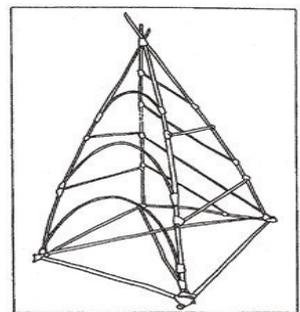


SHEPTON MALLET
lantern festival
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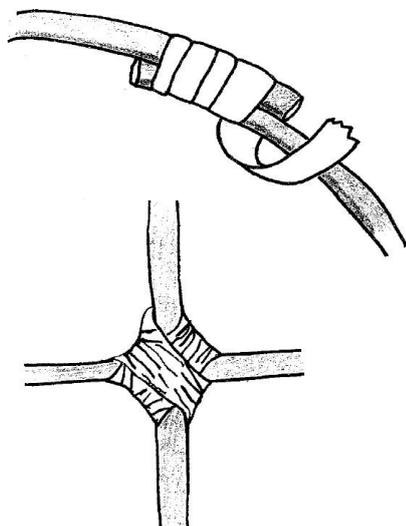
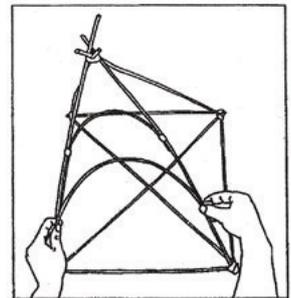
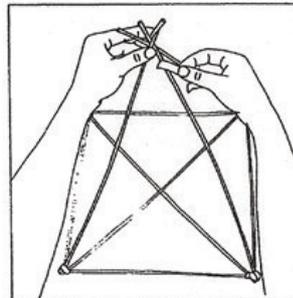
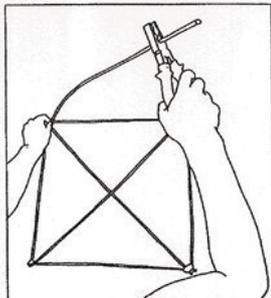
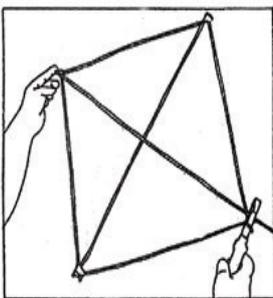
A procession through town with brightly coloured lanterns of all shapes and sizes makes for a fabulous community event, lighting up the winter nights before Christmas. Making the lanterns is also great fun, imaginative and it's not hard to get stunning results.

The first thing to think of is the finished shape - a pyramid is a great one to start with and you will find enough willow and tissue paper to make one from our basic pack, but there are other shapes on our website.



Before you begin take a moment to roughly plan on a piece of paper how the finished lantern will look.

Start with a square for the base - construct the basic shapes from the thickest willow then add the thinner pieces for strength, cross bars and decoration.

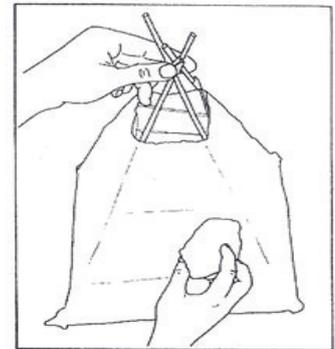
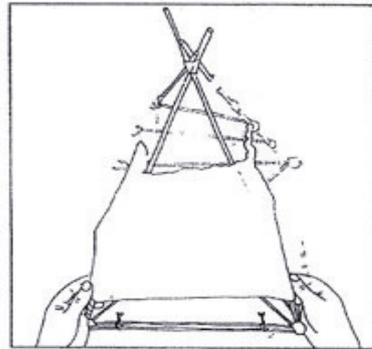
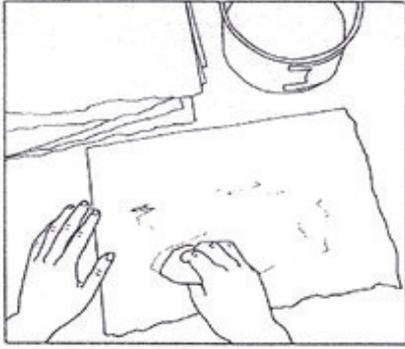


All the bits will be fixed in place using masking tape - if you're not sure if a joint is going to hold, just use more tape - it will all be hidden by the paper!

The joints must be well wrapped and the tape firmly smoothed into place. Give it a wiggle and check it feels sturdy!

The thinner pieces of willow can also be used for added patterns and decorations. Try to use plenty of cross struts so that the tissue paper will be supported.

Feel free to improvise - there's no right or wrong way

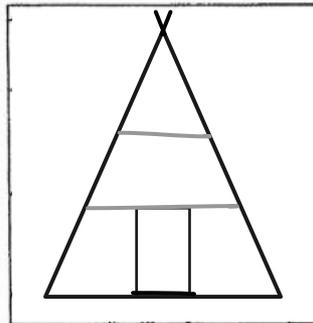


Cut tissue paper slightly bigger than the size of the panel you want to cover - for the best results cover only one section at a time, and don't overlap too much. Brush or sponge PVA glue (diluted 1:1 with water) over the tissue paper until it is all soaked.

When the tissue paper is wet carefully wrap around your chosen section and secure around the willow by overlapping and smoothing down with a brush or a sponge. The tissue paper will dry smooth and tight.

Once you've created your shape, think about where you will place your light (battery-powered LED lights - no candles). You will need access to turn them on and off and change batteries, so make a hidden opening - a flap or hinged door.

To do this you can carefully cut out a simple flap on three sides of a square leaving the top side still attached. You can secure the bottom edge with a piece of masking tape, or weight it down with a willow strut.



If you want to make a separate door you can make a willow frame to cover the opening and paper it with two layers of tissue paper for strength. Then wire it to a strut on the lantern so that it hinges open.



Wire or tape your lights inside the lantern, then fix a wire loop to the top which can be attached to your cane for hanging.

Time to decorate! You can add silhouette shapes for detail, coloured tissue paper or even tinsel and lights on the outside - just use your imagination and have fun! Time for a parade!!

If you get stuck, need advice or supplies then drop in to one of our workshops and we will be only too happy to help - all the details are on our website, and extra materials will be available for a limited period at Dredge and Male in town.

We really hope you will enjoy making your lanterns and will come along and join us at this wonderful community festival in the heart of Shepton Mallet.

*This guide has been produced with the assistance of:
Bella Crafts www.bellacrafts.co.uk, Welfare State International www.welfare-state.org and
Liskerrett Community Centre www.liskerrett.co.uk, Jacqueline Rolls www.jaxarts.co.uk*

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