

NECHELLS IN BLOOM CHRISTMAS WREATH & TABLE ARRANGEMENT WORKSHOP

Nechells Regeneration Centre was transformed on Saturday 11th December 2010 into a hive of festive activity as Quadron's Horticultural Development Manager, Nicola Clarke, joined forces with Ken Whittaker to help deliver a Christmas wreath and table arrangement workshop for the local Nechells In Bloom group.

Despite the process being a lot more difficult than they initially thought, local residents had great fun learning how to create their wreaths and table arrangements. Using florist wire small lengths of berried, variegated holly were formed into bundles and then used to create a decorative circle in the middle of a plain wreath. This was then decorated with bunches of pine cones, silk flowers and ribbon.



The atmosphere was really festive with everyone singing along to Christmas carols and eating the mince pies (which were in plentiful supply, along with coffee) whilst they showed off their creative skills.



The results of the group's patience and sore fingers were absolutely stunning. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed making their festive decorations and residents were justifiably proud of their creations. As local photographer, Hester Blewitt, explained, "it is great to be able to look at something like this wreath or table decoration and think to yourself,hmmm I made that! It gives you a real sense of achievement, particularly as it was much harder to do than I thought."



Hester concentrating on her masterpiece

It was really heartening driving through Nechells the following Monday morning, on the way to Quadron's Mount Street depot, to see all the homemade wreaths adorning so many front doors. They really brought festive cheer to the area and helped to make the local neighbourhood more welcoming – which is exactly what the 'In Bloom' campaign is all about.