

Christmas Wreath making

Do you ever look at the wreaths in the shops or hanging on people's doors and think you would like to have a go at making one?

One of our team makes them for herself and her family every year and tells us it is actually very easy to do. It is great fun and gets you and all the family outside foraging for your wreath materials and you have the satisfaction of seeing your unique wreath hanging on your door everyday over Christmas!

Below are a few hints and tips to follow to help you make your own also.....

What you need?

- A metal hoop, wooden stick ring or a straw ring as a base to build on are best but you can go 100% natural and make your own base by winding and tying vine.
- String or wire
- Gardeners gloves
- Pruning shears
- Evergreen Foliage
- Decorative Leaves i.e. Holly, variegated ivy
- Foraged Berries such as Holly & Rose Hips
- Other additions for decorating your wreath – Dried oranges and lemons, sliced or whole, cinnamon sticks, pinecones, baubles, ribbon, mini lights, you can also pack your wire hoop with moss.
- ***Mulled wine and mince pies (optional but all adds to the festivity of the occasion!)***



When foraging please do not take more than you need and only pick when things are in abundance so that you are leaving plenty behind for the wildlife!

- ***Do not pick endangered species***
- ***Do not trespass***
- ***Respect nature!***

Getting started

- Gather all your materials and put them into separate piles.
- *Take a sip of the mulled wine to warm you up whilst you work.*
- Trim your foliage so that you have a clear end with no leaves (about an inch) and then using different pieces gather to make a bunch. Your bunches will want to be no longer in length than the diameter of the hoop you are using.
- Tie your bunches tightly with wire or string.
- Attach a piece of ribbon or string from which to hang your wreath, make sure it is attached securely so it will not come loose.
- Once you have 6-8 bunches lay one on the hoop with the full foliage laying outwards and using your wire or string attach tightly to the hoop, lay another bunch over the



join of the first bunch and attach in the same manner as the first, repeat until you have covered the whole of your hoop.

- Now add in the extras like orange slices, berries tying with wire or string to add some color and to really make your wreath stand out and be unique
- *Finish your mulled wine and eat your mince pie, you have earned it!*



It is finished!

- Hang your homemade wreath on the door or wall.
- Spray your wreath with water to help keep it fresh
- *Have some more mulled wine and mince pies and enjoy the Christmas season!*

