

## Methodology

### THE CHALLENGE

The challenge is to produce an advance predictive weather indicator of what the weather is likely to be some 6 months ahead, or in country parlance, two seasons at 90% accuracy.

Our forefathers had no technology and they managed to survive, so why cannot I try to achieve what they achieved?

Where do I start; where do I go to find the data; how do I collate the data; how reliable is the data I collect: how do I interpret the data and finally in what form do I display this information?

### THE METHODOLOGY – GETTING TO GRIPS WITH THE SUBJECT

I started with some real basics over a period of some 8 years; with my wife I visited every weekly market in the counties of Kent, East Sussex and adjacent Surrey, where I sought out the stereo-typed all ‘country-lad’ aged 70 plus, old hat, stick of some description, weather beaten and sun tanned, with obvious country knowledge.



Using my knowledge gained earlier in the police of how to talk to anyone and with the ability to take notes and a good memory, I approached each interviewee and offered a free pint, in return for about an hour's chat on what he tell me about country lore, and weather. At the conclusion his efforts were rewarded with a further pint and a pie or sandwich. I also visited the County shows and other such meets to add to my knowledge. I must have interviewed some 1000 such interviewees and from these interviews formed the basis of the knowledge I now have.

I then extended the research to County record offices, libraries, Cathedral archives, National Archives, diocesan and parochial records and any such premises where such data could be found.

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Finally I visited old book shops, book fairs, boot sales to find old books with the information I sought.

So with literally reams of long-hand written notes, this being before the age of the computer, I sat down to try to catalogue what I had. At this stage technology in the form of computers and Windows 3-1 (Bill Gates heard my cry) arrived on the scene and was my salvation. I was able to build databases, spread sheets and word documents without restriction.

**SOLVING THE DISPLAY OF THE DATA**

With all the data now safely collated I now had to work out how to display such data in a ready readable interesting form, and decided in two separate, but complimentary formats.

The first would be a spreadsheet format, one page for each month, using columns for each subject and at the end, what started as jig-saw of numerous un-related pieces of information and data, became at the end, an easily read comprehensive detail of the month with the basic information of the month displayed.

The second would be in a word document portrait format starting with the moon phases dates times and indicative weather also for a month at a time. Then any Days of Prediction, Quarter days, Super- moons and any Lunar or Solar events plus equinoxes. As the page filled the next set of entries would be any dates of note with the date of such an event and its relevance to the month.

Finally on this format would be saws/sayings or data that came from the earlier interviews and researched, pertinent to that month and any events in that month that affected dates at a later time of the year.

During the research I also discovered Quarter Days, Days of Prediction, Saints days, Holy days, Buchan cold and warm periods, Met Office stormy and quiet periods, other days not being Saints days but important days nonetheless.

I also discovered how important the phases of the moon are to this earth and our weather, and that when the moon is nearest the earth it called a perigee; when furthest from the earth it is called an apogee. I discovered, that each by chance or design –since the argument still rages – when a full moon and a perigee are within 24 hours of each, the preponderance for major natural disaster (earthquake, volcanic eruption, tsunami, severe flooding etc) increases 100%. There is also the fact that natural accidents (ship collisions, air crashes et al) are also raised by the same percentage. For me this is important data, if only for the danger warnings that such data affords.

As an example of this phenomenon, the very recent Jubilee river Thames procession occurred the same day as a perigee, the same day as a full moon and on a flood tide. Furthermore, after the recent rains the river Thames was running higher, but more importantly, there was an easterly wind from the North Sea blowing directly into the mouth of the river Thames One thousand boats on choppy water with a flood tide and an easterly wind, a true recipe for disaster. There was fortunately an ameliorating procedure that was put in place. The Thames barrier was raised and the water was calmed; coincidence or not?

In the mid 1800's here was a Scottish meteorologist named Alexander Buchan, who using Edinburgh as his base, concluded that over the year there were certain periods that were colder

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or warmer than the norm for that time of the year. These he called Buchan warm and cool periods, and whilst based on Edinburgh, I find them applicable to here in the SE and quite accurate. An example is that 29th June to 4th July is a Buchan cold period, which is why it invariably rains at Wimbledon during the tennis.

I then found the most illuminating books by Barry & Perry, Chandler & Gregory and HH Lamb - all of which produce near identical results as I, concerning the important weather patterns in the year, which tends to corroborate my methodology ([See Literature List](#)).

There are also Met Office quiet and stormy periods, dates when it is proven to be either stormier or quieter than other such times. These also, with Buchan occupy a column on the spreadsheet, and a notation on the word format.

## EXPANDING SOME OF THE PREVIOUS TERMS

(This is brief explanation of such terms and at the end I have provided some bibliography to enable those interested to explore fuller these terms)

**Moon Phases:** there are four such pauses in each moon cycle, and I place the phase, day and time on the page. During my research I discovered a chart that divided the hours of the day into two hour segments commencing at midnight through the whole 24 hours, and this had winter and summer entries. Beside each 2 hour segment was a weather state, and the commencement time of the moon phase determines the segment.

I further decided to determine winter as from October 1st to March , the rest of the year being summer. The operation of BST initially caused problems, for I had two entries, one GMT and then other BST; over the years have learned to aggregate these with considerable success. The moon times in former times were well known in every village, today the Internet gives you everything.

**Quarter Days:** of which there are four, 21st March (St Benedict), 24th June (St John), 29th September (Michaelmass) and 21st December (St Thomas). The knowledgeable will have noticed that two of these are equinoxes, one the longest day of the year and the other the shortest day of the year. Each also has a Saint attached to that day. This are most important days, for where the wind blows on this day determines the predominant direction of the wind until the next such Quarter day. An easy example was that the 21st March 2012 the wind hammered in from the east, and from that I was able to say that without any contradiction that the spring of 2012 right through to June 24th would be very cold – and it was.

**Days of Prediction:** of which there are 13, and are from former days and all as a result, have Christian Saint's names, the weather on each such day indicates what the weather will be until the next such day, or in some cases gives a warning. Everyone knows that if it rains on St Swithun's day (July 15th) it will rain for 40 days thereafter. This is a day of prediction — though the 40 day promise is better trimmed to 20 days as more reliable. You will find that the predominance of Christian Saints and Holy Days in this methodology is from the fact that in former times everyone went to church and the most learned person in any community was the priest. I accept with no qualms this data and have found nothing else to contradict it.

**Supermoons:** There are some full moons that are in fact nearer the earth at full moon than others and therefore appear larger and brighter. Lunar or solar events: this column gives dates

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and times and the particular lunar or solar event on that date, be it an eclipse of the sun or a partial eclipse of the moon etc.

**Saint's Days:** these are numerous throughout the year and can be found in the bibliography above, some have a distinct bearing on the weather, others give advance indicators of events to come later.

**Holy Days:** such as Easter, Corpus Christi, Good Friday (which is also a day of prediction), Pentecost, Pastor Sunday, Low Sunday and others all have some weather information pertinent to my methodology.

**Other Days:** there are some days not necessarily Holy Days or Saint's Days per se, that also have an important weather connotation and are essential to note. The easiest is St Martin – 11th November, where the wind blows this day will be the predominant wind direction until at least 2nd February (Candlemass), when it will come into force, but it is not a quarter day (for the wind) it is one of the peculiarities of the methodology that it does work. An example; 11th November 2011 the wind blew strongly from the east, but the predominant wind from the quarter day on September 29th was SW. The following quarter day on 21st December also produced a SW wind, which gave us the very mild weather over Christmas into January 2012. However on 1st February the easterly wind took over and the temperature fell to -10°C, this easterly wind continued until 21st March the next quarter day when the wind remained easterly, hence the cold spring.

**Apogee and Perigee** dates and times also have their own columns and entries on each format.

For those that wish to explore these days further may I suggest Natural Weather Wisdom by Uncle Offa (ISBN 1 85421 151X0 and Weather Lore by Richard Inwards (ISBN 0 946014 77 9)

## **WHAT IS OMITTED OR EXCLUDED FROM THE DATA?**

Having started to explain what goes into monthly prediction, I must re-iterate that I do not use any modern technology. The aim is to create a prediction using what was available to our forefathers.

So modern meteorological language and theory is not included, which is not to say that some or all of the following were not in existence when our forefathers did their predictions, it is that I can find no instances at all of any mention of anything below in all my research; and the simple reason for that is that such things were not yet discovered.

The following therefore, whilst everyday language for weather forecasters, presenters and journalists and those in meteorological world, they do not feature in any way shape or form in my predictions; they just do not exist in my methodology. OK, so I may penalise myself and therefore, without this modern knowledge, not be able to produce such accurate predictions, but I am not a Luddite and therefore I accept these omissions as part of the restrictions on the methodology; but regardless the predictions, even with this lack of data, maintain to be extremely accurate.

The list is not exhaustive but the main exclusions are as follows: Jet streams; Blocking patterns; La Lina; El Nino; North Atlantic Oscillation and stratospheric connection; Pacific Oscillation:

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Atlantic Sub-Polar currents; Gulf Stream: Volcano effects; Greenhouse gases; Ozone layer; Solar variability Climate change; Global warming and finally the Lorentz Chaos theory.

I hear the question Why? A few years I did another project to discover why the part of Edenbridge where I live is named Spitals cross. After much research (running parallel to this weather research at times) I found the answer, but also some most interesting weather detail emerged too; and everyone now talks of global warming, the causes and effects etc; but this climate change is nothing new.

I commenced the research into Spitals cross in the medieval period 1110 AD when the original name of Edenbridge first appears, and found that at that time there was a Mediterranean climate in this region, grapes maize and other such central European crops were grown; but also this climate and the influence of the Crusades meant that Leprosy was rife too. A Spital was a leper hospital, normally outside the main town, down wind, and was an isolation unit comprising of about six or so buildings with its own running fresh water source. (Nearly all the places in the UK with the word Spital in the title were such leper hospitals. Eg Spitalfields in London, the Spitals interchange in Lincolnshire, and also of interest nearly all on the main Roman routes).

In the early 1300's the climate started to change and in one year in the 1340's there were nine months of frost here in Edenbridge. Move on the 1580's and the Reformation and the climate were again hot with drought conditions. Into the 1700's and it was again so cold that all the rivers froze solid, including the Thames.

So what is there so different about the current variation in climate? A personal theory is that it may well be cyclical; therefore from past evidence it may well be the start of a climate change period, but that does interfere with my predictions.

**AN EXAMPLE OF THE FULL MONTHLY DETAIL**

In order to try to indicate how a monthly prediction/forecast looks when completed I have attached the complete data for the month of January 2012.

The next three entries are pages for January 2012 in the portrait format.

You will see how some entries interact with future dates and future weather.

It gives an indication of what goes into the production of just one month.

Note too how the Met Office stormy periods dovetail perfectly with the stormy moons.

From the data that occurs during the month a separate log is kept for each future month and the data noted. To state, for example, that February 2012 and Spring 2012 would be very cold, I needed four separate unconnected reliable facts, that I could check and verify (these all coming from 2011 data), when the four facts all agreed then I make the pronouncement.

I adopt a ruling, a set of parameters, that I must have four separate unconnected pieces of data, the checked and verified for each affirmative entry. There are some exceptions to this rule when there are three really significant pieces of data. Anything less than three is excluded.

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I must always follow the trail that the data produces, however 'off the wall' it may appear, for as soon as you deviate, the methodology is useless and worthless. So, to state in October 2011 that June 2012 would damp (wet) was not an act of faith, it was based on solid fact that I checked and verified.

Similarly to state that Christmas 2012 would be devoid of snow, would be warm and wet in the previous September had the exact result as predicted; and from this also that Easter 2013 would be cold. You will find that as certain 'flow charts' have the 'if---then' statements so do certain combinations of the weather conditions. So if such statements were common in 1200ad - the theory of computerisation was forming then!

I am asked quite often 'How do you know with such certainty?' - the simple answer is that I have been doing this now for many years, and, as the methodology improves and the interpretation of what nature tells me improves, and the resultant predictions likewise; which does not mean I am not infallible, I am not perfect, but if it goes badly wrong, then I retrace the footsteps and invariably I have misread or misinterpreted a small but vital (in hindsight) detail. So, I learn to be 100% accurate as far as I am able. Human error is not infallible either.

Since this website, without any disrespect to the reader, but to aim for simplicity and non-technical terms, it is written by a Dummy for Dummies - there is a highly successful book publisher who publishes under this title and therefore I borrow from those volumes.

Each monthly bulletin comes with a preamble, which recaps on the previous month, brings any interesting points for the forthcoming month to notice, sometimes has a comment, adverse or otherwise concerning maybe a comment, those who filch the data here and make no acknowledgements, and maybe a 'tick or two.' It is never disrespectful, contentious maybe, but it is a free democracy and I have my chirp too.

The final part is an 'easy spreadsheet,' where in spreadsheet form the month is laid out, a where the correlation between moon weather, warm or cool periods, stormy or quiet periods, perigee and full moons are all easily indicated, and the methodology all comes together is easy visible form.

There now follows the second part of each monthly submission, the monthly data sheet, which has everything the reader needs for the month and also to help advance predict the future months.

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## JANUARY 2012

DAY OF PREDICTION:- 25th NEW MOON:- 23rd @ 07:19(Stormy)  
 QUARTER DAY:- FULL MOON:- 9th @ 07:10hrs (Stormy)  
 Last Quarter Moon = 16th @ 09:08hrs (Cold Rain)  
 1st Quarter = 2nd @ 06:15hrs (stormy) AND  
 21st @ 04:10hrs (rain)  
 PARTIAL SOLAR ECLIPSE = 4th

1st	Calends	If Janiver Calends be summerly gay, wintery weather will continue to Calends of May. See rhyme below.
2nd		As the weather today so in September. Apogee 2020hrs
3rd		It will be the same weather for 9 weeks as it is on the 9th day after Christmas.
5th	Twelfth Night	
6th	Epiphany	The days are lengthened a cocks stride.
8th		Weather before noon fortells June, weather after noon that of May.
9th		Weather before noon fortells August, weather afternoon that of July Plough Monday
10th		Weather before noon fortells October, after noon that of September.
11th		Weather before noon fortells December, after noon that of November.
12th		If the sun shines this day it foreshadows much wind.
13th	St Hilary year. [reliable]	Fortells the weather for the whole year - often considered the coldest and/or the wettest day of the Homage day to the apple tree.
15th	St Paul the Hermit	If rain or snow on this day, there will be a blessing on the year.
17th	St Sulphicius	Frost augers well for the spring. Perigee 2129hrs
19th-31st		See rhyme below.
22nd	St Vincent	If the sky is clear, more wine than water will crown the year. If the sun shines today, (it foreshadows much wind,) prosperous weather all year.
25th	St Paul tail off after that]	It is said to predict the weather for the whole year ahead. [It is good for 6 months, but found to Day of Prediction. Also aka Egyptian Day. Burns Night. By far the most important day of the
29th		
30th	Apogee 1743hrs	
31st		Hazel tree in first flower.

### General Notes and Comments

As days lengthen so cold strengthens. The blackest month of the year.

In winter, after the prevalence of easterly winds, if the barometer begins to fall and the thermometer to rise, a gale which starts to blow from the SE will veer to the SW, whilst the barometer falls constantly.

As soon as the wind passes the SW point the barometer begins to rise, a heavy shower of rain falls, and a strong W/NW or NE wind may follow, after which, the sky clears and the weather becomes colder. [This is an exact UK weather pattern and true]

A January spring is worth nothing.

If no snow before the end of January there will be more in March & April.

1st - If this be a Sunday, winter will be cold and moist, spring windy, the summer hot, and, at harvest time wind and rain with abundance of corn and other grain.

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*If this be a Monday, severe and confused winter, good spring and windy summer.*

*If this be a Tuesday, dreary and severe winter, windy spring, rainy summer.*

*If this be a Wednesday, hard winter, bad spring, good summer.*

*If this be a Thursday, good winter, windy spring, good summer.*

*If this be a Friday, variable winter, good spring and summer.*

*If this be a Saturday, snowy winter, blowing spring, wet summer.*

*Summerish January gives winterish spring.*

*January commits the fault and May bears the blame.*

*If January the sun appear, March and April will pay full dear.*

*When Oak trees bend with snow in January, good crops may be expected.*

*March in January, January in March.*

*If grass do grow in Janivver, 'twill grow the worse for all the year.*

*If grain grows in January, a year of great need.*

*If birds begin to whistle, frosts to come.*

*Dry January plenty of wine. Wet January no wine.*

*Fog in January brings a wet spring.*

*Hour frost and no snow is hurtful to fields, trees and grain.*

*Wet January, wet spring.*

*If January is wet the barrels stay empty (wine).*

*January freeze, the pot on the fire.*

*Gale force winds are quite common in January.*

*Remember on St Vincent's Day (22nd), if the sun his beams display,*

*'Tis a token bright and clear, of prosperous weather throughout the year,*

*More wine than water, much rye and wine.*

*St Vincent's is normally a good weather day.*

*If the birds start singing on St Vincent's day 'twill be an early spring.*

*St Paul's day is also St Annan's day (25th).*

*If the sunshine on St Paul's Day it betokens a good year; if snow or rain an indifferent year. (a bad crop of grain) If cloudy & misty a great dearth and beasts and birds will die, if Thunder great winds are predicted and arrest will vex us all and cold will blow the great winds of January. Clouds on St Annan's Day portend floods.*

*St Paul's Day - It is necessary to observe and note down the phases of the day, hour by hour, or, even half an hourly, throughout the day from dawn to 4pm. This is due to the belief that the hours of the day will reflect the weather, month by month throughout the year. Generally these signs are dependable up to the end of July. However there is much truth in the above and 90% accuracy is quite normal - with 100% one year.*

*Snow usually falls in the third week of January. If it doesn't fall then, then it won't fall at all. For farmers it is wise to plan your hay crop now. If the grass is already starting to grow, then do not look for two hay crops this year for the worse it will be after on, and vice-versa.*

*The first three days of January rule the coming first three months.*

*Warm January, cold May.*

*There will certainly be at least one very cold snap, very likely with snow too. It has been known to arrive as early as Boxing Day (26th December) and as late as the 30th January. It will come and will probably be the worst cold snap of the year. There is much truth in the saying that the hardest winters are those that start around twelfth night (6th), following a dry December. On snow - it is generally unknown, that if snow lies for three days it will require another fall to take it away.*

*If late October and early November be warm and rainy, then January and February shall be frosty and cold. [check readings from previous year]*

*When the months of July, August and September are exceptionally hot, January will be the coldest month. [check previous readings]*

*Windy October - dry January. [check previous readings]*

*A dry and frosty Janivver is like to make a plentiful year - a very dependable saying.*

*19th-31st. These last twelve days of the month rule the weather for the whole year.*

*MET OFFICE NOTES:-5th - 17th Stormy 18th -24th Quiet.*

*25th - 31st stormy again.*

*NO BUCHAN NOTES.*

*Tree of the month is Birch up-to 15th. Thereafter the Rowan.*

## **COMPILING THE MONTHLY DATA**

The monthly data comprises four sections:

**The preamble:** This is editor's perks, where comment is freely made about topics in the previous month or current monthly, matters to consider, what to look out for in particular and any warning notices. Sometimes too, some rebuttal comment in reply to some newspaper or other such spurious comment concerning the weather. Some may not like it, but it is my site and this is a democracy. However, a new feature will be an extension to the comment page, where I will put any comments (suitable for printing) from the readership, and also show the extent of the queries I get asked, the good, bad and ugly will appear on a monthly basis

**Monthly data sheet:** This contains all the relevant detail pertinent to the month in word format starting with the actual data and then expanding into the saws/sayings for that month; these saw/sayings often give good data for the months ahead, and, if used wisely, can be superb indicators of advance weather. I 'work', that is to say I use such saws/sayings on a daily basis to be always a year ahead of the current date – why so long? Because 'one day telleth another,' and that vital snippet of information missed or noted may well, in months ahead, be the vital clue/piece in the jigsaw/crossword that is my methodology.

**Simple spreadsheet:** This is an 'at a glance' spreadsheet of the month, an easy simple reference sheet consisting of columns of data. Going across the page you will see the date; day; moon phase; weather relative to that phase; if it is Day of Prediction (DoP); a Saint or Holy Day; an 'other' day; an apogee or perigee day; Equinox or eclipse day plus also highest spring tides; Met Office quiet or stormy days; Buchan warm or cold periods; Supermoon dates. Therefore a comprehensive easy at a glance reference sheet for each day of the month; the intimate detail of each entry can be found in the data sheet or by reference to the points already given.

**Singularities:** This final spreadsheet for the month gives highly technical accepted data by established meteorologists, that in their wisdom they have designated as events with certain regular weather characteristics called singularities. You will notice that this data bears a remarkable resemblance to the data on the previous spreadsheet – yet the previous spreadsheet is the culmination of my own collated data from numerous sources over many years. This spreadsheet here has headings above each column – and reference to the book page will define the books from where this data was gleaned. It is also included as a form of rebuttal/defence to the 'expert opinion,' that makes much of the fact that this website contains nothing proven or reliable, and as such is a collection of myth and fantasy! Maybe too then this spreadsheet is of the same ilk, since the data here is near identical to the previous spreadsheet?

Therefore the data for each month I hope is explained above. If there questions then please use the contact sheet on the website and I will reply – but please give your correct e-mail address. The advance quarterly seasonal predictions also give much detail but only have a detailed weather only preamble, brief data sheet and spreadsheet.

Hopefully when I find time the current photographic page – currently blank – will start to be filled up before not too long too.

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My aim is to encourage readers to explore this fascinating subject further, in short, to try to, without wishing or appearing to be neither impertinent nor condescending, educate everyone on what a wonderful world nature provides. All you have to do is to look and see, stick with me and I will promote this endeavour and try to impart some of the knowledge to you.

To further encourage interest I have included on the ['Further Information'](#) page some essential books on trees, flowers, insects and birds. Why? If you cannot identify a tree, insect, flower or bird then you lose the important data this reveals, and it is what nature reveals, that, when interpreted accurately, gives the vital data to predict the weather in advance.

The website will expand on each of these subjects, hopefully they are congenial and intelligent, they are meant to educate, entertain and expand knowledge, if you have a problem or question please do not hesitate to contact me.

Similarly, if you have comments, good bad or indifferent or pertinent practical suggestions, then please contact me, I am always open to betterment.