

DECEMBER 2018

PREAMBLE



M

TREE OF THE MONTH 24/11 - 23/12 ELDER
(How many will recognise the elder berry/fruit in September)



And how it appears November – when the birds have had their fill,

Welcome to the December website entry. The Autumn has now passed, for the greater part exactly as predicted, dry with warmer than average temperature, and also very dry with no untoward/unpredicted storms either. Snow was a feature, for some, at the end of October but it was always going to be colder at the end of October. The wind directions on 29th September have all, for each region too, held pretty firm. For December, the 21st is the main wind day which should take us up to March 21st. I do not expect too many variations on the directions from September.

For some regions, especially on the eastern side of the UK, lack of rainfall, and, as a direct consequence the drying up of brooks, streams, ponds, boreholes and springs, with, as a result, in places parlous water levels in reservoirs will give some concerns to those whose activities rely on water. If, as predicted here (but not anywhere else – cold and 4 months snow being the stated agenda) on this website it is as dry as the methodology highlights, then truly major problems ahead.

A few enquiries this month as to whether the website applies outside the SE – does it apply to Glasgow being one. I have amended in places the entries on the website to encompass the whole of the UK; the book 'Weather without Technology,' fills this out in more detail than the website. The further north you travel in the UK the colder it gets – therefore it is warmer herein the SE than Glasgow. Having said that, I did highlight two excellent weather websites in the November 2018 sheet, and from these you can get the average temperatures for the year/month for where-ever you reside.

In the preamble to December 2017 website on the second page (website top line – click forecasts – then select December 2017 from the archived months and open) you seek easy workable details how to get your exact weather.

Since the above December 2017 entry I know I have at least 150 members/readers of the website doing their own weather and find that indeed it does successfully achieve the 90% minimum target I set.

Slowly the realisation dawns that in fact nature does provide near fool proof data at least 90 days ahead, and, as such, the requests for walks increases; those that have taken such ambles with mean have found them to be interesting, educational and informative; but also show just how good nature is at giving advance weather data – the trick is being able to translate the clues into hard data.

The talks I give increase too; I do not tout for work, I do not advertise, I speak when spoken to and keep a really low profile; those that wish to find me manage to do so quite easily by entering 'David King Weather' into a search engine. It therefore goes without saying that I do not participate in 'social media – Facebook, Twitter et al; I already have enough to keep me going without entering into additional dialogue such as that. The contact page on the website will always arrive here, and I always reply. Talks last about an hour and a quarter – with questions at the end – I charge a standard fee (regardless of applicant) of £50 plus travelling expenses – but any mileage (by car) above 150 to the venue is the upper limit. I say by car, since I live in rural location with no trains after 2300hrs plus the problem (Southern) rail – whether the driver or other staff deign to turn up to work – very frustrating indeed for travellers. Therefore a car is vital to get back home – and to carry the equipment.

Walks for the present are not a viable proposition – unless you came earlier in the year – and wish to see how the landscape has changed. April – when BST is back in operation they will

recommence and the charge is £10 per person – about 6 to 7 miles at an amble pace across different landscape takes about 2.5hours – easy walk.

Migratory birds from the north are here in numbers now, redwings, fieldfares, arctic starlings, brambling from Scandinavia, but also too robins and jays from mainland Europe (they come for rowan and acorns).

Geese and ducks too have arrived and roost on the local lagoon, a magnificent sight each morning to see the skeins of geese flying out to pillage the green crops- and returning noisily at dusk too; how fortunate to be able to have such free shows seasonally too.

The more observant have noticed the surfeit of hips, haws, berries, seeds etc this year – normally this would indicate a hard winter – and in some locations will indeed indicate cold times ahead, but for the greater part, extra food for the incoming migrants who too have a hard summer. Very noticeable too this year those elder berries went first, then sloes and then late blackberries. But as predicted the blackberry harvest lasted into the first week of November.

Noticeably too this year vast quantities in large sizes too of fungi – not so much of the edible field mushrooms and their ilk, but of inedible for us toadstools; the simple, yet again clever reason for this is, is that if you turn such fungi over see what crawls out – a cornucopia of insect and invertebrate life. With much of the ground still hard from the excess heat and lack of rainfall summer and autumn, nature provides an alternative source of food for birds and small mammals, since worms etc are indeed hard to come by.

Additionally too nature too has provided some late flowering nectar laden flowers and shrubs, michaelmass daisies not seen on 29th September as the norm but later and still flowering in November; Common Knapweed, honeysuckle, and several roses too all adding colour and nectar to the hedgerows, a lot of cranesbills and clover too. Late autumn crocuses too in great numbers, so nature again providing extra food supplies to compensate for the earlier weather. Hazel catkins abound too.

December brings a lot of advance weather clues for 2019. The quarter day on 21st (shortest day of the year) gives the predominant wind direction up to 21st March. Christmas Day has a list of sayings attached to it, all of which are tried tested proven and work – and again give 180 days' notice of advance weather. With dark evenings, read what the notes say and then in the daytime make the notes, you will be surprised just how accurate such old sayings (some at least 950 years old too) are.

FOR LOCAL EDENBRIDGE READERS: The meeting on the 26th October I feel a great success; however for those of you that requested or were interested a detailed 'nuts and bolts – how to do the weather yourselves,' further talk – sadly the Museum is booked and not exactly receptive to a further talk. However, though I am fully occupied until the New Year, I will endeavour to make alternative arrangements for the interested ones – a talk of about an hour and a half and all the nuts and bolts explained – is possible. I will keep in touch. Thank you for your interest.

Spring bulbs 2019 – due the weather conditions in winter, then spring into summer, the production of spring bulbs, daffodils, tulips, snowdrops, crocuses etc was severely curtailed leading to a shortage of such items, therefore, should you see such in shops, they will be both rare and expensive.

Something different now – a double rainbow, though quite common, rarely photographed – therefore luck was in my side for once and I include the detail here. For some enlightening for it is not until you use eyes and look and see – that you see the reversed light spectrum – again it is about using eyes and seeing

On 28th October at about 0745 hrs (GMT) I took this photograph of a double rainbow which was on the western horizon here. The conditions were right for a fainter rainbow to appear outside the primary rainbow to create the striking phenomenon which is a double rainbow. It was early in the morning when the sun was low and is the spectacular scene is formed when sunlight is reflected twice within a raindrop with the violet light that reaches the observer's eye coming from the higher raindrops and red light from the lower raindrops. Look carefully and you will see that the real rainbow has the ROYGBIV sequence (Red/Orange/Yellow/Green/Blue/Indigo/Violet). However the reflected weaker/pastel rainbow has this sequence reversed VIBGYOR.



Finally as this year of exceptional weather departs, I thank you all for your interest, your participation in so many small ways – all of which help build the complete picture. It is wonderful free show that nature gives us, it also gets bums off seats, so boots, hats, gloves and scarves on and go look and see what nature is telling you.

The wind direction on November 11th (St Martin) will be the predominant wind direction for the coming winter – maybe as far ahead as 21st March 2019. The wind direction here in the SE was SSW, therefore further confirmation of a warmer, dryer winter as predicted. The same rule applies to every reader's location.

To end, a late addition: an interesting report reproduced in full issued 1st November by the Met Office. Makes interesting reading.

1 November 2018

A new report by the Met Office, published today, reveals further details about changes in the UK's climate since the 1960s. By documenting temperature and rainfall climate extremes, including periods of warmth, cold and spells of wet or dry weather, the report reveals changes in some types of extreme weather.

By comparing different meteorological reference periods, a number of interesting trends can be observed. For example, the hottest day of each year over the most recent decade (2008-2017) in the UK has been on average 0.8 °C warmer than the hottest day of each year over the period 1961-1990. Conversely, the lowest temperature of the year has shown an even greater increase, becoming 1.7 °C milder between the two periods in the UK.

This [study](#) uses a set of measures agreed around the globe by the [World Meteorological Organization](#) and [World Climate Research Programme](#), and are widely used in global climate change research. These metrics include at least one measure – Tropical Nights – which is currently not a common feature of the UK climate, but it could become more widespread in future. Tropical nights are defined as 24-hour periods when the minimum temperature doesn't fall below 20.0 °C.

[Dr Mark McCarthy](#) is the head of the Met Office's National Climate Information Centre, the team which produced the report. He said: "Monthly, seasonal and annual climate data provide a valuable record of the changing climate in the UK. However, these average figures have a tendency to mask extreme weather and climate events. So in our latest report we have focussed on those measures which record weather extremes – complementing our recently published State of the UK climate 2017 report – which shows how the UK's climate is changing."

Commenting on the tropical nights measure, Dr McCarthy added: "Minimum overnight temperatures of over 20.0 °C in the UK are rare currently and even during this summer this threshold was only exceeded on a few occasions. However, with projections in climate suggesting warmer temperatures, it is useful to have this metric in place, so that future changes can be monitored."

The report summarises a set of core indices, which can be obtained from temperature and rainfall data. It also shows climate shifts for UK countries and regions, along with maps showing the data across four time periods: 1961-1990; 1981-2010; 2008-2017; and 2017.

Key temperature indices and UK results:
Highest maximum temperature:
highest value of daily maximum temperature for each calendar year, averaged over

climatological reference periods.

UK: 1961-1990 average 26.0 °C; 2008-2017 average 26.8 °C.

Summer days: annual count of days where the daily maximum temperature was above 25.0 °C

UK: 1961-1990 average 4.5 days; 2008-2017 average 5.3 days.

Tropical nights: annual count of days where the daily minimum temperature was above 20.0 °C.

Currently not common in the UK climate.

Warmspell duration index: duration of at least six days with daily maximum temperature well above climatological average for the time of year.

UK: 1961-1990 average 5.3 days; 2008-2017 average 13.2 days.

Warm spells have more than doubled in duration between 1961-1990 and 2008-2017.

Lowest minimum temperature: Lowest value of the daily minimum temperature for each calendar year, averaged over climatological reference periods.

UK: 1961-1990 average -8.5 °C; 2008-2017 average -6.8 °C.

Icing days: Annual count of days where the daily maximum temperature was below 0.0 C

UK: 1961-1990 average 4.8 days; 2008-2017 average 3.2 days.

Key rainfall indices and UK results:

Maximum 5-day precipitation: Highest value of the five-day precipitation amount (mm) for each calendar year, averaged over climatological reference periods.

UK: 1961-1990 average 77.8 mm; 2008-2017 average 81.4 mm.

Longest wet spell: Longest sequence of days with 1 mm or more of rainfall each calendar year, averaged over climatological reference periods.

UK: 1961-1990 average 12.4 days; 2008-2017 average 12.9 days.

Longest dry spell: Longest sequence of days with less than 1mm of rainfall for each calendar year, averaged over climatological reference periods.

UK: 1961-1990 average 20.5 days; 2008-2017 average 18.0 days.

Overall, the longest dry spells have decreased by 2.5 days, on average.

Rainfall from extremely wet days: Total annual precipitation from falling on the wettest days, averaged over climatological reference periods.

UK: 1961-1990 average 64.0 mm; 2008-2017 average 75.0 mm.

Total rainfall from extremely wet days has increased by about 17%.

7 November 2018

Today's launch of the newest EUMETSAT weather satellite continues the development of a programme which gives the UK's Met Office access to world-leading weather data from polar orbit. The Metop-C satellite was launched from the European Space Port in Kourou, French Guiana. It completes a network of three platforms flying in a polar orbit at an altitude of 817km, which enables global observations of weather and atmospheric composition, and monitoring of ocean and land surfaces.

Snowdrops 10mm high reported mid-November in the Sheffield area, and they are not due until 1st February; bulbs everywhere around here also showing prominently too.

I wish you all a Happy Festive season with everything you wish yourselves, and that 2019 will bring you all what you aspire too.
Merry Christmas and a happy healthy 2019.

© David King

Edenbridge

November 2018.

DECEMBER 2018

NEW MOON = 7th @ 0720hrs = Stormy
1st QUARTER MOON = 15th @ 1149hrs = Cold & high winds
FULL MOON = 22nd @ 1748hrs = Fair.
LAST QUARTER MOON 29th @ 0934hrs = Cold rain.

21st = December/Winter Solstice @ 2223hrs
13th & 14th = Geminids Meteor shower

21st & 22nd = Ursids Meteor Shower

DoP = 21st St Thomas's +shortest day of year + Quarter day

Highest spring tides 26th to the 29th

APOGEE 12th @ 1227hrs: PERIGEE 24th @ 0953hrs

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

- 1st Advent Sunday
- 6th St Nicolas
- 8th 2nd in Advent
- 12th Apogee 1227hrs
- 15th 3rd in Advent
- 21st St Thomas DoP. Quarter Day, Shortest day of the year Winter Solstice.
Weather up to 2/2.
- 22nd 4th in Advent
- 24th PERIGEE 0953hrs
- 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.

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

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

General Notes and Comments

There is a full moon, Perigee, highest spring tides and Met Office stormy period just before, through and then finalising the Christmas period, care should therefore be taken by those in coastal and low lying locations subject to flooding.

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
30 th	5.5C	5C

Some seasonal foliage.
Merry Christmas and everything you aspire to in 2019 to all readers.



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

Dec-18												
Date	Day	Moon	Weather	DoP	Saint/Holy Day	Other Day	Apogee Perigee	Equinox Eclipse	Met Office	Buchan	Super-moon	Highest tides
01/12/2018	S								Stormy			
02/12/2018	S				Advent Sunday				to			
03/12/2018	M								14th	warm		
04/12/2018	T								December	period		
05/12/2018	W]	3rd		
06/12/2018	T					St Nicolas]	to		
07/12/2018	F	NEW	Stormy]	14th		
08/12/2018	S	0720hrs]]		
09/12/2018	S				2nd in Advent]]		
10/12/2018	M]]		
11/12/2018	T]]		
12/12/2018	W						Apogee]]		
13/12/2018	T						1227 hrs]]		13th
14/12/2018	F								ends]		to
15/12/2018	S	1stQ	Cold &						quiet			17th
16/12/2018	S	1149hrs	high winds		3rd in Advent				period]
17/12/2018	M								15th]
18/12/2018	T								to			
19/12/2018	W								21st			
20/12/2018	T]			
21/12/2018	F			YES	St Thomas	Quarter Day		Solstice]			
22/12/2018	S	FULL	Fair					2223				
23/12/2018	S	1748hrs			4th in Advent							
24/12/2018	M						Perigee		stormy			
25/12/2018	T				Christmas Day		0953 hrs		period			highest
26/12/2018	W				St Stephen	Boxing Day			25th			26th
27/12/2018	T				St John				to			to
28/12/2018	F				Childermass Day				31st			29th
29/12/2018	S	LQ	Cold rain]]
30/12/2018	S	0934hrs]			
31/12/2018	M					Hogmanay]			