**SAINT MARTIN’S DAY**

St. Martin was a knight in Roman times. He was riding his horse when he saw a beggar at the side of the road. The beggar was freezing cold, so St. Martin cut his cloak in two with his sword, and shared it with him. St. Martin's Day is celebrated on 11 November. It marks the end of autumn seeding and slaughtering of livestock. St. Martin's Feast is considered the first day of winter for practical purposes, so, alluding to the snows of that season, the Germans say that St Martin comes riding on a white horse. Of course, it might not feel like winter if one is experiencing a "St. Martin's Summer", the equivalent of an "Indian Summer." It is said, too, that one can predict what sort of winter one will have by the conditions of St. Martin's Day: "If the geese at Martin’s Day stand on ice, they will walk in mud at Christmas." Martinmas is also one of the term days in Scotland, it was historically used as the days when contracts and leases would begin and end.