

cherry menlove

Days of autumn



I don't know about you but I tend to get a bit carried away when I think that autumn is on its way. As soon as the cold weather clothes are in the shops I immediately jump into my long boots, sweaters and tights and wonder why I'm hot and irritated. The fact is the mercury has not dropped by even a degree and the days are still deliciously warm and sunny, if a little shorter. Autumn is one of my favourite times of year (I say that about most times apart from January....or February.....or March) But autumn, ahhhhh autumn.

Autumn is not the time to be prematurely hibernating indoors but instead it is the time to be sucking the very marrow out of the warmth still left in the sun and to be enjoying the light that descends upon the place at this time of year. It's a special light. An autumn light.

In the autumn I decorate my house with wee crafty bits such as this felt leaf garland. I made it out of card, felt and a leaf shaped template. It hung in all its glory in the nursery and felt like a lovely segue in to getting the house ready for Halloween. But just because I'm anticipating leaf fall in my crafting, it doesn't mean that there are no fresh flowers left to cut. Dahlias will bloom and flourish until the frost gets them. It was a shock the first time I went out in to the garden in the morning only to see my entire bed of dahlias brown and wilting when they had been vibrant and alive just the day before. But I bear this in mind and make sure that at this time of year I have vases full of them all over the house.

Of course there are going to be some changes to the way I run my house as the months roll on and perhaps the biggest will concern the food we eat. The gaming season has begun in earnest in the countryside and we often hear the sound of the shotguns going off in the fields that surround our house. This is a reminder that meat is on the menu and will be for a while. Of course that doesn't mean that there isn't a glut of summer veg still left to whizz up into a tasty and light soup for lunch, but pie hits the menu in my house and as it sends that familiar smell wafting through the house I know I'm where I want to be – at home on a warm and sunny weekend afternoon.

Yes, the days are shorter, the nights chillier and the summer holidays are over, but that doesn't mean that we have to lock the doors and get the draught excluders out. Last autumn I made a bench that sat by the pond, my autumn bench I called it. I sat out there with my two small babies and read a book that my mum had bought me recently. The sun was warm on my face, the babies slept on big cushions and I had a blanket to wrap around me should I still be out there when my husband came home from work.

I'm happy to say I was still out there. He joined me for supper outside (pie, of course) and we inevitably had the 'Indian Summer' conversation. Do we not always have some sort of Indian Summer, though? I think so.

See you next month. I'm off out into the garden.

Lots of love, Cherry x



You'll find the recipe for my Classic Beef & Onion Pie as well as the instructions for my Autumnal Leaf Garland by visiting my website:

www.cherrymenlove.com

Cherry Menlove – The Thoroughly Modern Homemaker