

MARCH 2018



TREE OF THE MONTH ASH 18/2 TO 17/3

Welcome to March 2018 website entry. To start this month an amendment to the Moon Lore winter weather chart on both pp74/75 of the book, and also in the 'definitions' section in the 'explanation' heading on the website.

Over the years I try and test each saying and each entry to the data sheet on the website for a period of five years; if after that period of time is passes my tests then it becomes part of the methodology. Over the last 25 years I have made just four such subtle changes.

However in recent years the 'winter' chart contained within the Moon Lore section has given some concerns. The methodology is still excellent and produces good results, highlighting major problems, like storms and flooding, well ahead of the actual event.

In recent years the weather seasons here in the UK have become less distinct, with some seasons merging with others without any real change, and as such, putting some unusual weather patterns to the forefront. The weather physiology is changing, and as such, the time, after some five years acute study to slightly change some of the definitions in the 'winter' section of the Moon Lore charts has come, as I think that it will give a better result.

This winter, the prediction was for snow and cold to start around the 2nd January and last through to the end of March, a long hard cold winter season indeed. However whilst this may be correct for some parts of the UK it is manifestly

incorrect for other parts, and, in particular the area south of the Birmingham > Norwich line. North of that line is, for the greater part, definitely much colder than south of that line. Therefore the above prediction whist correct for north of the above line is incorrect for the south of the line.

I have therefore decided to place a small caveat on the winter chart, that, hopefully will give a better/more accurate prediction in the future.

The last such change I made was some 25 years ago, when amended the very first entry concerning frost - when I clarified the SW wind matter; but his year SW winds have been predominant so far, hence the lack of frosts and the warmer air temperature.

THE CHANGES THEREFORE TO BOTH THE WEBSITE ENTRY AND THE BOOK (PP74/75) ARE AS FOLLOWS; THE CURRENT ENTRTY FOLLOWED BY THE NEW ENTRY:

The changes now are for the following times:

0200-0400hrs = Snowy and stormy. Now becomes = Snowy (if cold enough) otherwise rain and stormy.

0800-1000hrs = Cold rain if wind westerly. Now becomes = Cold rain if wind north westerly.

1200-1400 = Snow and rain. Now becomes = Snow (if cold enough) and rain.

2000-2200 = rain or snow if winds S or SW. Now becomes = Snow (if cold enough) and rain.

The rest of the winter chart remains the same.

I have used the above substitutions to test them over the last six years and for this (2017/8) year too and find these definitions to be more accurate.

In view of the above changes I therefore hope that the winter 2018/9 will be more accurate concerning warmer locations than has so far been the case this current winter. I am human, and in order to be better I must improve; the above changes therefore hopefully, without changing the methodology, will give better results.

Thank you all for your understanding and indulgence, and at the same time a slight apology for those, south of the above line, who expected more snow than actually arrived. The air temperature was just cold enough, and, as a result a lot of rain fell.

The above changes I in no way attribute to global warming et al; it is just part of the cycle of changing weather physiology. It is cyclical.
OK back to work now.

I receive many questions/comments on why I use the moon so much, and, why if it is so reliable, is not used by the Met Office and experts?

The second part is easy, the moon pays a minute part of the meteorologists agenda, if any, and is not part of the main syllabus for the profession.

The first part: I spent four years doing extensive literary and historical research into my subject (and am still learning), quite early on it became obvious that our forefathers were highly educated and very clever too, using what they had around them they managed to forward predict 90 to 180 days ahead with consummate ease, and get it correct most of the time. They used the Christian Calendar based upon Holy Days across that calendar. Everyone knew the phases of the moon and everyone knew the Saints and Holy days, the start of the Christian year is set by the moon for Easter, after that everything then falls into a set pattern for the rest of the movable Christian calendar.

I then came across the Moon Lore weather chart, not once but twice in different locations, and with about a 100 year gap between both entries (1145 AD at Canterbury and 1240 AD at Rochester.) I also found references too at Westminster Abbey and the Public Record Office.

If this chart was valid that long ago and repeated (and later published by Richard Inwards FRAS, FmetS, in his book 'Weather Lore' (ISBN 0 946014 77 9), then it had much substance. To this end, as I do with every entry on the website and in my book, I tested it extensively over a period of five years, and found it to be remarkably accurate. Another five years testing was added, and as such it became a corner-stone of the methodology here. In the 30 years I have used it there have been just two small amendments to it, therefore highly reliable.

There was an excellent BBC 1 TV programme on Wednesday 31st January at 9pm on The Moon, well produced; in which it was made quite clear that without the Moon we would have no weather, also the relationship between the Moon and the Earth. I have no doubt that any watcher, without such prior knowledge is now better informed. Those with some knowledge, if only that basic grounding in the book and the website, now can better appreciate exactly the importance of the Moon to the Earth. I hope therefore that above programme vindicated in no uncertain terms my use of The Moon and its weather lore as a primary source.

The above amendment therefore is seen in that light, however it is not a sop to global warming, it is part and parcel of cyclical climate change, and the amendment I am sure will improve the predicting.

However two points missed in the TV documentary. The first is that with two full moons in the month, it will be a very wet month with more rain than average - January 2018 has proved that perfectly. Therefore expect a lot of rain in March - or snow if cold enough, again with two full moons in the month. If you get March (10 - 13C) in January, the expect January (1 -5C) in March.

The other point concerns apogee - when the moon is furthest from the earth; and perigee - when the moon is nearest the earth.

When a perigee, full moon and highest spring tides fall with the same 36 hours the propensity for a natural disaster to occur anywhere in the world at this time increases by 100%; be it flood, landslide, earth tremor, hurricane, typhoon, earthquake etc. The latest such event produced two Richter 6 scale earth tremors, the first in the Indo-Pakistan region the second in the Samoan pacific.

The observant readers will have noticed a profusion of late ivy, holly and yew berries being produced - all up off the ground; at the same time thousands of hazel catkins too.

The catkin feature interested me since I have never seen so many before; diligent enquiries reveal that these catkins contain an enzyme and some protein, that, if left to mature produce hazel nuts. However this enzyme and protein content is also produced in years of great and prolonged cold, when access by birds to other food sources is difficult, be it from flood, snow or frost on the ground, for want of a better description, nature has provided a vitamin supplement boost. The catkins again being well off the ground.

With March weather in January, we must expect cold January weather in March - a wet month due to the two full moons, which if cold enough, the rain will fall as snow: if not cold enough then even more rain. With the ground already either flooded or saturated from January rains and least evaporation in February, the that indicates even more ground problems. Therefore nature has provided extra food for the birds with renewed supplies of the above. With the absence of any sure signs of spring as I write (February) I stay with the prediction of a long hard cold winter - even flooding gives cold hard conditions too. The February saws associated with Candlemass (2nd) came into their own too this year, therefore expect a long hard cold spring, with precious little early growth: the ground is

both cold and very wet. It is the eye to seemingly small insignificant detail that gives the weather clues.

Sadly, due increased commitments, progress on my second book, is not going as well as I envisaged. The book is to illustrate with photographs and text the year from January to December, with plants/trees/birds and what each tells about the weather. As seen below and above, time is at a premium. However the new book will be completed as soon as is possible.

As the readership of the website and the book increases then so do the questions, and also press, magazine, radio and TV enquiries take valuable time, there are only so many hours in the day. Irrespective of weather conditions I make a mandatory walk for at least three hours a day just to keep abreast of what nature is announcing, a different walk each covers what I call 'my workshop,' in the course of the week.

Such notes, photographs and observations daily from these walks all are noted, as those that have been on walks with me will confirm, no two walks are the same, and every walk has its own interest; all such notes take time.

I always reply to e-mails within 24 hours, therefore please do not stop the questions.

One small request please concerning e-mails. When you write can you please give your location, at times it affects my reply, and it also gives a good idea of how wide the readerships is. Thank you for assistance with this.

Some important notes pertinent to February, and also for the rest of the year.

Despite clinging to their dogma of a 'mild and benign winter, maybe a little cooler in February,' which as those who listen to Radio Leeds know, was held up by the presenter there, to which I disagreed; On 5th February the Met Office issued a bulletin changing this forecast to 'a colder February with a late spring this year, maybe two weeks later than normal.'

My prediction for the winter this year (2017/8) extends well into spring, indeed to April 1st, and it remains for a long cold hard winter. This prediction is based on data collected over 2017 from several sources, all tried, tested, reliable and proven; there is no meteorological input into this prediction, it is nature, moons, acute observation, skill and encyclopaedic knowledge of the subject.

To continue:

In June some parts of the east had a period of warmer weather from the 13th - 23rd. A tried tested and proven saying from about 950 AD I found during my exhaustive research told me that the warmest days in June give the coldest days in February on the same dates. Therefore in June 2017 I knew that February 2018 was likely to be bitterly cold.

As the very early spring in 2017 passed into an equally early summer (all predicted too) it became very clear to the trained eye that a, long hard winter was on the way, nature prepared the way months ahead. Whether the long hard winter was going to be wet/flooded/frozen or snowbound or the ground saturated, did not affect nature, all the seeds, hips haws and berries were well up off the ground and in great numbers too.

Any month with two full moons in it is always a very wet month, and, if the air is cold enough, then for sure, snow. January and March both have two such full moons in 2018. There were also storm warnings well in advance, Caroline and Dylan being the named ones. The moon lore weather also gave a lot of snow for each month. Albeit January south of the Birmingham > Norwich line was very mild, but other parts indeed had a very cold January - or a very wet one. So the picture was near complete for winter 2017/8 as predicted.

Move forward to 2018, I have already signposted the cold March to come; but February starting with Candlemass (2nd) has proven the winter prediction to be near perfect; since Candlemass the temperature generally has fallen, St Brigid (1st) filled the ditches, St Dorothea (6th) gave some parts a lot of snow. St Eulalies (12) gave comfort to the cider producers.

Shrove Tuesday (13th) however a disaster for the gardeners, cold wet, sleet and snow, cold winds ruled out a fertile and pleasant Lent.

Ash Wednesday (14th) with a bitterly cold night in places and raw easterly winds, definitely not dry, a very wet cold day, and the wind for your own region set for the next 40 days too - near enough to Easter. Furthermore St Peter (22nd) will also be cold, reinforcing the Ash Wednesday cold saying. I cannot see St Mattee (24th) starting the sap to flow either. All in all a cold February and March.

Normally, Spring commences in March - alas not this year. At best spring will be at least four weeks late - I differ again from the Met Office dictum. For crops to grow the soil needs to be 6C at least. Currently, where not flooded/saturated/frozen or snow-covered it is about 2C, therefore with another 6 weeks of cold still to come, plus rain for sure and snow in many places, spring will not only be cold and wet but very late indeed. So no June hay harvest, a difficult year for the pea growers, a difficult year for the fruit farmers and the grain harvest I think will again be late maybe as late as mid-August. A difficult year for

beet producers too. On the upside, I think the hay harvest late August into September will be reasonable.

Finally, I read in newspapers on the 14th February the arrival of bitterly cold weather and snow due to a 'Sudden Stratospheric Warming' of the air stream over the north pole, causing winds to reverse and bring bitterly cold winds to us in the UK (paraphrased)!!

I am a simple person, I try to keep things easy and straight-forward, I do not use any Meteorology in this website; I just use what our forefathers used 1000 years ago. Interesting though it maybe, and a good explanation I have seen on the internet from the Met Office too; but just maybe, without any of the technicalities of modern science, this spell of bitterly cold weather is identical in every respect to the warm period in the previous June giving the coldest weather in the following February - exactly to the day too??

The above shows just how clever our forefathers were 1000 years ago and just how observant they were too, I am slowly getting there, but still fair way to go, but, just to be able to say 'I told you so,' does give satisfaction to a simple person.

To those that have asked, I do not know when the next 'scarily accurate' weather prediction will come from an ITV This Morning appearance, maybe in June, in time for summer? Whenever it comes, you can be sure it will be just as accurate.

Thank you for your time and your interest, keep warm dry and safe.

March 2018

NEW MOON = 17th @ 1314hrs = Snow/rain
1st QUARTER MOON = 24th @ 1535hrs = Fair & mild
FULL MOON 2nd @ 0052hrs = Frost. AND
31st @ 1437 hrs = Fair & mild + BLUE MOON
LAST QUARTER MOON 9th @ 1122hrs = Cold and high winds

MARCH/VERNAL EQUINOX 20th @ 1615hrs

DoP = 21st St Benedict (AND Quarter Day 21st)
AND
Good Friday 30th.

BST Starts 25th March 2018 @ 0100 hrs.

Highest spring tides 3rd to 4th

Perigee 26^h @ 1819hrs: Apogee 11th @ 0915hrs

MET OFFICE NOTES: None.

BUCHAN NOTES: None.

*******WARNING RAIN/SNOW THERE ARE TWO FULL MOONS IN THE MONTH,
THEREFORE EXPECT EXCESS RAINFALL, AND IF COLD ENOUGH SNOW IN
PLACE OF RAIN. AS THERE WAS MARCH WEATHER IN JANUARY, EXPECT
JANUARY IN MARCH**

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|------------|-------------|--|
| 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. |
| 4th | 3rd in Lent | |
| 11th | 4th in Lent | Apogee @ 0915hrs Mothering Sunday |
| 13th- 16th | | Cheltenham Races 13 th to 16th |
| 16th | St Piran | Cornish festival |
| 17th | St Patrick | Around this time Cheltenham Gold Cup race meeting and some
freakish weather. |

- 18th 5th in Lent Simnel Sunday
- 19th St Joseph of Nazareth A fertile year if clear and dry.
- 20th Vernal equinox.
- 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.
- 22nd Dandelion Day in East Anglia.
- 25th BST STARTS 0100hrs
- 25th Palm Sunday If weather not clear this day it means a bad year. If thunder today a merry year.
- 25th Lady Day Virgin Mary Day, The day the cardamine flower blooms. Daffodil blossom day.
- 26th Perigee@ 1819hrs
- 29th Maundy Thursday Fine on Holy Thursday, wet on Whit Monday (21st May).
- 30th Good Friday DoP up to 25th May (St Urban). Rain on Good Friday and Easter Day, a 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.

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. (The wind on 2/2/2018 Candlemass was SW)

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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March 01		26/2 - 9th Stormy peak day	26/2 - 9th Stormy		20/1 - 29/3 late winter
March 02					
March 03					
March 04					
March 05					
March 06					
March 07					
March 08					
March 09					
March 10					
March 11					
March 12	12th - 23rd Notable for low precipitation Central & Southern Englan		12th - 22nd Early spring anti-cyclones. very quiet weather with large daily temperature range		
March 13					
March 14					
March 15					
March 16					
March 17					
March 18					
March 19					
March 20					
March 21					
March 22					
March 23					
March 24		24th - 31st Stormy peak day			
March 25					
March 26					
March 27					
March 28			28th - 1st April Cold stormy period		
March 29					20/1 - 29/3 late winter
March 30					
March 31					30/3 - 17/6

