

# Make a Scarecrow!

It's time to get creative



A home-made scarecrow will look really good in your garden and it might even keep the birds away - and it is lots of fun to make one !

You could make a scarecrow of one of the county's sporting heroes, scientists, literary figures or even a scarecrow representing our agricultural past. The choice is entirely yours! Be as imaginative as you want...

## Be inspired...

Whether you fancy creating a Harry Potter character, politician or an Eastenders scarecrow, there is so much scope and you can be as creative as you like to make a scarecrow representing life in Yorkshire, or anywhere else that takes your fancy.

If your family, school class, team, group of friends or you as an individual are interested in making a scarecrow then all you have to do is fill in an entry form which can be downloaded from the Mirfield Show website at [www.mirfieldshow.com](http://www.mirfieldshow.com) by telephoning 07855 399814 or by e-mailing [safenton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:safenton@hotmail.co.uk). The completed form should then be e-mailed or posted to Mirfield Show Scarecrows, 26 Farrar Avenue, Mirfield WF14ED to arrive by 13<sup>th</sup> August 2009.

Entry is free but it is important that you send in your entry form on time so that we can make sure that we reserve a space for your scarecrow.

There are great cash prizes and rosettes for winning scarecrows;

1st Prize - £25

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - £15

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £10

These prizes are sponsored by horticulturalist David Hudson at Westfield Nurseries on Shillbank Lane, Mirfield. Judging and the award of prizes will be on Showday – Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2010. Scarecrows must be brought to the show by 11.00 am at the latest on the morning of the show - so that you will have plenty of time to set them up them before judging is due to start. Please remember that your scarecrow will need to be taken home at 4 o'clock.

Please look after yourselves and others by taking care using sharp tools or other risky things to make your scarecrow and while carrying your scarecrow about.

There are lots of ways to make the frame – broom handles might be good or even lengths of timber. If you can not make a standing frame, please consider making a sitting scarecrow – and bring along something for him or her to sit upon.

You could even make a family of scarecrows... the choice is yours. You may bring other things to decorate or create a setting for your scarecrow – but please remember that we can accept no liability for anything that might be lost or damaged while at the show or in transit.

If you haven't made a scarecrow before there are a few tips to get you started... but there are lots of different ways so please do use your own method if you wish... these are only ideas.

## Getting Started

This is just an idea. What you might need:

- 1 stake about 2m long (6ft)
- 1 stake about 1m long (3ft)
- 1 stake about 30cm long (12 inches)
- Material to make the scarecrow's clothes
- An old pair of tights or similar
- Some straw or hay or other lightweight material that will stand up to rain (just in case)  
(Scrunched up carrier bags might work or shredded paper that is SEALED INSIDE A WATERPROOF bin liner or similar.)
- String
- Fabric or waterproof paint for the facial features

How to make your scarecrow:

- First of all, use the string to tightly tie the 1m stake to the 2m stake, about 15cm from one end, in a cross shape (for the arms) and then tie the other stake in the same way about half way down (the scarecrow's hips). This is the frame for your scarecrow.
- You are now ready to make a head. Cut one leg from the tights and fill with some straw. Push the straw firmly to the end and make it into a ball shape. Tie a piece of string around the tights to stop the straw or other filling falling out. This is the top of the head.
- Now place the open end of the ball shape over the the top of the frame and tie it securely in place – around the scarecrow's neck.
- You can now dress your scarecrow with whatever clothing your chosen figure would wear.
- Push straw or other filling inside the clothes to fill them out. If you want you can push some straw under the hat and leave it dangling out to look like hair depending on what you want your scarecrow to look like.
- You will need to have a way of attaching the scarecrow to the ground – this could be as simple as pushing the upright frame into the ground. However, if you have something like a garden parasol base, this might be a great deal easier if the ground is hard and dry. Ingenuity is fun! You could always have your scarecrow sitting on something. (DIY enthusiasts could always make a frame similar to that found on a range of bird tables and similar.)
- If you wish, give your scarecrow a face, using whatever is handy.
- Your scarecrow is now ready for judging - Good Luck!