

God's eyes (or wands) with willow and yarn

Today you can:

- Have fun with dried willow sticks, yarn and anything you can attach to them.

About willow:

- It is a traditional material grown to make baskets and more.
- We grow it at Nightingale – as single 'trees, hedges or as the willow circle. From some plants, we tie-in, trim, harvest and coppice it each year.
- To be able to bend willow, it needs to be fresh 'in the green' or carefully resoaked.

About god's eyes:

- These have many names and have been made in many cultures, especially in the Americas, including in the 1960s. For secular purposes, they are used as decorations. And are just fun to make.

In the garden:

1. Decide what you'd like to make and ask a volunteer to cut with secateurs the right lengths of willow. You need at least two for god's eyes.
2. Help yourself to yarn – it is from a local charity shop and mainly acrylic. Contrasting colours look good.
3. For god's eyes, tie two sticks together with a double knot and then separate them. Use the same yarn or tie in another and wind it around the four sticks. There are at least two ways to wind the yarn and they give different effects. You can also wind the yarn around just one stick to give a covered 'spacer'. And for more complicated designs, you can attach extra sticks. Try making pompoms or tassels and tying them to the sticks. Add loops to hang them.
4. For wands: decide what you want to attach and just have fun!



Later...

1. To stop them sliding off, try adding some glue to any tassels or tied-on pompoms.
2. Try making really tiny god's eyes with toothpicks and embroidery thread.
3. Try different kinds of sticks.
4. Add beads or feathers.