

Welcome to February bulletin, and since I have to write this a mid month ahead, I thought of a look back at some of the predictions.

November was not quite as expected, I anticipated a very dry month with fog and frost, sadly weather predictions are similar to weather forecasts, in other words, not always as forecast, there was a considerable amount of rain – but you cannot win them all.

Autumn was however mild, as predicted, this same prediction continues into winter, especially since the wind direction on 21<sup>st</sup> December, the quarter day was SW, the predominant wind direction being SW, and whilst this not cold, as an easterly wind would be, it has the downside of bringing a lot of wet weather, and sadly as is the current situation flooding, due to the saturated ground. A look at the advance moons shows no snow of any consequence and precious little frost, which tends to confirm the SW wind influence. It is not space science, it is just looking at nature and interpreting it, adding local data and facts where necessary, no technology, just attention to detail and accuracy, all this six months ahead too. So, is it any wonder that sometimes it goes pear shaped!

For the interested, since the grass was growing on 1<sup>st</sup> January (as in 2012) this indicates only one hay harvest, which in turn indicates a wet year, a cheesy year as is said, and since Christmas was mild then Easter will be cold. None of the above is from isolated data, but a collation of several data items that all build the bigger picture.

I predicted a wet, rainy, Christmas Day many months ago, and, as the months passed, there were numerous additional data facts that just confirmed the original prediction. The dire headline grabbing bye lines of ‘the coldest winter for 100 years and six inches of snow,’ came from goodness knows where – but such headlines sell newspapers. As I have said before and I re-iterate here, there was never ever going to be anything but a wet rainy mild Christmas Day – all the evidence pointed in the same direction.

To any of you reading this who have been flooded by them exceptional rainfall in the last three months, I truly commiserate with your plight; however, again as predicted, the rest of the winter, certainly to the end of March, will not be as cold as 2011/2012, but it will be quite wet, in fact March looks to be a really wet month.

This mildness shows around the hedgerows where the lesser celandine – known as the yellow star flower – is blooming, speedwell, henbit nettle, white and red dead nettles, gorse, snow berries, dwarf elder, perennial sow thistle, old mans beard, hazel flowers, Catkins, thale cress, Yarrow, gorse, daisy, dandelion, autumn hawkbit and aubretia are all in full bloom. Bulbs, honesty plants, thistles are all well on the way to budding too, all indicating a mild autumn and so far, a mild winter.

Change of subject, the four most popular questions I am asked, dependent on the time of the year are, 1. Will it snow at Christmas? 2. How cold will the winter be? 3. What kind of summer will it be? finally 4. What will Easter be like?

Therefore, it is imperative that I make as accurate attempt as possible to satisfy the four questions above, and across this website you will see these predictions, certainly in the advance predictions and also in the individual monthly data sheets. Some groups have requests for frost predictions, most of the courier companies require inclement weather notice as do the emergency services. The gardeners, horticulturalists and farmers need frost

warnings, it therefore is quite a challenge, but fortunately nature provides all this advance information; the skill I try to improve on a regular basis, is the interpretation of this invaluable data from nature.

There has been much in the national press about the wettest year since records began, and indeed it has been wet, even here in the Eden valley, but, fortunately though there was localised flooding, nothing to cause concern. The December rainfall here was 151mm which is 176% of the 85.8mm norm. The annual figure was 1126.8mm which is 136% of the norm at 826.9mm. It was not the wettest ever December, this went to 2002, and it was the third wettest year since my records commenced in 1985. And whilst it was indeed wet, it was not as sunny either, with an annual total of 1734 hours being 96% of the long term average of 1797.7 hours. The above are indicative of here in Edenbridge and other areas doubtless will have their own figures.

And finally – the recent snow, I did say that if we were to get any, and there was more than I expected, it would be of little or no consequence. There will be several who will disagree with this, but from my standpoint, though difficult in places it was at all times, for the greater part passable, therefore my prediction held.

Having said that, the ground did not freeze solid at any time, which was predictable, and despite the cold temperatures, for a few days, it is still milder than 2012, there will however, for the farming community, and later for the consumers, some acute problems to come with cereals and vegetables. The main reason for both is waterlogged ground that prohibits any growth. This will result in shortages later in the year.

A little known fact, but borne out time and time again when I made my research, from the old boys who knew of these things, is that an inch of rain weighs a ton. Therefore 2.5 inches of rain onto a field equals 2.5 tons of water. That takes, on waterlogged ground, some shifting and with February being the month of least evaporation, not a happy prospect for those that work the land.

David King

Edenbridge 23/1/2013

@David King.

## FEBRUARY 2013

DAY OF PREDICTION: 2<sup>nd</sup>.

LAST QUARTER: 3<sup>rd</sup> = 13.57hrs Snow/rain

New 10<sup>th</sup> = 0720hrs Stormy

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter: 17<sup>th</sup> = 20.31hrs Rain (snow if wind S/SW)

Full 25<sup>th</sup> = 20.26hrs Rain (snow if wind S/SW).

1st	St Brigid	If white every ditch full
2nd	Candlemass	Cold weather at Candlemass means colder weather after the feast than before. <b>DAY OF PREDICTION.</b> Purification Day of BVM. Snowdrop blossom day.
6th	St Dorothea	Gives most snow.
8 <sup>th</sup>	Perigee 12.10hrs.	
12th	St Eulalies	If sun today, good for apples and cider. 12th - 14th see below.  Shrove Tuesday. So as the sun shines on Pancake Tuesday, the like will shine every day in Lent. Thunder on Shrove Tuesday fortelleth wind, store of fruit and plenty. When the sun is shining on Shrovetide Day, it is meant well for peas and rye.
13 <sup>th</sup>	Ash Wednesday	Where the wind lies today it will remain for all Lent. A dry Lent spells a fertile year
14th	St Valentine	Crocus blossom time.
17 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent	
20 <sup>th</sup>	Apogee 06.31hrs	
22nd	St Peter	If cold will last longer - the night gives the 40 days weather.
24th	St Matthias	St Mattee send sap up tree (usually an indicates an early spring), If freezing today, so for a 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent month.
28th	St Romanus	Bright and clear indicates a good year.

### General Notes and Comments

Shortest and worst of all months.

If Candlemass Day be clear and bright, winter will have another flight.

But if it be dark with clouds and rain, winter has gone and will not come again.

If Candlemass be mild and gay, go saddle your horse and buy them hay as half the winter's to come this year.

This day is a very reliable day for wind up to the end of May. This Quarter Day is not however a true 90 day span as are the other three such Quarter days. Therefore as a Quarter Day it requires more caution.

Where-ever the wind on Candlemass Day, there 'twill stay to the end of May.

A snow cover in February protects the land from the worst excesses of frost and snow, and a slow thaw gently releases the water into the ground.

A sudden thaw accompanied by heavy rain is one of the most damaging of weather combinations. [causing at times severe flooding]

February always brings the rain and the thaws the frozen lakes again.

Much February snow, April summer doth show. [yes 4/5 times true]

A month with snow means spring will be fine.

If freezing on the 24th - will continue for a month, St Mathias breaks the ice, if none, he breaks it.

A sunny February brings wet and stormy summer.

February filldyke, be it black or be it white, but if it be white, 'tis better to like. [regardless of snow or rain, the ditches will usually fill during February.]

In February if thou hearest thunder, thou shalt see a summer wonder.

Dry February, dry summer.

A warm day in February is a dream of summer.

February spring ain't worth a pin.

On Candlemass Day if thorns be a-drop you can be sure of a good pea crop. [peas are picked in June which implies a good period]

When drops hang on the fence at Candlemass, icicles will hang on 25th March.

When the wind's in the east, it will stay to the 2nd of May.

If a storm then spring is near, but if bright and clear then spring is late.

If Candlemass Day do bluster and blow, winter is over, as all do know.

All the months of the year curse a fair Februar.

If February brings no rain, 'tis neither good for grass or grain.

February makes a bridge (of ice) and March breaks it.

As the days lengthen so the cold strengthens.

Warm February gives light hay crop, cold February gives heavy hay crop.

Snow in February puts wheat in the granary.

February snow burns the corn.

If the last 18 days of February are wet and the first 10 days of March are mainly rainy, then spring quarter and summer too, will prove wet too. If dry then watch out for drought conditions in the summer.

AND

From local figures of the above February and march dates if the combined rainfall is less than 100mms, then the drought possibility is much higher, A refined calculation.

There will be a deficiency of rain up to Midsummer day.

Fogs in February means frosts in May.

There will be as many frosts in June as fogs in February.

February is a damp month, not because of high rainfall, but because of low evaporation rate.

Often a month of intense cold, as the thermometer falls and the crimson sun sits in an open sky.

A time of burst pipes, and, in a good year, of skating.

So, if you are to have a good summer, alas, February will need to be a cold wet miserable month.

See reference to St Catherine - 25th November.

[At St Catherine, foul or fair, so 'twill be next Februir.]

When hottest in June - coldest in the following February. [check June readings]

In August, so next February. [check August readings - but what relevance?]

Warm October - cold February. [check readings]

If late October and early November be warm and rainy, then January and February will be frosty and cold. [ check previous readings.]

With every thunder with rain in February, there will be a cold spell in May.

Isolated fine days in February are considered as certain to be followed by a storm.

A dry Lent spells a fertile year.

MET OFFICE NOTES:-

24th - 28th Stormy.

BUCHAN NOTES:-

7th - 14th cold period.

THE FULL MOON THIS MONTH IS KNOWN AS THE SNOW MOON.

ROWAN is the tree of the month up to 17th. Then ASH takes over.

#### MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR EDENBRIDGE (USING 1981-2010 FIGURES)

Mean maximum = 8.7C

Mean minimum = 0.2C

Mean average = 4.45C

Rainfall = 54.1 mm

Sunshine = 87.9 hours

Whilst I appreciate that the above are local figures, it will be an indication of what the averages are, and of course there will be local variations. Such local variations can be found by trawling the various weather websites, or by using the superb data found in the Climatological Observers Link website.

Average temperature at 12 noon and again at 4pm taken at the beginning and end of the month:

1 <sup>st</sup>	5.7C	5.2C
28th	7.5C	6.3C

## FEBRUARY 2013 (easy reference spreadsheet.)

Date	Day	Moon/weather	Met Off	Buchan	Other day DoP	Singularities	Eclipse
1	Fri	<i>FULL</i> /rain					
2	Sat	rain				Candlemass (doP)	
3	Sun	<i>LAST QUARTER</i> /					
4	Mon	snow/rain					
5	Tue	snow/rain		5-17 <sup>th</sup> stormy		stormy 5-16 <sup>th</sup> 87%	
6	Wed	snow/rain		stormy (gives most snow)		stormy 87%	
7	Thur	snow/rain		stormy		stormy 87%	
8	Fri	snow/rain		stormy	Perigee	stormy 87%	
9	Sat	snow/rain		stormy		stormy 87%	
10	Sun	<i>NEW</i> /Stormy		stormy		stormy 87%	
11	Mon	stormy		stormy		stormy 87%	
12	Tue	stormy		stormy		stormy 87%	
13	Wed	stormy		stormy		stormy 87%	
14	Thur	stormy		stormy		stormy 87%	
15	Fri	stormy		stormy		stormy 87%	
16	Sat	stormy		stormy		stormy 87%	
17	Sun	<i>FIRST QUARTER</i> /		stormy			
18	Mon	rain		18-24 <sup>th</sup> quiet		anti-cyclonic 18-24th	
19	Tue	rain		quiet		anti-cyclonic	
20	Wed	rain		quiet	Apogee	anti-cyclonic	
21	Thur	rain		quiet		anti-cyclonic	
22	Fri	rain		quiet		anti-cyclonic	
23	Sat	rain		quiet		anti-cyclonic	
24	Sun	rain		quiet		anti-cyclonic	
25	Mon	<i>FULL</i> /rain		25-31 <sup>st</sup> stormy		stormy 25-31st	
26	Tue	rain		stormy		stormy	
27	Wed	rain		stormy		stormy	
28	Thur	rain		stormy		stormy	

No eclipses.

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