

AUGUST 2015 PREAMBLE



Tree of the month up to 4th Holly (see previous month) thereafter Hazel - above.

Welcome to the August 2015 entry of the website. Hopefully a good grain and fruit harvest to come. Doubtless some rain and the start and end of the month, but, in between, maybe some reasonable summer weather, with some real heat around the Buchan warm period – 12th to 15th.

But what a changeable month July 2015 is/was [since I write this in third week], some places like in here SE precious little rain, well below average with just about average sunshine and temperatures; but across the UK massive variations in rainfall winds and temperatures, the further north one travels then the greater the variations. So the July rain prediction (more than average) did not materialise here in the SE and E of England, but most certainly was the case north The Wash, but you cannot win them all, all of the time, therefore a changeable month was about right. Some spectacular electrical storms too recorded across the whole country too.

Back to July and in particular the 1st – hottest July day ever? According to Met Office 36.7C was recorded at Heathrow that day. Headline in Daily Telegraph 12/7/2015 challenges this, quoting website: <https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com> it would appear that four adjacent sites to Heathrow never exceeded 35.1C for that day. It is suggested, not for the first time either, that this Heathrow temperature gauge is sited next to heat radiating tarmac and buildings, plus near a runway, and that maybe this temperature of 36.7C was a blast of hot air from a passing airliner, since it was an isolated recording.

There is large body of opinion that considers Heathrow not to be a suitable site, although it meets with all the stipulated parameters, and should not be considered as a recording unit. I remember not so many years ago the site at Gravesend also came under criticism for its position.

This is a never ending conundrum, maybe when the third runway appears at Heathrow a better site may be considered?

On the same day, 12th July, a report from University scientists came in national press, Telegraph and Independent, plus too on BBC radio announcing a 'Mini Ice-age,' between 2030-2040 when the solar activity will fall by 60% of the current activity causing freezing winters, similar to the Maunder Minimum recorded 1645-1715, when the Thames froze over. Which raises the question 'What happened to Global Warming then?'

How accurate were the June & July predictions? June was predicted as dry hot sunny, not a lot of rain – and this was reasonably correct – the cold edge to the winds disappeared on 24th June, the quarter day, when the wind surprisingly came from the S/SE quadrant. I say surprisingly because it normally comes from the SW quadrant. For us in the SE this S/SE wind indicates dry warm air from the near continent. Sadly, again, it appears that north of The Wash, this warmer dryer weather dissipates. However there was rain at Glastonbury, though not as much as expected at Wimbledon, doubtless the S/SE wind had an effect on Wimbledon.

The old saying of rainfall in the last 18 days of February and first 10 days of March came true again since June in the SE was very dry indeed, and the start of July similar too. It was therefore with great interest that I saw reports in the national press on 14th July headlines 'Regretting the heat wave now – UK warned to prepare for drought that could last until Christmas.'
Reading further into item I discovered that Thames water said they 'were monitoring the situation carefully, as between February and June rainfall was 33% less than anticipated.'
This figure interested me since my own methodology worked this figure out as 30% under the average; therefore I am pleased that the methodology – old though it is (600 years), is still current now.
In another article in the national press on the same subject Anglia Water too are concerned about water supplies and suggest that children 'should skip bath time' to save water. Funny old world isn't it!

Then again another newspaper headline on 14th July, rain forecast tomorrow (15th), St Swithun's day, which could mean summer is over, for the myth? (Not a myth at all) states it will rain for 40 days and nights spelling a dampened end to the British summer! And this from the same newspaper that only a week before told us that would bake through July and August! My comments on St Swithun's day are visible on the July data sheet.

All the signs collected over previous months pertinent to August indicate a good grain and fruit harvest, and for the vine growers, provided you do not get the August damaging hail storms, you too should have a good harvest too. I think the Buchan warm period 12th – 15th will come up trumps again, similar to the 2012 last week of the Olympics weather, really hot dry and sunny.

Definition of a heat wave is not three days. The official definition is 5 days of temperatures 5C above then seasonal norm – and as yet this year we have not therefore had a heat wave – yet.

The advance prediction for autumn [September to November] will appear later in early August, I am awaiting further indicative signs from nature in order that I may be as accurate as I can. Having said that, it only needs a contrary wind (as on 21st March when it was WNW) on 29th September, the next quarter day to render the whole system useless.....you cannot win them all, all of the time.

I see that NOAA in the USA reports that June 2015 was the warmest month ever across the world, once again re-iterating the global heating warnings. [July 21st]

On the same day the Met Office issued a report that parts of the south of England are having a very dry spell with parts of Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire recording under 20% of average rainfall so far in the month. [July 21st]

And finally to end July, the blackbirds have stopped their early morning and evening singing until March next year, how sad we will not hear the lovely song bird again this year – a sign of a fading summer. The cuckoo has gone back to Africa; the swifts will not be too far behind early in August, and then the mass exodus of song birds followed by the swallows and martins: autumn is not too far away.

AUGUST 2015

NEW MOON = 14th @ 1554hrs = Changeable
1st QUARTER MOON = 22nd @ 20.31hrs = Rainy
FULL MOON 29th @ 1936hrs = Fair + Supermoon
LAST QUARTER MOON 7th @ 03.03hrs = Cold rain showers.

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

Highest spring tides 30th -31st

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|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1st | Lammas (loafmass) - after Lammas the crop ripens as much by night as by day.
First grain harvest of the year. Camomile flowering day. |
| 2nd | Perigee 11.12hrs |
| 6th | Transfiguration Day ?DoP. As the weather this day of Transfiguration, so it will be for the rest of the year. This over-ambitious at best, unreliable, out of sequence, and as far as I am concerned cannot seriously be considered as a DoP. |
| 10th | St Lawrence If sunshine and fine, good autumn and much wine. Virgins Bower flowering day. |
| 12th | St Clare |
| 15th | Assumption Day If sunshine, much and good wine. |
| 18th | St Filbert Harvest day for cob-nuts. Apogee 03.34hrs |
| 24th | St Bartholomew DoP. 1st day of Autumn. Maybe, on experience, 5th September is a better day of prediction. Sunflower flowering day. |
| 28th | End of Dog days. |
| 30th | Perigee 16.25hrs |

MET OFFICE NOTES: none.

BUCHAN NOTES: 6th to 11th cool period.
12th to 15th warm period (can be very hot)

Full moon for this month is called Sturgeon/Corn Moon.

Tree of the month up to 4th is Holly, thereafter is Hazel

General Notes and Comments

The harvest month.

Statistically, August, in this area, is the wettest month of the year.

If two full moons then sure to be wet.(July 2015 has two full moons)

A cold August after a warm July is said to signify the approach of a hard dry winter.

When a hot dry August follows a hot dry July it portends an early and cold winter.

Can also be a 'Disaster' month. Lynmouth Flooding 1952 (15-16th). Fastnet Yacht Race Storm (1979. Folkestone Flooding 1996 (12th). East Devon Floods 1997 (8th). Boscastle Flooding (2004)17th. Quite cold and sunless 2007

Dog-Days - the moist sultry days in a period of 20 days before and 20 days after the rising of the Dog-Star Sirius. If we are to have a summer at all, this is the most likely time.

Roughly from mid-July to the end of August, or, corn harvest time. Sirius is the brightest star in the heavens, and is one of those in the southern constellation Canis Major.

As the Dog-days commence so they end. Bright and clear indicate a happy year, but accompanied by rain, for better times our hopes are vain.

Observe on what day the first heavy fog occurs, and expect a hard frost on the same day in October.

A fog in August also indicates a severe winter and plenty of snow. [very reliable and proven]

As August. so next February.

So many August fogs, so many winter mists.

In the first week of August is unusually warm, the winter will be white and long. [reliable and proven]

All the tears that St Swithun (15th July) can cry St Bartelmys (24th) mantle WILL dry up.

[be warned however that this can be out by as much as +/- 3 days]

If St Swithuns is dry:- If Bartholomews be fine and clear, then hope for a prosperous Autumn that year. [after this day expect dull or fine weather, but not, as a rule, much rain]

August fills the barn and September the loft.

Dry August and warm does the farmer no harm.

A wet rainy August makes hard bread crust.

St Bartholomew's Day - a most important day. Brings cold dew (campers beware). The day to start collecting honey, and the day delicate flowers should be brought indoors. If the weather is settled this day, a fine Autumn is promised. If however it rains this day, then it will rain for 40 days thereafter (to 3rd October). If misty and a morning hoar frost, the cold weather will come soon with a hard winter too.

There is however a distinct possibility that 5th September will be a better Day of Prediction than 24th August, and, by experience is a better predilictor.

A warm dry August surely means a snowy winter.

August thunder promises fat grapes and fine vintages. [fairly shaky for hail will damage the grapes]

Late August, when 3 kestrels fly -'twill be dry. [reliable]

Too much August sun disappoints the maid, the priest and the host, for it scorches up the vegetables.

A warm Autumn is usually followed by a long winter.

A poor forecast for wheat indicates wet weather in July and August.

A heavy apple crop points to a fine August and September.

When the dew is heavy in August, the weather generally remains fair. Thunderstorms in the beginning of August will generally be followed by others all the month.

Thunderstorms after the 24th are generally violent.

FULL MOON FOR THIS MONTH IS CALLED STURGEON/CORN MOON.

Tree of the month up-to 4th is Holly. Thereafter is Hazel.

MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR EDENBRIDGE (USING 1981-2010 FIGURES)

Mean Max:	24C	Mean Min:	12.1C	Mean Avg:	18.15C
	Rainfall:	66.1mm	Sunshine:	198.2hrs	(day = 6.39hrs)

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	21.8.C	23.2C
31 st	20.2C	21.4C

DATE	Chandler & Gregory Barry & Perry	Brooks	Lamb	Buchan	Met Office	Season
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01/08/2015	13th July - 7th High risk period		23rd- 30th - 6th August Thundery cyclonic weather		18/6 - 9/9 high summer
02/08/2015	for high mean temperatures				
03/08/2015					
04/08/2015					
05/08/2015					
06/08/2015				6th - 11th cool period	
07/08/2015					
08/08/2015					
09/08/2015					
10/08/2015	10th - 15th highest mean temperature period			12th - 15th warm period	
11/08/2015					
12/08/2015					
13/08/2015					
14/08/2015					
15/08/2015					
16/08/2015			16th - 30th First storms of autumn, though anti- cyclonic may persist in south.		
17/08/2015					
18/08/2015					
19/08/2015					
20/08/2015		20th - 30th stormy			
21/08/2015					
22/08/2015					
23/08/2015					
24/08/2015					
25/08/2015					
26/08/2015					
27/08/2015					
28/08/2015		peak day			
29/08/2015					
30/08/2015					
31/08/2015					18/6 - 9/9 high summer