

# 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: 9 November 2013

Luddenden Valley Wines

Tel: 07748 090054

Luddenden main sponsor for 2013



*"Nature looks dead in winter because her life is gathered into her heart. She withers the plant down to the root that she may grow it up again fairer and stronger. She calls her family together within her inmost home to prepare them for being scattered abroad upon the face of the earth".* The Ministry of Nature 1871 ~Hugh Macmillan 1833-1903 Scottish minister and natural history writer,



## News from the village

First of all a warm welcome to Phil who has recently moved into the village and has just become our newest "bloomer"

The team including Phil were out in strength on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> planting up all the hayracks, boxes and planters with an assorted dwarf daffodil selection along with mixed Bellis Perennis plants for the spring. This job was done later than we would have liked as a result of being badly let down by the company we had ordered our bulbs from at the beginning of September. Thankfully good old Gordon Riggs saved the day when two of our team went out on an emergency mission to find spring bulbs. Not only did we get enough mixed daffs of the type we had wanted, but as a result of the winter sale they were considerably cheaper than had been ordered from Van Meuwen. Which goes to show that if you are prepared to wait there are always bargains to be had at this time of year.

Whilst out planting bulbs a general tidy was given to areas such as the garden at Bluebell Walk. It also gave the team a chance to see what jobs need to be undertaken in the spring.

Leaf fall is now well and truly happening and areas such as the sub-station will be given its winter tidy as soon as the large oak has completed its shedding. We will also ask Calderdale to send in its team to start clearing away the annual fall from roads and footpaths before any severe weather arrives in the village.

The plant and produce table on High Street is looking a bit bare at this time of year, so if anyone has anything they can donate it would be very much appreciated.

Plant sales will once again be taking place in the spring and the team has been lucky yet again to have been donated a large quantity of perennials plants from Sue who lives just outside of the village and has been giving her garden a major makeover. So if you are planning to update your garden next year then watch out for the two dates where we will once again be selling veg, toms, herbs, annual and perennial plants plus Luddenden Hessian bags and cards with local views.

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## Gardening tips for December

As already mentioned you can still obtain bargain spring bulbs from various outlets so it is still not too late to create a spring display. Continue to clear leaf fall and if possible compost it as it makes great potting medium. Give footpaths a clean or alternatively sprinkle with sand to help you keep your footing during winter months. Continue mowing on a high setting but only when the grass is dry and the ground isn't boggy. If you have planted hyacinth bulbs for indoor flowering now is the time to bring them into the house and place on a sunny windowsill. Start harvesting your winter veg such as sprouts, leeks, cabbage and root crops. Finish of pruning your herbaceous perennials and if the weather stays mild you still have time lift and divide them. Place pots and containers on "feet" to help them drain during the winter months. As the weather gets colder move your containers nearer to the house where it will be slightly warmer and this will help prevent pots cracking. Finally remember the annual home made Christmas Wreath Competition and your chance to win a fair trade hamper. Judging takes place third week of December.



## Dates for the diary

Christmas Wreath Competition  
St Mary's Advent Carol Service  
Father Christmas in the Village  
Conservation Christmas Walk  
Heritage Day

December  
1<sup>st</sup> December 0630pm  
14<sup>th</sup> December  
30<sup>th</sup> December  
28<sup>th</sup> June 2014

For further Christmas events over the next few weeks at St Mary's check out their website [www.luddendenchurch.org.uk](http://www.luddendenchurch.org.uk)



## Eric's View

Long Tailed Tits have been busy visiting my bird feeders these last few weeks. A sure sign in my garden that winter is upon us. Derek's latest blog on the website [www.luddenden.com](http://www.luddenden.com) mentions that this small bird has struggled to breed this year due to the cold spring. So feeding your birds is very important at this time of year. I still have my Robins singing in the garden and at night I've heard some tawny owls. Squirrels have also appeared in the garden but my feeders are safe from them. My neighbour at the farm has now got some sheep in the fields. A friendly flock they are too.