

JULY 2025

PREAMBLE



Up to July 14th: Lavender



July 15th: Lily



July 20th: Poppy



July 22nd: Rose

Photo credits due to: Wildlife Trusts & Gardeners World

Flower of the month: Larkspur

Tree of the month: Up to 7th is the Oak, thereafter Holly

Full Moon this Month: Buck Moon

“In July, the song sings itself.”

William Carlos Williams

July 2025

A warm welcome to July's website entry — and what a hot welcome it's been! In true British fashion, just as we all prepared ourselves for the usual rain-soaked rallies, Wimbledon opened with the hottest opening day on record. Quite extraordinary — and a far cry from the drizzle and centre-court umbrellas we've come to expect. Temperatures hit 33.1°C at Heathrow. Of course, the hottest June days will likely correlate with the coldest February days — so well worth noting. 😊

A dramatic start to July appears to be on the way too, with mainstream forecasters predicting highs of 34–36°C for July 1st. This follows an exceptionally warm and dry late spring and early summer. I'll say it openly — I absolutely didn't see that coming! I try to stay one step ahead with my forecasts, but this year has taken even the most seasoned nature-watchers by surprise. The weather has been downright unpredictable — humbling, and a powerful reminder that we're always learning.

We also recently recorded the latest episode of Country Signs, but had a little hiccup with the audio, so we'll be re-recording tomorrow, and it will be available very soon. Thank you so much for your patience — it's always worth getting it right, and we can't wait to share it with you. If you haven't subscribed already, please do so at [Indigenous UK Weather – YouTube](#). It's completely free, and it really helps us out by letting YouTube know people are enjoying our content. Thank you so much.

This month, nature-lovers have so much to look forward to — from the RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival (1–6 July), a crown jewel in the gardening calendar, to the much-loved Big Butterfly Count, launching on the 12th. I'll certainly be joining in — clipboard in hand, eyes scanning the hedgerows! Keep an eye out for National Garden Scheme (NGS) open gardens near you (many only open once a year), and if you've got little ones, RSPB's Big Wild Summer is a perfect way to get out and reconnect.

Finally, a fascinating article that Dave and I thought you might enjoy: [Why the summer solstice is a 'celestial starting gun' for trees | Trees and forests | The Guardian](#)

As we move into the heart of the season, July brings that beautiful sense of high summer — long days, sun-warmed evenings, and bees among the bramble flowers. But there are some striking differences this year. The country lanes, usually white with cow parsley, are looking more like late August — the plants dry and spent far ahead of schedule. And the lack of insects is deeply worrying. Many of those I've seen are already dead, likely through lack of water. Let's take nature's cue and remember to put water out in our gardens for the wildlife. They desperately need the help this year.

If you do nothing else this month, I hope you'll carve out a little time to walk, breathe, and notice the beauty quietly unfolding all around us. Thank you, as ever, for being here — for reading, sharing, and staying curious. We'll be back soon with more.

With warmest wishes,

Lesley & Dave

Photographer of the Month – Judy Woodward

“Local Bee Caught Causing a Buzz”



I'd like to take a moment to give a huge thankyou to Judy for her ongoing commitment to contributing such amazing photos for us to share.

As regular readers will know, my Nan is in a care home where I visit regularly. I see firsthand just how important it is to bring the outside in – and Judy, your photos do exactly that. They offer a window into the wild for those who are no longer able to get out and experience such sights themselves.

Your contributions make a real difference, Judy. It means the world to so many, thankyou for your kindness, your eye for beauty, and for keeping the buzz alive – quite literally this month!

Data Changes

SOME NECESSARY CHANGES IN WEATHER DATA SINCE THE FIRST VERSION OF THE BOOK 'WEATHER WITHOUT TECHNOLOGY,' WAS PUBLISHED

THESE CHANGES ALSO APPLY TO THE BOOK 'DAVID KING'S WEATHER ALMANAC,' AND THE DATA SHEET ON THE MONTHLY WEBSITE ENTRIES.

The original figures were taken from the 1981 - 2000 Met Office figures, which at the time of publishing in 2017 were the current reference marks.

However, since then the Met Office have upgraded their data to the 1991 – 2020 period. It is not without significance that eight of the last ten years temperatures have been the highest recorded, and too, rainfall has increased too. Such temperatures and rainfall therefore cast doubt on the use the 1991-2020 data as the benchmark (even though it stays within the normal thirty-year records that the Met Office uses.)

In my opinion, over the many years of weather recording, it is time to produce a later set of figures, albeit, not within the thirty-year norm on the Met Office, but a shorter, but more accurate reflection of the temperature, rainfall and sunshine records currently applicable. This shorter period compiled from contemporaneous daily figures here at my weather station in Edenbridge were compiled and certified by an acknowledged weather expert at Reading University, therefore as such they are a true record.

The first set of data is the new updated figures 2011-2020.

Each month is shown, accompanied by the Maximum, minimum, mean temperatures. Then, rainfall, sunshine and daily sunshine follow.

I appreciate that the figures here represent just one station here in the South-East, and that each location will have its own records, but as such the figures give an idea of what to expect in each month.

NEWER MORE ACCURATE FIGURES 2011-2020 UPGRADING PREVIOUS FIGURES

MONTH 2011-2020	Max Temp.C	Min Temp.C	Mean Temp.C	Rainfall mm	Sunshine hours	Daily sun hours
JANUARY	8.4	4.45	4.9	111.1	66.6	2.15
FEBRUARY	9.3	2.4	5.8	85.9	92.1	3.29
MARCH	12.4	3.2	7.8	64.9	142.3	4.59
APRIL	16.4	5	10.7	50.9	193.3	6.44
MAY	19.4	8	13.7	66.4	219.1	7.07
JUNE	21.9	11.1	16.5	82.2	203.5	6.78
JULY	24.6	13.1	18.8	66.9	234.2	7.55
AUGUST	23.8	12.6	18.2	78.8	211.8	6.83
SEPTEMBER	20.9	10.8	15.9	55.6	173.4	5.78
OCTOBER	16.3	7.5	11.9	106.1	117.3	3.78
NOVEMBER	11.6	4.6	9.1	118.8	72.9	2.43
DECEMBER	9.6	3.3	6.5	125.8	58.1	1.87
ANNUAL DATA	16.2	6.9	11.6	1012.4	1784.6	4.88

MONTH 2011-2020	1st 12 noon	1st 4pm	last day	31st 12 noon	31st 4pm
JANUARY	7.07	6.99	31st	5.4	5.8
FEBRUARY	6.5	6.78	28th	7.7	7.5
MARCH	8.17	8.64	31st	10.7	12.2
APRIL	12	13.2	30th	14.9	15.8
MAY	15.7	16.4	31st	18.5	19.7
JUNE	18.3	19.4	30th	20.3	21.6
JULY	21.9	22.9	31st	22.1	23.4
AUGUST	22.3	23.7	31st	19.1	20.1
SEPTEMBER	19.8	21.1	30th	16.6	17.3
OCTOBER	16.2	17.2	31st	12.8	12.3
NOVEMBER	12.1	11.5	30th	7.7	7.2
DECEMBER	7.8	7.2	31st	6.5	6.2

THIS SECOND TABLE DENOTES THE UPGRADED MONTHLY TEMPERATURES AT 12 NOON AND P.M. FOR THE FIRST DAY OF EACH MONTH AND THE LAST DAY OF EACH MONTH. THESE FIGURES APPEAR AS THE LAST ENTRY ON THE MONTHLY DATA SHEET.

THE INTENTION IS TO GIVE A GUIDE AS THE APPROXIMATE TEMPERATURE EACH MONTH.

@David King

Edenbridge

15 June 2025.

FURTHER DETAIL SHOWING HOW THIS GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO ANTAGONISE AND PENALISE THE FARMING COMMUNITY.

Labour cutting farming budget in England by £100m a year, figures shows Nature and farmers' groups cautiously welcome spending review as there were fears Treasury wanted bigger cuts.

[Helena Horton](#) and [Kiran Stacey](#)

Labour is cutting the farming budget in England by £100m a year, spending review figures show.

Despite the decrease, the budget has been cautiously welcomed by nature and farming groups, as there were fears the Treasury had wanted to reduce the funding further.

Farmers have felt squeezed by the Labour government's policies over recent months, with mass protests over the introduction of [inheritance tax](#) on farms worth more than £1m. Extreme weather and rising input prices have increased financial pressures on the sector, which has meant that a cut to the budget could have serious impacts.

Ministers have also indicated that larger farms [could be ineligible](#) for the nature-friendly farming fund in future. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs was recently forced to [U-turn](#) on a freeze to new applicants for the fund after the National Farmers' Union (NFU) threatened legal action.

[Previous research](#) by the RSPB has found that a £100m a year cut would lead to 239,000 fewer hectares (590,580 acres) of nature-friendly farmland.

Defra said the funding paid to farmers under of environment land management schemes (Elms) would "skyrocket" from £800m in 2023-24 to £2bn in 2028-29. However, the NFU has called this "misleading" because after [Brexit](#), farmers were promised that their subsidies would be the same as they were under the EU and were promised a figure of £2.4bn a year.

The Elms programme was devised by the conservatives after Brexit: the goal was that rather than being paid per acre, farmers should be paid for improving nature. While the programme was being put in place, the acreage payments known as basic payments schemes (BPS) were kept, and cut each year as Elms increased. BPS is due to be phased out entirely by 2028. Farmers currently get the £2.4bn a year in the two streams as well as a smaller amount of money in grants for things such as robotics trials.

Going forward, the government has promised an average of £2.3bn a year up to 2028-29 for the farming budget. By the end of the spending period the budget will shrink to £2.25bn, with £2bn allocated for Elms and the rest paid in productivity grants.

Sanjay Dhanda, the NFU's senior economist, has said Defra has been "misleading" in its claims.

He said: “A key pillar of Defra’s budget is the continued investment in Elms, with funding set to rise to £2bn by 2028-29, compared with the £1.8bn earmarked in the autumn 2024 budget. While the government has framed this as a significant uplift from the £800m spent in 2023-24, this comparison is misleading as Elms was not fully operational at that point, and delinked payments [BPS] absorbed a large share of funding.”

However, Defra sources pointed out that although the previous government allocated £2.4bn a year for Elms, the Tories in fact [underspent it](#) by about £100m a year. That government had, however, promised that by the end of the spending period, which was cut short by the general election, the full fund was ringfenced and would be allocated to farmers.

Tom Bradshaw, the NFU president, said: “While the Defra secretary of state has listened and managed to maintain the overall funding for farming and nature recovery, from what we can see so far, the £100m cut to farming means farmers and growers will need to do more with less.”

Mark Spencer, a former farming minister who was in charge of issuing the farming budget, said the amount spent on Elms would have been higher than £2bn at the end of the spending period, under the Tories.

(I APPRECIATE THAT THE ABOVE REFLECTS THE HARM BEING DONE TO OUR ESSENTIAL AND VITAL FARMING INDUSTRY, BUT SUCH IGNORANCE WILL COST ALL OF US DEAR IN PRODUCE AND MONEY. WITHOUT FARMING IN THIS KINGDOM, WE WILL ALL SUFFER.)

@David King

Edenbridge

June 2025

Something for the little ones? Courtesy of the Wildlife Trusts:

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org>



Magic Sightings waiting to happen in July are:

- Adders
- Badgers
- Bats
- Brown Hares
- Butterflies & Damselflies (Use Jim's Guide)
- Common Lizards
- Cuckoos
- Emperor Moth Caterpillars
- Glow Worm
- Grasshoppers & Crickets
- Grass Snakes
- Great Crested Grebes
- Harvest Mice
- Hedgehogs
- Hobby Falcons
- Muntjac Deer
- Newts
- Nightjars
- Orchids
- Otters
- Puffins
- Slow Worms
- Squirrels
- Redstarts
- Reed Warblers
- Robins
- Sand Martins
- Stoats
- Swallows & Swifts
- Tawny Owls
- Woodneckers



The Cuckoo: Credit to Trevor Eldridge

Perfect to plant in July: Kale, Chard & Purple Sprouting Broccoli:

These hardy, leafy greens thrive when sown in summer warmth and will reward you with strong, resilient plants that last into autumn and even winter. July's heat gives them a head start, but they grow best when the fierce sun starts to soften. They're also brilliant for children to grow – big seeds, fast germination, and colourful leaves. Watching them tough it out through autumn feels like a tiny miracle in motion – and picking your own food in the colder months is nothing short of magic.

IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF IDENTITY DO NOT EAT OR TOUCH. WE HAVE A SURPRISING NUMBER OF POISONOUS SPECIES HERE IN THE UK.

MY TOP FORAGING PICKS FOR THIS JULY:

- Wild Raspberries
- Meadowsweet
- Bilberries
- Elderflowers (last few)
- Wild Mint
- Lime Tree (Linden) Blossoms (make a calming tea, gentle enough for children)
- Sorrel – salads and sandwiches
- Chickweed – use like spinach
- Goosegrass (Cleavers) – kids will love the way they cling! Seeds can be roasted for a coffee like drink.

THE SKIES

- July Full Moon: BUCK MOON
- July 4th: You may be able to see Mercury
- July 28th & 29th: Delta Aquarids Meteor Shower



1Q Moon:
2nd July @ 20:30
Rainy if wind S or SW



Full Moon:
10th July @ 21:36
Rainy if winds S or SW



3Q Moon:
18th July @ 01:37
Fair



New Moon:
24th July @ 20:11
Rainy if winds S or SW



HIGHEST SPRING TIDES: 12th – 15th & 26th – 28th

DoP: St Swithin's – 15th

Apogee: 5th @ 03:27

Perigee: 20th @ 14:39

Now for the collated expert notes on July:

Now for the collated expert notes on July: Between 30 June and 2 July there is generally a small drop in temperature. The first week in July is in any case a period of rather variable temperatures, with weather tending to be unsettled, certainly showery if not markedly wet, and usually some thunderstorms occur from time to time in most districts (which is why it invariably rains during the Wimbledon tennis tournament). From 9 to 25th July temperature levels are generally higher. The thunderstorm risk continues, though the frequency of the outbreaks decreases. However, when these storms do occur, they are heavy, and southern England can be badly affected – northern districts rather less so. Conditions generally during this middle period of July tend to be sultry and humid, with winds blowing lightly or at moderate strength for the south. From 26th July to the end of the month it is normally cooler, with rather wet and unsettled weather affecting all districts. Moderate to fresh south-westerly winds are common and may be strong at times in the north. The period 13 -15th July is a Buchan warm period often with the hottest days of the year (even though the 15th is St Swithun's day – a rainy day in folklore). The last two days of the month (30/31st) too in recent years have tended to be very hot days too.

Notes from Nature:

With the hot, humid days of late, and despite the gentle rain, the ground is hard and solid - everything is so dry and dusty. In many places the earth is so dry the soil has literally cracked open. Streams and brooks now dry, ponds lowered and rivers now very low. I am astonished that hose pipe bans and water restrictions have not yet been put in place.

A few more insects around now, although many are dropping dead through lack of water and sheer heat. Lots of hornets, precious few butterflies or damselflies. More ladybirds around now, which will hopefully take care of the masses of white aphids and blackfly.

Fruit is ripening everywhere. Apples, pears, plums, and a magnificent year for cherries. An abundance of blackberry flowers too. It will be a fantastic fruit harvest, but again a sure sign of a very hard winter to come. Nuts and seeds everywhere, nature is working hard to stock up the larder.

The wind direction on June 24th was for the majority W/SW which delivers warm (but hopefully) damper weather.

The importance of the hottest day in June cannot be understated. This will correlate to the coldest date in February 2026. 33.1c was recorded at Heathrow.

MY NOTES:

June Review:

We had a little more rain in June, but still nowhere near on the scale of what we need, nor what I expected. I was pleased I was able to predict the heatwave that actually arrived after June 12th, not before, but nonetheless was well within my acceptable margin. I knew a heatwave would arise, as I know what is to come in February 2026. I didn't expect heat to the level we have seen it, and for such a prolonged hot spell to occur. This makes me especially wary about what's shaping up for February 2026 – more on that soon.

The wind direction on 24th was indeed W/SW for the vast majority as it almost always is – it is the most predictable of wind days and as such this was an easy prediction to make.

So yes, above average sunshine hours – correct. Yes, above average temperatures – correct (although I thought we would only be a little above average overall). My fears for February have now increased tenfold. I expected above average rainfall, this was clearly not correct.

Overall, June, to be honest, was not a great forecast – it wasn't what I was expecting. I was expecting damp and warm overall. I won't sugar coat it; I will always say it as it is which is probably one of the reasons Dave and I get along so well! Haha.

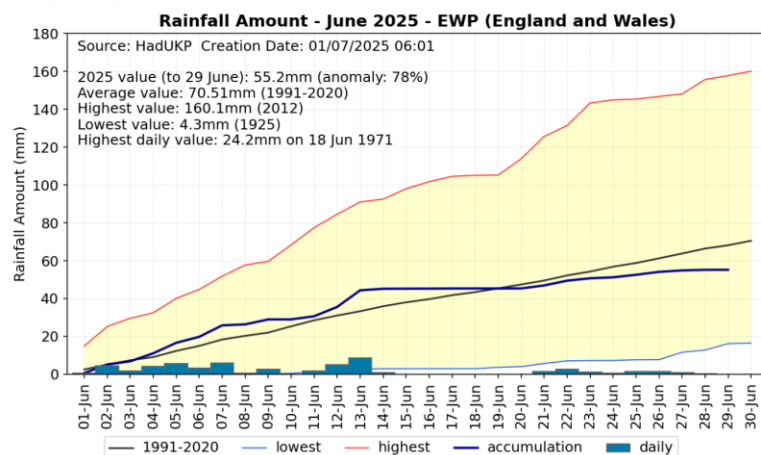
Useful reference Points for June 2025

Mean Central England Temperature, 2025

Month	CET	Anomaly	notes
January	3.4	-0.4	
February	5.3	1.5	
March	7.9	2.3	
April	10.9	3.0	
May	13.2	2.1	
June	17.0	2.9	

Met Office

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July Forecast:

July is likely to be unsettled, but not without surprises. The wind will settle into SW pattern over the coming days. There will be warmth, but the warm spells will likely be followed by showers or summer storms. Early July will bring muggy conditions. A fine spell of calm, settled weather looks likely around July 15th, lasting about a week to ten days. By the end of the month, we will return to more humid, rainy conditions, especially in western and central areas. That said, there's just an outside chance that July could surprise us all. If the winds shift away from the southerlies (though surely, they won't?), we might see a dramatic change in pattern – and a hot, dryish month is not out of the question, AGAIN. Most signs suggest warmth and wet, but this could be one of those rare years where July has a trick up its sleeve. 2025 seems to be one of those.

JULY 2025

1st Quarter Moon 2nd @ 20:30 = Rainy if winds S or SW

Full Moon 10th @ 21:36 = Rainy if winds S or SW

Last Quarter Moon on 18th @ 01:37 = Fair

New Moon 24th @ 20:11 = Rainy if winds S or SW

FULL MOON THIS MONTH IS THE BUCK MOON

DoP = 15th: St Swithin's

Highest Spring tides = 12th to 15th & 26th to 28th

APOGEE 5th @ 03:27hrs/ PERIGEE 20th @ 14:39hrs

BUCHAN COLD PERIOD: 1st – 4th

BUCHAN WARM PERIOD: 13th – 15th

NO MET OFFICE PERIODS

Monthly Notes & Comments

1 st		If the first week of July be rainy weather - 'twill rain more or less for a full four weeks'. It always rains on the first Friday in July.
3 rd	St Thomas	Rain today, rain for seven weeks. Commencement of dog days (to 28/8) hottest part of year.
4 th – 16 th	St Bullion	If fine and summery, the rest of the summer is likely to be fine. Start of dog days.
5 th	Apogee	Apogee @ 03:27
10 th		Celtic Knut the Reaper with hay cutting scythe worshipped. (hay making period).
14 th	St Processus & St Martinian	If it rains today it suffocates the corn, statistically the day with the highest average temperature.
15 th	St Swithun	DoP. Said to mark the weather for 40 days. Lily flowering day.
16 th	Lavender Day	Gather bunches of lavender to hang in wardrobes for perfume and to repel insects.
19 th	Flying Ant Day	The day the flying ants copulate in their thousands. males hatch before noon and females after noon.
20 th	St Margaret	If rain, then talk of Margaret's flood - see below. Poppy flowering day.
20 th	Perigee	Perigee @ 14:39
22 nd	St Mary Magdalene	Alluding to the wet, usually prevalent about the middle of July, the saying is 'St Mary is washing her handkerchief to go to her cousin's St James's, fair (25th). Rose flowering day.
25 th	St James	'Til St James be come and gone, you may have hops and you may have none. English Oyster season officially begins today, celebrations at Whitstable, Kent.
29 th – 31 st		Can be very hot days

General notes and comments.

The 'meadow month' or 'hay month' - traditional labour of month being haymaking.

July should be, and quite often is, a month of blazing sunshine and soaring temperatures.

Hay making and harvesting in full swing.

Dog-Days - the moist sultry days in a period of 20 days before and 20 days after the rising of the Dog-Star Sirius. If we are to have a summer at all, this is the most likely time.

Roughly from mid-July to the end of August, or, corn harvest time. Sirius is the brightest star in the heavens, and is one of those in the southern constellation Canis Major. As the Dog-days commence so they end. Bright and clear indicate a happy year, but accompanied by rain, for better times our hopes are vain.

St Swithuns Day (15th) if thou dost rain, full forty days it will remain.
[this saying never comes true]

If on St Swithuns feast the welkin lours, and ever pent house streams with nasty showers,
twice twenty days shall clouds their fleeces drain, and wash the pavements with incessant rain.
[not acceptable as continuous rain, but acceptable as showers/showery with bright intervals might be acceptable]

St Swithun's day is normally a 'bit of both' day, half sunny & half wet. 'Sunny intervals and showers.' Despite the 40 days rain tag, it is more accurate to say 'sunny intervals and showers.'

If it rains on St Swithuns Day. the saint is christening the apples, and they will be sweet and plentiful.

Watch the weather from the 4th to 16th July. If it is fine and summery, the rest of summer is likely to be fine. [this is quite possibly true]

If about St Swithun's (15th) a change of weather takes place, we likely to have a spell of fine or wet weather.

When the sun enters Leo, the greatest heat then arise.
In July, shear your rye.

When the Goats-Beard (wild flower) closes its flowers before mid-day, then there is rain in the air. If it stays late with its petals open, the atmosphere is dry and the weather set fair.

When the clover leaves are shut (even with clear sky and rising glass) and reaching for the sky, reach for your brolly. [very reliable]

St Margaret (20th) - so much rain often falls this day that people speak of Margarets Flood.

A shower in July when the corn begins to fill, is worth a plough of oxen, and that that belongs theretill.

Much thunder in July injures wheat and barley.

In July cut your rye.

What is to thrive in September must be baked in July. [grapes are a perfect example]

When the months of July, August and September are exceptionally hot, January will be the coldest month. [can be confirmed- but not always]

The first Friday in July is invariably wet. [4/5]

Fog in March -Thunder in July. [check previous readings]

A poor forecast for wheat indicates wet weather in July and August.

A swarm of bees is not worth a fly.

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.
FULL MOON THIS MONTH IS CALLED BUCK MOON, but is also known as thunder moon, deer moon or hay moon.

Tree of the month up-to 7th is Oak. Thereafter Holly is the tree.

MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR EDENBRIDGE (USING 1991-2020 FIGURES)

Mean Max: 24.6C Mean Min: 13.1C Mean Avg: 18.8C

Rainfall: 66.9mm Sunshine: 234.2hrs (day = 7.55hrs)

These above are now updated to the latest 30m year certified period.

Whilst I appreciate the above are local figures, it will be an indication of what the averages are, and of course there will be local variations. Such variations can be found by trawling the various weather websites, or by using the superb data found in the Climatologists Observers Link website.

The following figures are for the average temperature at 12 noon and again at 4pm, taken at the beginning and again at the end of the month.

1st 21.9C 22.9C

31st 22.1C 23.4C

Similarly, these figures are the latest update.

JULY 2025

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									Cold Period			
2	1Q @ 20:30	Rainy if wind S or SW							Cold Period			
3				St Thomas					Cold Period			
4									Cold Period			
5							Apogee @ 03:27					
6												
7												
8												
9												
10	FULL @ 21:36	Rainy if wind S or SW										
11												
12											High Tides	
13									Warm period		High Tides	
14				St Processus & St Martinian					Warm period		High Tides	
15			St Swithun						Warm period		High Tides	
16												Lavender day
17												
18	3Q @ 01:37	Fair										
19												Flying ant day
20							Perigee @ 14:39					
21												
22				St Mary Magdalene								
23												
24	NEW @ 20:11	Rainy if winds S or SW										
25				St James								
26											High Tides	
27											High Tides	
28											High Tides	Delta Aquarids Meteor Shower
29												Delta Aquarids Meteor Shower
30												
31												