

Burlington's Spring Nature Trail

Dear Friends,

When the days start to get warm and sunny there is nothing nicer than going on a nature walk. I especially like to go with my friends, making sure I take a supply of carrot cake and cookies to share with them, just in case we get a little hungry. Cook wraps them up in a checked napkin and puts it in my basket along with my list of flowers to find, trees to look for and birds to listen to. I also take a pencil and paper to write down anything I might see or make a quick sketch.

I thought it might be helpful if I give you my list of things to find in Spring just in case you want to go for a nature walk too.

Flowers :

My most favourite flowers to find tucked away in hedgerows are the pale yellow Primroses. There you might also find sweet Violets, they are tiny little flowers in purple and white with heart shaped leaves, sometimes these are in the woods as well.

Another little flower to find in the woods are the mauve or white Wood Anemones or Windflowers. They open when the sun shines and close up when it is dull.



Then I often see Daisies in the grass, small white flowers with golden centres. You might even find Coltsfoot, which look like small Dandelions.

Do not miss the shiny bright petals of Celandines often found nestling in sheltered spots.

Then most of all there are lots of Daffodils everywhere, in parks and gardens too, I love to pick a great big bunch for Cook, they are her favourite and she puts them in a big jug on the kitchen table.

Trees :

One of the funniest flowers are the catkins on the Hazel trees, they look like little lambs tails shaking in the breeze.

Try and find a Horse Chestnut tree with big fat sticky buds emerging.

The first blossoms to come are the Blackthorn, which are seen as small trees or hedges.

Sometimes if it is very mild I have seen Willow trees with their leaves freshly out. Willow trees are often found near water, like rivers and small streams.

Birds :

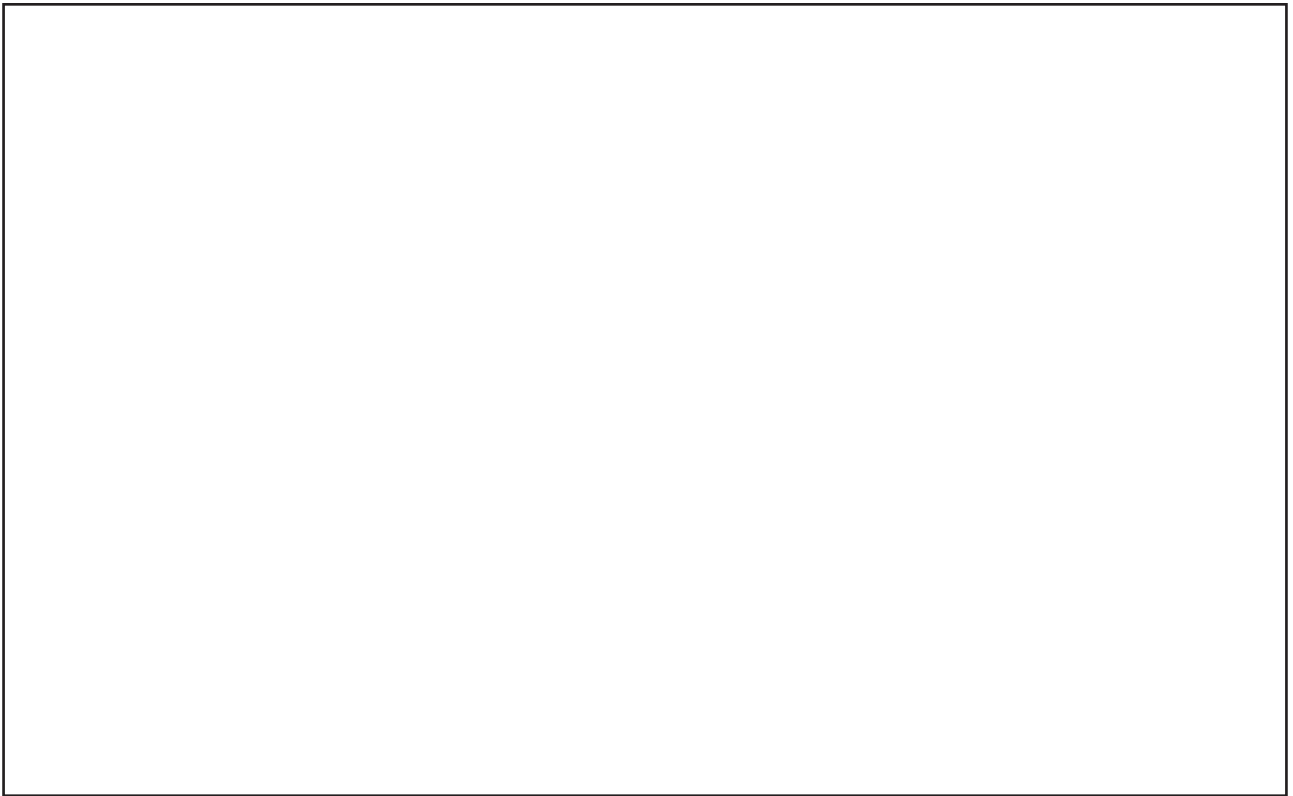
I love to hear the Birds singing especially the Blackbirds, they chatter all the time. Then there are Robins, Blue Tits, Long Tailed Tits, Goldfinches and the tiniest bird of all is the Wren. I once saw a tiny little Wren spend all day making a dear little nest and she carefully lined it with Camellia petals which had fallen down. Then I sometimes hear a tap,tap,tap that is a Thrush with a snail in its beak trying to break it by hitting the snail against a stone, the Thrush has a lovely speckled chest. Then there are Jackdaws, Magpies and wood pigeons cooing from the trees and do not forget our best friends the Chaffinches and Sparrows.

I do hope you enjoy your Spring nature walks.

Love Burlington Bear x



Why not draw or take a picture of something you saw on your Spring walk?



Can you draw a picture of your favourite Spring flower?

Can you draw a picture of a bird or tree you saw?

