

MAY 2016 Preamble.



Tree of the month until 15th is willow (see previous month) thereafter the hawthorn – above. (This is a Midland Hawthorne) Common Hawthorne is all white.

Welcome to the May website, apologies too for the wet windy Storm Katie Easter, but I got the cold correct, I did not expect so much rain! But this has been a most unpredictable few months by any standards –and the Easter Heatwave [Star 15/3/2016] never materialised, but neither did the coldest Easter ever [Daily Express 5/3/2016].

Now for something different, a very interesting, verging on the brilliant, article by BBC religious affairs correspondent Caroline Wyatt in the BBC News Magazine on 25th March 2016, titles “Why can’t the date of Easter be fixed?” for the interested, it shows perfectly the usage/interaction of Astronomy (moon phases) and Christian calendar.

I explained to Caroline (e-mail) that to do this would have unforeseen consequences, since the date of Easter, as it stands, sets up the whole Christian calendar. As soon as you fix Easter, then everything from Ash Wednesday through to Corpus Christi currently runs on a set formula, Pentecost is fixed by Easter, as are Low and Pastor Sundays and many others; the days of Prediction too are Christian saints days, Good Friday being a prime example of such a day. Though it might appear on paper an easy option, I am afraid that it just will not work – and this website will cease to exist, since the methodology is based on such Christian data and moon phases. If it has worked since at least 1100 ad, and it ain't broke, then why fix it?

It is suggested that the most common date for western Christian churches is 19th April; I had an interesting couple of days using this date as Easter and then going back to Ash Wednesday and fitting all the dates thereafter into their correct sequence – and then correlating the moon phases. Not easy at all, but I did it, I did it twice, once for normal years and one for leap years. I can tell you the results were not good, for so many of the saws/sayings then fell foul of the new moon phases. I tried several combinations (cheating) but none ever worked. Such results also had an effect on the Quarter days too. The methodology such as it is, collapsed completely – and of course Nature will not abide by such a fixed date either, so a waste of time and effort.

I will knock all this lot into some presentable shape and when the Noble Lords debate such decisions I will ask to present my findings – they may not be to their liking – but again what do I know? Just a mere dealer in Hocus-pocus, using unscientific and unproven data, and not even scientifically trained, and trying to interfere with 'experts.'

Sir Richard Branson set up a successful airline on the back of fag packet, yet no-one questions him.....just a thought. But seriously dear reader this is well researched interesting and topical article by Caroline Wyatt.

I receive many requests to identify birds, and this I welcome and appreciate, since birds too are part of the methodology and slowly my personal bird photography library builds up – not David Bailey but enough to identify each bird. However I also get asked what book is

best? That depends on what your requirements are, so whilst I am reluctant to make any suggestions, all I will say is that I use 'The Hamlyn Guide to Birds of Britain and Europe,' by Bertel Brun, ISBN 0 601 07065 8. Fits into a jacket pocket, is readable and good for identification purposes. If I really get stuck, then the internet is the answer.

For the interested the winter ducks and geese started to depart on 30th March and were all gone by the 1st April; similarly the fieldfares, redwings, brambling and winter starlings were all gone by 2nd April – and how empty the fields looked after their departure too. Another couple of weeks, weather permitting after the blackthorn winter, the summer visitors from Africa will be returning. I saw the first House Martin here on Friday 15th April. The cuckoo has been heard also since the 15th – but alas not seen.

The very cold winter I predicted, as such failed, however the cold east/north east wind from 21st March has certainly shown its teeth throughout all April and will continue for sure well into May. However this cold wind has certainly retarded much spring growth and locally spring is in itself some four weeks behind schedule and with colder still weather forecast for the weekend 23/25 April, spring is still a long way off. However a ray of sunshine on Sunday 8th May – Chestnut Sunday – invariably a dry calm sunny day; and to see the beauty of this day look up at Horse Chestnut trees, and you will surely see that at the end of each branch, the blossom, known as 'candles' [from the candles on a Christmas Tree] will all be in full bloom, resplendent and beautiful, a truly magnificent sight.

The last week or so has seen a spate of earthquakes across the Pacific Rim, many more than usual, but earthquakes are not known to be regular! However, these events, together with the plethora of other such unusual events, and I mention the Arctic Jet streams, so troublesome to Scottish readers (yes there such persons too), many more than usual with no real explanation

either. Or maybe there is an explanation – so throw stone into pond time, watch the ripples go out and wait for some comment – time again.

One reader, Geraldine' drew my attention to as most interesting set of facts, most if not all the subject of 'complete ignorance or no comment,' from numerous official bodies and governments, and having now done much research, and despite sending further information requests to various government departments here and across the world, I too have met a wall of no comment and silence! Why is this? What is going on with our weather, could it be that persons/bodies are tampering with it? Not just the silver nitrate into the clouds, but really serious stuff 'The Electromagnetic Space Age We Live In' by Elana Freeland, is very good starting point. An internet search under that name will produce some superb research documents – and not all fiction either. If we cannot be told if Space Ships are fact or fiction, what chance of any admitting that the weather is being tampered with?

The 'Summer 2016', June to August advance predictions will follow this bulletin quite quickly. A cheesy year for sure, doubtless too, many farmers running short of hay in the barns; be warned make the best of any hay making weather since I fear it will be very scarce this summer. The best weather being the last two weeks of July and the first week of August.

Finally, I publish the highest spring tide dates, not to fill space, but a genuine attempt to forewarn and warn of such events – which increasingly so – as those affected by such tides find to their cost, can be inconvenient at best and damaging at worst. I am also pleased to see that some Television weather presenters also now warn of such events, coincidence or not, it spreads the word.

MAY 2016

NEW MOON = 6th @ 2031hrs = Rainy
1st QUARTER MOON = 13th @ 1803hrs = Fair
FULL MOON 21st @ 2216hrs = Fair
LAST QUARTER MOON 29th @ 1313hrs = Changeable.

DoP = 25th St Urban

Highest spring tides 5th to 10th.

APOGEE 18th @ 2207hrs: PERIGEE 6th @ 0415hrs

BUCHAN COLD PERIOD 9th – 14th

- | | | |
|------------------|--|---|
| 1st | May Day growth. | Hoar frost today indicates good harvest. Plants in full growth. The later the Blackthorn blooms after 1st May, the better the rye. |
| 3rd | Holy Cross Day St Philip & St James | Crowfoot blossom time. If it rains, and/or a fertile year may be expected, and/or foretells a wet harvest. |
| 5 th | Ascension Day | As the weather today so may be the entire autumn |
| 6 th | Perigee @ 0415hrs | |
| 10th | Chestnut Sunday | |
| 11th | St Mamertus | Ice-Saint - beware of frost - unseasonally cold and/or wet weather} |
| 12th | St Pancras |as above.....Ice Maidens = night frost} |
| 13th | St Servatius |as above.....} |
| 14th | St Boniface |as above.....} |
| 15 th | 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. |
| 16 th | Whit Monday | The weather today reflects that of Maundy Thursday (24 th March) |
| 18th | Apogee @ 2207hrs | |

- 19th St Dunstan (cold Sophie). Ice Saint with characteristics as above for ice-maidens.
- 22nd Dandelion picking day in East Anglia for dandelion wine. Trinity Sunday
- 24th Celtic celebration day for bringing prosperity and good harvest.
- 25th St Urban DoP. Day of Prediction up to 15th June (St Vitus). Summer starts.
- 26th Corpus Christi Clear gives a good year. If rain, the granary will be light.

MET OFFICE NOTES: = none. BUCHAN NOTES : 9th to 14th cold period.

Full moon this month is known as Flower Moon.

Willow tree up to 12th, thereafter Hawthorn.

General notes and comments.

If you are looking for a good summer, the best May weather you need should be cold and rainy.

May can be/likely to be cold, but nothing strange in this.
 He who doffs his coat on a winter's day will gladly put it on in May.
 A cold May gives full barns and empty churchyards.

Goddess of Spring. Sacred Hawthorn tree blossoms this month.
 Severe gales are very much the exception to the rule, though boisterous breezes are fairly common.

E/NE winds reach their greatest frequency during April and May.
 SE England, London in particular, suffers from more short intense storms than any other part of the country.

April and May are the best time to visit Scotland.
 The later the Blackthorn in bloom after the 1st May, the better the rye and harvest.
 He who shears his sheep before St Mamertus Day (11th) loves his wool more than his sheep.

If rough winds do shake the darling buds of May, and summer's lease hath all too short a stay.

A cold wet May is good for corn and hay, a dry May fortells a wholesome summer.
 Flowers in May good cocks of hay. Water in May - bread all year.

Rain in May makes plenty of hay.
 A cold May and windy, a full barn will find ye.

St Urban (25th) gives the summer.
[this does give an indication, a fair indication - it can however be ambiguous or a little optimistic]

Ne're cast a clout till May be out, button to chin till June be in,
if you change in June you change too soon.
Change in July? You'll catch a cold bye and bye.
Change in August if you must.
Be sure to remember change back in September.

Mist in May, heat in June, puts the harvest right in tune/makes the harvest come right soon.

A leaky May and dry June makes harvest come right soon.

A May flood never did anyone any good.

Who sows his oats in May has little to repay.

A swarm of bees in May is worth a load of hay.

When bees leave their hive then it's good to be alive, when they all go home again then it's surely going to rain.

When the Mulberry tress begins to shoot, the last frost has gone.
[Impeccable reference]

Spring will not settle properly until the cowslips have died down.

When September has been rainy, the following May is generally dry; and when May is dry, September is apt to be wet. [check previous readings in each case]
[the above however is not really reliable - however - If May is well above the average for rain then the same can be said for September being above average for rain too.

AND

If May is drier than average then September is likely to be drier than average too.
ALL THE ABOVE FROM LOCAL READINGS.

Fogs in March - frosts in May.
[this is quite accurate. In London there on average, four foggy mornings in March and an average of four nights of ground frost in May. Check local readings]
Franklins Frost strikes Devon 19th, 20th & 21st May.

To conclude. May is a most uncertain month. A month of variable temperatures and rainfall.

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.

A hot May makes a fat churchyard.
A May wet was never kind yet, a May flood never did good.

Mud in May, grain in August.

Cool & evening dew in May, brings wine and much hay.

The more thunder in May, the less in August and September.

FULL MOON THIS MONTH KNOWN AS FLOWER MOON.

Willow tree up-to 12th. Thereafter Hawthorn from 13th.

MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR EDENBRIDGE (USING 1981-2010 FIGURES)

| | | | | | |
|-----------|--------|-----------|----------|-----------------|-------|
| Mean Max: | 19.3C | Mean Min: | 7.1C | Mean Avg: | 13.2C |
| Rainfall: | 58.9mm | Sunshine: | 197.8hrs | (Day = 6.38hrs) | |

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 | 15.7C | 16.9C |
| 31 st | 18.8C | 19.9C |

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Edenbridge

April 2016

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

01/05/2015
02/05/2015
03/05/2015
04/05/2015
05/05/2015
06/05/2015
07/05/2015
08/05/2015
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24/05/2015
25/05/2015
26/05/2015
27/05/2015
28/05/2015
29/05/2015
30/05/2015
31/05/2015

29th to 16th May Northerly
weather with some
anti-cyclonic periods

9th - 14th
cold
period

21st - 31st Anti-cyclonic period of
fine weather

30/3 - 17/6
spring

30/3 - 17/6
spring