

Hand dyed Silk Ribbons

For us the ribbon is often just as important as the gift. We'll hang on to any odd fragment and re-use them countless times. We've also been known to loiter around the person unwrapping a present to grab them back.

Use these co-ordinating ribbons to wrap a gift made with the yarn or to jazz up your Christmas wreath.



We are of an economical turn of mind, well you could say cheap, so we make our wreaths from what ever we can find in the garden, the woods or out on the common. The only other thing needed is garden string, lots of it. You could use florist wire but that will take longer to break down once the wreath is finished with.



Use lengths of willow twisted together to make the frame. Bend the first length into shape and twist the tapering end round to stop it springing apart. Keep adding more lengths until the circle is sturdy enough and keeps its shape. Tuck the narrow end of each stem through any handy gap and pull tight to secure.

This base was about 36cm/14in in circumference and the finished wreath about 50cm/20in in circumference - they just grow and grow!



Before you add any foliage make a hanging loop and mark with bright thread or a peg as it will get lost when you start adding foliage. A peg is nice and heavy so you can see and feel it.

Then you need a good couple of armfuls of greenery, always more than you think you shall ever need. We also use any dried or dying seedheads, whatever we can find really.

In this wreath we've used:

Scotts Pine, Leylandii, Eucalyptus, Ivy and Sarcococca as the green background then for texture added bracken, heather, hydrangea, poppy, honesty and nigella. Then a few mossy, dead branches and catkins.

The poppyheads were grown from seed included in our first Club box. So nothing is wasted!



Take a little bunch of foliage and tie to the willow frame, facing out from the centre.

Then tie another sprig facing into the circle. Make this one slightly shorter otherwise you'll lose the middle of your circle.



Lie a third bunch over the middle. Usually this bunch includes the more interesting bits and pieces so they don't get too hidden.



Continue tying
on more
bunches until
you've
completed the
circle.

Remember to
save some of
your prize stems
so they don't all
get used in the
first quarter!

More ideas for a Winter Wreath

If you don't fancy a wreath a swag is so much quicker, or if you have a shortage of greenery stop halfway and make a feature of it. Then of course you can always buy a willow decoration and add your ribbon to that - quickest of all!

