

The Garden in Winter

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This is the time of the year for reflecting on the past years garden successes and failures and planning for next season.

So much in our gardens for both good and bad depends on the weather. As I write this article, the sun is enhancing the best autumn colour for many years, roses are in bloom and it is pleasantly warm outside. There are reports of spring flowers blooming in various parts of the country. Yet it is mid November. It has been a strange year weather wise, producing some superb displays and an abundance of fruit, berries and nuts. Spring was bitterly cold, while July, September and October broke temperature records. August was tempestuous, bringing much needed rain.



flowering heathers. Garden art can often be appreciated at this time of the year without the distraction of the summer planting.

Notes

Now is the time to take a critical look at the garden and plan for next season. At this time of the year with many plants resting, the skeleton of the garden is revealed and changes can be planned. A well laid structure will enhance any planting scheme. Over time, a plant may

on the lawn over winter. If weather conditions are favourable the lawn can be trimmed but keep the blades set high. Don't walk on the lawn if it is frosty as this could leave brown patches.

House plants

Many flowering houseplants (Azalias, Poinsettias, Solanums) can be bought at this time of the year, but they have been grown under optimum and artificial conditions to stimulate flowering. Do not expect these plants to be long lived. They often resent being moved to your window ledge and quickly give up the ghost. To give them a chance, always protect a houseplant from the cold on its journey home, read and follow the instructions on the care label, do not keep them behind drawn curtains at night and give azaleas rainwater, not water from the tap.

Enjoy your gardening.



However regardless of the weather, the shortening day length will ensure that most plants have their winter rest, though some will continue to put on a show until they are knocked back by the frost.

The interest in the garden at this time of the year is much more subtle, but there are a number of plants which come into their own, including many ornamental trees such as Prunus serrula (the Tibetan cherry) and Betula jaquemontii (the white barked Himalayan birch) which have a beautiful bark most noticeable in the winter months, acers, rhubarb and dogwoods which are grown for their coloured stems, broad leaved evergreens, some of which flower in winter such as mahonia and viburnums, a variety of blue, gold and green conifers and winter

die leaving a gap or an imbalance, or become too big. Now is the time to think about what needs to be removed and what re planting is necessary. Having decided what needs to go and what can stay, enjoy browsing seed catalogues to find something a little different to grow next season.

Maintenance

Check the supports of climbing plants and erect new ones as necessary. Clean, oil, sharpen and service mowers and other tools.

Pruning

Now is a good time to trim overgrown climbing plants such as ivy.

Planting

Container and bare rooted trees and shrubs (which tend to be cheaper) can be planted throughout the winter providing the ground is not hard with frost.

Lawns

Make sure late autumn leaves don't sit

Africa Dances at Holme St. Cuthbert



Pupils from Holme St Cuthbert have been taking part in a two week African music festival. Musicians Wedzi Zvivero and Millicent Chapanda of World Musik Makers have been leading them in a series of exciting workshops in call-and-response singing, African drumming and dancing.

The sessions have stimulated interest in the rich culture of Africa and encouraged the children to make links between

their lives in rural Cumbria and traditional life in rural Africa. Children have researched geography, wildlife, art and crafts. At the end of the festival they took part in a concert at Maryport Civic hall, wearing textiles they had dyed themselves.

"It was a tremendous performance of singing, drumming and poetry and we are very proud of our children," said Annabell Armstrong,

Chair of Governors at Holme St Cuthbert. "We know our children learn best by experiencing things first hand and the whole festival has been a wonderful success".

The festival included the six schools from the Aspatria Small Schools' Consortium. It was co-ordinated by Bob Pritchard of Arts Out West, the West Cumbria Rural Touring Scheme, and funded by a grant from Awards for All.

Bishop of Zululand in Silloth

Report by: Lynne Tembey

On 29th October, Bible Sunday, about 60 members from Churches within the Solway Plain Team were at a Songs of Praise service at St Pauls Causewayhead taken by Team Rector Rev Sharon Swain with readings given by Dominic Swain and by Frances McIntyre. The address was given by the Right



Right Reverend Dino Gabriel, Bishop of Zululand, being welcomed at Silloth

Reverend Dino Gabriel, Bishop of Zululand. He told those present a little about himself and gave an inspiring summary of the current situation in his diocese including the huge problems with the pandemic of HIV AIDS.

The diocese of Carlisle has been linked to the diocese of Zululand for more than 25 years. In that time many exchanges and visits have taken place between different people from the two dioceses. Over the years we have also supported financially different projects to help with outreach and self-reliance.

The Bishop and two other Priests, the Venerable Isaiah Manqele and the

Reverend Dumisani Dlamini are visiting England for two weeks. They have attended the World Mission Conference with the Diocesan Bishop the Right Reverend Graham Dow, Partnership Secretary Mrs Lynne Tembey and World Development Adviser the Reverend Canon Jim Hyslop in Derbyshire.

Following their visit to Carlisle they travel on to Northampton to meet with members of the Zulem Trust, a group that supports the work in the dioceses of Zululand and Swaziland. Bishop Dino will be giving the address at a service of thanksgiving before returning home.

Have a Sunny Christmas



Rebecca and Sophie Markley at Fremantle

Darren, Karen, Rebecca & Sophie Markley would like to wish all their family and friends a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We have settled into life at Perth very well, It is such a beautiful city. We are all enjoying work and school plus the leisure time out and about. Looking forward to the summer ahead and to all our visitors due out in the coming year.