14. ADDER LANTERNS

INTRODUCTION

The most exciting large-scale creative activity for Adders are Amazing! was the evening lantern parade on St David’s Airfield. We made a giant adder and smaller triangular paper lanterns with Year 5 school children from local schools for an amazing dramatic night of story-telling. You could run a similar family event to raise awareness of adders in your area.

MATERIALS:

- Eight willow withies (See ‘Resources’ for all suppliers)
- Four large sheets of white, wet-strength tissue paper
- One large sheet of black wet-strength tissue paper
- Masking tape
- PVA glue – watered down 2 parts water to 1 part glue
- Waterproof table coverings
- Black sharpie marker
- Large paint brush
- Small LED candle or push light
- Wire and bamboo (if carrying)

MAKE IT!

1 Use the masking tape to tape the withies into four pairs, each roughly 1.5m long.

2 With one pair, make four kinks / bends 30cm apart. Overlap and tape the ends together to make a square. Repeat to make a smaller square (bends 18cm apart).

Credit to our project artist Emily Laurens, who designed and made ‘Gwiber’. Instructions are also provided by Musgrove Willows, our recommended suppliers.
MAKE IT!

3. Make the two remaining pairs of withies into a cross and join with tape. Place the cross over the large square and tape the corners of the square onto the cross.

4. Bend the ends of the extended withies at the four corners and gather up to a single point. Tape and trim the ends.

5. Tape the smaller square roughly half way up the inside of the pyramid you have created – to give added strength.

6. To cover the lantern in tissue paper, cut roughly triangular sheets for the sides, slightly bigger than the actual sides of the lantern.

7. Cover the tissue paper with the watered-down PVA. Stretch gently over the frame. Repeat on all sides and cut to size for the base. Leave a window for putting in the LED candle from below.

8. Using the black tissue paper or colour of your choice, cut out adder shapes and stick to the lantern. Add details, when dry, with a black marker (Sharpie) or felt pen. Add poems/words describing adders. Add a wire loop and stick to top if carrying. Add LED candle / light inside base.