

ADVANCE PREDICTIONS SPRING 2018 - MARCH TO MAY 2018

Welcome to the Spring 2018 advance predictions website entry, sadly not the early very warm spring correctly predicted for Spring 2017.

I sit here composing this in early January 2018, the snow I predicted to commence on or around 2nd January has yet to materialise south of the mid-Wales > Birmingham > Norwich line, though there was some snow north of that line, but also a lot of rain too. The Storm Eleanor did however arrive on time and thankfully not with too much damage or flooding. However, I trust the methodology to deliver, and therefore still expect the winter to be cold hard and long; we have weather in the UK not a climate, therefore the weather is always fickle and sometimes throws a curler - an unforeseen event.

Thankfully we do not have the extremes of heat as currently in Australia, the landslides and floods in California, the extreme cold over parts of Canada and the eastern seaboard of the USA, or the deep snow in the Alps, we must therefore be thankful for small mercies.

I am currently (not for the first time) out on an extreme limb with the winter weather, in that the Met Office with £97 million computer predicts a mild benign January, and, as such, weather presenters be they meteorologists or just weather presenters follow the script rigidly. Neither am a 'Seaweed forecaster,' as I was portrayed recently.

I work always a full twelve months ahead, this gives vital foresight into what is to come and also helps at times to explain current weather. I also get numerous requests to predict weather well in advance for weddings, special events and celebrations etc. Forewarned is therefore forearmed.

The website started primarily here in the SE corner of the UK as an advance weather information place for farmers, growers and those that needed such reliable advance information. In time it expanded to Essex, then East Anglia and as far as Southampton. The map on the website shows the area covered, in detail, from to the east of the line from Great Yarmouth to Southampton.

However, four years ago I started with BBC Radio York/Leeds and have learnt also to cover this vast region to the east of the Pennines from the Border region to Norfolk, a massive learning curve since there are so many diverse micro-climates and peculiarities in such a vast area.

It was to try to give every reader the chance to do their own weather, that, in the December 2017 website entry I re-iterated how anyone could, with a 90% minimum chance of accuracy could do their own weather. This I understand has met with much acclaim and careful search of You Tube will find several such weather predictions across the UK. So some progress. The weather in Dundee, Dover, Doncaster and Devises is all different, therefore careful use of the December data will give better coverage. The methodology I use is exactly the same as I have given to every reader. I am human, none of us is perfect, but I do my best.

Now back to them original subject; as I work twelve months ahead, the methodology produced the winter prediction being for a long hard cold winter, this results in the soil temperature being well below the 6C needed to start any growth. In order for this cold, soil to be 'kicked-started' into life, nature pours warm rain onto the cold soil to warm it. It is therefore no surprise therefore to see that the tried trusted and proven methodology has turned up an extremely wet spring and also a cold late spring too.

Spring 2018 will be therefore be wet and cold and this cold may well last, as in both 2015 and 2016 into mid-June, indeed a cold wet spring; if that were not bad enough, then the following

summer will also be damp and warm, as summer 2017 was. Those in the SE may be lucky and again have the best of the 'summer - such as it is,' with hot air coming from the heat in Alsace (NE France) as in a few days in June, July and the tail end of August. As I said recently on an ITV Show summer will be in 'spits and farts,' but definitely no prolonged hot spells or BBQ summer per se.'

However there is also another vital factor that affects those in the south and what used to be the Thames Water area, now known as Affinity (if it does not work re-brand it and change the logo.) In early January Affinity issued the following warning 'Britain needs significant rainfall to avoid drought, - and as such warns that customers could face water restrictions later this year without significant above rainfall in January, February and March.' The firm say that ground water sources were below average for the whole of last year and that aquifers expected to refill with rainfall from Autumn and winter has not materialised. In places there is less than 24% of the average water available.

Coupled to this is the fact that there is also an acute water shortage in the extreme SE corner of the UK, where all the reservoirs are less than 30% of average capacity, to the extent that all the water authorities have applied for abstraction licences to take water from the rivers to replenish the near empty reservoirs. By any stretch of the imagination a serious situation indeed, with one SE company suggesting hose-pipe bans as early as March 2018.

I use nature as a major source of vital information, nature works some 90 days ahead too. [I diverge here for one moment and return to the lack of snow, as predicted, in the first week of January. On the 10th January, the first sunny day for five days here, I took an extended four hour ramble across some 8 miles of countryside here to find signs of spring (as Met Office would have us believe) but also to see if the methodology was wrong. In all that ramble I saw no signs at all of any approach of spring, no leaf burst formation, no greenery, not one sign of life, bar the sole bluebell stem and one crocus, even the rhododendrons, azalea, primroses, wild cherry blossoms, oxlips, cowslips ox-eye daisies and cranesbills that were in evidence before Christmas have gone. That for me is sufficient evidence that indeed it will be a long hard winter still to come. The methodology is therefore OK]

Bearing in mind that April, May and June are likely to be both very wet and colder than 2017, then nature indeed has foreseen this water problem, and will pour copious rain upon us in the spring and sadly too, for a lot of the summer. Nature always looks after its own and is never wrong, therefore the above water warnings and the rainy spring fall into perspective.

There were some Christmas Day 2017 signs for advance weather for 2018. It was a stormy damp sunless day; this to me indicates a poor fruit harvest for 2018. This means that Buchan Cold period 9th to the 14th May will indeed be cold with in all probability frost on those nights - that of course will damage the fruit blossoms but maybe too incessant rain will cause major problems.

The pea harvest, early June could also be affected by wet ground that will cause problems for the pea harvesting machinery.

The June/July hay harvest will not be as good as in 2017 - but there is a chance of a secondary crop in September, albeit late, but better than nothing.

The grain harvest will be, with luck, about average, if unlucky (too wet) then not so good this year, but the signs are writ loud and clear.

Easter Day, 1st April, should be dry sunny calm but cold. FA Cup final day 19th May, not as we used to remember such days as hot dry and sunny - the end of the football season - but a 50/50 chance of rain this day. A cold night too this day - the last of the cold May ice-maidens. A wedding at Windsor that day may also suffer the same fate.

For those that are interested, a Druid festival, Chestnut Sunday, the 2nd Sunday in May; the flowers of the Horse-Chestnut tree (conker tree) are called candles. On this day - 13th May, all the candles appear at the end of the branches of the tree; when seen from a distanced, with the sunshine from behind, this magnificent scene is like a Christmas tree with all the candles alight at the end of the branches. However, it is also a 'festivity day' and as such is celebrated in many places by Druids across the UK, it is also a dry sunny calm day, not particularly warm, but very pleasant. Certainly a better cup-final day then!!

So, to sum up the Spring 2018 weather, wet, cold and none too clever. There is a quarter day on the 21st March (Equinox and St Benedict) but I suspect that the wind will not be a SW wind as 2017, but a colder northerly wind which will last up to about the 20th June when the warmer SW air stream replaces it for the summer.

THE MONTHS IN DETAIL FOLLOW BELOW

March 2018

NEW MOON = 17th @ 1314hrs = Snow/rain
1st QUARTER MOON = 24th @ 1535hrs = Fair & mild
FULL MOON 2nd @ 0052hrs = Frost. AND
31st @ 1437 hrs = Fair & mild + BLUE MOON
LAST QUARTER MOON 9th @ 1122hrs = Cold and high winds

MARCH/VERNAL EQUINOX 20th @ 1615hrs

DoP = 21st St Benedict AND Quarter Day 21st
AND
Good Friday 30th.

BST Starts 25th March 2018 @ 0100 hrs.

Highest spring tides 1st to 5th

Perigee 26^h @ 1819hrs: Apogee 11th @ 0915hrs

MET OFFICE NOTES: None. BUCHAN NOTES: None.

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You can see instantly that it is a cold month with frosts, cold winds and, if cold enough some snow in places.

The only good sign is the very end of the month (31st) with a beautiful big white moon and fair and milder weather (hence the dry sunny Easter Sunday on the 1st April.) [Notice here how the Christmas Day weather foretold this Easter weather too]
No storms of any note and no problems from the highest spring tides.

So a cold, frosty, windy month with snow if cold enough, otherwise rain.

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APRIL 2018

NEW MOON = 16th @ 0359hrs = Snowy & stormy.
1st QUARTER MOON = 22nd @ 2346hrs = Fair & frosty
FULL MOON 30th @ 0259hrs = Cold & rain showers
LAST QUARTER MOON 8th @ 0921hrs = Cold rain.

LYRIDS METEOR SHOWER 22nd -23rd.

Highest spring tides 1st to the 4th AND 15th to the 20th

Apogee 8th @ 0633hrs: Perigee 20th @ 1546hrs

BUCHAN COLD PERIOD 11th – 14th.

MET OFFICE STORMY PERIOD 23rd to the 26th.

Once again a cold, maybe really cold, wet month, maybe even snow, and frost too.

Nothing to write home about an no sign of any warmth either.

A cold period 11th - 14th, Blackthorn winter,(the blackthorn is the white flower of the whitethorn tree that blossoms in the hedgerows at this time) when the average temperature is lower than average

MAY 2018

NEW MOON = 15th @ 1349hrs = Very rainy
1st QUARTER MOON = 22nd @ 0550hrs = Rain
FULL MOON 29th @ 1620hrs = Rain
LAST QUARTER MOON 8th @ 0411hrs = Rain.

DoP = 25th St Urban

ETA AQUARIDS 6th - 7th = Above average meteor shower

Highest spring tides 15th to 19th

APOGEE 6th @ 0136hrs: PERIGEE 17th @ 2207hrs

BUCHAN COLD PERIOD 9th – 14th

NO MET OFFICE PERIODS

A really wet month with near continuous rain, that of course will increase the likelihood of flooding in such places that suffer from flooding.

Buchan Cold period 9th to the 14th coincides with the Ice-maidens on the 11th to the 14th; these maidens normally bring frosty nights that cause severe damage to the fruit blossoms. This year I fear that the continuous rain will inhibit the pollinating insects and bees from pollinating the fruit blossoms - or indeed the near continuous rains will wash the blossoms away - once again the Christmas day saying rings very true.

And for those who are looking for some 'summery weather,' sadly I can tell you now that June is nearly as wet too, with no week of dry pleasant weather at all.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A PREDOMINANTLY A SE OF ENGLAND FORECAST. IT MAY WELL BE THAT YOUR OWN LOCATION MAY BE MORE FORTUNATE AND HAVE BETTER DRYER WEATHER. THEREFORE IT MAY WELL BE WORTH HAVING A LOOK AT THE DECEMBER 2017 WEBSITE ENTRY, WHERE IN THE PREAMBLE, I HAVE SET OUT IN SIMPLE TERMS EXACTLY HOW TO GET YOUR OWN WEATHER FOR ANY DAY OF THE YEAR.

BEAR IN MIND THAT FROM THE MOON PHASE TIME YOU GET FROM THE 'TIMEANDDATE' WEBSITE IS GMT TIME. WHEN YOU TRANSPOSE THIS TO THE MOON CHART WEATHER ADD THE HOUR(BST) FROM 25TH MARCH AND USE THE SUMMER TABLE FROM THE LAST WEEK OF APRIL.

IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS COME BACK TO ME ON THE CONTACT PAGE OF THE WEBSITE, I ALWAYS REPLY.

Summer - June to August - sadly much like 2017, damp, warm in places at times, but nothing to write home about, definitely not a BBQ summer, though there may be in some places a few consecutive fine days - if you are lucky.