

WEATHER WITHOUT TECHNOLOGY
OCTOBER 2014

PREAMBLE.

Welcome to the October bulletin, and I commence with an apology to those who, prior to 26th August attempted to contact me from the new website via then 'Contact' page. Sods Law operated from the 22nd to late on the 25th when the technical fault was discovered. So, if anyone sent me a request, comment, brickbat or whatever, it got lost in the ether or the reply address failed to materialise – that being the case, please repeat, and I will reply this time.

Apologies to Richard Scriven in this respect, if he would like to repeat I will reply this time. Richard wrote asking for a map of the region covered, in the main, by this website and suggested a map. A new map is enclosed now. The area, starting at Dover (Kent), runs north up the North Sea to Lowestoft, turns west and inland to Thetford then turns southwards towards and onto the M11. Travels down the M11 to the M25 and turns west following the M25 to the M3 where it then swings south west to Southampton and then back eastwards to Dover along the English Channel. Everything within this zone concerns this website, though I appreciate that there are micro-climates within that area, which will have a local bearing.

Why such arbitrary parameters? I have noticed over the years that weather travelling east along the M4, arrives at the M25 and for the greater part turns northwards.

Weather travelling east along the M3 arrives at the M25 and turns south, invariably petering out at Reigate.

Weather travelling east along the M27/A259 is inclined to travel east and north towards the North Downs – but not always arriving.

In winter, with the cold easterly winds in East Anglia, cold weather travels east and south down the A11 to the M25.

In Essex and Kent it comes off the North Sea, travelling east and uses the A12 and A13 in Essex towards the M25; in Kent it uses the M26, A229 and A249 towards the M20 and M25.

These are not idle comments but quite reliable observations, which help explain flooding in some parts of the M25 and not others during the summer months, and also the snow conditions in winter months on parts of the eastern road networks.

For the observant, look and see if the above are broadly correct, you will be surprised too.

Indian summer? Oft quoted in the national newspapers, heard on both radio & TV and found elsewhere is the quote 'what a wonderful Indian summer we are having!' OK I am about to put the current Indian summer 'to bed.' The current benign balmy September weather this year is NOT an Indian summer – just by looking at the September data sheet you will get a good idea that it is in fact a Met Office quiet period, the month of the Harvest Moon, the month for gathering in the fruit, the settled weather before the Autumnal Equinox.

So what is Indian Summer? The best definition and the one I use, from many years practical experience is 'a warm dry sunny period of daytime, followed by dry cold frosty nights, after the end of summer between the months of October and November.

I use 'St Luke's little summer,' as the defining time for this Indian summer period (it is also the period of school half-term too). Looking at the October datasheet will explain exactly why this period can well be named thus, plus too the singularities sheets and moon periods always produce the exact weather as described above, between the 18th (St Like and the 28th St Simon & St Jude (always a stormy day too).

Therefore those are the reasons for describing the Indian summer. Doubtless diligent search of internet search engines will confirm my findings.

Having said that there is a further short dry sunny period in November around the 11th (St Martin), known as St Martin's little summer, maybe three such similar days as St Luke's, and once again the moons are most kindly in assisting this short dry pleasant period.

This month's data has been held back for the simple reason that I wanted to include the wind direction on 29th September (Michaelmass) – which sets the predominant wind direction for the next 90 days and the forthcoming winter.

September 29th – Michaelmass Day, also is the accepted day for cracking open oak apples, which as the data notes on the data sheet will reveal, give indicators of what the next year will bring. Allowing for the usual sceptics, it is in fact quite surprising just how good these old saws are.

This year there were many oak apples and they were all ripe – it is fair to say that there are more oak apples this year than acorns too, which are conspicuous by their absence; I am waiting for a botanist to tell why this has happened this year too. I suspect the influence of the gall fly on the trees and leaves has left its mark. [As a matter of interest too, there are hardly any ash seeds this year either].

From harvest 22 oak apples from three different locations, I have deduced, using the notes on the data sheet, the following for the coming 12 months:

- 1. Since there were many and all ripened early, this indicates an early winter and very much snow before Christmas, and that it will also be cold.*
- 2. From two of the locations the oak apples were identical since the kernels were fair, clear and dry; this would indicate a fair summer with good corn too.*
- 3. However the remaining one location six oak apples were fair, dry and clear, indicating a fair summer with good corn too. The remaining six oak apples however all contained fly grubs, which indicate a meetly good year to come.*

It will be interesting in due course to see how accurate these oak apples are.

September 29th – Quarter Day – wind day. Where the wind blows this day will be the predominant direction until at least the next such day on 21st December.

The predominant wind direction this day was S/SE, which I interpret as a dry benign period for the month, certainly in the east no heavy rain, notwithstanding local conditions.

Cold and getting colder nights are a certainty since we will be picking up cold from mainland Europe – and not as in 2013 the wet south westerly's. I think a divide between the west of the UK and the east. Here in the east side the continental cold air-masses will affect us, but also keep us drier. This is the start of the long-heralded cold long winter that nature has been flagging up now for weeks. Do not be surprised at early snowfalls this year either – the warnings are there in the moon weather predictions.

So colder winds, and not the mild SW winds of last year from now through to at least 21st March, and maybe even June.

But there is a reasonable summer to compensate later.

And we still have St Luke's little summer to come this month.

Advance signs of hard cold winter to come: a small list of easily recognisable indicators to a hard winter.

1. The robin takes up residence in your garden adjacent to the back door (the food door).
2. White dead-nettles with their white flowers proliferate in hedgerows.
3. The skins of ENGLISH (not Spanish) onions are very thick.
4. Sheep already have developed thick winter coats.

To readers from the Radio York (The Paul Hudson Weather Show) thank you for all your comments and requests, what a pity here in the SE the value of the methodology is not appreciated.

I will be returning to the above programme in late October/early November with a full winter (up to end of March 2015) prediction.

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Edenbridge.

September 2014.

OCTOBER 2014

NEW MOON = 23rd @ 2256hrs = Fair & frosty + Partial solar eclipse
1st QUARTER MOON = 1st @ 2033hrs = Rain & snow AND
31st @ 0248hrs = Snow and stormy.
FULL MOON 8th @ 1150 = Cold & high winds + Lunar eclipse
LAST QUARTER MOON 15th @ 2013hrs = Rain and snow.

DoP = None this month.

- 3rd Day of celebration after wine harvest
- 6th Perigee 0942hrs
- 11th Vinalia Day New wine testing day.
- 16th Gallas see notes for 29th September.
Apogee 0606hrs
- 18th St Luke St Luke's little summer is a fine day (4 days to a week of lovely weather)
- 26th BST ENDS
- 28th St Simon & St Jude Marks the end limit of St Luke's little summer. A rainy day.
On St Jude's day the oxen may play (end of heavy farm work).
- 31st Hallowtide If ducks swim at Hallowtide, at Christmas the same ducks will slide.
The onset of winter and darker time of the year.

MET OFFICE NOTES: 16th to 19th Quiet period. 24th to 13th November a stormy period.

BUCHAN NOTES: none

HIGHEST SPRING TIDES DATES: 9th to 12th

The full moon this month is called the Hunter's moon.

The tree of the month up to 27th is the Ivy thereafter the neonatal.

General Notes and Comments

THE Golden month - star of the weather prophet's year.

The month with more weather signs than any month, but it has no day of prediction.

All October predictions look forward well into December and the New Year.

October has 19/21 fine days, maybe over-optimistic, but usually more fine than rough.

October forecast signs fit well with days of prediction, and should be taken seriously. Best reputation for long range forecasts.

St Luke usually gives 4 days to a week of lovely weather. (very true) He does however sometimes arrive five days late!

One can reasonably expect a warm period between mid-September and mid-November.

Feast of St Simon and St Jude signals the start of a very stormy period, and the end of St Likes summer. It is also claimed there is never a year without rain this day.

Abundance of acorns, dead nettles and thick onion skins in October indicate a hard winter.

Heavy crop of haw-berries and beech nuts indicates a bad winter to come.

31st - Halloween. Has a reputation for being a quiet night.

The garden month - expect downpours of rain.

For every October fog there will be snow in winter, heavy or light according to the fog. Most reliable indeed.

Full moon in October without frost, no frost till full moon in November. (a golden rule)

If the October moon is born with the points up, the month will be dry. If down, wet. (the old saying being that a moon on its back catches the rain - a moon on its side cannot catch the rain)

If during leaf-fall in October many leaves remain hanging, a frosty winter with much snow will follow. (very true)

If in October leaves till hold, the coming winter will be cold (yes).

Late leaf fall, hard in New Year, (true)

If Oak bears its leaves in October there will be a hard winter. [very reliable]

If in the fall of leaves many of them wither on the boughs and hang there, a frosty winter and much snow will follow. (proven yes)

If foxes bark much in October they are calling up great falls of snow. (true even in Cities)

(If no foxes or hares in your district watch the sheep. If they cluster together and move slowly, it is a sure sign of snow). Yes - proven with sheep.

If the hare wears a thick coat in October, he shows his wisdom. (lay in a good stock of fuel)

When owls hunt in daylight, expect a hard winter.

If squirrels early mass their hoard, expect a winter like a sword.

When birds and badgers are fat in October, you may expect a cold winter.

If there is snow and frost on October, January will be mild.

If October brings much frost and rain, then January and February will be mild.

Windy October, dry January; warm October, cold February.

If late October and early November are warm and rainy there is a better chance that January and February will be cold and frosty. (Proven from local records)

October wet, March dry. [yes if October above average, March will be below average]

October cold, March cold (is more likely from local records). October warm, March colder than average (proven from local records)

The last week in October is the wettest of the year in southern England and the chances of a dry day on the 28th is minimal. [official averages]

Observe the first heavy fog in August and expect a hard frost the same day in October. [check readings]

Much rain in October, much wind/rain in December.

When it freezes and snows in October, January will bring mild weather, but if it is thunder and lightning, the weather will resemble April in temper.

If October brings heavy frosts and winds, then January and February will be mild.

Redwings arrive mid-October and Fieldfares the end of October.

In October dung your field and your land its wealth shall yield.

The end of summer -leaves turn gold and fall, the chills of autumn herald the onset of winter.

Wine harvest vintage month.

Time of first frosts and final harvest. The greater the harvest, the greater the frost and snow the following winter.

THE FULL MOON THIS MONTH IS CALLED THE HUNTERS MOON.

The tree for the month is Ivy up-to 27th. Thereafter it is the noetal.

MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR EDENBRIDGE (USING 1981-2010 FIGURES)

Mean Max: 16C Mean Min: 6.5C Mean Avg: 11.25C
Rainfall: 92.9mm Sunshine: 131.2hrs (day = 4.23hrs)

Whilst I appreciate the above are local figures, it will be an indication of what the averages are, and, of course there will be local variations. Such variations can be found by trawling the various weather websites, or by using the superb data found in the Climatologists Observers Link website.

The following figures are for the average temperature at 12 noon and again at 4pm, taken at the beginning and again at the end of the month.

1 st	16C	17C
31 st	11.8C	11.3C

