**How to Observe**

*What to do when you are out and about.*

Surely you have your own ideas about this, but we give here some suggestions that you may not have thought of, or that you might not have thought were so useful.

Look for:

Something that does not make sense.

Something moving, something changing.

Something that has changed from the last time you were there.

Something unexpected. Something out of the ordinary.

Something tiny. Something large.

A puzzle that needs solving.

How to keep track of things:

Of course you could/should take notes. To be careful and thorough, your notes should contain date/time/weather/location information. Write neatly for as time passes your memory may not help you decipher your handwriting. Use waterproof paper. If you have some.

You might consider sketching what you are seeing. You need not be an artist to do this. You can make just a rough sketch and annotate it with descriptive phrases.

There are at least two advantages to making such a sketch. First you are likely to see things more clearly and see more things if you do this. As da Vinci said, “You cannot draw what you cannot see.” Second, if you draw what you see you may find out later that in your drawing resides something important that you did not recognize as such.

Take a photograph. [Can you think of any advantage of a sketch over a photograph? What about the reverse?]

Listen, don’t only look.

Smell, don’t only look.

Touch, don’t only look.

Taste – well, that’s up to you.

About people:

Talk to people, don’t just look at them. Ask them questions.

Try to understand them. Empathize perhaps more than sympathize.

Play detective. Be a Problem Solver.