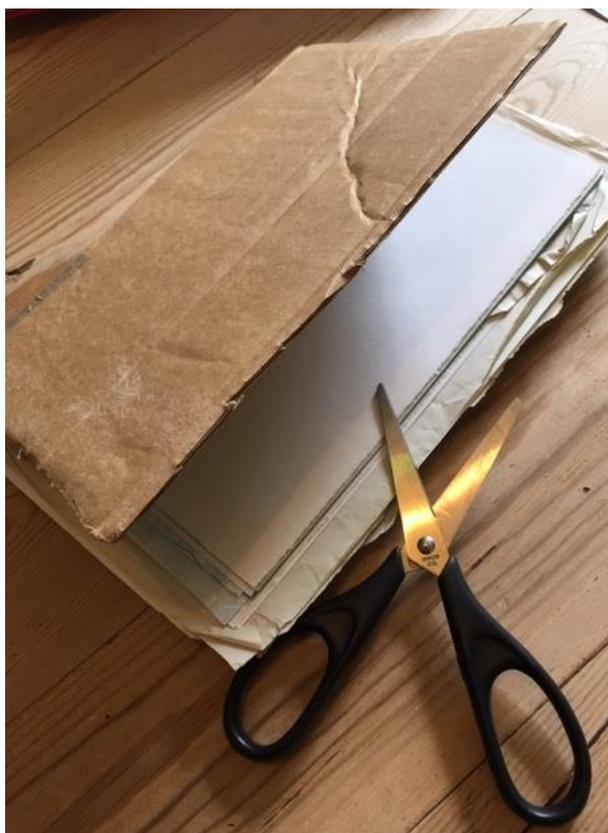


Newark Community Art Club with  
Elaine Winter  
Session no. 29 (Summer Term):

**Don't recycle everything –  
make a sketchbook to help  
you make stronger drawings**

**Introduction** Here's a way to make a sketchbook that will cost nothing, uses up some materials that would normally end up in recycling and be useful as a means to improve and strengthen your drawings. You can make a small pocket sized one to carry around and/or a bigger version for more involved drawings.



**What you will need:**

- Strong cardboard for the sketchbook cover – a brown delivery box would be the ideal weight for this
- Paper for the leaves of the sketchbook. Use a selection from the following ideas:
  - Paper from used exercise books – both blank and used sheets
  - Letters/junk mail destined for the recycling bin
  - Old map sheets if you can get hold of any
  - Any spare squared/lined/dotted paper you may have, even if it is a bit crumpled
  - Pieces of wallpaper/wallpaper samples
  - Old wrapping paper (not shiny paper, needs to be matt so that you can draw on it)
  - Newspaper sheets
  - Tissue paper/coloured paper sheets
  - If you have some old sketches/line drawings that you are thinking of getting rid of then you can use those too.
- Scissors – reasonably strong ones to cut the card
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Strong elastic band or piece of string

**Step 1** Gather the materials you have at hand to make your sketchbook and decide on the size that will work for what you have at hand.

**Step 2** Make the cover by cutting out a double width of strong card and then fold it in half to make a sturdy cover that will work well for you to be able to rest on

**Step 3** Your paper sheets for the inside of your sketchbook will need to be approximately the same size or ideally a little smaller in size than the cover card. Pile them in and fold each one in the centre also. If you have a bunch of sheets that are similar, mix them in with other types of paper so that when you get to use your sketchbook you will get a variety of different sheets popping up.

**Step 4** Secure the whole thing with a strong big elastic band to 'bind' everything together. The good thing about using an elastic band is that you can always add some more in when you want to.



**Step 5** If you want to, personalize your cover!

**Step 6** Use your new sketchbook! Use it as you would any sketchbook, draw and keep drawing. What you will find is that by drawing over some paper that has been printed on/used already in some way you will need to focus a bit more, make stronger marks to help them show up. By drawing over the papers you may also find new exciting combinations of patterns/printed paper and your drawings will give you new ideas for future pieces.