

JULY 2015 PREAMBLE



Tree of the month up to 7th Oak (see previous month) thereafter the holly  
(above)

Welcome to July 2015 entry of website.

Summer at the moment (22<sup>nd</sup> June) eludes us due to persistent NW wind.

*So why so cold this spring?*

*It is all down to Quarter day winds. On 21<sup>st</sup> March (St Benedict/Equinox) most unusually, the wind direction was WNW, which indicated that for the next 90 days (until 24<sup>th</sup> June/midsummer) the next quarter day the predominant wind direction would be WNW. And so it has proved to be with frosts well into June in the north and some inland frost hollows, with that cold edge to winds all the time – even during warmer days. Hopefully on 24<sup>th</sup> the wind will return to SW, a normal situation, and that cold edge will disappear. These old sayings are still highly relevant to modern weather.*

New Book: Just released this last week, 'One hundred years of Reading weather,' by Roger Brugge and Stephen Burt, of the University of Reading Meteorology Department. ISBN 9780956948515. Price £9.95

If you would like Roger's address where you can obtain the book, please use the contact page, and I will provide it, thank you – it is however on the relevant page below.

For the Gemini dataloggers fraternity, maybe this will interest you.

<http://www.gemindataloggers.com/articles/temperature-relative-humidity-monitoring-climate-observation>

If you have not come across this equipment before it is really good, reliable and easy to use.

*For those that have enquired about the website, thank you, it is produced by*

*<http://www.buzz-digital.com> a really friendly outfit too, will welcome any enquiry .*

*So what weather comments for this month? The 'three months baking hot scorching summer,' headlined last month in some of the national newspapers, was never going to materialise – for all the reasons I have stressed in earlier months. True it sells newspapers, but what a disappointment for those who believe such headlines.*

*Though I e-mail such newspapers to obtain their sources, strangely I never get any replies.*

*For the readership north of The Wash, some will have heard the encouraging comments for the Paul Hudson Weather Show (BBC Radio York and syndication) concerning my efforts from Christmas, past Easter into this month. I was pleased too with the results – shows the methodology is working well and even more so since it is outside the SE area. Slowly I am getting there*

Though July I fear will be a damp and warm month (excellent grain and fruit growing conditions) I hope the Great Yorkshire Show gets the benefit of the Buchan Warm period for the first couple of days.

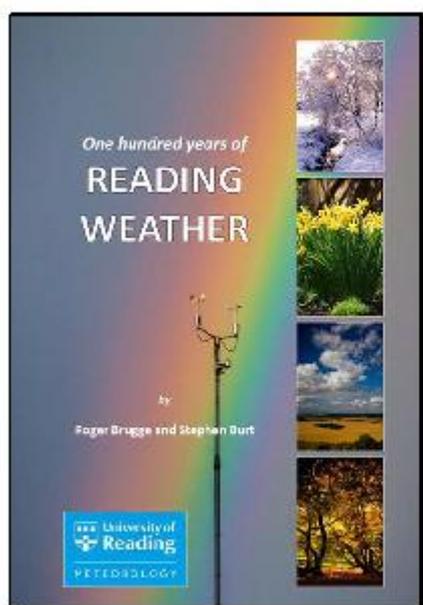
As I said on the show, it is 50/50; July can be a damp month and with two full moons in the month – damper than normal.

The fruit harvest looks good, loads of fruit on the trees, but some gentle rain would not go adrift, since up to today (22<sup>nd</sup>) it has been a very dry month.

*Today it is 24<sup>th</sup> June/midsummer/Quarter day and the wind direction is a pleasant much warmer wind from the S/SE. Therefore I expect the predominant wind direction for the next 90 days to be within this SE/SW segment, a warmer summer wind for certain. Also a dry warm period, maybe even the earlier warning in April about a water shortage later in the year now more likely – I think, as in 2014, September will be drier than average.*

Finally to end this month, I see in some of today's national newspapers comments about possibility of us (UK) entering a new 'ice-age.' Without wishing to 'stoke the fire,' as it were, but this is not news to this column about a year ago I made similar comment. For the interested I humbly suggest searching the internet for 'Dalton Minimum.' Once there, there is much to ponder on this subject. I will expand my thoughts further in the coming months, but having already prepared the major basics the 2016 weather calendar, the current warnings (always six months ahead) from nature concerning a long cold winter are well founded.

I wish you all a pleasant summer.



## **One hundred years of Reading Weather**

by Roger Brugge and Stephen Burt

Weather observations have been made at the University of Reading every day since 1901. This new book by two meteorologists from the University of Reading tells the story of Reading's weather over the past hundred years and more using a combination of archived logbooks, contemporary photographs and today's sophisticated automatic weather measuring equipment.

*The rich diversity of British weather is all here – the cold, snowy winters of 1947, 1963 and 2010; the searing summers of 1911, 1976, 2003 and 2006; the devastating floods of 1929, 1947 and 2000 along with the recent exceptionally wet winter of 2014; Reading's fatal tornado of 1840; and of course the Great Storm of October 1987. Add to that weather commentaries by month and season updated to 2015, comments on Bank Holiday weather (are they always wet?) and a chronology of over 800 notable weather events in Reading by day of the year, and you have a volume that will provide interest from nine to ninety, will answer every weather pub quiz question imaginable, and let you in on the meteorologists most closely guarded secret – which is the most reliably driest/warmest/sunniest week of the year to plan a holiday, the school fête or a summer BBQ ... ?*

CONTENTS The climate of Reading ◊ The makers of the observations ◊ The annual cycle ◊ January ◊ February ◊ March ◊ April ◊ May ◊ June ◊ July ◊ August ◊ September ◊ October ◊ November ◊ December ◊ Annual ◊ The seasons – winter, spring, summer and autumn ◊ Holiday weather ◊ Warmest, driest, sunniest ... ◊ Droughts and wet spells ◊ Earliest and latest dates ◊ 'Top ten' extremes ◊ On this date ... ◊ Climatological averages ◊ Publications on various aspects of Reading's weather ◊ Index

ISBN 978-0-9569485-1-9

210 x 297 mm ◊ 200 pp ◊ 46 photographs ◊ 43 line illustrations ◊ Fully indexed

Available from The Climatological Observers Link, 16 Wootton Way, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 4QU.  
Cheques payable to 'Climatological Observers Link'.

**Publication date 15 June 2015**

**£9.95**

## JULY 2015

NEW MOON = 16th @ 02.25hrs = Cold rain showers  
1st QUARTER MOON = 24th @ 05.05hrs = Rainy  
FULL MOON 2nd @ 03.20hrs Cold rain showers AND  
FULL MOON 31st @ 11.43hrs = Rain showers + BLUE MOON  
LAST QUARTER MOON 8th @ 21.24hrs = Rainy.

DoP = 15th St Swithun

Highest Spring Tides 4th to 6th AND 31st to 7/8th

- 1st If the first week of July be rainy weather -'twill rain more or less for a full four weeks.
- 2nd St Mary If it rains today it will rain for 4 weeks.
- 3rd St Thomas Rain today, rain for seven weeks. Commencement of Dog Days (to 28/8)- hottest part of the year.  
The first Friday in July is invariably wet.
- 4th St Bullion Start of Dog Days
- 4th to 16th If fine and summery, the rest of the summer is likely to be fine.
- 5th Perigee 19.55hrs
- 10th Celtic Knut the Reaper with hay cutting scythe worshipped. (hay making period).
- 14th St Processus & St Martinian If it rains today it suffocates the corn.  
Statistically the day with the highest average temperature.
- 15th St Swithun DoP. Said to mark the weather for 40 days. Lily flowering day.
- 16th Gather bunches of lavender to hang in wardrobes for perfume and to repel insects.
- 20th St Margaret If rain, then talk of Margaret's flood - see below. Poppy flowering day.
- 21st Apogee 12.03hrs
- 22nd St Mary Magdalene Alluding to the wet, usually prevalent about the middle of July, the saying is 'St Mary is washing her handkerchief to go to her cousin's St James's, fair (25th). Rose flowering day.
- 25th St James 'Til St James be come and gone, you may have hops and you may have none.
- 29th -31st Can be very hot days.

MET OFFICE NOTES: None .

BUCHAN NOTES: 12th -15th Warm period, 29th June to 4th July cool period.

Full moon this month is called Buck Moon.

Tree of the month up to 7th is the Oak, thereafter Holly is the tree.

### General Notes and Comments

*The 'meadow month' or 'hay month' - traditional labour of month being hay-making.*

*July should be, and quite often is, a month of blazing sunshine and soaring temperatures.*

*Hay making and harvesting in full swing.*

*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.*

*St Swithuns Day (15th) if thou dost rain, full forty days it will remain.  
[this saying never comes true]*

*If on St Swithuns feast the welkin lours, and ever pent house streams with nasty showers,  
twice twenty days shall clouds their fleeces drain, and wash the pavements with incessant rain.  
[not really acceptable as continuous rain, but acceptable as showers/showery with bright intervals  
might be acceptable]*

*St Swithun's day is normally a 'bit of both' day, half sunny & half wet. 'Sunny intervals and showers.'  
Despite the 40 days rain tag, it is more accurate to say 'sunny intervals and showers.'  
If it rains on St Swithuns Day. the saint is christening the apples, and they will be sweet and plentiful.*

*Watch the weather from the 4th to 16th July. If it is fine and summery, the rest of summer is likely to be fine. [this is quite possibly true]*

*If about St Swithun's (15th) a change of weather takes place, we likely to have a spell of fine or wet weather.*

*When the sun enters Leo, the greatest heat then arise.*

*In July, shear your rye.*

*When the Goats-Beard (wild flower) closes its flowers before mid-day, then there is rain in the air. If it stays late with its petals open, the atmosphere is dry and the weather set fair.*

*When the clover leaves are shut (even with clear sky and rising glass) and reaching for the sky, reach for your broolly. [very reliable]*

*St Margaret (20th) - so much rain often falls this day that people speak of Margarets Flood.*

*A shower in July when the corn begins to fill, is worth a plough of oxen, and that that belongs theretill.*

*Much thunder in July injures wheat and barley.*

*In July cut your rye.*

*What is to thrive in September must be baked in July. [grapes are a perfect example]*

*When the months of July, August and September are exceptionally hot, January will be the coldest month. [can be confirmed- but not always]*

*The first Friday in July is invariably wet. [4/5]*

*Fog in March -Thunder in July. [check previous readings]  
A poor forecast for wheat indicates wet weather in July and August.*

*A swarm of bees is not worth a fly.*

*FULL MOON THIS MONTH IS CALLED BUCK MOON.  
Tree of the month up-to 7th is Oak. Thereafter Holly is the tree.*

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

*Mean Max: 24C                      Mean Min: 12.1C                      Mean Avg: 18.5C  
Rainfall: 66.6mm                      Sunshine: 220.3hrs (day = 7.11hrs)*

*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.*

<i>1<sup>st</sup></i>	<i>18.9C</i>	<i>19.5C</i>
<i>31<sup>st</sup></i>	<i>21.9C</i>	<i>23.4C</i>

2015

01/07/2015

Date	Day	Moon	Weather	DoP	Saint/Holy day	Other day	Apogee Perigee	Equinox Eclipse	Met Office	Buchan	Super moon
1	Wed										
2	Th	Full 03.20	Cold rain showers			St Mary				Cold period 29th to 4th July	
3	Fr					St Thomas					
4	Sa					St Bullion	start Dog Days	high spring tides			
5	Su						Perigee 19.55	4th - 6th			
6	Mon										
7	Tu										
8	Wed	Last Q 21.24	Rainy								
9	Th										
10	Fr					Knut the reaper					
11	Sa										
12	Su										
13	Mo									Warm period 13th -15th	
14	Tu					St Processus &	St Martinian				
15	Wed			YES	St Swithun						
16	Th	New 02.25	Cold rain showers								
17	Fr										
18	Sa										
19	Su										
20	Mon					St Margaret					
21	Tu						Apogee 12.03				
22	Wed										
23	Th										
24	Fr	First Q 05.05	Rain								
25	Sa										
26	Sun					St James					
27	Mon										
28	Tu										
29	Weed										
30	Th										
31	Fr	Full 11.43	Rain showers					highest spring			Blue Moon

DATE	Chandler & Gregory Barry & Perry	Brooks	Lamb	Buchan	Met Office	Season
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29/07/2015  
30/07/2015  
31/07/2015

22 June - 5th return  
of westerlies  
to UK

29th - 4th  
cold  
period

18/6 - 9/9  
high summer

10th - 24th  
warm period

13th - 7th August High  
risk period  
for  
higher mean temperatures.

12th - 15th  
warm  
period

23rd - 30th - 6th August  
Thundery  
cycloic weather

18/6 - 9/9  
high summer