

JUNE 2017

Preamble



Tree of the month 13 May to 6th June is the Hawthorn (a common hawthorn too) - above

Followed by the Oak to the 7th July - below



Welcome to June 2017 website entry

Sometimes nature throws a real curler, maybe to just test the editor, maybe to make him look a real idiot, maybe just to show him who the Boss actually is. You win some and every now and then you lose one. Having assured myself that the frosts for 2017 here in the SE at least had

ended, though not for north of that magic mid-Wales >Birmingham > Norwich line, that all the non frost tolerant flowers were now in full bloom [campion, aubretia, bugle, pyramid bugle, ground elder, bluebells etc] on 27th April there came at the coldest hour - the hour after the dawn, a short sharp hard frost here, that registered -1C on the instruments here with a dew point of -2.1C. I now know in other places it was much sharper and caused some damage, There were even pictures on the TV and in the national newspapers of vineyard owners lighting fire devices to break up the air so that frost did not affect their vines. However reports now suggest that the frost damage to UK vineyards (Catastrophic damage) may well reduce output 2017 by more than 50%, so maybe an expensive lesson for UK vineyards. The French vineyards in Champagne and Chablis had similar problems earlier in the month that caused severe damage in places too, but the same frosts that damaged the vineyards here has reduced parts of the major French production areas, including Bordeaux and Burgundy by 100% in places with temperatures at -7C to -9C. Cognac is nearly wiped out this year from the frost! However, there is a very interesting matter that has arisen with this frost damage - I think that nature is sending an advance warning of a hard long winter to come. The last such serious frost damage to French vineyards was 1991 when 61% of the whole French production was lost; co-incidentally 1991 was a very severe winter too both in France and here in the UK - it always the small pointers that become vital when the jigsaw comes together. The current damage to the French vineyards is far in excess of 61% this year.

I went out on the 29th to see specifically what damage had been caused by this frost, and, all in all was pleasantly surprised to see, not a lot. Fortunately due to the much warmer spring most of blossoms had been and gone and the fruits were set on the trees, incidentally here an excellent year for cherries and plums to come, with apples and pears not far behind; for the birds and animals excellent hawthorns spindle hips and haws of all sorts in excellent shape too. The downside to this is that nature is already filling the cupboard for a long hard winter. There was however some peripheral damage to the end shoots of the ash and pedunculate oaks, the late blackthorn (sloes) and some late common hawthorn also suffered some damage, but the midland hawthorn escaped all such damage. A mulberry bush was completely wiped out, but a quince next to it was unscathed. The Spindle also survived unscathed. A couple of wild vines had some burning to the soft ends too, but for the greater part not a lot of damage. Of the plants and flowers, no damage seen at all. However some garden plants, camellia, magnolia and peony were not so fortunate and all suffered damage. My runner beans, nasturtiums and geraniums here in the garden were all unaffected. Yes, if I say the frosts have finished then I plant out! Sadly however the prolonged drought here in the SE has caused many fruit trees to discard fruits (due to stress) and as a result the excellent plum harvest is now much reduced; the cherries however have managed much better and are in still in line for a bumper crop.

I predicted a damp warm May, and though the start prolonged the drought, nature with damp and warm conditions is now progressing the hay crop (harvest early June) very well. Of interest from 2nd May to the 12th May I counted fourteen different new grasses appearing, a good hay crop therefore well on course.



One completely burnt Mulberry bush - alas no fruit this year.

Yet the quince tree (below) next to the Mulberry was unscathed.



So to those who may have lost tender plants due to this frost - who listened to my words 'no more frosts this year,' I apologise, but such things happen. But that is part of the 'fun/challenge' of being a gardener!

The other big problem here in the SE is the shortage of water; I have warned of this now for a few months, the writing was on the wall back in December and confirmed with the lack of water in last 18 days of February and the first 10 days of March; this very old, tried tested and proven saying is about 750 years old, and if it registered then, so must it be recognised today; the problem is that computers do not recognise such detail, neither do experienced expert weather experts, and as a result, only when it is too late is the 'hue and cry' of 'we are short of water' is heard. Make no mistake it is serious, walk across the fields and the cracks in the soil are obvious, as too is the lack of growth in the grass, root crops and cereals, dust in May is not a good sign at all. The Met Office tell us that for various reasons no rain is likely either!

At the risk of attracting scorn and ridicule, I offer nature's answer; nature compensates, and, as such, hopefully those of us here in the SE will experience some purposeful meaningful rain, and warmth (plus humidity) during May (I write this in mid-May); there is a simple reason for this, there will be one hay harvest and a good pea harvest this year. These harvests are in the first two weeks of June, therefore nature will provide sufficient rain and warmth for these crops to flourish in time for both these harvests, with a dryer period for those harvests too. The third week of June well through July will provide enough rain and warmth again to enable the fruit and grain crops to be ready for harvest in the first two weeks of August. I have been doing this now for many years, I watch nature and over the years I build, as did our forefathers knowledge and understanding of how nature works and why. It is a matter of using what knowledge you have and then seeing what messages nature sends out. Therefore whilst there is a water problem at the moment, nature will compensate in the long run. I remember in the great dry summer heat of 1976 the government appointed a minister of rain - needless to say it rained more or less immediately on the August Bank Holiday Monday. So we do not need such a gimmick appointment now, nature will take care of itself.

To those of you that have sent me e-mails on matters arising from the book, thank you, I always welcome and answer such mails, I never complain. One point keeps cropping up; the second half of the book gives the year, month by month in detail, this is for the reader to be able to see what each month brings. tells us, what to note and what to look for; however it is for the year 2016 and not the current year. The current year appears monthly on the website.

There is a small problem with the 'floating' holy or special days; some Holy days, like Christmas Day stay the same date year in, year out. Others however 'float,' they change each year depending on when Easter is fixed, so each year, Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday et al change. In 2016 Ascension day was 5th May, in 2017 it is the 25th May. The dates for 2017 are all correct. I hope that clarifies that point. It is also explained fully in the book.

The coldest hour of the day is the first hour after dawn - as the recent frost proved, thereafter the temperature rises. Those with instruments that show the dew point and the air temperature can see this quite clearly. A tip for vine growers, about 4.30am on a predicted frost night, go out and spray the vines with water, the frost will come, freeze the water and thereby protect the buds, shoots and fruits from major damage. This tried tested and proven method is from French vineyards.

Instruments to measure temperature, air pressure etc - simple answer is how much do you want to spend? How accurate do you want your readings to be? I humbly suggest that you search the internet for answers to this, for the range is vast. However, whilst here I have a Davis VP2 wireless system that does most things except make the tea - and cost a bomb too; I also have a magnificent cheap reliable system, that has an a wind vane with an anemometer for wind speed, rain gauge, current temperature, highest and lowest temperatures, air pressure, humidity recorder,

date, time and clock. All this is on a pole in the garden and is radioed (AA battery) to a console inside the house for ready reading. The one set-back is that since it is German made in Frankfurt, it gives the time at Frankfurt. So it does everything that the £1000 Davis VP 2 system does at £40...yes £40. This bargain was purchased three years ago from Lidl, all I had to do was to take it from the box and assemble it. If you are fortunate, then an e-bay search 'Lidl weather station,' on e-bay might be fortuitous. Otherwise just keep your eyes open for it to appear at Lidl again.

Aldi had an electronic system a couple of months ago for sale too, but I have no knowledge of how good or bad it is, it was £35; but both these supermarkets have some excellent buys if you are able to find them.

As I have said before, I started this as a hobby here in the SE, and also to inform those who needed such advance information of what was likely to happen, it helps planning. I have now increased this region to the whole of the east coast, am learning about the vagaries of the micro-climates of Yorkshire and the north, plus Lincolnshire and the east midlands; but it is a massive learning curve, a challenge is a challenge and I will rise to it too, but please just give me time. I am not a meteorologist I am a chap who uses nature and local knowledge to forward predict the weather - this needs specialist knowledge, and to those of you that now send me such data, thank you all, it is fascinating in the variations. I hope that my advance prediction for the highly, once again, successful Great Yorkshire Cycle Race, was helpful, it was not far off the mark - albeit a bit colder, but once again the methodology proved itself. Congratulations too to the organisers of this event, for certain it is now a regular world cycling fixture.

Why am I not on Twitter, Facebook or other such social media? If you type 'David King weather' into a search engine, trawl down the contents, then see some of the inane comments, you will see exactly why. Besides the fact that I have a life to live, and am far too busy to engage with such an agenda, so with respect that is the reason. However, since the book has been published, it is being read by outlets that would not normally be concerned with such matters, and, as a result I get increasing requests for interviews, newspaper and magazine articles, radio and TV interviews, and whilst this may be flattering to have such requests, sadly I find that the standard of interviewer is lower and getting lower.

If I am going to do an interview, then I research the interviewee and the subject before I set out. I am prepared for any eventuality. The easiest example is the June 2016 interview on ITV This Morning when I was asked what Christmas day 2016 weather would be? The reply was exactly as the weather was that day (180 days ahead), but the comments resulting from this gave the impression that I was an 'eccentric/abnormal?'

Sadly, I have found there are journalists, scribblers and prophets. Increasingly the latter two classes seem to be in the ascendancy and bring the renowned profession into disrepute. I may be old, maybe showing my age, I have not had the benefit of a university education, but I am not stupid, ill-informed or ignorant. The fact that certain of the latter two groups above, have no idea or inkling of the methodology here is sad, but also worrying, the fact they either cannot or do not know how to do basic research and preparation is very troubling too. When such persons same age as some of my grand-children have never heard of rose-hip syrup, rowan jelly; have no

knowledge of tripe and onions, sweetbreads, tongue to name but a few small items, shows sadly a lack of education in some of the basics. And trolley-buses that were noxious fumes free transportation, were got rid of even before they were born! Yes they may well be computer literate, but ask them to go, as I had to when I was younger, by grand-mother to 'go up shop and get a half-stone of potatoes,' and they would be floundering. Yes it is a different world, a world of piri piri chicken, and whoever eats offal now? I am trying to reacquaint such people to the real world, where things happen, what nature does and just by looking they can increase their knowledge. Take away the auto queue and some presenters would collapse! How sad they cannot respect their profession and strive to be better.

I was taught by a distinguished French person many years ago a proverb that I accepted as a target, "Celui qui renonce a etre meilleur, s'arrete deja d'etre bon." In English "The one who gives up being better, already stops being good."

Quarter-Days and predominant wind direction - never has this been more demonstrated than since the 21st March, the last such day. South of the now magic Birmingham line the wind direction was SW - hence the warmer spring. North of this line it was N/NW to the western part of the UK and N/NE to the eastern side of the UK, this is reflected in the different weather patterns suffered during the last few weeks, where much colder, indeed some quite wintery conditions have persisted in these regions, yet the southern part below Birmingham has been much warmer, and as in the SW quite wet too. Many questioned such a claim, I hope that now with the evidence for all to see that this claim is now very valid.

As some of you have experienced I do local walks across some of the countryside here, dependent on the time of year and the weather, some are more successful than others, but all have interest built in. To encourage such walkers to see different things I ask them to calculate the age of an ancient hedgerow, to be able to identify a medlar tree or be able to find and then identify a bullace tree, all part of our ancient heritage, but when was the last time you heard of or even saw a medlar and or its fruit, or a bullace - the same? The Quince too comes into this category. I am interested to know where such ancient trees still grow, are they dying out or being grubbed up, and such data will be gratefully received. Thank you.

Finally a profound thank you to the Lowestoft Moot that kindly invited in mid-May to do a talk; it was an excellent night for all, the ambience was good and there was real interest. If your secretary invites me again - then yes I willingly come back and expand the subject. Your comments make what i do worth while. Thank you again.

JUNE 2017

NEW MOON =24th @ 0330hrs = Rain.
1st QUARTER MOON = 1st @ 1342hrs = Changeable
FULL MOON 9th @ 1409hrs = changeable
LAST QUARTER MOON 17th @ 1232hrs = Very rainy

DoP = 15th St Vitus AND 24th St John.

Highest Spring tides = 23rd to 28th

APOGEE 8th @ 2222hrs: PERIGEE 23rd @ 1050hrs

BUCHAN COLD PERIOD 26th to 4th JULY

- 3rd Perigee @1056hrs
- 4th Pentecost If sun shines Easter Day (20th April) so it will at Whitsun.
Strawberries at Whitsuntide = good wine.
If it happens to rain on Whitsunday, thunder and lightning would follow
(Thunder yes, but much rain is doubtful). Rain at Whitsunday is said
to make the wheat mildew. Whitsun wet = Christmas fat. Whitsun
rain is a blessing on the wine.
- 5th Whit Monday The weather today reflects that of Maundy Thursday (24th March)
- 8th St Medard Rain today and it tells of a wet harvest. If rain today, rain 40 days
after(18/7)
- 11th Trinity Sunday
- 11th St Barnabas Nearly always a clear fine day, a noteworthy day too. Rain today
good for grapes. Ragged Robin flowering time.
- 15th St Vitus DoP. See rain note below. Apogee @ 1201hrs
15th Corpus Christi Clear gives a good year. If rain, the granary will be light.
- 18th Father's day
- 19th St Protais If the saint brings rain 40 days it will remain.
- 21st Summer Solstice 0524hrs.
- 24th St John DoP. Midsummer. Longest Day. Quarter Day. Rain today and
expect a wet harvest and damage to nuts. Scarlet Lynchis flowering
day. Midsummer rain spoils hay and grain.
- 27th If rain today then rain for 7 weeks.
- 29th St Peter & St Paul Rain will rot the roots of rye. The optimal day for harvesting
herbs.

MET OFFICE NOTES: = none. BUCHAN NOTES: 29th June to 4th July cold period.

Full moon is called a full sun moon.

Tree of the month to the 9th is the Hawthorn, thereafter it is the Oak.

General Notes and comments.

The month needs to be 'flaming' for a good harvest.
If June with bright sun is blessed, for harvest we will thank the Goddess.

SW winds are generally infrequent before 10th June, after that they are quite frequent.

The month of the return of the 'westerly winds.'

The month of June is blithe and gay, driving winter's ills away.

Calm weather in June sets the corn in tune.
It can be a very hot month (1976 & 1996, 2003, 2006 & 2012) and very wet (1997 & 2007).
It can also be very wet as in 2007 & 2016

When it is hottest in June it will be coldest in the following February.
When the wind shifts to the west in early June expect wet weather until the end of August.
In June, the Cuckoo changes his tune from 'cuckoo' to 'cuck-cuckoo', sometimes when you hear two preliminary 'cucks' - when this occurs a particularly fine spell is due.

Wimbledon tennis, last week in June and first week in July.

Barnabas (11th) bright, all day and all night.
[quite reliable and really noteworthy day - always a fine clear day]
Rain today good for grapes.

St Barnabas - mow your first grass.
[this applies to field grass and in the south a few days earlier]
When Barnabas smiles bright both day and night - poor Ragged Robin (wild flower) bloom in the hay. (a great time for weed growth)

If St Vitus Day (15th) be rainy weather, 'twill rain for thirty to forty days together.
[maybe thirty days is a better ruling- and it becomes quite a reliable rule]

As the wind on St Johns Day (24th) so 'twill be for the next three months.
[until the next Quarter Day - 29th September]

Midsummer Day (24th) rain spoils hay and grain.
[a very important day as well as the longest]

Midsummer day rain spoils hay & grain.

You may shear your sheep when the Elder blossoms peep.
A dripping June keeps all in tune.

Calm weather in June, sets the corn in tune.

Sunny June, early harvest.

No dew indicates rain.

A leaky June brings the harvest soon.
A swarm of bees in June is worth a silver spoon.

Before St Johns Day we pray for rain - afterwards we get it anyway.

If the Cuckoo sings after St Johns Day, the harvest will be late.
[always dependable]

If Midsummer Day be ever so little rain, the Hazel and the Walnut will be scarce, and corn smitten in many places. But apples, pears and plums will not be hurt.
Filberts (nuts) will also be spoilt.

Cut thistles before St John or you'll have two in place of one.

You'll never get warm settled weather until the cowslips have finished.

June damp and warm does the farmer no harm.

THE NEXT THREE ARE INFALLIBLE.
Good summer brings hard winter.

If a hard winter is followed by a poor summer, the following winter will be harder still.
If the Cuckoo delays changing his tune until mid-June, St Swithuns Day (15th July) will be wet.

June is a wet month with usually more wet days than any other month.
Wet June - dry September.

As it rains in March - so in June. [check previous readings]

In Hay season when there is no dew, it indicates rain.

If north wind blows in June, good rye harvest.

Rain at Whitsuntide is said to make wheat mildew.

Whitsuntide rain is a blessing for wine.

Whitsuntide wet, Christmas fat.

Northerly winds over northern Europe reach their highest frequency around 15th June. But are rare after 20th June. Meanwhile SW winds blow comparatively infrequently from late March until 10th June, but are very much more common during the rest of June. From the same research, taking England & Wales as a whole, the driest months of the year are:- March, April & May, and occasionally February and June. These months are also the months when long drags of unsettled westerly winds are unlikely to occur. Monthly rainfall is between 2.3/2.6 ins (58/66mms) for each month from February to June.

From July onwards 3.2/3.8ins (81/96mms).

The hay crop is harvested at the end of May & June, so any reference to a good hay crop implies good weather then.

If it rains on the 27th, it will rain for 7 weeks.

A cold and wet June spoils the rest of the year.

If it rains on the 29th (St Peter's Day) the bakers will have to carry double flour and single water; if dry they will carry single flour and double water.

Rain on St Peter (29th) will the roots of rye.

A north wind in June blows in a good rye harvest (hay harvest).

When the bramble blossoms early in June, an early harvest can be expected.

NO MET OFFICE NOTES.

THE FULL MOON THIS MONTH IS CALLED A STRONG SUN MOON.

Tree of the month up to 9th is Hawthorn. Thereafter is the Oak.

MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR EDENBRIDGE (USING 1981-2010 FIGURES)

| | | | | | |
|-----------|--------|-----------|----------|-----------------|-------|
| Mean Max: | 22.2C | Mean Min: | 10C | Mean Avg: | 16.1C |
| Rainfall: | 52.5mm | Sunshine: | 220.7hrs | (day = 7.36hrs) | |

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 | 18.1C | 18.4C |
| 30th | 20.1C | 21.7C |

| DATE | Chandler & Gregory Barry & Perry | Brooks | Lamb | Buchan | Met Office | Season |
|------|-------------------------------------|--------|------|--------|------------|--------|
|------|-------------------------------------|--------|------|--------|------------|--------|

| | | | | | | |
|---------|---|---------------------------|--|---|--|---------------------------|
| June 01 | | 1st - 21st Summer monsoon | 1st - 4th First European summer period, cool stormy monsoon | | | 30/3 - 17/6 spring |
| June 02 | | | | | | |
| June 03 | | | 3rd to 5th Thunder common | | | |
| June 04 | | | | 5th - 11th June anti-cyclones peak day | | |
| June 05 | | | | | | |
| June 06 | | | | | | |
| June 07 | | | | | | |
| June 08 | | | | | | |
| June 09 | | | | | | |
| June 10 | | | | | | |
| June 11 | | | | | | |
| June 12 | | | | 12th - 14th second European summer period cool & stormy monsoon | | |
| June 13 | | | | | | |
| June 14 | | | | | | |
| June 15 | | | | | | |
| June 16 | | | | | | |
| June 17 | | | | | | 30/3 - 17/6 spring |
| June 18 | 18th - 22nd Generally dry and sunny in southern England | | 18th - 22nd third European summer period cool and stormy monsoon in central Europe | | | 18/6 - 9/9 high summer |
| June 19 | | | | | | |
| June 20 | | | | | | |
| June 21 | | | | | | |
| June 22 | | | Return of westerlies to UK | | | |
| June 23 | | | 22nd - 5th July continued | | | |
| June 24 | | | Return of westerlies to UK to UK | | | |
| June 25 | | | | | | |
| June 26 | | | | | | |
| June 27 | | | | | | |
| June 28 | | | | | | |
| June 29 | | | | 29th- 4th/7 cold period | | 18/6 - 9/9 high summer |
| June 30 | | | | | | |

