

January 2014

Happy New Year

Weather Wisdom

'As the days lengthen does the cold strengthen'

Weather

Since the start of December 2013 the UK has experienced exceptionally unsettled weather.

The country have been battered by high winds, with gusts of up to 90 miles per hour, torrential rain, flooding fallen trees. Villages completely cut off by high water, homes evacuated, farms destroyed.

The south of the UK is bearing the brunt of this awful weather. Somerset the worst affected.

One aspect of this weather which has been largely unnoticed has been the temperatures which have been mild for the time of year.

As in December 2013, a strong Jet Stream has brought extremes of wet and windy weather across the country and its present position is further south than it should be at this time of year.

Fortunately, there were no floods in Willoughby, but according to the weather forecasts this weather is expected to continue.

Nature Notes

The following species have been seen this month:-

- Moorhens
- Ducks
- Green Woodpecker
- Great Spotted Woodpecker
- Blue Tit
- Buzzard
- Wren
- Sparrow hawk
- Fox

Large flock of Redwings and Redstarts in The Leys, Woolscott Road garden.

February 2014

Weather Wisdom

'February always bring the rain and thaws the frozen lakes again'

The weather this month has been terrible. The worst for 142 years. It has been exceptionally wet and very windy. Much damage has been done in the towns and countryside. Rain before Christmas has left acres of farmland in the Somerset Levels under water for more than a month.

February 15th we were lashed by the strongest winds this winter with gusts of up to 108 mph. The Jet Stream was to blame for the severity of the weather. The winds were replaced by heavy rain. Severe flooding took place in many areas as downpours drenched already saturated land.

However, the wet weather has meant that the mild temperatures of January have continued into February. No snow.

Nature Notes

The following species have been seen this month.

- Sparrowhawk
- Longtailed Tits
- Chaffinches
- Robin
- Green Finches

The garden birds are very territorial.

Spring flowers in village gardens are looking good.

March 2014

Weather Wisdom

As they say in Northamptonshire: *'If March comes in all stormy and black,
She carries the winter away on her back.'*

Weather Report

March 1st gave us a brief respite from the February deluges. The weather changed remarkably from wet to warm and dry.

This warmer spell is a welcome break from a long period of deep lows that have been moving across the United Kingdom for most of the year so far bringing storms, rain' gales and hailstorms.

The clocks go forward this month and I hope spring is just around the corner.

Nature Notes

The following species have been seen this month:-
Greenfinches

Great Tits

Robins

Blue Tits

MoorHen

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Mrs Jackson spotted a Yellow Brimstone butterfly in her garden and she also has had a visit from the Willoughby Fox.

Our local paper the 'Daventry Express' reports that a train carried a Tawny Owl for over 175 miles from Crewe to DIRFTt (near Crick) where workers discovered the owl perched between the locomotive and the first wagon. The poor owl was dazed. It had not been trapped but the force of the wind had made it impossible to fly off his perch. Nuneaton and Warwickshire Wildlife Sanctuary took him in and he is making a good recovery.

April 2014

Weather wisdom from Shakespeare. Two Gentlemen of Verona.

'O! How this Spring of love resembleth/the uncertain glory of an April day.

Weather

April arrived bringing with it a sandstorm from the Sahara. This dust from the desert, which covered our cars with sand, also caused very high air pollution in some areas. April was on the whole a pleasantly warm month. Easter weather was rather cool but dry.

April showers have been very much to the fore during this last week in April. We have had rain, hail, thunder and lightning. April showers are due to the increasing strength of the sun.

Nature Notes.

- Skylark. Singing on high. A pleasure to see and hear. The bird was widespread but now numbers are declining.
- Sparrow Hawk. Caught a Chaffinch on our driveway at The Leys. Woolscott Road.
- Moor Hens.
- Six House Martins
- Hedgehogs
- Red Kite flying over Flecknoe.
- Robin has made a nest in a shrub by our kitchen door. The eggs have hatched and the adult birds are very busy feeding them.
- The sunny weather has brought out the Bluebells. Local woods have spectacular displays.

May 2014

Weather Wisdom

A dry May foretells a wholesome summer.

Weather Report

Summer has arrived bringing with it longer days and hopefully more sun

By the middle of the month bright, warm weather prevailed. This encouraged wildlife and flowers into action.

However, even this month, gardeners must beware of a late spring frost.

Nature Notes

The following species have been spotted in villagers gardens.

Skylark

Lots of rabbits

2 baby Dunnocks

2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers

Wrens

Robins

June 2014

No meeting of the Willoughby Society this month as members attended the annual dinner at The Shoulder of Mutton, Grandborough It was a very good evening

Weather Wisdom

Cut your thistles before St John, (24th June)

Or you'll have two instead of one.

Weather

We have enjoyed the sunniest June since 2010. The weather has been very warm and drier than usual. However torrential rain fell on the 28th June, just before our Village Fete was preparing to open. The Village was awash and sadly we had to cancel. It was a shame as much of the work for the event had already been done.

We hope for better weather next year

Nature notes

A Cuckoo was heard in Willoughby.

Buzzards seen flying over the village.

Willoughby Nature Notes 2014

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2014 NOT DATED

2 hedgehogs

2 Grey wagtails

Weasel

2014 NOT DATED

Coal Tit

Shoal fish (Village Pond)

Tree Blossom

Ducks

Chicks

Fox

Bees

Hare

2014 NOT DATED

3 Moor hens

12 gold finches

Long-tail tits

Red Kite