

# Hastings Storytelling Festival

Patron, Sir Quentin Blake

## Build a Book Wagon



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 National Children's  
Carnival Week  
12th - 18th July 2021

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Matilda, by Roald Dahl, illustrated by Quentin Blake. Cart made by Peter Quinnell, Radiator Arts



James and the Giant Peach, by Roald Dahl, illustrated by Quentin Blake. Cart made by Jane Bruce, Radiator Arts



Fantastic Mr Fox, by Roald Dahl, illustrated by Tony Ross. Cart made by Mary Hooper, Radiator Arts





# Three ways to build book wagons for the parade.

These are just suggestions - you can make anything you like!

Try to make it reasonably weather-proof and give it as much height as possible without making it fall over too easily.

If it is going to be very wide or tall, it might have to be made in sections so that it can be stored, transported and get through doors!

You can adapt these ideas to what you have or can find.

If you have any questions, feel free to email Jane or Peter, The Radiator Arts people who made these examples.

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# Matilda, by Roald Dahl, illustrated by Quentin Blake **A book wagon from found materials**

By Peter Quinnell, Radiator Arts

This needs some tools and paints, but is quite easy and doesn't cost much! You can adapt these ideas to what you have or can find. Be careful with the tools - older kids can usually use these tools safely with supervision and the right protective goggles, etc. but you might prefer to get an adult to handle the power tools. Have fun!



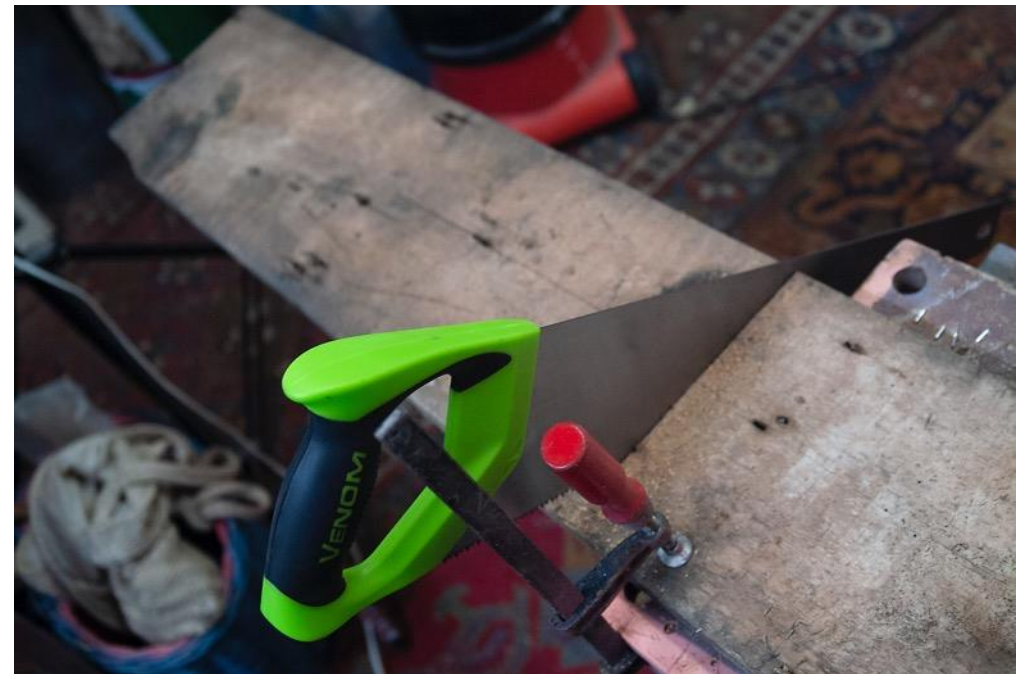




I found this pram base in a bin - ready made bases with wheels are good because they are usually stable and safe.



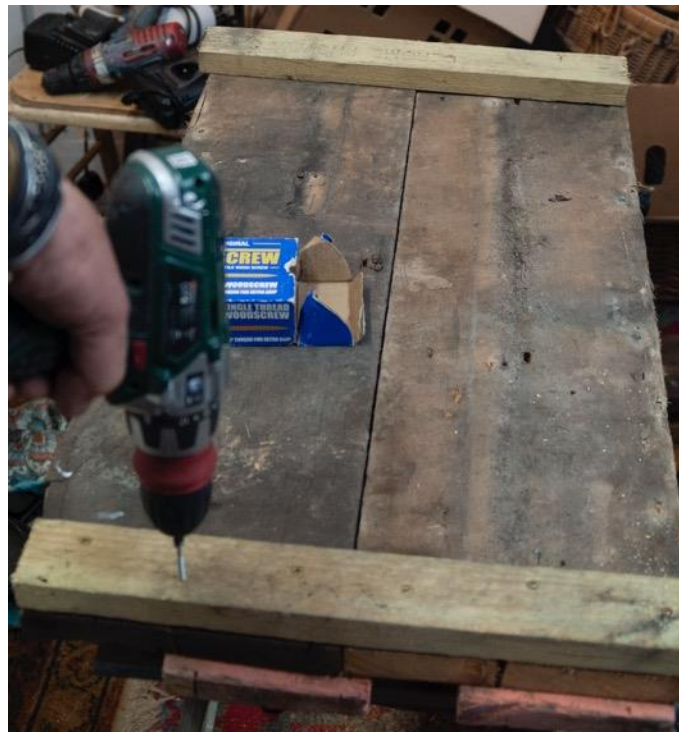




I found an old floorboard, measured and sawed two pieces the same, then joined them together to make to make a solid base.







Joining the base by screwing on some bits of roofing batten...



Then I turned the pram over and marked where to drill the fixing holes under the wooden base board.







I drilled holes where I had marked the board, and fixed it securely to the pram using cable ties; strong string or wire would be OK.







I found a picture of Matilda on the internet, printed it and traced it onto acetate, using a fine permanent marker - if you have a photocopier you could print it directly onto the acetate, but make sure it is made for laser printers or it might melt inside the machine!



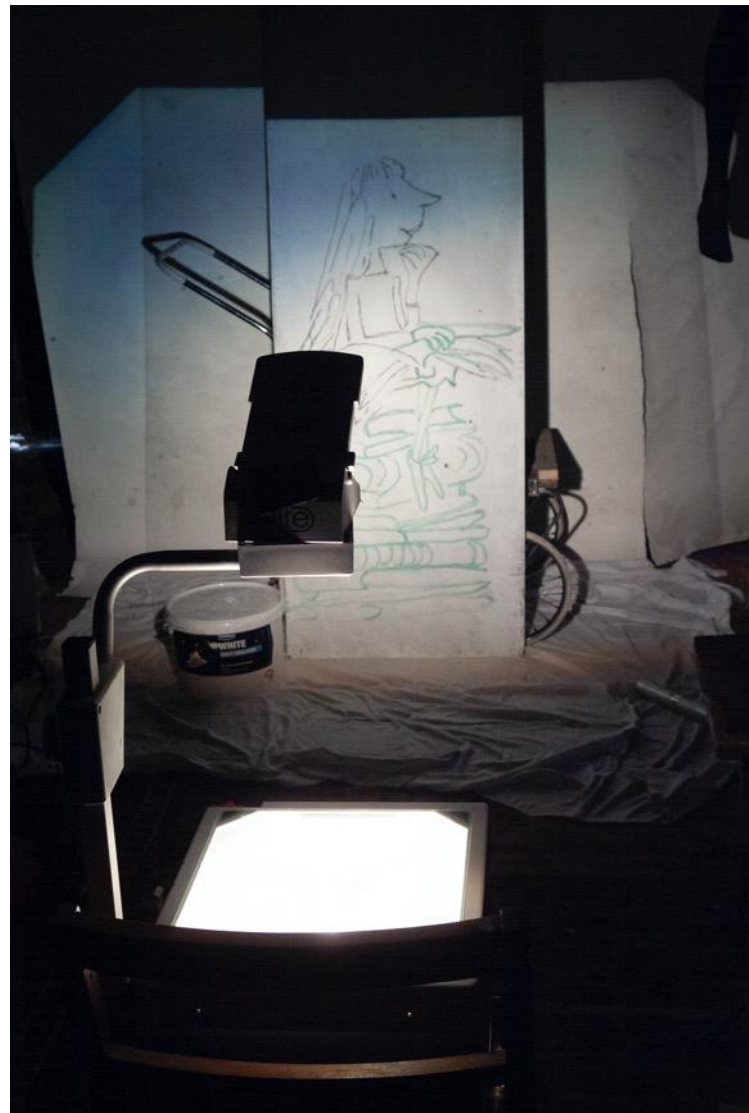
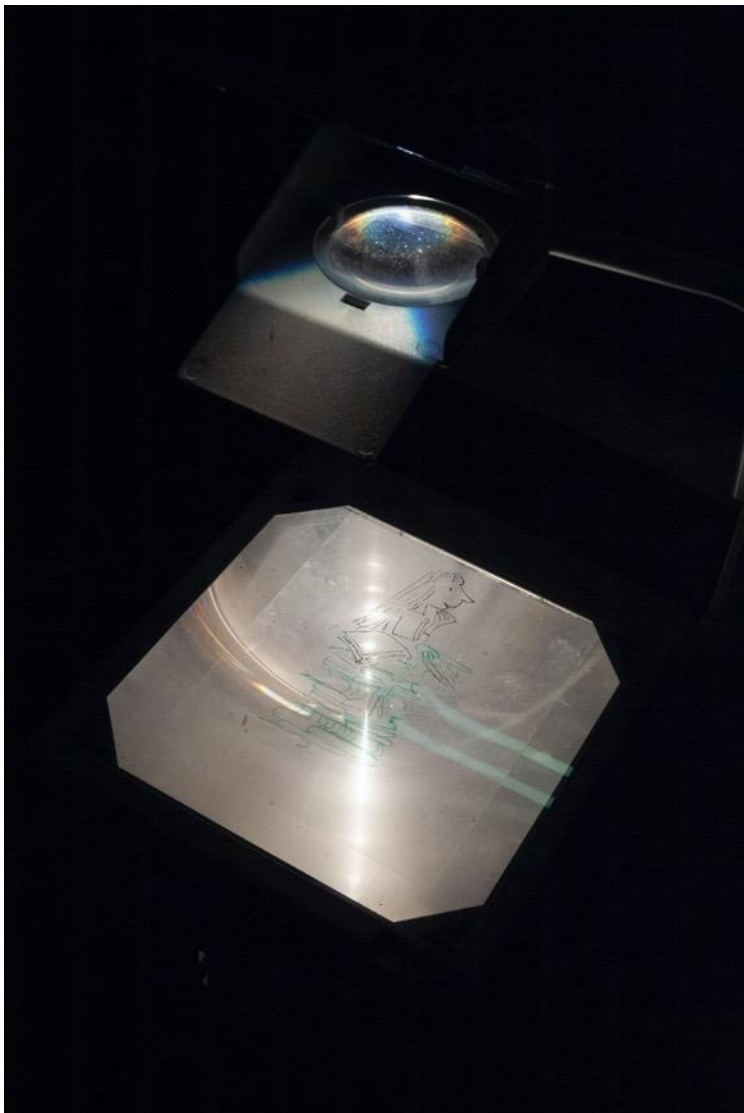




I found a bit of plywood and roughly painted it with white emulsion paint, on both sides. Emulsion or acrylic paints are best because they won't run if it rains on the parade. If you use washable paints, you can varnish it afterwards to make it rain-proof.



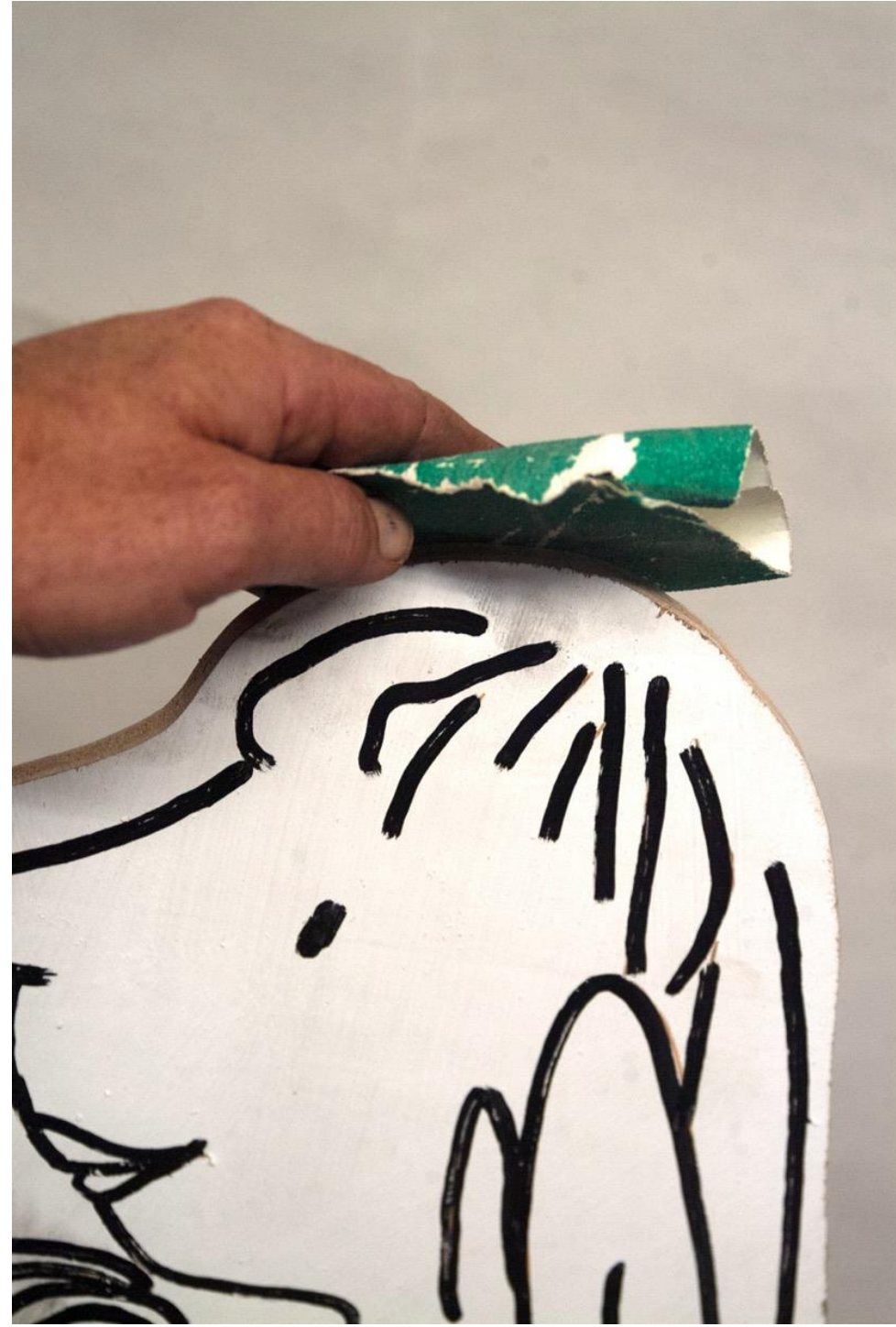




I projected my traced drawing onto the plywood using an old overhead projector and carefully drew over the image with a marker pen.  
If you have a digital projector, you could project the image directly from the computer without having to trace it first.  
If you have no projector, you'll have to draw it by hand - not too difficult if the original image is very simple...using a grid can be helpful.



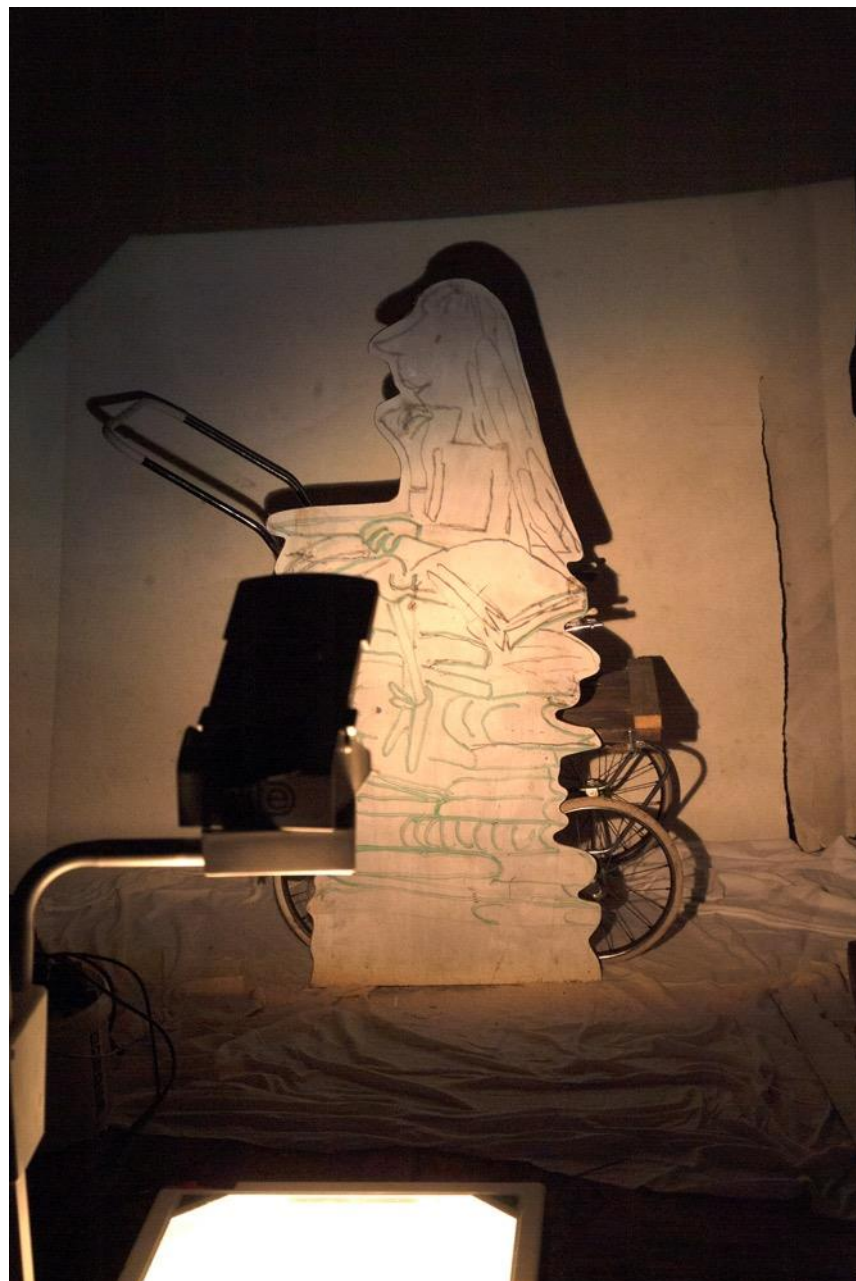




I cut out the drawing using an electric jig-saw, then smoothed the edges with sandpaper.







Then I turned over my acetate tracing, carefully lined up the projected image on the plywood shape, and drew Matilda on the other side.





I found some odd shelf brackets, and cut four pieces of batten big enough for the longest one.

It doesn't matter if they don't match!



I painted the batten pieces white, then screwed them to the bottom of the ply cut-out.



Then I screwed the brackets to the battens.







Next, I painted over the brackets and drew the lines of the Matilda drawing over them, so they wouldn't spoil the image.







I painted the drawing, using Quentin Blake's original illustration for reference. I used acrylic paints, which are waterproof when dry.



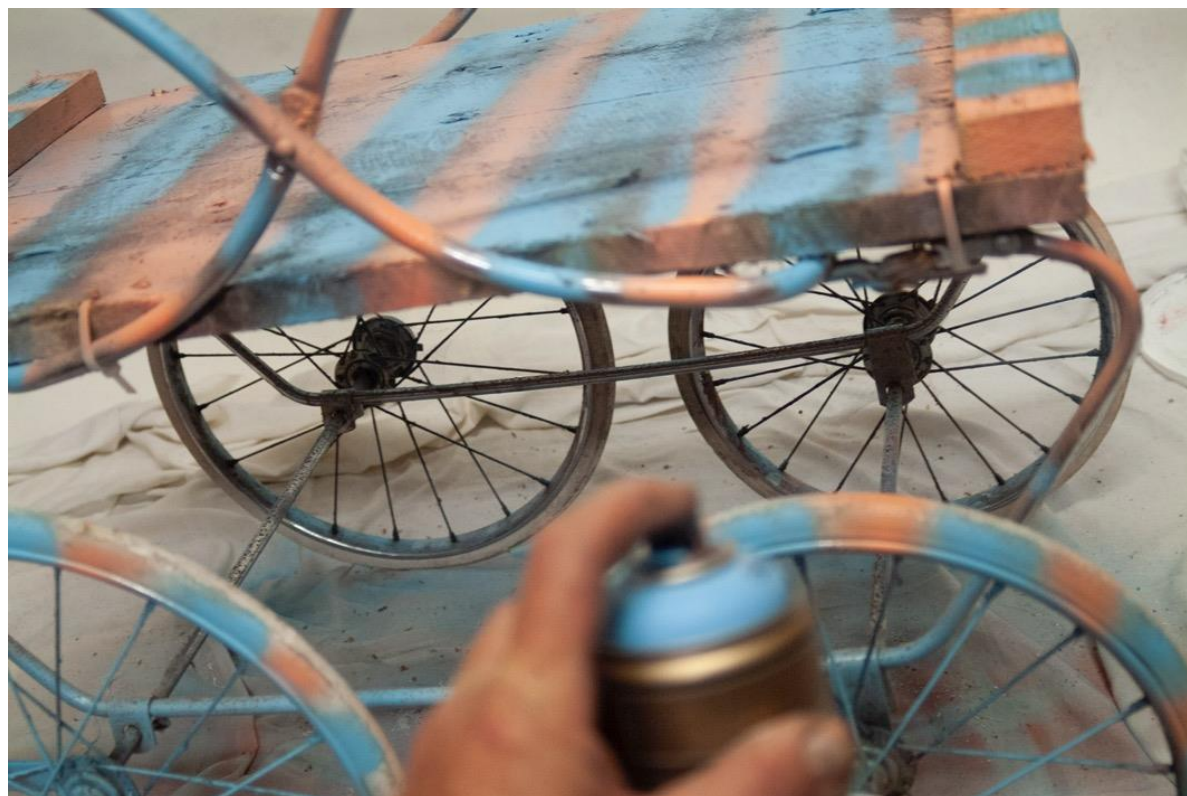
I painted right over the brackets and battens.







I used some leftover spray paints to decorate the pram frame and base board; you could use coloured tape, cloth wrapped and tied on, tinsel... whatever you fancy and whatever you can find.



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Next I screwed the brackets to the base board - nearly done!



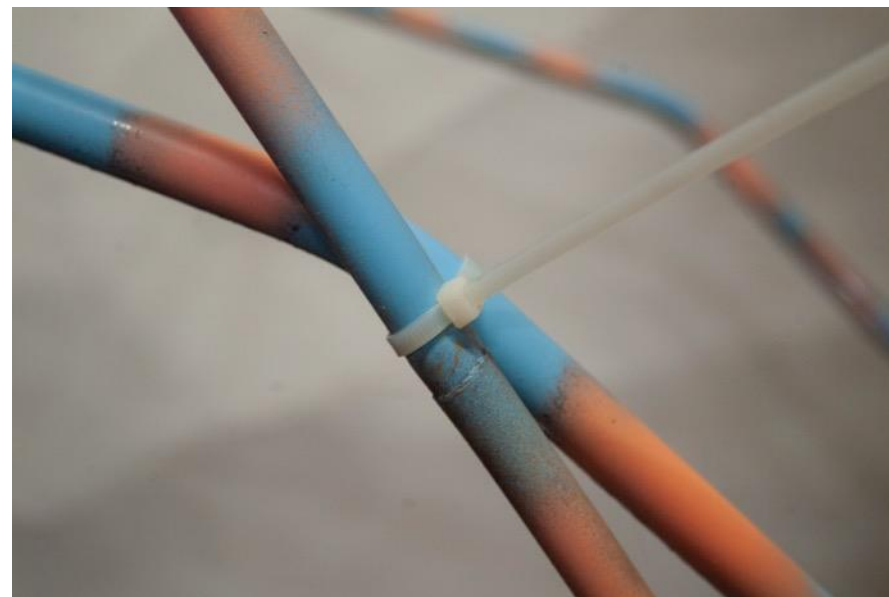




I made some flags from an old sheet







...and some flagpoles from garden bamboo canes. It is really good to add flags and other tall but light weight elements to your wagon, so it can be seen above the crowds on the parade. Make sure it will fit out of the door, though! The tall bits could be detachable to make it easier to transport and store.







Finished! There is room to put your favourite real books at the bottom, which is nice!



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# James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl, illustrated by Quentin Blake

## **A book wagon from found & purchased materials**

By Jane Bruce, Radiator Arts

This needs some tools, paints, wheels and willow. It is not too difficult and costs about £50 . Use the basic techniques to develop your own book ideas.

Be careful with the tools - older kids can usually use these tools safely with supervision and the right protective goggles, etc. but you might prefer to get an adult to handle the power tools. We hope you enjoy making your wagon!



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I found an old pallet and bought 4 swivel wheels [one with a brake], which I screwed onto the base of the pallet.



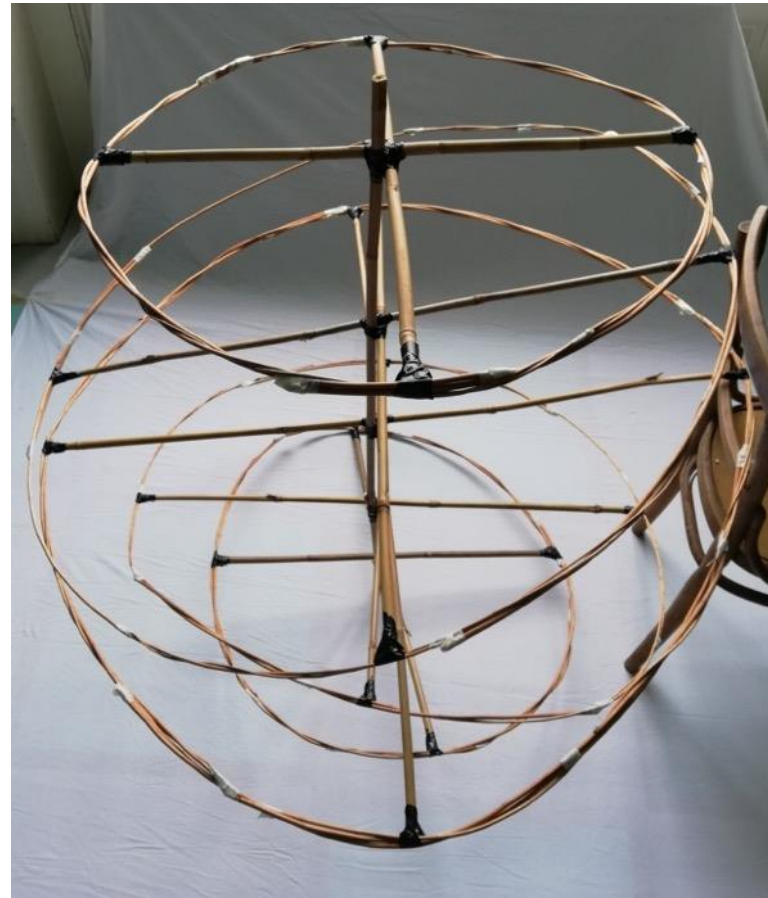




I used an old sun umbrella stand for the central pole support, tied firmly to the pallet with good rope.







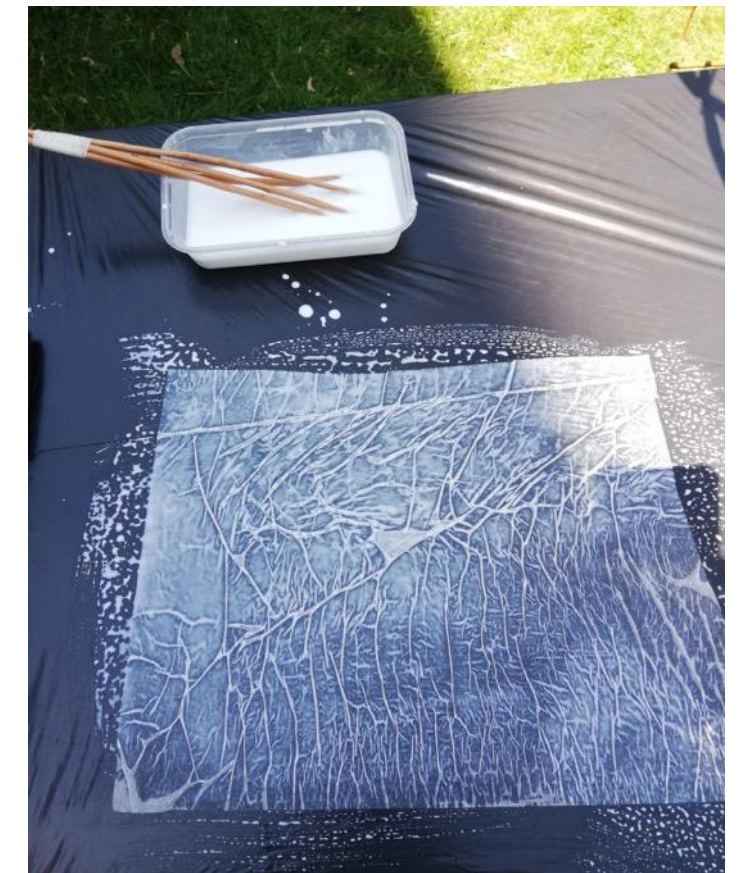
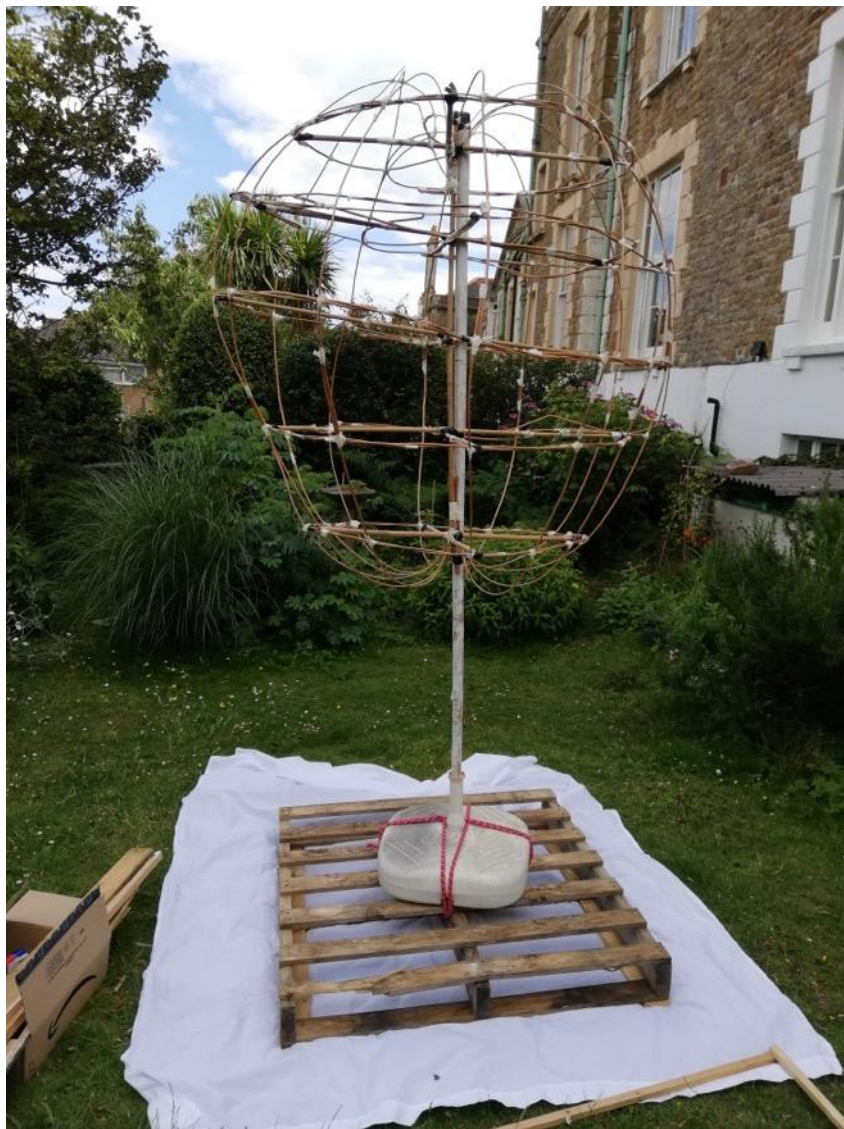
I used willow withies to make the peach, first making circles of various sizes joined with masking tape, with a bamboo cross in their centres attached with duct/gaffer tape. I joined the circles together with a central bamboo cut to a little larger than I wanted the final peach to end up as.

I then built the peach up drawing the shape with willow.

Check that your makes fit through the doors of where you are working!







The willow peach was attached to a large bamboo pole to test the height and shape.

I then covered it in white wet strength tissue paper using waterproof PVA mixed 50% with water.

*These materials can be supplied by us or we can give you the supplier's contact details.*







Using the same glue mix, I painted it onto the dry white tissue and applied the coloured tissue to it, giving it another coat of glue on the top. This prevents the colour running in the rain.



Tearing the tissue rather than cutting it and layering the colours makes it rich and luminescent.







As the whole thing needs to be made in parts for easy transport and storage, I have used cardboard tubes [with the bottoms closed with tape], cable tied and taped to the inside of the peach with the tops level with the surface. It is better to use plastic plumbing pipe for this if you have some available.

The characters can be inserted into these tubes then taped in place.

*The large bamboo is put into the peach right to the top and is cable tied and taped at the bottom and top to the smaller bamboo that I built the peach around.*







I copied Quentin's drawing of James on to some card, cut out a pair and painted them. I then taped a bamboo to the back of one then glued and stapled the other on the back.

I did the same for the birds but instead of bamboo I used a withy stick as it was thinner and looked more like rope.

When the birds were done I taped the base of the 3 willows together so they could go in the same tube.







Placing the Characters onto the peach by inserting the bamboo into the tubes I had attached inside. Once in place, I taped them to stop them from turning around.



The peach was then ready to be placed onto the base. I also taped the large bamboo to the Umbrella holder to prevent movement. I attached a couple of guy ropes from the pole down to the base to add to the stability.





I made a frame the width of the pallet with bamboo and gaffer tape and then cut a cardboard shape to cover it.

It was painted white, then with the sea using acrylic paint as it is water resistant.

I repeated this for all sides.

In windy conditions holes would be needed to be cut in the cardboard to help with resistance.







To attach the sea panels to the base, I marked where the bamboos needed to be on the pallet and drilled holes large enough for them to fit through.



As two fixings are needed to hold the bamboos in place, I cut three pieces of wood and drilled the same size holes in them. I then glued these pieces onto the lower level of the pallet so they corresponded to the holes above.







To attach the frame simply push the bamboo legs down into both the corresponding holes.



I then marked the frame onto the back of the cardboard and strengthened the back and front with extra tape at those points. Making holes in the cardboard first, I cable tied and taped the board on.



Painting over the tape strengthening points on the front.







Finally I added 2 screw eyes to the front of the pallet and tied on a good length of rope to pull the wagon with.

These ideas are just starting points.  
There are many other things you could make.

Supermarket trolleys, garden trailers - almost anything with wheels could be used.

Once you have decided on your books and have some ideas we are there to advise if you need some help.

We are looking forward to seeing them all.



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# Fantastic Fox Bookcart



This cart is made from recycled materials and is a prototype for a making method which can be adapted to your own ideas.

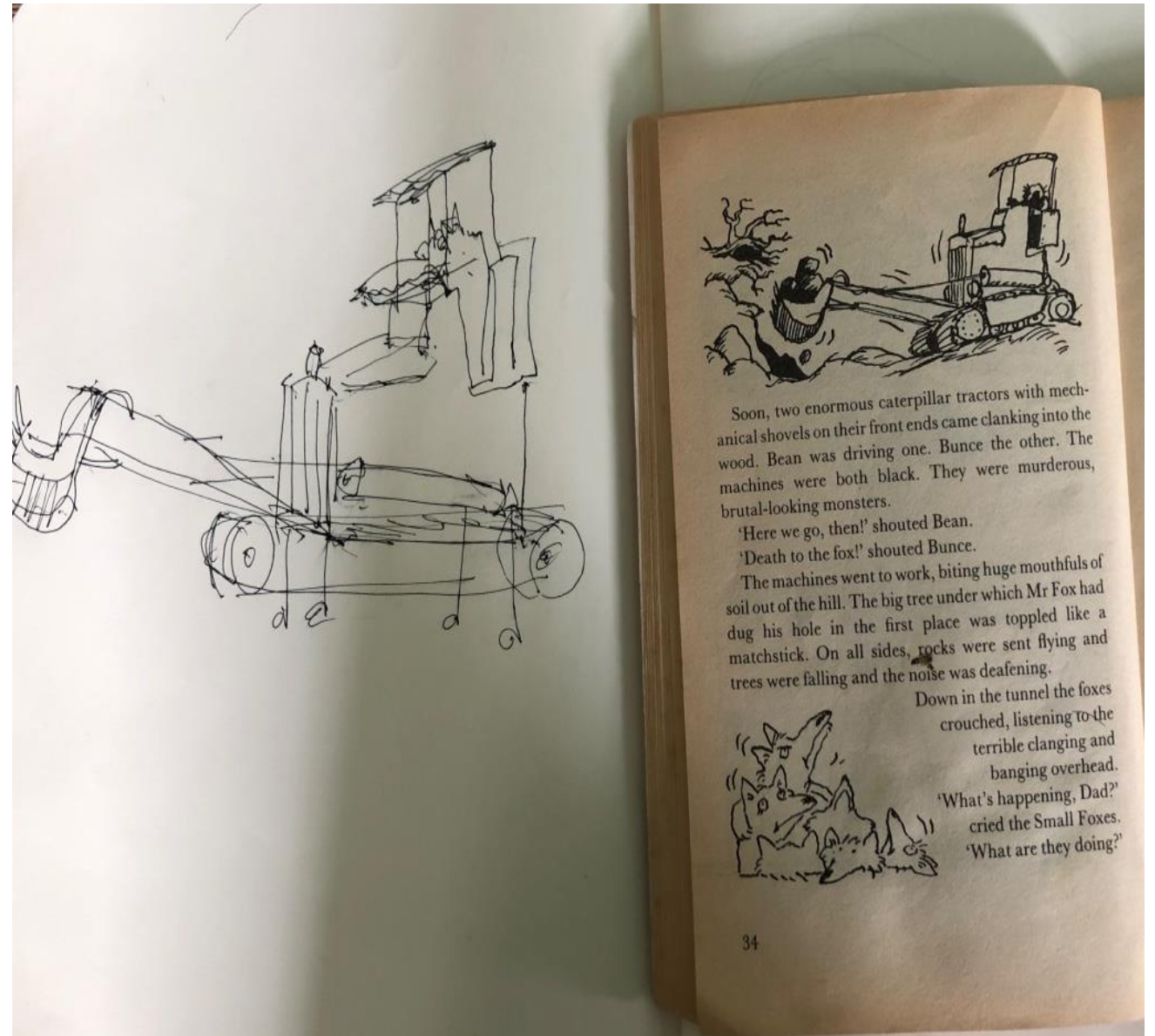
By Mary Hooper, Radiator Arts





My inspiration is taken from Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl with illustrations by Tony Ross. This book belongs to my son (who is now 35!) and I found it in my bookshelves when looking for inspiration.

I love Tony Ross's drawings, they are full of energy and with a few lines he describes what he is drawing perfectly. I chose the image of the digger as I thought it fitted the theme of the cart perfectly.



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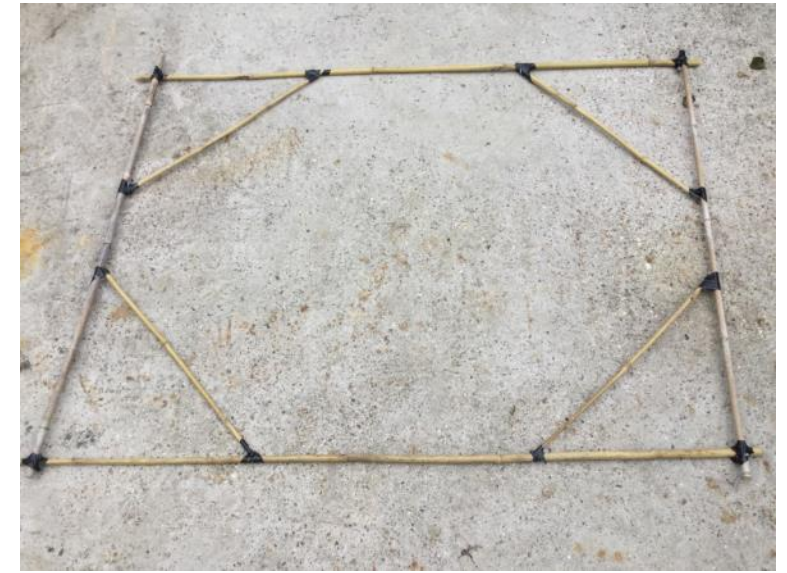
# Materials

Bamboo, fret saw, tape measure, gaffa tape, cable ties, cardboard sheets, braddle, broken walking aid, marker pen, glue gun, paint.





# Starting



Make a bamboo cage around the walking aid, adding cross struts to make it strong and stable, fix with cable ties strengthened with gaffer tape.





# Building the frame





# Fixing the frame

Add bamboo cross pieces to across the frame of the walking aid fixing them securely to the frame of the cart.

Add lengths of bamboo to the cart to support the cross pieces which will strengthen the structure. Check that the wheels are not obstructed and it can move along freely.



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# Details of Fixings



Detail of cross pieces of bamboo across the frame of the walking aid, fixed with cable ties and finish with gaffa tape.





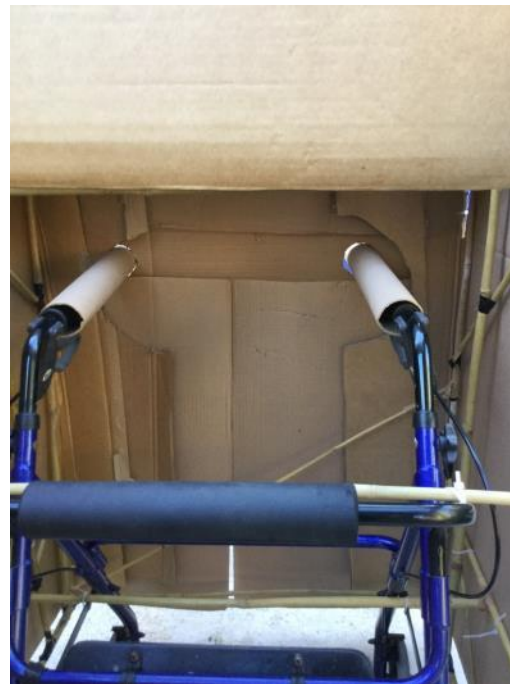
# Adding the Cardboard cladding

You will need large pieces of thick strong cardboard from which you can cut out cladding for your bamboo frame. Large flattened boxes from retailers can be sourced easily. Cut simple shapes to fix to the frame and cut to shape when in place. You will need a sharp stanley knife for this. Fix onto the frame with cable ties, using a braddele to make holes to thread cable ties through.





# Taking Shape



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Gradually cover your frame leaving access to the inside so that you can make adjustments to the cladding and the frame and create holes for the cable ties. Check that the structure is stable and moves freely.



Above 3 images show the caterpillar track being made. It fixes onto the side at the end of the construction onto a cardboard bracket





# Caterpillar Track and bucket





# Spit and Polish, last steps



This slide shows the Digger finished. I have added a simple canopy out of cardboard, and some detailing with cardboard strips and the paint work. The caterpillar track is finished with corrugated cardboard. The bucket is made from cardboard and suspended on the bamboo poles and you could make giant card books to go inside it.

The handles to push the cart along are cardboard tubes slotted over the handles of the walking aid. The bucket pulley on the side is made from a cardboard tube with thick elastic cord threaded through it as a decorative detail. There is an exhaust pipe at the front and a flag pole at the back. The fox is made from cardboard and double faced with a spacer inside.

