WINTER 2016

We have recently returned from a 'Bus Man's Holiday,' visiting Holland, Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg and Denmark. We source trees and shrubs from all these countries, along with Italy and Spain, and it is always interesting to visit the growers and see what is available to add to our collection here at the Nursery.

We visited an amazing man in Holland who had one of the largest selection of unusual trees we have ever seen. Some quite exotic species which you would not associate with the British climate, but all thriving well in Holland, who tend to experience more extreme weather than we do. We are always searching for unusual varieties and will hopefully be adding more to our own collection.

The Landscaping in Holland and Germany is so different to what we have here in the UK and the domestic gardens are a marvel in themselves. We are now full of new ideas and enthusiasm, and will hopefully have chance to visit the Italian Nurseries before the year's end.

We saw some fabulous Autumn colours which shows that with careful thought, a garden can look beautiful and interesting all year round. The grapes were being harvested in Germany while we were there, with some of the steepest growing conditions we have ever seen along the Mosel river.

Back here we have experienced some wonderfully mild dry Autumn weather, and last night 01/11/16, had the first frost in the North West, with perhaps the warmest Halloween on record the previous evening.

Whatever the weather, it is always great to be outdoors, and now is the time to clear away the summer bedding and pots and re-plant with bulbs or winter bedding. Prune back roses by a third to prevent wind rock and evergreen shrubs can be moved and planted.
Bare root trees and shrubs can be planted from late November till the end of March, so now is the time to plant hedges and fruit trees etc.

Dig over vegetable beds and mulch borders with well rotted garden compost, bark or manure.

Ensure the birds have a drink during icy weather and that garden ponds are not allowed to freeze over completely. A leaf pile will provide shelter for hibernating mammals.

Protect any tender plants with fleece or straw, or move into a sheltered spot, glasshouse or conservatory if grown in a pot.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all, and Happy Gardening!