

DECEMBER 2017

PREAMBLE



Flower of the month up to the 22nd is the elder. There is no tree for the 23rd.
Thereafter it is the birch.

Sincere apologies for the website crashing 21st/22nd November, just sheer weight of readers after national newspaper and radio coverage of the weekend 18/19th when the long cold hard winter was publicised, caused the problem.

Welcome to the December 2017 website. Most important day of the month is the 21st, Quarter Day giving us the predominant wind direction through to the 21st March. It is also the shortest day of the year, the longest night and a day of prediction.

Alas it is also the start of the coldest time of the year and the period of the worst weather too.

Big warning for this month is the full moon on the 3rd, coupled with highest spring tides 2nd to the 6th, and a perigee on the 4th - therefore with all the rain prior to his date, the rivers will be full, the ground saturated, those coastal areas that suffer from tidal flooding and those parts, like Cumbria and Yorkshire that have flooding problems, then be aware that all that necessary boxes have been ticked for some problems as above. I prepare for the worst and hope for the best.

The torrential rain the back end of November in some areas only added to the problem.

I do not expect much snow at all before Christmas, south of the line Birmingham > Norwich, some maybe in the regular spots, but generally more stormy than cold - the mild(ish) damp stormy autumn continues, but after the New Year then all change to really cold winter weather, especially on the eastern side. The full details, the why, when and how is explained in detail under 'winter 2017/8' in the 'forecasts' section.

Clarification time: The website originated as weather for the SE corner, which then expanded to everything east of a line from Great Yarmouth to Southampton. However over time, I have endeavoured to include the east coast up to Aberdeen; I am not a meteorologist, it is never my intention to cover the whole of the UK, the website grew a bit like topsy.... If the methodology produces something out of the ordinary, like the early spring 2017, or high tides at the beginning on November and December, then I try to expand to cover the coastal regions that are so affected, but also parts of the UK that have saturated ground, high river volumes and as such could be liable to flooding, Cumbria, Yorkshire and some parts of Scotland come to mind.

It is also my experience over some 40 years that just because the TV weather chart shows a SW air-stream, this 'broad-brush' treatment may not be as it seems. Here in the SE corner strong SW winds rarely reach me, the influence, be it extreme heat or extreme cold comes from the east - Alsace in NE France in particular, so an E/NE air-stream. For those above The Wash to north east Scotland, Scandinavia brings your cold winds from the E/NE. Those in the NW and the west side of Scotland have the influence of Iceland & Greenland which bring cold NW winds, plus damp winds off the Irish sea. Wales and the SW have the effect of the Atlantic and SW winds; therefore each area/region has a variation, and too, within those regions there are sub-climates.

Maybe now you can seem why I stick to what I know with some certainty, the SE.

However, each reader can get a good idea of their own weather which will be about 90% accurate for each moon phase. All it demands to get this is paper, pencil and a few minutes. The method is easy, all it demands is that you are exact and accurate.

Go to the www.timeanddate.com website, in the space enter your location, click, and the software will adjust to suit you. Now go to the 'Moon phases' agenda, click and then select your moon phases. Write down the phase (full, new etc) and the exact time of the phase. Do this for each moon of the month. It may be four or five, though February 2018 only has three!

Now go to either page 74 of the book or the moon section of the website. Find the moon lore weather tables/chart; Choose the winter list and then correlate your moon phase time to that list: eg if it says Full moon 0525hrs on 5th, then look at the 0400-0600hrs segment and it will give you a weather - this will last until the next moon which will be a last quarter moon; repeat the procedure, and so on through the month. This will give you at least a good 90% accuracy of your own weather for that month using all the phases. All you need do is to change the 'weather' in the 3rd column of the spreadsheet to suit your location - everything else stays the same.

If it says rain/snow, then if it is cold enough for snow then it will snow, otherwise it will rain. This will give you a far better idea of what the weather will be for your own location for any date all through the year, it is and will be far more accurate than the broad brush treatment above. True the methodology is years 1000 years old, it took me 40 years plus to get it where it is now and is at least 90% accurate; combine this with all the data sheet information and you should have a pretty safe and accurate idea of your own weather. Any problems encountered, just mail me and I will help. I hope the above clarifies the situation and helps everyone.

The change by the BBC to weather information providers which was to go to Meteo group weather, has been delayed and the Met Office will continue to supply the BBC with weather up to March 2018. The Met Office now supplies nearly all Radio, TV, and essential services with weather data.

Some interesting tree and wood information came my way recently. We think of the UK as a wooded country; not so, we have just 13% coverage, whereas Japan has 70%, Russia, USA and Canada 33%; The EU average is 37%. The UK has a programme to plant 12 million trees by 2020 with £19 million funding. After China the UK is the second largest consumer of wood worldwide. One oak tree produces enough oxygen to supply one human with enough oxygen for a whole year.

St Martin's Day/Day of Prediction, 11th November - there are some days of the year, that are so reliable for advance weather predictions, this day is the major prediction day right through to at least 21st March (St Benedict) and this year, as in both 2015 & 2016 well into June. So a prediction for the next 180 days plus. The wind across the whole of the UK was from the North this day, NW in the west and NE in the east, but whatever northerly. This will now be the predominant wind direction for the rest of this year right through to June 2018.

Therefore a cold long winter, a cold long spring too. However, just to back that up, the leaves were still on the vines the same day, and the English oak (NOT the sessile oak that was subject of the recent BBC TV documentary The Oak), had all of its leaves still green, verdant and all in situ. These leaves will caramelize, go brown and stiff, become both waterproof and windproof and will stay on the tree. In winter you can recognise the English oak by its brown leaves. The larger birds, blackbirds, thrushes, jays and starlings will sit in the tree behind these leaves where they are protected from wind and rain. The spores on the outer surface of the leaves, when the snow is on the ground, will fall onto the top of the snow (like flecks of soot) and the smaller birds will come and eat these spores. So, two separate, in themselves insignificant matters, when collated help complete the winter jig-saw.

What has nature told us this day? The north wind will remain until June, therefore a long cold winter, which for those in the north will mean cold winds from, in the NW, from Greenland and Iceland; those in the NE from the Arctic and Siberia, those in the East winds from Scandinavia and the SE & East Anglia winds from Europe -originating in the Urals in Eurasia travelling across Europe and bringing cold to the east. There is a tried tested and proven wind saying concerning the WNW wind on the November website - it is true.

However, that same day on my walk, I found a pink cherry tree in blossom - yes really - bad news, since it flowers only once, therefore if this is extrapolated across the cherry domain, a poor year for cherries- another 180 day warning. I also found flowering primroses - again 180 days ahead of the norm - these will not survive a cold winter.

There is an abundance of wild flowers out there all flowering, scarlet pimpernel, Mallow, Lavender, Ox-eye daisy, meadow cranesbill, purple loosestrife, green field speedwell, wild clary, sowthistles, white melilot, yellow corydalis - the list goes on, even rhododendrons flowering too - all of which is bad news, all of which points to a long hard winter. Your own garden has roses that are shooting and many flowers still blooming, showing how mild this autumn has been

Finally, the cold wind confirms that Christmas day will be, for those south of the line Birmingham > Norwich - with possible exception the tops of the west country moors, stormy and damp; to the north variable. That being the case, it confirms too, 180 days ahead, a poor fruit harvest 2018, since the mid-May frosts will affect the fruit blossoms.

So one day provides so much advance data, it also confirms, for there are so doubters/sceptics that the long cold hard winter will be as predicted. The methodology is now as good as I can get it.

Going forward to 21st December, Quarter Day, shortest day of the year and St Thomas' the wind direction of course will be the same at St Martin - this confirming a long hard cold winter. Maybe some can see why I have cause to doubt the Met Office claim of a mild January. We will see.

Finally, I wish all the readers a Happy, healthy, peaceful festive season, and that the New Year will bring you all everything you aspire to.

A big thank you to all of you that send me weather reports, sightings and weather notes, I am still learning about regions outside the SE, therefore all is welcome.

I am asked frequently why no Facebook , Twitter or Social media sites attributed to the website? I accept the criticism; In reply one only has to look at the comments made under recent national newspaper items concerning the predicted long cold hard winter to see what inane, idiotic and stupid comments are placed there. Idle and silly remarks not worthy of note should be disregarded, is a good reason to stay away from such sites. I left the methodology speak for itself. I can be contacted via the website and will always reply to such requests- even some of these fall into the above category too, but I am inured now to such matters.

With luck, book II, which will contain pictures and details of the monthly plants, trees etc, contained within the circular chart on the front page of the website will be published. I have a target of October, hopefully this will encourage more to go out see what a cuckoo plant, or a compass plant, or the meadowsweet plant

that when distilled produces pure aspirin actually looks like. It is truly wonderful world that nature has given us, yet 99% of us ignore it, if you learn what nature is telling us, they you become a richer person in so many ways, nature is never wrong.

Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year to you all.

© David King

Edenbridge.

November 2017.

DECEMBER 2017

NEW MOON = 18th @ 0630hrs = Stormy
1st QUARTER MOON = 26th @ 0920hrs = Cold rain.
FULL MOON = 3rd @ 1546hrs = Fair & mild.
LAST QUARTER MOON 10th @ 0751hrs = Stormy.

DoP = 21st St Thomas's

Solstice 21st @ 1628hrs

Highest spring tides 2nd to 6th

APOGEE 19th @ 0556hrs: PERIGEE 4th @ 0843hrs
**DANGER WARNING: FULL MOON + PERIGEE + HIGHEST SPRING TIDES
2nd to 6th. EXPECT SEVERE WEATHER PROBLEMS.**

- 3rd Advent Sunday
- 4th Perigee 0843hrs
- 6th St Nicolas
- 10th 2nd Sunday in Advent
- 17th 3rd in Advent
- 19th Apogee 0556hrs
- 21st St Thomas DoP. Quarter Day, Shortest day of the year Winter Solstice. Weather up to 2/2.
- 24th 4th Sunday in Advent
- 25th Christmas Day Holly and Ivy flower about this time.
- 26th St Stephen Boxing Day
- 27th St John
- 28th Childermass/Innocents Day Unluckiest day of the year when no work should be started. See notes below.
- 31st Hogmanay Celebrates the solar divinity of Hogmanay.

MET OFFICE NOTES: Stormy carried forward from 24th November to 14th.
Quiet period 15th to 21st
Stormy 25th to 31st.

BUCHAN NOTES: 3rd to 14th warm period.

The full moon this month is called the Hunting/Cold moon.

The tree of the month up to 22nd is the Elder, there is no tree on 23rd, thereafter the Birch.

General Notes and Comments

Expect gale force winds. The portents generally threaten a nasty month, but a hint of better things to come with the worst over. It ought however to be over by the end of January.

21st - 31st normally/traditionally a stormy period.

Day of Prediction (21st) portends weather until 2nd February and the direction of the prevailing wind up to the vernal equinox on 21st March. If it freezes this day the price of corn will fall - which implies a good harvest - but also a hard winter.

If however mild, the price of corn will rise.

If Christmas falls on a Sunday, it shall be a warm winter, the summer hot and dry.
If Christmas day and Thursday be - a windy winter will shall see.

If it rains on the first Sunday of December, before mass, it will rain for a week.

Christmas can be Green - in the old sense of 'bright' (clear/light and bright) - yielding a good harvest (proven) - a peaceful year of plenty.

Black - will bode ill for next year's weather. White - a muddy Easter. Warm - a cold Easter. Wet - empty granary and barrel. Windy - trees will bring much fruit, but if the weather grows stormy before sunset, it betokened sickness in the spring and summer quarters. Snow - good hay crop next year.

But if the Milky Way shows clear you may safely count on a fruitful year.

[This can be a good indicator]

If it snows during Christmas night, the crops will do well.

Light Christmas, light wheat sheaf - dark Christmas, heavy wheat sheaf (if full moon about Christmas Day)

If Christmas ice hangs on the willow, clover may be cut at Easter.

A windy Christmas and a calm Candle mass are signs of a good year.

Thunder in December presages fine weather.

Thunder during Christmas week indicates that there will be much snow during the winter.

A Green Christmas means a full churchyard.

If Christmas Day be on a Saturday, the weather be great with wind, snow and cold, the summer good and there shall be war in many lands. (except the last, quite accurate)

If berries on trees at Christmas, they'll stay 'til snow is down. If gone then a mild winter.

St Thomas Day is always grey. the longest night and the shortest day.

A dull Christmas with no sun, bodes ill for the harvest.

When the sun shines through the apple trees on Christmas Day, when Autumn comes, they will a load of fruit display. [reliable - also indicates a good Spring with few late frosts, frost-free May and a good Autumn.]

If ice bears before Christmas, it won't bear a goose afterwards.

Christmas in snow, Easter in mud. Easter in snow, Christmas in mud.

If much rain during the 12 days of Christmas a wet year to come.

If on a New Years Eve the winds blow south, it betokened warmth and growth. If west, much milk and fish in the sea. If north, cold and storms there will be. If east, the trees will bear much fruit. If north-east, then flee it man and beast.

26th - If windy, bad for next years grapes.

28th Childermass Day - if lowering and wet there will be scarcity. If fair it promises plenty.

Much rain in October. much wind in December. [check October readings]

In December, keep yourself warm, and sleep.

A winter fog will freeze a dog.

Every mile is two in winter.

25/12 to 5/1. These 12 days are said to be the keys of the weather for the whole year.

THE FULL MOON THIS MONTH IS CALLED THE HUNTING/COLD MOON.

The tree up-to the 22nd is the Elder. There is no tree on the 23rd. The Birch then becomes the monthly tree.

MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR EDENBRIDGE (USING 1981-2010 FIGURES)

Mean Max:	8.1C	Mean Min:	1.9C	Mean Avg:	5C
Rainfall:	85.8mm	Sunshine:	64.6hrs	(day = 2.08hrs)	

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	8.2C	7.3C
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31st

5.5C

5C

DATE	Chandler & Gregory Barry & Perry	Brooks	Lamb	Buchan	Met Office	Season
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December 01		24th - 14th Dec stormy	25th - 10th Dec early winter storms and rains		24th - 14th stormy period	early winter
December 02						
December 03				3rd - 14th warmer period		
December 04						
December 05						
December 06			6th - 12th cyclonic activity at peak			
December 07			6th - 12th cyclonic activity at peak			
December 08			6th - 12th cyclonic activity at peak			
December 09		peak day	6th - 12th cyclonic activity at peak			
December 10			6th - 12th cyclonic activity at peak			
December 11			6th - 12th cyclonic activity at peak			
December 12			6th - 12th cyclonic activity at peak			
December 13						
December 14						
December 15				15th to 21st Quiet period		
December 16						
December 17	17th - 21st generally dry calm foggy weather]		
December 18		18th - 24th anti-cyclonic]		
December 19		19th - 21st peak days	19th - 23rd quiet frosty weather over]		
December 20		19th - 21st peak days]		
December 21		19th - 21st peak days	northern Europe and continental anti-cyclonic @ time of winter solstice]		
December 22						
December 23						
December 24						
December 25		25th - 1st Jan Stormy	25th - 31st Christmastide thaw and storms		25th - 31st stormy period	
December 26						
December 27			at the end of the year.			
December 28		peak day	cyclonic very common			
December 29						
December 30						
December 31	first winter minimum cold period 31st to 6th January					20/11 -19/1 early winter

DECEMBER 2017

Date	Day	Moon	Weather	DoP	Saint/Holy Day	Other Day	Apogee Perigee	Equinox Eclipse	Met Office	Buchan	Super-moon	Highest tides
01/12/2017	F								stormy			
02/12/2017	S								to			highest
03/12/2017	S	F	<i>fair & mild</i>		Advent Sunday				14th	warm		tides
04/12/2017	M						perigee		""	period		2nd
05/12/2017	T								""	3rd		to
06/12/2017	W					St Nicolas			""	to		6th
07/12/2017	T								""	14th		
08/12/2017	F								""	""		
09/12/2017	S								""	""		
10/12/2017	S	1stQ	<i>stormy</i>		2nd in Advent				""	""		
11/12/2017	M								""	""		
12/12/2017	T								""	""		
13/12/2017	W								""	""		
14/12/2017	T								""	""		
15/12/2017	F								""	""		
16/12/2017	S								""	""		
17/12/2017	S				3rd in Advent				""	""		
18/12/2017	M	N	<i>stormy</i>						""	""		
19/12/2017	T						apogee		""	""		
20/12/2017	W								""	""		
21/12/2017	T			YES	St Thomas	quarter day		solstice	""	""		
22/12/2017	F								""	""		
23/12/2017	S								""	""		
24/12/2017	S				4th in Advent				""	""		
25/12/2017	M				Christmas day				stormy			
26/12/2017	T	1stQ	<i>cold rain</i>		St Stephen	Boxing Day			25th			
27/12/2017	W					St John			to			
28/12/2017	T					Childermass/ innocents day			31st			
29/12/2017	F								""			
30/12/2017	S								""			
31/12/2017	S					Hogmanay			""			