

JUNE

PREAMBLE



TREE OF THE MONTH FROM 10th to 7th JULY IS THE OAK. The picture here is the flowers of the Pedunculate (English) Oak.

Welcome to the June 2018 website entry. Spring is at last here, albeit some to four to five weeks late, but thankfully the long hard cold winter is now passed; having said that, spring will not be particularly brilliant either.

June is the month when E/NE winds are at their height; these abate about the middle of the month and by the 20th, normally, heat in the form of SW winds that arrive around the equinox and mid-summer day (24th) the warmer summer air. This wind will survive until the 29th September (Michaelmass) – the next quarter day.

However this spring, already late will be colder, especially on the western side of the UK. The wind on 21st MARCH was WNW, a cold wind from Iceland that gave cold and snow at Easter and a lot of cold miserable weather since from mid-Wales up to NW Scotland. I sit here 15th May, and for sure, frost will be again be present on this west side in the next few days – but 100% predictable since the 20th, St Dunstan (aka Cold Sophie – and in the SW as Franklins frost) is a frosty night. Hence the May website entry to defer planting out bedding plants until the 24th May! The Koi carp keepers too, should be able to change locations for their fish after the 24th too for the same reason.

Of interest, some wild plants are not frost tolerant; others die when the frosty period had ended. The Campion family come into this first category. Recently I travelled to the SW and once past Salisbury Plain the verges were covered in red Campion, yet not one cowslip was seen. The cowslip dies with the last frosts; the conclusion being that no frost the western side of Salisbury plain from last week. Yet, here in the SE corner, the cowslips are still there and no Campion at all – therefore still some cold to come. Nature sends the messages, it is a just a matter of reading the message. Precious few song birds from Africa yet to arrive. The swallows here a month now, some martins and the swifts returned this last week. But very few of the small songsters have arrived – hopefully with the warmer temperatures and more insects, food will now more plentiful for them. The first dragon-flies and darters are beginning to appear by the river. Butterflies now are more abundant too. More bees too, the red tailed bee, (he has a fur coat – therefore has insulation) has been the predominant bee this year (the coat makes him look bigger too), but now the other bees, white-tails and their ilk are appearing. As last year a lot of hornets too, that should help keep the wasps away as last year.

The cuckoo arrived some 8 days early this year, experience tells me, that the earlier it arrives the earlier it departs. It normally arrives about the 17th April, this year it was here on the 8th; and departs first week of July. I expect the first week of July and the last week of June to be colder than the norm (it is a Buchan cold period 29th June to 4th July in any case), hence the early arrival and I expect his departure the third week of June; cold and wet means less insects to eat, yet another case of nature giving 90 days notice.

A lot of enquiries asking if we are into a run of really cold winters, maybe I missed a newspaper 'prophet' giving such a prognosis. Maybe the same one who promised 60 days of BBQ weather to come...I explain why I defer from such a prognosis.

Nature prepares the way ahead by at least 180 days ahead, as in the very early very warm spring 2017 – this set the marker for the year and by mid-September nature had prepared and filled all the food stores, for birds, animals and humans – the long hard winter was signposted a good year ahead – hence all the warnings here – that many 'experts' decried as 'rubbish,' predicted a mild winter. No comment necessary here, I let the methodology do the talking.

This year, a long hard cold winter that is just about to end here in the SE, though for parts of the N and NW I fear still some remnants to come. Plus la change!!

A lot of winter wheat has been lost and has had to be ploughed back in; highly any early potatoes, no onions planted yet – all from the cold and wet winter. Not as much rape as normal, hardly any linseed either. Tractors unable to get access to ground due the wet ground; no June hay harvest, too wet and too cold, therefore no real growth: yes, a lot of silage already. With everything so late already then harvesting will be late, expect the grain harvest to be mid-August followed by some fortuitous weather for a semblance of a hay harvest August into September.

So it is quite plain that nature has made no preparation for a long hard winter. The fruit blossoms have escaped the severe frosts one expects in May, and the fruit trees look good with masses of cherries too. Though the cold frosts in April did harm to many plums. Blackberries too well behind – the upside is that there will be a late blackberry harvest this year, plenty of nuts too on the trees – if the squirrels leave enough for us humans to harvest on the 15th August – St Filbert's day.

The moon charts for the autumn, not unsurprisingly either, are quite benign, some frosts, precious little, if any snow, before the end of January (if cold enough). A lot of frosty but fair

(dry calm sunny days) moons too, right through to the start of March (spring). A stormy second half of January and some storms in late February. I will in due course highlight such events in the autumn and winter bulletins. What is significant is that, whilst spring and summer are both wet, summer is damp and warm, but come autumn, less rainfall, therefore nature will have replenished the water reserves thereby giving a dryer winter to come; I appreciate that many parts of the UK have had a lot of rain this winter, however London and SE are still without adequate water supplies despite the winter rain. Nature therefore will refill these reserves.

Therefore my conclusions are that we are not into a run of long hard cold winters.

For those that have read the summer 2018 prediction, the following will be a repetition; many will not have seen it. Once again I go against perceived 'wisdom of weather,' I use nature, which is never wrong and the moons. Summers run in 7 year cycles, good and bad. 2018 is the last year in a 'bad/poor' summer cycle – that helps explain the recent poor summers. 2019 will be the first of a 'good/real' summer period, when one can normally expect 5 of the 7 years to be very good 'old-fashioned' summers, with sun and heat. Evidence of this; 1975/76/78/79/80 really hot; then a cold spell; 1988/89/90/92/95 hot dry summers followed by another cold spell; There is definite sequence and pattern to all this I have not been and plucked it out of the sky.

I work a whole year ahead therefore I can see what is coming, which helps explain the current weather, once the basic framework is there, then it is matter of using the bird arrival and departure dates, the growth on plants and trees to measure patterns. It may not be perfect, and being human I am not perfect, but for the greater part it works. The main highlights do however get picked out, the storms; the cold winter etc Winter 2018/9 will be cold but nothing exceptional, for sure stormy, but no chaotic snow to cause problems.

I have been asked to explain 'spits and farts' summer. It is not a BBQ summer to come, it is a summer that comes, out of the blue, in 3 or 4 day bursts, maybe exceptionally/unseasonable hot – as in April and May. So expect such short periods through June July and August, then arrive unannounced – like 'fart,' hence 'spits and farts.'

However for those on the east coast, whereas we experience bitter cold from the E in winter, in summer we have the compensation of heat too from the east – it comes from NE France and the Low Countries (the recent heat in May came from the East). With luck we may have extended warmth for a few days in June July and August as in 2017 – fingers crossed.

Those in the NW have had a terrible winter, cold, wet, miserable, precious little sunshine, a lot of 8/8 cloud too (as in parts of the NE). I empathise with your plight, the cause is that WNW wind in 21st March following the cold wind on Candlemass (2nd February). These old sayings are very reliable and they work, I therefore thank our forefathers for having the foresight and wisdom to write such vital facts down for posterity – with such advance warnings one can be forewarned and fore-armed. I try to warn, it is for the recipients to heed the warning. It is so sad to see such sadness in the farming community in the NW over the sheep losses this winter. I may not be a shepherd and also from the south, therefore with no knowledge of your skills and expertise; but I do know my subject with the same skills as you tend your livestock. I am not trying to 'tell you how to suck eggs;' I am just passing on 40 years of experience, knowledge and expertise in what I do.

The longest days of the year around the 24th, when the sun reaches its northerly zenith for us, thereafter the daylight slowly starts to diminish, mid-summer day and celebration day for the Druids and some other religions too. The Glastonbury pop-festival, normally a 'mud-bath' also around this period, I see no reason to see any change this year either.

The month with the most daylight hours comes and then goes, make the best of it, we deserve some recompense after this long hard cold winter, I hope we all have a few days of such heat and sunshine.

Finally, Cold Sophie/aka St Dunstan once again proved to be correct with overnight frost in several places – hence the warning in May about bedding plants before the 24th May. These old, tried, tested and proven sayings just confirm how clever our forefathers were at such weather events, and just what foresight they had to write them down, in order that we, hundreds of years later can benefit from their skills and knowledge.

JUNE 2018

NEW MOON = 13th @ 2043hrs = Rainy
1st QUARTER MOON = 20th @ 1150hrs = Very rainy.
FULL MOON 28th @ 0553hrs = Rain.
LAST QUARTER MOON 6th @ 1931hrs = Fair

21st June is summer solstice 1107hrs

DoP = 15th St Vitus AND 24th St John + Quarter Day + Mid-summer

Highest Spring tides = 14th to 17th

APOGEE 2nd @ 1736hrs:AND 30th @ 0344hrs. PERIGEE 15th @ 0056hrs

BUCHAN COLD PERIOD 26th to 4th JULY

NO MET OFFICE PERIODS.

- 2nd Apogee @1736hrs
- 8th St Medard Rain today and it tells of a wet harvest. If rain today, rain for 40 days after (18/7)
- 11th St Barnabas Nearly always a clear fine day, a noteworthy day too. Rain today is good for grapes. Ragged robin flowering day.
- 15th St Vitus DoP. See rain note below. Perigee @ 0056hrs
- 17th Father's Day
- 19th St Protais If the saint brings rain 40 days it will remain.
- 21st Summer Solstice 1107hrs.
- 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.
- 30th Apogee@ 0344hrs

Full moon is called a full strawberry or rose 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 & 2017) and very wet (1997 & 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.

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

Jun-18												
Date	Day	Moon	Weather	DoP	Saint/Holy Day	Other Day	Apogee Perigee	Equinox Eclipse	Met Office	Buchan	Super-moon	Highest tides
01/06/2018	F											
02/06/2018	S						Apogee					
03/06/2018	S						1736 hrs					
04/06/2018	M											
05/06/2018	T											
06/06/2018	W	LQ	Fair									
07/06/2018	T	1931hrs										
08/06/2018	F					St Medard						
09/06/2018	S											
10/06/2018	S											
11/06/2018	M					St Barnabas						
12/06/2018	T											
13/06/2018	W	NEW	Rainy									highest
14/06/2018	T	2043hrs										14th
15/06/2018	F			YES	St Vitus		Perigee					to
16/06/2018	S						0056 hrs					17th
17/06/2018	S					Father's day]
18/06/2018	M											
19/06/2018	T					St Protais						
20/06/2018	W	1stQ	Very rainy									
21/06/2018	T	1150hrs						Summer Solstice				
22/06/2018	F											
23/06/2018	S											
24/06/2018	S			YES	St John	Mid-summer day						
25/06/2018	M											
26/06/2018	T									cold period		
27/06/2018	W									26th		
28/06/2018	T	FULL	Rainy							to		
29/06/2018	F	0553hrs			St Peter & St Paul					4th		
30/06/2018	S						Apogee 0344hrs			July		

DATE	Chandler & Gregory Barry & Perry	Brooks	Lamb	Buchan	Met Office	Season
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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							
June 05				5th - 11th June anti-cyclones			
June 06				peak day			
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						30/3 - 17/6 spring	
June 17							
June 18	18th - 22nd Generally dry and sunny in southern England		18th - 22nd third European summer period cool and stormy monsoon in central Europe				
June 19						18/6 - 9/9 high summer	
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							