**Scrapstore Mural**

**Painted by Kate Crawfurd**

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**Sponsored by Plymouth Play Scrapstore and Plymouth Octopus Project**

***But you will see between the lines***

***The heart’s forget me not***

***That whispers you, “Remember me”***

***And says “You’re not forgot!”***

**From: Forget-me-nots of Remembrance, author unknown**

This mural was inspired by the Scrapstore; the incredible community who run it, their compassion, their love for a lost member of their community, their work in redistributing resources, the network of others they work in harmony with, trying to bring our human activities to a place where we can live in line with nature.

Ants: Enthusiastically social insects, ants typically live in structured nest communities headed by a queen or queens. Workers (the ants typically seen by humans) are wingless females that forage for food, care for the queen's offspring, work on the nest, protect the community, and perform many other duties. Through the collection and transport of organic material, ants play a vital role in the redistribution of nutrients around ecosystems.

Look down here in the gutter below this wall and you will see them going about their business. Ants and other small insects, which we often overlook, are a vital part of our ecosystem. Their gathering activities redistribute resources, saving them from being wasted. They collect and bury seeds which can then sprout. Like the Scrapstore you will see them busily gathering materials, nurturing their community and planting seeds of creativity and hope.

The Scrapstore salvages materials which would be buried needlessly as landfill or incinerated, adding to our environmental problems. We need to re-think our human ways. If we keep producing and buying new things where do they all go in the end? Do we need them at all? Could we re-use something else? Simplicity is beautiful, less is more, it boosts creativity, imagination and freedom.

This mural is also born from a collaboration of small eco-minded groups brought together by a Plymouth Octopus Project opportunity.

Plymouth Scrapstore https://www.facebook.com/plymouthscrapstore/

Art and Energy https://artandenergy.org/

Clean Our Patch https://www.facebook.com/CleanOurPatch

Rebel Botanists https://www.facebook.com/rebelbotanistsplymouth

Precious Plastic Plymouth and Tavistock

https://www.facebook.com/Preciousplasticplymtavi

Seadream Education https://www.seadreameducation.com/

Pollenize <https://www.pollenize.org.uk/>

All these groups are working to make a difference to our environment and reduce our human impact on nature.

The mural shows the Scrapstore ant community gathering pieces of broken bottle and creating a beautiful stained glass window. Clean Our Patch co-ordinate teams of volunteers to pick litter all over Plymouth, they gather literally tonnes from our streets and parks. The Rebel Botanists have been drawing our attention to the small, overlooked plants which colonise our verges. Look down and you will see how they manage to grow between cracks in the pavement, see their beauty, they are also vital to our ecosystem. They harvest the sun’s energy through photosynthesis, reducing carbon dioxide, producing oxygen for us to breathe, nourishing animals. The insects which feed of them are also vital to us as pollinators. Pollenize have beehives across the city and work to protect pollinators. As Britain’s Ocean City, our environment includes the ocean. Seadream education engages people in activities which protect the plants and animals living in the ocean. Plastics are having a huge impact on our world, particularly the ocean at the moment. Precious Plastic Plymouth and Tavistock engages people encouraging us to reduce, re-use and recycle our plastic. If we take more care and use resources wisely our world will thank us for it. Art and Energy are concerned with the energy that we use, reducing, and switching to green energy suppliers will reduce our carbon footprint and slow down global warming. We can all make a difference, enjoy and nurture nature!