

## Make A Spooky Lantern

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Lanterns are used to cast a warm, magical glow; perfect for special festivals such as Halloween. If you want to try something different from the traditional Jack-o-Lantern, why not have a go at making a spooky lantern using willow and silk tissue paper. What's more, it's really easy to do, looks stunning and you can keep your lantern for next year's Halloween celebrations, too.

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### Hallowe'en and the Tradition of Lanterns

In the times of Celtic Britain, the change in the year was marked at the end of the harvest, the end of "season of the sun" (summer). The last day of the old year was 31st October, and the event was marked with a festival called Samhain (pronounced 'sow-in').

The Celts believed that the long dark nights of winter brought evil spirits and that, on the night of October 31st, the barriers between our world and the spirit world were at their weakest and so spirits were most likely to be seen. To celebrate, the Celts wore masks and costumes to disguise themselves as ghosts and ghouls so they could talk to the spirit world. Torches and lanterns were hung so the spirits of dead relatives could find their way in the darkness and a feast was laid out for them.

Traditionally they also built bonfires on that night to frighten away the evil spirits, to bring comfort to the souls in purgatory, and they feasted and danced around the fires.

In 835 AD, the Roman Catholic church adopted November 1st as All Saint's Day (also known as All Hallows Day) and, with the Christian belief that goodwill always conquers evil, and that Jesus, the light of the World, defeats all the fear of darkness, it is no coincidence that the All Hallows Feast began on the evening of October 31st, when the Celts were already seeing off the evil spirits with fires, candles and lanterns. Hence the new name for the festival "Eve of all Hallows" or Hallowe'en.

Also on the day following All Hallows Day (2nd November) the church celebrates All Souls day, the day when all the dead are remembered, tying in further with the Celtic traditions of contact between this world and the spirit world.

And remember, it is said that if a candle flickers on Hallowe'en night, it is being touched by the spirit of our dead ancestors.

### FURTHER STEPS:

Many towns organise lantern processions in which the whole community is involved. It is a magical experience to see a river of light moving through the streets at night. These processions can celebrate a local event, the changing seasons or support a charity. Check with your regional Tourist Office to find out if any lantern processions are planned in your area and try to join in. Some annual events of interest are:

- Ogden Water Halloween Event – An annual night-time walk which last year attracted almost 1600 ghouls, witches and wizards. See out Out & About feature for more information.

- Padiham Lantern Festival – held to kick off the town's Christmas festivities. Starts with a procession through the town and ends in a firework display.
- Ulverston Lantern Procession – will take place on September 15th this year. Individuals and families work together in the weeks coming up to the procession, creating ever more complex lanterns.

Visit: [www.ulverston.net](http://www.ulverston.net)

- Howarth Torchlight Weekend – Held on an early Sunday in December, this traditional lantern parade is part of a weekend of Christmas celebrations.

### YOU WILL NEED:

- ★ Small bunch of sticks or twigs – withies (willow twigs) from a florist are ideal
- ★ Masking tape
- ★ Secateurs
- ★ Scissors
- ★ Sheets of Mulberry paper (hand-made silk tissue paper) – from craft suppliers
- ★ PVA glue and brush
- ★ Plastic sheet – to cover work surface
- ★ Battery-operated T-light (available at garden centres or online companies)
- ★ String or yarn to make a hanger

### CRAFTY TIPS:

- ★ Use Mulberry paper (silk tissue paper) as it has a good wet strength and can be stretched over a withie framework without tearing.
- ★ Experiment with different shaped frames; square, circular or half-moon, for example.
- ★ Pre-soak willow sticks (withies) for several hours beforehand to shape your lantern. Be safe – use a battery operated T-light.
- ★ Most give a flickering light similar to a candle. Add more than one T-light for an even brighter glow.

### HOW TO DO IT:

#### STEP 1.

Make a 3D frame for your lantern – a pyramid shape is an easy one to begin with. Cut four sticks the same length and tape them together at their thinner ends. Cut four smaller sticks for the base and secure together. Insert the base at the bottom of the pyramid and tape in place at the corners. Note: to make strong joints, apply tape across both directions.

#### STEP 2.

Cut a piece of silk tissue paper to cover the base. Trim the corners where the legs are. Paste into position and wrap the edges of the tissue around the sticks.

#### STEP 3.

Cut four triangles of silk tissue paper to fit the sides of the pyramid, allowing some overlap. Paste the pieces into position, wrapping the excess around the sticks until the entire frame has been covered. Leave to dry.

#### STEP 4.

Use any remaining silk tissue paper to decorate your lantern; cut silhouettes of bats, cats, witches, pumpkins, ghosts etc. Add some scary words too, such as spooky, boo, slimy, creepy and so on.

#### STEP 5.

Tie a hanger made from yarn or string to the top of your lantern.

#### STEP 6.

Cut a hole in the back panel of your lantern. Switch on the battery T-light and insert it through the hole. Tape the light to the base and watch your lantern glow.

#### STEP 7.

Make more lanterns. Form a family procession and carry your lanterns out into the night – let them light the way as you go 'trick or treat'. Afterwards, hang your lanterns in the porch or front room, and turn your home into a haunted house. Have a spooky Halloween!

