

Ideas for Uckfield Town Council's Scarecrow Competition 2025

STUCK FOR IDEAS?

We have a theme for you – 'The Summertime'. Let your imagination run wild with how your scarecrows could be enjoying everything the British summer has to offer!

For inspiration and guidance, here are some useful web addresses...

- <https://www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/children-young-people/family-activities/do-it/make-a-scarecrow>
- <https://www.gardenersworld.com/how-to/diy/how-to-make-a-scarecrow/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8UEHbj0Q9EQ>
- <https://burlapkitchen.com/diy-scarecrow/>
- www.makescarecrows.com/
- <https://uk.pinterest.com/lorrim/scarecrows/> (Lots of images of interesting characters here)

Also, YouTube has many more ideas and tutorials that may help!

Scarecrows have been part of our farming heritage forever and a day. Their practical purpose in the fields is to scare birds, which might otherwise eat the seeds or damage young crops.

For those without internet access, here are some useful scarecrow-building tips!

Getting started

A scarecrow is simple to make and will provide a great opportunity for the whole family or a group to share in its creation. Each one will be individual, and you'll be surprised at the personality they take on. Thinking of a name also helps to develop their character.

First, create a basic design and gather your materials together. A traditional scarecrow was usually a crossed timber figure that was dressed and stuffed to give it volume. If you have never made a scarecrow before, you have a real treat in store.

How to make a simple scarecrow

What you need:

- Two pieces of timber, one slightly longer than the other.
- Nails or screws and string or wire.
- An old pillow case, tights or a small flour bag for the head.
- Needle and thread or stapler.
- Straw, or other material for stuffing.
- Clothes, from a local charity shop or your wardrobe!

Building your scarecrow

Attach the two pieces of timber to form a cross. Make sure that the arms are not too long for a shirt or jacket to be put on later.

If you are using stockings for the head, cut off the legs and put one inside the other for extra strength. Stuff it in the shape of a head.

Tie the head loosely at the neck end. Paint a face on with acrylic paint or permanent marker, or stitch features with wool or thread.

Slide the head onto the short end of the vertical pole, then attach to the body by tying with string or wire. An old football, gourds, or cut out discs could also be used for heads.

From here, use your creativity. Drape any clothing onto the poles, stuff and tie off at the wrist, ankles and waist. Attach strands of wool, straw or other fibre under a hat. Tie gloves to the outstretched ends of the crossbar... and above all, remember to enjoy and have fun!!