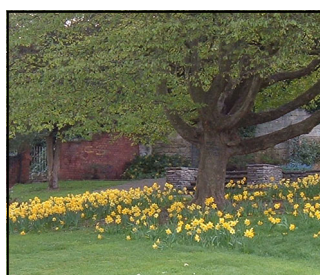


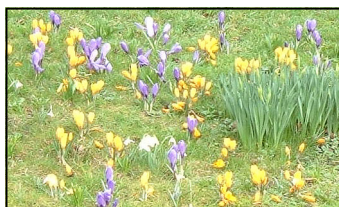
GARDENING NEWS

In the Bleak Mid-Winter? NOT so in our parks and gardens, folks!



Remember to start looking out for the **10,000** or so bulbs I spoke of us planting back in issue 4 2011. There will be **Snowdrops, Crocus, Iris, Specie Tulips**, large and small **Narcissus** (daffodils), **Bluebells, Scillas, Puschkinias,**

Leucojums, Eranthis to name but a few. They will mainly be appearing in grassed areas to look naturalised under or around trees in both parks.



Our gardener, Anthony Butler, reveals what to look out for in Stroud's gardens between January and March

Of course these can be enjoyed whilst you are still admiring the winter stem colours of such plants as **Cornus (dogwood), Birch, Viburnum and Berberis.**



Also to enjoy over the next few coming months are the early **flowering** shrubs, many of which are highly **scented**. The mild winter so far is making the berries hang on for a little longer. Check them out with colours as diverse as violet and blue.

Berries

- Mahonia aquif. (Oregon Berry) - blue
- Berberis sp. (Barberry) - red
- Cotoneaster horizontalis - red
- Callicarpa (Beauty Berry) - violet



Flowers (scented)

- Chimonanthus (Winter Sweet)
- Sarcococca (Christmas box)
- Mahonia aquif. + sp.

Developments

I'm very pleased to be able to say that 3 new beds have been successfully planted this autumn. They are '**Back of the Library**' (BK) '**Compost Corner**' (PK) and '**The Extension to the Fernery**' (BK). We are unfortunately encountering a few problems in sourcing the plants for our 4th project, 'Back Wall' (PK). I'll keep you informed.

You should still see us out and about the parks as we turn our attention to applying soil conditioner and mulch to these new beds. We should also like to continue in the refurbishment of our park benches, extending their lives whilst making them more attractive.

