**Ideas for Making Your Scarecrow**

Here are some handy hints gathered from various sources that may help to make your award winning creation. There are also plenty of sites on the Internet to help you.

1. The Head:
There are many ways to make a head but whatever you do, it works best with an aperture so the 'backbone' stick can go right up into the top of the head. Here are some suggestions:

Large plastic bottle e.g. 6pt milk container. If covered in a white plastic bag it can then have the features simply applied with a permanent marker pen. It can also be covered with a stocking and some stuffing added to give shape, features can then be stitched or glued on..

Paper mache heads can be made applying paper pieces and glue onto a blown up balloon. When dry it can be painted then eventually lacquered to protect from weather.

Stuff an old pillowcase or canvas bag with rags, or cut a hole in an old football.

**2, Frame & Positioning**
Scarecrows can stand, sit, or hang. The frame you choose will depend on the position you need. If your scarecrow will be sitting you can just use a 'Backbone' pole to link torso and head. If you want it standing it may need a frame with a base to which you can lash the scarecrow. Or you may just opt for the traditional 'T' pole and stick it in the ground. Any water resistant material will do for your frame: old fence posts, bamboo, PVC pipe, etc. Cut the tall piece the size you want the completed scarecrow to be and cut the secondary crossing piece to proportion. Put the two pieces together on the ground as a cross, and connect with tape, criss-crossing back and forth between the cross joints until the connection is firm. Shape and structure can be made using wire mesh such as chicken wire.

**3.Clothes**
This is when you can bring your scarecrow to life and add real personality! The clothes will probably be stuffed to give your basic shape; long sleeves give arms, and tights or trousers the legs, gloves for hands and shoes for feet. Traditionally scarecrows are stuffed with straw but there are plenty of alternatives - newspapers, old rags, plastic bags etc. If you put your stuffing into polythene bags and then stuff your scarecrow it will last better against the weather.