

# We are Commoners

## Alice McLean and Justine Boussard What space is precious to you?

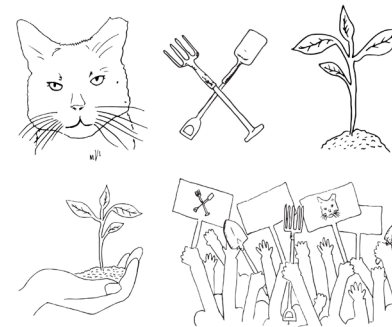
[craftspace.co.uk/  
wac-alicemclean-justineboussard](http://craftspace.co.uk/wac-alicemclean-justineboussard)

Alice and Justine's project Common Ground highlights the collective actions of people to protect shared spaces. Celebrating these victories through a series of tokens, it includes the campaigns to save Peckham Rye Common in London in 1868 and more recently, Walsall Road Allotments in Birmingham.

For centuries, people have made tokens in many shapes and materials to record historic events. By raising awareness of past campaigns to protect our common spaces, tokens can be used in the ongoing fight to preserve our local environments for the future. Create a token for a campaign that saved a space precious to you.

How will you show your token and who will see it? Will you sew it onto clothing or display it somewhere? Will you gift it to someone with a shared interest in the campaign or precious space?

For ideas on token shapes, symbols and words, look online for museum collections you can search. Use keywords: pilgrim badge, medal or coin. The Museum of London and the British Museum are great places to start  
[www.museumoflondon.org.uk/collections](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/collections)  
[www.britishmuseum.org/collection](http://www.britishmuseum.org/collection)



**1** Choose a local park, woodland or other outdoor space. Find the story of a campaign to save it, historic or current. Look at local history archives, local forums and newspapers, or contact the people involved. Remember, most common spaces have been under threat at some point in their history.

**2** Describe the space in one sentence. Next, describe how the campaign to save it makes you feel. Do the same in three words, then in one word. This will generate a range of options for words to use on your token.

**3** Looking at your words, what images do they bring up for you? Draw these images. Select one or two images, depending on whether you want to produce a single or double-sided token.

**4** Create your token, including the name of the space and date of the campaign. Tokens can be made simply: drawing, painting, stitching or collaging onto card, wood, stone or fabric, or stamping and carving into salt dough or air-drying clay. Experienced crafts people might use laser-cutting, etching, printmaking, embroidery or ceramics to make a token.