Make a bird box

mansfield museum

Mansfield District Council

A habitat is a natural home or environment which an animal lives in. You can encourage birds into your garden by making a bird box for them to nest in. Follow these instructions carefully and create your own bird box using recycled materials.

You will need: an empty cardboard juice/milk carton, scissors, selection of paints, paintbrushes, a lolly stick (or something similar), a sticky label or white paper, PVA glue or varnish, coloured paper/tissue paper is optional, string or ribbon.

Start by rinsing out the box, to make sure there is no milk or juice left inside. Then cut a hole on the side of the box, big enough for the bird to get in and out - you might need a grown up to help you.

Next paint your bird box a light colour, (white or magnolia), to give it an undercoat, so that you can't see the writing. Leave it to dry before painting it again in bright colours. Leave it to dry again.

Once it is dry, ask a grown up to remove the spout and cover this hole with a sticky label or piece of paper. Then decorate the bird box with paint or coloured paper.

Make a small hole just below the entrance to the bird box, and push in the lolly stick. This makes a little perch for birds to land on before going into the bird box. Then make a small hole at the top of the carton, and thread the string or ribbon through, tying a knot at the end. This is for hanging the bird box in a tree, or on a fence. If you wanted to, you could make a roof using lolly sticks or twigs.

You might like to give it a coat of PVA glue, or varnish, to seal the paint before putting it outside to help waterproof it.

The last stage is to hang it in a tree or on a fence, for the birds to enjoy.