Diagram

Description automatically generated**Causeway Community Garden**

**Newsletter - December 22**

**Blooming Great News!!!**

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The judging of the North West Britain in Bloom and It's Your Neighbourhood 2022 is now complete and we are so very pleased and excited to share with you the news that our Causeway Community Garden has been awarded:   
 **Top Award  - Level 5 Outstanding**  
  In the ‘North West - It’s Your Neighbourhood Awards 2022’.

Bernard who judged our garden again this year said ’It was fantastic. He was so very impressed and pleased to see all the hard work we had done to develop the garden and that we had gone from Strength to Strength’. He was also very interested in the involvement of our garden members from the Hong Kong Community and how we make the garden such a welcome open space.

We are so pleased with the award and want to say to all our garden members and helpers that we couldn’t have achieved this award without you.  Thank you so much for all your green fingered support and of course to our dedicated tea and toast team. Well Done Everyone!

**Other News**

 **Christmas Eco Craft Activity Event**

We held our Christmas Eco Craft Activity on 3 December. It was a lovely session lots of crafts and fun and new friends made. The Winter Seed Fat Balls we made are looking great and the birds are really going to enjoy them.

We also had a lovely time decorating our Christmas tree and putting up lots of lights. Thank you to everyone who came.

A group of people sitting around a table

Description automatically generated with medium confidence A group of people standing next to a christmas tree

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A group of people posing for a photo in front of a doorway

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**Donation News from the Coop Membership Community Award Scheme**

A person sitting on the floor

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Dennis’s favourite Gardening Pose Tracey at Coop Presentation

Dennis and I were made to feel really welcome at the Coop in Latchford on 4th November as part of a ‘Thank You’ presentation following the news the Causeway Community Garden will receive an amazing **£2,288.00** from the Coop Membership Community Award Scheme.

Dennis was a bit of a star today. His approach of saying 'Thank you for your generosity' sparked an interest in people walking by to engage in conversation and to talk to customers about our amazing Causeway Community Garden.

The scheme supports projects in the local community that their Coop members care about. Every time our members buys selected Coop products and services,2p for every pound spent goes to the member as well as giving the same support to community organisations and local courses. You can find out more about how to sign up as a member and support our local cause by asking in store or on line.

We will keep you posted on the ideas for spending on donation our Community Garden. Last year we spent donated funds on the New Outside tables, Peat free Soil, Plants, Bulbs and Vegetables.

**Visit from the Local Warrington South MP**

The Causeway Garden had a visit on Saturday 8th October from Andy Carter MP for Warrington South. He was interested to learn all about the development and running of our Community Garden and to hear our future plans to continue to be a community space open for all to de-stress, relax, meet new people and make new friendships.

A group of people standing under a tree

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He was really interested in what we are achieving in the development of the garden and the eco-friendly approach we take and in encouraging the wider   
community to come along. Thanks to everyone who was able to come along on the day at short notice.

**Gardening Top Tips ** 

**December and January**

As we approach the shortest day of the year in December when outside think about jobs that will keep you warm and make sure you dress warmly whilst you are outside and take time to warm up with a hot drink.

* Check your winter protection and if you have a greenhouse make sure the heater is working.
* Insulate outdoor taps and prevent ponds from freezing
* Remember to keep on feeding the birds and ensure thy still have access to water. Keep an eye on your bird baths and melt away any ice if frozen. Fill with fresh water.
* Leave some garden areas uncut, a little longer, to provide shelter for wildlife in your garden.
* Plan your vegetable crops planting and rotation
* If you like a bit of garden crafting, why not think about making a Christmas Wreath from materials in your garden or things you find on those wintry walks. Pinecones, twigs, Ivy, berries, leathery-leaved evergreens such as fatsias and eucalyptus last well outdoors. You can find lots of ideas on RHS and other websites
* A wreath on a door

  Description automatically generated with medium confidence A picture containing plant, building, door, wooden

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* Recycle your Christmas tree by shredding it for much.

Hopefully there are not too many jobs left to do so take a little time for some fireside garden planning.

**Gardening Group Meeting Dates and Activity for the coming months.**

**Bad weather indoor crafts and Outdoor Activity**

Sat 22nd Jan 2023 – celebrate Chinese New Year. Make lanterns. Paint jam jars and put night lights in them. Play some games.

Look out for our 2023 outside gardening groups dates on the Causeway Community Garden Facebook Page

**And Finally…….**

Our lovely Community Garden is also there for relaxation, quiet moments picnic, coffee and enjoyment. Even if you do not want to garden, please use the garden as a place for wellbeing, reflection and enjoyment. You are always welcome and why not bring a friend.

We are always looking for local gardening knowledge and advice please drop me an email if you have any gardening tips you would like to share.

Please email me if you have any gardening tips/ideas/moments/photographs you want to share about your gardening experiences.

**On behalf of the Causeway Community Garden we would like to thank you all for your support, hard work, fun and friendship and we send out to your our warmest best wishes.**

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

Tracey McNaboe – Community Engagement and Outreach Worker

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**Connect with Causeway Community Garden on Facebook**