

JULY 2016



Tree of the month up to 7th is the oak - see previous month, thereafter the Holly.

Welcome to July 2016 website entry and I hope that we may all see some sunshine, dry and warm weather for the last two weeks of this month, which hopefully will last well into the first week of August.

*As some of you may have seen, I was invited and accepted a request to appear on This Morning ITV show on 13<sup>th</sup> June – which was firstly a surprise, since I never tout for publicity and having appeared the response was staggering, it took four days to clear the e-mail postbag. However subsequent requests for national newspaper interviews I did accept since I had correctly predicted this cold wet June months ago, and as such proved that the methodology using these old tried tested reliable sayings does work, and works well. There are the usual detractors to which I am hardened now, however to out the record straight. On the above TV show I did defend the Met Office quite steadfastly – surely a first – but I was asked and gave a Christmas prediction for 2016.*

Another sign of a poor summer, the blackbirds have stopped the dawn chorus, therefore no more babies or nesting this year. The cuckoo normally departs last couple of days in June, first couple of days in July, this year has packed bags and gone already indicating a cold wet period still to come and therefore insufficient food, off to warmer climes.

Wind changed – as forecast – from NE to SW on 20<sup>th</sup>, and there it will remain until 11<sup>th</sup> November (St Martin) when it will go back to the N/NE (trust me please). Such a cold wind will bring the November frosts and fogs and the predicted frosty cold dry sunny Christmas day here in the SE – yes really. But also more menacingly will give strength to the North Sea surge accompanying the massive tides on 14<sup>th</sup> November of which I give advance notice already – these conditions could cause havoc. I am not a scare monger I just tell you what the tried tested proven methodology here tells me. Having said all that, it just proves how wonderful nature is at predicting advance weather – the skill is being able to see and then interpret such data successfully.

Pop time: My dictionary definition of an 'Expert' includes the following: someone who is skilled in any art or science; having a thorough knowledge; taught by practice; a specialist; having the facility of performance. I think therefore that any newspaper, publication, interviewer or presenter addressing me as such can be justified on any dictionary definition. Without boasting or other such manifestations, the prediction in December that the hay, fruit, grain, pea and beet harvests this year would be poorer than previous years, has, six months later been proven. For so called 'experts' to continue to berate, deride or cast doubt on what I do, as far as I am concerned, shows a lack of respect and some ignorance; I expect and deserve better from such 'educated' persons.

Christmas Day 2016 here in the SE, will be dry cold sunny, no snow here, an overnight frost for sure, therefore no wind, but Boxing Day will start a stormy period. The 'upside' to such a prediction is that summer 2017 will be a little (marginally) better than 2016, but that the growers, farmers and horticulturalists will have a better 2017. To make such a prediction some six months ahead is either madness or boldness – Christmas Day itself will prove which was correct.

OK, back to business, the frosts in France that so damaged the French vineyards and orchards in April were further devastated with severe hail storms and floods in May and June. Fortunately no such major disasters here, though with all the wet

in the pea growing areas, I fear a poor crop and big harvesting problems due to the wet ground. But the last frost in May did not actually clear until 28th May, very late indeed, and was indicated with the disappearance of the cowslips and the appearance of pink campion – always a sure sign of end of frosts.

*This cold N/NE wind persists all month through June up to the 20<sup>th</sup>, which has stunted growth, and with the rain, caused a distinct absence of butterflies, insects and flowering plants. It was so dry in this region here that massive cracks opened in the ground, blackberries withered and died, such fruit as there was did not grow and if you shook a fruit tree the withered fruits just fell – more signs of a poor fruit harvest. Today 17th June, not one blackberry fruit to be seen, precious few plums, pears or apples either. – see above for 20<sup>th</sup> June change.*

**A really advanced warning now for November 2016 as follows: When a full moon, perigee, highest spring tides and wet stormy weather combine then those are the conditions that many experienced in the autumn and at Christmas 2015, the methodology here now is as good as it will ever get, so please trust it – and me, I do not issue such warnings lightly. On 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016 all the above conditions fall into line – BUT – a massive but too, they are 'enhanced' by the fact that it also the time of Proxigean (look at google for this) Tide – which is when the moon is nearest the earth at full or new moon, but the new dimension is that tidal gravitational forces will cause the tides to be 1.2 times higher than even the highest tides. Therefore massive high tides, which combined with rain and storms, may well cause problems for tidal areas. Having seen the anguish of such matters last year, since no-one else will warn you, then I will. Forearmed is forewarned. Thank you.**

There are other such problems for the autumn, but none as serious, but I will inform and highlight these in the coming months.

The above now shows how nature prepares, informs and educates six months ahead for such eventualities. Spring was four weeks late this year, therefore nature will compensate by adding four weeks at the end of summer (such as it is), but by so doing will provide late fruits, hips, haws, berries and seeds etc for the winter. Look at the seeds on the hogweed and that plant family this year – and notice the heights too, I have measured nine and ten feet high giant hogweeds here, may other such seed bearing plants too are higher this year, burdock, teasel and bryony to name but a few – high since that way, should the ground be

covered in snow or frozen or flooded then the seed eating birds have food. Just go out and look for yourself and you will see what I mean. Nature knows there weather problems ahead – as warned above – and prepares for it. Look and ye shall find! You will never find that on any computer system, however good and expensive it is.

*Part II of a small different subject to vary the subject matter this time concerns moon signs; Expect storms from the 5<sup>th</sup> day after a new moon. Clear moon at night in winter indicates frosts. In winter and spring a moon with sharp horns indicates frost. If by the 4<sup>th</sup> day of a new moon phase it has appeared, expect a troubled month; if however it appears on the 4<sup>th</sup> day clear and sharp then mostly fine weather for the month. A pale moon indicates rain. A red moon indicates blowy conditions. A white moon in winter often means snow. A ring around the moon indicates rain. A halo around the moon indicates strong winds.*

*The above I hope will give added interest to the celestial feature that controls our weather here on earth – without the moon we would not be here; and finally when the moon lays on its back – like a saucer, then expect dry conditions for the rain collects the rain in the saucer. If however it is straight up and down. Then expect rain for the moon will not catch the rain (the new moon in new is a straight edge, like a capital D and it is wet! On that note I conclude this part.*

And finally, over the last few months I have been predicting a poor damp summer, and to reinforce this to day I read from the BTO that in mid-June the first of the radio tracked cuckoos here in the UK is already on its way back to Africa to be followed very shortly by the other such tracked birds - which normally depart in the first week of July. So, if ever one wanted clear evidence what weather we still have to come for the rest of June into July the cuckoos have decided to pack their bags and depart! Nature is surely magnificent on such forward predictions.

I wish you all a pleasant sojourn in the sun in July, not quite BBQ weather but very pleasant – with the caveat that an English summer is three days and thunderstorm!

JULY 2016

NEW MOON = 4th @ 1203hrs = Very rainy  
1st QUARTER MOON = 12th @ 05.05hrs = Cold & showers  
FULL MOON 19th @ 03.20hrs = Fair  
LAST QUARTER MOON 27th @ 0002hrs = Fair.

DoP = 15th St Swithun

Highest Spring Tides 5th to 8th AND 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>

APOGEE 13<sup>th</sup> @ 0525hrs: PERIGEE 1<sup>st</sup> @ 0646hrs AND 27<sup>th</sup> @ 1126hrs

- 1st If the first week of July be rainy weather -'twill rain more or less for a full four weeks. It always rains on the first Friday in July. Perigee @0646hrs.
- 2nd St Mary If it rains today it will rain for 4 weeks.
- 3rd St Thomas Rain today, rain for seven weeks. Commencement of Dog Days (to 28/8)- hottest part of the year.
- 4th St Bullion Start of Dog Days
- 4th to 16th If fine and summery, the rest of the summer is likely to be fine.
- 5th Perigee 19.55hrs
- 10th Celtic Knut the Reaper with hay cutting scythe worshipped. (hay making period).
- 13<sup>th</sup> Apogee @ 0525hrs
- 14th St Processus & St Martinian If it rains today it suffocates the corn. Statistically the day with the highest average temperature.
- 15th St Swithun DoP. Said to mark the weather for 40 days. Lily flowering day.
- 16th Gather bunches of lavender to hang in wardrobes for perfume and to repel insects.
- 20th St Margaret If rain, then talk of Margaret's flood - see below. Poppy flowering day.
- 22nd St Mary Magdalene Alluding to the wet, usually prevalent about the middle of July, the saying is 'St Mary is washing her handkerchief to go to her cousin's St James's, fair (25th). Rose flowering day.
- 25th St James 'Til St James be come and gone, you may have hops and you may have none.
- 27<sup>th</sup> Perigee 11.26hrs
- 29th -31st Can be very hot days.

MET OFFICE NOTES: None . BUCHAN NOTES: 12th -15th Warm period, 29th June to 4th July cool period.

Full moon this month is called Buck Moon.

Tree of the month up to 7th is the Oak, thereafter Holly is the tree.

### General Notes and Comments

*The 'meadow month' or 'hay month' - traditional labour of month being hay-making.*

*July should be, and quite often is, a month of blazing sunshine and soaring temperatures.*

*Hay making and harvesting in full swing.*

*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.*

*St Swithuns Day (15th) if thou dost rain, full forty days it will remain.  
[this saying never comes true]*

*If on St Swithuns feast the welkin lours, and ever pent house streams with nasty showers, twice twenty days shall clouds their fleeces drain, and wash the pavements with incessant rain.*

*[not really acceptable as continuous rain, but acceptable as showers/showery with bright intervals might be acceptable]*

*St Swithun's day is normally a 'bit of both' day, half sunny & half wet. 'Sunny intervals and showers.' Despite the 40 days rain tag, it is more accurate to say 'sunny intervals and showers.'*

*If it rains on St Swithuns Day. the saint is christening the apples, and they will be sweet and plentiful.*

*Watch the weather from the 4th to 16th July. If it is fine and summery, the rest of summer is likely to be fine. [this is quite possibly true]*

*If about St Swithun's (15th) a change of weather takes place, we likely to have a spell of fine or wet weather.*

*When the sun enters Leo, the greatest heat then arise.*

*In July, shear your rye.*

*When the Goats-Beard (wild flower) closes its flowers before mid-day, then there is rain in the air. If it stays late with its petals open, the atmosphere is dry and the weather set fair.*

*When the clover leaves are shut (even with clear sky and rising glass) and reaching for the sky, reach for your brolly. [very reliable]*

*St Margaret (20th) - so much rain often falls this day that people speak of Margarets Flood.*

*A shower in July when the corn begins to fill, is worth a plough of oxen, and that that belongs theretill.*

*Much thunder in July injures wheat and barley.*

*In July cut your rye.*

*What is to thrive in September must be baked in July. [grapes are a perfect example]*

*When the months of July, August and September are exceptionally hot, January will be the coldest month. [can be confirmed- but not always]*

*The first Friday in July is invariably wet. [4/5]*

*Fog in March -Thunder in July. [check previous readings]  
A poor forecast for wheat indicates wet weather in July and August.*

*A swarm of bees is not worth a fly.*

FULL MOON THIS MONTH IS CALLED BUCK MOON.  
Tree of the month up-to 7th is Oak. Thereafter Holly is the tree.

MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR EDENBRIDGE (USING 1981-2010 FIGURES)

Mean Max:	24C	Mean Min:	12.1C	Mean Avg:	18.5C
Rainfall:	66.6mm	Sunshine:	220.3hrs	(day = 7.11hrs)	

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>	18.9C	19.5C
31 <sup>st</sup>	21.9C	23.4C



DATE	Chandler & Gregory Barry & Perry	Brooks	Lamb	Buchan	Met Office	Season
------	-------------------------------------	--------	------	--------	------------	--------

July 01  
July 02  
July 03  
July 04  
July 05  
July 06  
July 07  
July 08  
July 09  
July 10  
July 11  
July 12  
July 13  
July 14  
July 15  
July 16  
July 17  
July 18  
July 19  
July 20  
July 21  
July 22  
July 23  
July 24  
July 25  
July 26  
July 27  
July 28  
July 29  
July 30  
July 31

22 June - 5th return of  
westerlies to UK

29th - 4th  
cold  
period

18/6 - 9/9  
high  
summer

10th - 24th Warm period

13th - 7th August High risk period  
for  
higher mean temperatures.

12th - 15th  
warm  
period

23rd- 30th - 6th August  
Thundery cyclonic weather

18/6 - 9/9  
high summer