

Welcome to the December issue, which contains the full data sheet for December and an 'easy reference' spreadsheet for the month.

December this year will not be that cold, milder than average might be a good description, and there is a Buchan warm period in the middle of the month too. Predominant wind direction will be West to SW - a mild wind. The month as always, will end in storms, and for a change, I do not expect any snow either during the month and certainly not at Christmas, which has a 'rain' moon on the 20th covering the festive period. The wind direction on the 21st will determine the coldness of the following season.

Of necessity all the preparation for the following months data is done in advance, which unfortunately means that some information arrives late and some arrives early, however that is one of the perils of this type of website.

So, back to the November website that was entered in mid October (as this is being entered mid month in advance), the winter migratory birds started to arrive in mid October, headed by an influx of mallard ducks, followed by some Canada geese and then some greylag geese. As the month progressed the ducks were joined by Pochard, Goldeneye, Gadwall, Wigeon and Garganey, with, doubtless, more to come as the month progresses.

However a most interest, not to say unusual feature this year was the on-going late departure of the house martins, the local populace left in early September, but throughout that month and well into October several 'visiting – en route' birds were also prominent in the area here, the last sighting being on the 15th October and none since. This is interesting and shows the mildness of the early autumn, for there were many flies and insects for these wing feeding birds.

Concerning the departure to Africa of many of the summer birds from the UK, it appears that those, cuckoo's in particular that chose the western route across Spain and Portugal perished, either in the numerous fires or the extreme heat of that region in the late summer; the birds that departed using the more easterly routes, Sicily & Malta and across to North Africa fared much better.

Back to the house martins, no sooner had these summer visitors departed, then the first winter starlings - these being a dark brown colour and therefore easily distinguishable from the black coloured resident starlings arrived followed by the fieldfare, redwing, brambling and chaffinches, plus too some lapwing and these birds are slowly arriving for the winter stay here. Whilst the area around here in rural mainly sheep rearing but some cattle too, the valley of the river Eden is a designated flood plain, and as such attracts several waders, there is also a local lagoon owned by the local water company supports a myriad of ducks and geese all year, but these are swollen by the influx of the winter migrants from Scandinavia and the northern regions.

Whilst on the subject of birds and extending this to flora and fauna, for the interested readers interested in such matters, I draw your attention to the following interesting website and the invitation from Prof Kate Leathwaite of nature's calendar www.naturescalendar.org.uk who requires more participants for her phenology website, a look at the website will certainly interest those with such an interest.

An interesting event locally, not really noticed in previous years, is that the absence of acorns, cob-nuts, chestnuts and beech nuts, all food for the squirrels, has meant that the squirrels are now denuding, in double quick time too, what remains of the already depleted sloe supply by stripping the bushes, even at this early stage.

Once again I read of the gloomy notices of a severe and hard winter in particular a cold December, and one look at the December data sheet will show that there is a Buchan warm period that lasts for two weeks in this month; the squirrels too persist in hoarding their acorns in the soil, which if it is to be a hard winter with severe cold would make digging this food a difficult proposition for the squirrels. A look at the October and November datasheets, will show why I am not in tune with the 'cold winter' fans; there are sufficient facts and detail in these data sheets, for the reader themselves to see just how cold it is likely to be, and nature is rarely wrong. All the evidence so far points to, as predicted much earlier this year, a not too cold winter.

I am composing this on 11th November/St Martin's day, the day that sets the wind direction until 2nd February, the direction being SW, therefore this mild wind will remain until 2nd February, if you refer to the November notes you will also see further notes concerning this important day, and all point to a less than cold winter, and such cold as there may well be, will be short-lived; and despite even more gloom in the national newspapers today on a hard winter, the above appears to contradict such cold forecasts. But then again I may be wrong, doubtful, but I doubt it. Just look at the many notes for the recent months.

The 'snow' warnings of October, noted in the moon predictions, whilst not affecting the SE, did occur; and the interested ones can see that the severe storm 'Sandy' that caused so much chaos and devastation to the eastern seaboard of the USA and the other affected area, was well within prediction, since it only took reference to tide tables, the proximity of the apogee and the moon phase to see that this natural catastrophe was well within the parameters attached to such perigee and apogee warnings. The moon is really important concerning the weather, and once again, well twice, once here in the UK and the second in the USA, it just shows that such warnings, however outlandish they may appear, are invariably correct.

I end this month's issue with a heartfelt seasonal greeting to all the readership, that this time of the year may be peaceful and enjoyable for you all, whatever your beliefs or following, and that all you aspire to in 2013 is achieved.



DECEMBER 2012

Last Quarter moon: 6th @ 1530hrs = Fair & mild.
New moon: 13th @ 0840hrs = Cold (rain if wind westerly)
First Quarter moon: 20th@ 0520hrs = Rain.
Full moon: 28th @ 1020hrs =Cold & high winds.

DAY OF PREDICTION: St Thomas= 21st
SOLSTICE: 21st @ 1112hrs
MET OFFICE: 24th Nov to 14th December = Stormy.
15th to 21st = Quiet. 25th to 31st = Stormy
(14th to 27th Halcyon days)
BUCHAN: 3rd to 14th = Warm.

2nd Advent Sunday

6th	St Nicholas	The northern European Father Christmas arrives.
9th	1st Sunday in Advent	
12th	Perigee 2315hrs	
16th	2nd Sunday in Advent	
18th	3rd Sunday in Advent	
21st	St Thomas's Solstice @ 1112hrs	Astronomical shortest day of year. Weather up to 2nd February. Quarter Day The wind at noon this day will remain for the next lunar quarter. Day of Prediction.
23rd	4th Sunday in Advent	
25th	Christmas Day Apogee 2121hrs	Holly and Ivy flower about this time.
26th	Boxing Day (St Stephen)	
27th	St John	
28th	Childermass Day Innocents Day/Bairns Day.	See below. Unluckiest day of the year when no work should be started.
31st	New Years Eve./Hogmanay.	Commemorates the solar divinity of Hogmagog.

General Notes and Comments

Expect gale force winds. The portents generally threaten a nasty month, but a hint of better things to come with the worst over.
It ought however to be over by the end of January.
21st - 31st normally/traditionally a stormy period.

Day of Prediction (21st) portends weather until 2nd February and the direction of the prevailing wind up to the vernal equinox on 21st March. If it freezes this day the price of corn will fall - which implies a good harvest - but also a hard winter.
If however mild, the price of corn will rise.

If Christmas falls on a Sunday, it shall be a warm winter, the summer hot and dry.
If Christmas day and Thursday be - a windy winter will shall see.

If it rains on the first Sunday of December, before mass, it will rain for a week.

Christmas can be Green - in the old sense of 'bright' (clear/light and bright) - yielding a good harvest (proven) - a peaceful year of plenty.

Black - will bode ill for next year's weather. White - a muddy Easter. Warm - a cold Easter. Wet - empty granary and barrel.
Windy - trees will bring much fruit, but if the weather grows stormy before sunset, it betokened sickness in the spring and summer quarters. Snow - good hay crop next year.

But if the Milky Way shows clear you may safely count on a fruitful year.
[This can be a good indicator]

If it snows during Christmas night, the crops will do well.

Light Christmas, light wheat sheaf - dark Christmas, heavy wheat sheaf (if full moon about Christmas Day)

If Christmas ice hangs on the willow, clover may be cut at Easter.

A windy Christmas and a calm Candle mass are signs of a good year.

Thunder in December presages fine weather.

Thunder during Christmas week indicates that there will be much snow during the winter.

A Green Christmas means a full churchyard.

If Christmas Day be on a Saturday, the weather be great with wind, snow and cold, the summer good and there shall be war in many lands. (except the last, quite accurate)

If berries on trees at Christmas, they'll stay 'til snow is down. If gone then a mild winter.

St Thomas Day is always grey. the longest night and the shortest day.

A dull Christmas with no sun, bodes ill for the harvest.

When the sun shines through the apple trees on Christmas Day, when Autumn comes, they will a load of fruit display. [reliable - also indicates a good Spring with few late frosts, frost-free May and a good Autumn.]

If ice bears before Christmas, it won't bear a goose afterwards.

Christmas in snow, Easter in mud. Easter in snow, Christmas in mud.

If much rain during the 12 days of Christmas a wet year to come.

If on a New Years Eve the winds blow south, it betokened warmth and growth.
If west, much milk and fish in the sea. If north, cold and storms there will be.
If east, the trees will bear much fruit. If north-east, then flee it man and beast.

26th - If windy, bad for next years grapes.

28th Childermass Day - if lowering and wet there will be scarcity. If fair it promises plenty.

Much rain in October. much wind in December. [check October readings]

In December, keep yourself warm, and sleep.

A winter fog will freeze a dog.

Every mile is two in winter.

25/12 to 5/1. These 12 days are said to be the keys of the weather for the whole year.

THE FULL MOON THIS MONTH IS CALLED THE HUNTING/COLD MOON.

The tree up-to the 22nd is the Elder. There is no tree on the 23rd. The Birch then becomes the monthly tree.

MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR EDENBRIDGE (USING 1981-2010 FIGURES)

Mean maximum = 8.1C

Mean minimum = 1.9C

Mean average = 5C

Rainfall = 85.8mm

Sunshine = 64.6 hours

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

Average temperature at 12 noon and again at 4pm taken at the beginning and end of the month:

1 st	7.9C	5.9C
31 th	5.3C	4.8C

Date	Day	Moon/ Weather	Met Off	Buchan	Dop <i>Quarter day</i>	Other day	Singu- larities	Eclipse
1	Sat	Fair&mild	stormy				Stormy	
2	Sun	Fair&mild	stormy			Advent	Stormy	
3	Mon	Fair&mild	stormy	Mild 3-14th			Stormy	
4	Tue	Fair&mild	stormy	mild			Stormy	
5	Wed	Fair&mild	stormy	mild			Stormy	
6	Thur	<i>Last Quarter</i>	stormy	mild			Stormy	
7	Fri	Fair&mild	stormy	mild			Stormy	
8	Sat	Fair&mild	stormy	mild			Stormy	
9	Sun	Fair&mild	stormy	mild		Advent 2	Stormy	
10	Mon	Fair&mild	stormy	mild			Stormy	
11	Tue	Fair&mild	stormy	mild			Stormy	
12	Wed	Fair&mild	stormy	mild	Perigee		Stormy	
13	Thur	<i>New</i>	stormy	mild			Stormy	
14	Fri	Rain	stormy	mild			Stormy	
15	Sat	Rain						
16	Sun	Rain				Advent 3		
17	Mon	Rain					17-21st	
18	Tue	Rain					dry/calm/fog	
19	Wed	Rain					dry/calm/fog	
20	Thur	<i>1st Quarter</i>					dry/calm/fog	
21	Fri	Rain			<i>St Thomas</i>	Equinox	dry/calm/fog	
22	Sat	Rain						
23	Sun	Rain				Advent 4		
24	Mon	Rain						
25	Tue	Rain	stormy 25-31st		Apogee	Christmas	Stormy	
26	Wed	Rain	stormy			St Stephen	Stormy	
27	Thur	Rain	stormy				Stormy	
28	Frid	<i>Full</i>	stormy			Childermass	Stormy	
29	Sat	Cold &	stormy				Stormy	
30	Sun	high winds	stormy				Stormy	
31	Mon	cold&wind	stormy			Hogmany	Stormy	