

ADVANCED PREDICTIONS WINTER 2016/7, DECEMBER TO FEBRUARY.

Welcome to the Winter 2016/17, December 2016 to February 2017 inclusive advance predictions website.

However, before that, some comments on the summer and autumn predictions; the summer here in the SE, but not necessarily across the rest of the UK gave two full drought periods (a period of 15 days consecutive with rainfall less than 0.25mm), one in the last two weeks of July and the second in August. July was exactly as predicted, August however carried a bonus for the SE in that I expected no rain and continuing hot weather certainly up to the 12th August, but hoped that it would extend into the Buchan Period at that time to maybe the 17th August.

Fortunately it carried well up to the 17th and at that stage a most unusual weather pattern developed, the wind, for the rest of the UK blowing from the SW and at times carrying copious rainfall too, changed here into the SE first to blowing from the eastern segment and then it veered to the E and then to the N, thereby effectively 'blocking' progress of the SW winds affecting the rest of the UK. These E/NE winds also were dry winds and as such gave so much dry weather. This unusual weather wind pattern I have never seen in the last 30 years I have been recording weather here. This dry hot sunny weather and less than average rainfall produced some problems for those whose living rests on the soil, opened up some massive cracks in the soil and stunted growth of season fruits and trees.

From this unusual August weather it then became obvious why, when I was preparing the methodology, September appeared to be much damper than normal, it was nature compensating for the dryness of the previous two months - good theory, but, alas not quite in practice. The middle of September produced the hottest September day since 1911 with a temperature of 34.4C recorded at Gravesend in Kent. Even in Edenbridge the temperature was 32.3C on the instruments here, so indeed, truly very hot. What was even more remarkable is that the 'blocking' pattern remained and September winds still from the NE segment stayed most of the month, and as a result precious little rain in this part SE. Though surprisingly the provisional monthly figures here for September show it less sunny than average and much dryer too – but that average temperatures were nearly 3C above average; a distinct lack of water and sunshine despite record breaking temperatures.

However some severe thunderstorms occurred elsewhere across this region especially in London and the northern suburbs; my old adage of rain travelling east along the M4 and on reaching the M25 turning left (north) once again held true. Parts of the NW also suffered severe rain falls as did parts of Yorkshire.

I have noticed in recent years that a dividing line has developed from north Wales east to Birmingham and east to Norwich, north of this line, colder and definitely wetter, south of the line warmer and less wet.

So, whilst the prediction for more rain than average in September held true for most of the UK, here in the SE, the persistent N/NE winds kept the rain away.

In winter, for the east coast regions, if it going to be cold, then I look east to Siberia and the Urals, since it is from those regions that the cold will develop; if it is to be cold here, the cold air being carried across Europe on E/NE winds will commence from those regions.

Already this year I have readers from Yorkshire telling me that their animals are already growing winter coats - much earlier than usual; readers from Somerset telling me that the arctic starlings have already arrived on the Somerset levels, all before mid September. Here locally the winter flocks of ducks are arriving with a few geese too, all again much earlier than normal. The robin in the back garden staked its territory very early, there is an abundance of white dead nettles (where the tortoiseshell butterfly lays its eggs for the winter - so signs of a good spring 2017 and plenty of tortoiseshell butterflies), the skins of the English onion (though in short supply this year and smaller) have thick skins, and finally the oaks are full of acorns. All these signs are near 'dead cert' indicators of an early long hard cold winter.

However, when you combine these to the earliest ever and heaviest snowfalls and cold in both Siberia and the Urals for many years, the already noticeable E/NE winds, then certain obvious facts start to merge. I do the basic skeleton of the methodology always a full year (12 months) ahead - therefore I have the basics for all 2017 prepared already- and it is perfectly feasible to do such a plan so far ahead too - once the as it were 'main frame' is done then all the smaller data/details gets filled in as they occur (one day telleth another). Back to the plot - when I drew up the 2016 plans I noticed the unusually wet September; the possibility of early snow or cold rain at the start of October but the main characteristic was the cold dry frosty weather in November and December, which then continued into January and February 2017. Therefore the plan was there for an early long cold winter a year ago!

The fascination of the methodology here - I never claim it is perfect or foolproof - but that I endeavour to keep simple and above all accurate, if it goes wrong - sometimes but not often - then it is invariably because I have omitted, misread or misinterpreted what nature has indicated; human error, since nature is never wrong!

Therefore with a 'framework' set up a full year ahead then it is interesting to see just how nature and circumstances 'fall in/conspire' whatever you wish to name it but whatever, how the big jigsaw of the methodology here builds the final picture.

It now becomes quite clear that the 'framework' set up 12 months ago with an early long hard cold winter is fulfilling itself. No smoke or mirrors, no adjustments to fit the framework, no alterations or false entries - everything up front and visible for all to make their judgement.

The advance prediction is being prepared late September early October in order that those with agricultural interests and needs may be given sufficient warning of what lies ahead.

The shepherds in the NW and NE inundated last year with water, maybe well have a different problem this year of snow - lots of it and deep too.

In this part of the SE the ground is so dry that grass is at a premium and already in September, bales of feed are having to be used due this shortage of grass – not a good omen at all; and yet I hear in some parts of the SW a third and in some cases a fourth silage cut has been made.

The simple reason for this is that a lot of moist air will arrive off the Atlantic travelling north and east - hence all your rain last autumn and winter - however there is a lot of cold air arriving from the east (as explained above), where the two air-masses meet then the snow falls, I think more than usual too. I am well aware of the micro-climates of the NW and NE plus too the many physical characteristics of the geography of the region - but I am still on a massive learning curve on your weather and allied problems - as many who hear the Paul Hudson Radio Show will confirm, I am getting better at it - but I endeavour to get the major weather hazards spot on and inform you well in advance. I just try to communicate what the tried tested and proven methodology here tells me - if it is not correct for your particular neck of the woods, then I apologise, but I ain't perfect, for the greater part I supply accurate reliable predictions - what you must not forget is that I am working a minimum of 90 days and some times 180 days ahead, therefore if I am maybe a couple of days out with the dates, that is far as I am concerned is a 'tolerable adjustment.'

OK, back to the past, Bill Foggett, the Thirsk weather sage who passed in 2004; I do not wish or claim to be his aim or usurp him; he had masses of family records and used a different methodology, he too, like me, 'cocked up' a couple of time, but we are human, show me a perfect human and I will show you a hen with teeth!

We both however, and a few others too, had the 14/15 year weather cycle theory. Every 14/15 years or so we get a really long hard winter. In recent years such winters have been absent. Go back to the summer of 1947 and add 15 you get that winter of 62/63 that we all remember; 1976 and that wonderful summer add 14 and we had the winter of 1991. Now recall the summer of 2002 and or 2003 and the heat, add 14 years = 2016.....So, now this will set debates going for sure, will this winter be akin to those severe winters above?

I have already the 2017 summer in front of me and if you are off holidaying in the UK in 2017 - then the first two weeks in June will be the best weeks of summer 2017. I am as sure of that as I was that the last two weeks of July into August this year would be summer 2016. Summer 2017 will not be as sunny or warm as 2016 (even though some parts were cold and wet).

I fully appreciate that this prediction for the winter is not in line with many other 'expert' forecasters and prophets (the word is deliberate too). The methodology here is tried, tested and proven, it is not the result of any guesswork or computer assessment, nature is never wrong. You can, as they say, 'suck it and see,' but I have full confidence in the system here, everyone is entitled to their view and opinion.

I end this introduction with the distinct possibility that this coming winter will not only be early, long, hard and cold (November to at least the start of March) but some parts of the UK - and I include the capital London in this too - may well also have a lot of snow from January onwards (those London buildings carry a lot of heat, that combined with really cold air cold well fall as snow), but to the farmers and those that work outside, north of the mid Wales - Birmingham - Norwich line, you may well have a winter to remember. I could be wrong, but I could also be right, in the hope that the methodology here is as good as it tells me, I give the warning.

Before I close, to those of you that write to me, I always reply, I always enjoy your advice, suggests, hints and comments; I try to be honest with requests for weddings and celebrations, I always do my best. It is a good exchange of views and please keep them coming.

The exposure on ITV a two edged sword, but it stimulated interest and was good enough for ITV to extend the visits. The BBC Radio Leeds show is now well established and works as a well oiled machine - despite being presented by a soft southerner with a soft London accent - part of the attraction maybe - a foreigner, ha ha. I also pop up in national newspapers magazines and many short TV and radio clips from time to time. I am not, as described on one website 'an eccentric,' I am pretty good at what I do, I please more than I annoy!

I am asked why I have not written a book. Lots of reasons, but if you upset the Meteorological establishment (or have contrary non-scientific views) then there is a downside - hence no publisher. Sod's law operates or as they say 'shit happens.'

Therefore it gives me great pleasure to tell you that I have produced a script (200 pages) and have signed a contract with a publisher for a book "Weather without Technology." Who would have thought of such a title? Maybe an eccentric?

The book will explain all the methodology, in words of one syllable, from a blank piece of paper or spreadsheet, how to find, see, notice, collect, research, then apply all the above and for yourself - over a year - produce a local weather prediction. Not too many pictures, a lot of easy explanations but I hope to show everyone just how easy it is to actually sit down, and with some application actually work out your local weather to a high degree of accuracy. There are a few simple rules, but if you get stuck, then just ask and I will always assist.

Hopefully publication will be early spring but I will inform over the website.

One of the foremost respected scientist/meteorologists in the world has willingly agreed to write an introduction and a further two Professors, experts in Meteorology, have also agreed to contribute to such an introduction. I truly thank all three of you for your backing encouragement and confidence in my abilities. I also thank my publisher for being so brave too and getting such a massive project up and running.

The book will not be expensive I can assure you, and I am not after a profit; I would like to educate, inform, entertain and get all every reader to go out, to look and actually see what

is out there, what nature does, how it does it and then what it tells us, always six months ahead too.

I hope the hard winter of 1991 is not repeated - if it is - then you have been warned well in advance.

The predominant wind direction until 21st December will be E/NE** therefore raw bitter cold, and from the 21st December to 21st March – the same. Therefore all the methodology indicating an early long hard cold winter has been confirmed well in advance.

** = this is wind direction for the for the east coast from Aberdeen to Dover and inland for that coastal belt and covering the whole of the Great Yarmouth to Southampton region on the website map. However I feel that everything west of that line will have much damper winds and weather mainly from the west – such warmer air when it collides with the cold air from the east will of course, if cold enough, fall as snow. Therefore local conditions may well be at some variance – but the main framework of the winter stays in place.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and whatever you aspire to for the coming year of 2017.

DECEMBER 2016

NEW MOON = 29th @ 0654hrs = Stormy

1st QUARTER MOON = 7th @ 0930hrs = Cold rain.

FULL MOON = 14th @ 0006hrs = Frost.

LAST QUARTER MOON 21st @ 0156hrs = Frost.

DoP = 21st St Thomas's

Solstice 21st @ 1044hrs

Highest spring tides 13th to 18th

APOGEE 25th @ 0556hrs: PERIGEE 12th @ 2328hrs

NOTES: MET OFFICE Stormy carried forward from 24th November to 14th.

Quiet period 15th to 21st Stormy 25th to 31st.

BUCHAN NOTES: 3rd to 14th warm period.

The full moon this month is called the Hunting/Coldmoon.

The tree of the month up to 22nd is the Elder, there is no tree on 23rd, thereafter the Birch.

DANGER WARNING: FULL MOON + PERIGEE + HIGHEST SPRING TIDES

13th to 18th. EXPECT SEVERE WEATHER PROBLEMS.

As will be instantly seen a cold frosty month, but on the upside, a quiet run up to Christmas, coinciding with the Met Office quiet period 15th to the 21st. This will give quiet calm, quiet but cold sunny days up to and including Christmas Day - so a dry sunny Christmas Day.

As such this is highly significant for that will ensure a good fruit and grain harvest, no May frosts and reasonable weather for fruit and grain harvests. The pea harvest will also be very good in 2017 too.

Boxing Day will revert to pattern with storms.

Monthly summary = Damp start to month, but then dry cold frosty overnight but calm, sunny cold days up to Boxing Day, the stormy to end the month. I do not think a lot of snow before Christmas.

JANUARY 2017

NEW MOON 28th @ 0819hrs = Frost

1st QUARTER MOON = 5th @ 1947hrs = Fair & frosty

FULL MOON 12th @ 1135hrs = Cold & high winds

LAST QUARTER MOON 19th @ 2214hrs = Fair & frosty.

DoP = 25th St Paul.

HIGHEST SPRING TIDES 13th to 15th

Apogee 22nd @ 0115hrs. Perigee 10th @ 0608hrs

MET OFFICE NOTES: 5th to 17th Stormy. 18th to 24th Quiet. 25th to 31st Stormy again.

BUCHAN NOTES: NONE.

Tree of the month is the Birch up to the 16th, thereafter the Rowan.

A cold frosty stormy start to the month (continuing from the end of December storms) then fair and frosty, but cold at night, sunny days but getting colder as the cold begins to bite each day, a lot of frost, maybe some really low night-time temperatures too. The only 'break' is a stormy second week, but frost will be the main feature. If in the regular snow hollows, it is going to now, then the 12th will be the start date - and bear in mind that the ground will be dry and frozen, so any snow will lay - and with winds will also drift.

SUMMARY = A cold frosty month that starts cold and gets colder by the day, but daytime should be dry very cold and sunny, but some severe night frosts too. If any snow near the fells and higher ground then the 12th could be the start, the ground will cold and frozen so snow will lie - and if windy, drift. So maybe some husbandry problems. If it does snow the old saying that it takes another snowfall to clear it is very true

FEBRUARY 2017

NEW MOON = 26th @ 1500hrs = Fair & mild.

1st QUARTER MOON = 4th @ 0418hrs = Rain.

FULL MOON 11th @ 0034hrs = Frosty

LAST QUARTER MOON 18th @ 1933hrs = Fair & frosty.

10th Penumbral Lunar eclipse

26th Annular Solar eclipse

DoP = 2nd = Candlemass

Highest Spring Tides 11th to 13th AND 26th to 28th. **MASSIVE HIGH TIDE 28th**

Perigee 6th @ 1400hrs; Apogee 18th @ 2115hrs

MET OFFICE NOTES: 24th to 28th stormy.

BUCHAN NOTES: 7th to 14th cold period.

The full moon this month is known as the Snow moon.

Rowan is tree of the month up to the 17th, thereafter the Ash.

The immediate problems I see here is the rain on the 4th - this may well fall as snow on higher ground - and it will lay too. Therefore problems ahead. This snow will not go either since the next two moons are both cold frosty, therefore what snow as lies will freeze. It will remain cold. The hope is that the last moon of the month will induce some warmer weather and ease the freezing conditions.

I will go ahead to March with some much better news - the first moon in March is a stormy moon with winds, so any snow left may again drift. The good news is that the rest of the moons in March are all fair and milder moons, with good fortune the snow and frost will slowly go and spring will appear. I think for a change too that the wind direction on the 21st March could well be SW giving us a much milder spring than the last three years - which of course opens the way for some summer weather - as noted earlier - in early June.

SUMMARY - Maybe a problem with drifting snow the first week and still cold, after that a gradual diminution of the cold weather (and winter) giving way to dry sunny calm warmer weather leading into a reasonable spring. Quite possibly the warmest spring for the last three years too – which will lead nicely into my prediction of a beautiful first two weeks of June 2017.