

### **Weather and Climate Group (Len Wood)**

The leaves are falling from the trees as we rapidly head towards the end of autumn, and the festive adverts on television remind us that Christmas is just around the corner.

Nobody wants a long cold spell this winter with the cost of energy, but a sprinkling of snow around Christmas might be nice as long as you don't need to travel. Snow on the ground in December is becoming rare. The last time in our area was in 2010.



At the moment we have a strong El Niño event in the tropical Pacific and this can increase the likelihood of mild, wet and windy weather in early winter, with dry and cold conditions more likely in late winter. We shall see.