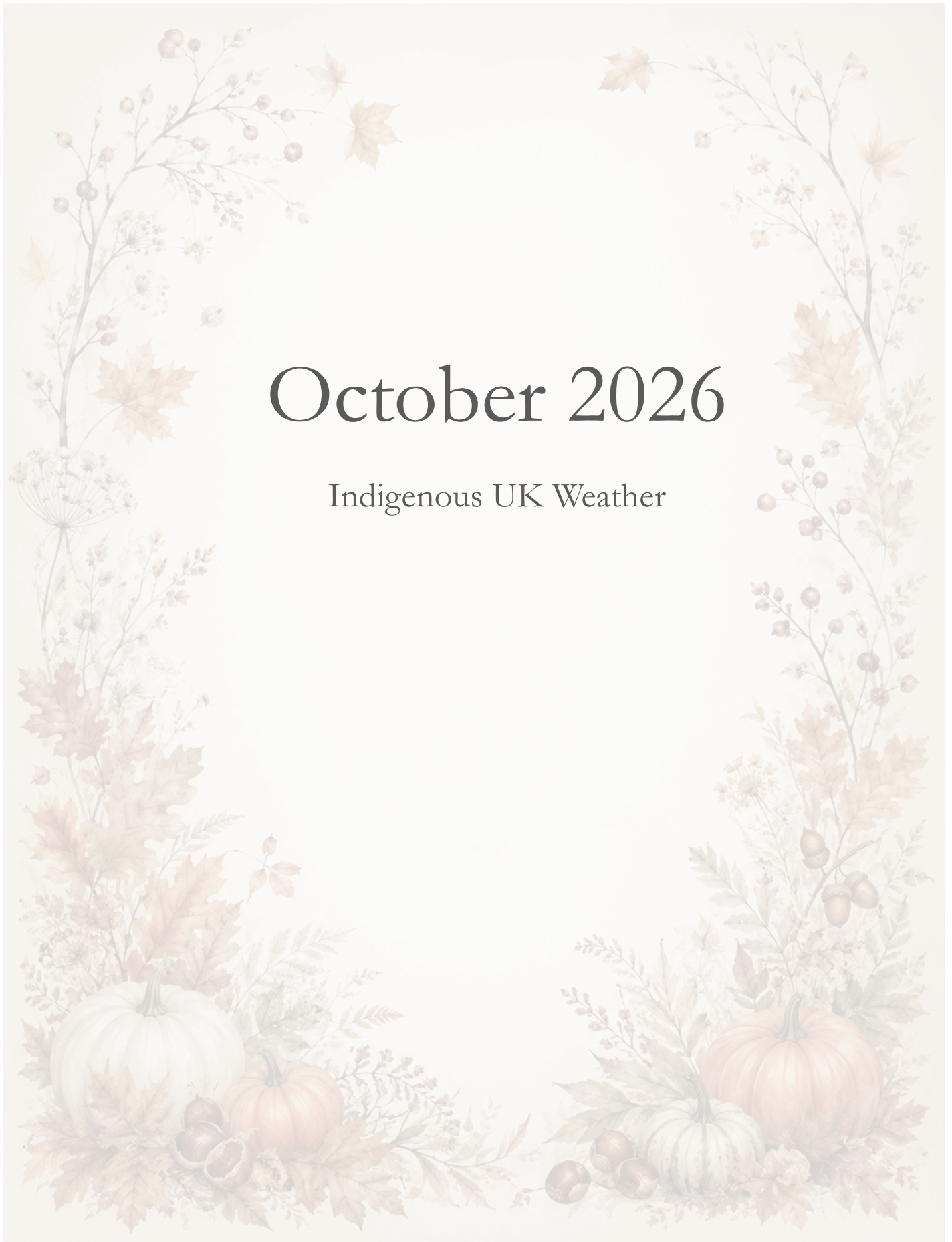


October 2026

Indigenous UK Weather



October 2026

Preamble



There is no wildflower of the month during October, you will gain far more interest from galls this year. Top left to right as follows: Currant Galls, Robins Pin Cushion, Silk Button Spangle Galls, Cherry Gall, Marble Galls, Smooth Spangle Galls.

Flower of the month: Calendula

Tree of the month: up to 27th is the Ivy, thereafter the Reed.

Full Moon this Month: Hunters Moon

“All things on earth point home in old October.”

Thomas Wolfe

October 2026: The Golden Month

"The golden month, the star of the weather predictor's year, the month with more weather signs than any other."

A warm welcome to October. And what a month to be writing about.

A year of remembering

One year ago today, on 29th September 2025, I took my last walk with Dave. This morning, for the first time since he passed, I found myself remembering and smiling rather than feeling sad. Later today I'll sit down and watch one of the YouTube videos we made together, something I haven't been able to do until now. How lucky we all are to have such a treasure trove of his knowledge to return to whenever we need it.

Nature is talking

October is, without doubt, my favourite time of year, because the countryside never stops talking. The birds are busy in the garden, and the robins are already giving vital clues about what lies around the corner. Animals' coats are thickening, and the squirrels are extra busy this year. Barely a day goes by without one darting across my garden.

The oaks are still holding their leaves well. There are fewer acorns than last year, and that is probably down to the trees resting after last year's mast year. There are plenty of galls around again too, which always fascinates me and my goodness me, I have never seen such a bounty of nuts! This year is extraordinary for seeds and nuts in general.

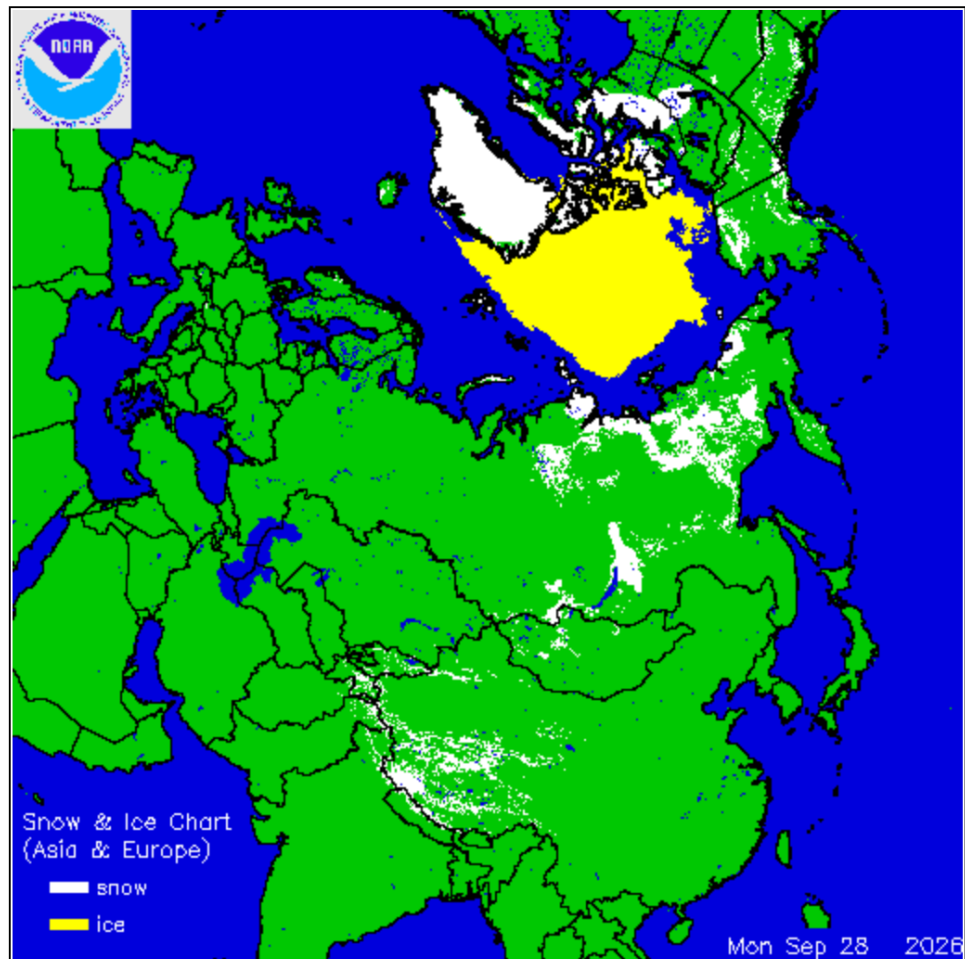
There are also more snowberries than I can ever remember – they contain a liquid that doesn't freeze.

The Michaelmas wind

The most important sign of all this month is confirmation of the Michaelmas wind, and it blew from the east or south-east for everyone. Tradition tells us the Michaelmas wind sets the tone for the months ahead, and this is a cold one, likely to stay with us until the 21st of December. The vital confirmation wind comes on 11th November, and I'll publish the full winter forecast shortly afterwards. Watch this space.

Now we know our weather for the next 90 odd days will be coming from/ influenced by what is going on in the east, it is useful to keep an eye on what weather is doing there. As such please find below a snow map as of 28th September 2026 via the wonderful eldoradoweather.com

They have an amazing daily snow map for all parts of the world, and it can be worth looking at once a week at this time of year to see what snow cover is developing. It's also great fun to watch that area become completely full of snow. You need to turn your head sideways to see where the UK is. ☺



Met Office Storm Names

Below you will find the Met Office storm names for 2026/27. For the full article please find link below: <https://weather.metoffice.gov.uk/warnings-and-advice/uk-storm-centre>

Storm Names for 2026-27

Throughout the year these pages will provide the latest updates and information as we name storms which we forecast will have an impact upon the UK.



Storm Names 2026 / 27



Austen	Finn	Kilian	Phelim [Fay-lim]	Wende [Vhen-duh]
Boelo [Boo-loh]	Gwendolyn [Gwen-duh-lin]	Laoise [Lee-sha]	Ruban	Q, U, X, Y, Z not included to be in line with US National Hurricane Centre naming convention
Chloe	Heather	Miriam	Shaun	
Dano [Dah-noh]	Ivy	Nicola	Theo	
Evelyn	Jade	Olaf	Vesna [Vehs-nuh]	



**Keeping you safe
when it matters
the most**

The sweet middle ground

So the air will turn brisk, and the trees will explode in golds and crimsons. Everything begins to feel a little cosier. The mood turns inwards, and home once again becomes the focus of our hearts. Dig out the scarves and woolly hats, and pile extra blankets in the living room, because fuel prices are still through the roof!

October is the sweet middle-ground month. The energy of summer has gone, and the glorious chaos of the festive season hasn't yet arrived. It's a month to ground ourselves and simply enjoy:

long walks through crunchy leaves (though I'm still waiting for those!), mugs of hot chocolate, and Sunday roasts, the perfect rehearsal for Christmas.

So yes, home is the heart of October. But don't forget to step outside, too. Soak up the beauty all around us and the magical light of an October evening. Enjoy all the comfort and colour this season brings, and the quiet before the wonderful months to come.

I'd love to hear what signs you're spotting where you are, so do get in touch.

Best wishes

Lesley

Magic Sightings waiting to happen in October are:

- Bats
- Badgers
- Beavers
- Brambling
- Fallow Deer
- Fungi
- Geese
- Goldfinches
- Hedgehogs
- Jays
- Lapwing
- Owls
- Red Deer (peak rutting season)
 - Redwing
- Seals (pupping season)
- Spiders (mating season)
- Squirrels (gathering season)
 - Starling murmuration's
 - Stoats
- Swans (migratory species too)
 - Toadstools & Puffballs
- Waxwings (occasionally)
 - Weasels



Photo Credit:

British Hedgehog Preservation Society

Reminder:

Make your Christmas
Sloe Gin. Recipe on
YouTube.

IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF
IDENTITY DO NOT EAT. WE HAVE
A SURPRISING NUMBER OF
POISONOUS SPECIES IN UK.

OBVIOUSLY, AUTUMN IS EPIC
FOR FORAGING FUNGI/
MUSHROOMS HOWEVER I DO
NOT RECOMMEND THIS - YOU
REALLY NEED TO KNOW WHAT
YOU ARE DOING IN ORDER TO
DO SO SAFELY. YOU WILL FIND
NO SUCH RECOMMENDATIONS
FROM ME ON THIS TOPIC.

September Foraging:

- Blackthorn (Sloe)
- Sweet Chestnut

Clearly mushrooms and fungi are prolific at this time of year, but I do not and will not advise people to go foraging for these items – you really need to know what you're doing. Please do not forage these items unless you are with a qualified professional.

Notes from Nature



Some of my photos from September. Top left to bottom right: sweet chestnut, elder, galls, rowan, cotoneaster, ivy.

Notes from Nature

The first fog in August this year occurred on the 2nd, however was transient and localised. There was slightly thicker fogs occurring between 24th – 28th August, however nothing substantial. As such I don't believe we will get our first hard frost till November this year.

Trees are weighted down with seeds and nuts – more than I can ever recall seeing previously. Albeit this isn't the case for acorns, I think this is because last year was a mast year, so this year is a bust year. That said there are still plenty of galls which are always snow specific (with the exception of mast years is what I believe I have learnt of late). Honestly I don't know – this is my working theory. Dave's last winter forecast didn't work out for much of England, so I am having to try and decipher what I can learn from that.

Squirrels are crazier than usual this year, and I have spotted at least 3 generations of ivy which will take us at least 90 days from now, January, which ties in with the moon phases well. For now I will say January will be cold, with snow for most.

The recent wind day backs this up, but we need to wait for that all important November 11th confirmation wind day before I lock in with the winter forecast.

For now, I believe October will be beautiful – a true Indian summer, sure much cooler – but bright and beautiful. St Jude will bring a storm (28th), and then autumn truly begins.

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 years St Jude's storm could be a particularly nasty one.
- 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 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.

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

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.

Monthly Notes & Comments

3 rd		Day of celebration after wine harvest
11 th	Vinalia Day	New wine testing day
16 th	Gallas	See notes for Michaelmas
18 th	St Lukes	St Lukes little summer brings 4 days to a week of lovely weather.
25 th	BST Ends	BST ends at 01:00am
28 th	St Jude	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).
31 st	Hallowtide	If ducks swim at Hallowtide, at Christmas the same ducks will slide, the onset of winter and a darker time of day.

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 Lukes 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 OR TRAVEL MOON OR BLOOD MOON

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