

AUGUST

When we went to the seaside on our holidays in August my Dad was concerned to look out for Christmas Cards in the shops. He usually found them at WHSmith in Llandudno!

August is a month of change. Summer is still here – and certainly this year but thoughts are onward towards the months to come. There is even a poster for Halloween Evening prominently displayed in Burton!

Families are focused on the new term especially if there is someone going to school for the first time or a new school. Excitement perhaps then apprehension.

Times change, children are taken to school most often in cars. I would not let my mother meet me out of school even at the age of 5! You did not want others to see you collected you wanted independence at an early age! I walked the five or ten minutes through the town on my own. That was not thought irresponsible But years later when I was at the High School things were different. It was great for my Dada to fetch me on the back of his motor bike on a Wednesday afternoon.

August this year saw June Spencer who has played Peggy Archer for 71 years in the Archers retiring! A highlight of broadcasting history as was the first episode broadcast in the Light Programme on January 1st, 1954, at noon. No Bank Holiday in those days – August had a Bank Holiday but not New Year's Day!

What about August now, we do as it were, see a lot more of movement to the rest of the year. The wheat fields change to deeper golden brown. The orchard plums of every size and colour grace our trees. A few birds are still nesting, bullfinch, greenfinch, house sparrow ... a number of birds travel south, and others may arrive! Autumn tints begin to show along the wayside.

Just as throughout the year we move with seasons, we adapt to the seasons. Life is dependent on being part of the changing scenes, being alongside nature, otherwise, we would not be in tune with all that is happening around us ... all this reflects in our lives, our support and encounter with others.

The August Weather Wisdom... If Saint Bartholomew's Day (August 24th) be clear, a prosperous autumn comes that year.

(Whether you think that is about you or the new government! I will leave with you).