



Welcome to the second quarterly issue of "Gardens and Grounds at Grim's Dyke". Autumn is a magical time of year and one of the best times to go for a day out in the woods. Autumn brings lots of changes. The trees begin to change colours, bringing a beautiful array of different coloured foliage. Autumn is decked with the beauties of nature; and here at the Grim's Dyke the beautiful Autumnal flowers are in bloom.

Plant of the month

Name: Sweet Chestnut
 Family: Beech
 Soil: Deep soil with good drainage
 Aspect: Full sun



The sweet chestnut had two main uses, firstly as a food source and secondly for timber. It is thought the tree was brought here by the Romans as the nuts were a good source of energy and could be ground into flour. Other recipes have been found which include the nuts as ingredients in soup, a vanilla flavoured spread and stuffing.

Gardening tip of the month

Autumn presents the best time to plant many trees, shrubs and garden plants. The soil is still warm from the summer and moist from the early autumn rain, providing the very best conditions for plant growth. As your plants start to die back for winter it opens up new spaces for additional plants and helps to identify gaps in the border that can be filled with new plantings. This is very important, even if the soil is moist and you have soaked the root ball.



AUTUMN BECKONS FOR THE GRIM'S DYKE GARDENS

As late summer gives way to autumn the hotel's gardeners are busy preparing the grounds for their winter and spring displays of colour.

Summer bedding plants will be replaced with wallflowers and winter flowering pansies which not only provide colour but also lovely scents.



Over 10,000 bulbs were planted last year with many of them being donated by the local bulb specialist Jacques Armand International. A similar planting programme is being considered again for this year so that hotel guests next spring can enjoy another riot of colour from tulips, daffodils and hyacinths.

Old winter baskets planted with evergreens will be dusted down to see if the plants can be resurrected for the winter and new ones will be planted up with pansies and whatever looks inspiring at the local garden centre.

A favourite with the gardening team are ornamental chilli plants that look exotic and cheerful and become a bit of a talking point when people have a closer look!



In the borders of the sunken rose garden, dahlias will continue to flower until the first frosts when it will be the turn of mixed grasses and large leaved foliage plants to impress.

The vegetable garden currently has an abundance of pumpkins, pears and apples. There are also plenty of autumn raspberries and runner beans which will be harvested for the restaurant menu.



The chef also gets excited about the large sweet chestnut trees planted around the estate and their fruits are collected although they have very spiny cases and are a considerable challenge when they get to the kitchen!