

LANTERN MAKING

As autumn approaches and the evenings start to draw in we all need to start making lanterns to help us cross the marshes safely.



YOU WILL NEED:

Wet strength tissue paper (carnival paper), masking tape, PVA (50/50 mixed with water), brush, willow, string, secateurs.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR LANTERN:

1 - Cover your work surface with paper. Cut the willow into equal measurements carefully with secateurs. 4 x 25cm, 4 x 15cm, 4 x 60cm.

2 - Make 2 willow squares, one 25x25cm and one 15x15cm. Use masking tape to join and strengthen the corners.

3 - Place the 25cm square on the table and attach a 60cm willow stick vertically from each of the four corners. Holding all 4 long willow sticks gently together at the top join them together with masking tape.

4 - Slip the 15cm square over the sticks and slide it down so that it is about 30cm above the base. Fix in place with masking tape and strengthen all the joints.

5 - Cut the tissue paper into long narrow strips. Paste the glue mixture (50% water, 50% PVA mixed well) onto both sides of a strip of paper. Fold it around a willow upright and then gently wrap the paper strip around the lantern. Continue to paste and wrap the strips until the lantern is covered.

*Don't forget to do the base of the lantern and to leave the top open for your tiny light bulb and string.

6 - Leave the lantern to dry overnight. Attach the light bulb to a length of string, drop the light into the lantern and tie the string to the top of the lantern.

Lanterns symbolise good luck, health and prosperity. They can also serve as a guide for ancestral spirits. Always keep a lantern close by during the autumn and winter in case you need to find your way across a marsh on a misty night.



