



BOOKHAM BLUE HEARTS WILDFLOWER VERGES Guidance for Making Your Own Blue Hearts

This should be a fun activity and will unleash your creative skills! A great project for little ones too.

Suggest practising letters and bee, butterfly, flower images on paper first.

Hearts—ideally 6 mm marine ply or equivalent but you could recycle something you already have. Key thing is to make it weatherproof. Remember to treat the edges and also screw holes when attaching to stakes.

We have a supply of suitable **stakes** made of treated wood – no further treatment needed. Contact us on the email below.

Paints and decoration as follows:

1. **Outdoor quality paint** in a lightish blue. Options we have tried are

- *Matt finish*—Cuprinol 5316975 Garden Shades Exterior Woodcare, Cornflower—*does not need a separate primer, water-based and easy-to-use*
- *Gloss finish*—Paragon Enamel Paints BS4800 20-E-51 Cornflower blue / Corfu— *paint heart with a wood primer or coat of the Cuprinol Shades first*

2. **Acrylic paints for letters and pictures** of bees, butterflies, flowers etc – e.g. small packs of assorted colours such as <https://www.whsmith.co.uk/products/whsmith-acrylic-paints-12-ml-pack-of-12/0000034477618.html> but similar available from many suppliers. Or you could even use permanent marker pens.

3. Three light coats of **Clear Lacquer** (to seal over the finished heart including screwholes) e.g. Plasti-kote 1138 Super Clear spray or Rust-Oleum Crystal Clear Multi-Purpose Spray Paint Lacquer Coat Semi-Gloss. *We recommend first spraying a small test area on the back of the heart to make sure it does not mess up the paint.*

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