

Eutha's

Chronicles

Adventures in Anglo-Saxon England

Eala!

Hello!

It's good of you to come and see us, but we can't really stop to talk just now.

We're very busy at this time of year!



THE HOTTEST TIME OF THE YEAR IS WHEN WE HAVE TO WORK HARDEST - HELPING OUT ON THE FARM LAND.



THIS MONTH IS CALLED WEED-MONTH, BECAUSE EVERYTHING GROWS FAST - ESPECIALLY THE WEEDS!

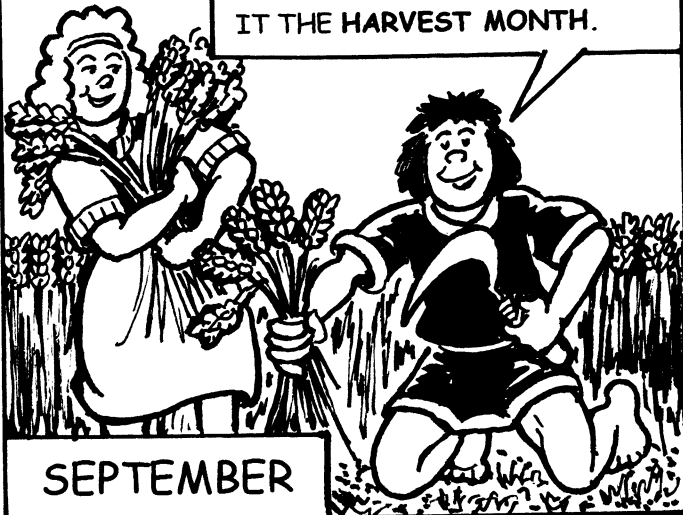


AUGUST

BUT IF WE DON'T WORK HARD NOW THERE WONT BE ENOUGH FOOD FOR US TO EAT DURING THE COLD WINTER MONTHS.



THEN COMES BARLEY MONTH WHEN THE CROPS ARE READY TO BE CUT - SOME PEOPLE CALL IT THE HARVEST MONTH.



SEPTEMBER

THE MONKS AT THE CHURCH CALL IT HOLY MONTH BECAUSE THEY HAVE MANY SPECIAL DAYS AND FESTIVALS TO CELEBRATE.



AFTER THAT COMES WINE MONTH WHEN OUR GRAPES ARE RIPE - THE LAND WAS MUCH WARMER IN OUR TIME THAN IT IS IN YOURS.



IT IS ALSO CALLED WINTER FULL MOON, BECAUSE THE MOON IS SO BIG AND CLEAR - JUST RIGHT FOR HUNTING.



OCTOBER

THE MOON IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US BECAUSE IT TELLS US WHAT MONTH IT IS ...



MONTHS START WHEN THE MOON IS NEW AND FINISH WHEN IT DISAPPEARS FROM THE SKY.

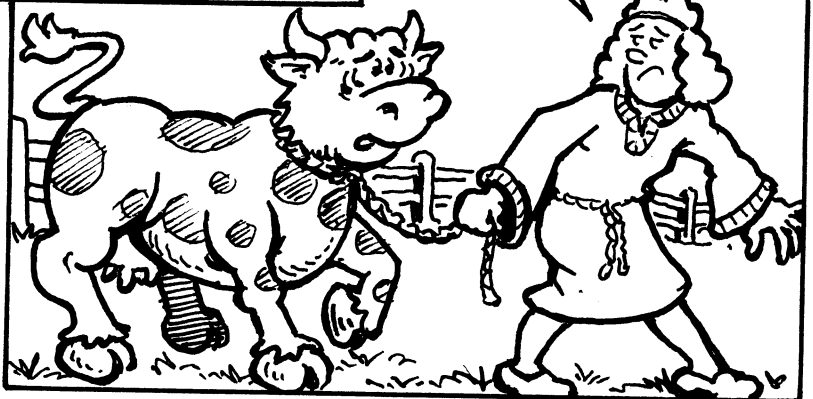


AFTER THE HARVEST IT STARTS TO GET COLD AND WE CALL THE NEXT MONTH THE WIND MONTH - WHEN FISHERMEN BRING IN THEIR BOATS BECAUSE IT IS STORMY.



WE ALSO CALL IT THE BLOOD MONTH BECAUSE THE ANIMALS THAT WON'T LIVE THROUGH THE WINTER HAVE TO BE KILLED - IT IS KINDER THAN LETTING THE POOR CREATURES STARVE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS.

NOVEMBER



WE SMOKE THE MEAT OR MIX WITH SALT TO PRESERVE IT THROUGH THE WINTER, THAT WAY WE HOPE THAT WE WILL HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT.



THE MONTH BEFORE THE SHORTEST DAY IS KNOWN AS THE BEFORE YULE-MONTH OR THE FIRST CHANGING MONTH.

DECEMBER



WE ALSO EAT UP ALL THE FOOD THAT CAN'T BE PRESERVED, IT IS A GOOD WAY TO CELEBRATE YULE.

The months of the Saxon year were really **MOONTHS** — each one started when the moon was new, and lasted for the time it took for the moon to pass through all its phases. When the moon disappeared from the sky, the month was over.

A monk called **Bede** wrote a book about how people in Anglo-Saxon England reckoned the time of year: he told us what the names of the months were. The names he gives for the months of Harvest-time and Winter are:

Weod-monath	(Weed-month)	about August*
Halig-monath	(Holy month)	—"— September
Winter-filleth	(Winter full-moon)	—"— October
Blot-monath	(Blood month)	—"— November
Geol-monath	(Yule month)	—"— December

*we have to say "about" because each month started when the moon was new — not on the same day every year like our months do!

Other people in Saxon times gave the months different names: our twins Cutha and Cyneburh will tell you more about them in the picture strip.

Each month had its own special tasks to perform on the farm, and the names people gave them helped to remember what those jobs were.

Watch out for our next edition of *Cutha's Chronicles* and our next competition!

SOMETHING TO DO: Find a calendar or diary with the phases of the moon in it. Can you work out when the Saxon months would have started?

Clue: look for the New Moon sign (●)

Cutha's Chronicles is written by Karl Wittwer and drawn by Ray Aspden
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