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JANUARY 2018

PREAMBLE



TREE OF THE MONTH IS THE BIRCH 24/12 TO 20/1

Welcome to the January 2018 website and I hope that each and every reader aspires to whatever they aim for in 2018. A happy healthy and successful 2018 to you all.

Apologies for the omission of the Super-moon data for the start of December, I am human!!

An interesting month for sure, having put head on line months ago for a long hard very cold winter, and seeing most of the acknowledged weather sites all plumbing for a benign mild January and maybe a colder February, I wait for the result with interest.

Just to add to the mix, the weather on St Catherine's Day 25th November, was well in line with a cold February, and confirmed all the earlier data that produced the winter forecast.

The dire warnings of severe weather late November with blizzards across the UK as far south as the west country moors, was never ever a likelihood; the end of November is always a cold period but rarely brings snow.. The other warnings of a 2010 freezing winter and blizzards, ice and snow, I fear was also misjudged; I examined the detailed weather patterns of 2010 and compared them to 2017 and they are completely different; once again some 'irresponsible/sensation seeking journalism,' causes un-necessary concern and stress. It also gave my in-box a bashing since I said no snow of any consequence - as soon as the first flakes fell - but did not settle as the ground was too warm - the mails and 'phone calls started. Oh ye of little faith!

Having said that some parts have had indeed some heavy falls of snow in December, these were not part of the SE forecast - however I did localised moon-chart records and found that many such places did indeed have snow predictions. Below I explain why it is not possible to do each area individually.

The autumn prediction of damp warm(er/ish) than normal and stormy, for the greater part held up quite well. Most gardeners had flowers in bloom well past their normal expiry day; some even had spring bulbs growing well in November - a sure sign of mildness. The confirmation of a mild/warm autumn produced primroses, dog violets, azaleas, rhododendrons, , ox-slips, cow-slips all in flower, with daffodil and crocus plants well advanced from November well into December all three months ahead of normal.

Whilst on this mildness subject - the temperature on Christmas Day 2015 was warmer than the temperature on 1st June 2016.....therefore be careful what you wish for. Sadly the mild weather now bringing many spring plants and cherry trees into flower and blossom is not good news for 2018, since flowering now prohibits flowering in their normal periods.

*Whilst I appreciate that some parts of the country have experienced a very wet autumn indeed with flooding, others parts, notably the SE corner has experienced a distinct lack of rain. What rain there has been has been light and not enough to even permeate the near rock hard top soil, and, as such the possibility of water shortages increases weekly. As a result SES water (formerly Sutton and East Surrey Water) have issued warnings of hosepipe bans in the spring due to acute water shortages, with less than 33% of rain falling to replenishing reservoirs in this last quarter, plus less than average water falling during winter 2016 too. It will be no surprise for the rest of several water companies in the SE to be issuing similar warnings too in the near future, since this shortage is across the SE.*

I work a whole year ahead, this gives invaluable foresight as to future weather, but also explains current weather; as a result, with frozen ground and real winter conditions until the start of April, there is no likelihood of any meaningful rain before then, and, after this, as nature tries to restore the balance and warm up the frozen ground a really wet April, May and June for sure. We do not have a climate here in the UK, we have weather, sometimes all four seasons in a day....ha ha.

Several comments from the December preamble on how to get a better local weather forecast. Many have remarked on the similarity of what the moon actually says and what the real weather actually is. The rest of the spreadsheet stays as written, but slowly each reader can see how each part of the jig-saw joins to form a complete picture.

It just goes to demonstrate really how clever our forefathers were, without any technology at all, just using what I explain both the book and the website and getting such results. Some have used the Time and Date website and have posted their weather onto You Tube.

I also have the problem now, despite staying away from Facebook, Twitter and Social Media, of the men of a certain age with time on their hands, whose weather knowledge is limited, at best, who daily give me breakdowns on what all 'weather experts/soothsayers/ prophets' using computer models, to tell me what the weather is going to do? If the label on the pot says marmalade, and it looks and tastes like marmalade then why is it raspberry jam? Tests your humour at times. ha ha .

Storm Caroline arrived more or less on time - as predicted months ago. Please beware the next big storm at the start of January.

I am asked why I cannot do weather predictions for the north of England - similar to what I do here for the SE? Good question and the reply will for sure upset the 'purists,' but before you castigate the writer, think hard on the content, and maybe you will see that merits consideration. This below was written in mid-November, compare the notes below with where the deepest recent snow fell - from the Welsh Marches across to that middle zone below Birmingham

The website started as SE website and has now morphed into a larger region. If I get specific requests for weddings, events etc then I make a special effort and try to give as best a prediction as circumstances allow. However the following, maybe rough and ready, but also has a lot of reasoned and reliable content. I have been looking at weather a while now and the following has resulted.

The UK from north to south;

Starting in Scotland, this is a truly massive region with many micro-climates etc, but as a generalisation, the NW and W parts in winter will suffer cold winds from Greenland, Iceland and some off the Atlantic, it also has the rain bearing winds off the Irish sea and Atlantic. The NE and E parts in winter will have winds from the Arctic and Scandinavia, again cold, but not quite as wet at the western side. In early summer the east side will have dryer warmer weather - hence tay-berries in Fife whilst the NW has damper stormier weather. The Central lowlands has a mixture of both, but there are subtle differences in all three regions.

The NW of England has wet winds off the Atlantic and Irish sea, which in winter with cold winds from Greenland and Iceland bring snow, and as such this weather extends south to north Wales but keeps to the west of Pennines. One point of interest here as to just why it is so wet in Cumbria around the Penrith area; it is the 'Golden Triangle,' with the warming effect of the Gulf Stream giving beneficial rainfall for trees.; which is exactly why on the Lowther Estate, adjacent to M6 at Penrith a new forest to be called Jacks Forest on 175 hectares will have completed planting by March 2018, using this micro-climate to produce wood for the next generation to use.

Staying on the western side the dividing line I use mid-Wales > Birmingham > Norwich, is there as I find it a natural line. So from Mid Wales southwards in winter with NW winds then snow on the higher parts, Snowdon and the Brecon's and south to the moors of the SW, again with wet weather off the Irish sea, Bristol Channel and Atlantic.

The SW being surrounded on three sides with water tends to be warmer in winter, but also wetter. In summer the damper weather off the Atlantic can be seen sweeping north along the western coastline. Which is why daffodils grow there before most other locations, plus winter vegetable (cauliflowers).

Back to the borders and the NE, the colder weather here comes from the Arctic and Scandinavia, not as wet as the NW, but may well be colder since again a subtle difference between the NW and NE.

The North Sea plays quite a prominent role in weather for this region too, and cold weather on the near continent will also arrive in the NE. This region extends for my purposes south from the borders to the river Humber and into Lincolnshire. These weather systems normally stay to the east of the Pennines.

East Anglia and Essex suffers from exposure the North Sea, cold winds in both summer and winter on the coasts, but dry winds and warm sunshine in summer, hence the grain lands of that region. Hot weather on the near continent, Holland Belgium and NE France will as in 2017, give spells of quite hot weather from easterly winds off these regions. Conversely too in winter, bitter dry winds too from this same source - with snow as these cold winds pick moisture en route.

The SE and home counties again have similar conditions to East Anglia, the near continent has a greater bearing on the weather here than SW winds that affect the rest of the UK, which helps explain why the SE is dryer and sunnier in summer and colder and dryer in winter, such weather will encroach inland to the Thames valley and Hampshire. But also brings a lot of snow too at times.

Central southern England, again with the coastline to keep it marginally warmer, from Southampton westwards to Devon, does not normally suffer extreme cold conditions, but at times it does. It also has some high winds too sweeping in along the English Channel from the Atlantic.

Central England (Midlands to Salisbury plain) suffers from some 'freak' weather at times, localised hurricanes being a favourite, this area is where several different patterns meet and cause some unusual weather, be it very hot at time, very wet at times or very cold and a lot of snow, Salisbury plain will attract snow if cold enough in winter, but also dry hot weather (for the grain) in summer.

In addition to the above, where south of the Birmingham dividing line it is warmer than north of it, the weather on the north side of the larger rivers, Thames, Humber, Tyne is cooler (marginally) than the southern side.

So as seen above to do a detailed forecast for all the UK is just not possible for me to do. It is to help every reader to try to get better idea of local weather (as opposed to the broad brush treatment issued daily on TV - where it can 50% correct and 50% incorrect) that I gave the instructions in the December 2017 website on how to get your own forecasts. Such is the success of this that some readers have put the whole of 2018 onto You Tube and Social media. Hopefully by doing your own weather you should get it 90% correct.

I hope the above therefore answers some questions. I have a massive learning curve to try to get other regions (than the SE) better in the predicting business, slowly I get there, but Rome was not built in a day and I am human, and the perfect human has yet to be found!!! I try to do my best and there will be the odd 'cock-up,' that is the nature of trying to predict the fickle UK weather.

There are usual 'smart-arses' who e-mail in with adverse and inane comments, I do reply, if the reply offends, then you have your own recourse to stay silent; such persons just demean themselves and waste my time. Most are usually anonymous cowards too, or maybe, have not yet learnt how to write their name?

However to the many of you that do write in and tell me your weather, a huge thank you, slowly I learn, and the methodology improves as a result, for your region.

Of necessity, this January entry is compiled before the Quarter Day on the 21st December - arguably the most important day for winter weather. I expect for the north area - the other side of the Birmingham Line on the western side to have W/NW winds - which will indicate a cold raw winter.

The east of the Pennines from the N/NE quadrant and this N/NE air flow to travel all the way to Dover.

The SW will have SW air stream, but as explained above, this will be affected by the N/NW winds sweeping southwards from the NW.

If however the Met Office is correct, then all the above is a lot of rubbish for to have a benign mild January(as they predict) then the winds on 21st December must be from the SW.  
Interesting times!

## JANUARY 2018

NEW MOON 17th @ 0218hrs = Snowy & stormy + MICRO NEW MOON  
1st QUARTER MOON = 24th @ 2220hrs = Fair & frosty  
FULL MOON 2nd @ 0225hrs = Snowy & stormy + SUPERMOON AND  
31st @ 13.27hrs = Frost + SUPERMOON +BLUE MOON  
LAST QUARTER MOON 8th @ 2226hrs = Fair & frosty  
  
31st = TOTAL LUNAR ECLIPSE (not visible from UK)

DoP = 25th St Paul.

HIGHEST SPRING TIDES 2nd to 5th. **MASSIVE ON 2nd. PROXIGEAN TIDE**

Apogee 15th @ 0211 hrs.. Perigee 1st @ 2156hrs AND  
30th @ 0955hrs.

- |      |                |   |
|------|----------------|---|
| 1st  | Calends        | If Janiver Calends be summerly gay, wintery weather will continue to the Calends of May.<br>Perigee @ 2156hrs   |
| 2nd  | PROXIGEAN TIDE | <b>A rare, extreme form of a spring tide which occurs once every 18 months or so when the moon is at its closest point in its orbit to the earth and in its new or full moon stage. This produces a 25% increase in the tide.</b><br>Therefore a normal 13 feet tide rise will be 16.25 feet. |
| 3rd  |                | It will be the same weather for 9 weeks as it is the ninth day after Christmas.   |
| 5th  |                | Twelfth night.  |
| 6th  | Epiphany       | The days are lengthened a cocks stride.<br>Plough Monday  |
| 8th  |                | Weather before noon foretells June, weather after noon that of May.   |
| 9th  |                | Weather before noon foretells August, weather after noon that of July.  |
| 10th |                | Weather before noon foretells October, weather after noon that of September.  |
| 11th |                | Weather before noon foretells that of December, weather afternoon that of November.   |
| 12th |                | If the sun shines today it foretells much wind.   |

- 13th St Hilary Foretells the weather for the whole year - often considered the coldest and/or the wettest day of the year (reliable). Homage day to the apple tree.
- 15th St Paul the Hermit If rain or snow this day there will be a blessing on the year.  
Apogee @ 0211 hrs.
- 17th St Sulphicius Frost augers well for the spring.
- 19th - 31st See rhyme below.
- 22nd St Vincent If the sky is clear, more water than wine will crown the year. If the sun shines today (it foreshadows much wind), prosperous weather all year.
- 25th Burns Night A stormy period at times.
- 25th St Paul aka as St Annanias. It is said to predict the weather for the whole year ahead (it is good for 6 months - but tails off after that - Ed) DAY OF PREDICTION.  
Also known as Egyptian Day. Burns Night. Arguably the most important day of the year.

30<sup>th</sup> Perigee 0955hrs

31st = Hazel Tree in flower. **FULL MOON + HIGHEST SPRING TIDES DANGER**  
The largest moon in apparent visible diameter since 26.1.1948 and with 99.5% luminosity.

MET OFFICE NOTES: 5th to 17th Stormy. 18th to 24th Quiet. 25th to 31st Stormy again.

BUCHAN NOTES: NONE.

Tree of the month is the Birch up to the 16th, thereafter the Rowan.

#### General Notes and Comments

TWO FULL MOONS IN THE MONTH WHICH NORMALLY MEANS/INDICATES A VERY WET MONTH, THEREFORE BE PREPARED FOR ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS AT THE START AND END OF THE MONTH. THE SECOND SUCH FULL MOON IS CALLED A BLUE MOON, AND ALSO A SUPER-MOON.

*As days lengthen so cold strengthens. The blackest month of the year.*

*In winter, after the prevalence of easterly winds, if the barometer begins to fall and the thermometer to rise, a gale which starts to blow from the SE will veer to the SW, whilst the barometer falls constantly.*

*As soon as the wind passes the SW point the barometer begins to rise, a heavy shower of rain falls, and a strong W/NW or NE wind may follow, after which, the sky clears and the weather becomes colder.  
[This is an exact UK weather pattern and true]*

*A January spring is worth nothing.*

*If no snow before the end of January there will be more in March & April.*

*1st - If this be a Sunday, winter will be cold and moist, spring windy, the summer hot, and, at harvest time wind and rain with abundance of corn and other grain.*

*If this be a Monday, severe and confused winter, good spring and windy summer.*

*If this be a Tuesday, dreary and severe winter. windy spring, rainy summer.*

*If this a Wednesday, hard winter, bad spring, good summer.*

*If this be a Thursday, good winter, windy spring, good summer.*

*If this be a Friday, variable winter, good spring and summer.*

*If this be a Saturday, snowy winter, blowing spring, wet summer.*

*Therefore from the above 2018 with the 1st being a Monday this gives us a severe and confused winter, good spring and windy summer.*

*Summerish January gives winterish spring.  
January commits the fault and May bears the blame.*

*If January the sun appear, March and April will pay full dear.*

*When Oak trees bend with snow in January, good crops may be expected.*

*March in January, January in March.*

*If grass do grow in Janiveer, 'twill grow the worse for all the year.*

*If grain grows in January, a year of great need.*

*If birds begin to whistle, frosts to come.*

*Dry January plenty of wine. Wet January no wine.  
Fog in January brings a wet spring.*

*Hoar frost and no snow is hurtful to fields, trees and grain.*

*Wet January, wet spring.*

*If January is wet the barrels stay empty (wine).*

*January freeze, the pot on the fire.*

*Gale force winds are quite common in January.*

*Remember on St Vincent's Day (22nd), if the sun his beams display,  
'Tis a token bright and clear, of prosperous weather throughout the year,  
More wine than water, much rye and wine.*

*St Vincent's is normally a good weather day.*

*If the birds start singing on St Vincent's day 'twill be an early spring.*

*St Paul's day is also St Annanias's day (25th).*

*If the sunshine on St Paul's Day it betokens a good year; if snow or rain an  
indifferent year. (a bad crop of grain) If cloudy & misty a great dearth and  
beasts and birds will die, if Thunder great winds are predicted and unrest will  
vex us all and cold will blow the great winds of January.*

*Clouds on St Annanias Day portend floods.*

*St Paul's Day - It is necessary to observe and note down the phases of the day, hour  
by hour, or, even half an hourly, throughout the day from 6am to 6pm. This  
is due to the belief that the hours of the day will reflect the weather, month by  
month throughout the year.*

*Generally these signs are dependable up to the end of July. However there is much  
truth in the above and 90% accuracy is quite normal - with 100% one year.*

*Snow usually falls in the third week of January. If it doesn't fall then, then it won't  
fall at all.*

*For farmers it is wise to plan your hay crop now. If the grass is already starting to  
grow, then do not look for two hay crops this year for the worse it will be later  
on, and vice-versa.*

*The first three days of January rule the coming first three months.*

*Warm January, cold May.*

*There will certainly be at least one very cold snap, very likely with snow too. It has  
been known to arrive as early as Boxing Day (26th December) and as late as  
the 30th January. It will come and will probably be the worst cold snap of the  
year. There is much truth in the saying that the hardest winters are those  
that start around twelfth night (6th), following a dry December. On snow - it is  
generally unknown, that if snow lies for three days it will require another fall to  
take it away.*

*If late October and early November be warm and rainy, then January and February  
shall be frosty and cold. [check readings from previous year]*

*When the months of July, August and September are exceptionally hot, January will  
be the coldest month. [check previous readings]*

*Windy October - dry January. [check previous readings]*

*A dry and frosty Janiveer is like to make a plenteous year - a very dependable  
saying.*

*19th-31st. These last twelve days of the month rule the weather for the whole year.*

*Tree of the month is Birch up-to 15th. Thereafter the Rowan.*

MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR EDENBRIDGE (USING 1981-2010 FIGURES)

Mean Max: 7.8C      Mean Min: 1.C      Mean Avg: 4.4C  
Rainfall: 83.6mm      Sunshine: 69.3hrs (day = 2.23hrs)

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>	5.8C	5.8C
31 <sup>st</sup>	5.7C	5.1C

Jan-18

Date	Day	Moon	Weather	DoP	Saint/Holy Day	Other Day	Apogee Perigee	Equinox Eclipse	Met Office	Buchan	Super-moon	Highest tides
01/01/2018	M						Perigee			NONE		
02/01/2018	T	FULL	Snowy & stormy			MASSIVE TIDE	2156hrs				yes	2nd to
03/01/2018	W											5th
04/01/2018	T											
05/01/2018	F											
06/01/2018	S				Epiphany							
07/01/2018	S											
08/01/2018	M	LQ	Fair & frosty									
09/01/2018	T											
10/01/2018	W											
11/01/2018	T											
12/01/2018	F											
13/01/2018	S					St Hilary						
14/01/2018	S											
15/01/2018	M					St Paul the herm	Apogee 0211hrs					
16/01/2018	T											
17/01/2018	W	NEW	Snowy & stormy									
18/01/2018	T											
19/01/2018	F											
20/01/2018	S											
21/01/2018	S											
22/01/2018	M					St Vincent						
23/01/2018	T											
24/01/2018	W	1st Q	Fair & frosty									
25/01/2018	T			YES	St Paul	Burns night						
26/01/2018	F											
27/01/2018	S											
28/01/2018	S											
29/01/2018	M											
30/01/2018	T						Perigee					
31/01/2018	W	FULL	Frost				0955hrs			Blue Moon	+ YES	

DATE	Chandler & Gregory Barry & Perry	Brooks	Lamb	Buchan	Met Office	Season
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January 01	31st Dec - 6th = First winter minimum cold period	25th Dec - 1st Jan				20/11 -19/1 early winter	
January 02							
January 03							
January 04							
January 05		5th - 17th Stormy	5th - 11th Storminess of early January		5th - 17th stormy period		
January 06							
January 07							
January 08		peak day					
January 09							
January 10							
January 11							
January 12							
January 13							
January 14							
January 15							
January 16							
January 17							
January 18	20th - 23rd Generally dry & sunny in central and southern England	18th - 24th anti-cyclonic			18th - 24th quiet period	20/11 -19/1 early winter	
January 19		peak day	20th - 23rd Anti-cyclone period South & East England				
January 20			peak day				20/1 - 29/3 late winter
January 21							
January 22							
January 23							
January 24		24th - 1st Feb Stormy					
January 25					25th - 31st stormy period		
January 26							
January 27			24th - 3rd Feb Renewed storminess of early January				
January 28			Gales + rain or Snow				
January 29							
January 30						20/1 - 29/3 late winter	
January 31		peak day					