

WEATHER WITHOUT TECHNOLOGY
MARCH 2014

PREAMBLE.

Welcome to the March 2014 edition. It never rains but that it pours! As a resident on the Eden valley flood plain, I can well sympathise and empathise with those of you in such watery conditions, and offer in the circumstances my condolences, we too here have had our problems, but nothing like those further east at Tonbridge, Yalding and Maidstone. The bad news is that it is not over yet, by a long chalk either. Hopefully the heat and dryer conditions later in the year will help ameliorate the situation in the longer term. Sadly for many farmers, horticulturalists and others who live off the land, the situation is not good, and we all will pay for this in monetary terms later in the year.

I made my peace concerning the absence of snow and bitter weather last month, but in mitigation I offer the fact, that, nature in fact was 100% correct in predicting all this wet and getting colder weather, and that the predictions of it staying wet well into April remain very good, but being so wet will also now extend well into May, accompanied by the cold E/ESE/SSE winds, therefore the prediction - albeit not snow - holds good, it is precipitation with warmer temperatures, but precipitation nonetheless.

I will abstain from the how, why's and wherefores of the causes of the flooding, all I say is that using my methodology all this was highlighted months ago, all the warning signs were there, whether you noted them is up to you. Nature works in weird and wonderful ways and is never wrong with the advance signs. And, talking of signs, a walk across any open ground with boundary hedges will show there are still massive supplies of hips, haws, berries etc the birds have yet to eat; knowledge and experience tells me that the worst of the winter is still to come, which is why the birds have left food for later. Yes, though wet, it has been, surprisingly a mild winter, spring commences this month and may well be as cold as last year (2013), but also much damper too.

The persistent storms were predicted - though not as many to come this month, the spring tides also correctly predicted, and these too will not be so severe this month.

It does not help that February is the month with the least evaporation too - and since here in Edenbridge we had 328% of the January average rainfall, and now with 334% (19th) of the average February rainfall, the situation deteriorates. The chances of drought conditions and shortage of water later in the year are very slim.

The most important day of the month is March 21st, Equinox, St Benedict's, Quarter Day and Day of prediction. The wind direction this day will be the predominant wind direction until the next Quarter Day (June 24th)- beware for the last two years this has been a persistent easterly wind- a cold dry wind.

For gardeners this month, please note the saws concerning the weather around Ash Wednesday and for Lent, these are very accurate indeed.

There is also a very apt saw "March in January gives January in March."

This month a new data sheet at the end, after the quick spreadsheet, this will be a regular feature for each month.

This is a compilation of specific dates for the month, known as 'singularities,' and is taken from the following books:

The Climate of the British Isles (ISBN0-582-48558-4) by T J Chandler & S Gregory.

Annual Recurrences of Weather - Singularities (ISBN Not known) by C E P Brooks.

Synoptic Climatology -Methods & Applications (ISBN 416 08500 8) by RG Barry & A H Perry.

Climate History and the Modern World (ISBN 0 416 33430 X) by H H Lamb.

The Met Office and Buchan periods you already are familiar with.

[All the above references can be found by diligent searches with internet search engines.]

These dates you will see have a close connection, and are from numerous long-term observations, using basically some of the methodology I use. It may be of interest to note the Buchan and Met Office dates together with the moon phases to see how there regularly correspond with each other. For those interested I have also appended January and February sheets too.

I hope the contents give cause for some thought - any comments are always welcome.

I see in the national press on 17th February the first suggestions of a very hot summer to come, this from a German source I understand. I have already suggested a very hot period 10th to 17th August, maybe even a heat wave 10th to 15th which was broadcast on Radio York in January and published in several magazines and newspapers too. The clues all come from the Christmas Day weather, I will however give a firmer prediction next month, when other data comes to fruition – or not! However all the signs are there for such a prediction.

March 2014

NEW MOON = 1st @ 0803hrs = Cold rain
1st QUARTER MOON = 8th @ 1327hrs = Snow & rain
FULL MOON 16th @ 1711hrs = Fair
LAST QUARTER MOON 24th @ 0147hrs = Frost.

DoP = 21st St Benedict AND Quarter Day 21st

HIGHEST SPRING TIDES 2nd to 4th.

VERNAL 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 good goose or bad [if your goose has not laid by this day start fattening for the pot for she is not a good layer]. Sow peas today. |
| 3rd | St Winneral | The holy day of the saint who controls tides and weather. If stormy today bad winds to follow, but quiet end to the end of the month. |
| 4th | Shrove Tuesday | So as the sun shines on Pancake Tuesday, the like will shine every day in Lent. Thunder on Shrove Tuesday foretelleth wind, store of fruit and plenty.
When the sun is shining on Shrovetide day it is meant well for peas and rye |
| 5th | Ash Wednesday | Where the wind lies today it will remain for all Lent. A dry Lent spells a fertile year. |
| 9th | 1st Sunday in Lent. | |
| 11th | Apogee 1947hrs. | 11th -14th Cheltenham Gold Cup race meeting. |
| 16th | 2nd Sunday in Lent
St Piran | Cornish festival |
| 17th | St Patrick | Around this time Cheltenham Gold Cup race meeting and some freakish weather. |
| 19th | St Joseph of Nazareth | A fertile year if clear and dry. |
| 20th | Vernal equinox | |
| 21st | St Benedict | DoP. Quarter Day. As the wind today it will stay for three months. A fertile day if not freezing today. See below for frost precautions. |
| 23rd | 3rd in Lent. | |
| 25th | Lady Day | Virgin Mary Day, The day the cardamine flower blooms. Daffodil blossom day. |
| 27th | Perigee 1831hrs. | |

30th 4th in Lent Mothering Sunday, Simnel Sunday.

31st BST STARTS.

MET OFFICE NOTES: None.

BUCHAN NOTES: None.

Full moon this month is known as the Sap moon.

Tree of the month up to 17th is the Ash, thereafter is the Alder.

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.

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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.

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)

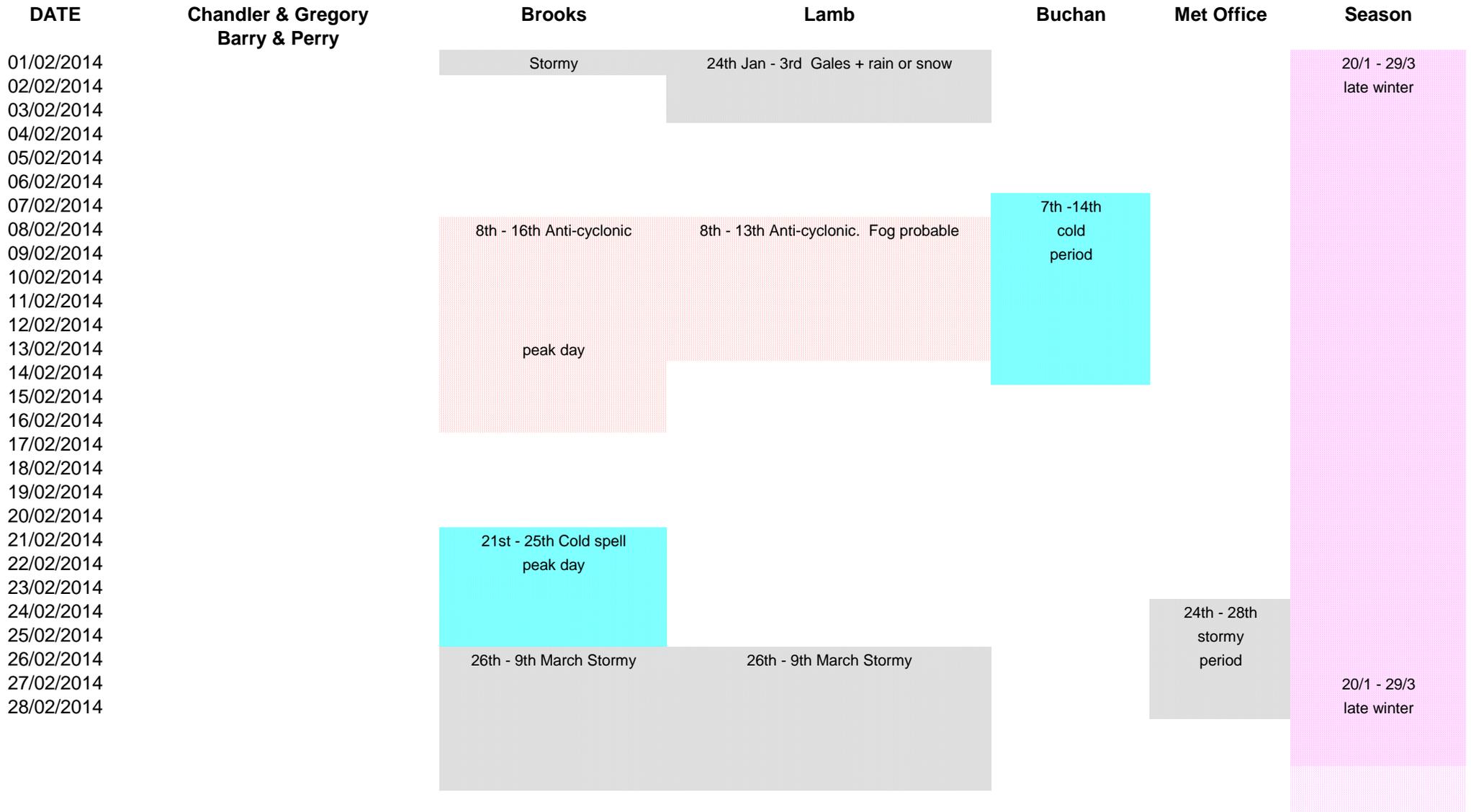
Mean Max:	12.1C	Mean Min:	2.4C	Mean Avg:	7.25C
	Rainfall:	56.2mm	Sunshine:	142.2hrs	(day = 4.58hrs)

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 st	7.1C	7C
31 st	12.4C	13.1C

DATE	Chandler & Gregory Barry & Perry	Brooks	Lamb	Buchan	Met Office	Season	
01/01/2014	31st Dec - 6th = First winter minimum cold period	25th Dec - 1st Jan				20/11 -19/1 early winter	
02/01/2014							
03/01/2014							
04/01/2014							
05/01/2014		5th - 17th Stormy	5th - 11th Storminess of early January		5th - 17th stormy period		
06/01/2014							
07/01/2014							
08/01/2014		peak day					
09/01/2014							
10/01/2014							
11/01/2014							
12/01/2014							
13/01/2014							
14/01/2014							
15/01/2014							
16/01/2014							
17/01/2014							
18/01/2014		18th - 24th Anti-cyclonic			18th - 24th quiet period	20/11 -19/1 early winter	
19/01/2014							
20/01/2014	20th - 23rd Generally dry & sunny in central and southern England	peak day	20th - 23rd Anti-cyclone period South & East England			20/1 - 29/3 late winter	
21/01/2014		peak day					
22/01/2014							
23/01/2014							
24/01/2014		24th - 1st Feb Stormy					
25/01/2014					25th - 31st stormy period		
26/01/2014							
27/01/2014			24th - 3rd Feb Renewed storminess of early January				
28/01/2014			Gales + rain or Snow				
29/01/2014							
30/01/2014						20/1 - 29/3 late winter	
31/01/2014		peak day					



DATE	Chandler & Gregory Barry & Perry	Brooks	Lamb	Buchan	Met Office	Season
01/03/2014		26/2 - 9th Stormy peak day	26/2 - 9th Stormy			20/1 - 29/3 late winter
02/03/2014						
03/03/2014						
04/03/2014						
05/03/2014						
06/03/2014						
07/03/2014						
08/03/2014						
09/03/2014						
10/03/2014						
11/03/2014						
12/03/2014	12th - 23rd Notable for low precipitation Central & Southern England		12th - 22nd Early spring anti-cyclones. Very quiet weather with large daily temperature range.			
13/03/2014						
14/03/2014						
15/03/2014						
16/03/2014						
17/03/2014						
18/03/2014						
19/03/2014						
20/03/2014						
21/03/2014						
22/03/2014						
23/03/2014						
24/03/2014		24th - 31st Stormy peak day				
25/03/2014						
26/03/2014			28th - 1st April Cold stormy period			
27/03/2014						
28/03/2014						
29/03/2014						
30/03/2014						
31/03/2014				20/1 - 29/3 late winter 30/3 - 17/6 spring		