

ADVANCED PREDICTIONS, SPRING 2017 - MARCH TO MAY (BUT INCLUSIVE OF THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF JUNE 2017 (SUMMER).

Welcome to the Spring 2017, March to May inclusive advance predictions, but also to include the first two weeks of the Summer period, June 2017.

However, before that, as I sit here in the last week of January, some comments on the winter. I predicted a long hard cold winter based on the assumption that the predominant wind direction on the 21st December (Quarter Day) would continue to be from the E/NE, following the E/NE wind on the previous Quarter Day on 29th September. Sadly, even the best laid plans go awry. Around the 21st there were two SW storms, Storm Barbara and Storm Conlon, therefore the wind on the 21st was from the SW. The rule for such Quarter Day wind, is that if a storm is blowing, then to wait until the storm abates, then take the wind direction. For those living in the SW, W and NW, the winds stayed with both the above storms from the SW for over 12 days. The SE and E did not feel the real effects of these storms, and at best the effect was minimal, within 6 days the winds had returned to the NE segment, as I had anticipated. Therefore a split in winds, and since the SW winds are wetter and warmer than a distinctly different weather pattern evolved, more or less dividing east and west; I have been doing this now for several years and this is the first time such a divergence has occurred, which in some ways shows just how fickle our UK weather can be, and, at times nigh impossible to predict. So, apologies to those who might have been misled, I cannot win them all, all the time. Having said that for those that have had the cold it has been both very cold and relentless too, and I fully expect it to continue at least to the third week of February. The simple reason being that there is a lot of cold air in northern Europe, originating in Eurasia and it travels relentlessly eastwards from the near continent, it is a raw cold wind. In general however I am quite content that the prediction for a long hard cold winter has held up. Once again the methodology works.

I wish to make a comment that some readers may find, for want of a better word, 'preposterous.' I am always working a full year ahead of the current date, the basic framework is not difficult, it is the intervening pieces of data that occur from month to month that complete the picture; besides which I get numerous requests for weather for months ahead (or as this month for a wedding in July 2018 - yes doable with a lot of effort), and as those who have made such requests in the past will affirm, the 90% minimum record holds up very well. Therefore working so far ahead I can see weather patterns long before many others. The coming winter 2017/8 will be exceptionally hard long and cold. Snow will fall in October 2017. Please bear with me and will expand this forecast. There is a well tried, tested and proven old saying (I think some 700 years old) " A long hard cold winter followed by a poor summer, will be followed by an even harder colder winter." I have in the past done a lot of deep research on this saying and it is indeed 100% correct. The coming summer will not be as dry, hot or sunny as the summer last year, the best part of summer will be the first two weeks in June (hence the inclusion here), after that every single moon to September has an element of rain with it. Therefore the indications are for a poor summer, which gives us two of the elements for hard winter to follow. But it gets better or worse. Depending on your point of view. Hard winters run in 15year cycles, the last one was 1991 therefore by adding the 15 to that we get 2016 - with a slight variation; that being that the Maunder minimum will also come into effect.

I suggest an internet search on that will enlighten you. Finally also do a search on 'winter 2017/8 in the UK.' There are some very learned papers there concerning the winter to come by established experts. Piers Corbyn, the Astrophysicist gets a lot of un-necessary adverse comments for his use of sun-spots and their effect on our weather. I respect his contribution to the debate and he is quite adamant too. The evidence therefore is already out there. I just mention it because nature has for 2017 already planned for this.

Nature lesson - stay with this too please; you will see just how clever nature is. Spring 2016 was some 4 weeks late, therefore everything was delayed by 4 weeks, but for a reason. We had a pretty good summer, everything grew but nature prolonged well into autumn, and as such the 'late spring,' became an extended autumn, hence all the fruits, berries, hips, haws and seeds in the countryside. All food for a long hard winter for birds and animals; nature filled the larder. The result is that now with severe frosts and frozen ground there is ample food for the birds and animals. This long hard winter has effectively stopped growth.

On 24th January 2016 I photographed and listed 26 different flowering plants. On 24th January 2017, just 5 flowering plants, and so cold that even the primroses froze! Each additional day of frost makes the ground colder and we still have a full month of February frosts to come. I know that the first snows will arrive in October, thereby effectively closing down any further growth after that date. Nature needs 180 days to warm the ground and put in a full shift of a growing season of 90 days. The last three springs have all been really cold. This year a change, spring this year will be much warmer. Nature will start the warming process in the first week of March, no more frosts from the last week in February. There are barely (just) 180 days from the 1st March to the 1st October, and nature will use every single day to the maximum, everything has to be grown and harvested/stored by October. therefore excellent spring growing conditions, some heat, gently increasing, some light rain, increasing daylight hours and no frosts. One final way that nature ensures a good fruit harvest is to keep frosts hard and long. This delays the growth of the fruit buds and gives a later flowering period, thereby missing any May frosts. You do not need expensive equipment to be able to read the seasons. You need basic knowledge of the countryside and be able to look and see, then interpret exactly what nature is telling us. It is quite simple, our forefathers with no technology did it, and their knowledge and skills I have researched and is the basis of the methodology here. Nature is never wrong. Lesson over, but I hope I described how and why nature delays or advances seasons. No apologies for boring you either, it is absolutely fundamental to understanding our weather patterns.

To summarise Spring 2017: Much warmer than recent years, for those that work the soil, a good period with substantial growth. No May frosts to damage the fruit blossoms. A pleasant spring for a change.

The months follow below.

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

BST commences 26th March.

As can be seen above, no frost at all, a gentle warming of the frozen soil from the cold February. The signs of the warmer spring are there to see.

The quarter Day 21st, St Benedict gives the predominant wind for the next 90 days up to 24th June; all things being equal, I anticipate that this wind will veer from the current ENE direction to S/SSW direction bringing warmer and damper air, this is why I am so hopeful of a warmer spring than the last three years; I also mindful of the nature notes above.

For the gardeners and those that work the land, Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday set the weather through to Easter, 'fair on these days = a fair Lent,' therefore you see how yet another sign of a warmer spring enters the equation; I do not have to 'manipulate' the weather, nature does that normally.

To summarise a warmer month, no frost and good for those that work the land.

APRIL 2017

NEW MOON = 26th @ 1316hrs = Fair & mild

1st QUARTER MOON = 3rd @ 1939hrs = Rain

FULL MOON 11th @ 0708hrs = Changeable

LAST QUARTER MOON 19th @ 10.56hrs = Fair & frosty.

DoP = 14th Good Friday.

Highest spring tides 1st AND 26th to 29th

Apogee 15th @ 1006hrs: Perigee 27th @ 1619hrs

BUCHAN COLD PERIOD 11th – 14th.

Just maybe, but a rare chance of some frost around the 19th at night, apart from that again a reasonable month, a dry month too. The colder period, 11th - 14th Blackthorn winter and a Buchan Cold period, I do not think much to trouble us this year. Easter could be dry, a similar day to Christmas Day, again a warmer month.

To summarise: A warmer reasonable month with no major problems, good for those use the land.

MAY 2017

NEW MOON = 25th @ 2044hrs = Rainy

1st QUARTER MOON = 3rd @ 0346hrs = Rain.

FULL MOON 10th @ 2242hrs = Fair

LAST QUARTER MOON 19th @ 0132hrs = Cold & rain showers.

DoP = 25th St Urban

Highest spring tides 25th to 29th. **Highest is 25th**

APOGEE 12th @ 1952hrs: PERIGEE 26th @ 0124hrs.

BUCHAN COLD PERIOD 9th – 14th

A much damper month than April but no continuous heavy rain, small mercies then. The danger period for fruit blossoms being the 11th -14th, the Ice-Maidens, but again for the reasons above, nature will be kind and no frost will visit the orchards this year. This is a growing month for crops and grass, therefore rain is essential.

To summarise: a damper month, but not horrendously wet, increased warmth and light.

JUNE 2017

NEW MOON =24th @ 0330hrs = Rain.

1st QUARTER MOON = 1st @ 1342hrs = Fair & mild

FULL MOON 9th @ 1409hrs = Fair & mild

LAST QUARTER MOON 17th @ 1232hrs = Very rainy

DoP = 15th St Vitus AND 24th St John.

Highest Spring tides = 23rd to 28th

APOGEE 8th @ 2222hrs: PERIGEE 23rd @ 1050hrs

BUCHAN COLD PERIOD 26th to 4th JULY

Although June is a Summer month I have included it here to show why I think the first two weeks will be the best two weeks of the whole summer. Both the first two moons are fair and mild =dry, bright, warm, calm and sunny. Because the grass was not growing on 1st January, there will only be one hay crop this year, and harvest time is the first two weeks of June. So once again, nature provides the answer to the weather.

To summarise: The first two weeks dry sunny bright warm/hot, after that not so clever.

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Edenbridge

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