

WEATHER WITHOUT TECHNOLOGY  
AUGUST 2014

PREAMBLE.

I start this month with a peculiarity concerning wind direction. As a pretty safe, tried and tested prediction the wind on a quarter day will be the predominant wind direction until the next such quarter day.

The quarter day on 21st March gave an E/SE wind direction, which held very well, and as such the next quarter day, 24<sup>th</sup> June, the wind normally (if it had not changed a few days before) changes to a predominate SW direction – heralding warmer winds for the summer. Sadly this year the wind was easterly on 24<sup>th</sup>, thus throwing all the accepted norms into disarray.

In fact the westerly winds did not appear until 6<sup>th</sup> July which may help explain the colder than average feel to the wind. I think this simple fact shows the problems there are in trying to forecast UK weather for everyone concerned, and in fact this easterly pattern persisted for much of the month.

Then the massive electrical storms accompanied by thunder and various amounts of rainfall – or in some cases hail – dependent on location, some areas might have everything yet an adjacent area may have had nothing, such is English weather

For the people in Yorkshire and the Home Counties that hosted a truly magnificent Le Tour, first congratulations on such a marvellous achievement by one and all, and the world wide TV audience was given as some 3 billion people for this event – before it even got to London.

I predicted rain for these days – well how lucky none of it disrupted the race, it was there before, but stayed away from the race and fell elsewhere over the period; I have no doubt that the easterly wind direction had much to do with this. Sometimes the Gods shine on us!

I see more newspaper headlines, but contradictorily ones, about the summer. Mail on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July – ‘where has the summer gone – more rain to come.’ Yet the following day (Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July) Daily Express tells us heat wave 86F to come ‘Britain to sizzle in two week heat wave.’

So you can take your pick of what you desire – funny old world isn’t it? I make no comment.

The previous comments about this 2014 summer being akin to the summer of 1990 still holds well too: the tried and tested saws proving their worth again. A small mystery I have noticed concerning elder berries this year. A brilliant year for elder flowers, but, alas a sad one for elderberries; most likely a regional thing, for it has been hot and dry in the SE, but the berries are falling off – akin to the June fruit drop. Acorns are however showing well, and not long before the ivy starts to show. The magnificent fruit harvest continues too, with a similar grain harvest not too far away as I write this.

For the French wine drinkers amongst you, the weather has not been kind to France either, the Medoc into Charentais and up to the cognac region was severely damaged by hail storms in early June, wiping out much of the production. Before that some acute frosts in Alsace around the Colmar pocket obliterated much of that vineyard too.

In late June some of the main vineyards in Burgundy, from the Cotes de Nuits at Vougeot down to Beaune and the Cotes, thence to Pommard and some of the other vineyards in that area, were affected by massive hail storms that destroyed much of the vineyard too. How do I know?

This website gets seen by many across Europe, and, as a result I have now regular correspondence with many of the main regions too – they after all need weather information too.

Those of you that have visited me too here at home can see the French vineyards connections too.

The inclement and unusual weather in France also affected Le Tour this year, therefore the weather is not as one would normally expect – maybe the influence of the persistent easterly winds too has an effect.

Since so far this summer the saw/sayings have been very accurate, August up to the 17<sup>th</sup> will be hot – in fact the period 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> – Buchan warm period, when in 2003, 2006 and again in 2012 – saw the really hot periods, I think will occur again this year . This I predicted months ago, and there is nothing new to change this opinion.

I suggest we all make the best of it, for I fear that this summer may well be the last such hot summer for a while, and it is the end of a seven year sequence.

For the interested too, recall the beautifully hot summer of 1990 and how cold the following winter was too – especially February. Nature works six months ahead, August to February is 6 months; all the warnings are there to see.

Winter snow? After last year's debacle, I will reserve judgement for a while – once bitten twice shy! When the runes start to stack up I will tell you in detail. For the moment enjoy the heat and sunshine of summer and a pleasant summer to you all.

The advance weather predictions August 2014 to November 2014 are now on the website.

## AUGUST 2014

NEW MOON = 25th @ 1513hrs = Changeable  
1st QUARTER MOON = 4th @ 0150hrs = Fair  
FULL MOON 10th @ 1910 = Fair + Supermoon  
LAST QUARTER MOON 17th @ 1327hrs = Very rainy.

DoP = 6th Transfiguration Day(maybe) AND 24th St Bartholomew.

### HIGHEST SPRING TIDES 12th to 14th

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1st  | Lammas (loafmass) - after Lammas the crop ripens as much by night as by day.<br>First grain harvest of the year. Camomile flowering day.  |
| 6th  | Transfiguration Day ?DoP. As the weather this day of Transfiguration, so it will be for the rest of the year. This over-ambitious at best, unreliable, out of sequence, and as far as I am concerned cannot seriously be considered as a DoP. |
| 10th | St Lawrence<br>Perigee 1744hrs.<br>If sunshine and fine, good autumn and much wine. Virgins Bower flowering day.  |
| 12th | St Clare  |
| 15th | Assumption Day<br>If sunshine, much and good wine.  |
| 18th | St Filbert<br>Harvest day for cob-nuts.   |
| 23rd | Apogee 0610hrs  |
| 24th | St Bartholomew<br>DoP. 1st day of Autumn. Maybe, on experience, 5th September is a better day of prediction. Sunflower flowering day.   |
| 28th | End of Dog days.  |

MET OFFICE NOTES: none.

BUCHAN NOTES: 6th to 11th cool period.  
12th to 15th warm period (can be very hot)

Full moon for this month is called Sturgeon/Corn Moon.

Tree of the month up to 4th is Holly, thereafter is Hazel

### General Notes and Comments

The harvest month.

Statistically, August, in this area, is the wettest month of the year.

If two full moons then sure to be wet.

A cold August after a warm July is said to signify the approach of a hard dry winter.

When a hot dry August follows a hot dry July it portends an early and cold winter.

Can also be a 'Disaster' month. Lynmouth Flooding 1952 (15-16th). Fastnet Yacht Race Storm (1979).  
Folkestone Flooding 1996 (12th). East Devon Floods 1997 (8th).  
Boscastle Flooding (2004) 17<sup>th</sup>.  
Quite cold and sunless 2007

Dog-Days - the moist sultry days in a period of 20 days before and 20 days after the rising of the Dog-Star Sirius.  
If we are to have a summer at all, this is the most likely time.

Roughly from mid-July to the end of August, or, corn harvest time. Sirius is the brightest star in the heavens,  
and is one of those in the southern constellation Canis Major.

As the Dog-days commence so they end. Bright and clear indicate a happy year, but accompanied by rain, for  
better times our hopes are vain.

Observe on what day the first heavy fog occurs, and expect a hard frost on the same day in October.

A fog in August also indicates a severe winter and plenty of snow. [very reliable and proven]

As August. so next February.

So many August fogs, so many winter mists.

In the first week of August is unusually warm, the winter will be white and long. [reliable and proven]

All the tears that St Swithun (15th July) can cry St Bartelmys (24th) mantle WILL dry up.

[be warned however that this can be out by as much as +/- 3 days]

If St Swithuns is dry:- If Bartholomews be fine and clear, then hope for a prosperous Autumn that year. [after  
this day expect dull or fine weather, but not, as a rule, much rain]

August fills the barn and September the loft.

Dry August and warm does the farmer no harm.

A wet rainy August makes hard bread crust.

St Bartholomews Day - a most important day. Brings cold dew (campers beware). The day to start collecting  
honey, and the day delicate flowers should be brought indoors. If the weather is settled this day, a fine  
Autumn is promised. If however it rains this day, then it will rain for 40 days thereafter (to 3rd  
October). If misty and a morning hoar frost, the cold weather will come soon with a hard winter too.

There is however a distinct possibility that 5th September will be a better Day of Prediction than 24th August,  
and, by experience is a better predilictor.

A warm dry August surely means a snowy winter.

August thunder promises fat grapes and fine vintages. [fairly shaky for hail will damage the grapes]

Late August, when 3 kestrels fly -'twill be dry. [reliable]

Too much August sun disappoints the maid, the priest and the host, for it scorches up the vegetables.

A warm Autumn is usually followed by a long winter.

A poor forecast for wheat indicates wet weather in July and August.

A heavy apple crop points to a fine August and September.

When the dew is heavy in August, the weather generally remains fair. Thunderstorms in the beginning of August  
will generally be followed by others all the month.

Thunderstorms after the 24th are generally violent.

FULL MOON FOR THIS MONTH IS CALLED STURGEON/CORN MOON.

Tree of the month up-to 4th is Holly. Thereafter is Hazel.

MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR EDENBRIDGE (USING 1981-2010 FIGURES)

Mean Max:	24C	Mean Min:	12.1C	Mean Avg:	18.15C
	Rainfall:	66.1mm	Sunshine:	198.2hrs	(day = 6.39hrs)

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 <sup>st</sup>	21.8C	23.2C
31 <sup>st</sup>	20.2C	21.4C



