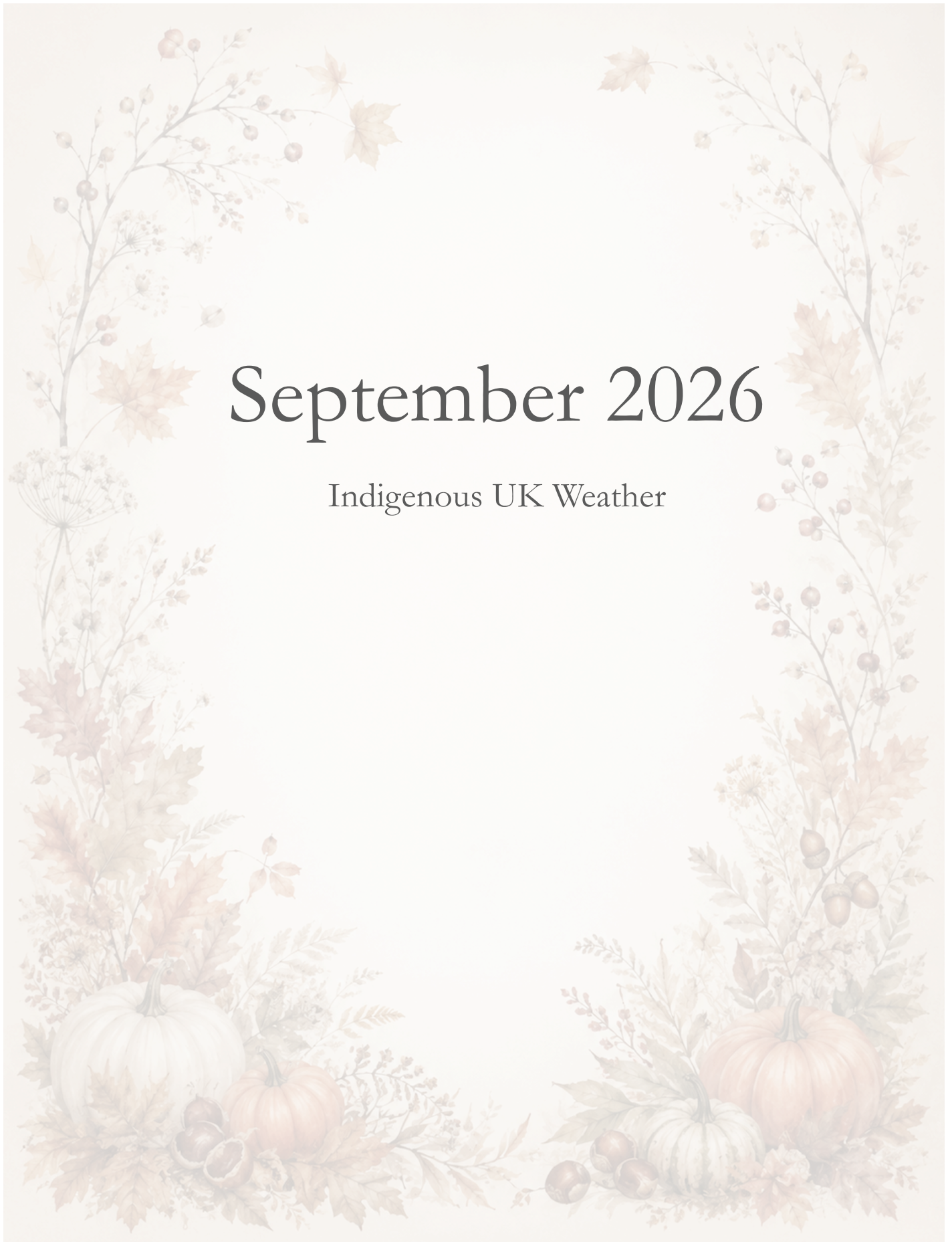


# September 2026

Indigenous UK Weather



September 2026

Preamble



Up to 13<sup>th</sup>: Sunflower



14<sup>th</sup>: Passionflower



29<sup>th</sup>: Michaelmas Daisy

Flower of the month: Aster

Tree of the month: from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> is Vine, thereafter Ivy.

Full Moon this Month: Harvest Moon

*“Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall.”*

*F. Scott Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby*

## Welcome to the September 2026 website entry.

“The month of the patroness of fruit trees and fruits – the Goddess Pomona; the ‘wood month,’ when wood was gathered to lay in for winter, and the month of the shedding of leaves and fruit.”

I was looking at the September 2025 website entry, and completely forgot that Dave had wrote the preface for me this time last year as I was in America. It stopped me in my tracks.

It reminded me that he handed this website over to me knowing full well how much there was for me to learn, and he was right – I’m still learning every day. What I do have is everything he passed on: he spent over two years trying to teach me what he’d learnt in his fifty-odd years of watching the hedgerows, the birds, the winds, and trusting what nature tells us over what a computer model guesses.

What struck me the most was at a time where I was certain I was going to announce this website would have to come to a close, Dave’s voice popped up for me in the form of last years website entry. Decision made then. I’ll do my best to carry this forward properly, for as long as I am able. As Dave wished. Therefore the website continues.

What I do need to do, is make it work for me. As such, no more apologising when these entries are a few days late – it’s life. Everything I do here I do for free, in honour of Dave. I will always get to it as soon as I can.

So, September. As Dave always said, nature works 90 to 180 days ahead, and it is never wrong. This year the signs have been shouting rather than whispering – the wonderful surfeit of fruit, berries, seeds and nuts already loading the hedgerows was set in motion by the sunshine we had back on Christmas Day, a full 180 days before.

The main event this month is the wind day: Michaelmas, 29th September. Wherever the wind sits on that day tends to hold as the predominant direction for the next 90 days, through to St Thomas’ on 21st December. On the western side of the UK, I’d expect a west to northwest wind; on the eastern side, more likely southeast, coming in off the near continent. There’s a second, lesser-known wind day worth flagging now and returning to properly in November – St Martin’s, 11th November – because a shift on that day tends to bring the bitterly cold winds that carry us through to around mid-April.

A few things worth keeping an eye on through September:

- Summer birds have been leaving early this year, pushed out by drought, heat, and dwindling insect food. Expect the winter migrants: ducks, geese, and the rest, to arrive earlier too, possibly by the last week of September.
- Acorns are one of the most reliable forbearers of how hard the winter ahead will be, so watch them closely this year.
- Michaelmas daisies, our flower of the month, are already appearing in places — running some four weeks ahead of normal.

I’ll keep doing what this website has always done: watching, not guessing. Thank you for bearing with me while I find my feet in this new chapter, and dealt with the loss of my friend. Onwards and upwards then. Join the Facebook group, subscribe to the YouTube channel (it’s free), and as always – keep safe, keep healthy, keep warm.

*Lesley*

Magic Sightings waiting to happen in September are:

- Badgers
- Bats
- Buzzards
- Conkers & Acorns
- Frogs & Toads
  - Fungi
- Goldfinches
- Hedgehogs
  - Jays
- Red Deer
- Seals
- Slow Worms
  - Spiders
- Squirrels
- Stoats
- Swans
- Tawny Owls
- Water Voles
- Weasels



Photo Credit: Trevor Eldridge

Remember to pop all your foraged blackberries, and plums into the freezer for later. All go well with custard in winter.

You can freeze the red currants too - they make delightful cheesecake toppers at Christmas!

September Foraging:

- Blackberries
- Crab Apples
- Elderberries
- Hazel
- Horseradish
- Juniper
- Raspberries
- Sloes
- Sweet Chestnuts
- Wild Angelica
- Wild Plum

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.

## Notes from Nature



Sweet Chestnut



Galls

## Notes from Nature

There is suddenly huge crops of berries as far as the eye can see, in fact there are more berries than leaf, which reminds me of Dave's saying about 'more fruit than leaf, spells winter grief.' The only thing more impressive than the berries is the seeds and nuts this year. Seeds and nuts are even more bountiful than last year, and last year was a mast year.

Roadside plants did struggle with the drought, but made impressive heights. Everything is high off the ground this year. Oaks are carrying a decent crop and plenty of galls – which is always a clear winter signal.

A massive lack of lords and ladies and generally every ground level food source has not done so well.

Robins are actively staking out their territory and squirrels are very active, heavily expanding their dreys.

Of course the most important signal from nature this month will be Michaelmas. I will keep you posted.

### 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 (26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>) 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.

- If we avoid that, we still face flood risks around the end of November (24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>), and again in late December (24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>) – 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 eventually come from the eastern segment, suggesting a raw, cold easterly flow from the Urals across Europe — especially affecting eastern parts of the UK.

### **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 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. Enjoy!

## 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 = 4<sup>th</sup> @ 08:51 = Changeable

New Moon = 11<sup>th</sup> @ 04:27 = Rain

1st Quarter Moon = 18<sup>th</sup> @ 21:43 = Rain

Full Moon = 26<sup>th</sup> @ 17:49 = Rain

DoP: 29<sup>th</sup> St Michael (Michael Mass) + Quarter Day (Vital Wind Day)

Autumnal Equinox 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 01:05

Highest Spring Tides 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>

APOGEE: 19<sup>th</sup> @ 03:02    PERIGEE: 6<sup>th</sup> @ 20:27

Met Office Notes: 1<sup>st</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> – Quiet Period

BUCHAN NOTES: None

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

## Monthly Notes and Comments

|                                        |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>                        | St Giles                | Fair on the first - fair for the month. First three days of the month rule the weather for October, November, and December.                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>                        | Feast of Nativity       | Feast of Nativity. As today, so for the next four weeks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 14 <sup>th</sup>                       | Holy Cross/<br>Rood Day | Traditionally children were freed from school or work so they could collect nuts. Passionflower blooms around this time.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 15 <sup>th</sup>                       |                         | Said to be a fine day 6/7 years.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 19 <sup>th</sup>                       |                         | A storm from the south indicates a mild winter may be expected.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> –<br>22 <sup>nd</sup> | Barley Set<br>Winds     | 2-3 days of strong winds.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 21 <sup>st</sup>                       | St Matthew              | Brings the cold rain and dew, also “shuts up the bees.”                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup>                       | Autumn<br>Equinox       | Autumn Equinox @ 01:05am. September blow soft until fruits in the 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 overlooks light.                                                                                                 |
| 29 <sup>th</sup>                       | St Michael              | Michaelmas. DoP. Quarter Day. If it coincides with full moon will be a reliable guide for next 45 days. An important quarter day for winds, invariably giving the wind direction for the next three months (to 21 <sup>st</sup> December). Michaelmas Daisy flowers. So many days the old moon is – so many floods after. |

## General notes and comments.

The name of the month comes from the old Roman word Septem, meaning seven, because in the Roman calendar it was the 7th month.

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 Michael is also known as Goose day, when it is said that Queen Elizabeth was eating goose when the news of the victory of the Spanish Armada arrived; in celebration said henceforth she would always eat goose that day. The Goose Fair at Nottingham is the most famous, but there are others too.

Eat a goose on Michaelmass Day, want not for money all the year.

It is said that if the breast bones of the goose are brown after roasting, then a mild winter to come; if however they are white or have a bluish hue then the winter will be severe.

[Editor’s note: I have not been able to test this saying, therefore I put it here in the hope that someone may be able to throw light on this please.]

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 Michaelmas 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 fineweather 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 (11<sup>th</sup> 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 month of conkers.

THE FULL MOON THIS MONTH IS CALLED HARVEST MOON or CORN MOON

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