

# The Flyer



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## Barn Owls in Autumn - What do Barn Owls do Next?



Photo - Phillip Male



Photo - Phillip Male



Photo - Ben Mothershead

As Summer comes to an end and Autumn approaches, Barn Owl owlets have grown rapidly and are learning how to survive on their own.

By 10 weeks old Barn Owls start to learn how to catch their own prey. They begin 'play-hunting' and practice pouncing on anything in their local area that moves! By 12 weeks old they are beginning to rely less and less on their parents for food and are becoming more independent. They start to spend more time away from the nest and by 14 weeks old they are thinking about leaving to find their own home range. This is known as dispersal and usually takes place between August and November. The average dispersal distance for a young Barn Owl from the site where it hatched to it's new home range is 7.8km or 4.8 miles. This is the equivalent of travelling from London Zoo to the Tower of London. However, there have been some unusual reports of birds travelling as far as from the Highlands of Scotland to Pembrokeshire in Wales. This is a whopping 624 km or 388 miles.

Dispersal is a very dangerous time for young Barn Owls. Sadly, many die after being hit by cars, flying into power lines or falling into drinking troughs. Some die from hunger whilst they are trying to find their own home range. Only 1 out of every 3 young Barn Owls make it to the following year to rear their own owlets.



Reg Charity No: 299 835  
[www.barnowltrust.org.uk](http://www.barnowltrust.org.uk)

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# Autumn Scavenger Hunt

The new season brings changes to our natural world. Leaves on deciduous trees change colour and fall to the ground. Plants produce seeds, nuts and berries and animals begin to prepare for the winter months ahead.

Autumn is a beautiful time, full of colour. The perfect time to get outside! Can you spot any of the natural materials in the list below? You may wish to collect a few for your autumn art.



- An acorn**
- Some moss**
- A juicy fruit**
- A short stick**
- A pine cone**
- A blackberry**
- A prickly case**
- Five fallen leaves**
- A seed with wings**
- A plant that has died**

## GOLDEN RULES

Protect our environment. Only collect materials that have already fallen on the ground. Do not damage plants and trees.

Protect yourself. Some plants are poisonous. Do not collect something you do not recognise. Never eat something without permission and always wash your hands.

# Natural Owl Sculpture Competition

Use your natural materials to create an owl sculpture like the one in the photo below. Simply clear a spot on the ground somewhere outside or make it on top of a piece of paper if you prefer to create indoors. Follow our step-by-step guide, or use your imagination to create your own design using the objects you have collected.

1) Use a small round leaf as the head and a larger round leaf for the body. Place the leaves one above the other as show in the photo. We have used Hazel leaves in the example, but any similar shaped leaf will do.



2) Choose 3 things to make the eyes and beak for your owl and arrange them on the smaller leaf. We have used a beech nut for the beak and two seeds for the eyes.



4) To create the feet, use two winged seeds. Place a small stick beneath the feet as a branch for your owl to perch on.

3) Decorate the body of your owl with the natural materials you have collected. In the photo we have used dead bracken, pine cones and moss.

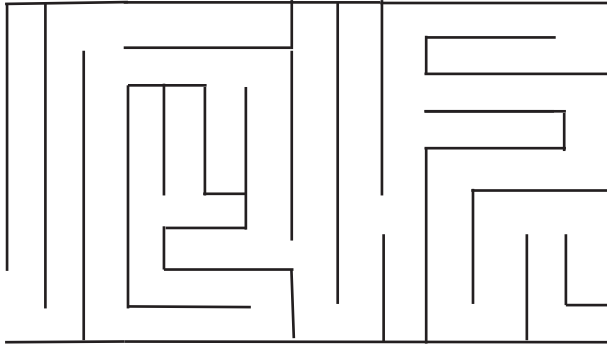
Take a photo of your creation and send it to us at [info@barnowltrust.org.uk](mailto:info@barnowltrust.org.uk). The best design will win a colouring card set and see their photo published in the next edition of 'The Flyer'.

True of False? answer - They are all correct!

# Owly Puzzles

## Magic Maze

Follow the maze to help the Barn Owl find his field vole prey.



## True or False

Read the following facts about owls below. Do you know which ones are true or false?

**BARN OWLS DO NOT HOOT, BUT INSTEAD MAKE A SOUND LIKE A SCREECH.**

**TAWNY OWLS ARE TERRITORIAL**

*Tawny Owls hoot and are often heard calling at night. The female usually makes the 'twit' and the male returns the call with the 'twoo'*

Both Tawny Owls and Barn Owls leave the nest to search for their own home range in the Autumn. This is called dispersal.

**BARN OWLS HAVE A HOME RANGE BUT DO NOT DEFEND IT AGAINST OTHER BARN OWLS.**