



Cunning Murrell's Scarecrow Festival

Sunday 18TH 2022 September



Make your very own Scarecrow
FREE TO ENTER!

Children and families are invited to create their very own **Scarecrow** and take part in Cuning Murrell's Scarecrow Festival.

All entries will be displayed at both the **Hadleigh Harvest Festival** and **Cuning Murrell's Community Day** on Sunday 18th September, at **Hadleigh Old Fire Station**, and throughout the following week.

RULES OF ENTRY

Entry is **FREE**. Anyone can have a go, and families and other groups are strongly encouraged to work together. The best Scarecrows will be awarded rosettes.

All entries must be delivered to Hadleigh Old Fire Station (HOFS), on **SATURDAY** 17th September between 12.45pm and 1.45pm. *(In cases of particular difficulty, phone 07906 252 617)* Please tie a label on your Scarecrow to identify who helped make it (names, plus their ages if appropriate), and include your preferred contact details.

The Judging and Awards Ceremony will take place at HOFS at 12 o'clock midday on **SUNDAY** 18th September (after the **Hadleigh Harvest Festival** has concluded). All Scarecrows will be displayed until 4pm. Thereafter, if you wish to donate your scarecrow, it will be exhibited at HOFS until the Hadleigh ECO Fair (*Castle Point Climate Action Group*) on Sunday Sept 25th and thereafter offered to the Castle Point Community Allotment Project (and other local allotments) as a real-life bird scarer to help keep the crops safe!

Cuning Murrell's Community Day and Scarecrow Festival are promoted by The Hadleigh & Thundersley Community Archive with the active support of Hadleigh Old Fire Station and ACAVA



SOME COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- May I make more than one Scarecrow? *Yes (of course)*
- Is it really free to enter? *Yes (surprisingly, but yes it is)*
- Do I need to register? *Nope (let's keep it simple!)*
- Can I ask other people to help me? *Yes, by all means! (making a Scarecrow together is lots of fun, but just write all their names down on your label)*
- What if I'm not able to get my Scarecrow to HOFS on Saturday 17th September between 12.45pm and 1.45pm? *No problem. Just 'phone the organiser on 07906 252 617 (David) and arrange a Best Time to suit*
- So, is the judging the day AFTER? *Yes. Delivery on the Saturday and Judging on the Sunday*
- Can I keep my Scarecrow, if I don't want to donate it to be used as a real-life bird-scarer? *Yes. (Or you can make up your mind later, no problem)*

What is a Scarecrow?

Scarecrows, similar to Worzel Gummidge, used to be a familiar sight in fields back in Cuning Murrell's day. They were made from a few old stakes lashed together and were dressed with old clothes stuffed with straw. Large turnips (or mangold wurzels) were sometimes used as a head, or maybe a flour bag or old sack, and a battered hat would help create the illusion that someone was standing in the middle of the field to keep the birds away from the farmer's crops. Some of these scarecrows, as they flapped wildly on stormy nights, must have looked pretty scary for humans as well as for birds!

Who was Cuning Murrell?

Cuning James Murrell lived in Hadleigh about 200 years ago (near to where McDonald's now stands). He was notorious as a 'cunning man' and was widely respected for his alleged magical powers. He was famed for his healing powers and herbal remedies, and he was skilled in divining lost objects, astrology, clairvoyance, and the casting and breaking of witches' spells. Cuning Murrell is still remembered today, and you may be interested to know that at 12.15pm on Saturday September 17th, there will be a short ceremony in Endway, to unveil – in his special honour – Castle Point's very first Purple History Plaque.

The Scarecrow Scallywag Game

'Scarecrow Scallywag' is a bit like that other popular playground game, 'What's the Time, Mr Wolf?' and it used to be played regularly in the Hadleigh School playgrounds in the 'Olden Days'. It is played like this:

All the Crows chant at the back of the chosen Scarecrow, creeping ever nearer as they go:

*"Scarecrow Scallywag, can't scare a crow,
Just stands watching the turnips grow."*

Scarecrow, still facing the wall, calls back:

*"I may be a Scallywag, I may be slow
But I do know how to SCARE A CROW!"*

At which point the Scarecrow whips around and attempts to catch (or 'tag') the nearest or slowest Crow. When he succeeds they either swap places or, in a variant, the captured crow becomes another scarecrow.

Ideas for how to make a Scarecrow

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t-t-10769-make-your-own-scarecrow>



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