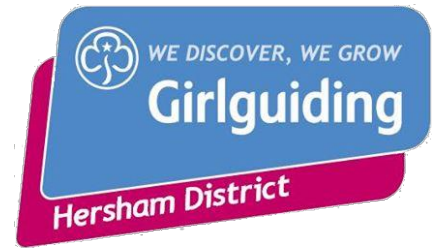


Home Sweet Home

Challenge pack



Introduction & Leader Information

This challenge is split into five sections:

1. Be our guest
2. Sparkle & shine
3. Odd-jobs & fixer-uppers
4. Safe & sound
5. Greenfingers



This badge is ideal for a camp or pack holiday, however you can easily do it in your usual meeting place with a little preparation.

We have added resources for each section at the back of the pack.

Most of the suggestions are suitable for all sections. Please feel free to adapt them to suit the needs of your unit.

To complete the challenge, we recommend:

Rainbows & Brownies complete 1 tasks from each section.

Guides & Rangers 2 tasks from each section.

Interest Badge Links:

- Rainbows:** Helper, Recycling, Construction, Nature
- Brownies:** Baking, Grow your own
- Guides:** Mixology, Confectionery, Fixing, Saver, Conscious Consumer, Upcycling
- Rangers:** Cooking, Event planning, Self care

Skills Builder Links:

Skills for my future:
Stages 1,2,3,4,5,6

Be our guest

1

Be a party planner and find out how to welcome your friends and family. Choose some challenges from the list below to seal your reputation as the greatest host in town!

Invite guests:

Make an invitation for an event... maybe it's a huge party, a picnic in the park, afternoon tea, or maybe you have an idea of your own.

Address an envelope to send an invitation; find out how to buy a stamp and where you can post it.



Top Tip:

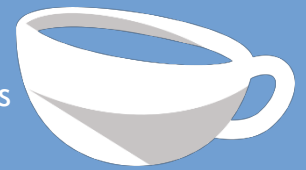
If you are making the effort to plan a party, why not really hold one?

It could be for a promise night, end of term celebration or a summer picnic.

Invite friends and family, other guiding units or even contact a local WI or Trefoil guild and make them the guests of honour.

Food and Drink

- Make some tasty treats for your guests, sweet or savoury
- Learn how to make and serve a cup of tea. Is it milk in first or milk in last? Perhaps have a tea tasting and try some different varieties with your unit?
- Create some exotic mocktails
- Set a table for a meal with at least two courses
- Write place name settings - try out some fancy fonts or gold pens
- Plan and design a menu



Decorate



Make your venue look amazing, for example by making and putting up decorations.

Bunting is a simple and attractive addition - these could be paper with a message or sewn fabric in a variety of colours



Make a simple centrepiece for a table. This could be a candle holder or an arrangement of real or paper flowers

Learn to fold a napkin in a fancy shape - [our resource pages](#) have simple fan instructions.

Or make personalised napkin rings, curtain rings are great for decorating.

Having fun

Plan some entertainment for your guests

Perhaps games, a quiz, a performance...the choice is yours!

Give thanks! Write a thank you letter, either to a special guest for coming to your event, or to the host of an event where you

Sparkle & Shine

It takes lots of hard work to keep a house cosy and clean, and to keep all the people who live there warm, clothed and well fed. Choose some of the challenges below to help keep your home ship-shape!



How clean is your house?

In your meeting space or holiday house:

Tidy, dust and Hoover a room.

Polish silver or brass. You can practice on pennies for a shiny hoard of treasure!

Sweep a floor properly, or sweep an outdoor pathway or steps

Clean a window or glass door, inside or out

Laundry day:

With a selection of clothes with different washing instructions: find out what laundry symbols mean, where to find them, and sort clothes for the wash. (see resources)

Have a go at trying to remove some common stains. (see resources)

If you can, hang a washing line in your meeting space so girls can peg up clothes. An alternative is to peg them on clothes airers.

Learn how to iron - it is good to start with tea towels as practice.

Food for thought

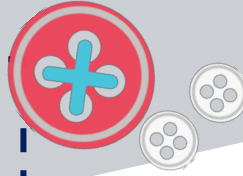
- Plan a weekend of meals for your family or for your camp or holiday. For Guides and Rangers, ask your leader to give you a budget to stick to
- Make a simple, healthy meal for your family or Girlguiding friends.
- Wash up after cooking - work in a pair so someone can dry and put away too. Think about the order you wash everything. Starting with the cleanest things (glasses and cups) and ending with the stickiest pots and pans.

Take Home Challenges

- Make your bed every day for a week, or the duration of your camp or holiday.
- Wash laundry in a washing machine or buy hand washing and peg it out to dry
- Sort your family's rubbish over a week and put the rubbish out for collection on the relevant day.
- Help to load a dishwasher, fill it with the right detergents, and switch it on. Be careful to load sharp knives safely and check if there's anything that needs to be washed by hand. Why not help unload it too?
- Change your sheets and pillowcases and put on a clean duvet cover

Odd-jobs & fixer-uppers

We can make things last for longer by looking after them well and save money by knowing how to make, fix and repair things ourselves. Choose some of the challenges below to keep things as good as new....



Creative fixes

Sew on a button or badge

Make something using a sewing machine -
There are [scrunchie instructions in the resources](#)

Upcycle an item of clothing, furniture or household item

Repair something that's broken or torn

Spit and polish

Clean your wellies, hiking boots, football boots (or others!) or polish a pair of shoes

Light and energy

Change a lightbulb in a lamp or light fitting. Don't forget to make sure it's switched off first.

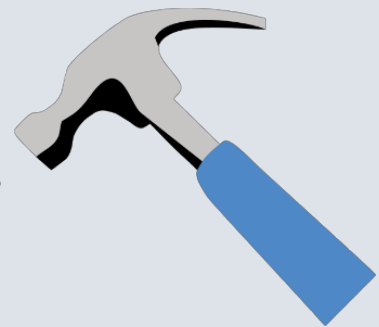
Replace the batteries in a toy or appliance and dispose of the old ones safely

Think about how to save energy in your home or meeting place.

Make a draft excluder or install some form of insulation

Tool School

- Learn how to use different tools safely
- Make something fun or useful with nuts, bolts and screws
- Learn how to replace a washer in a tap
- Put together a piece of furniture from a flat-pack. Follow the instructions carefully!



On your bike:

Fix a puncture, pump up some bike tyres, and/or adjust the seat and handlebars

Take Home Challenges

- Look after your pet (or help to look after someone else's) over a week. Remember things like exercise, food and water, and keeping his or her house clean
- Wash a car or bicycle
- Find out how to top up the screenwash, and check the oil and tyre pressure on a car

Safe & Sound

4

It's important to keep the whole family feeling safe and cosy at home. Choose some of the challenges below to help prevent accidents and deal with emergencies in the home.

Fire Safety

Strike a match and light a candle or outdoor fire

Find out about fire prevention or visit your local fire station

Learn the firework code and how to stay safe on Bonfire Night

Does your home or meeting place have a smoke alarm and/or a carbon monoxide alarm? Find out where they are and how to test them

Find out where the emergency exits are in your meeting place or holiday home. Take part in a practice fire drill

Find out about calling 999 in an emergency and what information the emergency services would ask you for. Make sure you know your home address

Other emergencies

Plan what you would do in a power cut

Find out where the stopcock is in your home and/or meeting place and how you would turn the water off in an emergency

Find out where the fuse box is in your home and how it works

Find out what you would do if you could smell gas in your home

Design a poster about any of the safety points in this section

Home Safety

Learn how to carry and pass on a knife or pair of scissors safely

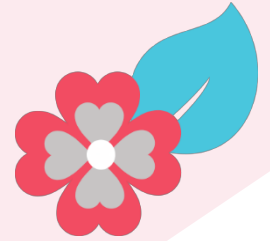
Know how to keep safe in the kitchen and look out for hazards - how many can you spot in our picture and what would you do to make it better?

Make a basic first aid kit for your home. Find out how to treat burns, cuts, grazes, shock and nosebleeds

Find out how to keep your home safe and secure from intruders

Greenfingers

5



It's lovely to enjoy nature close to home - maybe that's a garden, a window box or balcony, some outdoor space at our meeting place, or another spot close to home. Choose some of the challenges below to make the outdoors part of your home

Get growing

Plant bulbs either in a pot indoors or outside in a pot, tub or flower bed

Grow cress from seeds and enjoy it in a salad or sandwich

Find out about different fresh herbs, how to identify them and what they can be used for

Collect rainwater to water plants. What water could you reuse from inside the house?

Befriend a bug

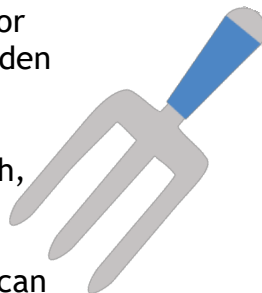
Find out about bee friendly plants, and if you can, plant some in tubs or flower beds

Make a bird or butterfly feeder

Make a wormery or mini beast hotel

Garden jobs

- ✓ In the autumn, sweep or rake up leaves in a garden or path
- ✓ Sweep and clean a path, patio, or some steps
- ✓ Pull up some weeds - can you identify them?



Community gardening: Lots of towns and villages have groups of volunteers who look after the local flower beds - see if you can help them next time they are out.

Talk to your local allotment association to see if someone will give you a tour.

Is there anywhere in the community that could do with weeding or planting - if you contact your local councillor or church authority, they might let you help out.

Just have fun!

Make an outdoor decoration using natural objects

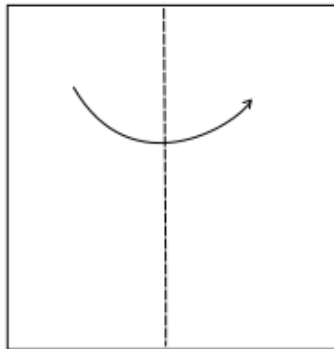
Make a game which can be played outdoors, like skittles or croquet

Take Home Challenges

- Look after a house plant for two weeks. Find out how much sun or shade it needs, how often to water it and whether it needs any other care. Don't forget to talk to it!
- Ask if you can help with some gardening jobs: carefully prune a bush, mow the lawn or paint a fence or shed.

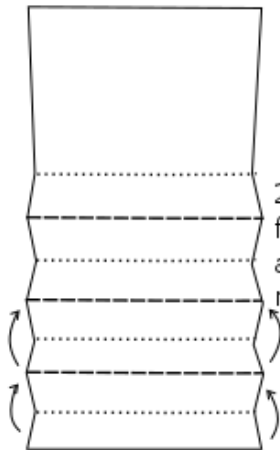
Section 1 - Resources

Be our guest - Napkin folding

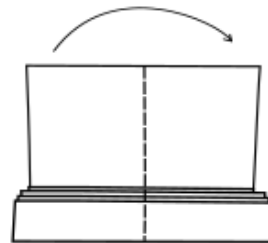


1. Completely open your napkin

Then fold in half down the middle



2. Starting at the bottom fold the napkin backwards and forwards like you are making a fan

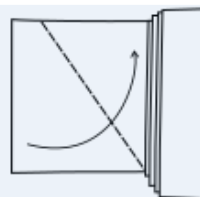


3. Stop folding when you have folded about 4 times and you have a rectangle left at the top.

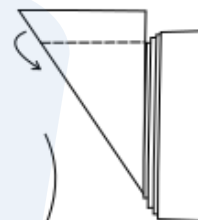
Fold the whole napkin in half **backwards**



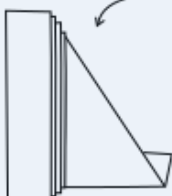
4. Your napkin should look like this with the thick folded bit on the outside



5. Lay it flat and fold the 'tail' up to the edge of thick folded fan, there should be a bit sticking over the top



6. Fold the extra bit over the top backwards



7. Turn upside down and release - the fan should open and stand up !



























SECTION 2 - Resources

Sparkle & shine

Common washing symbols [Leader info]

Challenge you unit to become washing detectives and discover the hidden secrets of their clothes and separate them for washing.

| Washing | Drying | Dry Cleaning | Tumble drying | Ironing |
|--|--|---|---|---|
|  Do not wash |  Do not line dry |  Do not dry clean |  Do not tumble dry |  Do not iron |
|  Hand wash |  Line dry |  Dry clean only |  All tumble dry |  Iron any temperature |
|  Any wash |  Drip dry |  Any dry clean type |  Cool tumble dry |  Iron cool |
|  Cool wash |  Dry Flat | |  Medium tumble dry |  Iron medium |
|  Warm wash |  Do not wring | |  Hot tumble dry |  Iron hot |
|  Hot wash | | | | |

SECTION 2 - Resources

Stain removal [Leader info]

Why not have fun trying your hand at washing out stains. Use scrap cotton fabric or old tea towels to create some stained 'garments' for washing - pre-prepare some so they are really tough!

Please note that all washing detergents are strong chemicals when undiluted and can cause skin irritation even when diluted, everyone should wear gloves for this activity.

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| You will need: Washing up liquid Cornflour Salt Bicarbonate of soda White vinegar Lemon juice Non-bio washing liquid / powder Biological washing liquid / powder | Clean cloths Plain hot and cold water - use straight from the tap or bowls of water Bowl of warm water with non-bio detergent Bowl of cold water with bio detergent | Washing solutions: Washing up liquid solution - dilute 1 tablespoon to 300ml water Washing liquids/powders - dilute 1-2 teaspoons in a washing up bowl |
|---|--|---|

| | |
|---|---|
| Berry juice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrape off any excess with a knife. • Blot the stain with a clean cloth and dish soap solution • Run front and back of the stain under cold water • Wash in cold water with biological detergent | Chocolate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrape off any excess with a knife. • Blot the stain with a clean cloth and Washing up liquid solution • Dab with liquid laundry detergent • Flush back and front with hot water • Wash in hot water with non-bio detergent |
| Cooking oil: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sprinkle with cornflour and leave for a few minutes. • Flush back and front of stain with cold water • Blot with a clean cloth and dish soap solution • Treat with a stain remover • Wash with hot water with non-bio detergent | Rust: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sprinkle with lemon juice and salt • Air dry in the sun • Wash in cold water |
| Red wine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sprinkle with salt. Or spread on a paste of bicarb and water. • Run front and back of the stain under hot water • Blot the stain with a clean cloth and dish soap solution • Wash in hot water with non-bio detergent | Coffee and tea: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dab with white vinegar. Or use a paste of vinegar and cornflour • Wash in hot water with non-bio detergent |
| Tomato: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run under cold water. • Blot the stain with a clean cloth and dish soap solution • Run under cold water • Blot the stain with a clean cloth and vinegar • Wash in cold water with biological detergent | Grass: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flush back and front of stain with cold water • Rub stain together with the fabric • Dab on a little biological washing liquid • Wash in cold water with bio detergent |

SECTION 3 - Resources

Making a Scrunchie:

You will need:

- A piece of material - 55cm x 11cm (22" x 4.5")
- A length of flat elastic - 22cm (9") long
- Pins
- 2 safety pins
- Needle and thread (optional sewing machine)



TOP TIP:

A piece of card cut to the right width is great to help measure your material



1. Fold the material along the length with the good sides facing and pin along the edge making sure the edges are together.



2. Fold back one end about 1-2 cm and pin



3. Sew the edges together along the length of the material. You can hand sew in back stitch or use a machine. If hand sewing make sure your stitches are small to add strength.



4. Turn your tube of material inside out. One way to do this is to safety pin one end and tuck it inside the tube. You work the pin through the tube until it appears at the other end.



5. for a really neat finish iron the scrunchie flat making sure the seam is on the edge.



7. Thread the elastic through the tube using the safety pin.



6. Safety pin one end of the elastic to the end of your tube. Put a safety pin on the other end of the elastic

Remove both safety pins but don't let go of the ends!!!



Tie the ends together with an overhand knot.



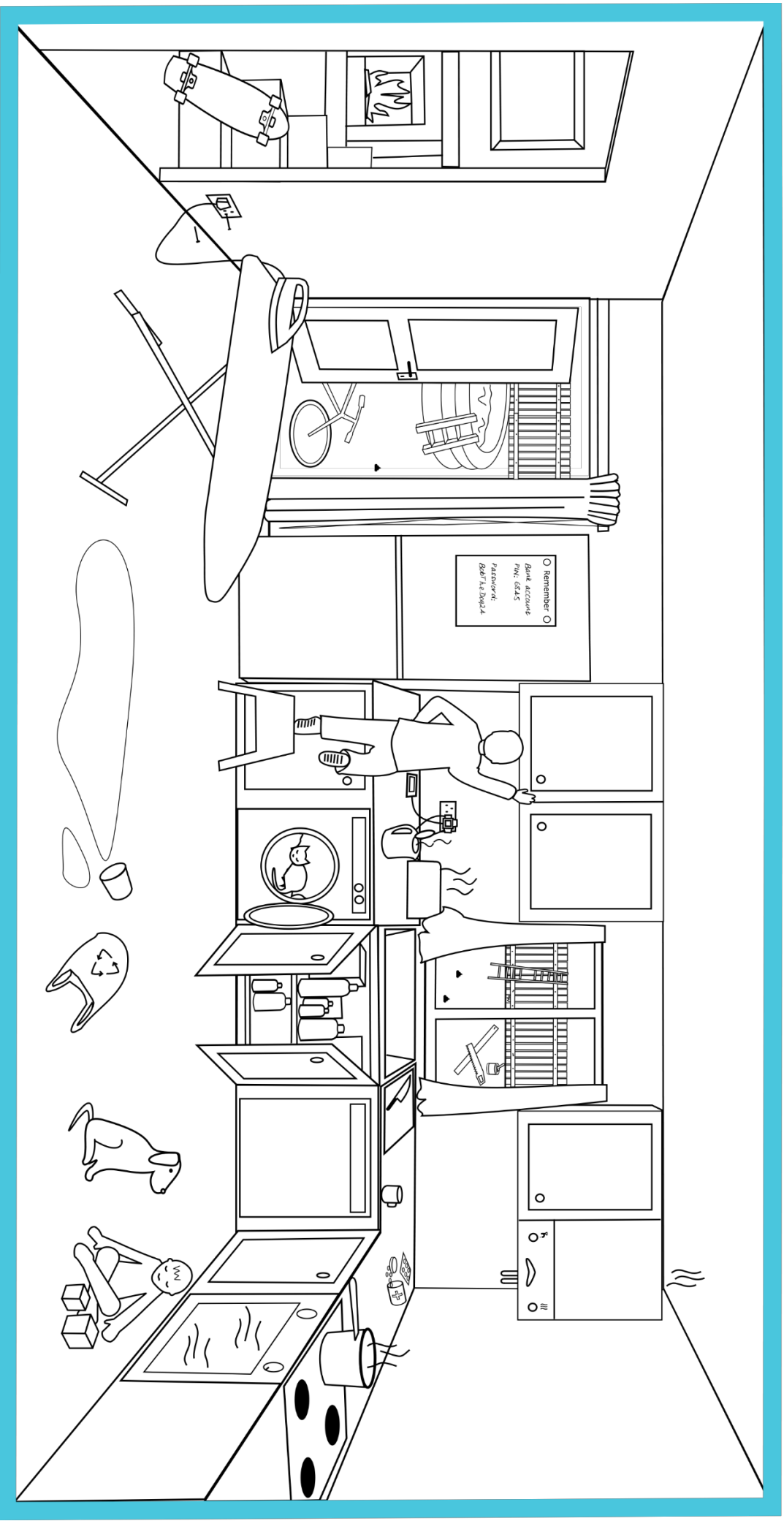
8. Finish you scrunchie by putting the neater, folded end over the raw edge.

Sew the seam together with a needle and thread.

Wear with pride!

Safe & sound

You can help to keep your house a safe place to live. Can you spot all the dangers in the image below?



SECTION 5 - Resources

Greenfingers

Bee drinking station

Did you know that in hot summer months bees can get really thirsty? If bees try to land on or near ponds they can easily drown.

Add a bee drinking station to your garden by placing pebbles or marbles in a shallow dish and fill with water, but not covering the pebbles completely. Bees can land on the pebbles and drink in safety.

Important!

Please do not feed bees sugar water.

If you see a bee that looks exhausted, it is tempting to feed bees sugar water because they look like they need food. This can be harmful to bees and can also cause issues for their honey stores.

Water is enough to get them back to being busy bees!

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/honeybeesuite/water-for-bees/>



Which weed?

A weed is just a plant in the wrong place. Although to a gardener they can be a nuisance, they are vital food for bees and other insects. If they are not doing any harm it is good to leave them if you can.

If you have outdoor space at your meeting place, why not set up hunt for common weeds. Such as:

- **Dandelion** - We all know their bright yellow flower or puff ball seeds - but can you spot their big circle of leaves too?
- **Cleavers** - (Goosegrass) easy to identify because it is covered in hairs which make it feel sticky. It is good fun sticking it to your friends!
- **Nettles** - it is important that you and the girls can identify nettles so they can avoid them!
- **Docks** - large broad green leaves which are said to help if you couldn't identify the ones above!
- **Green Alkenet** - large green leaves covered in bristly hairs which can irritate skin. In the summer they have clusters of small blue flowers which are often mistaken for forget-me-nots.

You could also do plant identification at a local park or green space. Remind girls they are only to look and not to pick any wild plants.

The RHS have a great page on common weeds: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/common-weeds>