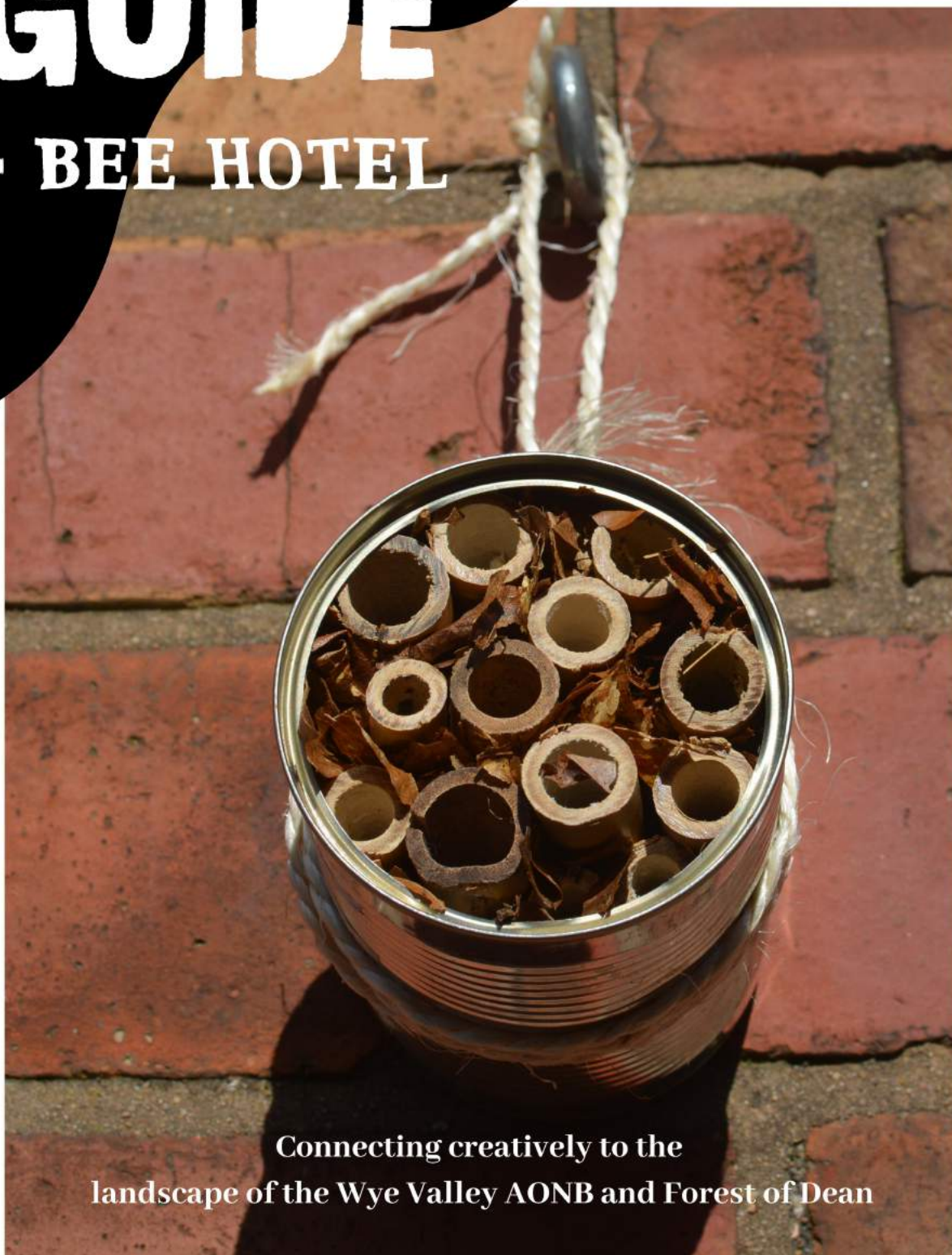


ACTIVITY GUIDE

- BEE HOTEL



Connecting creatively to the
landscape of the Wye Valley AONB and Forest of Dean

BEE HOTEL



Help the bees out this year by making them somewhere to stay in your garden. Using a simple tin can and some bamboo canes, along with a few other found objects for filling such as pine cones and leaves, you can make a comfortable and protective space for the bees and enhance your local eco-system.

Activity rating

All abilities but some help may be needed to cut the bamboo canes. **Take care of sharp edges around opening of can.**

Preparation time

Approx. 15 minutes to lay out the materials. A walk outside could be incorporated into the practical activity to pick up the pine cones, leaves etc. that are used as a filling in between the canes.

Time required for activity

30 minutes

Shopping list

- o Empty washed tin cans such as soup or baked bean cans.
- o Bamboo canes of various diameter sizes.
- o Mini hacksaw.
- o Hammer.
- o Some sort of pole/ metal rod capable of poking through the bamboo and removing the soft interior.
- o Natural string.
- o Leaves, small pine cones, seed pods etc.

BEE HOTEL



Step by step instructions

1. Cut several bamboo canes to just slightly under the length of the can (about 1cm) so when they are inside they do not poke out. You only need to cut enough to fill roughly 80% of the can.
2. Once cut to size, take your metal rod/sturdy knitting needle and poke it through the bamboo cane to remove as much of the soft inside as you can. You may wish to use a small hammer to help knock it through.
3. Place the different hollowed canes into the can and infill the gaps with the leaves and cones. You will know when you have enough because you will be able to turn it upside down without anything falling out, as it is wedged in nicely.
4. Tie some natural string around the can several times leaving enough to form a loop that can be used to hang your bug hotel from a nail or similar on the wall.

Top tip!

- When you place these in your garden/outdoor space it is best to situate them in direct sunlight and out of the rain as this will warm the hotel and encourage the bees to wake up and get to work!

