

Welcome to the April 2013 entry comprising of a preamble, monthly data sheet and easy reference spreadsheet presentation.

For the interested I have placed what I consider to be the advance predictive weather April 1st to September 30th on the website under that title, and it can be found under the forecast heading. It makes interesting reading, there is nothing to indicate a BBQ summer this year, there is nothing to indicate any settled periods over 10 days of what might be termed summer weather either. I think, with the exception of June, which was very wet last year but this year may well be the best summer month, it is similar to the summer of 2012, which is sadly only good or reasonable in parts.

However, I use in every prediction, due care and diligence, all the data I have, how relevant certain tried and tested sayings are, the moon periods and that weather, it checked and verified twice to make sure it is as accurate as I am able to make it. The problem comes in the interpretation, and this has been particularly difficult this year. The GMT moons and the BST moons (moon times) are diametrically opposite for much of the time, an example being that for an 8 day moon phase I might have four dry days and four wet days, therefore I use other tried and tested data to make an opinion, then result being a 'changeable' prediction. If it is a dry period or wet period for the duration of the moon phase then this is entered as such, the same for windy or stormy. A 'fair' comment indicates dry settled sunny days and later in the summer settled nights. However for May from the 11th to 14th and again on the 19th, dry fine sunny days give way to severe night frosts, that will, without any contradiction destroy fruit blossoms, plants and buds.

There are also three months, May to July inclusive, when a perigee and a full moon are within 24 hours of each other, which for those in tidal regions give extra high spring flood tides, but generally, it is proven that this coincidence gives rise to a 100% increase in the possibility of a major natural disaster occurring somewhere in the world at this time.

Some data from matters in previous months that may well affect future months, firstly, as is seen in the February and March data sheets, the rainfall on the last 18 days of February and the first 10 days of March when added to together give a total rainfall for that period.

There is a near infallible saying that if a drought is to come in the current year the above readings will indicate a drought, should the flowing weather be dry. At this location the bench mark is set at 100mm and dependent on the rainfall totals be they lower or higher it is a fair indication of the severity of the drought. If however it is in excess of the bench mark then a wet spring and summer are nigh guaranteed.

The February total was 14.2mm and the March total 20.2mm which gives a total of 34.2mm which is near enough just a third of the bench mark. Now this is very interesting, since by referring to the advance April to September prediction there is a lot of wet weather around in the summer; however there are more than normal 'changeable' periods too, and since the above totals indicate the possibility of a drought, then I would not be surprised to find that many of these changeable periods are in fact quite dry and rain free. I can only state the data I have, I do not have a magic wand, and it is my interpretation of what nature gives me. I have made some comments on the accuracy of such predictions in the April to September prologue for the interested reader.

Finally, to indicate how the moons influence the weather and why I use the moon charts I do.

The second week of March gave a spell of very cold weather, with snow in places, nothing in the SE to cause any inconvenience, but snow nevertheless. Again some newspapers said it was late for snow, unseasonal even, but I saw no other publicised advance warning of such snow until a couple of weeks before it arrived. The sharper reader will see this snow predicted back in September, again in December and again in March. It was for me and my methodology an absolute certainty. As for 'unseasonal' comment, rubbish, we can have snow to the end of April and St George's day (23rd April) often brings a cold spell, even with snow, and this may well be the case this year too. The moon will indicate the condition in that phases, most of the time here in the SE we miss it, but since the warning is there, then it goes into the data.

Again it is up to the reader to decide if my data is reliable, I do my best, I never claim to be 100% all the time, but for the greater part it passes muster and is more accurate – bearing in mind I use no technology (the Met Office uses the best 17 of 51 predictions a day for their forecasts),and I am working at least 6 months ahead.

Again if anyone has comment or wishes more data to be added just ask, and if it is possible then it will be done. If you do not ask then you do not get.

And to close, there is a Radio 4 weather project lasting three years being conducted by Roger Harrabin – the BBC Environmental Correspondent - of which I am the sole amateur forecaster/predictor participating among the major weather forecasters involved, and yes it is still functioning; the challenge being to produce a functional daily weather forecast for the 'man or woman on the Clapham omnibus,' that is reliable, informs for example, mother if the washing can put out to dry or if the cricket match can go ahead without rain;an interesting challenge indeed.

@ David King

Edenbridge, March 2013.

APRIL 2013

DAY OF PREDICTION: none

LAST QUARTER: 3RD = 04.37 hrs = Rain

NEW: 10th = 09.36 hrs = Changeable

1st QUARTER: 18th = 12.32 hrs = Rain ?Snow

FULL: 25th = 19.58 hrs = Changeable ?Frost

PARTIAL LUNAR ECLIPSE: 24th.

1 st hop pole	All Fools day	Should it rain on All Fools Day. it brings good crops of corn and hay. Hop Monday erection day.
7 th	Low Sunday	This Sunday settles the weather for the whole summer.
11th -14th		Blackthorn Winter
14th will	Cuckoo Day	The Cuckoo's song is first heard about this time. Pastor Sunday. If it rains this day it every Sunday until Pentecost (19 th May)
15th	St Basilissa	Swallows arrive. Apogee 22.23 hrs
16th	St Padarn Celtic Goddess	- traditionally the day to begin weeding growing crops.
23rd	St George flowering	When St George grows in the sky, wind and storms are drawing nigh. Harebell day. Mallard Day From a festival at All Souls College, Oxford.
23rd-26th		A cold stormy period bringing heavy showers.
25th	St Mark	As long before this day frogs are heard croaking, so long will they keep quiet afterwards. The Cuckoo heralds the arrival of migratory birds from the south, indicating the return of summer.
27 th	Perigee 19.49 hrs	

General Notes and Comments

The month of season changes, young leaves and blossoms unfold. April and May are the keys to the whole year.

The first really cheerful month of the year.

Rarely a very wet month, can be completely dry.

Annual humidity is at its lowest and can produce dust storms.

Hottest ever April in 2007.

As a general rule, April weather is a mixture of all sorts.

April weather, rain and sunshine together.

We must suffer a cold wet April if we want a good summer.

Cold weather in April is supposed to be good for bumper harvest. A cold April - barn will fill.

A dry March and a rainy April makes a beautiful May.

Most old sayings say it is best to have a wet April.

When April blows his horn, 'tis good for hay and corn.

[the reference to 'horn' means thunder, it also means a good summer]

April cold and wet fills the barns best yet.

April wet, good wheat.

After a cold April the barns fill best.

April cold and wet fills barns and barrels.

April rain makes large sheaves.

April showers bring May flowers.

East wind in spring a brilliant summer will bring.

When doves start to coo the last frosts have gone.

After a wet April a dry June. After a moist April a clear June.

Spring has come when a virgin can cover six daisies with her foot.

When winter meets summer it fortells a hot dry summer [sometimes a prolonged winter seems to turn into summer overnight].

The weather in the second half of April fortells the summer. [wise words commanding respect]

Cloudy April - dewy May. Thunderstorms in April - floods in May.

Showery April -Flowery May.

Dry Spring - wet Autumn. Thunder in spring and cold it will bring.

Blackthorn Winter - 11th -14th April.

Just as the Blackthorn is coming into blossom expect some fine weather. However if the flower arrives before the leaf then expect a cold snap AND If he blooms before the leaves appear, be sure there will be a bitter spell - perhaps even with snow. [this is a most accurate saying]

23rd St Georges Day - If it rains today St George eats all the cherries.

Much February snow - April summer doth show. [check records]

Early Cuckoo - dry summer (arrival in or before early April). The later he arrives the worse the summer.

When March has April weather, April will have March weather.

E/NE winds reach their greatest frequency during April and May.

After a warm April and a warm October, a warm year to come.

A dry Lent spells a fertile year.

April, more than March, can have both summer and winter embrace it. April can also be more snowy than December. Classic April snowstorms of 1966 &1981. Whilst in 1949 the mercury topped 80F(27C).

April has the face of a monk and the claws of a cat.

Thunderstorms in April is the end of hoar-frost.

If the first three days be foggy, there will be a flood in June. (rain in June will make the lanes boggy)

April may be famous for its showers, but it is rarely a very wet month. Quite the contrary - April is one of the driest months of the year in all parts of the UK.

Greenfly at Easter, June will blister.

Rainy Easter - a cheesy year (much rain = plenty of grass)

Northerly winds over northern Europe reach their highest frequency around 15th June. But are rare after 20th June. Meanwhile SW winds blow comparatively infrequently from late March until 10th June, but are very much more common during the rest of June.

From the same research, taking England & Wales as a whole, the driest months of the year are:- March, April & May, and occasionally February and June. These months are also the months when long drags of unsettled westerly winds are unlikely to occur. Monthly rainfall is between 2.3/2.6 ins (58/66mms) for each month from February to June.

From July onwards 3.2/3.8ins (81/96mms).

23rd/26th - A cold stormy period brings heavy showers.

There is also a similar period mid-month.

Tidal energies are ruled by moon particularly this month, possibly the reason for the severely changeable weather at this time.

Late Easter = long cold spring. The weather at Easter fortells the harvest.

NO MET OFFICE NOTES

BUCHAN NOTES:

11th - 14th = cold period.

THE FULL MOON THIS MONTH IS KNOWN AS THE PINK MOON

The tree of the month up to the 14th is the Alder. Thereafter is the Willow.

MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR EDENBRIDGE (USING 1981-2010 FIGURES)

Mean Max:	15.5C	Mean Min:	3.3C	Mean Avg:	9.4C
Rainfall:	60.5mm	Sunshine:	191.9hrs		

Whilst I appreciate the above are local figures, it will be an indication of what the averages are, and, of course there will be local variations. Such variations can be found by trawling the various weather websites, or by using the superb data found in the Climatologists Observers Link website.

The following figures are for the average temperature at 12 noon and again at 4pm, taken at the beginning and again at the end of the month.

1 st	12.14C	13.29C
30 th	14.74C	15.77C

APRIL 2013 (easy reference spreadsheet)

Date	Moon/Weather	Met Off	Buchan	Other Day	Singularities
1 Mon	<i>Full</i> /cold	NONE			cold/stormy
2 Tue	cold				
3 Wed	<i>Last Quarter</i>				
4 Thu	Rain				
5 Fri	Rain				
6 Sat	Rain				
7 Sun	Rain			Low Sunday	
8 Mon	Rain				
9 Tue	Rain				
10 Wed	<i>New</i>				
11 Thu	Changeable		cold period	Blackthorn Winter	cold/stormy
12 Fri	Changeable		11 th -14 th	11-14 th	12-19 th
13 Sat	Changeable		cold		cold/stormy
14 Sun	Changeable		cold	Pastor Sunday	cold/stormy
15 Mon	Changeable			St Basilissa Apogee	cold/stormy
16 Tue	Changeable				cold/stormy
17 Wed	Changeable				cold/stormy
18 Thu	<i>First Quarter</i>				cold/stormy
19 Fri	Rain?snow				cold/stormy
20 Sat	Rain?snow				
21 Sun	Rain?snow				
22 Mon	Rain?snow				
23 Tue	Rain?snow			St George	23-26 th
24 Wed	Rain/snow			Partial Lunar Eclipse	cold/stormy
25 Thu	<i>Full</i>			St Mark	bringing heavy showers
26 Fri	Changeable/frost				
27 Sat	Changeable/frost			Perigee	
28 Sun	Changeable/frost				
29 Mon	Changeable/frost				
30 Tue	Changeable/frost				

No day of Prediction this month.
 No Met Office notes this month.

@ David King

Edenbridge.