

OCTOBER 2018

PREAMBLE



Tree of the month 30/9 to the 27th October is the Ivy – the only plant to provide nectar throughout the winter, therefore a vital protein food source for insects as seen here, which in turn provide vital winter food for the smaller birds. The ivy also provides waterproof and windproof cover for the smaller birds throughout winter with food (berries and insects) literally on the door step (leaves).

Welcome to the October edition of the website.

For those that are interested and have not yet visited it, may I suggest the following website; www.colweather.org.uk the site is quite self explanatory and there you will find much locally, nationally and internationally weather connected to read. It is by far the most comprehensive amateur weather site in the UK, and, again, for the interested ones, the annual fee of £11 is excellent value indeed. I myself am a member and have been so for many years.

And whilst on the same subject of weather websites, the updated/upgraded RmetS website is now available: www.rmets.org again interesting for those with further weather interests.

Finally for real technical weather data Dr Roger Brugge has a magnificent website working from University of Reading: www.met.rdg.ac.uk a true font of knowledge indeed.

Water – or lack of water; I have been harping on about this problem now for several months, yet for reasons unknown it seems to be ignored. I know that many parts of the UK have acute water shortages already [if United Utilities – the water provider for the wettest part of the UK, including The Lake District is granted emergency abstraction licences to take water from boreholes, rivers etc, then the writing is on the wall writ loud and clear already], here in the SE, Southern Water have real fears that already the boreholes are near empty too. I know from conversations that Yorkshire has ongoing water problems and their reserves are really low too; East Anglia, already the driest part of the UK has massive problems too. Slowly but surely the picture starts to build of water problems.

I work a year ahead I see what is coming months away, the methodology here is as good as it gets; a glance at the autumn predictions shows a lack of meaningful rainfall to come, rainfall I indicate meaningful rainfall, rainfall that actually does some good to the soil. And, as such, any farmer or grower will tell you that we need lots and lots of water for a sustained period to re-instate the status quo in the soil after the prolonged hot dry summer.

On my July ITV This Morning appearance there was a spokesperson for Water PLC who made it quite clear that a water shortage in the autumn and winter seasons would cause major concerns in his industry; I fear that those fears are about to be realised.

Whilst autumn maybe dry, the real problem comes for winter quarter. The winter predictions will appear on the website early October – I have to wait for the wind direction on the 29th September to finalise the prediction; when that appears, to indicate just how dry the winter will be (for most of the UK, but not quite all) look and see how many phases of the moon contain rain. The quick answer is precious few, and with really no rain for the whole of February into March then the drought warning contained in the February and March website entries concerning the total rainfall for the last 18 days of February and the first 10 days of March becomes vital.

As with the 'Beast from the east,' warnings that the methodology highlighted months ahead – and attendant derision too – then once again the same methodology highlights a water shortage. For those that need and use water all the warnings are there writ loud and clear – as nature always does – months ahead; therefore your choice to heed or ignore.

As a further sign of just how wet or cold winter is likely to be, then whilst on the autumn and winter predictions look and see how much snow is contained in the moon phases – again – apart from the normal areas (the Cairngorms etc) then no snow is likely to fall this winter. High pressure will dominate, that gives fair weather during the daytime and frost overnight; this can be seen by just looking at what nature has prepared for its own. Hardly any hemlock, teasel, burdock, thistle or other seed bearing plants above 3 feet, more lords and ladies and other seeds down at the hedgerow bases for many a year; lots of hips, haws, seeds, fruits and berries, but many of them liquid bearing too – all signs of a relatively benign winter with no flooding or snow to cover the ground. It is a case of looking and seeing and then translating this information into real information.

Christmas day last year was wet and stormy and gave the reduced grain crop; this Christmas will be dry with a couple of hour's sunshine – a foretaste of a better grain crop – but also of more propitious summer weather – the signs are writ.

We are told through newspaper headlines that the summer just ended was among the hottest ever recorded, yet I saw not one mention anywhere of the brilliant summer of 1975; not did I see the millions of ladybirds that appeared in 1976 – but the eastern side of the UK had more than their fair share of greenfly. And, although claims are made of summer heat wave, even here in the hot SE that technical definition was not reached, yes it was very hot and very dry, but not a heatwave per se.

So I had an in-depth look at 1975 and 1976 (and whilst there those three hot summers of 1988/9/1990); 1975 gave the foretaste to 1976, I think that 2018 may well have given the foretaste to 2019; that being the case, then water becomes even more important.

I also see recently, journalists, who write in national newspapers of yet another severe winter to come – yet with no real source for such a claim, but again it sells newspapers, and once again the 'Indian Summer' ranges from late August through to November.

Therefore to inform new readers of when and what an Indian summer is, I have included previous articles; for those that have seen this before, please bear with me, there are new readers each month. Therefore also included is St Martin's Little summer, Michaelmass and Quarter days.

INDIAN SUMMER: OCTOBER

This event has a defined date, 5 days to a week around St Luke's day – see below.

The origins of this event are also defined below. A time in Indian folklore when the last fruits and seeds were harvested, the animals killed for winter storage and supplies, during a period of relative calm and dry sunny conditions before the onset Autumnal and winter storms.

There is however one important date this month, 18th – St Luke. This is a period of 5 days to a week of dry settled benign daytime weather, maybe too with frosty nights, the time of children's half-term, and has the name St Luke's little summer, (at the same time too of the Met Office quiet period). This Indian summer period always ends on the 28th – St Simon & St Jude's day when it is always wet and stormy (thus coinciding with the Met Office stormy period).

St Martin's little summer - NOVEMBER

Day of prediction is the 11th – St Martin, also around this period expect 2 days and a bit of dry benign sunny calm weather known as St Martin's little summer. This is the day of prediction up to the 21st December. This is however a vital day for the winter, for where the wind blows this day (although not a true quarter day) it will blow at least to the 2nd February (Candlemass) and most probably to St Benedict on the 21st March. *[The importance of the wind on the wind on this day cannot be over-emphasised – once again it gives a near full 90days notice – Author's note]*

Michaelmass – 29th September – this is a quarter day for winds – where the wind blows on this day will be the predominant wind direction until the next such quarter day on 21st December. This a 100% reliable indicator of the predominant wind direction for the next 90 days.

[There are 4 such quarter days, 29th September - Michaelmass: 21st December - St Thomas': 21st March – St Benedict: 24th June – St John.

Where the wind blows on each of these days will give the predominant wind direction for the following 90days. Therefore the wise observer will be able to see if the weather is going to be very cold (winds from the east) or wet (from the NW or SW) or warm from the S or SE). These are all 100% reliable year in year out.

HONEYMOON - Trivia. Every now and then some trivia creeps in to the preamble, and Honeymoon is one such entry, prompted by some interesting newspaper and magazine articles.

Depending on what source one uses, but the generally accepted term is the period after one gets married, but it has an interesting history. The first written record dates from about 1552 ad, where it is mentioned that people who get married spend the whole next month together; splitting the word into parts, honey becomes a sweet time and moon becomes the period of time for a complete moon cycle.

It is however found deep in Druid mythology and dates from the 5th Century when centuries represented calendar time with moon cycles. The newlywed couple drank mead (fermented honey) during the first month of marriage; mead being a honey based alcoholic drink made from the three ingredients of water, yeast and honey and believed to contain aphrodisiac properties. Three is also a sacred number to the Celts. Mead was a pretty common drink amongst northern European tribes, Celts, Norse and Vikings etc and became known as nectar of the gods.

Written Druid law can be traced back to the bronze age (4000 years), and the wild flower meadowsweet (for those that have been on walks with me will instantly recall the importance of this plant for its many medical properties) was used in this potion and also in burial rites. The flower of the meadowsweet, collected and infused in very hot water, stirred, then drained when cooled, produces the NSAID (Non Steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drug) we all know as Aspirin.- - yes really.

That ends the trivia section for this edition – but nevertheless quite interesting and informative – good for pub quizzes too.

Hot summer deaths (humans.)

It is reported (The Times 18/9/2018) that official figures for the period May to June say that hundreds more people died the first days of the just passed summer heat wave; though it is also thought that many already had underlying illnesses, but that many of the deaths may have been prevented if buildings were better adapted to prevent over-heating. Having said, the deaths at 10853 between April and June were 497 less than the 5 year average.

Hedgehog problems due the hot summer.

Apart from the increasing absence of hedgehogs from the country scene (due to predation by the badger) this summer also caused further problems to baby hedgehogs (hoglets). Mothers were unable to produce enough milk to feed them and combined with the rock hard soil, insects and worms were unable to be extracted from the grounds; therefore hunger, dehydration and mal-nourishment caused many more hoglets to be accepted by hedgehog sanctuaries. This however appears to be this year, a northern hemisphere problem, since other countries have reported identical problems.

The 2018/9 list of winter gale names has been released by the Met Office and is included below. The first name, Ali, being used on the 19th September – just prior to the regular equinoxal gales associated with the third week of September. Plus la change!.

Finally for this month, an interesting report from the Royal Society and Royal Academy of Engineering just released states “ In a recent report commissioned by the governmental engineers and environmental experts said that making homes, offices and even bridges from timber instead of concrete and steel would remove up to 4million tonnes of CO₂ a year from the atmosphere. Trees absorb CO₂ as they grow and planting up to 500 million more in the UK by 2050 could be one of the cheapest and most effective ways of setting off emissions. “

Interesting but also common sense.

STORM WARNING NAMES BELOW

Storm names for 2018-19 announced

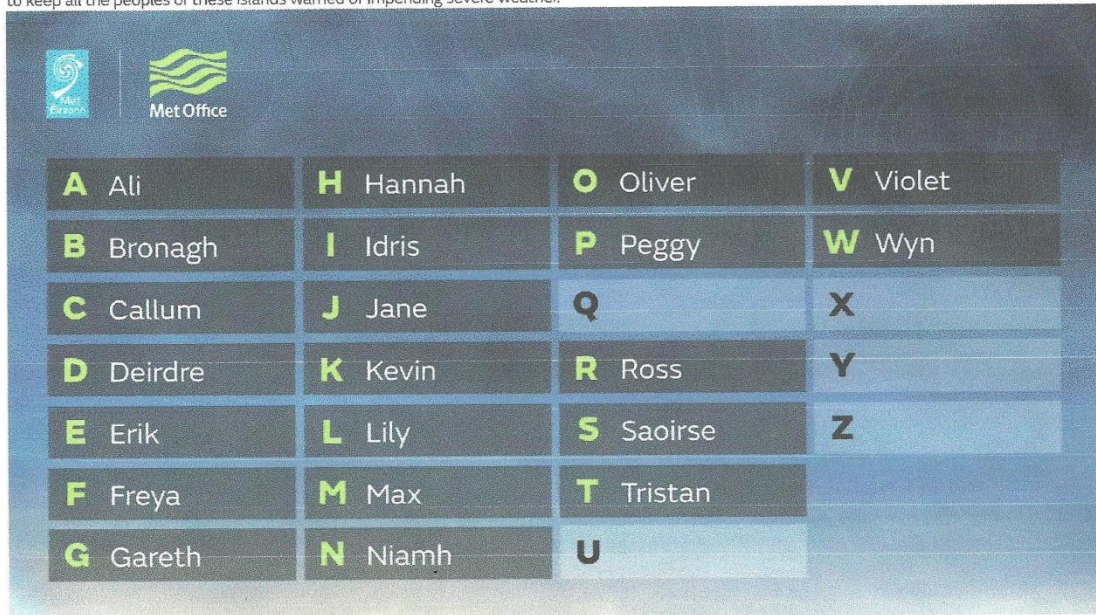
11 September 2018

The Met Office and Met Éireann, today reveal the list of storm names for the coming season.

First introduced in 2015, this is the fourth year the Met Office and Met Éireann (the meteorological service in the Irish Republic) have jointly run the 'Name our Storms' scheme, aimed at raising awareness of severe weather before it hits.

This year the first storm will be 'male' and named Ali, while the second storm will be 'female' and named Bronagh, following the alternating male/female pattern established by the US National Hurricane Center in the 1970's.

Evelyn Cusack, Head of Forecasting at Met Éireann, said: "The last 12 months have seen some extreme weather around the Globe as well as here at home. While it is too early to say whether the coming winter will be a stormy one or a quiet one we are prepared with a whole new set of 21 names for whatever nature may throw at us. As before, Met Éireann forecasters will work in close co-operation with our colleagues from the Met Office in the UK to keep all the peoples of these islands warned of impending severe weather."



A Ali	H Hannah	O Oliver	V Violet
B Bronagh	I Idris	P Peggy	W Wyn
C Callum	J Jane	Q	X
D Deirdre	K Kevin	R Ross	Y
E Erik	L Lily	S Saoirse	Z
F Freya	M Max	T Tristan	
G Gareth	N Niamh	U	

This season's names have once again been compiled from a list of suggestions submitted by the public, choosing some of the most popular names but also selecting names that reflect the nations, culture and diversity of Britain and Ireland. As in previous years, Q, U, X, Y and Z will not be used, to comply

<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/news/releases/2018/storm-names-2018-19>

1/5

OCTOBER 2018

NEW MOON = 9th @ 0446hrs = Rainy
1st QUARTER MOON = 16th @ 1901hrs = Fair
FULL MOON 24th @ 1745hrs = Fair.
LAST QUARTER MOON 2nd @ 1045hrs = Rain showers.
LAST QUARTER 30th @ 1640hrs = Fair

8th October = Draconids Meteor Shower
21st + 22nd = Orionids meteor Shower

DoP = None this month.

Highest spring tides 9th to the 12th.

APOGEE 17th @ 2018hrs: PERIGEE 5th @ 2331hrs AND 31st @ 2006hrs

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

BUCHAN NOTES: none

BST ENDS 28th October 2018 @ 0100hrs.

- 3rd Day of celebration after wine harvest
- 5th Perigee @ 2331hrs
- 10th Apogee @ 1929hrs
- 11th Vinalia Day New wine testing day.
- 16th Gallas see notes for 29th September.
- 17th Apogee @ 2018hrs
- 18th St Luke St Luke's little summer is a fine day (4 days to a week of lovely weather)
- 28th End BST
- 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).
BST ENDS 0100hrs
- 31st Hallowtide If ducks swim at Hallowtide, at Christmas the same ducks will slide. The onset of winter and darker time of the year.
Perigee @ 2006hrs

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

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

General Notes and Comments

THE Golden month - star of the weather prophets 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	11.4C	108C
30 th	8C	7.4C

Oct-18												
Date	Day	Moon	Weather	DoP	Saint/Holy Day	Other Day	Apogee Perigee	Equinox Eclipse	Met Office	Buchan	Super-moon	Highest tides
01/10/2018	M									NONE		
02/10/2018	T	LQ	Frequent									
03/10/2018	W	1045hrs	showers									
04/10/2018	T											
05/10/2018	F						Perigee					
06/10/2018	S						2331 hrs					
07/10/2018	S											
08/10/2018	M											
09/10/2018	T	NEW	Rain									highest
10/10/2018	W	0446hrs										9th
11/10/2018	T					Vinalia day						to
12/10/2018	F											12th
13/10/2018	S											
14/10/2018	S											
15/10/2018	M											
16/10/2018	T	1sd Q	Fair			Gallas				Quiet		
17/10/2018	W	1901hrs					Apogee			Period		
18/10/2018	T					St Luke	2018 hrs			16th		
19/10/2018	F									to 19th		
20/10/2018	S											
21/10/2018	S											
22/10/2018	M											
23/10/2018	T											
24/10/2018	W	FULL	Fair							Stormy		
25/10/2018	T	1745hrs								Period		
26/10/2018	F									24th		
27/10/2018	S									to		
28/10/2018	S					BST ENDS				13th		
29/10/2018	M					St Simon & St Jude				November		
30/10/2018	T									}		
31/10/2018	W	LQ/1640hrs	Fair			Hallowtide	erigee 2006hrs			}		