

NEWSLETTER

*Yorkshire in Bloom Village Gold Medal
Winners 2004,2007 and 2010
Britain in Bloom Silver Medallist 2005*

LUDDENDEN IN
BLOOM

HORTICULTURE
ENVIRONMENT
SUSTAINABILITY
COMMUNITY

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'Brew me a cup for a winter's night. For the wind howls loud and the furies fight; Spice it with love and stir it with care, and I'll toast our bright eyes, my sweetheart fair. ~ Minna Thomas Antrim – American Writer (1861-1950)



News from the village

This is the final newsletter on what has been an extraordinary year. We started with one of the worse winters in many years and one of the latest springs. Summer never quite lived up to expectations but nevertheless Luddenden has bloomed itself to success. We have now been approached by the Yorkshire in Bloom committee to see if we would once again like to take part in Britain in Bloom 2011. It did not take long for the bloomers to give a unanimous thumbs up to take Luddenden into the competition and we are now awaiting confirmation that our application has been accepted.. So the challenge will be on to see if we can achieve or better our silver medal that we won in 2005. No pressure there then!!

So what will the team be doing in the meantime? We don't rest on our laurels and have made a start on planting up all the tubs, baskets etc around the village for spring. Our co-ordinator once she is back on terra firma after all the excitement will be busy researching the criteria for Britain in Bloom. Barry the Brush will be out painting anything that does not move. Potting on "P" is putting her plants to bed for the winter ready for next years plant sales. The watering brigade is rolling up their hoses.

The new Mayor of Luddenden, Geoff Dardis has contacted the "bloomers" regarding the deployment of a large contingent of volunteers from the Lloyds Banking Group for a day's work party in the village during November. If you have any ideas on what they can do please contact Geoff at the "Nellie" on 882176 or by email geoffdardis@hotmail.com.

There are of course still things you can do in the garden before winter sets in but I'll leave that for you to decide. Instead once again it's the time to start planning your entry for the best home made Christmas Wreath 2010. The wreath should be made from as much natural (i.e. not shop bought) material as possible (at least 50%). Judging will take place around the third week of December and the winner will once again receive a Fair Trade Hamper sponsored by the Conservation Society.

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Luddenden In Bloom Newsletter



How to make Christmas Wreath

What you'll need

- 1 Circular metal frame or several wire coat hangers bent into shape or an old large lampshade's metal frame. Alternatively 3 to 4 120-150cm lengths of hazel, willow or similarly pliable stems soaked over night and then bent and tied into a circle. Or if you can get your hands on some long stems of ornamental grass this too can be bunched together then bent and wired into a circle.
- Conifer, moss or grass clippings for padding
- Florist wires
- For decoration and padding a selection of berries and fruits The best berries to use are those of the tree forms of cotoneaster, such as C. 'Cornubia', or hollies. They last far longer than pyracantha, sorbus or skimmia. Try to use natural materials – they look far better than synthetic ones such as ivy, holly and pine twigs.. Small fruits and vegetables including limes, chillies and baby aubergines, among others, and seasonal flowers make interesting decorations.
- 1m of wire-edged ribbon to make a bow (optional)

Once you have decided on your frame pack the whole area with the conifer, moss or grass and then wrap some florist wire around the whole ring to keep it in place. Next build up the foliage levels by inserting it carefully under the wire and through the moss layer ensuring that everything is kept flush. With the ring covered decorate with the berries, chillies, acorns or other natural material. Holly can be pushed through the moss and wire layer whilst chillies and other decorations can be wired together and then inserted through the wreath. Add a bow. Finally attach string or wire to the back of the ring and hang on your front door. At this point you will discover whether you wrapped enough wire around the frame, as it will all fall apart and you will have to start again.

Good luck to every one. The winner will be announced in the Conservation Society Newsletter and the hamper will be delivered before Christmas Day. You will though have to have your photo taken for the local media.

So on behalf of the Bloomers once again thanks to everyone who have supported the village entry this year. We hope everyone has a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. See you in Spring.