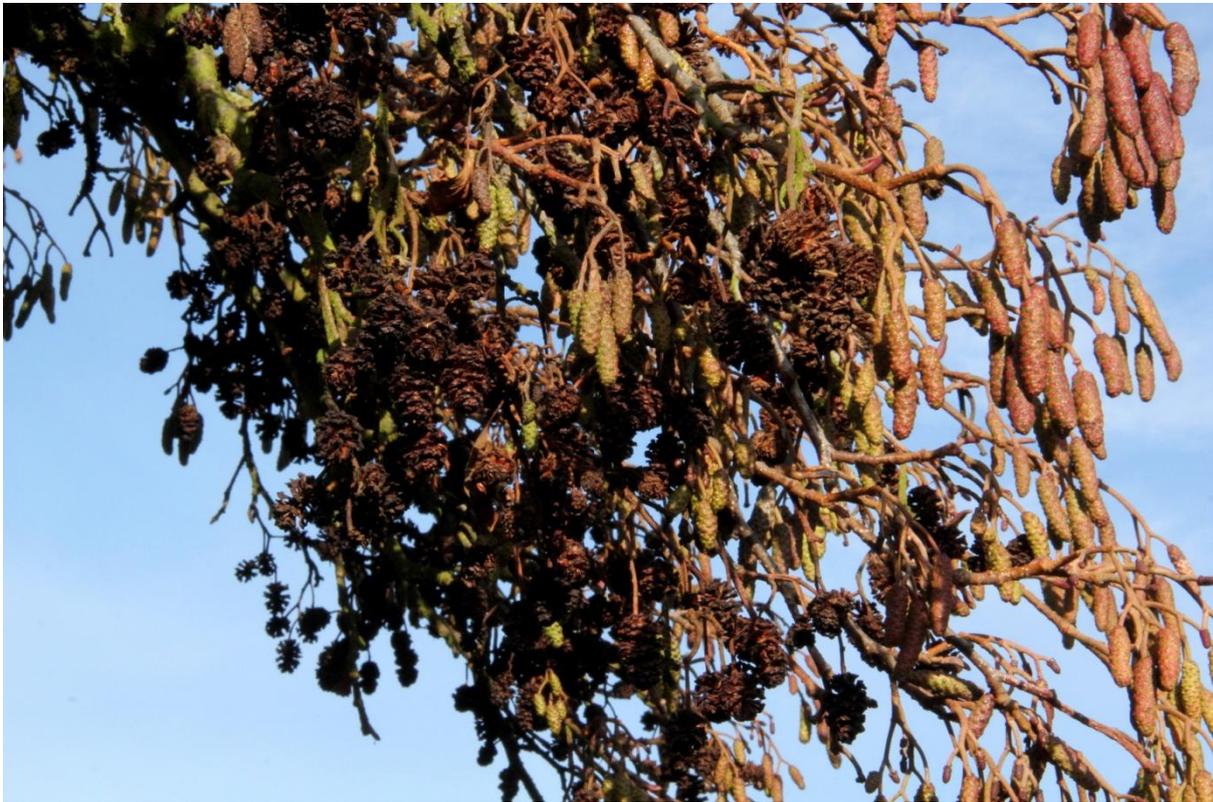


MARCH PREAMBLE.



Tree of the month up to 17th Rowan, thereafter the Alder (above).

For a change, some notes about the Alder – above – surely a candidate for our national tree, they are great healers, they absorb harmful heavy metals, but their nitrogen –fixing roots help coax life back into arable land degraded by intensive farming; their main job is to mitigate against floods. Trees of the riverbank, beck side, flood plain, and these trees are the first line of defence against water damage, all too common of late; they sponge up excess rainfall; the wood does not rot in water. Old docks and wharves were made of such wood that does deteriorate when submerged, even for centuries. The Lesser Redpoll also finds the seeds from this remarkable tree as primary seed food/staple diet, during the winter; and much more too (with appreciation to Johnathan Tullock for the above).

Welcome to the March website and possible to the start of a cold spring too. The advance prediction for the spring (March to May – and a bit of June too) has been added to the website in the meantime – makes interesting reading too.

The continuing westerly storms besides bringing chaos, flooding etc to the UK, also make a hash (to put it mildly) of my predictions, here in the SE, for cold frosty settled weather. I correctly predicted that the western approaches would suffer from these winter storms, but never thought they would spread so far to the east! Having said that the methodology holds firm (despite the surfeit of storms) and I see no reason to change the predictions. It just shows that you cannot win them all, all the time!

For the interested, BBC Radio Leeds Sunday 13th March, Paul Hudson Weather Show – for the Cheesy Year Spring prediction from yours truly.

I read in January of the suggestion by the Ecumenical leaders to fix the date of Easter, which I found interesting and somewhat disturbing, since a great part of the methodology is based upon the Christian festivals and year and, as such for the greater part works very well. I wrote to Archbishop Justin at Lambeth Palace with my respectful ‘sixpenneth.’

I have now received a reply the text of which I include below, and my reply is also attached. Will be interesting to see what transpires!

Of interest to those of us not affected by the recent flooding I attach an edited version of an e-mail from a reader from Scotland, who is a crofter with a smallholding, concerning just how devastating such floods can be – and their after effects:

“Well David, the land management came Tuesday and £1.5million to put the land right. We have to pay half and hand the deeds of the house in! If there is a problem with the weather that’s it all gone, I don’t want to gamble but I think it will happen again. I have always paid for a weathercast from Piers Corbyn, and I do believe you are right with a lot of the forecasting. Can you give me an idea is there is problems for 2016 as the meeting is on Tuesday and on what you put will make the decision? I would like to stand down and see what will happen. We have 1000 tons of stone and

rock all over the fields, no walls all down and no crops; so no winter bedding or grain if the winter is bad. The gearbox has gone on the JCB so I'm liable for that keeping well. All the very best George."

George was 'washed away' in the November and December storms. And some of us think we have problems!!

2/10/2016 BT Mail - dkingn8@btinternet.com

From: dkingn8@btinternet.com
Sent date: 10/02/2016 - 14:40
To: contact@lambethpalace.org.uk
Subject: Re: 30563 King re Date of Easter

Dear Mr Nunn

Thank you so much for your reply to my letter to Archbishop Justin.

As you will appreciate, the methodology here uses the Christian Church dates, and as such are vital - for they do for the greater part work.

I will be observant and see what transpires in future discussions.

Yours most sincerely

David King

-----Original message-----
From : contact@lambethpalace.org.uk
Date : 10/02/2016 - 14:34 (GMTST)
To : dkingn8@btinternet.com
Subject : 30563 King re Date of Easter

Dear Mr King - Archbishop Justin has asked me to write thanking you for your 16 January letter about proposals to fix the date of Easter. The proposal - made by the Coptic Pope Tawadros II, and after discussions with Pope Francis and the Ecumenical Patriarch - is at an early stage of discussion between the main Christian denominations. The world-wide Anglican Communion is not leading on this but the Primates of the Communion, meeting in Canterbury recently, were supportive of the idea.

Yours sincerely

 Desc Andrew Nunn | Correspondence Secretary to the Archbishop of Canterbury
Lambeth Palace, London SE1 7JU
Desc www.archbishopofcanterbury.org
Desc Follow the Archbishop of Canterbury: 

<https://btmail.bt.com/cp/main/index#> 1/1

March 2016

NEW MOON = 9th @ 0155hrs = Frost
1st QUARTER MOON = 15th @ 1740hrs = Fair
FULL MOON 23rd @ 1201hrs = Snow & rain + Lunar eclipse.
LAST QUARTER MOON 1st @ 2312hrs = Fair & frosty AND
31st @ 1618hrs = Fair
DoP = 21st St Benedict AND Quarter Day 21st

VERNAL EQUINOX = 20th.

SOLAR ECLIPSE = 8th.

LUNAR ECLIPSE = 23rd

Highest spring tides 8th to 14th

Perigee 10^h @ 0730hrs: Apogee 25th @ 1417hrs

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1st | St David | Ever on St David's day, put oats and barley in clay.
2nd Sunday in Lent |
| 2nd | St Chad | Every goose lays before St Chad, whether good goose or bad [if your goose has not laid by this day start fattening for the pot for she is not a good layer]
Sow peas today. |
| 3rd | St Winneral | The holy day of the saint who controls tides and weather. If stormy today bad winds to follow, but quiet end to the end of the month. |
| 5th | | Apogee 07.36hrs |
| 6 th | 4 th in Lent | Mothering Sunday |
| 10 th | | Perigee @ 0730hrs |
| 13 th | 5 th in Lent | Simnel Sunday |
| 15th | | Cheltenham Races 15 th to 18th |
| 16th | St Piran | Cornish festival |
| 17th | St Patrick | Around this time Cheltenham Gold Cup race meeting and some freakish weather. |
| 19th | St Joseph of Nazareth | A fertile year if clear and dry. |
| 20th | Vernal equinox. | Palm Sunday If weather not clear this day it means a bad year. If thunder today a merry year. |

- 21st St Benedict DoP. Quarter Day. As the wind today it will stay for three months.
A fertile day if not freezing today. See below for frost precautions.
- 23rd Lunar Eclipse
- 24th Maundy Thursday Fine on Holy Thursday, wet on Whit Monday (25th May).
- 25th Lady Day Virgin Mary Day, The day the cardamine flower blooms. Daffodil blossom day. Apogee @ 1417hrs.
Good Friday DoP up to 25th May (St Urban). Rain on Good Friday and Easter Day, good year for grass and a bad one for hay (wet June). - This signifies a wet year and such weather on Good Friday will last for 40 days.
- 27th Easter Day If sunshine today, so at Whitsun (24th May). Rainy Easter = cheesy year (wet). Greenfly at Easter - June will blister.
BST Starts.

MET OFFICE NOTES: None.

BUCHAN NOTES: None.

Full moon this month is known as the Sap moon.

Tree of the month up to 17th is the Ash, thereafter is the Alder.

General Notes and Comments.

The Four wind days, Quarter Days, are among the most reliable in the year and give the prevailing wind until the next Quarter Day.

The month of renewal - The month of winds and new life. March - many weathers.

If the winds for Candlemass (2nd February) and St Benedict (21st) are contradictory, then St Benedict takes preference.

10th - If it does not freeze, a fertile year may be expected; mists or hoar frosts indicate a plentiful year, but not without some diseases.

21st, St Benedict. This Quarter Day will give you the wind up to 24th June (St John) which is just 95 days later. St Benedict will take precedence over Candlemass should the winds directions be contradictory.

St Benedict - sow thy peas or keep them in the nick.

March is traditionally a boisterous month throughout the temperate zones of the northern hemisphere. >>>>>>

The reason is that the polar regions are at their coldest after nearly six months of night, while the equatorial regions are at their hottest because the sun is overhead.

The strength of the atmospheric circulation depends primarily on the difference of temperature between the equator and poles; hence it is most vigorous when the contrasts of hot and cold are greatest in March.

When there has been no particular storm about the time of the spring equinox, if a storm arise from the east on or before that day, or, if a storm from any point of the compass arise a week after the equinox, then, in either of these cases, the succeeding summer is generally dry (4/5). But if a storm arise from the SW or WSW or a frost before the spring equinox, the summer is generally wet. (5/6).

There are generally some warm days at the end of March or the beginning of April, which will bring the Blackthorn into bloom, and, which are followed by a cold period called the Blackthorn Winter (11-14th April). Fogs in March - frosts in May. [This is quite accurate, in London there are on average four foggy mornings in March and four nights average ground frost in May]

Fog in March - Thunder in July. [doubtful].

As much fog in March, so much rain in summer.

As it rains in March so in June. [doubtful]

A wet March makes a sad harvest.

March damp and warm does the farmer much harm.

When March has April weather, April will have March weather.

Dry March, wet April, dry May and wet June are generally said to bring everything in tune.

A windy March and a rainy April makes a beautiful May.

A showery March and a showery May portend a wholesome summer - if there be a showery April between.

Dust in March brings grass and foliage.

A peck of March dust to be sold, is worth a King's ransom.

March dust on apple leaf, brings all kinds of fruit to grief.

The March sun rises but dissolves not. March sun lets snow stand on a stone.

If you've March in January the January will appear in March

After a frosty winter there will be a good fruit harvest.

If March winds start early it will be a dry Easter.

A dry lent spells a fertile year.

A windy/dry March fortells a dry May.

March flowers make no summer bowers.

March dry - good rye.

A dry cold March never begs its bread.[a good grain harvest implies a dry July and August]

March snow hurts the seeds.

Snow in March is bad for fruit and grape vines.

Moles are a good guide for a fortnight or so, it is a sure sign of warmer weather when they start to become active - it may only be a short warm period.

Field mice however, when scurrying around are a prelude to bad weather. They are laying in stocks of food.

Better bitten by a snake than feel the sun in March.

March, month of many weathers, wildly comes in hail and snow and threatening floods and burns.

A peck of March dust and a shower in May makes the corn green and meadows all gay.

The month of winds and new life.

After a frosty winter there will be a good pea harvest.

For the elderly - February search, March try - April says weather you live or die.

Average central England temperature is 5.7C.

Broadly speaking, significant plant growth commences at 6C or above.

Winter = -6C. Summer = +6C.

March tends to be the driest month of the year - but subject to cold snaps and frost.

The third week of March is often the driest of the whole year.

It is also said that March borrows its last week from April, which indicates the tail of the month is often more spring like than the rest of it.

The last three days are called 'borrowing days' for if they are unusually stormy, March is said to have borrowed them from April. Three days of wind and rain is more the norm. Also - one day rain. one day snow and the other, the worst day they ever knew.

The third week of the month (around the 17th St Patrick's day) is fronted by Cheltenham Gold Cup race meeting. This period will certainly produce a combination of most variable weather, from rain/snow/sleet and winds to hot dry and sunny.

March is usually a very varied month and a sensible traveller will be prepared for anything.

If March comes in like a lion it will go out like a lamb (and vice-versa).

[dependable, but it only applies to the first and last two or three days of the month]

If March comes in all stormy and black, she carries winter away on her back.

As in September, so next March - sometimes. [check previous September readings]

As in October wet, March dry:- yes if October wet is above average then March below average. October cold, March (warm) cold - is more likely cold from local records.

October warm, March cold(er than average) - from local records.

If the last 18 days of February are wet and the first 10 days of March be for the most part rainy, then the spring and summer quarters are likely to be wet too, and a drought is unknown but that it entered that season. [this is very true - so watch the drought situation]

AND

If the rainfall from the above dates is less than 100mms then the drought possibility is far higher. This is a refined local calculation.

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).

A dry Lent spells a fertile year.

FULL MOON THIS MONTH IS KNOWN AS THE SAP MOON.

The tree of the month up to the 17th is the ASH. Thereafter the Alder.

MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR EDENBRIDGE (USING 1981-2010 FIGURES)

Mean Max: 12.1C Mean Min: 2.4C Mean Avg: 7.25C
Rainfall: 56.2mm Sunshine: 142.2hrs (day = 4.58hrs)

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	7.1C	7C
31 st	12.4C	13.1C

DATE	Chandler & Gregory Barry & Perry	Brooks	Lamb	Buchan	Met Office	Season
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01/03/2016
02/03/2016
03/03/2016
04/03/2016
05/03/2016
06/03/2016
07/03/2016
08/03/2016
09/03/2016
10/03/2016
11/03/2016
12/03/2016
13/03/2016
14/03/2016
15/03/2016
16/03/2016
17/03/2016
18/03/2016
19/03/2016
20/03/2016
21/03/2016
22/03/2016
23/03/2016
24/03/2016
25/03/2016
26/03/2016
27/03/2016
28/03/2016
29/03/2016
30/03/2016
31/03/2016

12th - 23rd Notable for low precipitation
Central & Southern England

26/2 - 9th Stormy
peak day

26/2 - 9th Stormy

12th - 22nd Early spring
anti-cyclones
very quiet weather
with large daily temperature range

24th - 31st Stormy

peak day

28th - 1st April Cold stormy period

20/1 - 29/3
late winter

20/1 - 29/3
late winter

30/3 - 17/6
spring