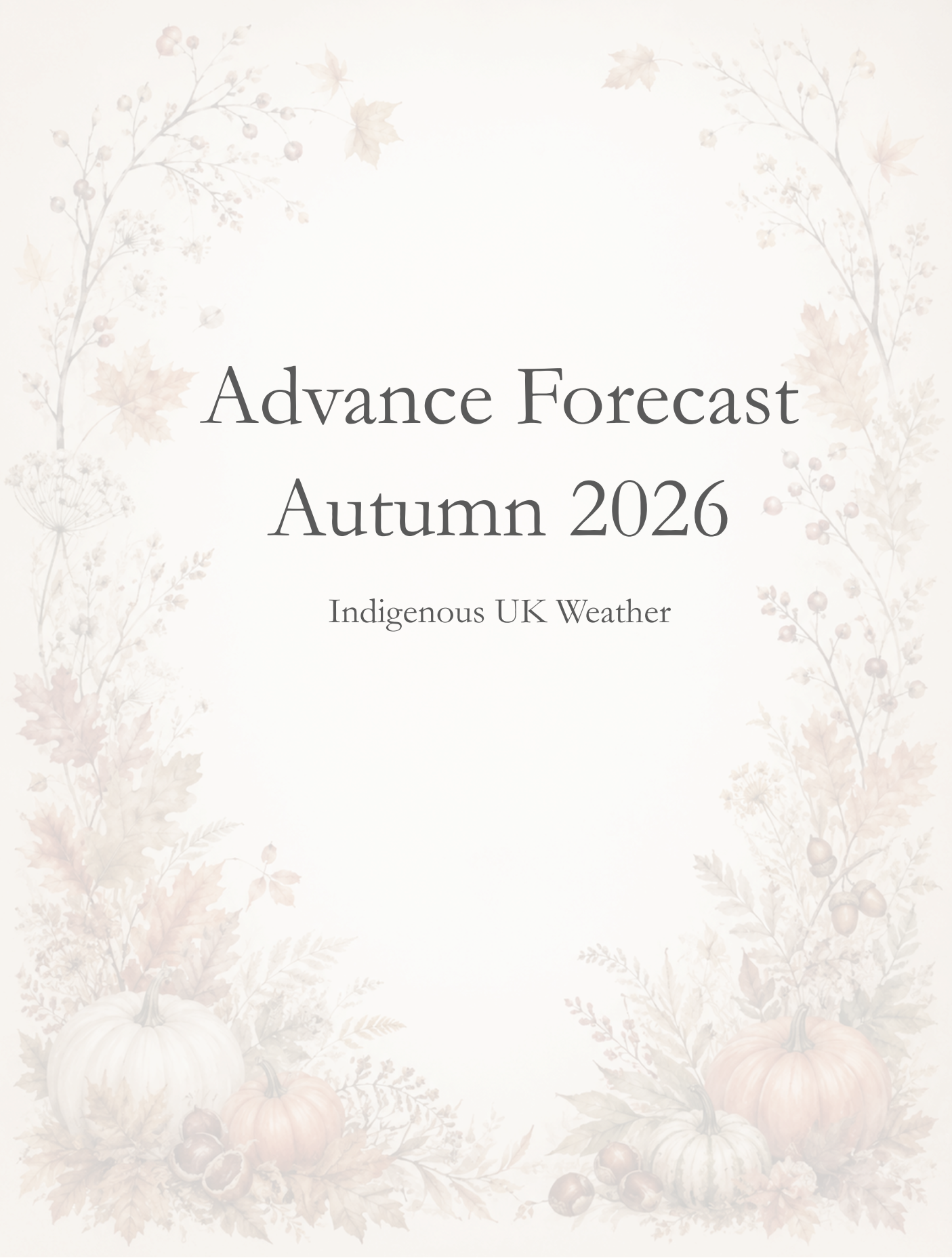




Advance Forecast Autumn 2026

Indigenous UK Weather

Advance prediction Autumn 2026 (September to November)



Photo credits due to Trevor Eldridge

Species of the Season: Squirrels

“Delicious Autumn! My very soul is wedded to it.”
George Eliot

Welcome to the Autumn 2026 website entry.

At Indigenous UK Weather Towers, we work with nature’s rhythm rather than the calendar’s. Our Autumn runs from around 10th September to 20th November — a timeframe that better reflects how the seasonal shift truly unfolds.

The Wind Days: Natural Weather Markers

Several traditional wind days guide our seasonal forecasting:

- Michaelmas (29th September) – Sets the predominant wind direction until the next such wind day.
- St Thomas’ Day (21st December).
- St Martin’s Day (11th November) – Offers the most accurate wind forecast for winter. Wind direction on this day typically holds through to Candlemas (2nd February), and often right up to St Benedict’s Day (21st March).

This year, we anticipate winds from the southeast (initially on September 29th), and then easterly later (November 11th), bringing much colder air than we’ve been used to!

Key Autumn Markers

- St Luke’s Little Summer is expected to arrive right on time this year, around 18th October, and will last for about five days. Expect dry, calm days with cold, frosty nights.
- Around 28th October, St Jude will likely usher in a notable storm, acting as the seasonal pivot.

- From early November, conditions will shift quickly to colder weather. Snow in the north is a definite possibility during the first week of November. November is likely to be a stormy month overall but should end on a more settled note.

Notes from Nature



As of August 2026, Summer has been hot and dry for almost everyone. While I appreciate some regions have seen more rain than others, many farmers, growers, and livestock owners have faced a deeply stressful season again due to excessive heat and serious water shortages.

But in the way that nature always balances itself, we've seen a spectacular bounty of fruit and nuts this year — a harvest some four to six weeks ahead of the norm. By the time September rains arrive, most will already be safely gathered in, with the remainder coming in during the Indian Summer.

What Nature Has Prepared

- Roadside plants have struggled with the drought, but species like hogweed still thrived early on and were much taller by June than they were at any point last year.
- Once again teasels are thriving — with their dramatic cupped leaves trapping and storing rainwater in their leaf axils. These natural reservoirs can sustain the plant, deter pests, and even support pollinators and birds. A remarkable example of botanical resilience.
- Berry crops are rich: hawthorn, rowan, elder, holly, yew, spindle, and maple are all heavily laden. Blackberries are plentiful though not fully fattened due to the lack of rain.
- I've not seen anywhere near as many Lords and Ladies this year as I usually do, nor wild strawberries or ground food. To me this indicates nature is focussing on food sources that are well off of the ground.
- Seed-bearing trees like sycamore, hornbeam, ash, and alder are heavy with seed.

- Nut trees — chestnuts, hazels, beech — are producing superb crops, even better than last year which was a mast year.
- Oaks are carrying a decent crop of acorns.
- Once again, galls galore – always a clear signal that snow will follow later in the season.

Nature seems to be preparing not only for resident species but also for incoming birds from Arctic and northern European regions — fieldfares, redwings, starlings, bramblings, and jays from the near continent. Robins too are migrating inward to feast on our rowan berries. Take note of when the first Robins begin to stake territory in your garden – another quiet signal from nature. Oh, and check how thick the skins of English onions are this year too!

Nature has not only stocked its shelves — it's done so early, generously, and with unmistakable intent. All signs point to a long, wet, and later – cold season ahead.

Forecast Highlights for Autumn

- Given the dry summer, nature will compensate, and we expect more rainfall than usual during autumn.
- It will stay mild (ish) through to St Jude's storm (around 28th October), after which, temperatures will drop fast.
- Early November may bring snow in the north, though it won't persist. The rest of the month will be a mix of wet spells, and storms. I expect November to be a windy month in general.

Flood Watch: Natural Disaster Risk

- The end of October (26th – 29th) could bring flash flooding to coastal and low-lying areas. Given this is in the St Jude's window, I think this year's St Jude's storm could be a particularly nasty one.
- If we avoid that, we still face flood risks around the end of November (24th – 27th), and again in late December (24th – 27th) – yep, I know, Christmas. The Christmas period itself should be frosty rather more than wet – so this could be pointing to some sort of natural disaster elsewhere. I hope not, but this combination of perigee, full moon, and high tides coinciding does have a track record of being an exceptional indicator of potential problems – so I need to mention it. This alignment significantly increases the chance of natural disruption, so please take sensible precautions.
- To have three consecutive months pointing toward flash flooding is concerning – but forewarned is forearmed.

Key Wind Dates to Watch

- Michaelmas (29th September) – Determines the dominant wind pattern through to 21st December.
- St Martin's Day (11th November) – A nearly 100% reliable indicator of winter wind direction through to February and most likely March.
- We expect this year's wind to come from the eastern segment, suggesting a raw, cold easterly flow from the Urals across Europe — especially affecting eastern parts of the UK.

Looking Ahead

Because this forecast is published well in advance of Michaelmas, we urge all readers to check the October 2026 website update, which will confirm the actual wind direction observed on 29th September — a crucial detail that can influence everything that follows.

The October update will be published as soon as feasibly possible after September 29th. Please make sure to read it — the accuracy of our autumn and winter forecast depends heavily on this.

In terms of the winter, an early head up...

Full details will follow in our winter advance forecast, but here's what we can share so far – because we don't want to leave you hanging.

December looks as though the weather will begin stormy, but as the month goes on it will become colder and frostier. I do not expect snow during December. January however, is expected to be extremely cold, with snow for almost everyone.

In June 2026, we experienced one major heatwave, though it built on to an extraordinary run of heat that started in spring. The hottest June day record was broken with Norfolk recording 38c. Nature has a way of evening things out – and that intense heat signals a cold February.

I'm flagging autumn/ winter 2026/27 as stormy and mild initially with a lot of rain, followed by a cold, long, and harsh couple of months in January and February, with snowfall for almost everyone in January. I expect February will give us a brief respite for a couple of weeks before turning cold again. More on that later.

So – get the wood in. Dust off your jumpers, hats and scarves. We have another long winter on our hands. Rainy, snowy at times, and cold.

A Personal Message From Me

Some of you will know that Dave mentored me for just over two years before he passed, and asked that his work continue. I've done my best to carry that forward since, and I'm genuinely proud of what we've shared together.

I wanted to be open and honest with you all about where things stand. Running the website and forecasts takes a lot of time, energy and my own funding to keep going. Others have kindly offered to help along the way, but life is busy for everyone, and it's ended up staying very much a one woman effort. I've continue to think hard about what the right shape for this is going forward – and especially into the new year.

Nothing is decided. But I didn't want to make any changes quietly, without including the people that have made this what it is. This group isn't going anywhere, whatever happens. It's always been the real heart of this for me.

So I'd love to hear from you: what matters most to you about this community? Could it's purpose be served on the facebook group? Is it the forecasts, countryside notes, the group itself or something else entirely that feels important? I continue to have extremely high readership numbers – so I guess I need to know what you miss, would miss, and what's not important so I can ensure going into the new year we get things right. Your thoughts will genuinely help shape what comes next. Thank you as ever for being part of this, and for three wonderful years of support.

A Final Thought for Autumn

I absolutely adore Autumn. The season where nature provides beautiful colours, smells and gentleness. I love the crisp mornings and the golden glow of afternoon light that feels both fleeting and eternal.

This is the season for cosy walks, crisp leaves and warm bowls of soup. It's a time for gathering the harvest, and sharing in the delight of memories made throughout the year over a warming meal shared with your nearest and dearest. Most importantly it's your cue to rest.

It's the time to savour nature's wonders and enjoy the quiet rhythm of the earth. It's a time of reflection, gratitude and a gently letting go.

I am so excited for a cosy autumn, and I am wishing you a wonderful season of rest, reflection and peace.

Best wishes

Lesley X

SEPTEMBER 2026

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 start off on a changeable note, a mix of sunshine and showers before settling into a rainy pattern. By September 11th we will be locked into rain until the months end. Given how dry the summer has been, we certainly need this rain and nature will go into overdrive trying to compensate. The trouble being the ground is rock hard. There is no obvious indication of problematic flooding – but that said, lots of water onto hard ground does raise an eyebrow. Also we will experience high tides three times in September, which is unusual.

Lunar phases and folklore remain important tools in indigenous weather forecasting – here’s how they align this September:

SEPTEMBER 2026

Last Quarter Moon = 4th @ 08:51 = Changeable

New Moon = 11th @ 04:27 = Rain

1st Quarter Moon = 18th @ 21:43 = Rain

Full Moon = 26th @ 17:49 = Rain

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

Autumnal Equinox 23rd @ 01:05

Highest Spring Tides 1st & 2nd and 12th – 15th and 26th – 30th

APOGEE: 19th @ 03:02 PERIGEE: 6th @ 20:27

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

BUCHAN NOTES: None

THE FULL MOON ON THE 7th IS THE TRADITIONAL HARVEST MOON, CLOSELY TIED TO ANCIENT AGRICULTURAL RYTHMS.

OCTOBER 2026

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 as 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 on the 26th – 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 illusion 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: The first three weeks of October should be beautiful, fair and mild – a true Indian Summer. St Luke's will be particularly beautiful (18th for about five days), where we can experience bright cool days and cooler nights. I don't think it will be particularly cold. St Jude's Storm will arrive around 28th and with the dangerous combination of perigee, a full moon and highest tides to contend with I suspect it will be a monster storm – could be very serious indeed. Once the storm subsides, the weather will make a dramatic turn to cold, and we will all notice a big difference – it will be quite bitter by months end.

OCTOBER 2026

Last Quarter Moon = 3rd @ 14:25 = Fair and Mild

New Moon = 10th @ 16:50 = Fair and Mild

Last Quarter Moon = 18th @ 17:12 = Fair

BST ends on 25th

Draconids Meteor Shower: 7th/ 8th

Orionids Meteor Shower: 21st/ 22nd

Highest Spring Tides: 1st & 2nd, 10th – 14th & 26th – 29th

APOGEE: 16th @ 22:57

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PERIGEE: 28th @ 18:02

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

BUCHAN NOTES: None

OCTOBER'S FULL MOON IS CALLED THE FULL HUNTER'S MOON.

NOVEMBER 2026

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 at 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: November will start off on an extremely cold note. Those up North may even experience a little snow in the opening days in November, although it won't last. I expect the following weeks to oscillate between cold and stormy conditions. I suspect November will be a very windy month in general. From 24th – 28th we have a full supermoon, perigee and highest tides. I suspect this indicates yet another particularly nasty storm, but the month will likely end on a fair note (fair for November anyway).

NOVEMBER 2026

Last Quarter Moon = 1st @ 20:28 = Snow, else cold rain

New Moon = 9th @ 07:02 = Stormy

1st Quarter Moon = 17th @ 06:48 = Cold and High Winds

Full Moon = 24th @ 14:53 = Fair & Mild

DoP – St Martin: November 11th

Taurids Meteor Shower: 4th & 5th

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Highest Spring Tides 24th – 28th

APOGEE: 13th @ 17:51

PERIGEE: 25th @ 20:59

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

BUCHAN NOTES: Cold Period: 6th – 13th

FULL MOON THIS MONTH IS CALLED FOG MOON