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SEPTEMBER 2018



TREE OF THE MONTH

2/9 to 29/9 is the vine.

Welcome to the September 2018 website entry.

I have to start with two apologies; the first was the cancellation during the exceptionally hot period in July of guided walks, it was for the first part far too hot for clients to walk across open countryside, for me I do such walks every day of the year therefore I am 'weathered' to such heat. The second reason being that this is flint stone area, with the ground tinder dry, and here up to 27<sup>th</sup> July it was 58 consecutive days with no rain too; the possibility of just one flint spark causing an uncontrollable wild-fire was a risk that I could not take and therefore avoidable. Fire, without any backing wind, can travel at 30mph with ease, you cannot outrun it, and death by fire, I have many such deaths too, is horrible. The cancelled walks will be rescheduled to each of you later in the year; I will be contacting you to arrange amicable dates.

The second apology was a failure of the 'contact page' on the website the back end of July into August; the host has recently changed for the site and the change of coding and protocols rendered the contact page unobtainable. After much stress and concern it has been resolved, therefore again apologies. In future to contact me use 'dkingtn8@btinternet.com' as the contact e-mail please should the website contact page not be available.

I accepted an invitation to appear on ITV This morning Show on 24<sup>th</sup> July – and expected a real 'slating' (with much mirth and finger pointing too) for the incorrect June prediction - and in so doing immediately put my hands up to the wrong assessment of the June weather – if I am wrong I always admit but also say why, so great satisfaction from many I was found wanting. There is always a first time!!

Having said that, the same day newspaper headlines were for a continuing 'baking hot summer' for the next six weeks; I was asked about that and promptly killed that notion stone dead and correctly predicted that the 'baking heat' would be over before the weekend – indeed it was. I do not think it will return as so hot either. So I think an honour restored – I trust the methodology, it is tried tested and proven over many years and works – it is just the human input that cocks up.

Stating the 'bleeding obvious,' but at the same re-iterating the continuing problems, farmers and growers are in a very bad place, to put it mildly, to the extent that they have gone to the government to ask for assistance. I have warned of this problem now for many months and as such receive numerous mails from farmers, growers, producers and rural readers highlighting the problems; I too see firsthand in this area exactly such problems, I empathise and sympathise with all those affected. First it was cold, then wet, then excess heat that has destroyed the countryside, and, as result, there will be home grown shortages of all root vegetables, grain products and maybe unless rain falls soon, shortages of fruit too. As a result of such shortages prices will rise both from shortages and the importation of supplies to make up the deficit, therefore an expensive autumn and winter for such products to come.

However it goes even further in that the acute shortage of grass has caused farmers to use winter hay/fodder stocks, plus extensive supplements, to fee their stock, many have had to resort, sadly, to disposing of valued stock as they do not have the resources to support such stock either now or later in the year, for those affected, a true disaster, not as bad as, but somewhat akin to losing your cattle to TB or other heinous diseases. There are just 9000 dairy farmers to supply 62 million UK residents and these diminish at the rate of one a week; this sorry state is that no-one in authority seems to care. How sad.

Thank you to you all for sharing your views and comments; all I can do is to trust the methodology here (apart from the admitted June cock-up), I try to give a fair honest advance prediction, which for the greater part is very trustworthy. The July prediction for most has been very accurate, it is

here in the E/SE quadrant that picks up the warmer airstream from the NE Europe that suffers exceptional dryness and heat – but this is quite normal now – the rest of the UK has been quite faithful to the prediction.

I fear too a very dry autumn and winter too, which does nothing for the water table and future supplies, it is a situation very similar to 1975 that predated the 1976 heat, except that that this year is similar to 1975 and maybe, as predicted earlier in the year, 2019 could be the equivalent of 1976. So, the writing is on the wall loud and clear from nature for all to take special note and prepare. However, 2019 is a different situation; already nature is giving the warnings loud and very clear, so far 2018 has resembled 1975 in many aspects – with a very dry autumn and winter ahead, the omens are not good for 2019 – maybe 2018 will be the precursor to an even hotter (1976 type) summer in 2019?

This June and July weather has been exceptional, by any measure, it was neither predicted nor predictable – and such was my surprise, so predictable that nature gave precious few warnings – and those that were given I misinterpreted.

I have one comment on some of the reports stating that it was a dry spring this year; that is not the experience here; first it was bitterly cold then followed by very wet March, April and May, in fact so far 2018 has had (to the end of July) 131% of the average rainfall. Be warned that 2019 will not be so fortunate and that water will be at a premium too.

*It has been interesting to see, hear and read what 'experts' have been saying about this exceptional hot summer so far. I exclude sensational poor journalism from this conversation too. There has not been too much comment about the 'Global Warming' causes either. It is however sad that some spokespersons from weather bureaux give varying versions from one to the other. I include a précis below of a transcript from the BBC Newsnight programme of 24<sup>th</sup> July.*

*The interviewer Emily Maitlis asked the Met Office Chief Scientist, Prof. Stephen Belcher*

*About the current extreme temperatures and climate change, and she asked if 'this was the new normal?'*

*Also appearing on BBC World Tonight was Prof Brian Hoskins, Chief of the Grantham Institute, Imperial College, and University of Reading who spoke of the links between the current heat wave and climate change.*

*Their collective comments give their perspective on the heat wave and its connections to climate change.*

*"In the UK the hot weather has been with us, on and off since April. Parts of east Anglia and the SE have had virtually no rain in more than 55 days, and we may see the all time highest temperature record of 38.5C fall by the end of the week (It failed*

to break this record). The Arctic Circle has seen temperatures top 30C, and Finland temperatures have hit 33.4C.

Meanwhile in Japan on Monday a record temperature of 41.1C was recorded and temperatures of 40C in central Tokyo for the first time ever and there have been reports of many people being taken sick with heat stroke.

Naturally people are asking whether this is the result of climate change - is this the 'new normal.' So what can we say?

Well, the atmospheric patterns leading to the UK heat wave do occur in natural cycles in the weather, but they have been unusually persistent. The jet stream has weakened and got stuck to the north of the UK, with high pressure settled over the UK and Europe. In the summer such a pattern leads to dry soils, which means that if the sunny weather continues the energy of the sun is not used up in evaporating water and the temperatures will rise even more.

In addition, we've seen a background of global warming due mostly to increased atmospheric greenhouse gases, with global mean temperatures rising more than 1C above pre-industrial levels, and even more so over the northern continents. The natural cycles of weather mean that we shouldn't expect heat waves like this appear every year, but when we do experience them, the warmer world means that there is an increased risk of even higher temperatures.

In 2003 Europe also experienced a pronounced heat wave. Research led at the Met Office showed that greenhouse concentrations in the atmosphere doubled the chance the chance of the temperatures recorded in 2003 compared to what we'd expect in the pre-industrial world. This research also concluded that by the 2040's the temperatures we saw in Europe in 2003 could be fairly normal in summer. We have updated this prediction with more recent data, and found this prediction is still on track; the extreme temperatures we saw in the summer of 2003 can be expected to occur more regularly in Europe by the 2040's.

The temperatures we are currently experiencing may not yet be the 'new normal,' but within a few decades they could be."

I have also similar such views expressed by other esteemed persons in this field, and concur with such comments.

I think this to be an excellent summary of the current situation, and as such, corresponds very well with the recent 'weather cycles,' I noted on this website.

The following article I have taken exactly from The Times newspaper of 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018 by Paul Simons, the esteemed weather correspondent of that newspaper, I found it be interesting and fascinating.

*“If lightning flashes in the sky, how far away is that lightning bolt?”*

*The rule of thumb is to count the seconds before thunder is heard and divide that figure by five — so by that logic a gap of five seconds means that the lightning is a mile away, while a gap of ten seconds means it is two miles away. So does this rule really work or is it just an urban myth?*

*A lightning flash is a discharge of electricity through the air, and thunder is the air rapidly expanding as it becomes intensely hot from the lightning. One very striking thing is that when lightning is really close you see the lightning and hear the thunder almost simultaneously. However, when the lightning is far away you see the flash and it takes much longer before the thunder is heard. That is because light travels at 186,291 miles per second, but the speed that sound travels at is far slower, at just over 700 miles per hour, or 7 miles in 36 seconds. Roughly speaking that is a mile every five seconds, so if you hear thunder five seconds after the lightning, it means that the lightning was a mile away.*

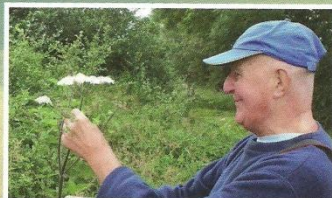
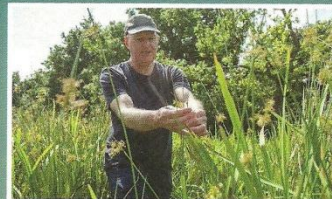
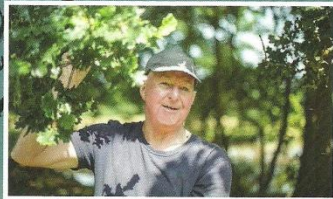
*Thunder can be heard up to 25 miles away. Lightning strikes have been documented to happen as far as 25 miles away from thunderstorms, hence the proverbial “bolt from the blue”, because it looks as though the lightning is coming out of blue sky. This is more than an idle curiosity, because if you can hear thunder you are close enough to be hit by lightning and need to take shelter if possible.*

*The American golfer Lee Trevino was hit by lightning on a clear day with blue skies during a golf championship held in Chicago on June 27, 1975. He was standing by the edge of a lake when lightning shot through his golf club, hurled him into the air and left him badly injured. Lightning had flashed across the lake from a distant thunderstorm that remained out of sight, hidden beyond the horizon.”*

*The Autumn prediction makes note of the relatively warmer and drier period to come, (the winter likewise); I see now that other weather bureaux too are of the same opinion, I trust the methodology and have no reason to doubt it – therefore a really early warning about water in 2019 – water is precious therefore please do not abuse its use, we may need every drop in 2019 we can get..*



# DAVID KING'S WEATHER ALMANAC



**A COMPENDIUM OF KNOWLEDGE**

Welcome to my second book, which continues on from my first book 'Weather without Technology.'

This new book explains what to look for and see, month to month from January to December, in the countryside, and how such observation will improve your knowledge of nature. At the same time you will look and see just how wonderful nature is by providing weather information at least 90 days ahead.

To obtain full value from this book and I do not wish to appear impertinent, or rude or condescending, but whilst everyone looks, very few actually see. By this I mean, everyone walks along a lane, to the left is a hedgerow, underfoot some wild flowers (maybe weeds to you now – but by the end of this book, real flowers that each have their importance) but that is all that is seen, in reality if you look, then you will see different shrubs, trees, bushes, grasses and plants. Each of these to a greater or lesser extent supports a whole cycle of insects, birds, butterflies and in some cases, mammals. By deciphering the trees and bushes you will be able to estimate the age of the hedgerow, whether it is an ancient boundary marker, or a more recent addition to the countryside. There is whole world out there waiting to be discovered, all it needs is for the opening of eyes and seeing what is there, this book is the guide to such treasures.

This by virtue of the subject, this cannot be anything else but an excellent introduction to the countryside; written in the same original style in terms of one syllable, easy to understand, and described by a person who knows his subject with an acute sense of observation and knowledge of the subject.

177 pages, no illustrations, at £12.99 post free (in the UK), obtainable from me, via the PayPal facility above, I will personally endorse each copy. Also obtainable from Amazon and all leading booksellers too.

I am no William Shakespeare, but I do know my subject, enjoy the read.

## SEPTEMBER 2018

NEW MOON = 9th @ 1901hrs = Fair  
1st QUARTER MOON = 17th @ 0014hrs = Fair  
FULL MOON 25th @ 0352hrs = Cold & rain showers  
LAST QUARTER MOON 3rd @ 0337hrs = Cold & Rain.

DoP = 29th St Michael (Michaelmass) + Quarter Day

Autumnal Equinox 23rd @ 0254hrs.

Highest spring tides 9th to 13th (**MASSIVE ON 11th**) .

APOGEE 20<sup>th</sup> @ 0155hrs: PERIGEE 8<sup>th</sup> @ 02231hrs.

MET OFFICE NOTES: 1st to 17th Quiet period.                      BUCHAN NOTES : none.

1st    St Giles            Fair on the first - fair for the month. First three days of the month rule the weather for October, November and December.

5th    Maybe this day is a better unofficial indicator than 24th August of dryer weather.

8th                      Feast of the Nativity As today so for the next 4 weeks.  
Perigee @ 0223hrs

14th   Holy Cross Day        Passion flower blooms about this time.

15th   Said to be fine day 6/7 years.

16<sup>th</sup>   Lunar eclipse.

19th   A storm from the south indicates a mild winter may be expected.

20th - 22nd   Barley set winds, 2/3 days of strong winds.

20th   Apogee @ 0155 hrs

21st   St Mathew    Brings the cold rain and dew, also 'shuts up the bees.'

23rd Autumn Equinox @ 0254hrs 2202hrs = expect gales. September blow soft until fruits in loft. If weather warm today, the season should be fine, bright and clear this day, brings good wine in the next year. The day darkness overtakes  
light



29th St Michael (Michaelmass). DoP. Quarter day. If it coincides with full moon will be a reliable guide for the next 45 days. An important quarter day for winds, invariably giving the wind direction for the next three months (to 21st December). Michaelmass daisy flowers So many days the old moon is - so many floods after.

The full moon this month is called the harvest moon.

Tree of the month 2nd to 29th is the vine, thereafter the Ivy.

### General Notes and Comments

The month of the patroness of Fruit trees and fruit - the Goddess Pomona. The 'wood month' when wood was gathered to lay-in for winter. The month of 'shedding' of leaves, and fruit etc.

The month of weather extremes.

St Michaels Day -Quarter Day - Day of Prediction. If it coincides with full moon will be reliable guide for the next 45 days.

[A fairly dependable indication as to the wind direction. Beware however for this occurs around the period of Equinoxes gales and may give a false reading locally. If gales coincide with the Quarter Day wait for 2 days for the wind to settle after the gales have subsided and then get direction.]

September is however a most unpredictable month and one should not be quick to jump to conclusions, as above.

If St Michael brings many acorns, Christmas will cover the fields in snow.

Foxgloves and Hollyhocks shed their leaves at the end of summer.

As in September, so next March - and is often correct.

Normally less rain than August. Average 80mm/3.5ins.

If birds migrate early, indicates an early winter. If swallows fly off with summer, geese arrive with winter.

If you crack open an Oak-apple on Michaelmass Day it reveals one of seven conditions. Each pattern predicts a different weather pattern for the year.

These prophecies are accurate 9/10 years:- 1. If spiders - there follows a naughty year. 2. If flies - A meetly good year. 3. If empty - a great dearth follows. 4. If lean - a hot dry summer. 5. If moist - a moist summer. 6. If kernel fair and clear - summer shall be fair and corn good too. 7. If many and ripen early - an early winter, and very much snow shall be before Christmas and that it shall be cold.

Strong winds start this month and reach their peak on the 21st - about the time of the Equinox. These are called barleyset winds (barley harvest time).

There are generally three consecutive windy days about the middle of the month.  
Windy barley harvest winds. Barleyset winds.

15th - Said to be fine 6/7 years. In fact, for any annual fixture dependant upon fine weather it would be difficult to choose a better date than the 15th.

20th, 21st & 22nd - These three days rule the weather for October, November and December.

St Mathew (21st) brings the cold rain and dew, he also 'shut-up' the bees.

When a cold spell occurs in September and passes off without a frost, a frost will not occur until the same time in October.

Thunder in September indicates a good crop of fruit and grain for next year.

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] The above 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 these from local personal figures.

If acorns abound in September, snow will be deep in December. [true]

If the storms in September clear off warm, all the storms the following winter will be warm.

A fine Michaelmass sets all in tune. (fine weather until Martinmass (11th November)).

On Michaelmass the devil puts his foot on blackberries.

If it does not rain on St Michael and Gallus (16th October), the following spring will be dry and propitious. (good omen).

When summer meets winter it is a good augury for the coming spring.

September dries up the ditches or breaks down bridges.

If bunches of nuts do hang on branches after leaf-fall, it betokened a frosty winter with much snow. (true)

During the second half of September, if a hard winter is due, the Robin will develop territory close to the house.

London September average rainfall 49mms (1.3ins).

Both droughts and floods are more likely to occur in September than August.

Gallas is 16/10.

A heavy apple crop points to a fine August and September.

The month to celebrate the fruit of the wine.

#### THE FULL MOON THIS MONTH IS CALLED HARVEST MOON

Tree of the month from 2nd to 29th is Vine. Thereafter the Ivy.

#### MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR EDENBRIDGE (USING 1981-2010 FIGURES)

Mean Max: 20.8C      Mean Min: 9.2C      Mean Avg: 15C  
Rainfall: 64.6mm      Sunshine: 185.8hrs

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 <sup>st</sup> | 20.37C | 20.76C |
| 30th            | 16.02C | 16.71C |

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

September 01  
September 02  
September 03  
September 04  
September 05  
September 06  
September 07  
September 08  
September 09  
September 10  
September 11  
September 12  
September 13  
September 14  
September 15  
September 16  
September 17  
September 18  
September 19  
September 20  
September 21  
September 22  
September 23  
September 24  
September 25  
September 26  
September 27  
September 28  
September 29  
September 30

6th - 19th dry, especially east  
& central England

1st - 17th  
anti-cyclonic

17th-24th stormy

5th - 30th  
old wives summer  
peak days 7th - 10th  
peak day  
peak day  
peak day  
peak days 16th - 21st  
peak day  
peak day  
peak day  
peak day

gales liable  
around this date  
cyclonic quite common

peak day

1st - 17th  
quiet  
period

18/6 - 9/9  
high  
summer

10/9 - 19/11  
autumn

10/9 - 19/11  
autumn



| Sep-18     |     |         |           |     |                |                 |                   |                    |   |        |            |               |
|------------|-----|---------|-----------|-----|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|---|--------|------------|---------------|
| Date       | Day | Moon    | Weather   | DoP | Saint/Holy Day | Other Day       | Apogee<br>Perigee | Equinox<br>Eclipse | Met Office  | Buchan | Super-moon | Highest tides |
| 01/09/2018 | S   |         |           |     |                | St Giles        |                   |                    | Quiet period<br>1st to 17th<br>]<br>]<br>]<br>]<br>]<br>]<br>]<br>]<br>]<br>]<br>]<br>]<br>]<br>]<br>]<br>] | NONE   |            |               |
| 02/09/2018 | S   |         |           |     |                |                 |                   |                    |   |        |            |               |
| 03/09/2018 | M   | LQ      | Cold rain |     |                |                 |                   |                    |   |        |            |               |
| 04/09/2018 | T   | 0337hrs |           |     |                |                 |                   |                    |   |        |            |               |
| 05/09/2018 | W   |         |           |     |                |                 |                   |                    |   |        |            |               |
| 06/09/2018 | T   |         |           |     |                |                 |                   |                    |   |        |            |               |
| 07/09/2018 | F   |         |           |     |                |                 |                   |                    |   |        |            |               |
| 08/09/2018 | S   |         |           |     | Feast of the   | perigee         |                   |                    |   |        |            |               |
| 09/09/2018 | S   | NEW     | Fair      |     | nativity       | 0223 hrs        |                   | highest            |   |        |            |               |
| 10/09/2018 | M   | 1901hrs |           |     |                |                 |                   | 9th                |   |        |            |               |
| 11/09/2018 | T   |         |           |     |                | MASSIVE TIDE    |                   | to                 |   |        |            |               |
| 12/09/2018 | W   |         |           |     |                |                 |                   | 13th               |   |        |            |               |
| 13/09/2018 | T   |         |           |     |                |                 |                   | ]                  |   |        |            |               |
| 14/09/2018 | F   |         |           |     | Holy Cross     |                 |                   |                    |   |        |            |               |
| 15/09/2018 | S   |         |           |     |                |                 |                   |                    |   |        |            |               |
| 16/09/2018 | S   |         |           |     |                |                 |                   |                    |   |        |            |               |
| 17/09/2018 | M   | 1stQ    | Fair      |     |                |                 |                   |                    |   |        |            |               |
| 18/09/2018 | T   | 0014hrs |           |     |                |                 |                   |                    |   |        |            |               |
| 19/09/2018 | W   |         |           |     |                |                 |                   |                    |   |        |            |               |
| 20/09/2018 | T   |         |           |     |                | barley set wind | Apogee            |                    |   |        |            |               |
| 21/09/2018 | F   |         |           |     | St Mathew      | 20 th -         | 0155hrs           |                    |   |        |            |               |
| 22/09/2018 | S   |         |           |     |                | 22nd            |                   |                    |   |        |            |               |
| 23/09/2018 | S   |         |           |     |                |                 | Autumn            |                    |   |        |            |               |
| 24/09/2018 | M   |         |           |     |                |                 | Equinox           |                    |   |        |            |               |
| 25/09/2018 | T   | FULL    | cold &    |     |                |                 | 0254hrs           |                    |   |        |            |               |
| 26/09/2018 | W   | 0352hrs | rain      |     |                |                 |                   |                    |   |        |            |               |
| 27/09/2018 | T   |         | showers   |     |                |                 |                   |                    |   |        |            |               |
| 28/09/2018 | F   |         |           |     |                |                 |                   |                    |   |        |            |               |
| 29/09/2018 | S   |         |           | YES | Michaelmass    | Quarter day     |                   |                    |   |        |            |               |
| 30/09/2018 | S   |         |           |     |                |                 |                   |                    |   |        |            |               |