

Cutha's Chronicles

Adventures in Anglo-Saxon England



Eala! (We think *you* say that as "Hello!")

I'm Cutha, and this is my sister Cyneburh. Come with us to our home in Engla-lond, and we will tell you about how we live – and about the things boys and girls get up to in our world.

Our world is very different from the one you know and you may find some things very strange...

Cutha's Chronicles is written by Karl Wittwer and illustrated by Paul Finlow-Bates for *Wiðowinde*, journal of ða Engliscan Gesiðas (The English Companions), the Society for everyone who wants to find out more about the Anglo-Saxon period. This pull-out formed part of *Wiðowinde* 138

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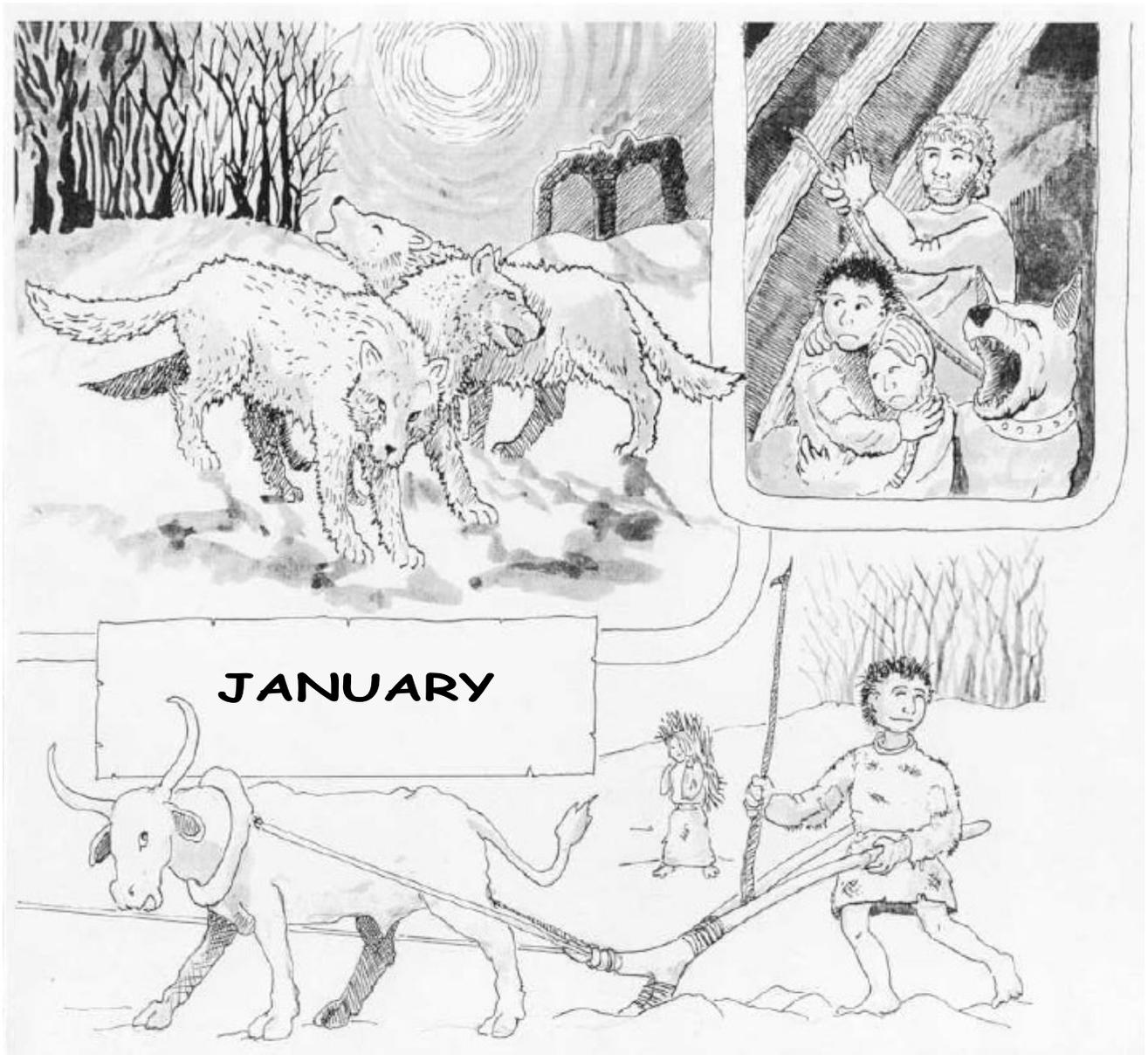
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Winter is a very hard time for us: there is not much food around, so we are hungry a lot of the time. We're often cold too! People count their ages by winters, because it is so difficult to live through them.

We always watch the **moon** to tell us what month it is. *Our* months start when the moon is new, and end when it disappears from the sky — not on set days.



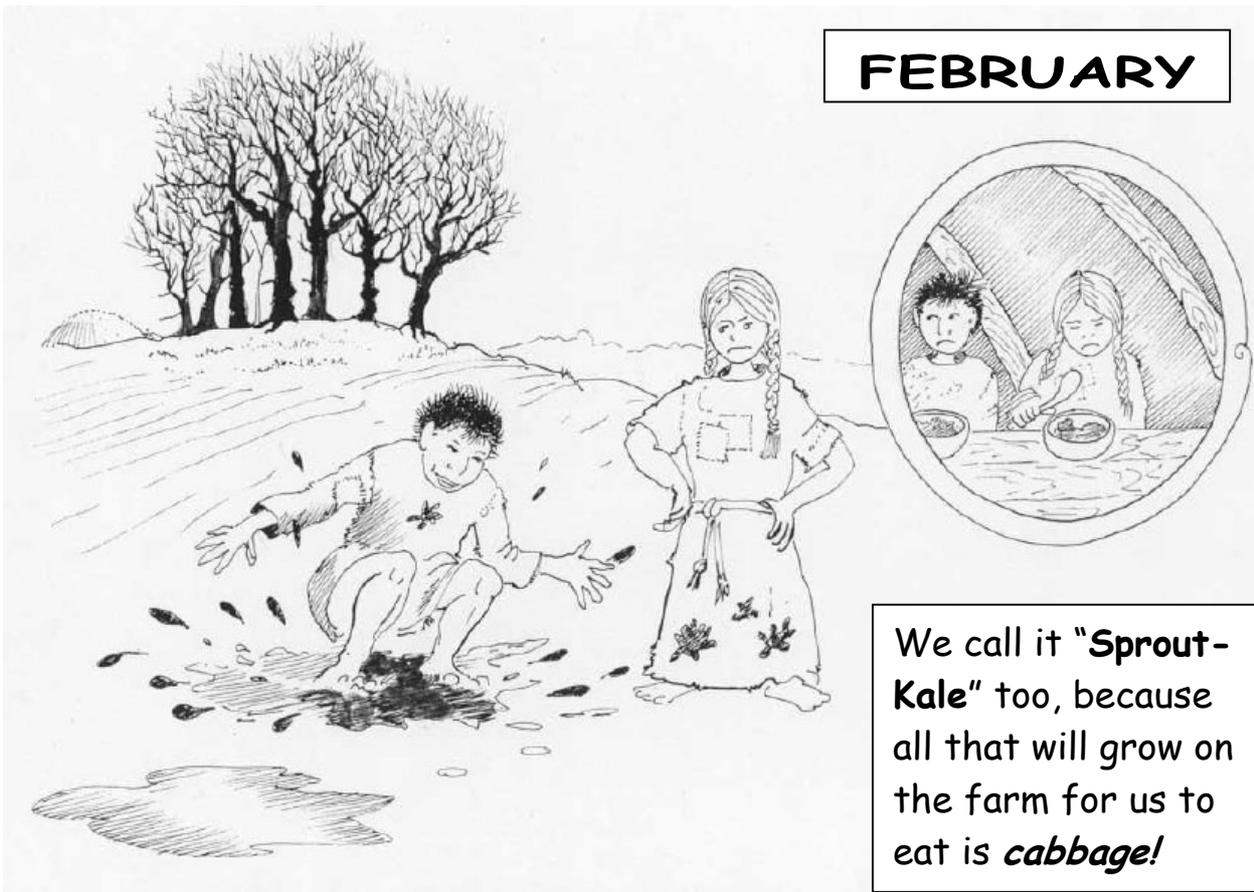
The first month of the year, we call "**After Yule**". It's sometimes called "**Wolf Month**" as well, because the wild wolves are hungry too — and they come out of the forests and hills looking for food. It's really scary hearing them prowl round the farm at night!



We still have to work on the farm, though, or there will be no food for later in the year!

The next month we call "Mud-puddle Month"

FEBRUARY



We call it "Sprout-Kale" too, because all that will grow on the farm for us to eat is *cabbage!*

After that comes "Rough Month" when the wind is very strong. Some people call it "Lencten" or "Lengthening Month" because the days are getting longer.

The monks at the church fast for "Lencten" or "Lent" to make them holy — but *no-one* has very much food, anyway, so it isn't really hard!



MARCH

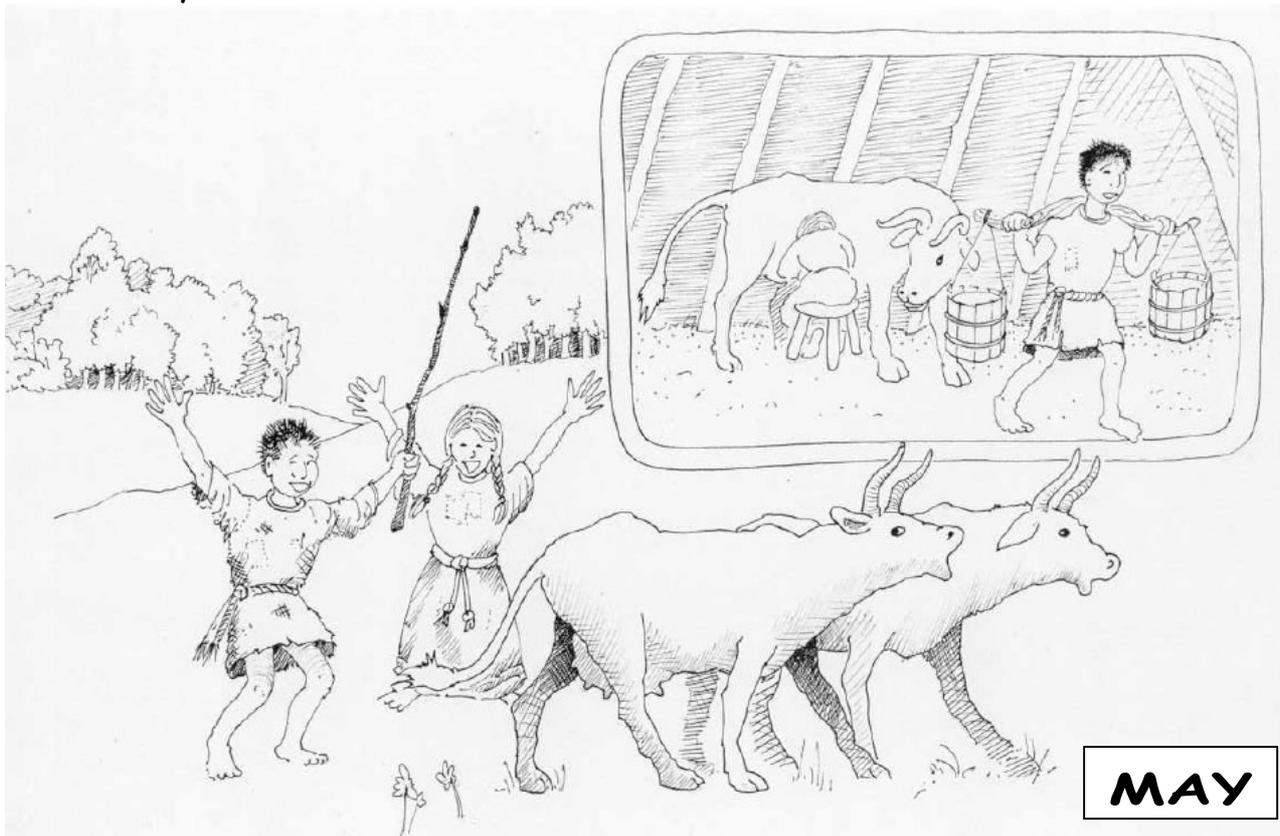


Before the monks came, our people believed in lots of gods and goddesses. **Eostre** was the name of one of our old goddesses.

We still call the next month "**Eostre's Month**" — but the monks don't like us remembering her!

APRIL

By now the weather is getting warmer, and the wolves have gone back to their wild places. So now we can drive the cows to the open countryside. They love the fresh grass, and give so much milk, we can milk them three times a day. So we call this "**Three-Milk Month**"



MAY

Goodbye for now! Come back and see us again!