

APRIL 2017

PREAMBLE



Tree of the month to the 14th is the Alder (above), thereafter the Willow (see next month)

Welcome to April 2017 website entry, and also welcome to spring, the month when the migrating birds from Africa return, the cuckoo, nightingale the smaller song birds and the martins and swallows. For these birds to survive they need insects and food, after the long cold winter there will be a plethora of colour from the wild flowers and blossoms, which of course invite insects, and at the same time provide food for the birds.

Maybe a colder spell mid-month for the Blackthorn winter, 11th to 14th, when the blackthorn blossoms flower along the hedgerows, but no seriously damaging frosts this year for sure. Apart from a few isolated spots in the far north, no more snow this year either.

Every now and then too often, fortunately not too often I make a major error, a big cock-up, for which I apologise profusely. However, a most observant reader, learning the methodology, e-mailed me with a query for the first two weeks of June – which I said would be a ‘possible a blazing June.’ To Andy, profound thanks.

Using the methodology he differed with my synopsis –he was correct. I cocked up big time!!

So the cock-up affected June – the first two weeks I said would be wonderful!!!! – Wrong – they will be changeable, not wonderful, but not wet either, so some compensation of sorts. This proves that I am human and not perfect. That is the bad news – no flaming June!!

I went back and checked and re-checked every moon - weather correlation, and found the mistake, and I cannot apologise enough, it was a human error. As a result the system has now a 'fail-safe' built in, so I learn from mistakes.

The good news is that August 5th to the 15th will be dry hot calm and sunny – as the last two weeks of July were in 2016; So some compensation. These 10 days of August – which includes Buchan warm period is now THE summer.

Shrove Tuesday gave encouraging weather for the gardeners and as such Lent will be a good gardening period this year. Easter will be the dry sunny side of changeable this year for many of us too. The world cycling championships in Yorkshire will also be dry and sunny. Nature will surely make good the damage done by the cold winter just past, but be warned, there will be no long lingering autumn this year as in 2016. Nature has just 182 growing days before the first winter frosts of October 2017 arrive, therefore everything will be in tune quite early on too; a good pea harvest this year for certain in the first two weeks of June, as also an excellent hay harvest. Nature gives the signs and indicators, all the reader has to do is look and see these signs, if you get stuck or confused, just ask, I will endeavour to answer any such questions.

The wind on Ash Wednesday was SW, an indicator that the cold damaging N/NE winds are now past., there a fertile and pleasant lent.

The 6th March saw some national newspaper headlines on the 'Snow and ice bomb for the next two months' theme, UK to be covered in ice and snow for the next two months.....really? Yet two days later the same newspapers tell us it will be hotter than Egypt at 19C.....never. The truth – the truth always gets lost when headlines sell newspapers. The truth is that Shrove Tuesday gave the true forecast, as above; though it did reach 17.3C on the afternoon of the 9th here. Egypt minimum was 23C – so not quite the headline!

The winter birds here, redwing, arctic starling, fieldfare and brambling all departed Ash Wednesday (1st March) back the north. At the same time the robins and jays here from the near continent also departed to their homes across the sea – once again proving the significance of that Shrove Tuesday saw. [The robins came here due to a shortage of rowan berries on the continent and the Jays since there was a shortage of acorns on the continent too.] The country side is relatively silent now for four weeks awaiting the arrival of the summer visitors from Africa – thought the blackbirds, robins, thrushes make the relative silence missable with their dawn chorus. Nature is so reliable and accurate too.

For those that have already purchased the book, I thank you all (some have come back for a second copy too!) no complaints received here at all, a lot of compliments, for which I thank you. I am trying to get each reader to actually look and see what nature tells us – the data is free, I hope each reader is learning from the book. Some of the quotes from my 'expert peers,'

“This book tells us that the best way to tell what the weather is like by looking around us, and David has looked longer, harder and more carefully than anyone else....His book is a record of ways to forecast the weather, but also of our cultural history and traditions that have shaped our identity, and would otherwise be lost....he inspires us to reconnect with our ancestors, to stop, look around and try to understand the world around us” Steve MacKenzie – The Big Issue.

“As the title of the book suggests, this is a ‘non-technical book’ the expertise comes in his ability to give us a unique additional dimension, through years of painstaking research from multiple sources in archives, diverse interviews with those on the land and those associated with it. He has this passion for the subject, as such his key objective is to direct and support the reader, this is therefore as much ‘how to do it guide,’ and an insight into how he came to be able to do it.” Dr Carol Morris, Geography Dept, Nottingham University.

“This is a refreshing different weather book, both impressive and interesting, and from many hours collating information from numerous sources, has written a far more detailed book on weather sayings than any previous books on the subject. The result is a fascinating book which looks at the weather totally differently from traditional weather forecasts or weather books. It is certainly worth reading and can be thoroughly recommended.” Peter Rogers, Weather book reviewer.

“Fabulous. A second book? When might it be available?” Pam Webster.

“Like most of us, I had no real idea of what I was looking at when I went for a walk of what I was looking at; what is clear from David’s book is that for all these years I had been walking around in my own world, for I did not know what I was looking at, I had completely missed all the many messages the natural was communicating. I knew of some weather sayings, but had no idea there were so many, which David has collated, tried, tested and proven into monthly templates that we can all use. This new book is the ideal way to get to grips with his extraordinary understanding of the natural world, the lexicon of weather sayings and what they are trying to tell us. Armed with this book you are able to interpret what nature tells us, to develop your own understanding and glimpse what lies ahead in predicting seasonal weather. Armed with this book you will have a far better understanding and actually see far more things than you ever saw before. This book is an unmissable treat.” Charles de Hann – Charles de Haan Associates.

There are no comments (at the time of writing) on the Amazon book site concerning the book, therefore, to give an idea of what is in the book – from others who have read it, I include the above. I hope it helps. I am not out to make a fortune, far from it, I am however intent on waking UK PLC up to the fact that we are losing our customs, heritage, history and understanding of what nature is and does. There is life beyond the computer/tablet/cellphone – yes really! If I can do a little of that, then I am content. In this technical age we losing our basic intuition and knowledge, I want to book to help redress this un-balance. Thank you. A few of the comments received here concerning the book – I am well pleased that so many appreciate what I have written. It was well worth the time and effort.

Those that purchase the book from the website, I will annotate, package and despatch all for the £12.99 cover price from here, via the Paypal facilitate on the website.

Resultant from the book I now have several requests to go on some walks. Currently, there is not a lot to see, it is also wet, muddy and not conducive to walks. However come the better weather, Easter onwards, and then if requests are received then yes I will willingly try to pass on in practical terms what is written in the book. I have one walk that takes about two hours or so, an amble

over 6 miles, fields, riverbank and woodland with different environments; a shorter 3 mile ramble that takes just over the hour. Maybe two or three traditional wooden styles and a couple of metal 5 bar gates to climb over – but if I can do it, then anyone can. Fresh water mussels, crayfish, herons, cormorants, buzzards, kestrels all the common UK birds, if lucky, wild deer, rabbits by the hundreds, mayflies, caddis flies, fish in the river, plants you never knew existed – and what they tell us. It is a wonderful world out there – and 90% of us completely ignore it. I live 15 minutes from farmland and the fields go on for ever.

The sap was due to start rising on 24th February (St Mathias), however due to previous intense cold, it decided it was still too cold – however this last week has seen warmer air and the sap started to rise on 8th March – a little over a week later than normal. That is good news, since it will start the growth in the trees bushes and plants, hopefully the grey, brown and black landscape of winter will give way to lighter greens and whites of spring – hooray.

Quarter Day 21st March, St Benedict – wind day. The wind here in the SE was SW, therefore for the SE corner the predominant wind though to 29th September (because the nest wind day, 24th June – Mid-summer – St John is always SW wind), which means as predicted earlier a much warmer spring this year than for the last three springs.

Clocks should have gone forward on the 26th by an hour we start BST – this will revert on the last Sunday of October., 29th October.

APRIL 2017

NEW MOON = 26th @ 1316hrs = Changeable
1st QUARTER MOON = 3rd @ 1939hrs = Rain
FULL MOON 11th @ 0708hrs = Changeable
LAST QUARTER MOON 19th @ 10.56hrs = Rain

DoP = 14th Good Friday.

Highest spring tides 1st AND 26th to 29th

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

BUCHAN COLD PERIOD 11th – 14th.

- 1st All Fools Day Should it rain on All Fools Day, it brings good crops of corn and hay.
- 2nd 5th in Lent
- 3rd Hop Monday Hop pole erection day.
- 6th Latter Lady Day - the cold comes on the water.
- 11th - 14th Blackthorn Winter
- 13th Maundy Thursday Fine on Holy Thursday, wet on Whit Monday (25th May).
- 14th Cuckoo Day The cuckoos song is first heard about this time.
- 14th Good Friday DoP up to 25th May (St Urban). Rain on Good Friday and Easter Day, good year for grass and a bad one for hay (wet June). - This signifies a wet year and such weather on Good Friday will last for 40 days.
- 15th St Basilissa Swallows arrive. Apogee @ 1006hrs
- 16th St Padarn Celtic Goddess - traditionally the day to start weeding growing crops.
- 16th Easter Day If sunshine today, so at Whitsun (24th May). Rainy Easter = cheesy year (wet). Greenfly at Easter - June will blister.
- 23rd St George Comes the cuckoo and the nightingale. When St George growls (thunder) in the sky, wind and storms are drawing nigh. Harebell flowering day.
- Mallard Day From a festival at All Souls College, Oxford. Perigee 0024hrs
- 23rd Low Sunday This Sunday settles the weather for the whole summer
- 23rd to 26th A cold stormy period bringing heavy showers.
- 25th St Mark As long before this day frogs are heard a-croaking, so long will they keep quiet afterwards. The cuckoo heralds the arrival of migratory birds from the south, indicating the return of summer.
- 27th Perigee @ 1619hrs
- 30th Pastor Sunday If it rains this day it will rain every Sunday until Pentecost (4th June).

NO MET OFFICE NOTES: BUCHAN NOTES: 11th to 14th is cold period.

The full moon this month is known as the Pink Moon.

The tree of the month up to the 14th is the Alder, thereafter the Willow.

General Notes and Comments

The month of season changes, young leaves and blossoms unfold. April and May are the keys to the whole year.

The first really cheerful month of the year.

Rarely a very wet month, can be completely dry.

Annual humidity is at its lowest and can produce dust storms.

Hottest ever April in 2007/2011

As a general rule, April weather is a mixture of all sorts.

April weather, rain and sunshine together.

We must suffer a cold wet April if we want a good summer.

Cold weather in April is supposed to be good for bumper harvest. A cold April - barn will fill.

A dry March and a rainy April makes a beautiful May.

Most old sayings say it is best to have a wet April.

When April blows his horn, 'tis good for hay and corn.

[the reference to 'horn' means thunder, it also means a good summer]

April cold and wet fills the barns best yet.

April wet, good wheat.

After a cold April the barns fill best.

April cold and wet fills barns and barrels.

April rain makes large sheaves.

April showers bring May flowers.

East wind in spring a brilliant summer will bring.

When doves start to coo the last frosts have gone.

After a wet April a dry June. After a moist April a clear June.

Spring has come when a virgin can cover six daisies with her foot.

When winter meets summer it fortells a hot dry summer [sometimes a prolonged winter seems to turn into summer overnight].

The weather in the second half of April fortells the summer. [wise words commanding respect]

*Cloudy April - dewy May. Thunderstorms in April - floods in May.
Showery April -Flowery May.
Dry Spring - wet Autumn. Thunder in spring and cold it will bring.*

*Blackthorn Winter - 11th -14th April.
Just as the Blackthorn is coming into blossom expect some fine weather. However
if the flower arrives before the leaf then expect a cold snap.*

AND

*If he blooms before the leaves appear, be sure there will be a bitter spell - perhaps
even with snow. [this is a most accurate saying]*

23rd St Georges Day - If it rains today St George eats all the cherries.

Much February snow - April summer doth show. [check records]

*Early Cuckoo - dry summer (arrival in or before early April). The later he arrives the
worse the summer.*

*When March has April weather, April will have March weather.
E/NE winds reach their greatest frequency during April and May.
After a warm April and a warm October, a warm year to come.
A dry Lent spells a fertile year.*

*April, more than March, can have both summer and winter embrace it. April can
also be more snowy than December. Classic April snowstorms of 1966
&1981. Whilst in 1949 the mercury topped 80F(27C).*

April has the face of a monk and the claws of a cat.

Thunderstorms in April is the end of hoar-frost.

*If the first three days be foggy, there will be a flood in June. (rain in June will make
the lanes boggy)*

*April may be famous for its showers, but it is rarely a very wet month. Quite the
contrary - April is one of the driest months of the year in all parts of the UK.*

Greenfly at Easter, June will blister.

Rainy Easter - a cheesy year (much rain = plenty of grass)

*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).

*23rd/26th - A cold stormy period brings heavy showers.
There is also a similar period mid-month.*

Tidal energies are ruled by moon particularly this month, possibly the reason for the severely changeable weather at this time.

Late Easter = long cold spring. The weather at Easter fortells the harvest.

THE FULL MOON THIS MONTH IS KNOWN AS THE PINK MOON

The tree of the month up to the 14th is the Alder. Thereafter is the Willow.

MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR EDENBRIDGE (USING 1981-2010 FIGURES)

Mean Max:	15.5C	Mean Min:	3.3C	Mean Avg:	9.4C
Rainfall:	60.5mm	Sunshine:	191.9hrs	(day = 6.4hrs)	

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	12.2C	13.3C
30th	14.4C	15.5C

APRIL 2017

Date	Day	Moon	Weather	DoP	Saint/Holy Day	Other Day	Apogee Perigee	Equinox Eclipse	Met Office	Buchan	Super-moon	Highest tides
01/04/2017	S					All Fools day						1st
02/04/2017	S				5th in Lent							
03/04/2017	M	1st	<i>rain</i>									
04/04/2017	T											
05/04/2017	W											
06/04/2017	T					Latter Lady day						
07/04/2017	F											
08/04/2017	S											
09/04/2017	S				Palm Sunday							
10/04/2017	M											
11/04/2017	T	F	<i>changeable</i>									
12/04/2017	W											
13/04/2017	T				Maundy Thursday							
14/04/2017	F			YES	Good Friday							
15/04/2017	S					St Basilissa	apogee					
16/04/2017	S				Easter Sunday	St Padarn						
17/04/2017	M											
18/04/2017	T											
19/04/2017	W	LQ	<i>rain</i>									
20/04/2017	T											
21/04/2017	F											
22/04/2017	S											
23/04/2017	S				Low Sunday	St George/ Mallard day						
24/04/2017	M					St Mark						
25/04/2017	T											
26/04/2017	W	N	<i>changeable</i>									highest tides
27/04/2017	T						perigee					26th
28/04/2017	F											to
29/04/2017	S											29th
30/04/2017	S				Pastor Sunday							

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

28/3 to 1st
 Cold stormy
 period

30/3 - 17/6
 spring

10th - 15th Stormy
 peak day

12th - 19th cold stormy
 period

11th - 14th
 cold
 period

peak day
 peak day
 peak day

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

30/3 - 17/6
 spring