

The ordinary and the commonplace

Published: January 14, 2026, 5:19 am

I went for a long walk, had a coffee, and thought.

Maybe later I will write another post on a day when so much has gone wrong in the world. But for now, I offer this:



That is, of course, a bramble in flower.

I offered [something similar](#) a couple of weeks ago. So, why do so again? There are three reasons.

Firstly, because the one I took a couple of weeks ago was in Wales, and this one is in East Anglia, but the beauty of the flower is similar.

Secondly, I see this as a metaphor for ordinary life. What happens in Wales, happens in East Anglia, and in the case of the bramble, probably over a great deal of the world. I am no expert in brambles, but I suspect they spread far and wide.

Thirdly, when we discuss political economy, one of the things that we always need to do is to look for what is common, rather than what is different, because the secrets might

well be found in what is commonplace, rather than in what differentiates.