pink.



**Theme:** Happiness & Beauty

**Area:**  
Ceredigion

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Cherry Tree

**Tree memory:**

I have a memory of a big tree in our garden. It was a cherry tree with beautiful pink flowers in spring.



**Theme:** Happiness & Beauty

**Area:**  
Wrexham

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Magnolia

**Tree memory:**

The aged Magnolia ... in springtime. The memory of the magnolia blossom when I first moved to my cottage. Over 80 years old now and still I sit in the arbour underneath it. I am drawn into the glory of it!



**Theme:** Happiness & Beauty

**Area:**  
Wrexham

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Woodlands

**Tree memory:**

My memory is of the summer months walking through the woods to school. It was an old wood with a stream going through it with an iron bridge. In May, we would cross the iron bridge to the woods that were full of bluebells and wood anemones – happy times!



**Theme:** Happiness & Beauty

**Area:**  
Rhondda Cynon Taff

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Cherry Tree

**Tree memory:**

I have a vivid memory of skipping to junior school under an archway of cherry trees all in full blossom lining the pavement all the way – it made me feel so happy!



**Theme:** Happiness & Beauty

**Area:**  
Rhondda Cynon Taff

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
not specified

**Tree memory:**

Making a log wall out of branches a couple of weeks ago made me feel good.



**Theme:** Happiness & Beauty

**Area:**  
Anglesey/Sir Fon

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
not specified

**Tree memory:**

A single tree in the middle of an open field. The most beautiful tree in Anglesey!



**Theme:** Happiness & Beauty

**Area:**  
Anglesey/Sir Fon

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
not specified

**Tree memory:**

The tree I fell in love with (picture of a tree with a heart in the middle)



**Theme:** Happiness & Beauty

**Area:**  
Neath Port Talbot

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Cherry Tree

**Tree memory:**

Cherry blossoms blowing in the wind. My son and I see them all over the floor. It reminds us of confetti for a wedding.



**Theme:** Happiness & Beauty

**Area:**

Neath Port Talbot

**Type of tree or woodland:**

not specified

**Tree memory:**

Bampa's tree (Grandpa's tree) in my grandparent's home – happy memories



Draw a tree at the top of the oval.



Write about a tree or woodland memory at the bottom of the oval.

# Give



Draw a tree at the top of the oval



The Apple Tree in my  
grandparents garden  
\* \* \*

Every year my dad would  
get the ladder out and  
myself + 2 younger brothers  
would help climb up and  
collect the apples  
the tree would get a  
good shake to get  
the last few

My nan would make the best apple pies!

Write about a tree or woodland memory at the bottom of the oval.



**Area:**  
Gwynedd

**Theme:** Give

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
not specified

**Tree memory:**

We went to Pen y Braich a couple of years ago and saw a lot of sap on the tree trunks. We took some home with us and boiled it with wax and made wax wraps to cover our food with.



**Area:**  
Ceredigion

**Theme:** Give

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
woodlands

**Tree memory:**

As children in the village, we would go up to the woods and collect chestnuts. We'd make a fire and throw the chestnuts on and then eat them. The smell and the taste are still a Memory. Scrumping apples was also a great Memory!



**Area:**  
Ceredigion

**Theme:** Give

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Apple Tree

**Tree memory:**

"Apple tree, Apple tree to eat, Fruit tree".



**Theme:** Give

**Area:**  
Ceredigion

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Pomegranate Tree

**Tree memory:**

Pomegranate Tree – One big one and one small. The flowers were white in colour. The fruit skins were light green and white inside with some small pips that you can eat. You don't need to worry – you can eat the pips!



**Theme:** Give

**Area:**  
Wrexham

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
woodlands

**Tree memory:**

Walking through deciduous woodland with my mum and sister collecting leaf mulch to take back to feed the garden in the 1960s. Our dog ran between the trees looking at shadows.



**Theme:** Give

**Area:**  
Rhondda Cynon Taff

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Apple Tree & Pear Tree

**Tree memory:**

There is an old tradition that you plant an apple tree for a baby boy and a pear tree for a baby girl. By coincidence, not knowing of this tradition, my friends brought me an apple tree on the day that I gave birth to my first child – a son! We took this tree with us when we moved and planted it in the garden. When our daughter was born, we planted a pear tree. Now, every time we move, we plant a new apple and pear tree and leave the old ones to keep growing and giving fruit to the next tenants. We think of it as our little legacy of fruit trees.

**Theme:** Give**Area:**  
Anglesey/Sir Fon**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Yew**Tree memory:**

A 1500-year-old Yew tree gifted a branch to me. There were no other branches around.

**Theme:** Give**Area:**  
Anglesey/Sir Fon**Type of tree or woodland:**  
Apple Tree**Tree memory:**

The Apple Tree in my Grandparents Garden.  
Every year my Daid (Grandfather in Welsh) would get the ladder out and I and my two younger brothers would help climb up and collect the apples. The tree would get a good shake to get the last few. My nan would then make the best apple pies!



**Theme:** Give

**Area:**  
Pembrokeshire

**Type of tree or woodland:**  
woodlands

**Tree memory:**

Imagine how trees are totally alive and they stand there offering their shade, fruits and their roots are assisting in keeping the soil in place and they drink the rainwater stopping flooding. Plus, they absorb carbon, and they provide oxygen for all of us.

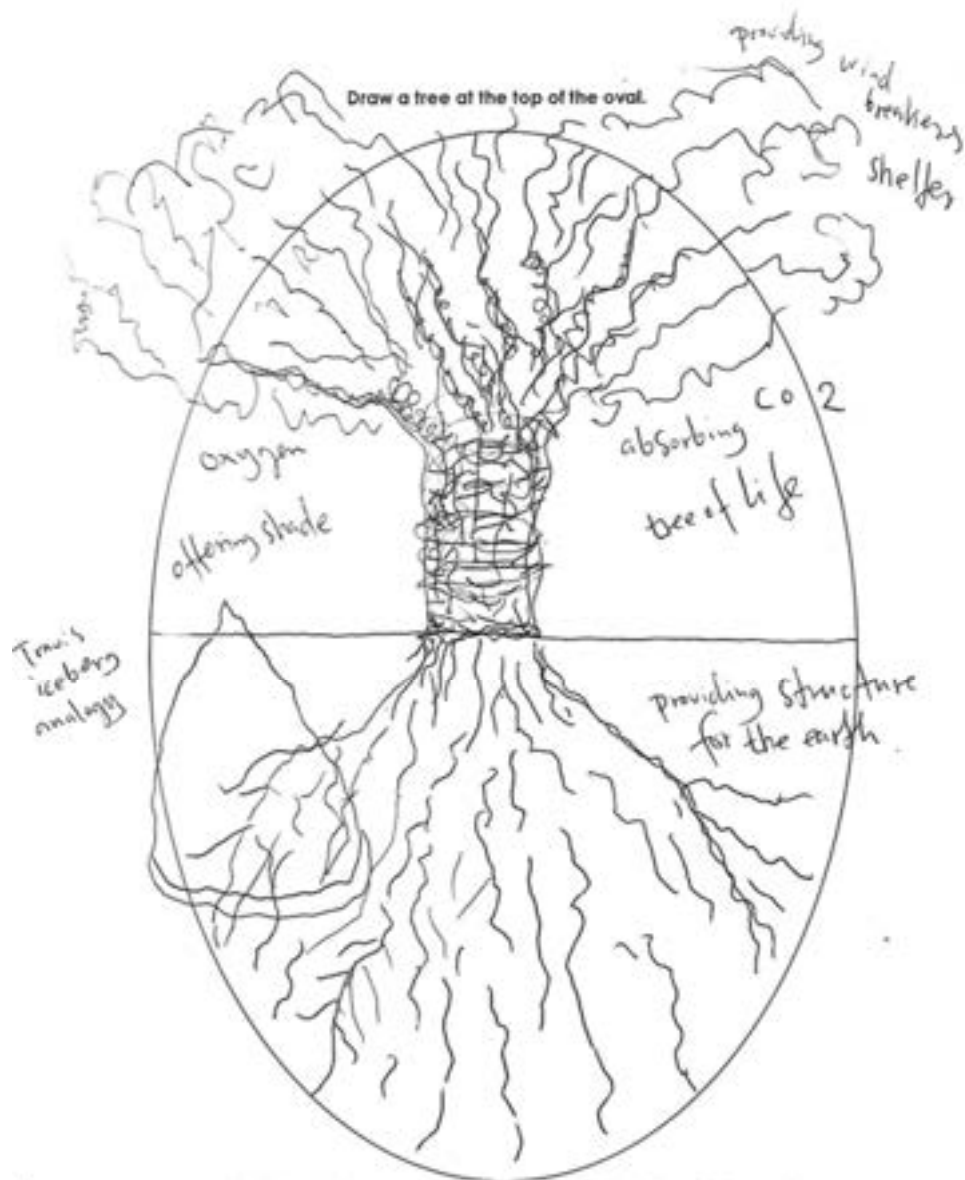


Draw a tree at the top of the oval.



AS CHILDREN IN THE VILLAGE WE  
WOULD GO UP THE WOODS AND  
COLLECT CHESTNUTS, MAKE A FIRE  
AND THROW THE CHESTNUTS ON  
AND EAT THEM. THE SMELL  
AND THE TASTE IS STILL  
A MEMORY. SCRUMPYUS  
APPLES WAS ALSO A  
GREAT MEMORY.

Write about a tree or woodland memory at the bottom of the oval.



Write about a tree or woodland memory at the bottom of the oval.  
 imagine how trees are totally alive and they stand there offering their shade, fruits and their roots are assisting keeping the soil in place and they drink the rain-water stopping flooding plus they are absorbing the carbon and they provide oxygen for us all.

