

Green Space Ranger Service

AUTUMN IS HERE



Knowsley Council

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It is a lovely time of year to take a walk through the park and enjoy the smells and colours that greet you. Why not listen to the birds singing or watch out for squirrels burying their nuts for the winter?



WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

We have been really busy making sure our parks are clean and safe for you to use. We regularly patrol the park and report anything of concern to be dealt with. We also make sure that we feed some of our wildlife and birds who may be struggling a little at this time of year. We have been building habitats for our hedgehog friends who, at this time of year, are getting ready to hibernate for the winter. Autumn is one of our most colourful times of year in our parks with the leaves turning all kinds of yellows, reds and orange with some bushes and trees producing brightly coloured berries and fruits for the squirrels and birds to enjoy.



CRAFTY AUTUMN

To help you get the most out of this lovely season, the Knowsley Green Space Ranger Team have produced some fun ideas for you to take part in. They include going outdoors to forage for materials you will need to make some of the craft activities.

We hope you enjoy the wide range of activities we have put together and would love to hear from you and see some of your designs.

Why not get in touch



by tweeting us [@knowsleyparks](https://twitter.com/knowsleyparks)



or emailing us at dns.sustainability@knowsley.gov.uk



We hope you have lots and fun and remember to stay safe. We hope to see you soon. Karen, Louisa, Gordon and Paul....
The Knowsley Green Space Ranger Team.



COLOURING PASTA

WHAT YOU NEED

Pasta – all shapes and sizes

Food colouring

Vinegar – preferably white vinegar but normal brown vinegar can be used

A small bowl

A sealed container to mix it all in, for example a Ziplock bag or a plastic container

INSTRUCTIONS

Pour your pasta into a container that has a tight-fitting lid.

1. Add colour

In a small bowl, mix a dollop of food colouring with a teaspoon of vinegar. This helps to disperse the colour evenly over the pasta. The more food colouring you use, the more vibrant your colours will be.

2. Shake

Place the lid on (make sure it's tight!), and let your little ones shake it like crazy!

3. Check colour coverage

Pop the lid off to check the coverage. If your colour isn't evenly distributed, sprinkle with another teaspoon of vinegar. Don't worry if your pasta looks wet or soggy. It will dry quickly. The smell of vinegar will also dissipate as it dries.

4. Dry your Pasta

Pour on to a baking tray and set in a warm sunny place to dry. It may only require a couple of hours beside the fireplace to dry. Depending on the temperature of your home, you may need to let your pasta dry overnight.

5. Store

Dry, dyed pasta will store indefinitely in a sealed container such as a plastic food storage container or a large glass jar.

Now you can let your imagination run wild and make things with your pasta like:

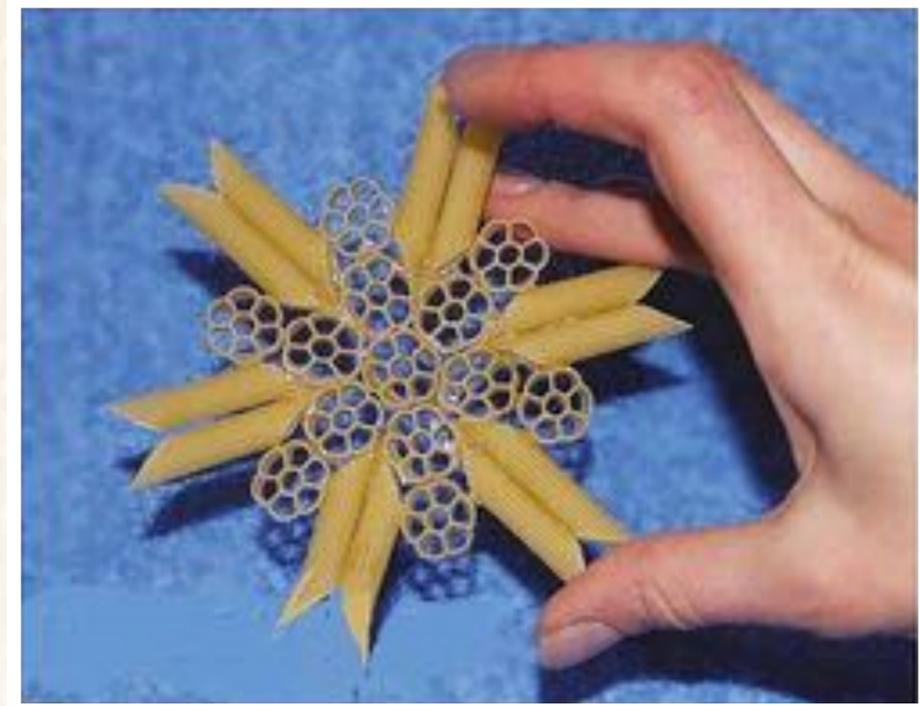
Pasta butterfly



Pasta Christmas ornaments



Pasta snowflake

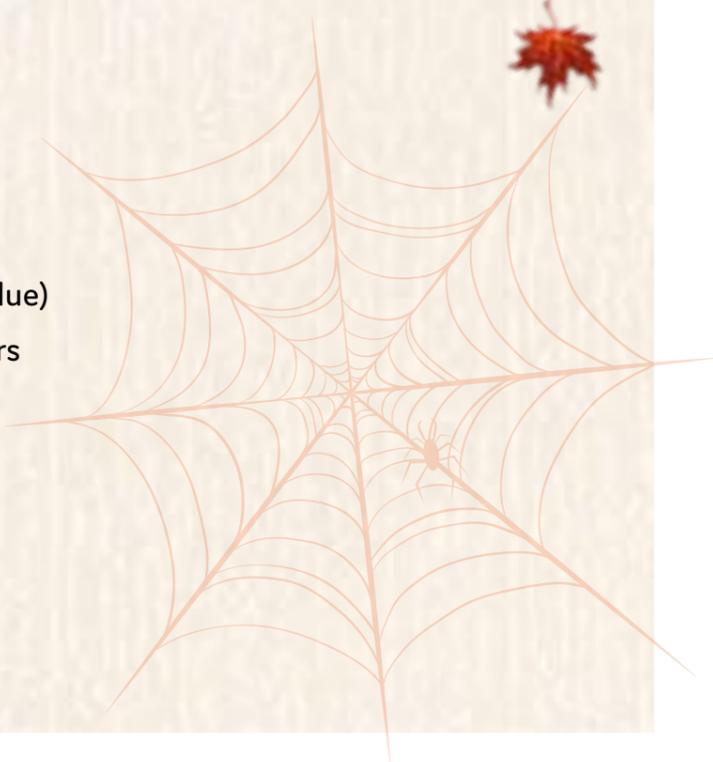




CONKER SPIDERWEBS

WHAT YOU NEED

- Conkers
- A long length of wool or string
- Glue (either a glue stick or paper glue)
- Cocktail sticks or Barbeque skewers
- A thick needle
- Scissors



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Insert eight toothpicks or barbecue skewers around a conker, you may find it easier to make a hole first using a thick needle.
2. You can spread a small amount of the glue over the toothpicks sticking out of the conker, this can stop the wool slipping when you weave it around, making for a neater spider web. If you find that the wool is not slipping you can skip this part.
3. Then tie the wool in a knot snugly around one of the sticks pressing it close to the conker and weave the wool round each stick, going fully round each stick once, keep it as taught as possible and continue doing this but leave a gap between each of the rounds, so it looks like a web.
4. When you get to the end, tie a small knot round the last stick you get to and leave a length of wool available so you can hang it up, and there you have your cobweb!
5. Hang them up indoors or in your garden.





LEAF PEOPLE



WHAT YOU NEED

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Toilet rolls or kitchen rolls | Glue |
| Leaves | Googly eyes |
| Twigs or pipe cleaners | Felt tips |
| Pebbles/bark/buttons | Coloured paper |

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Glue the leaf to the top of the cardboard tube.
2. Then stick and glue the sticks/pipe cleaners in place.
3. Glue bark/pebbles/buttons or draw them in place if children young.
4. Then glue the googly eyes onto the leaf or draw with felt tips if children young.
5. Make different people to make a family. Use coloured paper to decorate the cardboard tubes to make them look different.



LEAF BUTTERFLY

WHAT YOU NEED

- | | |
|---------------------|--------|
| Sticks | Leaves |
| Crayons/chalk/paint | Paper |
| Glue | |

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Decorate your leaves with different patterns with your crayons/chalk or paint.
2. Arrange the leaves as wings and place the stick as the body.
3. When happy with your butterfly stick it to a piece of paper.





LEAF RUBBING

WHAT YOU NEED

Different leaves of various shapes and sizes
Paper (thin white)
Crayons (all colours)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Collect leaves. Collect leaves of various shapes and sizes.
2. Position a leaf on a hard surface or card. Stick leaf down if it starts to move. Place the leaf with its bottom facing up.
3. Place paper over the leaf. Put a piece of paper preferably thin or lightweight paper.
4. Rub a crayon over the entire leaf.
5. Remove the leaf.
6. Repeat with different leaves in different areas of your paper until full.



AUTUMN WIND CATCHER

WHAT YOU NEED

1 Long twig
4-5 Autumnal leaves
Brown string

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Grab your twig and place horizontally in front of you on the table.
2. Use the string to tie your leaves to your twig at various lengths.
3. Cut a 10cm piece of string and create a loop to form a handle.
4. Tie both ends of your handle to secure in place.



MAKE YOUR OWN LEAF LANTERN

WHAT YOU NEED

1 Jam jar, or you can reuse a spent scented candle jar or glass. Take the old candle out by sticking a butter knife into the candle. This should split it and the pieces will fall out when tipped upside down

1 LED tea light candle. Don't use real candles as they are a fire risk. Using an LED candle means you can put the lid on your jar without the candle going out

PVA glue. This can be bought cheaply from any discount shop or supermarket

Paint brush

Leaves of different shapes and sizes

Why not have a walk to your local park to look for fallen leaves or have a look around your garden



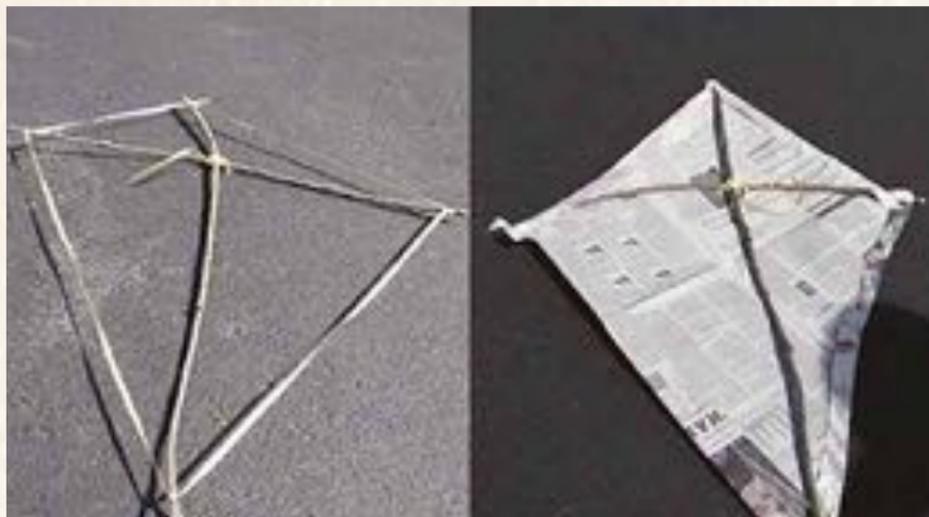
INSTRUCTIONS

1. Start by painting the inside of the jar with a thin glaze of PVA glue.

PVA glue dries clear and leaves a frosted appearance to the glass so make sure you paint the whole jar and not just where you intend to stick the leaves. It's tempting to apply a thick layer at this point but it's better to apply a thin layer so that it dries quicker, you can add more glue to the leaves you are sticking down if you need to. The less glue is better otherwise there is too much slip on the leaves and they become much fiddlier to apply.

2. Allow the glue to dry slightly so that it becomes tacky on the glass before applying the leaves. Paper thin leaves will stick nicely to this thin layer but if you're using thicker waxier leaves that aren't as dry, apply a thin layer to the leaf and allow to become tacky before sticking to the glass.
3. Stick the bigger leaves on first in a random order and you can fill the gaps in between with smaller leaves or layer with different coloured bigger leaves.
4. If you are layering the leaves make sure you have applied a thin coat of PVA to the outside of the leaf you want to stick down. Once you have applied all your leaves, use the paintbrush to brush down any corners so that they dry against the glass.
5. The glue should be dry in 24 hours.

You can make a leaf lantern for every season. If you want to change your design, just wash your jar out with warm soapy water, the glues will wash off and you can start a brand new creation.



MAKE YOUR OWN KITE AND GO FLY IT!

WHAT YOU NEED

Newspaper

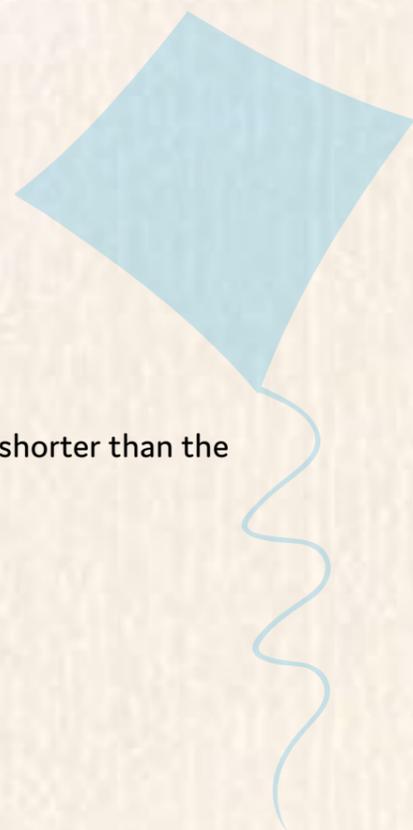
String or ribbon

Glue

2 straight sticks about 2-3 feet long, one slightly shorter than the other

Craft knife or small knife to cut into wood

Different coloured leaves to decorate your kite

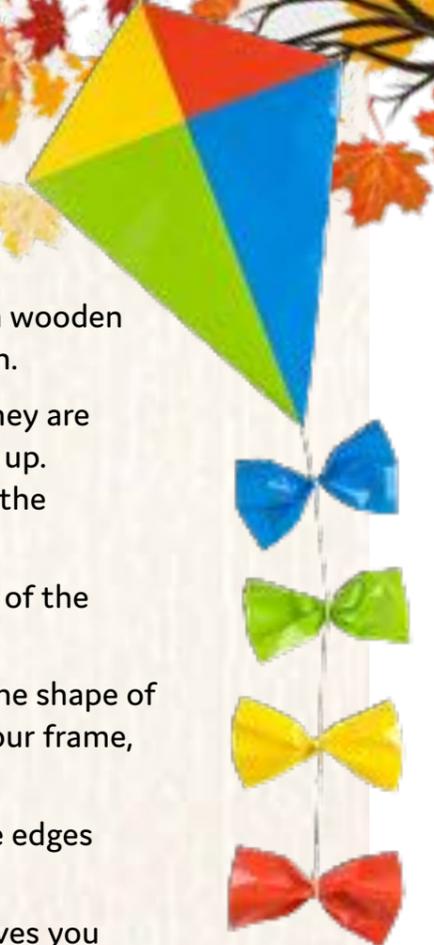
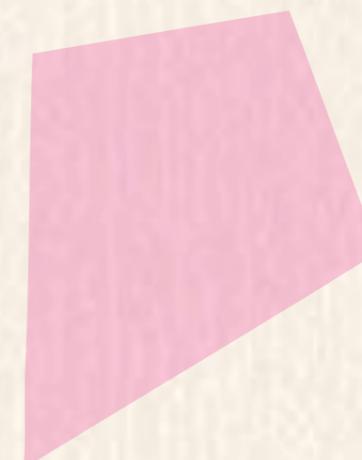


INSTRUCTIONS

1. Carefully carve a small notch into both ends of each wooden stick. The notches must be cut in the same direction.
2. Take the string and tie the sticks at the centre, so they are shaped like a cross. Make sure the notches are lined up. The horizontal stick should be slightly shorter than the vertical stick.
3. String your string into the notches around the ends of the sticks.
4. Unfold the newspaper and cut a pattern to match the shape of the kite frame. Make it an inch or two larger than your frame, all the way around, so you can fold the edges over.
5. Spread the newspaper over the stick frame, fold the edges over the string, and glue them in place.
6. Once the glue is dry decorate your kite with the leaves you have collected (make sure the leaves are dry before you do this).
7. Tie a long string to the kite where the sticks cross.
8. Now, it's time to fly the kite! Ask your child to observe how the wind affects the kite.

Why not use your kite to find out which direction the wind is blowing?

Safety! DO NOT fly your kite near electricity pylons or during a lightning storm.





USEFUL WEBSITES

Knowsley Safari Park

https://www.knowsleysafariexperience.co.uk/?utm_source=search&utm_medium=MAG_PPC&utm_campaign=things&utm_term=resad&gclid=EAlaIQobChMlu872oZKn7AIVkt_tCh3T4AKwEAMYASAAEgKuQvD_BwE

Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside
Wildlife Trusts

https://www.lancswt.org.uk/things-to-do-in-your-area?gclid=EAlaIQobChMlj8HI8pKn7AIVDLdtChoqZQI-EAAYBCAAEgIZ6_D_BwE

Star Gazing – Star Charts

<https://www.space.com/30999-look-up-autumn-stargazing-sky.html>

Local information and activities

<https://www.knowsleynews.co.uk/>

Woodland Trust

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2019/08/first-signs-of-autumn/>

The Mersey Forest

<https://www.merseyforest.org.uk/>

The National Trust - Walks

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lists/best-walks-for-autumn-highlights>



THANK YOU

We hope you have enjoyed taking part in our activities but would love to hear from you too so please send us some amazing Autumn photos at dns.sustainability@knowsley.gov.uk

We are always around looking after our lovely parks and nature so please let us know if you find something interesting or there is something you want to know.

We hope to see you all soon.

From the Knowsley Green Space Rangers -
Karen, Louisa, Gordon and Paul.

