

MAY 2017

PREAMBLE



Tree of the month 13 May to 9th June is the Hawthorn. A small note here, there are two common hawthorn bushes here in the UK, the midland Hawthorn which give the pinker blossom and the leaf of this bush is more rounded. The other is the Common Hawthorn (above) which gives the white blossom and has a five pointed leaf.

May is the name for MAIA - the roman goddess of growth.

Welcome to the May 2017 website entry. Some mixed Easter weather for many, but that is Easter, always fickle, for those in the south, the SW wind predominated and no frosts either over the Blackthorn winter. For those in the north and Scotland it was a true Blackthorn winter, with some cold N/NW winds too. In the SE a major problem with water. March had only 60% of the average and April as I write is pitifully dry too. It is not however wholly unexpected, the last 18 days of February and the first 10 days of March yielded only a grand total of 54mm of rain, well below the 100mm benchmark; therefore the saw/saying of a drought to come has arrived early this year.

Having said that nature is not stupid, and to compensate for this dryness May will surely be wet/damp. The first two weeks of June will be good for the pea and hay harvest, after that a damp warm summer. Nature will balance out the current lack of rain for sure. Being able to see what

lies so far ahead is the advantage of the methodology here, to be able to assure those that need to know that rain will arrive - and give a pretty good indication of when too is the object of the website.

But for gardeners, the Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday sayings for Lent were again very accurate, the much warmer spring than for the last three years definitely an advantage too.

Some points arising from e-mails received this month, and I am also pleased that the book has been so well received. As a result of questions raised (as below) I am now into chapter three of a second book - this however will take time, since I am using photographs I take over the year to illustrate the text. It will however expand on the first book and indicate just how accurate nature is and what nature tells us. So some points to assist understanding.

1. For those of you that have asked; the accepted procedure/method of estimating/establishing the age of an hedge or field boundary called 'Hooper's Rule = (age = number of species in a 30 yard stretch x 100 + 30). I have done this in my area where I know that some features are at least 1000 years old and in fact the age has come out to be in fact much older.

2. "Why do you put the tree of the month on each bulletin?" The answer = During the hours and years of research I did, I went anywhere to collect data, some of it overlapped with other sources, but that tended to verify the information. Amongst the sources I researched was the Druid fraternity, a wonderful source of interesting facts. The tree calendar came from this Druid source, it has its value, which is why I use it. I hope that answers that question.

3. "Why do you include the moon names on the monthly website?" Answer = As above I went to every source I could find for data, there are several sources for moon names, some good some not so good. However the North American Indians had excellent names and descriptions for each moon (all fully described in the book too); having compared the information from this source with other sources, and tested several such systems, the North American Indian explanation came out well ahead of every other source. When you read the full explanation of each moon, then you appreciate just how comprehensive this source is. Data like that, tried, tested and proven end up in the methodology.

4. "Why I do insert the highest spring tides dates?" If you live in tidal waters, then most likely you already have this knowledge, however, it may well be that you might holidaying in a tidal region and not aware of such matters, therefore the data may well be helpful. However the primary reason is to highlight, which it does months ahead, the coincidence of Perigee, Highest spring tides and the Full moon. It is an established fact that when these three events occur within 36 hours of each other, then the preponderance of a natural disaster, be it a severe storm, earthquake, volcanic eruption, severe flooding or other such event increases by 100%. Using this methodology, in September 2016 I predicted Storm Angus (November 19th 2016), even before the name had even been introduced. Going back further, The Queen's Thames Jubilee event in June of that year, came up in the methodology in January prior to that event. When June 6th came, indeed the weather was exactly as predicted. If such an event is likely to occur then I will

forewarn some months ahead, and on the website entry for that month I will highlight the event in red - I try to warn and prepare, such warning should not be ignored. A point of interest here, I was asked a couple of months ago I did not forewarn of the 'dangers,' that were thought serious enough for the appropriate authorities to evacuate large parts of Essex of or from flooding.? The simple answer being that the methodology here is now very good, it is reliable, tried and tested, For the above event no such warning notices even flickered on the methodology here, it was a non-event as far as I was concerned, therefore no warning came forth. Also the same answer applied to Storm Doris - it was serious enough to raise any concerns on the system here.

5. "How did I know that the wind on Shrove Tuesday would change from N/NE to SW, and that pre-announced a warm spring and a SW wind on 21st March (quarter day), giving a warm fertile Lent and warmest spring for a few years?" The answer is that I am working at least 12 months ahead, I have a large client base that needs to know, if the summer will be dry/wet, will May be frosty, will the weather be good for the pea harvest? The questions are endless, but to the questioner, vital. By working so far ahead I am able to see exactly why such and such weather occurs at a particular time, because it is then able then to put such weather into perspective. With all due respect to computers, they are not programmed with the data I have here in my database, therefore it is just impossible to forward predict as I do. Therefore the Shrove Tuesday saying (850 years old too) was to the methodology here as plain as the pancake on the same day - and Ash Wednesday backed that up too, maybe that helps explain the really unseasonably warm period late March into April. It had nothing to do with Polar vortex or global warming any other such buzz words. Keep the questions coming, it is only by asking that we can all learn from the answers.

The cuckoo plant flowered on the 24th March and the cuckoo normally arrives around the 14th April (Cuckoo day). However this year the cuckoo was heard here on the 27th some 20 days early, confirmed by many reliable sources too; sadly the earlier the bird arrives the quicker he departs. I predicted that the summer would be predominantly warm and damp. The cuckoo normally departs the first few days of July. It will depart some 20 days earlier - mid to late June - this year. This tells that it will indeed damp, and dampness reduces the insect count, the bird needs insects for food; therefore a shortage of such food will encourage it to fly back to warmer climes. So once again the 90 day notice that nature constantly provides advance notice. ( 90 +/- days from 27 March to mid-June). The skylarks are here back from Africa, as too are the swallows and house martins. The damp summer will give mud for the martins to build their nests, the warm period 5th to 15th August will give them plenteous insect food too before they commence their trip back to west Africa. Maybe slowly you see how nature provides for its own, and hopefully such small comments such as these - just from using your eyes and seeing, will encourage some walks to see nature.

As some will have seen, slowly, the methodology is being accepted as viable; different it is, agreed, against the grain and accepted procedures by others, but it works and works well. As the book gains readers, so does the knowledge and interest, as a result I am seen now on TV, heard on numerous radio stations and also appear in print in national, local newspapers and magazines. I do not go asking for publicity, nor do I advertise, those that wish and need to find me manage quite easily via the website. It is not possible to pre-warn of such appearances on TV or radio since many crop up with hours or a day at most. Most however do get an airing one way or the other on YouTube or just by typing in 'David King weather' into Google. It is however very pleasurable to find that I am generating interest in some old skills and reviving interest in the countryside. The book is always available via the website - see under 'further information.' I am however pleased to see that it now available from major bookshops, as well as Amazon. To be asked to appear on mainline BBC TV programs is indeed an honour, progress at last.

And finally, I recently did some filming here in this region for and with BBC Countryfile Diaries, on what I do and how I do the weather from nature, this will be shown, I understand - but TV is a very fickle medium - on Monday 29th May on that programme. What you see with me is what you get, not the normal cultured prepared sanitised weather presentation with suitably attired personages, but just who I am. Enjoy.

MAY 2017

NEW MOON = 25th @ 2044hrs = Rainy  
1st QUARTER MOON = 3rd @ 0346hrs = Rain.  
FULL MOON 10th @ 2242hrs = Fair  
LAST QUARTER MOON 19<sup>th</sup> @ 0132hrs = Cold & rain showers.

DoP = 25th St Urban

Highest spring tides 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>. **Highest is 25th**

APOGEE 12th @ 1952hrs: PERIGEE 26<sup>th</sup> @ 0124hrs

BUCHAN COLD PERIOD 9<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>

- |                  |  |  |
|------------------|--|--|
| 1st              | May Day  | Hoar frost today indicates good harvest. Plants in full growth. The later the Blackthorn blooms after 1st May, the better the rye. |
| 3rd              | Holy Cross Day<br>St Philip & St James                           | Crowfoot blossom time.<br>If it rains, and/or a fertile year may be expected, and/or foretells a wet harvest.                      |
| 14th             | Chestnut Sunday  |  |
| 11th             | St Mamertus<br>weather}  | Ice-Saint - beware of frost - unseasonally cold and/or wet   |
| 12th             | St Pancras<br>Apogee 1952hrs                                     | .....as above.....Ice Maidens = night frost}   |
| 13th             | St Servatius   | .....as above.....}  |
| 14th             | St Boniface  | .....as above.....}  |
| 14th             | Chestnut Sunday  |  |
| 18th             | Apogee @ 2207hrs   |  |
| 19th             | St Dunstan (cold Sophie).  | Ice Saint with characteristics as above for ice-maidens.   |
| 22nd             | Dandelion picking day in East Anglia for dandelion wine.         | Trinity Sunday   |
| 24th             | Celtic celebration day for bringing prosperity and good harvest. |  |
| 25th             | St Urban   | DoP. Day of Prediction up to 15th June (St Vitus). Summer starts.  |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | Ascension Day  | As the weather today so may be the entire autumn.<br>Proxigean High Tide.  |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | Perigee @ 0124hrs  |  |

MET OFFICE NOTES: = none.

BUCHAN NOTES : 9th to 14th cold period.

Full moon this month is known as Flower Moon.

Willow tree up to 12th, thereafter Hawthorn.

*General notes and comments.*

*If you are looking for a good summer, the best May weather you need should be cold and rainy.*

*May can be/likely to be cold, but nothing strange in this.  
He who doffs his coat on a winter's day will gladly put it on in May.  
A cold May gives full barns and empty churchyards.*

*Goddess of Spring. Sacred Hawthorn tree blossoms this month.  
Severe gales are very much the exception to the rule, though boisterous breezes are fairly common.*

*E/NE winds reach their greatest frequency during April and May.  
SE England, London in particular, suffers from more short intense storms than any other part of the country.*

*April and May are the best time to visit Scotland.  
The later the Blackthorn in bloom after the 1st May, the better the rye and harvest.  
He who shears his sheep before St Mamertus Day (11th) loves his wool more than his sheep.*

*If rough winds do shake the darling buds of May, and summer's lease hath all too short a stay.*

*A cold wet May is good for corn and hay, a dry May foretells a wholesome summer.  
Flowers in May good cocks of hay. Water in May - bread all year.*

*Rain in May makes plenty of hay.  
A cold May and windy, a full barn will find ye.*

*St Urban (25th) gives the summer.  
[this does give an indication, a fair indication - it can however be ambiguous or a little optimistic]*

*Ne're cast a clout till May be out, button to chin till June be in,  
if you change in June you change too soon.  
Change in July? You'll catch a cold bye and bye.  
Change in August if you must.  
Be sure to remember change back in September.*

*Mist in May, heat in June, puts the harvest right in tune/makes the harvest come right soon.*

*A leaky May and dry June makes harvest come right soon.*

*A May flood never did anyone any good.*

*Who sows his oats in May has little to repay.*

*A swarm of bees in May is worth a load of hay.*

*When bees leave their hive then it's good to be alive, when they all go home again  
then it's surely going to rain.*

*When the Mulberry tress begins to shoot, the last frost has gone.  
[Impeccable reference]*

*Spring will not settle properly until the cowslips have died down.*

*When September has been rainy, the following May is generally dry; and when May  
is dry, September is apt to be wet. [check previous readings in each case]  
[the above however is not really reliable - however - If May is well above the average  
for rain then the same can be said for September being above average for  
rain too.*

*AND*

*If May is drier than average then September is likely to be drier than average too.  
ALL THE ABOVE FROM LOCAL READINGS.*

*Fogs in March - frosts in May.*

*[this is quite accurate. In London there on average, four foggy mornings in March  
and an average of four nights of ground frost in May. Check local readings]  
Franklins Frost strikes Devon 19th, 20th & 21st May.*

*To conclude. May is a most uncertain month. A month of variable temperatures  
and rainfall.*

*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).*

*The hay crop is harvested at the end of May & June, so any reference to a good hay  
crop implies good weather then.*

*A hot May makes a fat churchyard.*

*A May wet was never kind yet, a May flood never did good.*

*Mud in May, grain in August.*

*Cool & evening due in May, brings wine and much hay.*

*The more thunder in May, the less in August and September.*

*FULL MOON THIS MONTH KNOWN AS FLOWER MOON.*

*Willow tree up-to 12th. Thereafter Hawthorn from 13th.*

MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR EDENBRIDGE (USING 1981-2010 FIGURES)

Mean Max:	19.3C	Mean Min:	7.1C	Mean Avg:	13.2C
	Rainfall:	58.9mm	Sunshine:	197.8hrs	(Day = 6.38hrs)

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>	15.7C	16.9C
31 <sup>st</sup>	18.8C	19.9C



DATE	Chandler & Gregory Barry & Perry	Brooks	Lamb	Buchan	Met Office	Season
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May 01  
 May 02  
 May 03  
 May 04  
 May 05  
 May 06  
 May 07  
 May 08  
 May 09  
 May 10  
 May 11  
 May 12  
 May 13  
 May 14  
 May 15  
 May 16  
 May 17  
 May 18  
 May 19  
 May 20  
 May 21  
 May 22  
 May 23  
 May 24  
 May 25  
 May 26  
 May 27  
 May 28  
 May 29  
 May 30  
 May 31

29th to 16th May  
 northerly weather  
 with some  
 anti-cyclonic periods

9th - 14th  
 cold  
 period

21st - 31st  
 anti-cyclonic period  
 fine weather

30/3 - 17/6  
 spring

30/3 - 17/6  
 spring