SEPTEMBER 2024

PREAMBLE

Up to 13th: Sunflower

14th: Passionflower

29th: Michaelmas Daisy

Flower of the month: Aster

Tree of the month: from 2nd – 29th is Vine, thereafter Ivy.

Full Moon this Month: Harvest Moon

"Ah, September! You are the doorway to the season that awakens my soul ... but I must confess that I love you only because you are a prelude to my beloved October."

Peggy Toney Horton

September 2024

A warm welcome to September's website entry, and I hope you all enjoyed an amazing summer filled with lots of outdoors adventures. Huge apologies this website entry is late. As notified last month I have been on holiday abroad with the family, and then as a returning home present I picked up Covid and have been feeling most ropey ever since! A group of us travelled and all became infected, it has knocked us all for six! The day after I returned (not yet knowing I was sick), we also met up with another family for a play date and they all got infected too! Alas, this has not been my first bout of Covid 19, but it has for sure been the worst I have had and is clearly hyper transmissible so do stay safe folks. There is an extremely unpleasant variant going around.

Before I get on to the real business of this website entry, just a quick mention of the centuries old tradition of Pannage! If you live within a reasonable commute of the New Forest, it is well worth a trip during early Autumn. The New Forest is the only place in the UK that you can witness the ancient practise of Pannage, where commoners' pigs are released into the forest to forage for acorns and graze the land. This practise protects the forests free roaming ponies and cattle, as acorns are toxic to these species when eaten in large quantities. The pigs also eat beech mast, crab apples, chestnuts, and anything else they can find!

It really is a great day out for the whole family, the New Forest is beautiful at this time of year, and it is always a treat to see the wild horses, ponies, donkeys, and cattle - but with the added bonus of pig sightings it truly is the perfect time of year to make the trip. This year the pigs will be released on September 16th and will be left to roam until around November 22nd (but this may be extended if there is a glut of acorns). A word of warning though, do not try to touch or feed the pigs, and please drive slowly! It is astonishing how recklessly people can drive around the forest endangering the lives of the animals that live there – these animals regularly come on to the roads!

Now back to the real business of this website entry. Just a few quick notes this month. Firstly, Dave and I will be filming Episode 2 of Country Signs on September 30th, and this will be uploaded to our YouTube Channel https://youtube.com/@indigenousukweather as soon as feasibly possible after this date.

Also, keep an eye on the children's section of the website, which will be going live within the next few days. Alas, it is not quite as originally planned – Seran and I are finding it extremely difficult to find sufficient time together to bring our 'Nature Gnomes' vision to life, so David and I have been working on the children's section together and it will for sure be a great way to get the children involved.

I also wanted to draw your attention to a march taking place on October 26th in Parliament Square regarding the truly disgusting state of Britain's waters. I will be attending, and you can find all the information required (as well as watch an excellent short video on the topic) here: www.marchforcleanwater.org

In addition, I thought some of you may be interested to read we have officially experienced the coolest summer since 2015 according to the Met Office. The full article can be accessed via the following link:

https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news-and-media/media-centre/weather-and-climate-news/2024/uk-experiences-coolest-summer-since-2015

A couple of fan favourites as well: I have included the Met Office 2024/2025 annual storm names for you and have also included details of all of the August fogs which were reported to me. Once again thank you so very much to all those of you who took the time to reach out to me with this vital information.

As always, we will start this month's entry with a few interesting articles which David has very kindly put together for us to enjoy. Thank you as always David, this website would not be the same without your voice!

Whatever you are up to, have a beautiful September, despite the weather… Don't forget to look out for robins staking territory in your back gardens, and the vital quarter day on September 29th!

Lesley

Additional Note added on September 8th:

Three dead cert signs of a long hard cold winter to come:

1. The earlier in September the robin takes up residency in the back garden, the longer and harder the winter. They watch the back door where the tablecloth is shaken out, as a food source. (Our robins arrived in the back garden September 1st/ David's arrived in his on September 5th).

2. The dead nettles in the lanes/ hedgerows have white flower growths – these also contain / protect the eggs for the spring of the tortoiseshell butterfly.

3. The skin of the ENGLISH onion is hard, strong, and brittle (test this on the onions in the supermarket). The English onions this year will also be smaller due to weather problems earlier in the year. Hence the arrival of Dutch and Israeli onions in the shops to make up the deficit.

METHODOLOGY FOR ESTABLISHING THE MOON PHASE AND WEATHER TO YOUR LOCATION

Several readers, away from the south of England, have commented upon how/why their weather is not included, or different from the monthly data – fair comment.

So, in attempt to alleviate this problem the following explanation is provided; however, it will necessitate some paper and pencil working from yourself, but the results will give a very accurate advance weather forecast. It will be worth the effort.

Firstly, however some fundamental basics, without which nothing is possible.

So here is the basic moon data. It is very old and dates from about 1150 ad having been composed by the clerics in the medieval times, but it is very accurate. It divides the day into two-hour periods commencing at midnight, beside which is a weather state, therefore twelve weather states for each day.

However, these periods are split into summer and winter, therefore two such charts. Experience over some fifty years has designated summer to commence on the 15th April to the the 30th September. Winter is defined as 1st October to the 14th April.

Again, over the many years' experience, certain words/descriptions indicate:

In Summer:

Fair = dry, bright, sunny warm and no wind, seasonal or above temperatures.

Cold & Showers = just that, at and place and at any time.

Changeable = anything and everything.

Rain = at any time and at any place but mor consistent that just showers.

In Winter:

Fair & mild = dry, sunny, calm and bright at seasonal temperatures.

Fair & frosty = cold frosty night, with cold dry sunny calm days.

Snow if cold enough, else cold rain.

Cold rain = persistent cold heavy rain.

Snowy & stormy = cold, snowy & windy – blizzard conditions may apply.

There now follows the all-important summer and winter tables/charts.

If, the new moon, first Quarter, full moon or last quarter occur between the following hours, the weather here stated below is said to occur.

IN SUMMER: [15th April to 30th September]

0000-0200hrs = Fair:

0200-0400hrs = Rain:

0400-0600hrs = Rain:

0600-0800hrs = Wind and rain:

0800-1000hrs = Changeable:

1000-1200hrs = Frequent rain showers:

1200-1400hrs = Very rainy: 1400-1600hrs = Changeable:

1600-1800hrs = Rain: 1800-2000hrs = Fair:

20000-2200hrs = Rainy: 2200-2400hrs = Fair.

IN WINTER: [1st October to 14th April]

0000-0200hrs = frost: 0200-0400hrs= Snowy (if cold enough) else rain and stormy:

0400-0600hrs = Rain: 0600-0800hrs = stormy:

0800-1000hrs =Cold rain if wind north westerly: 1000-1200hrs = Cold and high winds:

1200-1400hrs = Snow if cold enough – else cold rain: 1400-1600hrs = Fair & mild:

1600-1800hrs = Fair: 1800-2000hrs = Fair & frosty:

2000-2200hrs = Snow if cold enough, else cold rain: 2200-2400hrs = Fair & frosty:

The above are basics to gain advance weather data for your location; they are tried, tested and proven and provide, with nature and some other tried, tested and proven sayings, the basics of the methodology. You will find, that, when combining the above with the Buchan warm and cool periods plus the Met Office quiet and stormy periods indeed a positive correlation.

Now real pencil and paper time, where absolute accuracy is vital. On the internet go to www.timemanddate.com and open. In the empty location box place your nearest large conurbation, press entry. The next page gives your reply, a wealth of information on your location. Click the 'sun, moon &space' menu. Click 'moon phases.' You will then get all the moon phases for your location, from which you can make your choice.

Having made your choice then corelate the time of the phase to the above charts and you have your weather. You can see that BST is already calculated into the readings, but that in the year box you can work ahead – very good for advance planning. The actual weather for then phase is inclined to lag by a day or so, but using this methodology you will for sure be ahead of the TV weather and to a greater accuracy too.

I hope the above will help remedy/alleviate the problems of those readers away from the south of the country, and if the data is accurately recorded, then a quite reliable and accurate advance weather prediction is available.

If there are problems, then come to me on www.weatherwithouttechnology.co.uk contact page and I will always assist and advise.

David King. Edenbridge August 2024.

Lesley Coyle Dorset September 4th, 2024

Recently a lot of newspaper and media talk about Blue Moons etc, sadly, not all of it correct, therefore time for the readership to have the correct terms and definitions to some of moon characteristics. This being in addition to the moon data on the 'about' section of the website.

SOME ADDITIONAL MOON DEFINITIONS

Perihelion and Aphelion
The Earth is closest to the Sun, at its perihelion, about two weeks after the December solstice and farthest from the Sun, or at its aphelion, about two weeks after the June solstice.

What Is a Blood Moon?
A total lunar eclipse is sometimes called a Blood Moon, because of the reddish tinge the Full Moon takes on when fully eclipsed. The term is also frequently used to describe four total lunar eclipses that occur in a row.

Next Total Lunar Eclipse: Fri, 14 Mar 2025 ... See animation

Next Eclipse: Partial Lunar Eclipse – Wed, 18 Sep 2024 ... See animation

What Is a Penumbral Lunar Eclipse?
By Aparna Kher, Graham Jones, and Vigdis Hocken
A penumbral lunar eclipse takes place when the Moon moves through the faint, outer part of Earth's shadow, the penumbra. This type of eclipse is not as dramatic as other types of lunar eclipses and is often mistaken for a regular Full Moon.

Perigee and Apogee
The Moon's path around the Earth is also elliptical. The point in the Moon's orbit that is closest to the Earth is called the perigee and the point farthest from the Earth is known as the apogee. The terms are also sometimes used interchangeably with the Earth's perihelion and aphelion.

Did You Know...
...that the words perihelion and aphelion come from ancient Greek, where *peri* means close, *apo* means far, and *helios* means the Sun? They are used in astronomy to refer to the closest and farthest points of the orbits of any object revolving around the Sun. Together, they are called apsides—the points of least or greatest distance of a celestial object in orbit around another astronomical body.

What Is a Supermoon and When Is the Next One?
When the Full Moon or New Moon occurs near the Moon's closest approach to Earth, its perigee, it is often called a Supermoon.

A **Micromoon** is when a Full Moon or a New Moon coincides with apogee, the point in the Moon's orbit farthest away from Earth.

Blue Moon
If something happens “once in a Blue Moon,” it's said to be rare. But just how rare is a Blue Moon?

A Black Moon is a special kind of Moon phase. But, if you want to spot a Black Moon, you're out of luck: they are invisible.
August 2024: last Blue Moon until 2026
Black Moon is not a well known astronomical term. In recent years, the term has been made popular by social media, astrologers, and followers of the Wiccan religion.

No Single Definition
There is no single accepted definition of a Black Moon. The term has been commonly used to refer to any of the following phenomena associated with the New Moon:

- **Second New Moon in the same month**: These Black Moons are the most common ones, and they occur about once every 29 months. Because of time zone differences, the month they happen in can vary.
- **Third New Moon in a season of four New Moons**: These Black Moons are a little rarer, and occur about once every 33 months. We divide a year into four seasons—spring, summer, fall (autumn), and winter. Usually, each season has three months and three New Moons. When a season has four New Moons, the third New Moon is called a Black Moon. This is the exact counterpart to the original definition of a Blue Moon, except that Blue Moons are Full Moons.
- During the moment of the Full Moon, the Sun and the Moon are on opposite sides of the Earth, and the Moon's illuminated side faces the night side of Earth (see illustration). So, by definition, a Full Moon can usually only be seen during the night.
- If you have ever spotted a Full Moon just after sunrise or just before sunset, it is very likely that you saw it at least one day before or after the actual Full Moon phase. Very rarely, if the conditions are just right, you may also be able to see an actual Full Moon very close to the horizon and opposite to the Sun, during sunrise or sunset. In general, however, the Moon is always below the horizon while the Sun is up on the date of the Full Moon.

Moon Plays the Biggest Role
While both the Moon and the Sun influence the ocean tides, the Moon plays the biggest role. Although the Sun's gravitational pull on the Earth is 178 times stronger than the Moon's, the tidal bulges it causes are much smaller.
This is because, contrary to common belief, tides are not caused by the gravitational forces of the Moon or the Sun *lifting up* the oceans—their gravitational pull is much too weak for that. Rather, tides are created because the strength and direction of the gravitational pull *varies* depending on where on Earth you are. This variation creates the *differential forces* or *tidal forces* that in turn cause tides.
The tidal forces of the Moon are much stronger than the Sun's because it is so much closer to our planet, causing a much greater *variation* in the gravitational force from one location to another. The Sun's gravitational force, on the other hand, varies much less because the Sun is so far away.

The Oceans Bulge

The overall effect of these tidal forces is to “squeeze” the oceans, and produce two tidal bulges on opposite sides of the Earth—one facing the Moon and a slightly smaller one facing away from the Moon (see illustration). Due to Earth's rotation, the two bulges act like two expansive “waves” continuously undulating around our planet.

Topography Causes Variation

Mid-ocean, each tidal “wave” is just under a meter high, compared to the water level of the two troughs between them. However, the variation between high and low tide is very different from place to place. It can range from almost no difference to over 16 meters (over 50 feet).

This is because the water in the oceans is constrained by the shape and distance between the continents as well as varying ocean depths. As a result, the tides behave more like water sloshing around in an oddly shaped bathtub than in a smooth and even basin. In some places, the water flows freely and quickly, while in other areas, where the water has to pass through narrow channels, it moves more slowly.

https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/moon/moon-effect.html

High and Low Nearly Twice a Day

Tides are one of the most reliable phenomena in the world, and we know that they move in and out around twice a day, but not exactly. So, why is that?

A day on Earth is the time it takes our planet to spin once around its own axis in relation to the Sun. This is known as a solar day, and it lasts around 24 hours.

However, the time it takes Earth to reach the same position in relation to the Moon is, on average, 24 hours and 50 minutes, known as a lunar day. The reason the lunar day is longer than a solar day is that the Moon revolves around Earth in the same direction as Earth rotates around its axis, so it takes Earth, on average, an additional 50 minutes to “catch up” to the Moon.

Because the tidal force of the Moon is more than twice as strong as the Sun's, the tides follow the lunar day, not the solar day. It takes half a lunar day, on average 12 hours and 25 minutes, from one high tide to the next, so we have high and low tides nearly twice a day.

According to the National Ocean Service, there are some exceptions to the main rule of two tides every lunar day. Along the coastline of the Gulf of Mexico, there is only one tide per day due to the local shoreline topography, among other things. This tidal cycle is called a *diurnal* cycle, as opposed to the normal *semidiurnal* cycle, where *diurnal* means daily and *semi* means *half*.

Continents Affect Tidal Lag

While in theory, the tidal bulges follow the Moon's position on its orbit around the Earth, the depth and shape of the ocean and the distance between continents are also important in determining when the tide rolls in and out. The time that passes between the passage of the Moon and the onset of the high tide is called the *tidal lag*.

In the Southern Ocean, where tidal bulges can move relatively freely, the tidal lag may be around two hours. On the other hand, the tidal lag in the North Sea—a part of the Atlantic Ocean bounded by continental Europe and the British Isles—can be about two days.

Gradual Ebb and Flow

The change from low to high tide is known as *flood tide*, while the change from high to low tide is called *ebb tide*. The technical term for the difference in water level between high tide and low tide is *tidal range*.

The flow and ebb are gradual, so it is not accurate to say that a high or low tide lasts around 6 hours and 12 minutes, i.e. a quarter of a lunar day. The speed of the water flow varies during this period, and it also varies from place to place.

The Rule of 12ths

People who have to consider the tides in their daily life, like sailors, fishers, and surfers, often use what is called the rule of 12ths to calculate the expected water level.

- The **rule of twelfths** is an approximation to a sine curve. It can be used as a rule of thumb for estimating a changing quantity where both the quantity and the steps are easily divisible by 12. Typical uses are predicting the height of the tide or the change in day length over the seasons.
- The rule
- The rule states that over the first period the quantity increases by 1/12. Then in the second period by 2/12, in the third by 3/12, in the fourth by 3/12, fifth by 2/12 and at the end of the sixth period reaches its maximum with an increase of 1/12. The steps are 1:2:3:3:2:1 giving a total change of 12/12. Over the next six intervals the quantity reduces in a similar manner by 1, 2, 3, 3, 2, 1 twelfths.

Should the reader wish to explore this fascinating subject further, the www.Timeanddate.com is an excellent staring point.

@David King Edenbridge August 2024.

SOME WORDS CONCERNING WEATHER DEFINITIONS

Lesley Coyle Dorset September 4th, 2024

We live in a world of change concerning weather patterns, where it suits some bodies to tell us that the current month is the warmest ever, and the world is getting warmer, and as such, some commentators take great store in this data.

Here in the UK we are told that we are experiencing higher temperatures, higher rainfall and more intense storms, all attributed to climate change/global warming, and based the oldest records – that date back to the mid 1880's.

A personal slant on this is that this is not good enough, and, whilst it may serve those that progress this view, it sadly gives only a comparison since the industrial revolution. It pays no heed to the heat of the 1600's when Samuel Pepys recorded the heat in London so intense it burned the soles of his shoes. There is other recorded such comments prior to the 1880's of excessive heat. So why no comment on such matters?

However, such matters are for others to concern themselves, sadly I see those definitions of certain weather conditions here in the UK, for whatever reason are being diminished, some say to the point of being ridiculous, but more importantly degrading previous figures.

- I have established daily contemporaneous temperature and weather records back to 1985. I based a drought on 15 consecutive days of no measurable rainfall.
- I based/base a heatwave on five consecutive days where the temperature remains at least 5C above the seasonal norm.
- A white Christmas defined as 1cm of snow falling on the Air Ministry roof on Christmas day.

Alas, I see that the Met Office have reduced the definition of a heatwave to just three days but quite vague on how such a decision is made. This could mean that the Buchan Warm periods in July and August be deemed as 'heatwaves.' The English summer has historically been defined as 'three fine days and a thunderstorm.' The original five-day definition of a heatwave is more accurate and defining.

The definition of a drought by the Met Office, now, remains the same.

The definition of a white Christmas however, as Lesley so cogently remarked in her July entry, depends on a solitary snowflake, that can even melt before it hits the ground. Such a conclusion, from comments received here, is that such a definition demeans winter, and treats the public as idiots. It is disingenuous.

So, I have attached official definitions from The World Meteorological Organisation, Copernicus, the European weather organisation, The UK Met Office. I will let the reader decide on what definition is consistent with our UK weather.

I will keep to my original tried and tested old values; in so doing I have a reliable consistent comparison of what is happening. Lesley too will keep to the original parameters in her website entries.

@David King Edenbridge August 2024

SOME OFFICIAL WEATHER DEFINITIONS.

HEATWAVES

Lesley Coyle Dorset September 4th, 2024

THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION

The World Meteorological Organization defines it as five or more consecutive days during which the daily maximum temperature surpasses the average maximum temperature by 5 °C (9 °F) or more. Some countries have adopted their own standards.

UK MET OFFICE DEFINITION OF A HEATWAVE.

A UK heatwave threshold is met when a location records a period of at least three consecutive days with daily maximum temperatures meeting or exceeding the heatwave temperature threshold.

COPERNICUS

Copernicus is the Earth observation component of the European Union's Space programme, looking at our planet and its environment to benefit all European citizens. It offers information services that draw from **satellite Earth Observation and in-situ (non-space) data.**

The European Commission manages the Programme. It is implemented in partnership with the Member States, the European Space Agency (ESA), the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT), the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), EU Agencies and Mercator Océan, the European Environment Agency (EEA), the Joint Research Center (JRC).

GENERALLY ACCEPTED DEFINITION OF A HEATWAVE

A heatwave is a prolonged period of much-warmer-than-average weather. A heatwave would typically last for several days to a few weeks, involve temperatures that are much higher than usual for the region in question, and in some regions may be accompanied by high humidity levels, which can exacerbate the effects of the heat on the human body.

Heatwaves can carry various risks, depending on the region where they are experienced. For example, economic risks, including from agricultural losses, wildfires and power shortages. When they reach more extreme temperatures, heatwaves also bring significant health risks such as heat exhaustion and heatstroke, especially for vulnerable populations like the elderly and young children.

DROUGHT

In the simplest terms, drought is defined by a lack of water. Unlike most other extreme weather, drought tends to build up over time and can last from as little as a few weeks up to several years.

The severity of drought is usually measured both by its impact on human activities, such as agriculture and leisure, and by its effect on large-scale natural events such as wildfires. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change uses four common types of drought:

- Meteorological drought – when rainfall in an area is below average for the region
- Agricultural drought – when lack of rainfall or dry soil affects farming and crop growth
- Ecological drought – like agricultural drought, but when lack of water affects the local environment as well

- Hydrological drought – when water supplies such as streams and reservoirs are low, which can be caused by low rainfall, lack of snow melt, or other reasons

A direct link between climate change and drought is complicated by the many meteorological, hydrological, geological, and societal drivers that combine to cause droughts. However, there is increasing evidence that climate change is influencing rainfall patterns in many regions around the world.

Shifting rainfall patterns will likely lead to some regions becoming wetter and others becoming drier. Additionally, these more arid regions could dry further because of global warming.

COPERNICUS DEFINITION OF A DROUGHT.

Drought is a climate extreme characterised by persistent unusual dry weather conditions affecting the hydrological balance. The conditions are usually associated with lack of precipitation, deficit in soil moisture and water reservoir storage, leading to widespread impacts. Droughts can be exacerbated by heatwaves.

Drought is to be distinguished from aridity, a long-term climatic feature, and from water scarcity, a situation where the available water resources are insufficient to satisfy water demand.

The exact definition of drought depends on several factors, such as the prevailing effects on the hydrological cycle, the economic, environmental, socio-economic sector analysed for its dependency of the availability of freshwater.

MET OFFICE DEFINITION OF A DROUGHT

In the United Kingdom an absolute drought is currently defined "as a period of at least **15 consecutive days** when there is less than 0.2 mm (0.008 inches) of rainfall", although before the 1990s a drought was defined as "15 consecutive days with less than 0.25 mm (0.01 inches) rain on any one day".

WHITE CHRISTMAS

The criteria for a "white Christmas" varies. In most countries, it simply means that the ground is covered by snow at Christmas, but some countries have more strict definitions. In the United States, the official definition of a white Christmas is that there must be a snow depth of at least 1 in or 2.5 cm on the ground on 25 December in the contiguous United States, and in Canada the official definition is that there must be more than 2 cm (0.79 in) on the ground on Christmas Day.

In the United Kingdom, although for many a white Christmas simply means a complete covering of snow on Christmas Day, the official definition by the British Met Office and British bookmakers is for snow to be observed falling, however little (even if it melts before it reaches the ground), in the 24 hours of 25 December. Consequently, according to the Met Office and British bookmakers, even 91 cm (3 ft) of snow on the ground at Christmas, because of a heavy snow fall a few days before, will not constitute a white Christmas, but a few snowflakes mixed with rain will, even if they never reach the ground. In the United Kingdom the most likely place to see snowfall on a Christmas Day is in North and North Eastern Scotland, in Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire or the Highlands.

MET OFFICE 2024/25 STORM NAMES

Below you will find the Met Office Storm names for 2024/25. For the full article please follow the below link:

https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news-and-media/media-centre/weather-and-climate-news/2024/historic-met-office-figures-included-in-2024-25-storm-names

August 2024 Fogs

Of course, a fog in August indicates a severe winter and plenty of snow. This is very reliable indeed. Below are my August fog observations:

2nd August: Fog in Kent

8th August: Fog in Dorset

10th August: Thick fog in Dorset

(10th August may indicate to expect the first hard frost being around October 10th)?

11th August: Thick fog in Dorset, Kent, and High Wycombe

15th August: Very light fog in Dorset and Windsor

22nd August: Fog in Dorset

24th August: Fog in Dorset

25th August: Fog in Dorset

27th August: Fog in Kent

29th August: Fog in Dorset

Magic Sightings waiting to happen in September are:

- Bats
- Fungi
- Goldfinches
- Hedgehogs
- Jays
- Red Deer
- Seals
- Slow Worms
- Spiders
- Squirrels
- Stoats
- Swans
- Water Voles
- Weasels

Photo Credit: Trevor Eldridge

Remember to pop all your foraged blackberries, and plums into the freezer for later. All go well with custard in winter.

You can freeze the red currants too - they make delightful cheesecake toppers at Christmas!

September Foraging:

- Blackberries
- Hazel
- Horseradish
- Juniper
- Raspberries
- Red Currants
- Sloes
- Wild Angelica
- Wild Plum

IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF IDENTITY DO NOT EAT. WE HAVE A SURPRISING NUMBER OF POISONOUS SPECIES IN UK.

OBVIOUSLY, AUTUMN IS EPIC FOR FORAGING FUNGI/ MUSHROOMS HOWEVER I DO NOT RECOMMEND THIS – YOU REALLY NEED TO KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING IN ORDER TO DO SO SAFELY. YOU WILL FIND NO SUCH RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ME ON THIS TOPIC.

The Skies

- 5th: We may be able to see Mercury between 04:00am – 06:00am
- 8th: We may be able to see Saturn between 01:00am – 04:00am
- 18th: Full (Super) Moon
- 22nd: Autumn Equinox at 13:43pm
- 23rd: We may be able to see Jupiter between 01:00am – 04:00am
- 27th: We may be able to see Mars between 01:00am – 04:00am

New Moon:
3rd September @ 02:55

Full Moon:
18th September @ 03:34

1Q Moon:
11th September @ 07:05

3Q Moon:
24th September @ 19:49

APOGEE @ 15:53 ON 5TH

PERIGEE @ 14:23 ON 18TH

Now for the collated expert notes on September:

The expert collated notes for the month of September read as follows: “September often opens with another period of dry fine benign weather, and between the end of August and 7th September average barometric pressure rises quite distinctly in most parts of the country. Sometimes predominantly dry weather lasts until around 17th September. But 17 - 25th September, which includes the period of the autumn equinox (22nd), is generally stormy, the peak being 20th September. Winds during this period tend to blow from the north-west and bring sharp falls in temperature, possibly leading to a sharp early frost in sheltered areas protected from the prevailing winds. The last part of September is well known as the ‘old wives’ summer’, when nearly every country in Europe recognises the likelihood of a period of fine and warm weather. It is not so common in Britain as on the continent, however.”

MY NOTES:

August Review:

The forecast was for a bit of everything. “Three days and a thunderstorm”. Potentially a wet first two weeks of August, followed by a fairer interlude and a mix of everything from rain showers to sunshine to end the month. I also called out natural disaster potential from 19th – 21st August. Sadly, the devastating floods in Tripura claimed the lives of 33 people and witnessed a record-breaking 288.8 mm of rainfall in a single day on August 20. On August 21st a Tornado off the coast of Italy sunk a super yacht with 22 people on board. On August 22nd the remnants of Hurricane Ernesto arrived in Scotland causing a months’ worth of rain to fall within 24 hours. Then on 23rd Storm Lilian hit the UK and Leeds Festival had to shut down three stages (ok not a natural disaster but it was unusual to see tents flying around at a UK festival)! As ever the troublesome combination of highest tides, a full (blue) moon and perigee gave accurate advance notice of such conditions.

Indeed, we had a real mix of everything! It was generally dryer (in the South) than I had anticipated, I know the North and Northwest have had a terrible time with the rain and as such I extend my sympathies. We also had plenty of fog as noted earlier in this entry.

All in all, a strong forecast.

September Forecast:

September is likely to be cooler, wet and at times windy. Alas once again we have the dangerous combination of highest tides, a full (super) moon, and perigee to contend with from 15th – 19th September. A flooding event/ storm seems inevitable, and as such if you live in a flood prone area, I suggest taking necessary precautions now. The month will end on a dryer, fairer note.

SEPTEMBER 2024

New Moon = 3rd @ 02:55 = Cold & Showers

1st Quarter Moon = 11th @ 07:05 = Wind & Rain

Full Moon = 18th @ 03:34 = Cold & Showers

Last Quarter Moon = 24th @ 19:49 = Fair

Autumn Equinox: 22nd @13:43pm

DoP/ Quarter Day: 29th: Michaelmas

Highest Spring Tides: 17th – 21st

PERIGEE – 18th @ 14:23 APOGEE – 5th @ 15:53

Met Office Notes: Quiet period: 1st – 17th

Buchan Notes:
None.

FULL MOON THIS MONTH IS CALLED HARVEST MOON

Monthly Notes & Comments

1st	St Giles	Fair on the first - fair for the month. First three days of the month rule the weather for October, November, and December
5th	Apogee @ 15:53	Maybe this day is a better unofficial indicator than 24th August of dryer weather/ Apogee @ 15:53
8th	Feast of Nativity	Feast of the Nativity. As today so for the next 4 weeks.
14th	Holy Cross/ Rood Day	Traditionally children were freed from school or work so they could collect nuts. Passion flower blooms about this time.
15th		Said to be a fine day 6/7 years
18th	Apogee @ 14:23	Apogee @ 14:23
19th		A storm from the south indicates a mild winter may be expected.
20th – 22nd	Barley Set Winds	2 – 3 days of strong winds
21st	St Mathew	Brings the cold rain and dew, also “shuts up the bees”
22nd	Autumn Equinox	Autumn Equinox @ 13:43pm. September blow soft until fruits in loft. If weather warm today, the season should be fine, bright and clear this day, brings good wine in the next year. The day darkness overtakes light.
29th	St Michael	Michaelmas. DoP. Quarter day. If it coincides with full moon will be a reliable guide for the next 45 days. An important quarter day for winds, invariably giving the wind direction for the next three months (to 21st December). Michaelmass daisy flowers. So many days the old moon is - so many floods after.

General notes and comments.

The name of the month comes from the old Roman word Septem, meaning seven,

because in the Roman calendar it was the 7th month.

The month of the patroness of Fruit trees and fruit - the Goddess Pomona.

The ‘wood month’ when wood was gathered to lay-in for winter.

The month of ‘shedding’ of leaves, and fruit etc.

The month of weather extremes.

St Michael is also known as Goose day, when it is said that Queen Elizabeth was eating goose when the news of the victory of the Spanish Armada arrived; in celebration said henceforth she would always eat goose that day.

The Goose Fair at Nottingham is the most famous, but there are others too.

Eat a goose on Michaelmass Day, want not for money all the year.

It is said that if the breast bones of the goose are brown after roasting, then a mild winter to come; if however they are white or have a bluish hue then the winter will be severe.[Editor’s note: I have not be able to test this saying, therefore I put it here in the hope that someone may be able to throw light on this please.]

St Michaels Day -Quarter Day - Day of Prediction. If it coincides with full moon will be reliable guide for the next 45 days. [A fairly dependable indication as to the wind direction. Beware however for this occurs around the period of Equinoxes gales and may give a false reading locally. If gales coincide with the Quarter Day wait for 2 days for the wind to settle after the gales have subsided and then get direction.]

September is however a most unpredictable month and one should not be quick to jump to conclusions, as above.

If St Michael brings many acorns, Christmas will cover the fields in snow.

Foxgloves and Hollyhocks shed their leaves at the end of summer.

As in September, so next March - and is often correct.

Normally less rain than August. Average 80mm/3.5ins.

If birds migrate early, indicates an early winter. If swallows fly off with summer, geese arrive with winter.

If you crack open an Oak-apple on Michaelmass Day it reveals one of seven conditions. Each pattern predicts a different weather pattern for the year. These prophecies are accurate 9/10 years:- 1. If spiders - there follows a naughty year. 2. If flies - A meetly good year. 3. If empty - a great dearth follows. 4. If lean - a hot dry summer. 5. If moist - a moist summer. 6. If kernel fair and clear - summer shall be fair and corn good too. 7. If many and ripen early - an early winter, and very much snow shall be before Christmas and that it shall be cold.

Strong winds start this month and reach their peak on the 21st - about the time of the Equinox. These are called barleyset winds (barley harvest time).

There are generally three consecutive windy days about the middle of the month.

Windy barley harvest winds. Barleyset winds.

15th - Said to be fine 6/7 years. In fact, for any annual fixture dependant upon fineweather it would be difficult to choose a better date than the 15th.

20th, 21st & 22nd - These three days rule the weather for October, November and December.

St Mathew (21st) brings the cold rain and dew, he also ’shut-up’ the bees.

When a cold spell occurs in September and passes off without a frost, a frost will not occur until the same time in October.

Thunder in September indicates a good crop of fruit and grain for next year.

When September has been rainy, the following May is generally dry, and when May is dry, September is apt to be wet. [check previous readings] The above is not really reliable - however - if May is well above the average for rain then the same can be said for September being above average for rain too.

AND

If May is drier than average then September is likely to be drier than average too. All these from local personal figures.

If acorns abound in September, snow will be deep in December. [true]

If the storms in September clear off warm, all the storms the following winter will be warm.

A fine Michaelmass sets all in tune. (fine weather until Martinmass (11th November).

On Michaelmass the devil puts his foot on blackberries.

If it does not rain on St Michael and Gallus (16th October), the following spring will be dry and propitious. (good omen).

When summer meets winter it is a good augury for the coming spring.

September dries up the ditches or breaks down bridges.

If bunches of nuts do hang on branches after leaf-fall, it betokened a frosty winter with much snow. (true)

During the second half of September, if a hard winter is due, the Robin will develop territory close to the house.

London September average rainfall 49mms (1.3ins).

Both droughts and floods are more likely to occur in September than August.

Gallas is 16/10.

A heavy apple crop points to a fine August and September.

The month to celebrate the fruit of the wine.

The month of conkers.

THE FULL MOON THIS MONTH IS CALLED HARVEST MOON or CORN MOON

Tree of the month from 2nd to 29th is Vine. Thereafter the Ivy

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TOM		Moon	Weather	DoP	St/ Holy Day	Other Day	Quarter Day	Apogee/ Perigee	Met Off (stormy/ quiet)	Buchan (warm/ cold)	Super Moon	Highest Tides	Notes
1	S				St Giles				Quiet period				
2	M								Quiet period				
3	T	New Moon @ 02.55	Cold and showers						Quiet period				
4	W								Quiet period				
5	T							Apogee - 15:53	Quiet period				
6	F								Quiet period				
7	S								Quiet period				
8	S				Feast of Nativity				Quiet period				
9	M								Quiet period				
10	T								Quiet period				
11	W	1Q @ 07.05	Wind and rain						Quiet period				
12	T								Quiet period				
13	F								Quiet period				
14	S				Holy Cross Day				Quiet period				
15	S								Quiet period				
16	M								Quiet period				
17	T								Quiet period			Highest	Natural disaster potential 100% higher
18	W	Full Moon @ 03.34	Cold and showers					Perigee - 14:23			Super Moon	Tides	Partial Lunar Eclipse/ Natural disaster pote
19	T											17th	Natural disaster potential 100% higher
20	F											to	Natural disaster potential 100% higher
21	S				St Mathew							21st	Natural disaster potential 100% higher
22	S											Highest Tides	Autumn Equinox
23	M												
24	T	3Q @ 19.49	Fair										
25	W												
26	T												
27	F												
28	S												
29	S			DoP	St Michael		Quarter day						
30	M												

Lesley Coyle Dorset September 4th, 2024