

JANUARY 2024

PREAMBLE

(Wind Direction on 21st: E/ESE – TBC)



Wildflower of the Month – Common Gorse (flowers January – June)

Flower of The Month: Carnation

Tree of The Month: The Silver Birch

Full Moon this Month: Wolf Moon

"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future." — John F. Kennedy

Welcome to the January 2024 Website Entry

Firstly, a very Happy New Year to one and all! I hope 2024 brings you health, happiness and all that you are wishing for. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued reading and support. It is a big change for us all. I conclude that the only thing certain in life is change, therefore all we can do is enjoy the ride.

Now the collated expert notes on January:

JANUARY – is on average the coldest month of the year in Britain. The coldest day is traditionally associated with 13th January – St Hilary, and in fact the three days 12-14th January do tend to bring cold temperatures to London, the Home Counties and SE England. Early January is a continuation of the December stormy weather after a break of a few days after the New Year, from 5-17th, in some years taking all this period. A cold spell often develops in mid-January, with a rapid decrease in storms. This is associated with a considerable rise in barometric pressure over central Europe, and, to a lesser extent over northern Europe. It is quite common over much of Britain and results in remarkable frost during some seasons. Towards the end of January barometric pressure generally begins to fall again, normally quite considerably too over most of Europe, leading in many years to quite stormy periods. On the average such times last about nine days from 24th January to the 1st February – even if there are one or two fine days in the middle. Typical weather is dull, mild, and wet, but not particularly cold. Many will recall the North Sea floods of 1953 that brought flooding, deaths, and destruction to much of the North Sea coastline, including the east of England, during this late January period. Fortunately, there is no evidence of such an occurrence for this year.

My Notes:

New Years Day will be dry and frosty! Great news for livestock owners since the grass will not be growing, ensuring two good hay harvests this year. As can be seen from the spreadsheet, and particularly when used in conjunction with the wind directions from November 11th – we can see that for the usual Northern regions, snowfall and bitter cold can be expected during the first three weeks of January. The SW of the UK and Ireland will be under the influence of a wetter and slightly warmer wind phase and will likely suffer copious rainfall and storms. The SE of the UK will be under the influence of a colder/ dryer wind phase and as such can expect cold, dry conditions with strong cold winds. For sure, it will be cold for all. These wind phases will apply until March 21st.

The odd smattering of snow could crop up almost anywhere (unlikely in the SW), but nothing significant or of consequence south of the Humber. If we were going to experience a very snowy winter the oaks would have pustules on the under sides of the leaves for the smaller ground feeding birds to eat. The East of Anglia and the tip of Thanet in Kent may see something more significant, but in the main – no snow, certainly not enough to worry about. We will need to endure frosts and strong cold winds though, that is for sure.

Working a whole year ahead gives invaluable insight into future weather whilst explaining the current weather. With frosty and frozen grounds until the middle of February, nature will restore the balance and warm up the ground by providing a very wet March. It will for sure be a cold and wet Easter, which we must endure if we are to enjoy a dry, warm summer. Given that January is a popular time to plan summer holidays, please note if you are planning a UK holiday this year, the last week of June and first three weeks of July is the time to go! It will get progressively warmer throughout this period.

Understandably, readers are very sad that David has decided to step away from his website. Therefore, please note, to get your monthly 'fix' of David may I suggest purchasing one of his excellent two books? I have read them both and highly recommend them. They are also brilliant reference guides, which I use every morning before I go out on my walk. Both books can be purchased via the following link:

www.weatherwithouttechnology.co.uk/furtherinformation

As a mum, I find myself increasingly concerned about the world we are creating for our young. I am a qualified children's yoga instructor and regularly held classes for local 'Rainbows' and 'Brownies' groups on a voluntary basis and have lost count of the number of times young children have been completely unable to touch their own toes or maintain a basic warm up without losing their breath. When one delves a bit deeper and notices the huge increase in childhood obesity, general ill health, mental health issues and even increasing child suicide rates it is a real punch in the gut – the type that takes your breath away and stops you in your tracks. As a parent I find the figures terrifying.

Schools (due to Government directives) have become so focussed on Ofsted ratings and grades that they have completely neglected the most basic human rights of all – the right to move, and the right to time outdoors! At best schools allow two PE sessions per week, and at worst one. Even worse, some schools insist children miss their often only PE session of the week to catch up on homework or join 'academic catch-up sessions'. If there is a snow flurry forget it – no going outdoors today! You watch a movie at lunch instead. This is a national disgrace and a great fast track to ill health.

Furthermore, home time finally arrives, parents finish work and yet children still can't grab the opportunity to get outdoors because they are piled high with homework! How on earth is any of this in the best interests of the child? Children between the ages of 5 – 18 benefit from at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity per day. When I look back to my childhood, my plate wasn't piled high with homework, we were out on our bikes or running around the green with friends! We were climbing trees and making real memories. We played and walked to school in all weathers, and certainly weren't stressed with homework or catching up on areas of the curriculum we were falling behind in – we simply didn't know if we were behind!

This issue is further exacerbated by phones, I-pads, computer games etc. In the small window of down time our children do get, they are glued to their devices because they are mentally exhausted! I don't know what the answer is, does anyone? It is with this in mind I am pulling together 'Little Oaks Nature Detectives'. I hope it can inspire others to get outside in nature. Nature is fantastic for children's mental and physical wellbeing. The opportunities for learning and playing are endless. Children can work up a sweat and learn. Perhaps nature is at least some of the answer? I hope so. I would love to hear from parents with any views on this.

NOTES FROM DAVID

Both below boxes are pasted from David's recent entries, vital pieces of information which I felt prudent to include once again:

We are unable to save, harvest or store sufficient water to sustain life here, yet, despite massive construction projects not one new reservoir has been constructed in the UK since 1989, the now annual water shortages are blamed on climate change and global warming. Absolute poppycock. But such is the power of this climate change lobby that everything is taken as gospel and the truth. We have, because we do not harvest such vital rain, a very real water shortage. HS2 has decimated our vital chalk streams too, the complaints are endless, sadly to no avail.

I give a serious word of warning. Without water we cannot survive, wars are fought in the middle east over water. Instead of spending billions £ sterling on a futile effort to ban CO2 by 2050 (because it is unattainable), such efforts and monies would be better spent on building new reservoirs, improving water saving procedures and such vital amenities. We are a have a temperate climate, a country surrounded by water, yet, we have major annual water restrictions, this is madness personified.

And, despite all the major flooding in October in the north and Scotland, alas, again, I see, sadly that some of this flooding was caused by building on flood plains. Man in his stupidity again exacerbates the situation.

A suggestion, I rarely suggest actions unless there is sufficient evidence to warrant such, however, especially in the southern part of England there is a problem with rain. There is, despite all the gross warnings that climate change will bring flooding and more rain, a shortage of rain, or, more correctly, the ability to save, harvest and store such rain as falls. This is due through a combination of failures by the water utilities (by greed and avarice), the department of environment (through constant reducing of staff and responsibilities), Ofwat (by complete dereliction and abdication of responsibility), the government in general through dereliction of duties and financial ineptitude, to construct any means to harvest/save water since the last reservoir was finished in 1989. As a nation the UK builds houses, developments et al, without any concerns or recourse to water supply. The result is there for all to see, and many to experience, through water restrictions and supply failures; on an island surrounded by water this just not acceptable, it is a truly disgraceful situation. I see ahead, from the tried, tested and proven methodology here, that, especially for those in the south of England, not only is the ground parched dry and rock hard in so many places currently, through lack of rainfall, excess sunshine and heat, plus drying winds, but the rainfall situation for 2024, contrary to what the climate change doom-mongers predict of floods etc, but one of less rain, a hot summer and lack of sufficient rainfall. Last winter the dryness of the ground and lack of rainfall resulted in so many gardeners losing shrubs, trees, and plants. With the ground so dry again, currently, and no meaningful rain even on the horizon, the same catastrophe for gardeners is about to be repeated. One only must cast one's eyes and see just how many trees in the wild, and in gardens too, already are dying through this dryness and heat. The stark evidence is there for all to see already. My suggestion, therefore, is for all those, where such a suggestion is viable and practical, particularly farmers/growers, commence at the earliest convenience to construct ponds/water saving/retention devices. Such construction will harvest water, assist your husbandry of your land, and create a wildlife sanctuary for birds and animals, surely a win-win situation for all.

Like David, I have grave concerns about the state of our oceans and rivers. I am not going to delve into this too much in my first website entry, but as a fun starting off point, I thought you may enjoy the below quiz created by 'Surfers Against Sewage' (answers at bottom). They are a fantastic charity doing big things. You can find out more about them here: www.sas.org.uk

IT'S QUIZ TIME!

If you are feeling super clever watch the video via the QR code and then answer the questions in our quiz below!

Answers: upside down at the bottom – no peaking!

Hint: check out the extra "facts" link in the video.

Good luck Ocean Activists!

1 How many times was sewage dumped into UK bathing waters in 2022?

- a) 50
- b) 500
- c) 5,000

2 What 3 things make up the "cocktail" we find in our rivers & streams?

- a) Sewage, agriculture run off, contaminates
- b) Orange squash, chocolate milkshake, Haribo
- c) Sewage, frog spawn, duck poo

3 The UK is one of the best countries in Europe for water quality!

- a) True
- b) False

4 What percentage of our rivers are considered to be in good ecological health?

- a) 10%
- b) 75%
- c) 14%

5 What illness might you get from swimming in polluted rivers? Pick 3!

- a) Gastroenteritis (puke & poo-nami!)
- b) Appendicitis
- c) Chicken Pox
- d) Hepatitis
- e) E.Coli

ANSWERS
1 C 2 A 3 B 4 C 5 A,D,E

January 2024

New Moon 11th @ 11:57 = Cold & High Winds
1st Quarter Moon 18th @ 03:52 = Snowy & Stormy
Full Moon 25th @ 17:54 = Fair
Last Quarter Moon 4th @ 03:30 = Snowy & Stormy

DoP = 25th St Paul

HIGHEST SPRING TIDES 12th to the 15th

Apogee 1st @ 15:28 & 29th @ 08:14
Perigee 13th @ 10:34

Quadrantids Meteor Shower 3rd & 4th

Full Moon is known as WOLF or OLDMOON/ MOON AFTER YULE

MET OFFICE NOTES: 5th – 17th Stormy; 18th – 24th Quiet; 25th – 31st Stormy

BUCHAN NOTES = NONE

Monthly Notes & Comments

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------|--|
| 1 st | Calends | If Janiver Calends be summerly gay, wintery weather will continue to the calends of May. Apogee @ 15:28 |
| 3 rd | | It will be the same weather for nine weeks as it is the ninth day after Christmas. 3 rd & 4 th : Quadrantids Meteor Shower. |
| 5 th | | Twelfth night. |
| 6 th | Epiphany | The days are lengthened a cocks stride. |
| 8 th | | Weather before noon foretells June, weather after noon that of May. Plough Monday. |
| 9 th | | Weather before noon foretells August, weather after noon that of July. |
| 10 th | | Weather before noon foretells October, weather after noon that of September. |
| 11 th | | Weather before noon foretells December, weather after noon that of November. |
| 12 th | | If the sun shines today it foretells much wind. |
| 13 th | St Hilary | Foretells the weather for the whole year. Often considered the coldest and or wettest day of the year (reliable). Homage day to the apple tree. Perigee @ 10:34 |
| 15 th | St Paul the Hermit | If rain or snow this year, there will be a blessing on the year. |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|--|
| 17 th | St Sulphicius | Frost augers well for Spring. |
| 19 th – 31 st | | See rhyme below. |
| 22 nd | St Vincent | If the sky is clear, more water than wine will crown the year. If the sun shines today (it foreshadows much wind), prosperous weather all year. |
| 25 th | St Paul | aka as St Annanias. It is said to predict the weather for the whole year ahead (it is good for 6 months - but tails off after that). DAY OF PREDICTION. Also known as Egyptian Day. Burns Night. Arguably the most important day of the year. |
| 29 th | | Apogee @ 08.14 |
| 31 st | | Hazel tree in flower. |

MET OFFICE NOTES:

BUCHAN NOTES = None.

5th – 17th Stormy

18th – 24th Quiet

25th – 31st Stormy

Wildflower of the Month – Common Gorse (flowers January – June)

Flower of The Month: Carnation

Tree of The Month: The Silver Birch

Full Moon this Month: Wolf Moon

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.

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 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 Janiveer, '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.

Hoar 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 Annanias'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 unrest will vex us all and cold will blow the great winds of January.

Clouds on St Annanias 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 6am to 6pm. 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 later 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 Janiveer is like to make a plenteous year - a very dependable saying.

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

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

THE MOON IS KNOWN AS THE WOLF MOON OR OLD MOON OR MOON AFTER YULE.

| 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 M | | | | | Calends | | Apogee - 15:28 | | | | | |
| 2 T | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 W | | | | | 9th day after Christmas | | | | | | | Quadrantids Meteor Shower |
| 4 T | 3Q Moon @ 03.30 | Snowy & Stormy | | | | | | | | | | Quadrantids Meteor Shower |
| 5 F | | | | | Twelfth night | | | Stormy | | | | |
| 6 S | | | | Epiphany | | | | Stormy | | | | |
| 7 S | | | | | | | | Stormy | | | | |
| 8 M | | | | | Plough Monday | | | Stormy | | | | |
| 9 T | | | | | | | | Stormy | | | | |
| 10 W | | | | | | | | Stormy | | | | |
| 11 T | New Moon @ 11.57 | Cold & High Winds | | | | | | Stormy | | | | |
| 12 F | | | | | | | | Stormy | | | Highest | |
| 13 S | | | | St Hilary | | | Perigee - 10:34 | Stormy | | | Tides | |
| 14 S | | | | | | | | Stormy | | | 12th to | |
| 15 M | | | | St Paul The Hermit | | | | Stormy | | | 15th | |
| 16 T | | | | | | | | Stormy | | | | |
| 17 W | | | | St Sulphicius | | | | Stormy | | | | |
| 18 T | 1Q @ 03.52 | Snowy & Stormy | | | | | | Quiet | | | | |
| 19 F | | | | | | | | Quiet | | | | |
| 20 S | | | | | | | | Quiet | | | | |
| 21 S | | | | | | | | Quiet | | | | |
| 22 M | | | | St Vincent | | | | Quiet | | | | |
| 23 T | | | | | | | | Quiet | | | | |
| 24 W | | | | | | | | Quiet | | | | |
| 25 T | Full Moon @ 17.54 | Fair | DoP | St Paul | | | | Stormy | | | | |
| 26 F | | | | | | | | Stormy | | | | |
| 27 S | | | | | | | | Stormy | | | | |
| 28 S | | | | | | | | Stormy | | | | |
| 29 M | | | | | | | Apogee - 08:14 | Stormy | | | | |
| 30 T | | | | | | | | Stormy | | | | |
| 31 W | | | | | | | | Stormy | | | | Hazel tree in flower |