

MARCH 2017

PREAMBLE



Tree of the month up to the 17th is the Ash (above), thereafter the Alder – which will be illustrated next month.

Welcome to the March 2017 entry to the website; I hope too, the welcoming of the warmest spring for four years, with a plethora of colour to come in the wild flowers, as the soil starts to warm after this long (predicted) cold winter. I said it would be cold and this has proved to be the case, I did not predict heavy snowfalls as the norm. Therefore I am pleased the methodology once again has come good.

My book is now published and available, either from Amazon or other book sellers, where you pay postage, or, direct from the website, via 'further information' where you can purchase on the Paypal system I have set up for the purpose. The price £12.99 on the website is inclusive, Paypal e-mail me, I acknowledge receipt to the purchaser, annotate, package and despatch the book via Royal Mail with an e-mail telling the purchaser it is on way. So far reports here are very favourable and one experienced reviewer ended "It is certainly worth reading and can be thoroughly recommended." I too think it was worth the effort of sitting down and writing it – the choice is yours. Having said that, I now find that the big publishing houses have realised that I have found a 'niche/hole,' in the market

and I have had journalists from such publishers contacting me to pick my brains and knowledge. "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery."

One question keeps being asked from those that have read the book so far – and thank you to you all for purchasing it – the question being "Did you ever go and see the grave-diggers love?" Yes I did, and all being well her story – so interesting and sad too – may well appear in the second book. The stories are true, the writing style is not William Shakespeare, 'earthy and direct' might well cover the style, but as long as the message gets out there, then the object of the book is achieved – job done, and thank you all for buying it. A corkscrew is straight too – depends on what angle you see it from. Ha ha .

Country Code – not normally a part of my agenda, but sadly it is necessary. Once upon a time in the Highway Code there was a 'Country Code,' sadly it is no longer there, therefore I use a little of went before to make a request of two please; I appreciate that I might be telling some, how to suck eggs, but to others it might not occur to be thoughtful when walking in the countryside. I ask therefore please;

When walking in the countryside please close all gates behind you: 1. Please do not drop your litter on the ground, take it home with you: 2. Keep to the footpaths where possible. 3. Please keep your dog under control and on no circumstance hassle or worry sheep, it is now approaching lambing time, to you it is a sheep, to the farmer it is his livelihood. If you dog is worrying sheep the farmer by law can shoot your dog!!! The legislation concerning dogs is very wide, and can even cover your dog, on a lead, in a field containing sheep, so please respect the sheep. 4. Finally please respect the countryside; we are tending it for our families for the future. In is an offence to damage, cut, steal remove any growing plant, fungi or fruit under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. Thank you all.

Look back at February, yes it was cold at times, it was snowy, and what snow there was fell on queue on 11th. A dearth of colour and wild flowers, due to cold soil, was obvious, hopefully as the wind turns to the south warmer air will arrive, warm the soil and accelerate growth. Nature has just (184 days) to produce growth, bed mature and produce fruit vegetables and produce before the arrival of October frosts – there will be no late autumn this year, it has happen before October

I divert here for a moment. I do not do what I do to usurp the weather experts, the Met Office and their ilk. I do what I do to prove that 1000 years ago our forefathers with no technology, managed by using the same methodology that I now use (that took me 40 years to perfect) to get very close indeed to what the weather would

be 90 to 180 Days ahead. The book explains in simple terms how this is achieved – and it works 90% of the time at worst. I hope that clarifies what I do and why.

This coming month will be warmer for sure, and will be noticeable, not necessary in heat terms, but in ambiance terms. The wind day is 21st St Benedict and I expect the wind to be from the south that day, bringing warmer winds from the continent to us (bear in mind this is predominantly for the SE – the SW will still get their weather from the Atlantic and SW) those on the east coast will also notice, albeit slowly, but it will get warmer too.

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The advance weather March to the first two weeks in June is on the website already, therefore holidays here in the UK can be arranged. I have a critical populace here where I live, they need accurate weather too, I try not to disappoint. I would get a lot of 'stick' too.

BST starts 26th March (last Sunday in March) and ends 29th October (last Sunday in October).

'Silly' warm temperatures mid-February, nature however did not bring any flowers that do not tolerate frost into flower, therefore the possibility of some frost in places remains, but I think the 26th February will see the end of the long cold winter – despite no snow in volume – it was cold with frost in the first week of October and still frost in the third week of February, five months of winter is a long time in anyone's book. With such a long cold spell maybe now you can see why spring will be warmer this year – nature compensates.

Wild flowers to look forward to this month (as indicated on the 'wheel – just click it – on the first page of the website), lesser celandine, anemone family, primroses, primulas, spring snowflakes, violets, chickweed, stitchwort's, daffodils – it easier to say all the flowers that bloom white, lemon and yellow followed by the light blues – bluebells, hyacinths and at the end of the month the hawthorn, whitethorn and blackthorn blossoms – the colours start to then pink then red.

Finally, enjoy the warmer temperatures, less cold winds and brighter mornings and evenings, winter is finished, spring is nigh. Be happy; yesterday has gone, tomorrow may never arrive, so make the best of today, and life is far too valuable to waste.

March 2017

NEW MOON = 28th @ 0357hrs = Rain.
1st QUARTER MOON = 5th @ 1132hrs = Cold & high winds.
FULL MOON 12th @ 1453hrs = Fair & mild
LAST QUARTER MOON 20th @ 1558hrs = Fair.

DoP = 21st St Benedict AND Quarter Day 21st

VERNAL EQUINOX = 20th.

Highest spring tides 13th to 15th AND 27th to 31st

Perigee 3rd @ 0725hrs: AND 30th @ 1240hrs
Apogee 18th @ 1726hrs

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|------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 1st | St David | Ever on St David's day, put oats and barley in clay.
2nd Sunday in Lent |
| | Ash Wednesday | Where the wind lies today it will remain for all Lent. A dry Lent spells a fertile year. |
| 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.
Perigee 0725hrs |
| 5 th | 1 st in Lent | |
| 12th | 2nd in Lent | |
| 15th | | Cheltenham Races 15 th to 18th |
| 16th | St Piran | Cornish festival |
| 17th | St Patrick | Around this time Cheltenham Gold Cup race meeting and some freakish weather. |
| 18 th | Apogee @1726hrs | |
| 19th | St Joseph of Nazareth | A fertile year if clear and dry. 3 rd in Lent. |
| 20th | Vernal equinox. Palm Sunday | If weather not clear this day it means a bad year. If thunder today a merry year. |
| 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. |
| 25th | Lady Day | Virgin Mary Day, The day the cardamine flower blooms. Daffodil blossom day. |
| 26 th | 4 th in Lent | Mothering Sunday. BST Starts. |

30th Perigee @ 1240hrs

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. >>>>>>

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 King's 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
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March 01		26/2 - 9th Stormy peak day	26/2 - 9th Stormy		20/1 - 29/3 late winter
March 02					
March 03					
March 04					
March 05					
March 06					
March 07					
March 08					
March 09					
March 10					
March 11					
March 12	12th - 23rd Notable for low precipitation Central & Southern Englan		12th - 22nd Early spring anti-cyclones. very quiet weather with large daily temperature range		
March 13					
March 14					
March 15					
March 16					
March 17					
March 18					
March 19					
March 20					
March 21					
March 22					
March 23					
March 24		24th - 31st Stormy peak day			
March 25					
March 26					
March 27			28th - 1st April Cold stormy period		
March 28					
March 29					
March 30					
March 31					20/1 - 29/3 late winter 30/3 - 17/6

