

"October gave a party; The leaves by hundreds came - The Chestnuts, Oaks, and Maples, And leaves of every name. The Sunshine spread a carpet, And everything was grand, Miss Weather led the dancing, Professor Wind the band". ~ George Cooper, Poet "October's Party"



News from the village

The Yorkshire in Bloom Awards Ceremony 2012 was held in York on Tuesday 18th and Luddenden once again did Calderdale proud and won a Gold Rose Award and was also named as Village category winner. This really is fantastic news in what has been a very trying year weather wise not just for Luddenden but for every other entrant in these annual competitions around the UK (not to mention all us keen gardeners). So well done to all villagers whose continued support over the years has made our village such a great place to live. We also congratulate all entrants in Yorkshire in Bloom 2012 especially Upper Hopton whose determination this year earned them a Gold Rose Award in our village category and, but for a few points, almost pipped us at the post as category winner.

Our judge's comments included "surprises at every corner... planters ingeniously shaped and planted ... the village sparkling for the Diamond Jubilee... ". They praised the red, white and blue planting outside villager's houses. The Brownies were given a well done for the wildflower seeded area and they were also pleased to see the Guide's involvement. Our new village group working in the cemetery also impressed our judges and were praised for tackling such a huge undertaking. So, once again from the team, thank you very much for your support and congratulations to the whole community that make up the Gold Medal Winning village of Luddenden. If you want to read the full report it can be found on the Yorkshire in Bloom website.

Ada Brooks Trophy

Judging was completed at the end of August and with villagers gardens all suffering from the awful summer we have had it was a very close competition. We are though pleased to announce that there were 4 Gold Medal Winners namely Double House at Buttress, 8 Riding Head Lane, Granby House and Bridge House. Several Silver-Gilt, Silver and Bronze awards were also given and a full list will be posted on our web site. There has to be an outright winner and that was Double House, which has looked brilliant all summer. Congratulations go not only to them and all medal winners, but to all who have, despite the rain, made such a great effort with their displays which have certainly contributed to our Yorkshire in Bloom awards. All medallists will shortly receive a certificate in recognition of their achievement with, of course, Double House having their house name placed on the trophy that they will be able to keep for the next year.



Gardening tips for October

Continue deadheading late-season bloomers such as Dahlia & Salvia to keep them flowering until the first frosts. Herbaceous perennials can be lifted and divided now to propagate and rejuvenate them. Replant immediately back in the soil or pot them up, but don't forget to label them. Plant up containers with winter and spring bedding under planted with dwarf daffodils, tulips and crocuses. There are plenty of bulbs available at this time of the year from various outlets. Daffodils can in fact be planted from now through to January so look out for bargains. Tulips though should be planted during October. You can still sow fast growing Oriental greens such as pak choi, tatsoi and mizumi for winter leaf salad along with more traditional crops such as lettuce, beetroot and chard. October is the last month in which to plant sets of over wintering onions. If you are leaving the veg plot clear until the spring then think about sowing a green manure. With all the rain we have had the soil will be heavy so dig it over to break it down and help improve its structure. Start planning your Christmas Wreath for December judging.



Dates for the diary

St Mary's Harvest Festival	Sunday 7 th October
St Mary's Bonfire Night	Saturday 3 rd November
St Mary's Remembrance Day	Sunday 11 th November
St.Mary's Christmas Carols at The Lord Nelson	Tuesday 18 th December
St.Mary's Carols by Candlelight	Sunday 23 rd December



Eric's View

The robins in the garden have started singing their winter song and it's a pleasure to hear now as most other birds have gone quiet in the morning. Nuthatches have started to visit my feeders along with long tail tits. Our winter visitors, the Fieldfare and Redwing should soon be seen in and around the village feeding on the various hedgerow fruits that ripen throughout the autumn. I've also been investigating the compost heap to see what lives there. Earthworms, woodlice and a species of slug that feeds on dead leaves and plants are the most common creatures. So despite their bad reputation in general there is a beneficial slug in the garden. I've also discovered that there is a small fruit fly and moth that also inhabits the pile along with Springtails. So next time you disturb the compost look out for all these little creatures as this will indicate a healthy heap.