

# Summer Crafts



Using natural materials in  
creative projects



# Summer Crafts



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# Summer Crafts



## Introduction

This booklet is based on ideas presented at a seminar run by Julie White of Growing Rural Enterprise Ltd.

Julie is a trained florist but you don't need all her skills to have a go at these simple activities.

You can plan a day's workshop or you can spend half an hour on one project—whatever time is available. Once you have the basic materials, these activities are a good standby to use on a rainy day or when you have finished everything else earlier than planned!

A chance to be creative can reveal all sorts of talents amongst adults and children alike. Even if you don't think you are artistic, being engrossed in one of these activities can be very relaxing—or stimulating!

Once you have had a go, you'll be proud of what you've achieved and wonder what else you can go on to do. Give your groups an opportunity to experience this by carrying out some of the simple activities described here.



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## Materials to use

To complete all these projects you will need some bought items and others which you or your group/class can find or gather as part of the activity. Decide in advance which projects you will tackle as you won't need all the items unless you are doing all of the projects! Buying in bulk is cheaper and leaves you with a good stock ready for next time.

### **Bought items (available from florist wholesalers –search the internet)**

Raffia	Essential oils
Ribbon	Oasis
Small terracotta pots	Florists' tape
Willow balls	Willow balls
Small galvanised pots	Dried wheat
Artificial berries	Cut or dried flowers
Cinnamon sticks, spices	Orrisroot
Florists' wire	Cellophane bags or jars
Wire wreath rings	

### **Gathered and found items**

Ivy/Laurel/Bay/Other evergreen leaves  
Twigs  
Willow  
Cones  
Flower petals e.g. pansies, roses  
Honeysuckle  
Moss

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## Topiary pots

Gather evergreen leaves—each person needs about 10/15 leaves

Recycle carrier bags/bin liners and cut to line a small plant pot

Add a piece of soaked oasis

Add the leaves fanning from the centre and pin in place with bent wire or pins

Bend a piece of wire and fasten in the centre a willow ball (bought or made)

Make a raffia bow (wind raffia round your fingers, slip it off and tie it in the middle. Spread out to make a bow shape)

Decorate further or admire its simplicity!



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## Wheat pots

**Wheat needs to be soaked to make it pliable**

Recycle carrier bags/bin liners and cut to line a plant pot

Add a piece of soaked oasis

Cut the wheat at a slant to a length which allows it to stand upright in your chosen pot and push the stems through the oasis. Add more stems to create your desired effect

Add heads of fresh (or dried) flowers around the rim of the pot, keeping a small piece of stem to push into the oasis

Decorate with raffia or ribbon bows



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## Buttonholes

Take 5 heads of wheat and place them in a fan shape

Fasten the stems together tightly with wire

Cover the wire with tape

Make a bow with raffia or ribbon and tie onto the buttonhole



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## Wall hangings

Take several stalks of wheat and bunch them together, taking note of where the “pinch point” is where you will tie them.

Tie the stalks tightly using tape. The ears will automatically fan out

Add wire to make a hanging loop and fasten around the stems.

Make a raffia bow by wrapping the raffia several times around your hand, slipping it off and tying round the middle with another length of raffia. Let the ends dangle to add interest





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## Scented hay rings

Pull a bundle of hay into smaller clumps. Roll each clump tightly into a sausage shape

Overlap the 'sausages' to fit around a wire wreath ring

Use a reel of wire and work all round the ring (through the middle and over the rim each time) fastening the hay in place.

Before cutting off the wire, make a secure hanging loop

Tidy the hay ring a little by snipping off untidy ends

Pin the end of a length of ribbon to the ring

Wind the ribbon around the hay ring. You can cover as much or as little of the ring as your creative flair demands!

Make a ribbon bow and fasten this onto the ring

Finally, add a few drops of essential oils to the hay and hang it up to admire!



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## Bird's Nest rings

Follow exactly the same process as for the scented hay ring

Use ribbon or raffia to wrap around the hay ring

Fasten the end of the ribbon in place with tape

Use greenery, honeysuckle etc to build up a 'nest-like' ring

Add feathers, moss etc



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## Pot pourri

These materials need to be collected in advance of the activity

Pick colourful flower petals when they are in full bloom

You can use all kinds of flowers but pansies and roses are recommended

Spread out the petals on a tray and place them somewhere warm and dark to dry

Turn them occasionally to make sure they are dried on all sides

You can introduce spices, seeds etc for both visual effect and to add fragrance

You need a fixative such as orrisroot (check suppliers on the internet)

Add a few drops of essential oils in your chosen fragrance

Package the pot pourri into small cellophane bags (such as those sold for greetings cards) or in airtight jars

Decorate the bags or jars with raffia bows



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**Pride in our work**



# Summer Crafts



## Selling your work

If you choose to develop a mini enterprise and sell your work, your group/class will develop a multitude of different skills including:

- Marketing
- IT
- Working as a team
- Financial management
- Customer service

Where can you sell your work?

- In the school playground at the end of the day
- At a school fair or open day
- At a farmers' market or craft fair

Do not be tempted to sell your goods too cheaply. Work out how much the items have cost to make in terms of outlay plus manpower! (As a guide, a topiary pot costs just over £1 in materials so we were advised to use a selling price of £2.99)

You can plough back your profits into the enterprise to buy more materials; or add to school/organisation funds; or use to fund a farm visit or other project.

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## Growing Rural Enterprise

This Summer Crafts seminar was organised by FACE member Julie White of Growing Rural Enterprise.

The vision of the organisation is

- To deliver innovative and meaningful learning opportunities for rural businesses
- To inspire and make a difference to rural businesses, building confidence, knowledge and skills

What Growing Rural Enterprise does:

- Runs courses & workshops for rural business
- Offers one to one coaching, mentoring and advice
- Manages and delivers externally funded projects which help rural businesses to start, develop and grow
- Works with partners to improve the rural economy, business sustainability and viability
- Manages trans-national projects that inspire those running rural businesses and shares good practice with European partners

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