

Tony Thinking Aloud cxxvi

And so we come to October. October the eighth month of the year... count them up it is the tenth! Need to remember that one time March was the first month of year making October the eighth. Autumn is already here, we have had a taste of it in September. The Anglo Saxons called October 'Winterfylleth' fullness of winter!

Last week we thought about harvest 'everything is gathered in', as the hymn puts it, by the first two weeks.

It is a month of colour. Sycamore dons a scarlet cloak; the countryside is bright with autumn berries and fruit. In the sunlight the water on the canal is partnered with amber reflections.

You might see a kingfisher. I had a nature book when very young with a bright large picture of a Kingfisher on the front. I was so disappointed when I came to find out a Kingfisher is quite small – another bright in the glum of autumn. On a mild day a sprinkle of sunshine warms the land.

The slip of a moon hangs in the sky, the owl comes out to hunt.

What a variation for a month. Right in the middle is Saint Luke's Little Summer – Saint Luke's day is October 18th – look out for a few bright days that usually come just at that time.

This is contrast with October 31st – Halloween, kept in various ways over the years. Hardly mentioned when I was young. No real dressing up but for a few. And certainly no buying of costumes months before and supermarkets stacked with them! The American observance has taken over.

Halloween in fact really - All Hallows Eve. The day before All Saints Day – All Hallow side. Lasting three days to include All Souls Day (November 2nd).

We come to November – when 'We remember'

... A weather wisdom

'If ducks do slide at Hallowtide At Christmas they will swim;

If ducks do swim at Hallowtide At Christmas they will slide.'