

BROADBRIDGE HEATH GALA ASSOCIATION SCARECROW WEEKEND - 12th to 13th September 2015



How to make a Simple Scarecrow (remember the theme is Film or TV Characters)

It's easy when you know how!

You only need a few items to make your scarecrow and some old clothes that are too far gone to give away, or failing that why not raid the charity shops? To make a basic scarecrow you will need a pair of tights, an old shirt, an old pair of trousers or jeans, scraps of fabric, a hat, some glue, old rope for the hair, and paper (shredded is best) or hay for stuffing.

Making the scarecrow head is possibly the hardest part: start with an old pair of tights. Tie a knot at the top of each leg, then stuff the top, not the legs with hay or paper. When the top is full tie a further knot in the top. You will now have a large round base for the head. Now cut scraps of fabric or felt into shapes for the eyes, nose and mouth. As fancy as you like but simple triangles, circles, squares work just as well. Glue the shapes to the face and allow them to dry. At this point you can add hair made of long pieces of fabric, string, unplatted synthetic rope, and glue in place. You can of course simply buy a mask/wig. It can be easier to glue on face and hair after the scarecrow has been assembled, when it will be easier to determine the front of the head.

For the body, button up the shirt and starting with the arms fill with straw or paper. If you use hay, you can pull a bundle through the arms to resemble hands. A similar effect can be achieved by tying the wrists of the shirt with string. Fill the shirt as full as possible, but remember you will need room to get your hands into the front and back of the shirt when you assemble the scarecrow.

Next the legs - stuff the jeans or trousers with paper or hay, don't forget to close the zip, then fill from the ankles to the waist. Like the wrists, you just tie the trousers close to the bottom with string or let some hay hang out for feet. Leave the trousers open at the top.

You now have all your pieces ready to assemble your scarecrow. Take the empty tights legs of the head and attach them to the body. To do this, run one leg through the neck of the shirt at the front and the other through the back of shirt neck. Pull the legs all the way through to the bottom of the shirt. Tug firmly on the legs so that the head sits firmly on the top of the shirt neck.

Add the legs to the scarecrow. Bring the filled trousers close to the assembled head and body. Tie one leg of the tights to the belt loop in the front of the trousers, making sure to pull the leg through the loop until it's tight. Then do the same for the other leg at the back of the shirt.

All that remains is to top off your scarecrow with a hat or cap and with that the scarecrow is complete.

If it is going to stand it will need a stick or broom handle up the back of the shirt, but you could just sit it on an old chair.

Some weather proofing can be achieved by firstly putting the hay/paper stuffing inside dustbin bags.

Don't forget to give your Scarecrow a name!

NB There are plenty more ideas on how to make a scarecrow on the internet.