

# LUDDENDEN IN BLOOM NEWSLETTER

Horticultural Achievement  
Environmental Responsibility  
Community Participation

Yorkshire in Bloom Village Gold Medal Winners 2004, 2007, 2010 and 2012

Britain in Bloom Silver Medallist 2005 & Gold Medallist & Category Winner 2011 ISSUE: 10 December 2013

Luddenden Valley Wines

Tel: 07748 090054

Luddenden main sponsor for 2013

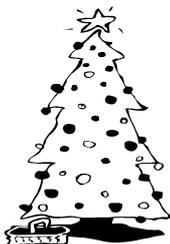


*"Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house,  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.  
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,  
In hopes that St Nicholas soon would be there."* Clement Moor Poet 1779-1863



## News from the village

This is the final newsletter of the season and as normal the editor will be having a small break. We will though be back in March with village news, gardening and wildlife information. So a slight change in format for this seasonal edition.



## Tree and Christmas Facts

It was Queen Charlotte the wife of George III who set up the first Christmas Tree at Windsor Castle. In the first week a cut tree in your home will consume as much as two pints of water per day. The most common tree sold in Britain is now the Nordmann fir. Bringing holly into the home has long been part of Christmas celebrations. The leaves represent the crown of thorns of Jesus, and berries his blood. The average tree sold in Britain is between eight and 10 years old. Electric Christmas tree lights were first mass-produced in 1890. The first recorded game of conkers using horse chestnut seeds was on the Isle of Wight in 1848. The red dye found in many lipsticks and red veined cheese is extracted from the seeds of the tropical American Achiote tree. Chocolate comes from the seeds of the Theobroma Cacao a native of South America. Theobroma is Greek for "Food of the Gods" Walnuts have been eaten as an aphrodisiac since the time of the Roman Empire. The most wide spreading tree in the world is a fig, the Great Banyan Tree. The largest is in India and covers four acres. The tallest tree in the world is a 115m Coastal Redwood in California. In Britain it is a 36m Leyland Cypress. Finally the oldest tree in the world is called "Denis" and is a Bristlecone Pine and lives in the White Mountain of California and is a sprightly 5063 years old.

# LUDDENDEN IN BLOOM NEWSLETTER

Horticultural Achievement  
Environmental Responsibility  
Community Participation

Yorkshire in Bloom Village Gold Medal Winners 2004, 2007, 2010 and 2012

Britain in Bloom Silver Medallist 2005 & Gold Medallist & Category Winner 2011 ISSUE: 10 December 2013

Luddenden Valley Wines

Tel: 07748 090054

Luddenden main sponsor for 2013



## Gardening tips for Winter

Now is the time to have a small winter bonfire to dispose of those pernicious perennial weeds such as couch grass and bindweed. On those sunny winter days the time can be used to clean your tools by washing them, letting them dry and then oiling any metal and wooden parts to prolong their life. Turn houseplants regularly to ensure they grown evenly rather than towards the light. Keep off and stay off heavy clay soil until it can take your weight otherwise you will just compact it down. Chop back the foliage of perennial plants and prune tall roses. If you buy a Poinsettia it will need to be kept at around 16 deg C. Place it in a bright location out of draughts and away from radiators. Water with tepid water only when the compost dries out and start feeding from January.

Finally remember the annual home made Christmas Wreath Competition and your chance to win a fair trade hamper. The winner will be announced in the Conservation Newsletter in January.



## Dates for the diary

Christmas Wreath Competition  
Father Christmas in the Village  
Carols by Candlelight at St Mary's  
Crib Service at St Mary's  
Conservation Christmas Walk  
Heritage Day

3<sup>rd</sup> week of December  
14<sup>th</sup> December  
22<sup>nd</sup> September 0630pm  
24<sup>th</sup> December 4pm  
30<sup>th</sup> December  
28<sup>th</sup> June 2014



## Eric's View

Derek's blog is now on the website [www.luddenden.com](http://www.luddenden.com). Although there will be no "bloom" newsletter you will be able to catch up with Derek's and his report on the website throughout the winter. The most important thing we can do over the coming months is to feed the birds and ensure they have water to help them cope with whatever this winter throws at them.

So from the team and me thanks for not only making Luddenden Bloom, but for helping create a great place for all creatures to live. We wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful, Healthy New Year.