

JUNE 2024

PREAMBLE



Up to June 10<sup>th</sup>: Dandelion  
Photo credit: Me



June 11<sup>th</sup>: Ragged Robin  
Photo credit: Wildlife Trusts



June 24<sup>th</sup>: Scarlet Lychnis  
Photo credit: Gardeners World

Flower of the month: Rose

Tree of the month: Up to 9<sup>th</sup> is the Hawthorn, thereafter the Oak

Full Moon this Month: Strawberry Moon

*“I like listening to people who know things that I don’t. That’s how you learn.”*

*Gareth Southgate*

**P.S. IT’S COMING HOME!**

## June 2024

A warm welcome to the June website entry, and for sure June is going to be an exciting month. Spring has sprung and summer is virtually upon us! Which can only mean one thing... 'Spring Watch' is back on our screens! From May 27<sup>th</sup> – June 13<sup>th</sup> on BBC2, we can indulge in all the things wonderful about Spring! It is filmed mainly from RSPC Arne, which I proudly call home. Set against the glorious backdrop of Poole Harbour, RSPC Arne has it all. We are blessed in this area, with various habitats, from heathland, ancient woodlands, farmland, and the beach. It really is a glorious area, and a wonderful show so full of insights – so tune in, you are in for a treat!

On June 6<sup>th</sup> we have the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day, the military operation that brought about the liberation of North-West Europe from Nazi occupation and changed the course of the second world war. I always like to take a moment to reflect on the bravery of those young boys and men, many of whom gave their 'today' so that we could have our 'tomorrow'.

We then have the Euros starting on June 14<sup>th</sup> which I legitimately think we are going to win! With England up there with France as tournament favourites, and with the likes of Foden, Bellingham and Kane playing the best football of their careers, I really think we can do it this year! In addition, this could well be Southgate's final tournament, and as such it feels like it is written in the stars for him to finally put the ghosts of Euro 96 (England Vs Germany) to bed, whilst in Germany! The conditions are perfect... it's coming home!!!

We also have Father's Day on June 16<sup>th</sup>. My journey into the world of nature without doubt started with my dad and late grandad. I am so thankful for all the cherished walks my dad took me on, I loved those walks then and I still love them now. My dad and I are always planning new walks together and I feel truly blessed to have had his constant influence in my life. I am even grateful for the thousands and thousands of photos of plants and flowers my late grandad would show me for hours on end when I was a young child. At the time I thought it was a dull task to endure indeed, but I look back and smile with a heart full of gratitude. Connecting with nature is an invaluable legacy to pass on to our children, how lucky I was as a child indeed.

On June 20<sup>th</sup> we have Summer Solstice celebrations taking place everywhere from Tattershall Castle in Lincolnshire to County Down in Northern Ireland to Stonehenge in Somerset. You can find out more about the history of solstice celebrations at: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/summer-solstice-traditions](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/summer-solstice-traditions)

On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the 'Restore Nature Now' march is taking place in London and could well be the biggest ever planned march for nature. The family-friendly, legal march will see nature, wildlife and climate campaigners come together to call for all political parties to take urgent action to restore nature and tackle climate change in the UK, a particularly important message given the General Election coming up on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Further information can be found here: [Restore Nature Now | Pledge to march on June 22](#)

On top of all the above, Dave and I will also be starting our new You Tube series 'Country Signs' on June 25<sup>th</sup>! To ensure you see this exciting series as soon as it is available, please subscribe to the following channel: [Indigenous UK Weather - YouTube](#)

I am sure many of you caught Dave on ITVs 'This Morning' on Thursday May 23<sup>rd</sup>. He did an excellent job as always. Nonetheless, mainstream media is a fickle medium, and by creating our own series we will be creating the best content for David's longstanding fans, ensuring the videos are released at the most relevant times, plus I won't interrupt him every two

minutes, I will be there to listen and learn!! I am sure you will join me in thanking Dave for giving yet more of his time and commitment to this website, and for continuing to add such inspiring and educational content for us all to enjoy.

Whilst on the topic of David, he has very kindly put together an article on the latest news around our disgraceful water companies which you will find on the following pages. Thank you as always David, this website wouldn't be the same without your voice.

As promised the website upgrade completed late on May 20<sup>th</sup>, and I hope that you are all enjoying the new site. So far, the feedback has been brilliant, and the website has indeed worked seamlessly even with 5000 tandem live viewers – job done then! Thank goodness the upgrade was made before Dave's ITV appearance!

Nature Gnomes will be launching in June which I am beyond excited about! Being a mum, I feel extraordinarily passionate about this project and cannot wait to show you what we have been working on. I know our littlest followers are going to love it!

All in all, an exciting June. Ensure you carve out some time to walk, relax, absorb, and enjoy all the beauty around us.

Finally, just a quick note on how I am administratively organising these website entries. The seasonal forecasts will always appear around 90 days ahead of time so you will always have the forecast months ahead of time. The monthly entries I leave right until the end of the prior month, i.e., June's forecast will be published right at the end of May. This works best for me at present because it gives me the chance to review my previous months forecast. In order to do a good review, I need to see how the previous month plays out. It is important to remember I am a learner like everyone else using this site, it is David with 50 years' experience and as such I am his administrator/ editor hoping to learn 'on the job'. For me this works best right now. Thank you for your understanding.

Warmly,

Lesley 😊

## **WORSE 'BASTARD NEWS' FROM THESE 'BASTARD WATER UTILITIES' FOLLOWING ON FROM MY COMMENTS LAST MONTH.**

Now not only are they making the water we use for recreational purposes unfit for purpose because of sewage shit etc, now they try to poison us with infected water from our taps at home, so despite fine sounding rhetoric on how they intend to improve the situation it in fact gets worse – when will it ever get better?

### Serious water borne bug infection.

Water customers in Devon around Brixham and adjacent areas, suddenly started to literally drop like flies around the 14<sup>th</sup> May with complaints of water diarrhoea, stomach cramps, nausea, and in some cases fever and loss of appetite. The local water utility South West Water made constant denials it was their problem. However, after numerous complaints they eventually admitted that the problem was a water borne bug called cryptosporidium in their system that was making thousands ill. Such was the problem that all water they supplied had to be boiled before any usage – a situation likely to last at least for another week. In the meantime, everyone would be (eventually) supplied with bottled water. Alas not such an easy outcome for those affected, since this bug can stay within the body system for up to a month. For children this bug is exceptionally dangerous since the symptoms reduce vital body salts and nutrients.

So, not only does this same water that pollutes the beaches in their area, but they also now poison the customers – and offer £100 compensation. Time for customers to start to really 'kick off' for sure.

### Delayed reporting of major sewage outfall incident in Cumbria.

On 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 United Utilities deposited some at least ten million litres of raw undiluted sewage into lake Windemere for a period of ten hours before engineers managed to stem the flow, claimed be caused by a telecommunications breakdown. Furthermore, the Environment Agency (EA) was not informed for a further thirteen hours of this serious breach. So, even more shit poured into this World Heritage site by the official water utility. The EA say they are investigating the matter, and any breaches of permit will be dealt with. Sadly, the EA, have a dismal record of dealing with such miscreants in this industry, it will be interesting to see what, if any, action is taken over this major outbreak/outfall/breach.

### **Record number of new bathing sites get the go ahead. EA**

Dozens of new bathing water sites in England have been designated ahead of the 2024 bathing season in the government's largest ever rollout.

From:

[Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs](#) and [Robbie Moore MP](#)

Published

13 May 2024



Dozens of new wild swimming spots in England are being designated as bathing waters ahead of the summer and will immediately benefit from regular water quality monitoring, Water Minister Robbie Moore has today announced (May 13 2024).

Following a public consultation, 27 new bathing water sites will be designated ahead of the 2024 bathing water season, which runs between 15 May and 30 September. The new sites will take the total number of bathing waters to 451 across England – the highest number to date.

The new bathing waters – which include a dozen river sites – can be found right across the country from Church Cliff Beach in Dorset to Derwent Water in Cumbria, to the River Dart in Devon and the River Nidd in North Yorkshire.

The Environment Agency regularly monitors water quality at designated bathing water sites and assesses whether action is needed to cut pollution levels – working with local communities, farmers, and water companies to improve water quality at these locations.

The government will also launch a consultation later this year on proposals to reform the Bathing Water Regulations for England. The proposed changes will drive work to improve bathing water quality, enhance monitoring and enable more flexibility around the dates of the bathing water monitoring season. For example, proposals will include increasing monitoring outside of the bathing water season and preventing automatic de-designation of existing bathing water sites.

Defra will also seek public and stakeholder views on extending the definition of 'bathers' to include a wider range of water users in addition to swimmers – such as rowers, kayakers and paddle boarders. More information on this consultation will be published in due course.

The next application round will commence in Spring 2025.

**Water Minister Robbie Moore said:**

The value our bathing waters bring to local communities is incredibly valuable – providing social, physical and positive health and wellbeing benefits to people around the country – and I am pleased to have approved a further 27 new bathing water sites for this year.

These popular swimming spots will now undergo regular monitoring to ensure bathers have up-to-date information on the quality of the water and enable action to be taken if minimum standards aren't being met.

I am fully committed to seeing the quality of our coastal waters, rivers and lakes rise further for the benefit of the environment and everyone who uses them.

And finally, Thames Water.

The likely hood of Thames water being declared bankrupt due to some £15 billion debt grows by the day. Senior non-executive directors resign by the day, there is no likelihood of any bail out by any other company, the parent company for this water utility has failed to repay a loan of some £179 million. So, dear long-suffering customers, not only are you going to have even more higher water bills, but the shortfall above will have to me from government coffers, in other words, our taxes. The situation goes from bad to worse across the board.

East Surrey and Sutton Water.

Ofwat have approved the take over this water company by Pennon Group plc, this company also own Southwest Water, Bristol water, Bournemouth water too. Alas this is the same company that has had massive fines for sewage pollution in the past. It might not be beyond the realms of possibility that prices will rise for customers of East Surrey water too. Bigger is not necessarily better for customers. However for senior staff and executives it does increase their remuneration -plus la change!

In short, despite the fine sounding words, the rhetoric and promises, the water utilities, Ofwat, and the EA do precious little to ensure that we, the long-suffering customers/public can have any confidence at all in their ability to improve the situation. Therefore, the heading at the top of this item remains appropriate.

**UPDATE:**

The parent company, Pennon, of South West water has been fined 18 times in the last 10 years for breaches of water regulations paying some £5 million in fines. The CEO, Susan Davy took home some £4 million since 2020 and companies records show this year another £1.9 million could be her reward for running the company!

The recent outbreak of the bug cryptosporidium affected 16000 properties and businesses in the Brixham and adjacent areas, with some 46 (at the latest count – and growing) souls being confirmed with this debilitating illness.

Not even in third world countries are they subjected to be unable to drink clean germ-free water from taps, and yet, despite all the rhetoric and fine words, the rich cats get richer, are not held to account, and it is the general long-suffering public who always carry the can and suffer.

Surely it about time for someone to stand up, shout loudly, and start positive action to alleviate (at first) this disgraceful situation and bring those responsible to book.

David King

Edenbridge

May 2024

Lesley Coyle

Dorset

May 2024

## The Diverse Wildlife of Heathland, Countryside and Beach Habitats

I feel blessed to live in an area with such different habitats all so close to one another. Understanding the unique wildlife that thrives in these various habitats provides a deeper appreciation of our natural world, and as such what our natural world is communicating with us. Each environment, from heathlands to countryside and beaches, support distinct species that are perfectly adapted to their surroundings and ideal for their survival. I have noticed recently on my walk's profound differences between heathland and countryside and the way in which these environments are preparing for the coming winter. I am not as well versed with beach habitats and so am at the very beginning of that journey, but I have noted down some basics which is helping me on this journey of discovery and thought that some of you may be interested in what I have found so far. After all these website entries are as much a log of my own learning as they are for the reader. Nonetheless, I won't be upset if you want to skip this article! 😊

### **Characteristics of Heathlands:**

Heathlands are open, uncultivated lands characterized by acidic, sandy soils and dominated by low growing shrubs such as heather, gorse and bracken. In addition, you will find wet heath, bog pools and ponds. Whilst in heathlands, if you want to find the water always look for the reeds! Heathlands are found in temperate regions and often feature a mosaic of vegetation types, including patches of grassland, bogs, and woodland edges. Heathlands are extremely vulnerable to fires which is why you will often find the man-made creation of firebreaks. Grazing animals are also often used to keep the vegetation in check.

### **Key Wildlife Inhabitants:**

**Birds:** Heathlands are vital for birds like the Dartford warbler, nightjar, and the skylark. The warbler relies on dense heather for nesting, while the nightjar uses open areas for hunting insects.

**Insects:** Numerous butterflies, such as the silver studded blue, and grayling thrive here. The silver studded blue butterfly emerges in June and can be seen until late August. It is restricted to close knit colonies in Southern England and Wales. The larvae feed on a wide variety of plants, such as bell heather and gorses. The grayling enjoys soaking up the sun and is found around Southern coastal heathlands from June to September. It's colouring makes it hard to spot on stony ground and the caterpillars feed on grasses. Heathlands also support a variety of bees, wasps, dragonflies, and beetles.

**Reptiles:** Species like the common lizard and adder find the sandy soil perfect for basking and hunting.

**Mammals:** Small mammals like the wood mouse and common shrew inhabit heathlands, taking advantage of the abundant cover and food sources. It is not unusual to see deer at our local heathlands either.

### **Food Sources:**

**Plants and seeds:** Many insects and birds feed on the nectar of heathland plants and seeds from trees. Heathlands can also provide a variety of plants for deer to graze on, including grasses, heather, and young shrubs. The diverse plant life in heathlands offers a varied diet for deer.

**Insects:** Birds like the nightjar primarily feed on flying insects, while reptiles consume a large range of invertebrates. You will often see spiral webs built within heather and gorse, as the

gorse attracts many insects to the flowers. You will then find the Dartford warbler eating these food nests plus the spider! This is vital protein for these birds, and more.

Small mammals: Adders feed primarily on mice and lizards. They will also eat frogs, newts and small birds and their chicks. There are many ground nesting birds at our local heathland, including nightjars and meadow pipits.

#### Reasons for Suitability:

Heathlands offer a mix of vegetation that provides shelter and food throughout the year. The open landscape is ideal for species that require a combination of sunny spots for basking and dense cover for nesting and protection from predators. Whilst heathlands are open, they often have patches of scrub and bracken that can provide cover for deer. Deer in particular enjoy the edges of heathlands that border forests or woodlands, allowing them to move between open and sheltered areas. Deer prefers to retreat to more sheltered areas during winter.

#### Weatherlore:

Heather blooming: An early and abundant blooming of heather suggests a long, warm summer ahead. Conversely sparse or late blooming can indicate a wet and cool summer. Untested – a local person shared this with me.

Adders in the sun: Seeing adders basking in the sun can be a sign of stable, dry weather. If they remain hidden, it might indicate upcoming rain.

There is an abundance of seed-bearing plants and trees at our local heathland, along with wild strawberries and blackberries. There is always plenty of spiral gorse webs too. The food is geared up perfectly to the inhabitants of this landscape and as such, keeping on eye on what nature is preparing for and how active the inhabitants are later at collecting their food will be crucial in understanding the winter to come at 'the heath'.

#### Characteristics of Countryside:

The countryside typically includes a patchwork of fields, hedgerows, woodlands, and small water bodies. This diverse landscape supports a wide range of habitats and microhabitats, offering various food sources and nesting sites.

Key wildlife Inhabitants: Species like the barn owl, red kite, and sparrowhawk are common. Hedgerows and woodlands provide nesting sites and hunting grounds for these birds.

Mammals: The countryside is home to deer, foxes, badgers, and smaller mammals like rabbits, hedgehogs, and squirrels. Otters thrive in areas with clean rivers, lakes and streams, where they can find ample food and shelter.

Insects: Pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and moths are abundant, feeding on flowers of hedgerows and meadows.

Amphibians: Ponds and streams support frogs, toads, and newts.

#### Food Sources:

Plants and Fruits: Many countryside birds and mammals feed on berries, nuts, and seeds from hedgerows and trees. All of which are in abundance this year!

Invertebrates: Insects and other invertebrates are crucial food sources for birds, amphibians, and small mammals. Oak galls are already forming this year.



Fish and aquatic life: Otters primarily feed on fish, amphibians and crustaceans found in rivers and lakes.

Reasons for suitability:

The countryside's varied landscape provides multiple habitats within a small area, supporting a diverse food web. Hedgerows act as wildlife corridors, allowing safe passage and feeding opportunities, while fields and woodlands offer nesting and hunting grounds. For otters, the presence of clean, well – vegetated water bodies are crucial as they offer abundant food and safe dens. Squirrels enjoy acorns, beech nuts, hazelnuts, and berries and so the countryside and woodland will always be their preference. Tall sturdy trees will also work better for their nests.

Weatherlore:

“Red sky at night, shepherds delight; red sky in the morning, shepherds warning”. Self-explanatory - red sky at sunset indicates stable good weather, while at dawn can indicate incoming bad weather. Quite true too.

Dew on the grass: Heavy morning dew on the grass can indicate clear skies and fair weather, as dew forms more readily under clear conditions.

Swallows flying low: When swallows fly low to the ground, it often indicates that rain is on its way, as they are chasing insects that are also flying lower in response to changing air pressure.

**Characteristics of beaches:**

Beaches are dynamic environments characterized by sandy shores, dunes, rocky outcrops, and tidal zones. These areas are influenced by the constant ebb and flow of the tides, creating a unique and ever-changing habitat.

Key wildlife inhabitants:

Shore birds such as sandpipers, plovers, oyster catchers and gulls are common. These birds are adapted to forage along the waters edge and in the intertidal zone.

Marine life:

Rock pools and shallow waters are teeming with life, including crabs, starfish, anemones, and small fish.

Invertebrates: Sand dunes and tidal zones support a variety of invertebrates like sandhoppers, worms, and molluscs.

Mammals: Seals often haul out on beaches to rest and breed.

Food sources: Birds and mammals feed on a variety of marine invertebrates found in the tidal zone and rock pools.

Fish: Small fish are preyed upon by larger marine animals and birds.

Vegetation: Dune plants provide food and habitat for insects and small mammals.

Reasons for suitability:

Beaches provide rich feeding grounds for birds and marine life due to the abundance of food brought in by the tides. The varied landscape, from sandy shores to rocky pools, supports a wide range of species. Dunes offer shelter and breeding sites for birds and small mammals,

while the intertidal zone provides ample feeding opportunities for shorebirds and marine creatures.

Weatherlore:

Seaweed and moisture: Seaweed wet and limp, the weather will be damp; seaweed dry and crisp, the weather will be brisk. Seaweed's response to humidity levels is often used to predict weather changes.

Seagulls inland: When seagulls fly inland, it is often said to be a sign of an approaching storm or bad weather at sea. They seek shelter and easier foraging inland when rough weather is imminent.

Calm before the storm: A sudden calm at the beach, especially if it follows a period of windy weather, can indicate that a storm is on the horizon.

You may wonder where the beach weatherlore has come from, because as far as I know nothing was ever published on WWT with regards to the beach. Well, inspired by the man himself, I did what David would do. I stood on the beach and spoke with as many older locals as possible. These sayings above were the most repeated. I will track these sayings for the next year and report back on my findings. Is there anyone out there that has extensive experience with the ocean that would share some knowledge with me? If so, please do get in touch, I would be very grateful to learn more in this area.

Conclusion:

Each of these habitats – heathland, countryside, and beach – supports a unique community of wildlife perfectly adapted to their environments. Understanding the specific characteristics that make these habitats suitable for their inhabitants not only enriches our knowledge of the natural world but also underscores the importance of conserving these diverse ecosystems. By appreciating the intricate balance of life in these habitats, we better advocate for their protection and ensure that future generations can enjoy their beauty and biodiversity.

Additionally, weather lore passed down through generations provides valuable insights into how our ancestors interpreted and predicated the natural world. As David's methodology has proven time and time again, we can benefit immensely via our esteemed forefather's knowledge by simply understanding what nature is preparing for in each habitat.



## Something fun for the little ones (and the adults)?

Courtesy of the Wildlife Trusts:

### How to Make a Mini nature reserve



**1 Choose your site**  
Choose a safe place to put your window box – somewhere like an old bench or wall at an easy height for inspection.

**2 Gather your materials**

- window box
- a small log
- yoghurt pot
- some compost
- a rock

**3 Fill the box with compost**  
Always use peat-free compost and save our precious peat bags.

**4 Add a few features**  
Dig in the yoghurt pot and add the small log and rock.

**5 Leave!**

**6 Keep a diary**  
Record the changes you see. Make notes using guidebooks and take a photo every week.

**7 Management**  
Remove out of control plants or cut them back with scissors.

**Before**

**After**

[www.wildlifewatch.org.uk](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk)

with thanks to patrick roper for original idea ([windowboxwildlife.blogspot.com](http://windowboxwildlife.blogspot.com))

Magic sightings waiting to happen in June are:

- Adders
- Bats
- Beetles,
- Butterflies and Moths
- Dolphins & Porpoises
- Glow Worms
- Hedgehogs
- Newts
- Seals
- Swifts, Swallows, House Martins and Nightjars (birds hatching in general)
- Wild orchids

If you sit by a tree for half an hour quietly you will be surprised how much you will see.

## June Foraging Fun:

### June Foraging:

- Elderflower
- Gooseberries
- Japanese Rose
- Perennial Wall Rocket
- Wild Marjoram
- Wild Strawberries

Suggestion of the month:  
Elderflower cordial – using 15 heads of elderflower, 500g of caster sugar, 4 tbsp of quality runny honey and 2 unwaxed lemons. Yummy!

### The House martins are making themselves at home...

The House martins have at last arrived. They build their nests of mud from local ponds or yards in the eaves or gable ends of barns etc. It takes seven days to build the nest; three days for it to dry, another three days to furnish it with moss/ wool etc.

It will then take a further couple of days to find a mate, copulate and then the four or five eggs will hatch a fortnight later. So about 30 days in all. Now the Martins have started building nests we know for sure that in thirty days' time, the weather will be dry, warmer and clear, and there will be plentiful supply of insects (on which they thrive) to feed the chicks. This is yet another example of how the moon phases (fine in thirty days for three weeks) and nature dovetail perfectly for all concerned, and further evidence that nature looks after its own Kingdom.

### The Skies

- 3<sup>rd</sup> June: We may get a brief view of Mars somewhere between 03:00am – 04:00am
- 28<sup>th</sup> June: We may be able to see Saturn somewhere between 01:00am – 04:00am

## GALL WATCH...

### Sessile Galls:

Below you will find a few photos taken by David, of insects just starting to burrow into the underside of the sessile oak leaves. They first adhere to the leaf then slowly burrow into the structure of the leaf as it grows, and in doing so grow at the same time. David has agreed to do a series of such pictures to demonstrate how they enlarge and become galls later in the year.



### Willow Galls:

Gall causer: *Pontania proxima*

Common Name: Willow Redgall Sawfly

Willow Redgall Sawflies are small, black and shiny - approximately 3.5-5 mm long. The larvae of the Willow Redgall Sawfly (*Pontania proxima*) are pale green in colour with a dark head. They are small and caterpillar-like, reaching only 5mm in length. Adults emerge in late spring, and females seek out suitable willows on which to lay eggs. Females inserts an egg into leaf tissue where it hatches and begins to eat the soft leaf tissue. This stimulates the leaf to produce a gall which is bean-shaped, smooth and emerges equally on both sides of the leaf. The gall may be green, red, or yellow. A single larva feeds in the cavity of each gall. In midsummer the larva leaves the gall to drop to the ground where it pupates. A second brood emerges in late summer, and the fall larvae overwinter as pupae. Generally, there are two generations per year. Found wherever White Willow or Crack Willow grow, usually damp open wooded areas, by streams, rivers, and lakes and sometimes hedgerows.



Now for the collated expert notes on June:

The first week of June tends to be changeable. The first two or three days tending to bring widespread thundery showers to many southern and midland districts and occasionally further north. Then around 3-5<sup>th</sup> June, there is a change to cooler weather, with fresh north-westerly winds and passing showers in all areas. The drop in temperature at this time is sometimes as much as 6C and in some years frost may occur in sheltered valleys. By 8-10<sup>th</sup> June there is generally an improvement, and much of this period 8-21<sup>st</sup> June tends to be moderately fine (*Ed note: sadly, in recent years June has tended not to be the 'flaming June' of old but a quite wet month*)- not always with spells of drought but with no serious interruptions apart from the odd thunderstorm or showers. From 22<sup>nd</sup> June to the end of the month there are generally two or four very hot days, but the period is notable for a considerable increase in the risk of heavier type thunderstorms. At times these merge together, and thundery heavy rainfall occurs most often between 27 and 29<sup>th</sup> June particularly in South Wales and the southern districts of England. Between 30<sup>th</sup> June and 23 July there is generally a small drop in temperature; this however coincides with the Buchan cold period 29<sup>th</sup> June to 4<sup>th</sup> July, hence the propensity for it to rain on the Wimbledon tennis tournament at this time.

MY NOTES:

May Review:

All in all, I am very happy with how my May forecast held up. The wet weather did indeed continue across May but being May we also had sunny spells and some warmth too. The first week of May was a real rainy week, but on the 8<sup>th</sup> (the rainy moon), we entered five days of unexpected, glorious dry, fine and warm weather which lasted until May 12<sup>th</sup>. We were very grateful for it, as I am sure you all were – in such a wet period we must take whatever small mercies we can get. Those five days were unpredicted. As of May 13<sup>th</sup>, the weather broke down again, and we entered another period of rain and then all the way up to May 23<sup>rd</sup> we had a real mix of (mostly) rain, but also some sunny spells as predicted. The changeable moon on May 23<sup>rd</sup> did indeed usher in a real mix of everything! We have had glorious sunshine, rain, wind, cool temperatures... you name it we have had it! It truly amazes me how accurate these moon phases are. Today (May 30<sup>th</sup>) we are entering the promised 'fair moon' phase. This morning we have had a mix of drizzle and sunshine, this evening is beautiful sunshine and it does indeed look as though we are now entering a dryer, finer spell, HOORAY! I have just checked with the Met Office and they too are now predicting fine, dry, sunny days to last up until June 6<sup>th</sup> when it breaks down. And yes, you guessed it – June 6<sup>th</sup> is the next moon phase which is 'very rainy'. So, enjoy the fine, dry weather for the next week folks – it won't last!!

All in all, a strong forecast, not perfect – the five fine days from May 8<sup>th</sup> – May 12<sup>th</sup> were unpredicted. Other than that, I am very happy.

For those that are interested, St Urban (May 25<sup>th</sup>) was sunny AM/ PM and then torrential rain from around 8pm onwards. High winds too. A bit of everything really. St Urban is known to give a fair indication of the weather up to June 15<sup>th</sup> (St Vitus) but can be ambiguous and a little optimistic.

June Forecast:

As noted above we will enjoy a spell of fair and fine weather up until June 6<sup>th</sup>. June will then sadly continue with the SW winds that bring warm and damp weather. From the 6<sup>th</sup> until around the 28<sup>th</sup> it will be quite damp for all given the 'very rainy', 'wind and rain' and 'cold & showers' moon phases, and in tandem with the relevant moon phases we can also expect windy phases around June 14<sup>th</sup>, and a cooler spell around June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Happily, the wind changes on June 24<sup>th</sup> (mid-summer) to a more southerly direction bringing us warmer and drier summer air. Then on June 28<sup>th</sup> we see in a 'fair moon' and so finally our summer will arrive! The last few days of June through to 21<sup>st</sup> July, will for the greater part be dry, sunny, and getting warmer by the day. Maybe for some, eventually reaching a maximum of 32/33c (tops). How exciting! This spell is the best summer 2024 has to offer, so enjoy it folks - it isn't going to last!

JUNE 2024

New Moon 6<sup>th</sup> @ 13:37 = Very Rainy

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Moon 14<sup>th</sup> @ 06:18 = Wind & Rain

Full Moon 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 02:07 = Cold & Showers

Last Quarter Moon on 28<sup>th</sup> @ 22:53 = Fair

FULL MOON THIS MONTH IS THE FULL STRAWBERRY MOON

20<sup>th</sup> June is Summer Solstice @ 21:50pm

DoP = 15<sup>th</sup> St Vitus AND 24<sup>th</sup> St John + Quarter Day + Midsummer

Highest Spring tides = 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>

APOGEE 14<sup>th</sup> @ 14:35hrs/ PERIGEE 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 08:16hrs AND 27<sup>th</sup> @ 12:30hrs

BUCHAN COLD PERIOD 29<sup>th</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> JULY

NO MET OFFICE PERIODS

### Monthly Notes & Comments

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Perigee	Perigee @ 08:16
8 <sup>th</sup>	St Medard	Rain today and it tells of a wet harvest. If rain today, rain for 40 days after (18/7)8th Corpus Christi
11 <sup>th</sup>	St Barnabus	St Barnabas. Nearly always a clear fine day, a noteworthy day too. Rain today is good for grapes. Ragged robin flowering day.
14 <sup>th</sup>	Apogee	Apogee @ 14:35
15 <sup>th</sup>	St Vitus	DoP. See rain note below.
16 <sup>th</sup>	Fathers Day	Useful reminder of Fathers Day 2024
19 <sup>th</sup>	St Protas	If the saint brings rain 40 days it will remain.
20 <sup>th</sup>	Solstice	Summer Solstice @ 21:50pm
24 <sup>th</sup>	St John	DoP. Midsummer. Longest Day. Quarter Day. Rain today and expect a wet harvest and damage to nuts. Scarlet Lychnis flowering day. Midsummer rain spoils hay and grain.
27 <sup>th</sup>	Perigee	Perigee @ 12:30
29 <sup>th</sup>	St Peter & St Paul	Rain will rot the roots of rye. The optimal day for harvesting herbs.

### General notes and comments.

June is the 6th month of the year and takes its name from Juno, the Roman goddess of marriage.

The month needs to be 'flaming' for a good harvest.

If June with bright sun is blessed,  
for harvest we will thank the Goddess.

SW winds are generally infrequent before 10th June,  
after that they are quite frequent.

The month of the return of the 'westerly winds.'

The month of June is blithe and gay, driving winter's ills away.

Calm weather in June sets the corn in tune.

It can be a very hot month (1976 & 1996, 2003, 2006, 2012, 2017 & 2018)



And very wet (1997 & 2007, 2016 & 2018).

When it is hottest in June it will be coldest in the following February.

When the wind shifts to the west in early June,  
expect wet weather until the end of August.

In June, the Cuckoo changes his tune from 'cuckoo' to 'cuck-cuckoo', sometimes  
when you hear two preliminary 'cucks'.  
When this occurs a particularly fine spell is due.

Wimbledon tennis, last week in June and first week in July.

Barnabas (11th) bright, all day and all night. [quite reliable and noteworthy day -  
always a fine clear day] Rain today good for grapes.

St Barnabas - mow your first grass.  
[this applies to field grass and in the south a few days earlier]

When Barnabas smiles bright both day and night - poor Ragged Robin (wild flower)  
bloom in the hay. (a great time for weed growth)

If St Vitus Day (15th) be rainy weather, 'twill rain for thirty to forty days together.  
[maybe thirty days is a better ruling- and it becomes quite a reliable rule]

As the wind on St Johns Day (24th) so 'twill be for the next three months. [until the  
next Quarter Day - 29th September]

Midsummer Day (24th) rain spoils hay and grain.  
[a very important day as well as the longest]

Midsummer day rain spoils hay & grain.

You may shear your sheep when the Elder blossoms peep.

A dripping June keeps all in tune.

Calm weather in June, sets the corn in tune.

Sunny June, early harvest.

No dew indicates rain.

A leaky June brings the harvest soon.

A swarm of bees in June is worth a silver spoon.

Before St Johns Day we pray for rain - afterwards we get it anyway.  
If the Cuckoo sings after St Johns Day, the harvest will be late. [always dependable]

If Midsummer Day be ever so little rain, the Hazel and the Walnut will be scarce,  
and corn smitten in many places. But apples, pears and plums will not be hurt.  
Filberts (nuts) will also be spoilt.

Cut thistles before St John or you'll have two in place of one.

You'll never get warm settled weather until the cowslips have finished.

June damp and warm does the farmer no harm.

THE NEXT THREE ARE INFALLIBLE.

Good summer brings hard winter.

If a hard winter is followed by a poor summer, the following winter will be harder  
still.

If the Cuckoo delays changing his tune until mid-June, St Swithuns Day  
(15th July) will be wet.

June is a wet month with usually more wet days than any other month.

Wet June - dry September.

As it rains in March - so in June. [check previous readings] In Hay season when  
there is no dew, it indicates rain.

If north wind blows in June, good rye harvest.

Rain at Whitsuntide is said to make wheat mildew.

Whitsuntide rain is a blessing for wine.

Whitsuntide wet, Christmas fat.

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.

If it rains on the 27th , it will rain for 7 weeks. A cold and wet June spoils the rest  
of the year.

If it rains on the 29th(St Peter's Day) the bakers will have to carry double flour and  
single water; if dry they will carry single flour and double water.

Rain on St Peter (29th) will the roots of rye.

A north wind in June blows in a good rye harvest (hay harvest).

When the bramble blossoms early in June, an early harvest can be expected.

A swarm of bees in May is worth a load of hay; a swarm of bees in June is worth a  
silver spoon. A swarm of bees in July is not worth a fly.

THE FULL MOON THIS MONTH IS CALLED A STRONG SUN MOON, also  
Known as strawberry moon, rose moon, honey moon or mead moon.

Tree of the month up to 9th is Hawthorn. Thereafter is the Oak

JUNE 2024

TOM	Moon	Weather	DoP	St/ Holy Day	Other Day	Quarter Day	Apogee/ Perigee	Met Off (stormy/ quiet)	Buchan (warm/ cold)	Super Moon	Highest Tides	Notes
1	S											
2	S						Perigee - 08:16					
3	M											
4	T											
5	W											
6	T	New Moon @ 13.37	Very Rainy								Highest Tides	
7	F											
8	S			St Medard							6th-8th	
9	S											
10	M											
11	W											
12	T											
13	T											
14	F	1Q @ 06.18	Wind & Rain				Apogee - 14:35					
15	S			St Vitus								
16	S											
17	M											
18	T											
19	W			St Protais								
20	T											June Solstice
21	F											
22	S	Full Moon @ 02.07	Cold & Showers								Highest Tides	
23	S											
24	M		DOP	St John		Quarter day					22nd - 24th	
25	T											
26	W											
27	T						Perigee - 12:30					
28	F	3Q @ 22.53	Fair									
29	S			St Peter & St Paul							Cool period	
30	S										Cool period	