

Episode 1

Welcome to our 2023 Christmas Village column here on The Village Collector website. Without doubt this is one of the friendliest places on the internet and it's been a privilege to have been part of it for the last two years.

I accidentally came across the site whilst googling for ideas for our Christmas village in our home. I sent a picture or two to Bill and was very proud when he posted them up on the site. Whatever the size, type or location of your village Bill embraces and celebrates them all without any judgment. Possibly we are not so pure minded... when viewing the many videos we often say " I don't like that" or " we wouldn't have put that there"! However it is just fantastic to be able to be part of such a passionate group of contributors and viewers all sharing the love of creating a bit of home made magic and delight around this special time of year.



A scene from our 2022 Christmas village

In the last two years I have concentrated on how our village was constructed from scratch. Never meant to be instructional, we haven't got those kind of skills, but more to show how with a bit of imagination (Sue's department) ordinary folk can create something special to enjoy and share with others.

The "top end" characters in the global villaging world, whose efforts you see on this website, such as Jim, Larry, David (and many others) create on such a scale it can seem very daunting!

Remember ... they all started small and just became immersed in a fascinating hobby. Indeed, we too started with a box set of tiny houses given to us by my parents many years ago.



One of our original "little village" houses

However you do villaging, remember it's primarily for your own pleasure and fun. If you are able to share it for others to enjoy too then that's a bonus!

I promise you, our story this year is going to be very different and I look forward to sharing it with you over the coming weeks.

Cheers for now....

Phil and Sue

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England