

cherry menlove

Getting cosy in the country



It's October, and that means we're officially in to the cosy time of year. The clocks change, the days are shorter and it gets very dark here in our little hamlet as there are no streetlights. The hazy days of September have gone now and a frost or two will soon be making an appearance. Time to get the garden fleece out!

I am currently thoroughly obsessed with the projects that I am making for Christmas and, as happens every year, October is the month when I begin to get disproportionately excited about that "most wonderful time of the year." If my weekend afternoons are not spent out on walks knee deep in mud, carrying one of my twins, then they are spent in front of a classic film with one of my Christmas craft projects on my lap... while the other one of the twins try to grab it. Apologies to the person who gets that particular project given to them under the tree!

However, before the tree goes up and the gingerbread village is baked and assembled, in fact before bonfire night, there is Halloween. Did you know that Halloween is second only to Christmas in the UK when it comes to decorative spend? It has rapidly become one of my favourite celebrations, in fact I celebrate for the entire month of October and keep myself nicely busy.

If I haven't got a pumpkin risotto on the stove then I have a slow cooked leg of lamb in the AGA. Such is the bounty of delicious foods that are available right now. If I'm not balancing a pale blue crown prince on top of a decorative gourd then I'm sewing blanket stitch around two felt trick or treat bags.

And then there are the apples. I make batches of apple sauce with sage leaves that are so good with roast pork and the smell of the homemade apple pie with fruit picked from the orchard at the end of the garden and the hedgerows that surround it is almost too much to bear. Of course sometimes I don't bear it and the pie never sees the light of day before I scoff it with a spoon by the side of the AGA. Hey ho!

For me the month of October is about thoroughly enjoying the food, the colours, the warmth of the first fire of the year and the cosiness. The Harvest Festival shows that take place in the village halls and in the local farm shops are attended by people in the village who, a few weeks ago were seen out in shorts and t-shirts, and are now well and truly wrapped up and looking dandy. Showing off their wares at the shows as their gardens are still producing fruit by the crateful.

By now the bulbs will be in the ground sleeping until next spring and the outdoors will slowly ebb its way towards bare trees and watery sunlight. But for now we have the month of October in all of its burnished brilliance. And boy, if I don't love a bit of that with a good healthy dollop of cosy on top!

Have a wonderful October, see you next month and if you fancy having a go at any of the recipes or crafts featured in this month's diary entry then please feel free to stop by my website. They'll be there waiting for you!



Love Cherry *x*

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