

MARCH 2013

Welcome to the first month of spring (March April & May), but I fear not a very spring like month at all, quite possibly a cold and damp month – which again sadly might well be the approach to both this spring season, and, as far as far as dampness goes, for the summer too (June, July & August). I hear the moans, but it is not my fault, I only try to interpret what all the data and nature gives me, you will have to hope that I have got the summer all wrong, and that it will be a summer similar to 1976 or 1988 to 1990, or even. All I can say to that is ‘dream on.’

It is not that I am a kill joy, nor a pessimist; I have to follow the trail of the methodology, it is as simple as that.

Because I have to compile the bulletin half way through the current month, it means that if I get it wrong, then I have to make amends here. Snow in January – I did suggest that if we were unlucky enough to attract any, then, it would be of little or no consequence, which in my terms is that the roads and pavements will be passable and, albeit, great care in places, no great inconvenience would be caused. Some parts of the SE had little or snow, some had more than others, but my maxim of little consequence held well. The same also applied to the small snow in February – again of little or no consequence for this region.

Take a look at your wet, soggy saturated gardens and reflect that the ‘Weather Guru’s and experts,’ plus several newspaper headlines warned of the coldest winter for 100 years, temperatures of -15C, much snow that would cause chaos. Had the ‘Gurus and their ilk’ been correct, the ground would be rock hard with frost, snow would be laying and, since with 2cm of snow the major airports grind to a halt, with inches of snow, as forecast, chaos would reign supreme. I draw attention to the difference between what is happening on the ground, wet, saturated and soggy etc, which my methodology – by interpreting what nature foretold, months ahead too and what the vast arrays of computer technology and other such aids, boosted doubtless by headline writers too, tell us. There is no correlation at all. There was never a cat in hell’s chance of it being a cold winter, let alone the coldest winter for 100 years. To paraphrase what someone recently said – albeit in a different context – but the maxim holds just as well ‘get out there and smell the air, feel it your face.’

I give a monthly data sheet, the first entries on that sheet are the moon phases and the weather associated with those phases, this information is primary data, to this is added the Buchan and Met Office periods data, and finally the singularities data from established experts of the past HH Lamb et al. For convenience of all these matters are in spreadsheet form - easy reference – on the last section of each month. The diligent will see that the moon phase weather is rarely wrong, it does at times take 36 hours to materialise - nothing unusual – but it is very reliable and this is backed up with the other above data. For the doubters – there are still some out there, I still have a long way to go, just note, because all this data is in advance, how many times the data on these sheets, corresponds near enough exactly to the weather that spills from the technologically advanced Met Office - and It is my understanding that they use the best 17 variations (of 51) of the same weather forecast to cover their forecasts on an hourly basis.

Please, I am not disparaging the Met Office, their staff or their results, neither am I insulting them, I am solely trying to point out that my methodology (with no scientific proven data or papers dear boy) is in many ways more advanced than their technology.

I just use this as a point to open a debate. Nobody can be correct all the time, neither do I make any such claim, what I do say is that the moon charts I found in my research from 1100ad, are just as valid now as they were then, the cost of such predictions is minimal. It takes diligent checking, but it does work and keeps working. It stands up to any scrutiny.

If nothing else I try to promote some interesting subjects for debate, any challengers?

The website will, over the next few months start to change, in appearance, in accessibility, in finding what you need, pictures and illustrations will be added, and hopefully sections for gardeners, bird watchers, animal lovers, plant, flower and grass specialists will be started.

There are a couple of subtle changes this month, but as the months progress, colour will be added., If any of the readership would like any particular subject to be considered for inclusion then please come forward with your submission, it is an open site and for everyone to enjoy. The info@ e-mail will arrive here.

It is also of interest that the site now is used by several of the national forecasters to see what is predicted - of course I do not expect them to admit as such, but they know who they are, and thank you one and all for your interest, it is your interests that push the website to the top of the Google search lists, and for a completely amateur, non publicity seeking weather person, that gives much satisfaction.

Once again the moon weather forecasts prove reliable for the snow in February, again not a lot here in the SE, of little or no inconvenience or consequence, being an accurate prediction. Once again the ice proved the problem.

One small repeated request, please use whatever you wish to use, but also please mention the source in the credits, I am trying to build respectability and reliability. Every little helps – and it costs you nothing too. So, please play the game chaps and be fair.

Since the predominant wind direction on 29th September, 11th November, 21st December and again on 2nd February was SW, the relatively mild conditions will now persist through to May 25th. All this was predicted, and maybe now, with hindsight true, but I did predict correctly, exactly why the 'coldest winter for 100 years,' never had a cat in hell's chance of succeeding.

In March watch for the weather on 21st, Quarter Day, day of Prediction etc, but also look at the Easter dates and the reference data given earlier in the year from Shrove Tuesday right through to Corpus Christi, for by noting these dates, the reader will have good idea of what future weather is to come.

Hopefully, I will publish the advance predictions from April 1st through to 21st September in late March, which should be a very good indication of what summer will bring this year. At the moment not a damp June like last year, but the rest may be similar, wait and see time.

@ David King

Edenbridge 18th February 2013.

MARCH 2013

DAY OF PREDICTION: 21st & 29th Last Quarter 4th = 21.53 hrs = Rain (snow if wind W/SW)

New 11th = 1951 hrs = Fair (frosty if wind N/NE) 1st Quarter 19th = 17.27 hrs = Fair

Full 27th = 09.28 hrs = Cold (rain of wind from SW)

SPRING EQUINOX: 20th.

1st	St David	Ever on St David's day, put oats and barley in clay.
2nd	St Chad	Every goose lays before St Chad, whether a good goose or bad. [If your goose has not laid by St Chad start fattening for the pot for she is not a good layer.] Sow peas today.
3 rd	St Winalter	The holy day of the saint who controls tides and weather. If stormy today, bad winds to follow, but a quiet end to the end of the month. 3 rd Sunday in Lent.
5th	St Piran's Day	Cornish Festival Perigee 23.21hrs
10th	4th Sunday in Lent	See below for Frost warning. Mothering Sunday. Simnel Sunday.
12 th – 15 th		Cheltenham Gold Cup meeting
17th	St Patrick	5 th Sunday in Lent
19th	St Joseph of Nazareth.	A fertile year if clear and dry. Apogee 03.14 hrs
20th	Vernal Equinox 0514hrs	Astronomical Spring/Equinox commences.
21st	St Benedict	As the wind on St Benedict's day, so it will stay for three months. (up to 24th June). Day of Prediction. Quarter Day. See below for frost precautions. A fertile year if not freezing today.
24 th	Palm Sunday	If weather not clear this day it means a bad year. TH today indicates a merry year.
25th	Lady Day Virgin Mary Day.	The day the Cardamine flower blooms. [the original Rent Quarter Day] Daffodil blossom day. The cold comes on the water.
28 th	Maudy Thursday	Fine on Holy Thursday, wet on Whit Monday
29 th	Good Friday	BHL Day of Prediction. DoP up to 25th May. Rain on Good Friday & Easter Day, good year for grass and a bad one for hay (wet June). [This signifies wet year and such weather on Good Friday will last for 40 days.
30th		Comes the Cuckoo and the Nightingale.
31 st	Easter Day	BST Starts. Perigee 03.56 hrs. If sunshine today so at Whitsun (May 11th). Rainy Easter = cheesy year (wet) Greenfly at Easter, June will blister. If the sun shines on Easter Day so it will be at Whitsuntide.

General Notes and Comments.

The Four wind days, Quarter Days, are among the most reliable in the year and give the prevailing wind until the next Quarter Day.

The month of renewal - The month of winds and new life. March - many weathers.

If the winds for Candlemass (2nd February) and St Benedict (21st) are contradictory, then St Benedict takes preference.

10th - If it does not freeze, a fertile year may be expected; mists or hoar frosts indicate a plentiful year, but not without some diseases.

21st, St Benedict. This Quarter Day will give you the wind up to 24th June (St John) which is just 95 days later. St Benedict will take precedence over Candlemass should the winds directions be contradictory.

St Benedict - sow thy peas or keep them in the nick.

March is traditionally a boisterous month throughout the temperate zones of the northern hemisphere. >>>>>>

The reason is that the polar regions are at their coldest after nearly six months of night, while the equatorial regions are at their hottest because the sun is overhead.

The strength of the atmospheric circulation depends primarily on the difference of temperature between the equator and poles; hence it is most vigorous when the contrasts of hot and cold are greatest in March.

When there has been no particular storm about the time of the spring equinox, if a storm arise from the east on or before that day, or, if a storm from any point of the compass arise a week after the equinox, then, in either of these cases, the succeeding summer is generally dry (4/5). But if a storm arise from the SW or WSW or a frost before the spring equinox, the summer is generally wet. (5/6).

There are generally some warm days at the end of March or the beginning of April, which will bring the Blackthorn into bloom, and, which are followed by a cold period called the Blackthorn Winter (11-14th April).

Fogs in March - frosts in May. [This is quite accurate, in London there are on average four foggy mornings in March and four nights average ground frost in May]

Fog in March - Thunder in July. [doubtful].

As much fog in March, so much rain in summer.

As it rains in March so in June. [doubtful]

A wet March makes a sad harvest.

March damp and warm does the farmer much harm.

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

Dry March, wet April, dry May and wet June are generally said to bring everything in tune.

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

A showery March and a showery May portend a wholesome summer - if there be a showery April between.

Dust in March brings grass and foliage.

A peck of March dust to be sold, is worth a Kings ransom.

March dust on apple leaf, brings all kinds of fruit to grief.

The March sun rises but dissolves not. March sun lets snow stand on a stone.

If you've March in January the January will appear in March.

After a frosty winter there will be a good fruit harvest.

If March winds start early it will be a dry Easter.

A dry lent spells a fertile year.

A windy/dry March fortells a dry May.

March flowers make no summer bowers.

March dry - good rye.

A dry cold March never begs its bread.[a good grain harvest implies a dry July and August]

March snow hurts the seeds.

Snow in March is bad for fruit and grape vines.

Moles are a good guide for a fortnight or so, it is a sure sign of warmer weather when they start to become active - it may only be a short warm period.

Field mice however, when scurrying around are a prelude to bad weather. They are laying in stocks of food.

Better bitten by a snake than feel the sun in March.

March, month of many weathers, wildly comes in hail and snow and threatening floods and burns.

A peck of March dust and a shower in May makes the corn green and meadows all gay.

The month of winds and new life.

After a frosty winter there will be a good pea harvest.

For the elderly - February search, March try - April says weather you live or die.

Average central England temperature is 5.7C.

Broadly speaking, significant plant growth commences at 6C or above.

Winter = -6C. Summer = +6C.

March tends to be the driest month of the year - but subject to cold snaps and frost.

The third week of March is often the driest of the whole year.

It is also said that March borrows its last week from April, which indicates the tail of the month is often more spring like than the rest of it.

The last three days are called 'borrowing days' for if they are unusually stormy, March is said to have borrowed them from April. Three days of wind and rain is more the norm.

Also - one day rain. one day snow and the other, the worst day they ever knew.

The third week of the month (around the 17th St Patrick's day) is fronted by Cheltenham Gold Cup race meeting. This period will certainly produce a combination of most variable weather, from rain/snow/sleet and winds to hot dry and sunny.

March is usually a very varied month and a sensible traveller will be prepared for anything.

If March comes in like a lion it will go out like a lamb (and vice-versa).[dependable, but it only applies to the first and last two or three days of the month]

If March comes in all stormy and black, she carries winter away on her back.

As in September, so next March - sometimes. [check previous September readings]

As in October wet, March dry:- yes if October wet is above average then March below average. October cold, March (warm) cold - is more likely cold from local records.

October warm, March cold(er than average) - from local records.

If the last 18 days of February are wet and the first 10 days of March be for the most part rainy, then the spring and summer quarters are likely to be wet too, and a drought is unknown but that it entered that season. [this is very true - so watch the drought situation] AND If the rainfall from the above dates is less than 100mms then the drought possibility is far higher. This is a refined local calculation.

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).

A dry Lent spells a fertile year.

NO MET OFFICE NOTES

NO BUCHAN DATES

FULL MOON THIS MONTH IS KNOWN AS THE SAP MOON.

The tree of the month up to the 17th is the ASH. Thereafter the Alder.

MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR EDENBRIDGE (USING 1981-2010 FIGURES)

Mean maximum = 12.1C

Mean minimum = 2.4C

Mean average = 7.25C

Rainfall = 56.2 mm

Sunshine = 142.2 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	7.1C	7.1C
31 th	12.2C	12.9C

MARCH 2013 (easy reference spreadsheet)

Date	Day	Moon/weather	Met Off (none)	Buchan (none)	Other day DoP Quarter Day	Singularities	Eclipse
1	Fri	(FULL/rain)				1 st -10 th Stormy 88%	fair
2	Sat	rain				Stormy 88%	
3	Sun	rain				Stormy 88%	
4	Mon	LAST QUARTER/Rain (snow if wind W/SW)				Stormy 88%	
5	Tue	rain/?snow				Stormy 88%	
6	Wed	rain?snow				Stormy 88%	
7	Thur	rain?snow				Stormy 88%	
8	Fri	rain?snow				Stormy 88%	
9	Sat	rain?snow				Stormy 88%	
10	Sun	rain?snow				Stormy 88%	
11	Mon	NEW/fair (frosty if wind N/NE)					
12	Tue	frosty				12-23 rd notable minimum	
13	Wed	frosty				rainfall	
14	Thur	frosty				Minimum rainfall	
15	Fri	frosty				Minimum rainfall	
16	Sat	frosty				Minimum rainfall	
17	Sun	frosty				Minimum rainfall	
18	Mon	frosty				Minimum rainfall	
19	Tue	FIRST QUARTER/fair				Minimum rainfall	
20	Wed	fair		Spring equinox		Minimum rainfall	
21	Thur	fair		Quarter Day /DoP		Minimum rainfall	
22	Fri	fair				Minimum rainfall	
23	Sat	fair				Minimum rainfall	
24	Sun	fair				Minimum rainfall	
25	Mon	fair					
26	Tue	fair					
27	Wed	FULL/cold (rain if wind from SW)					
28	Thur	cold					
29	Fri	cold					
30	Sat	cold					
31	Sun	cold	BST commences				