

ADVANCE PREDICTIONS SUMMER 2017 (JUNE TO AUGUST)

Welcome to the advance summer 2017 predictions.

Unfortunately I must start with a sincere apology concerning June. Every now and then human error strikes, it is a rare event since I do my best to eliminate such mistakes; I am however not perfect, and, once in while a mistake occurs, human error.

Such an error occurred for the first two weeks of June when earlier I said I thought it might be an 'old fashioned blazing June' for the first two weeks; sadly that was incorrect. Having said that it is not all doom and gloom, the first two weeks of June will be now be 'changeable,' not a lot of rain, but not wall to wall sunshine, it could have been worse with continuous rain. I appreciate to those of you that booked up for a 'blazing June,' a great disappointment, and I am sorry. As soon as the mistake was pointed out to me I spent hours checking and rechecking, found the cause and corrected it. I am human, and none of us is perfect.

However whilst checking I then found that this original error caused a change in August too, so the better news is that the period 5th August to 15th August (maybe a little longer after the 15th) will in fact be dry, hot and sunny – very similar to the last week of the 2012 London Olympics; the 12th to the 15th is in fact a Buchan warm period and as such more often than not is indeed hotter.

So with that mammoth grovelling apology out of the way I start with the problems associated with this prediction.

I work about a year ahead with the basic framework methodology and fill in the gaps as and when events occur. The simple reason for this being that over the many years I have found that the current day to day weather cannot be seen in isolation for the day or the week ahead, it is far more complex than that; and as such by working so far ahead it is far easier to understand why sometimes weather does what it does when it does. I use the basic methods that are 1000 years old and despite their age work as well now as they did then. I am not reliant on vortexes, El Nino, snow-bombs or other such jargon, I use nature and nature is never wrong. Nature tells those who look and see exactly what is going to happen 90 days ahead, and sometimes 180 days ahead, that is the basis for what I do.

This last winter, despite some thinking it to be mild, has been long, hard and cold. It started with frost in October 2016 and there is still frost about even as I write this (1st April), there was a period of prolonged frost in January too that effectively stopped all growth until late March. So for those that work the land or work outdoors it was a long hard winter. However the frosts do give some reliable forward sayings that come later in this bulletin.

Shrove Tuesday provided the change with sunshine and the SW wind that promised a warm fertile Lent; this was then followed up by the SW wind on the 21st March, St Benedict/Quarter Day – that ensured a warmer SW wind that will last until 29th September. There is a quarter day on 24th June/Midsummer/St John, but this is always a SW wind, which is why this SW airstream will last until 29th September, Michaelmas/Quarter Day. The wind that day I fear will be E/NE, since working so far ahead I can see that early October into November and beyond will be cold frosty with snow too. The prediction of a much warmer spring therefore has proved correct.

There is well tried, tested and proven saying that a hard winter followed by a poor summer is followed by an even harder winter, and this is/will be the case now for 2017/8. The warnings are all there for anyone who looks can see; first, the long winter just gone, then a none too clever summer to come and finally an early cold start to the coming winter.

Spring 2016 was cold with a cold easterly wind that persisted well into June and June was also very wet.

Much of the growing season was some 4 weeks behind, but, nature compensated with a long warm autumn. So this past winter, had precious little, if any, growth, therefore nature has to compensate, but the cold will be here by the start of October and no long warm lingering autumn for 2017.

Nature has barely 180 days to grow, develop, mature and have everything gathered in, picked and in the barn between now and October. This partly explains the damp warm summer to come. Growth needs rain, heat, sunshine and favourable growing conditions, a combination of all these whilst not ideal for we humans is necessary for plant growth. There is a lot of dry ground at the moment, it needs rainfall, but it also needs heat, not scorching heat, steady heat. Therefore a warm damp summer with dryer periods the first two weeks in June for the pea and hay harvests, and a dry sunny calm period in August for the grain and fruit harvests makes practical sense for nature. Anything that still needs to be finished then can be completed in the first two weeks of September which will be benign, warm, calm and dry – before the arrival of the autumn storms at the equinox (20/21st).

Plants and birds are excellent weather informants. Certain plants do not like frost therefore do not flower until the frosts are gone, aubrietia, ground ivy, cowslips and campion are superb such informants. The arrival dates of migratory birds from Africa for the summer too are excellent at telling the weather. Sometimes both combine together to emphasise such information. There is a wild plant sometimes called a lady smock, but also known as the cuckoo flower; during my years of research I often heard of this plant, the legend being that this would flower some 48 hours before the arrival of the cuckoo bird, which would give notice to the reed warbler, in whose nest the cuckoo lays its egg, to prepare the nest building. The cuckoo arrives about 17th April here, but last year it was really cold then, and no insects about either, and cuckoo flowers were really late appearing, the cuckoo too was delayed. This year however the cuckoo plant was flowering some 21 days before the 17th April, therefore the cuckoo was not far behind. There is a true saying, proven too, that the earlier the cuckoo arrives the earlier it leaves. It normally departs early July. So with an early arrival and early departure, it is very safe bet that, despite the damp and warm summer, the dampness will restrict the insect life – and food – for such birds, they will therefore depart early where there is food for them; a sure little sign that the summer will indeed be warm and damp. Having said that there are also the other visitors from Africa, the martins, swallow swifts and son birds?

These birds arrive a little later, they need rain for the mud with which they build their nests, but they nest later and have the fine weather in August, as above, in which to build themselves up for the flight back to Africa. The smaller birds will have enough seeds too to see them fit enough to fly back, therefore maybe now one can see the logic and magnificence that nature provides.

By working so far ahead I am able therefore to see why such weather patterns occur and by careful use of the methodology I am able to produce such advance predictions. With the best will in the world there is no computer that can do such tasks, it is just impossible.

This spring look and see how nature prepares for a long winter and a relatively short summer. Look and see that the fruit blossoms will not suffer from the mid May frosts (the Ice Maidens); no major droughts will occur to slow growth, equally no major flooding either. Look at the monthly saw/sayings on the data sheets to see how they tell of what is to come, most work 100% of the time, and they are tried tested and proven and reliable. In the next few weeks the countryside will explode in a riot of colour as flowers, trees and plants grow and develop and how they encourage insects, which in turn pollinate and then make seeds.

Some saws/sayings from the last few months give an indication just how far nature works ahead; I give just a few here to demonstrate, but careful examination of the monthly data sheets will reveal many more.

There was a lot of frost during the winter, especially the mid-January period of 16 consecutive frosts, which gives the saw “*Good fruit harvest after a frosty winter.*” This is also confirmed by the lack of May frosts to damage the fruit blossoms and also the excellent August period to harvest the fruits.

March was also windy, “*Windy March and rainy April makes a beautiful May.*”

It was (at least here) a dry March with just 67% of the average rainfall, at times a lot of early dust too “*dust in March brings good grass and foliage*” This again is backed up by a good hay harvest in early June and also an excellent pea crop at the same time since “*March dry gives good grass and pea harvest.*”

Shrove Tuesday was also a dry warm sunny day with a S/SW wind, indicating a good dry Lent “*Dry Lent spells a fertile year.*’ This saw would indicate a warm wet summer excellent for crop and plant growth.

There is also a rain legend “*Ash before Oak we are in for a splash, Oak before Ash, we are in for a soak.*” This I have found over many years to be both ambiguous and at times misleading. This year for example, the Pedunculate Oak is sprouting well (easily recognised at this time of the year since the paler green leaves at the end of the shoots and accompanied a type of catkin structure – for want of a better description), the Sessile Oak however is still in tight bud. However the Ash too is now sprouting well at the same time as the above Pedunculate Oak; therefore make up your own minds on this saw!

All the above saw/sayings plus hundreds more can all be found in my book “ Weather without Technology” purchasable from the website (see under further information) or any big bookshop at £12.99. – a bargain.

All the above, in the general scale of things are indeed minuscule, however each when noted and then collated help piece together the massive jig-saw that nature is; again it is a matter of looking, seeing and noting. One final point that came from an e-mail enquiry concerning the Hawthorn blossom, now in full bloom as we approach the Blackthorn winter, if the blossom is white then it is a common hawthorn, if however it is pink or tinged with predominantly pink it is a midland hawthorn.

So to summarise the coming summer, damp and warm, a hot period in August, some shorter warmer spells in between, but not I think a real hot 1976 type summer.

JUNE 2017

NEW MOON =24th @ 0330hrs = Rain.

1st QUARTER MOON = 1st @ 1342hrs = Changeable

FULL MOON 9th @ 1409hrs = changeable

LAST QUARTER MOON 17th @ 1232hrs = Very rainy

DoP = 15th St Vitus AND 24th St John/Midsummer Day

Highest Spring tides = 23rd to 28th

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

BUCHAN COLD PERIOD 26th to 4th JULY

SUMMER SOLSTICE is the 21st June

So the first two weeks will be changeable = mainly dry, sunny warm and pleasant but not without some rain; therefore good weather for hay and pea harvests.

Thereafter the month is warm but at times very rainy indeed – not as wet as 2016 though.

The end of the month 29th to 4th July is Buchan Cold period, therefore expect some rain over this period – it is after all Wimbledon Tennis fortnight!

To summarise, a dryish start but rain and dampness from 17th onwards.

JULY 2017

NEW MOON = 23rd @ 10.45hrs = Frequent rain showers.

1st QUARTER MOON = 1st @ 01.51hrs = Cold & showers AND

1st QUARTER MOON = 30th @ 16.23hrs = Rain.

FULL MOON 9th @ 05.06hrs = Wind & rain

LAST QUARTER MOON 16th @ 20.25hrs = Rainy.

DoP = 15th St Swithun

Highest Spring Tides 22nd to 25th

APOGEE 6th @ 0428hrs: PERIGEE 21st @ 1711hrs

July starts damp, the residue of the Buchan Cold period 29th June to 4th July, as the moon on the 1st indicates. It is not all doom and gloom, there is a period 13th to the 15th, a Buchan Warm period containing the 14th which is generally recognised as one of the warmest days of the year, and the moon around this region is more favourable (from a poor selection albeit) too.

To summarise, a warm damp month with rain at more or less any time.

AUGUST 2017

NEW MOON = 21st @ 1930hrs = Rainy

1st QUARTER MOON = 29th @ 0912hrs = Rain.

FULL MOON = 7th @ 1910hrs 0214 = Fair.

LAST QUARTER MOON = 15th @ 0214hrs = Cold & rain showers.

DoP = 6th Transfiguration Day(maybe) AND 24th St Bartholomew.

Highest spring tides 21st to 24th

APOGEE 2nd @ 1756hrs: AND 30th @ 1126hrs

PERIGEE 18th @ 1316hrs

This is by far the best ‘summer period’ for 2017. From the 6th to the 16th a dry, warm, calm settled period, this just might extend a day or so at either end. This period also includes the Buchan warm period 12th to the 15th, often the hottest period of the year. This weather pattern this year is identical to that of the second week of the 2012 London Olympics – when the temperatures steadily rose as the week progressed.

It is also the prime period for the grain harvest (which is also why July was so damp) and also the primary fruit harvest time too, therefore, as in 2016 when I said the last two weeks in July would start the summer, equally I am confident too that that will be repeated here.

To summarise; dampish start but dry sunny and hot as above, at least some heat for us all.

I wish you all a pleasant summer 2017.