

# Growing Orchard Communities

## COMMUNITY ORCHARD TOOLKIT



### Green Man Clay Faces

**Making Green Man faces from clay is a great activity for an outdoor Spring event.**

The Green Man is an ancient symbol of Spring, rebirth and fertility across Europe with a rich history and culture surrounding him. You won't need to look far to find traces of him, maybe in a pub name or even his face in your local church. If you want to know more there are plenty of great books on this well researched yet elusive subject.\* Mysterious he may be, but the Green Man is so clearly full of life, his face an image of Spring and people of all ages are likely to have heard of him.



#### **You will need:**

- Air drying clay or clay
- clay tools
- a cutting tool
- cardboard square
- inspiring images

#### **CLAY**

**Air drying clay** works well for an activity like this. It's easy to use and less sticky than clay - which can be useful if you're leading a workshop with numbers of people or very young children. Being air drying means that it doesn't need firing and will dry and last fairly well.

**Standard clay** (in its many forms) can be used, of course. It will break more easily when dry unless you're going to glaze and fire it, which is beyond the scope of this worksheet!

#### **CLAY TOOLS**

**Shop bought tools** are cheap and easy to come by for a selection of clay modelling tools. Try the internet.

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**Found tools** can be just as good. If this is something you might do annually then you can build up a small collection of: sticks, twigs, stones, knives, forks, spoons, poky things, pressy in things and pattern making things.

**A cutting tool** is a very useful item for your kit in order to slice off lumps of clay to give to your participants.

### CARDBOARD SQUARE

Prepare some squares from an old cardboard box.

**Make** the face on the board

**Take** it all home with you

One top tip is to give people just the right amount, and not more than they need. Doing that and confining the face to a cardboard square helps to focus people and encourage them to use what they have

### How to make Green Man Faces

It's pretty self explanatory!

Put out the above resources on a table.

Support people of any age or stage to make a green man face from clay on their cardboard square.

You could make them straight on to the bark of a tree

Take them home to decorate your orchard, garden or house.

**We have included some images that you can use as inspiration – you can find lots more on the web.**

\*A little book of The Green Man, Mike Harding. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green\\_Man](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_Man)

