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SEPTEMBER 2017

PREAMBLE



Tree of the month 4th to the 29th is the vine. This is a Trollinger grape variety (red).

Welcome to September 2017 website entry.

The final month of relatively warm and mild weather before the colder autumn sets in, with autumnal/equinox storms due after the 22nd.

The most important date is the 29th - Michaelmass - a quarter day - where the wind blows this day that will be the predominant direction for the following 90 days up to the 21st December, I feel sure the wind for the eastern side will be N/NE; for the west and SW, SW; for the NW and Scotland NW.

Summer 2017, such as it was, was varied over the UK, some parts had precious little sunshine and heat, some a surfeit of cloud and dampness, it was however, whilst not BBQ summer, at times quite warm. Once again the SE corner was much luckier with heat and sunshine. For the heat the first part of July we must be grateful for a heat-wave in Alsace (NE France) that blew hot dry air towards the SE.

The predicted 'better' summer from the 5th to the 15th, as predicted, was late in arriving, but it did arrive, and in some places stayed much longer than the 15th too, well into the 20th. I hope therefore that the grain farmers managed to secure their harvest without too much damage, the Buchan warm period 12th -15th August rarely fails, which is why in some mails, I asked the recipients to trust me, I hope I returned the trust.

Sadly a couple of indignant mails from TV viewers complaining of cold rain in June - when heat was promised -but I did correct on the website in the February bulletin; in any case for many June was indeed, after initial rain, very warm indeed. UK weather is notoriously fickle, a sensible person never goes far without some rain wear to hand, I can only do what the methodology throws up. Fortunately most appreciate these vagaries, others sadly must learn to 'smell the coffee.'

However, the methodology does highlight bad periods really well - or the distinct possibility of such periods; I have strong indications of such bad weather for early November, December and January, especially for coastal and river locations liable to flooding - these are highlighted in the Winter - December 2017 to March 2018 prediction on the website which should be on the site early September at the latest.

For local areas here in the SE I can do my own research without too many problems. However when dealing with Cumbria and the NE I need localised accurate data, some I find and some I need 'feet on the ground,' data; to this end I addressed e-mails to Deputy-Editors of local newspapers in Carlisle and York with a measured full explanation of what I do and why I requested their input. Sadly I have not even had the courtesy of even an acknowledge for either of the publications to whom I made the request. This would seem to confirm my recent criticism of the declining standards of journalism in the UK. If, and I hope not, but I fear such flooding re-occurs in Cumbria and York, your headlines will be full of the misery and stress such events bring - how sad you could not even try to assist me to help you before the events materialised.

I returned to This Morning ITV show on the 9th August - in the predicted wet summer rain (74cl of rain in 20 hours here too) - and in the time given, tried to highlight how nature is pre-warning of a long hard winter ahead. Once again the small in-significant detail is what gives the clues, this time the galls on the acorns on the oak trees and excessive number of pin cushion galls on the wild roses this year.

For those that have requested better illustration of the Knopper Gall and Marble Gall on the Oak trees this year. The first picture is a standard acorn set. The second is a Knopper Gall. The third is a knopper Gall in situ on a banch/twig. Finally the Marble Gall.





And finally whilst on the same subject, the Robin's pin-cushion gall in great profusion on wild roses this year.



The above are two of the more common, easier, items to see out in the countryside; but for others look the height of the hogweeds, teasel, burdock, and other such seed bearing plants - the clue comes as to how high the lowest branches are off the ground; this year not much under a metre, which indicates how inaccessible some of the ground will be to smaller birds. Thistles and willow-herbs too in great profusion. Some hedgerows are red with hawthorn and others purple with sloes, ask, alder, sycamore, sorbus, lime, plane to name but a few of the seeds out there. The ivy, yew and holly now too beginning to come into bud in large numbers.

A really early sign of winter this month too, bearing in mind that ever since 28th February when spring arrived 21 days early, the whole year has been some 21 days ahead of the norm.

There is normally here where I live a 3 week gap between the departure of the last of the summer migratory birds (normally end of August) and the arrival of the first winter migratory

geese from the north (back end of September). This year the summer birds departed on the 13th July, except the late house martins and a few stragglers from the swift colony that went early August. On 10th August the first skeins of greylag arrived here and have been arriving ever since, with the first incoming mallard too. So from no bird-song after the 13th July we now have morning and evening 'honking' of these magnificent geese as they depart and return each day from their roost nearby. Another sign of a long hard winter ahead.

St Filberts day - 18th August - cob nut harvest time; sadly this year, though the trees were overflowing with such nuts at the end of July for a magnificent harvest, come the 18th, none left at all. It reminds of a long lost TV advert, to paraphrased, "Sorry mate, you're too late, the best nuts went to squirrels." Indeed the squirrels and jays have harvested early this year.

Robins too are appearing in the back garden to stake their winter territory, slowly the signs start to manifest the predictions.

The start of September hopefully will be benign, what fruit that is left can be gathered in and harvested safely. Not a cold month, a breezy after the first two weeks - a lull before the first frosts in the first week of October. Nor is September the Indian Summer month - that is October.

The attached is a short item requested by a national newspaper in July, I repeat it here for information.

INDIAN SUMMER

"A warm and calm spell of weather occurring in autumn, especially October or November"
Met Office 1916.

This is definitely originating from the Indian tribes of NE America and is first mentioned in 1778 when it was described as a "a time for people to forage and hunt later in the year to build up winter food stock."

As with most of the now established and accepted moon titles, eg Corn moon, hunters moon, pink moon etc, the Indian Summer comes from the mythology of the North American Indian tribes and is established as about the mid-October period, and as such St Luke's Day, 18th October is now accepted as the start of a short period of four days to a week of fine warm dry settled weather, though at times it does come a few days late. It corresponds with a Met Office quiet period 16th to 19th October and ends with the storms and rain on 28th October -St Jude's day.

This is also the period of the prime pumpkin harvest and children's half term break.

More detail on www.weatherwithouttechnology.co.uk

Enjoy September, thank you too for reading the website.

SEPTEMBER 2017

NEW MOON = 20th @ 0629hrs = Wind & rain.
1st QUARTER MOON = 28th @ 0353hrs = Rain.
FULL MOON 6th @ 0802hrs = Changeable.
LAST QUARTER MOON 13th @ 0724hrs = Changeable.

DoP = 29th St Michael (Michaelmass)

Equinox 22nd @ 2102hrs.

Highest spring tides 7th to 11th AND 21st to 24th

APOGEE 27th @ 0651hrs: PERIGEE 13th @ 1605hrs.

- 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 Maybe this day is a better unofficial indicator than 24th August of dryer weather.
- 8th Feast of the Nativity As today so for the next 4 weeks.
- 13th Perigee 1605hrs
- 14th Holy Cross Day Passion flower blooms about this time. Apogee 12.29hrs.
- 15th Said to be fine day 6/7 years.
- 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 Autumnal equinox @ 2102hrs = expect gales. 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
- 27th Apogee 0651hrs
- 29th St Michael (Michaelmass). 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.

MET OFFICE NOTES: 1st to 17th Quiet period. BUCHAN NOTES : none.

The full moon this month is called the harvest moon.

Tree of the month 2nd to 29th is the vine, thereafter the Ivy.

General Notes and Comments

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 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 fine weather 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 FULL MOON THIS MONTH IS CALLED HARVEST MOON

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

MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR EDENBRIDGE (USING 1981-2010 FIGURES)
Mean Max: 20.8C Mean Min: 9.2C Mean Avg: 15C
Rainfall: 64.6mm Sunshine: 185.8hrs

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	20.37C	20.76C
30th	16.02C	16.71C

DATE	Chandler & Gregory Barry & Perry	Brooks	Lamb	Buchan	Met Office	Season
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September 01
September 02
September 03
September 04
September 05
September 06
September 07
September 08
September 09
September 10
September 11
September 12
September 13
September 14
September 15
September 16
September 17
September 18
September 19
September 20
September 21
September 22
September 23
September 24
September 25
September 26
September 27
September 28
September 29
September 30

6th - 19th dry, especially east
& central England

1st - 17th
anti-cyclonic

17th-24th stormy

5th - 30th
old wives summer
peak days 7th - 10th
peak day
peak day
peak day
peak days 16th - 21st
peak day
peak day
peak day
peak day

gales liable
around this date
cyclonic quite common

1st - 17th
quiet
period

18/6 - 9/9
high
summer

10/9 - 19/11
autumn

10/9 - 19/11
autumn

