

Advance prediction Autumn 2024 (September to November)



Photo credits due to Trevor Eldridge

Species of the Season: Squirrels

"I'm so glad we live in a world where there are Octobers."

LM Montgomery, Anne of Green Gables

Welcome to the Autumn 2024 website entry. As a valued reader pointed out to me a few months ago, David historically always spelled out how his seasons are organised at the beginning of each advance seasonal forecast. As such I will do the same going forwards, and I thank said reader wholeheartedly for pointing out this oversight to me.

Here at the Indigenous UK Weather Towers, we differ from the accepted definitions of the seasons of the year to better reflect the reality of the actual weather. As such our Autumn runs from about September 10th – November 20th and generally includes at least one period of wet and stormy weather. The early part of the season is often characterised by mild day time temperatures and an occasional little summer caused by the approach of an anticyclone from the South or Southwest. St Luke's Little Summer is around October 18th and St Martin's Little Summer is around November 10th.

The vital wind day on September 29th (Michaelmas) sets the predominant wind direction until the next such wind day (St Thomas) on December 21st. There is a further wind day on November 11th, St Martin's Day. Where the wind blows this day, it will remain until the end of March. As such it is reasonable to conclude that where the wind blows on December 21st will be similar to that of September 29th.

Given the advance nature of these seasonal forecasts, necessity dictates that this website entry is published well before September 29th. As such it is vital that all readers ensure they read the October 2024 website entry which will include a full report of the wind direction on Michaelmas and its effects. I cannot stress enough the profound impact the wind direction on Michaelmas can have on this forecast. The October 2024 website entry will be published as soon as feasibly possible after September 29th so please do ensure you read this for confirmation of this forecast.

In addition, episode of 2 of Country Signs is being filmed on September 30th. This will be released on YouTube as soon as possible after this date and will also include further information from David on what the Autumn, and indeed winter weather has in store for us. You can access our YouTube channel via the following link: <https://youtube.com/@indigenousukweather>

I absolutely adore Autumn; it is by far my most favourite time of the year! Autumn is the season of rich transformation and vibrant beauty, marked by the brilliant hues of red, orange and gold that adorn the trees. The crisp, cool air invigorates the senses, creating perfect conditions for cozy outdoors activities like apple picking and hiking. The sound of walking on fallen leaves and the warmth of seasonal treats like pumpkin spice lattes and freshly baked apple and blackberry crumble with custard evoke a comforting sense of nostalgia. Autumn also brings shorter days, which make the soft, golden light of the afternoon sun particularly enchanting, adding to the seasons tranquil charm. It's a time of harvest and gratitude, where nature's bounty is celebrated, and the world seems to slow down, offering a moment of reflection and appreciation for the simple, yet profound beauty of change.

Wishing you a cozy, tranquil and beautiful Autumn.

Lesley

SEWAGE AND THE ELECTION

Continuing the current criticisms of water utilities, whilst this website stays away from politics, the following item may show how some voters penalised the government for lack of action on sewage and water problems in general.

So, as you sow, so how you will reap.

The [sewage crisis](#) was a significant factor in the [Tories' losing support in the "blue wall" in the south of England](#), electoral polling suggests.

Seven out of 10 voters supported legal measures to eliminate sewage spills in ecologically sensitive areas by 2030, according to polling conducted for Greenpeace by Survation just before the election. Less than a third of voters thought the [Conservatives](#) were right to weaken their commitments on the climate crisis and the environment.

The Tories lost 37 of the 52 "blue wall" seats in the south of England, with 24 taken by the Liberal Democrats, who campaigned strongly on sewage and the crisis of polluted rivers and beaches. Some of those seats, particularly along the Thames, include spots where [some of the worst sewage problems have been reported](#).

One in four people in the region told pollsters that the Conservative party's stance on the environment was a key reason for not voting for them; nationally, only a fifth of people cited this as a reason.

The poll of more than 10,000 people across Britain found that about four in 10 thought the [Labour](#) party's policies on the environment were "about right", while a further 23% thought they should be stricter. Only 15% thought they were too strict.

More than half of voters overall (about 55%) said policies relating to climate change and the environment were important in swaying their voting intention. About two-thirds of respondents supported raising taxes on the super-rich to reduce inequality and pay for a green transition to a low-carbon society.

Georgia Whitaker, climate campaigner at Greenpeace UK, said the new government must make top priorities of cleaning up the UK's degraded natural environment and tackling the climate crisis. "This survey shows how [Sunak's divisive anti-green agenda](#), his net zero rollbacks and his desire to 'max out' oil and gas backfired at the ballot box," she said. "Not only did it fail to shift the dial with voters, but it's the direct reason many voters in seats the Conservatives have lost chose to vote for other parties."

The strong increase in support for the Lib Dems and the Green party, both of which have much stronger environmental policies than Labour, should give Keir Starmer a warning, she said. "He should take note of the [Green surge](#) and the new 'Orange Wall' in the south. He may have achieved a historic victory but there is a lot of appetite for much bolder climate action, fairer taxes for the wealthy elite and the kind of investment needed to deliver the real change he is promising," she said.

[Of the named places appearing in the July website the results are: Of the list of permanent advice against bathing, only Burnham remained; of the three others Reform took Clacton and the Lib Dems the other two.

On the list where bathing not advised, eleven venues changed hands and seven stayed as before: labour taking all the new venues.]

The draft proposals for water utility price rises issued by Ofwat in July 2024 is attached. There is a six-month consultation period.

Average proposed bills in 2029-30

Source: Ofwat

Company	Average annual bill	Change (%) from current prices
Southern Water	£603	+44%
Hafren Dyfrdwy	£524	+32%
Dŵr Cymru	£603	+29%
Yorkshire Water	£537	+25%
Severn Trent Water	£496	+23%
Thames Water	£535	+23%
United Utilities	£536	+21%
Portsmouth Water	£135	+18%
South Staffs Water	£183	+14%
Anglian Water	£557	+13%
South West Water	£561	+13%
Northumbrian Water	£460	+11%
South East Water	£248	+8%
Affinity Water	£203	+6%
Wessex Water	£497	-2%
SES Water	£187	-15%

David King

Edenbridge

July 2024

NOT BEAUTIFUL, BUT YOU CAN STILL EAT IT: CLIMATE CRISIS LEADS TO MORE WONKY VEGETABLES

Whilst this article is from a Netherlands perspective, it applies equally to growers here in the UK, the fundamental basics are identical.

When 31-year-old Dutch farmer Bastiaan Blok dug up his latest crop, the weather had taken a disastrous toll. His onions – 117,000 kilos of them – were the size of shallots.

“We had a very wet spring and a dry, warm summer, so the plants made very small roots,” said Blok, who farms 90 hectares in Swifterbant, in the reclaimed province of Flevoland. “Half of them were less than 40mm and normally at this size they aren’t even processed. We would have probably sold them for very little for biomass, or maybe to Poland for onion oil. It’s either far too wet and cold, or far too warm and dry, and there’s no normal growing period in between.”

Blok is one of a number of farmers in [Europe's largest agricultural exporter](#) linking the climate crisis to ever more “imperfect” fruit and vegetables, rejected by a food system based on standardisation and cosmetic appearance.

Last month, a crowdfunding scheme to help him was launched by social business the [No Waste Army](#), which runs a quarterly food box scheme, with soups, sauces, pasta, drinks and jams made from rescued fruit and veg. Thanks to its commission, public donations – some sending onions to food banks – and a pickling order from Amsterdam “Gherkin King” Oos Kesbeke, Blok’s sheds are finally empty and a year’s work wasn’t wasted.



Farmers are linking the climate crisis to wonky veg that does not meet modern standards of perfection. Photograph: No Waste Army

But Thibaud van der Steen, co-founder of No Waste Army, said farmers are suffering from weather extremes, linked to [the climate crisis](#), making it ever harder to meet modern standards of perfection.

“One of our founders, Stijn Markusse, was working for 12 years with farmers with a meal box concept, and was astonished that so many vegetables and fruit stayed in the ground or were thrown away because they didn’t fit a kind of beauty ideal,” said Van der Steen. “The average consumer has got used to cucumbers as straight as candles. But anyone who has a vegetable patch knows that for every 10 cucumbers, two or three will be straight and all the others will have [all kinds of shapes](#). Farmers say the weather is getting more extreme and that doesn’t help: to grow ideal vegetables, you need ideal circumstances.”

The wettest autumn, winter and spring on record have threatened the [spinach](#) and potato crops, leading to [parliamentary questions](#) and warnings from farming union [LTO](#). Evelien Drenth, LTO agriculture specialist, said [61% of Dutch farmers](#) report lost yields due to extreme weather, diseases are up and sowing is late or sometimes missed. “Consumers and supermarkets need to get used to empty shelves sometimes for short-season crops like spinach ... and also irregular-sized Brussels sprouts and broccoli,” she added.

If the plants are stressed, so are the farmers, according to Jaap Fris, of the community-owned farm [Erve Kiekebos](#), in Empe, Gelderland. “It is true that things are getting more difficult because of the climate,” he said. “But sometimes I have to challenge my own perception that things have to be perfect, when I know that even if it looks less good, it is just as tasty. “There’s an ongoing battle with slugs, for instance, while late-harvested kohlrabi might have grown a second skin or another heart. “Like people, they all look different,” he said. “It’s not that beautiful... but you can still just eat it.” [The Observer 29th June 2024]

The above article, though based in the Netherlands, reflects too, the problems here in the UK facing farmers and producers. Make no mistake, this is a serious problem, and this is reflected in the ever-rising shop prices, with no end in sight either.

The world is facing a significant food waste problem, with up to half of all fruit and vegetables lost somewhere along the agricultural food chain. Globally around 14% of food produce is lost after harvesting before it reaches shops and supermarkets.

Alongside food prices (66%), food waste is a concern for 60% of people that participated in a recent survey published by the UK Food Standards Agency. Other research suggests that as much as 25% of apples, 20% of onions, and 13% of potatoes grown in the UK are destroyed because they don’t look right. Producers’ efforts to meet stringent specifications from buyers can lead to perfectly edible produce being discarded before it even leaves the farm- simply because it does not look right.

Aside from the environmental implications of food waste, UK shoppers currently (and ongoing) face produce rationing in supermarkets due to shortages of tomatoes, cucumbers, and raspberries. As such, any solution to increase locally grown produce on shop shelves could improve availability of fresh food, peculiarly in urban areas.

Imperfect fruit and vegetables don’t make it to the supermarket shelves because of cosmetic standards, where a consistent standard sized, free of blemishes, scars, and other imperfection, is required. Therefore misshapen, discoloured, too small/large, are rejected.

In recent years there has grown the trend of selling such 'ugly' fruit and vegetables, both by supermarkets and speciality retailers that sell boxes of such wonky products. Research shows that 87% of people say they would eat such 'wonky' produce. Alas, others throw away an apple with a spot, but would eat a bent cucumber.

There are those that advocate the starting of a separate channel for selling such wonky produce, running parallel with 'acceptable' produce, who say this would increase competition and lower prices for consumers. On the other hand, this could affect traditional growers/retailers, since encouraging new entrants to this market could also limit the availability of 'regular' produce, since some growers might lower their standards.

But there is a way for traditional retailers to add 'ugly' produce to their offerings alongside other products without affecting their profits. This would grow consumer confidence in using such wonky but acceptable produce and make less demands on their cash, leading of course to less waste and shortages, this latter being a massive problem now and for the future.

There is a project in Kent called the Felix project, where nutritionally brassica and potatoes are salvaged, where they are too big/small/mis-shaped etc. These are taken to a central unit at Enfield where they are stored and distributed to deserving charities, this operation run by volunteers. The time has come for more such 'Felix' type operation across the UK.

David King

Edenbridge

July 2024

Gall Galore!



Top left to bottom right: Cherry Gall & Silk Button Spangle Galls, Common Spangle Galls, Cherry Gall, Marble Galls

This year has been a real treat for me to see so many galls on display. Of course, I only learnt of David King and Weather Without Technology in 2018, and ever since I have searched year after year for these galls.

Sure, during an average year you will find some galls, not many... last year I saw no more than three marble galls all year, and precious little of any other type. This year these galls are impossible to miss – they are everywhere and in real abundance too.

I regularly spend time across Dorset, Staines and Kent and confirm all varieties of galls are abundant in all three of these locations. I am also most grateful to our lovely readers for sending in their findings too, which is more of the same – galls galore!

As you will be aware, these galls provide winter protein for the birds and are a sure sign of a long and hard winter to come. In addition, galls were early in forming this year, which further backs up what I am about to tell you.

If you are new to the methodology, or like me have followed for some years now but have never found any galls – make sure you get out in nature and find them this year. 2024 is truly a unique year, and there are no guarantees when we will next have such displays available to us!

You will only look mildly silly giving trees such a close inspection, and you will regret it if you don't take this opportunity to see such abundant displays! 😊

Notes from Nature

So, what has nature prepared for this winter? Nature has filled the barns and cupboards for winter already with everything running around four weeks ahead of the norm. Have you looked at how high the seed-bearing plants were this year? Hogweed, teasel, thistle, burdock, and giant hogweed all much higher by mid-June than they were fully grown the previous year! To me this indicates that the ground will be frozen, flooded, or snow covered.

Now looking at the hedgerows, we have an abundance of common hawthorn, midland hawthorn, black bryony, cleavers, rose hips, berberis, honey suckle, blackberries. The hedgerows have become akin to giant food warehouses for the birds!

Yet it doesn't end there, look at what the trees/ shrubs have provided. The blackthorn, lime, rowan, guelder, elder, holly, yew, spindle, maple, and laurel all supplying copious amounts of food this year. The beech, hazel, sycamore, hornbeam, ash, alder, and sweet chestnut all bearing magnificent displays too. In fact, rowan berries and nuts are quite literally weighting down the branches of the trees there is so much food on board this year.

The lords and ladies are already being eaten like they are going out of fashion, and indeed mushrooms and fungi were appearing a good four weeks ahead of the norm and being eaten as quickly as they were appearing.

Nature has provided food for our resident animals, but also sufficient food for incoming birds from the arctic regions, fieldfares, redwings, starlings, bramblings, and the rowan has certainly provided for the huge influx of robins we are about to see too.

Look too at the oak tree, a huge crop of acorns this year, as well as an enormous number of various galls and oak apples. Truly a sign of a hard, long winter. The squirrels are now building additional drays (nests) - these will hold extra acorns etc as storage units only. Woodpeckers and owls will store extra food in several holes in the trees. The signs are writ loud and clear.

For the small birds, tits, finches, robins, sparrows, wren etc the ivy provides, safe, off the ground, shelter since its leaves are weather and windproof. Its flowers are the only plant in winter that provides nectar. As such insects are drawn to the flowers and are eaten by the resident birds. Fluid settles on the leaves, enough to provide water. These ground feeding birds additionally have the galls from the underside of then oak leaves that fall onto the top of frozen/snow covered land, providing more vital protein. Ducks and geese live on the water, when frozen they use the bulrushes, reeds as cover and for food.

When it gets really cold, and everything freezes, the snowberry comes into its own, since this provides water all winter long and does not freeze. The dogwood, pieris, privet and some berberis also provide liquid for drinking, as does cotoneaster berries. Some ericas, gorse and bilberry too provide, if not too cold, liquid food.

So, from the above, you can see how nature provides for the various birds and animals. The more one looks, the more one sees, and marvels on just how brilliantly nature provides in so many differing ways for all its kingdom.

In January, (whilst it was running a week late) indeed the cold and frosty weather did arrive which ensured a good fruit and grain harvest this year. The remainder of winter and Spring was overall relatively mild and wet. This occurred because nature needed the full 180 days growing period (March until the end of August). Plant growth requires water and sunshine, which is why we predicted a damp summer, with the best of the sunshine occurring at the end of June and during the first three weeks of July (whilst our July dates were not perfect it averaged out across the month to be exactly as predicted).

We were always clear 2024 was never going to be a prolonged, hot, dry, "BBQ summer". From the start we were always clear temperatures during the June/ July 'fair' period would not exceed 32/33c and we were always clear this period would be the best summer had to offer. After July's sunshine we will revert to a typical British Summer, 3 days, and a thunderstorm – damp/ mild, except for the third week of August when we will have a dry and fine period for the nut harvest (St Filbert's).

September will be more of the same, damp and will start to noticeably cool down towards the end of the month. From September 17th – 21st we have the dangerous combination of highest tides, perigee, a full moon (also a blue moon), and partial lunar eclipse. With Autumn equinox also on September 22nd a severe storm seems likely, with flooding in flood prone areas possible.

We will then have the all-important Quarter Day, Michaelmas Day. This wind day is vital in understanding what is ahead. If the wind on this day is SW, then the thoughts of snow disappear and alas this forecast will need to be updated to include significant rain and flooding events. Whichever way I look at it, nature and the galls mentioned above are a vital piece of evidence for a hard winter, long winter. Given what nature has prepared for, we think that the wind will likely be blowing from an Easterly direction for everyone on the East side of the UK (draw a line down from the Pennines to the Chilterns all the way down to Corfe Castle – everyone to the East of this line). This Easterly wind is a dry, cold wind. The Western side of the UK (West of Scotland, down to Wales and whole of the Southwest), will have a South Westerly wind which brings a much damper air flow. I cannot stress enough how essential this wind day is. A vital piece of data, and as such you will need to read the October website entry (which will be published as quickly as possible after September 29th), for the final confirmation on this forecast.

Buckle up, I am about to deliver a long, hard, cold, winter forecast starting early – bringing frost and snow to most, likely all.

October will start off on a cold and frosty note. St Luke's little Summer around October 18th is the true Indian Summer, however this year we believe this will come around five days early. Therefore, an early St Luke's from around 13th will deliver fine but cold and possibly foggy conditions. From the 15th – 19th October there is the dangerous weather combination of highest tides, full moon, and perigee. As such the chance of a natural disaster somewhere in the world raises by 100%. On October 17th we have a 'snow if cold enough else cold rain' moon. Therefore, everyone North of Humber, up through Northumberland and to the East of Scotland could well get an early snowfall on this date. Everyone South of the Humber will have cold rain. St Jude always brings a storm around October 28th, which is also a Met Office stormy period. BST officially ends on October 27th.

Three of four moons in November are all 'snow if cold enough' moons. Therefore, I believe during November a cold pattern will lock in, and dependent on your location, the weather will be cold and changeable – snow if cold enough, else cold rain. As the month progresses and the cold pattern locks in, we could all see snowfall in November. St Martin's on November 11th is a vital wind day to take note of. Where the wind blows this day, it will blow until St Thomas on December 21st (and in all likelihood through to the end of March). It also usually brings around 3 days of settled weather, however from November 13th – 18th we also have the dangerous combination of highest tides, perigee, and a full moon which is also a super moon. The chances of a natural disaster somewhere are raised by 100%.

We are now heading into winter forecast territory, but I am not going to leave you hanging for another couple of months, I like to give you as much notice as possible so I will continue...

We will likely have a brief and relative respite in the cold during the first two weeks of December, before returning to a colder and frostier set up in time for Christmas. We have a total of four frost moons spanning the last two weeks of December and first two weeks of January. The cold and frost on the ground will sustain itself and ground temperatures will get colder and more severe throughout this period. It is unlikely that we will see a white Christmas here in the south, but under the Met Office's new system of "a single snow drop falling anywhere in the UK" now being classed as a white Christmas, then yes – somewhere will technically have a white Christmas. For most of us, a white Christmas is highly unlikely this year.

January will be a calm, dry and cold month. It will get colder and colder until the ground is frozen. We will then have two snow moons spanning the last two weeks of January which I believe will deliver snow for all. Once down the snow will lay and freeze and get topped up by any subsequent falls.

February starts with a 'cold rain' moon, however when temperatures on the ground are already so cold this can create further problems like freezing rain. This occurs when the water freezes on contact with the surface creating a coating of ice on whatever the raindrops touch, and freezing rain is treacherous to say the least. There will likely be a further snow fall around February 12th, after which February will remain generally very frosty and cold. It is also worth remembering we had some extremely hot days throughout the period of 24th – 27th June, which will correlate to the coldest days in February. Given that we also end February with a frost moon, I think the end of February will be bitterly cold. February is also the month of the lowest evaporation.

March 1st brings a 'stormy moon', followed by a 'fair and mild moon'. When storms and warmer air come in from the West into already established cold air, this often creates 'battle ground conditions' between the cold and warm air, and so we may see some further significant snow events as the atmosphere attempts to return to its usual set up (a Westerly air flow). Of course, the warmer air will eventually win the battle, and we will end March on a windier note, likely still cool but the snowfall and bitter cold conditions will be behind us.

It is also worth remembering we have also had a couple of extremely foggy days over July, which is early, but remember everything is running four weeks ahead this year. Those foggy days would have normally appeared in August. For every August fog we will get a snowfall. I am very keen to see if we have any further fogs in August and will update you all accordingly when I have this data.

We are well overdue a very long hard winter, and funnily enough David and I have been working on a new theory in which hard winters appear every 14 (ish) years). 2024 minus 14 is 2010. 2010 minus 14 is 1996 (1995 would have been the more relevant year so its not perfect). 1996 minus 14 is 1982. And so on. Nature is never wrong, it has been obvious since June where this year was headed.

The sensible/safe/ and likely synopsis for me to forecast is that we are looking at a 'Beast from the East' type winter containing significant cold snaps, but it must be said that there is just an outside chance of something truly significant occurring this year. 1991 could be a safe bet, or perhaps akin to the winter of 1962/63. This is not only based on mine and David's observations, but also our many readers who have taken the time to e-mail us with their own observations. The consensus is for sure is that natures preparations are indeed far more this year, than they were ahead of 'Beast from the East'. I do not make such statements lightly; it annoys me when sketchy journalists report sensationalist headlines for clickbait purposes, because it must frighten the life out of the people that lived through such severe winters and can recall just how tough those winters were to endure. However, my job is a simple one, to deliver what the methodology is telling me. Forewarned is forearmed. To summarise winter 2024/25 will be very cold with snow and ice for most, likely all, with additional problems in October and November with the dangerous moon and high tide combinations as mentioned above.

The vital caveat is this, you must return and read the October website entry – the wind day on September 29th could change everything.

SEPTEMBER 2024

The expert collated notes for 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 the 18th of September. But 17th to 25th September, which includes the period of the autumn equinox, is generally stormy, the peak being the 20th. Winds during this period tend to blow from the north-west and bring sharp falls of temperature, possibly leading to an early frost in sheltered areas protected from the prevailing winds. The last part of summer is known as 'old wives summer,' when nearly every country in Europe recognizes the likelihood of a period of dry fine and warm weather. It is not as common in Britain as on the continent. The 29th, Michaelmas, is the quarter day that sets the predominant wind direction up until 21st December (St Thomas') the next such wind day."

To summarise: September will be damp, with a mix of showers and sunshine. The weather will likely be windy at times too. Alas we have another dangerous weather combination to contend with from between 17th – 21st September. Therefore, the chance of a natural disaster somewhere in the world is raised by 100%. Temperatures will begin to rapidly cool down as we approach the end of the month. We will have a fair spell of weather to end the month with around 24th which will be calm but cool.

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

DoP: 29th St Michael (Michael Mass) + Quarter Day (Vital Wind Day)

Autumnal Equinox 22nd

Highest Spring Tides 17th to 22nd

APOGEE: 5th @ 15.53 PERIGEE: 18th @ 14.23

Partial Lunar Eclipse: 18th

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

BUCHAN NOTES: None

FULL MOON ON THE 29th IS CALLED FULL HARVEST MOON

Weatherlore Fun: I find the below to be very true indeed, and fun to look out for in September.

“Summer goes with the swallows”. Very true, whether they fly away early or late.

“When summer meets winter it’s a good augury for the coming Spring”.

“If bunches of nuts do hang on the branches after leaf fall, it betokens a frosty winter with much snow”.

Nature Gnomes: It is time to say goodbye to Summer. Did you have a special one? I hope so. Now it is time to go out into nature and pick your favourite flowers. Make sure that you are with your parent or carer so you can ensure that you are not picking anything poisonous. Find some jars and put each different variety of flower petal into its own jar – pack as full as possible with the petals. Now ask your parent or carer to pour boiling water over the petals for you, so the petals are covered but using as little water as possible so the colour will be as concentrated as possible. Add 2-3 drops of vinegar and a pinch of salt to each jar. Leave the magic petal paint overnight. The next day strain out the petals and your magic petal paint will be ready to use. This magic paint will smell like summer, and you can now use the opportunity to create a beautiful looking, beautiful smelling painting that represents everything you were thankful for this summer. This activity will help you feel calm, thankful and inspired for the season ahead.

OCTOBER 2024

The expert collated notes for October read as follows” The rainiest month of the year for most of England and Wales, but not for Scotland since December there is the wettest month. A pattern evolves now for the rest of these darker colder months through to the spring, of stormy at the start and end of each month but relatively quiet and fine in the middle. Stormy around the 5 -12th with a peak around the 8-9th. This windy period is associated with a succession of depressions moving west to east across the country and marks the risk of flooding in London from storm surges. The wettest days in this period being then 8th in the Home counties and London and the 11th in Scotland, accompanied by a steady gentle fall in temperature. There is generally a period of 5 days to a week of fine dry settled weather around the 18th – St Luke’s day – known at St Luke’s little summer. It is also school half term time, whilst the days maybe, for the time of year pleasant and benign, the nights can be cold and frosty. This period around St Luke is also the true Indian Summer; this comes from the north American Indians folklore when this period is the last time for late harvesting/gathering/hunting before the onset of the winter; hence the name of the full moon as the ‘hunters or harvest moon.’ This moon is generally afforded the special honour, historically serving as an important feast day in both western Europe and among many native tribes. The St Luke’s summer period ends, always, with a storm on 28th (St Simon & St Jude’s day). BST this year ends at 0100hrs on the 27th – the darker days and nights signalling the start of the dark winter months here in the UK. This St Luke’s period bring too, cold frosty nights, particularly in the Midlands and southern England, though days may be bright and sunny giving the allusion of warmer climes. The last week of October into the first week of November bring a prolonged period of stormy weather with average dates being

25th October to the 13th November; with a storm peak around 29th October. There is however a short period from 30th October to the 4-5th November followed by an intensity of further storms.

To summarise: October will start off on a cold and frosty note. St Luke's little Summer around October 18th is the true Indian Summer, however this year we believe this will come around five days early. Therefore, an early St Luke's from around 13th will deliver fine but cold and possibly foggy conditions. From the 15th – 19th October there is the dangerous weather combination of highest tides, full moon, and perigee. As such the chance of a natural disaster somewhere in the world raises by 100%. On October 17th we have a 'snow if cold enough else cold rain' moon. Therefore, everyone North of Humber, up through Northumberland and to the East of Scotland could well get an early snowfall on this date. Everyone South of the Humber will have cold rain. St Jude always brings a storm around October 28th, which is also a Met Office stormy period. BST officially ends on October 27th.

OCTOBER 2024

New Moon = 2nd @ 19:49 = Fair & Frosty

1st Quarter Moon = 10th @ 19:55 = Fair & Frosty

Full Moon = 17th @ 12:26 = Snow & Rain

Last Quarter Moon = 24th @ 09:03 = Cold Rain

BST ends on 27th

Draconids Meteor Shower: 7th

Orionids Meteor Shower: 21st & 22nd

Highest Spring Tides 15th to 19th

APOGEE: 2nd @ 20:39 AND 29th @ 22:50

PERIGEE: 17th @ 01:51

Annular Solar Eclipse: 2nd

Met Office Notes: 16th – 19th = Quiet Period/ 24th – 31st = Stormy period

BUCHAN NOTES: None

FULL MOON ON THE 17th IS CALLED HUNTERS MOON

Weatherlore Fun: I find the below to be very true indeed, and fun to look out for in October.

"If during leaf fall in October many leaves remain hanging, a frosty winter with much snow will follow." "If the oak bears its leaves in October, there will be a hard winter". The second saw is very reliable indeed.

Nature Gnomes: Next time you are out walking with your parent or carer, collect as many fallen leaves as you can, and as many different shapes and sizes as you can. When you get home, it is time to create your October leaf predictor chart. Glue or tape your leaves to a piece of A3 paper and record the type of leaf it is, the colour, and any noticeable changes (like curling, thickness, galls). Have a chat with your parents and carers about the types of predictions you can make using the leaves – are they extra thick? Have you found lots of galls? Note your observations down underneath the leaf so you don't forget. Why not personalise your leaf predictor chart with drawings, stickers, stories, or poems? Go back to your chart once per week over Autumn and Winter and tick off any predictions that came true. Have fun Nature Gnomes!

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The expert collated notes for November read as follows: "Starting the month with storms from the 5th onwards abundant rain westwards from the Atlantic bringing continuous depressions to the north or just north of the UK. Temperatures however can be milder than average, and frosts are rare. The persistent SW winds check the autumn fall of temperatures from the end of October, however, at first there is often some early snow in the extreme north. In general, the weather for the month is dull and cheerless. There is an important wind day on (though not an acknowledged quarter/wind day) on 11th November- St Martin's Day – that also gives two to three days of fine settled, albeit cold at night, daytime weather known as St Martin's little summer. The wind direction on this day gives the weather for the next three months, with a near 100% reliability, and will remain for the rest of winter. There is one major caveat here, in that if this wind comes from the NW, then for certain, a severe winter will ensue. Mid-November tends to be more settled, often cold, with frosts at night, with night fogs developing in or near towns – or known frost/fog hollows – that are slow to clear during daytime. There is a dry period from 15-21st November, with the peak period being 18-20th November. The last week of November ushers yet more stormy weather that extends well into December and one of the most regular of all stormy periods of bad weather. This period has two peaks of intensity, the first around the 25th November and the second around 9th December. North westerly or even northerly winds are prevalent, bringing a fall in temperature as well as increased rainfall - which, if cold enough, will fall as snow. However, the strength of the winds prevents prolonged frosts. There is an important wind day (Though not a quarter/wind day) in November, this being the 11th November – St Martin's day -a period of three days or so fine dry weather – known as St Martin's little summer - though possibly frost overnight. Where the wind blows on this day it remains the same direction until at least 2nd February – Candlemass – and most times up to 21st March. This is always 100% correct."

To summarise: Three of four moons in November are all 'snow if cold enough' moons. Therefore, I believe during November a cold pattern will lock in, and dependent on your location, the weather will be cold and changeable – snow if cold enough, else cold rain. As the month progresses and the cold pattern locks in, we could all see snowfall in November. St Martin's on November 11th is a vital wind day to take note of. Where the wind blows this day, it will blow until St Thomas on December 21st (and in all likelihood through to 21st March). It also usually brings around 3 days of settled weather, however from November 13th – 18th we also have the dangerous combination of

highest tides, perigee, and a full moon which is also a super moon. The chances of a natural disaster somewhere are raised by 100%.

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New Moon = 1st @ 12:47 = Snow & Rain

1st Quarter Moon = 9th @ 05:55 = Rain

Full Moon = 15th @ 21:28 = Rain or Snow

Last Quarter Moon = 23rd @ 01:27 = Snow & Rain

DoP – St Martin: November 11th

Taurids Meteor Shower: 4th & 5th

Highest Spring Tides 15th to 18th

APOGEE: 26th @ 11:55

PERIGEE: 14th @ 11:14

Met Office Notes: 15th – 21st = Quiet Period/ 1st – 13th & 24th – 30th = Stormy period

BUCHAN NOTES: Cold Period: 6th – 13th

FULL MOON ON THE 15th IS CALLED FOG MOON

Weatherlore Fun: I always enjoy assessing these saws each November. “The weather on St Martin’s Day foretells the weather for three months”. “Wind Northwest at Martinmas, a severe winter to come.” “If leaves not fall by Martinmas Day, a cruel winters on the way”. St Martin, is of course, a day of prediction, but it is the only one which boasts the ability to foretell for three months.

Nature Gnomes: DIY Windsock time!

Materials required:

- A long, light weight sock (preferably colourful or patterned)
- Stiff cardboard (such as from a cereal box)
- String or ribbon
- Scissors
- Tape, glue, or a needle and thread
- Markers, fabric paint or stickers for optional decoration

Instructions:

1. Select a long sock, such as a knee-high sock. Bright colours or patterns can make the wind sock more visible and decorative.
2. Create a cardboard ring. Cut a large circle from the cardboard (approx. 8-10 inches in diameter). Then cut out a smaller circle from the centre, leaving a ring that is about 1-2 inches wide. This cardboard ring will help keep the top of the sock open.
3. Attach the ring to the sock. Fold the edge of the sock over the ring and secure in place ideally with needle and thread but if your short on time do what you can with tape or glue. This will ensure the mouth of the sock stays open to catch the wind.
4. Attach hanging strings or ribbons. Cut three or four pieces of string about 12 inches long. Evenly place these strings around the top edge of the sock securing to cardboard ring inside the sock. Gather these strings together and create a loop for hanging.
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