

Banner Making Tips and Ideas

This is a great time of year to use natural materials because there is so much colour in the bare stems of shrubs and plants as well as all the variety of colour in the autumn leaves that are falling just for you!

There are plenty of shrubs that produce long flexible stems that can be used to weave into a banner.

Here are a few common garden and hedgerow shrubs and climbers:

- Willow
- Hazel
- Dogwood
- Ivy
- Honeysuckle
- Clematis
- Privet
- Fruit tree pruning
- Blackberry
- Cotoneaster
- Snowberry

- Choose long slim stems
- Test for flexibility by wrapping around your wrist to see if the stem breaks
- Remove the prickles from bramble and rose by wearing a thick pair of leather gloves. Grip the stem firmly in one hand and then pull it quickly through your grip with the other hand - all the prickles will come off!

Other biodegradable materials you can use to make your banner:

- Cardboard
- Newspaper
- Paper
- Basketmakers Tissue Paper
- Feathers
- Sheeps wool
- Clay
- Bark
- String
- Flour and Water Glue



A selection of Natural Materials
Clematis, Chestnut leaves, Wood Rush, Dogwood, Blackberry



Banner made from a circle of maple stems, sisal string and sheeps wool

CAUTION!

Always ask the landowners permission when taking materials from hedges or wild places.



Banner made from collage of hazel and bramble leaves on cardboard, using flour and water glue, with pigeon feathers and cedar leaf

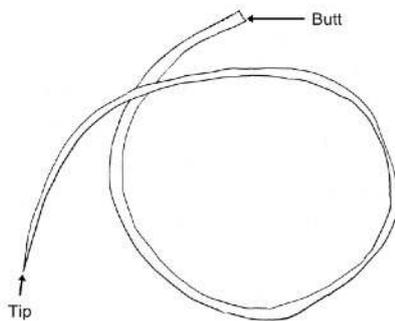
Flour and water glue is great to use for your banners. It is totally natural and biodegradable. It is easy and cheap to make at home.

Flour and Water Glue Recipe

- Flour
- Water
- Pinch of salt
- A bowl
- Stirrer

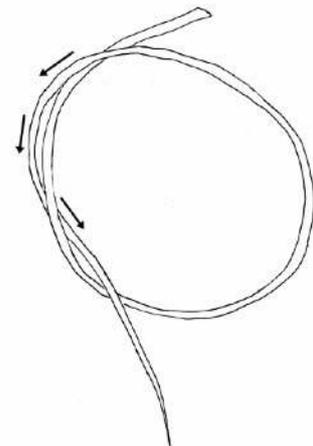
Put 4 tablespoons flour in bowl add 2 tablespoons of water and stir, add a pinch of salt. The mixture should be thick but still runny. You will need to use it straight away before it dries out.

How to make a circle with your stems

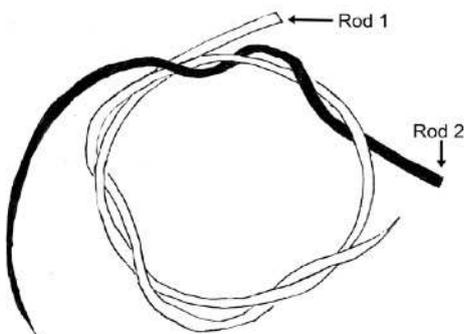


1) Take a stem and bend it into a circle keeping the butt short and the tip long

2) Hold the circle you have made in one hand and carefully wrap the tip around and around the circle until the full length is used up



3) Take a 2nd rod and start to weave it in around the circle. Keep adding in more rods until you have the thickness you



like. Make sure the butt ends are evenly spaced around the circle. Once you have woven in a few stems the circle will be strong and flexible enough for you to push it into shape.

4) Cut off all the ends that are sticking out.



Banner made from willow circle with woven rush infill and rosehips



Banner made from circles of willow, bramble and field maple with sisal



Banner made from strong tissue paper, in a willow and blackberry frame, painted with clay using sycamore leaves as stencils

Making Paint with Clay

If you are lucky enough to have clayey soil you can dig up clay in your garden to make clay paint.

- Mix it in a jar with water and sieve it to remove all the bits and pieces.
- Adjust the water level as necessary. Clay should be wet enough to stick to a paint brush and go smoothly onto paper, but not so wet that it runs off.
- If you do not have access to clay in your garden you can use raw earthenware pottery clay, dissolved in water.

Have Fun Making Your Banner for Ancient Trees!

Take a photo of your banner and post it on twitter or instagram #bannersforancients or post it on our facebook page NatureBftB.

Bring your banner to the Art Event at Moccas Park on 2nd December - **Booking essential** contact bannersforancienttrees@gmail.com to book your place or for more information.

Check out the links on the webpage to find out more about the amazing species that rely on ancient trees.