

DECEMBER 2025

PREAMBLE



Wildflower of the month: Holly & Ivy (December 25<sup>th</sup>)

Flower of the month: Narcissus

Tree of the month: up to 22nd is the Elder, no tree on 23rd, thereafter the Birch.

Full Moon this Month: Hunting Moon/ Cold Moon

***"What is grief, if not love persevering?"***

*Vision*

## December 2025

A warm welcome to December's website entry — though this month, "warm" feels like a stretch.

This is the final issue of 2025, and the first one I have ever written without Dave by my side. I'm going to be honest: this is very hard, and very raw. Dave was here with me in Dorset on Tuesday 11th November, I last spoke to him on the morning of Friday 14th November, and he passed away later that same day. Right now, I don't have the polished words I would normally offer. Just tears, memories, and the enormous ache of losing my mentor and dear friend.

But I wanted to show up anyway — partly because Dave always did, and partly because this community meant so much to him.

So instead of trying to pretend everything is fine, I'll say it simply:

"What is grief, if not love persevering?"

That's the quote carrying me through this December.

This year was meant to finish with celebration — a full-circle moment after two years of learning, filming, walking the countryside together... making mistakes, laughing at them, and building something we were both proud of. It feels surreal to be writing this without him. Unreal, even. I keep expecting him to call me and tell me this has all been a terrible mistake.

Dave's voice, his humour, his stubborn optimism, and his absolute passion for this work are woven into every page of this site and will continue to be. I will make it my life's mission to honour Dave's legacy, and I know he would have expected nothing less.

Things will have to change a little, of course. I can't promise Dave's 90% accuracy — no one can. But what I can promise is that this community he cherished will come together, work together, and continue celebrating all the beauty our kingdom has to offer. With learning, communication, and the knowledge Dave passed on to us, maybe — just maybe — we can still aim for 80% accuracy. Time will tell. I hope so.

Thank you to every one of you who has supported us over the past two years, and indeed the many of you who supported Dave long before we ever joined forces. Your kindness has always been a steady light, especially now.

And thank you to Dave... for your mentorship, your patience, the long conversations about clouds and hedgerows, your trust, and the belief that we could carve out something meaningful here. More than anything, thank you for your friendship. I will miss you beyond measure, my dear friend. You really were one of a kind, and I cannot believe you're gone.

I don't have the strength for a long update this month, but I can share the thing Dave loved most: the land itself. Below you'll find this month's usual photographs and the articles Dave had been working on before he passed — make the most of his voice one last time.

December is not the most wonderful time of the year for me this year. But it is a time of truth, reflection, and love. Dave is a shining example of a life well lived. He was intelligent, kind, hilarious, and as honest as the day is long. Dave had time for absolutely everyone and was so unapologetically himself — which is rare in today's world. I will miss that. And other than continuing Dave's legacy, I will remind myself always to be a little bit more Dave. He was a gentleman true to his generation, and the world absolutely needs more like him.

Here's to you Dave, you were a bloody good egg, and it was an honour to walk the land with you.

If you are struggling this Christmas, please reach out. This community is still here. I am still here. And Dave, in so many ways, always will be.

With love, and Merry Christmas from my family to yours. And all that you aspire to in 2026.

*Lesley*



Many of you kind souls have e-mailed me asking about sending flowers or making a donation in David's memory. Please note that I have discussed this with David's son, Trevor, who has agreed that the best thing to do is donate to the RSPB in memory of Dave. He loved birds. You can do so here: [In Memory Donations](#)

Photographer of the Month – Vicky Eldridge  
“A Sunset for Dave”



Vicky captured this beautiful photo of a sunset, and sent it straight over to me and said it was for Dave. He would have loved this shot, thank you so much Vicky. ❤️



## Our Indigenous UK Weather Photographer of 2025

And now for the moment we have all been waiting for, the moment David was so very excited about. Time to vote for the Indigenous UK Weather Photographer of the year. Thank you so much to everyone who has submitted images to us, as Dave learnt in his final weeks, they are a life line to those unable to get out.

Below is the image we selected for each month of 2025. Please e-mail: [indigenousukweather@outlook.com](mailto:indigenousukweather@outlook.com) to vote for your favourite. I will announce the winner in the January 2026 website entry.

The lucky winner will receive a trophy, a £25 RSPB voucher, and originally, a walk with Dave. I'm so sorry I can't honour that part of the prize now, but the winner is warmly welcome to join me for a walk instead, if they wish.

So, here is a reminder of the entries. Please ensure you vote no later than December 15<sup>th</sup>. After this date votes will not be counted.

1. 'Roe-No, I think they've seen us', by Philippe Durst in January 2025.



2. 'Hawkward Stare', by Jim Bishop in February 2025



3. 'Whooo's Watching Who?' by Trevor Eldridge in March 2025.



4. 'Caught Blossom Handed', by Judy Woodward in April 2025.



5. 'Lost in a Bluebell Spell', by Christopher Wood in May 2025.





6. 'Red Sky at Night', by Judy Woodward in June 2025.



7. 'Local Bee Caught Causing a Buzz', by Judy Woodward in July 2025.





8. 'Dance of the Demoseilles', by Hayley & John Martin in August 2025.



9. 'The King of Camouflage', by Paige, Leyla & Thomas C in September 2025



10. The Oak's Oddball, by Stephen Dodd in October 2025.



11. 'Gall of Fame', by Sharon Conway



12. 'A Sunset for Dave', by Vicky Eldridge



So, what do you think? The prestigious title of Photographer of the Year is up for grabs, and the entrants need your votes, by December 15<sup>th</sup> 2025.

Thank you so much to everyone for participating, and we cannot wait to crown our winner in the New Year!

Back again.

First off, I apologise for the absence of the regular articles in the November website as Lesley explained, I was somewhat under the weather with an untreatable bug and as such incapacitated. I am now however, on the road to recovery. So, normal service resumes.

The Farming Industry, farmers, livestock owners, growers and all associated with this vital industry

I understand many will say, either, farmers are always moaning, or, you never see a poor farmer. True, there are a few very rich farmers, however there more than enough in the same industry that just about survive; these poor souls, love their vocation and tolerate much that many of us would never even contemplate, it is these persons I am talking about.

Many commit suicide, many are forsaking the industry since they just cannot survive, the situation is, despite contrary comments, in a very parlous state. This industry husbands our wonderful countryside, provides us with the vital food we need to survive, yet, are treated, not to put it mildly, with utter contempt by this government, to some it appears that zero pollution and the need for clean energy over-rides all the country folk. The most recent being a 3000 acre farm in Lincolnshire being purchased by Mr Miliband to encompass his holy grail of zero emissions. This farmer having bought his farm has now to accept compensation on perfect farming land, and leave the industry, due to Mr Miliband et al, taking over such vital farmland to enlarge his zero emissions vision. Alas, he is not alone, there are many like him too. One cannot survive on zero emissions, one can with food. The proud boast of these zero zealots is that our fuel bills will be reduced by £300 a year. So, how come we now have the most expensive electricity in the world- and it keeps rising exponentially?

The Prime Minister is on record promising the farming industry that he would protect and help them. Really? So, a few notes on his promises. Putting inheritance tax on farms. Raising NI contributions and taxes. Instant cessation of several subsidies to farmers to enhance the countryside and promote wildlife. For many a drop from £30000 to under £10000 annually immediately. The cessation of other such vital subsidies that kept the countryside and industry in tune. So, a catalogue of failed promises from the government.

Now, milk producers complain of low prices for their milk and many quit the industry weekly. Producers of fruit and vegetables are under-sold by the supermarkets who want cheap food. The price of meat rises because the costs of abattoirs rise exponentially due to vets' fees, (one to check the animals are fit to slaughter, and another to certify the slaughtered product). Fuel, lighting, utility and transport costs plus the rise in NI rates all make meat expensive. Bird flu decimated the poultry industry, where costs have risen from £2.75 to £5.20 a kilo, plus new regulations demanding more room for such poultry in rearing sheds.



Then the latest harvest the worst for many, lack of vital winter feed, all part of the unreliable weather patterns years. The increasing costs of farm labour, vehicles, equipment all mount up.

We current produce, at best about 35% of our food, the rest we import. The Sevington Inland Border Facility in Kent, that checks inbound transport from Dover, deals with thousands of food trucks a day. Without these trucks of imported food, we would starve. Alas, all such imports carry import, transportation and distribution costs, plus the costs of the facility. Is it any wonder our food costs escalate by the week, food is no longer cheap and will get even more expensive.

So, despite promises by the Prime Minister, exhortations from various, ever changing minions, at the various government departments, there is no appreciation of the massive food problem building here in the UK. Only in wonderland would valuable farmland be taken out of production to provide zero emissions, yet whilst we such single minded zealots in charge, food will become scarcer, more expensive, less choice, your fuel bills will continue to rise exponentially. The government has no interest; word are just empty rhetoric.

It is time for we, as the public to support our farming industry. The warnings are there writ loud and clear.

@David King

Edenbridge

November 2025.

### Water, reservoirs and continued pollution.

The driest spring and summer for many years across parts of UK, and I include Scotland, has resulted in drought orders and other such restrictions. As I warned earlier, there no chance of such restrictions being lifted in 2025 and may well continue through the whole of 2026 but also become more severe.

Therefore, all current water restrictions will remain in force until at least April 2026.

Unfortunately, as this very autumn continues the whole of east and west Sussex is now in water shortage conditions, there are other parts too of the UK very near to drought orders and such restrictions being enforced.

In Scotland, the Linrathen, & Backwater reservoirs at an unacceptable low lever. Tayside, Fife, Dundee and Angus too have low water reserves, without copious rainfall then these areas too could well come under restrictions. Glendevon too has problems.

### RESERVOIRS

The Havant Thicket and reservoir complex with the Portsmouth Water company, is I understand over budget.

Despite earlier promises, loudly proclaimed, by our esteemed Chancellor of eight new reservoirs to be constructed in parts of the UK, there is no active signs such progress is being made. Land owners are vocal about their envisaged losses.

So, with building out of control, and all needing water, then the parlous state of UK Water supply will magnify.

Work has now started on new reservoir near Canterbury, Broad Oak, intention to be ready by 2032

### POLLUTION

This endless saga continues unabated, with again, brave words from the authorities that they are dealing with the problems, it now transpires that less than third of major serious incidents were visited, let alone dealt with, but the regulator continues the rhetoric of optimism and unassailable promises. How lucky we are to live a sixth-rate country. One despairs!

@David King    Edenbridge    November 2025.

## OFWAT REPORT 2024/2025

This body recently released its 2024/2025 report I have copied directly from that report the salient points, that makes interesting reading. The website is given below and for those interested carries a wealth of interesting, but depressing facts and figures. Sadly despite confident rhetoric from those concerned, the situation overall, does not improve. In marks out of five, Thames Water props up the able with just one. The others manage just two, except Portsmouth Water that attains a higher marking. So, plenty of room for improvement, alas, with the current financial situation in the country in general, and some water utilities in particular, I fear it will be a very long time before the problems alleviate.

Water company performance report 2024-25 -OFWAT

<https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/>

Welcome to the final water company performance report of the 2020-25 investment period. This year's report provides our usual assessment of how companies have performed over the last year, alongside a focus on what the sector has achieved over the previous five years – and where it has fallen short. ▲ Contents more than £700m returned to customers over the last five years. In the last year, the figure was more than £260m. This year's report highlights how companies have performed against a key suite of performance commitments and expenditure metrics. The targets we set, and companies accepted, at the last price review were designed to be stretching; to push companies to go further and faster for customers and the environment. Where necessary, these targets were aligned to the ambitions of our partner regulators and the UK and Welsh governments' longer term targets. Overall, the report shows that water company performance has been mixed – both between companies and across performance areas. We've seen progress in areas that most impact customers – for example, internal sewer flooding has improved with two companies achieving 70% or more reduction over the 2020-25 period. The quality of our drinking water has remained consistently high and ranks among the best in the world, with 99.97% compliance with standards. Importantly for the most vulnerable customers, the sector has improved the reach of their Priority Services Registers (PSR) from 2% to 12.8%. Some measures benefit from a longer-term perspective which you can see within this report. For example, the sector has now reduced leakage by 43% since privatisation, although companies must further improve on this to secure resilient future supplies. However, there remain areas where companies and the sector must do more. Pollution incidents remain at unacceptable levels, with only two companies reporting a reduction in incidents over the five-year period. The sector had committed to delivering a 30% reduction over five years – but actual performance has deteriorated by 27%. These poor results are reflected in the reports from our partner environmental regulators, also published today. Supply interruptions are at unreasonable levels for some. Too many customers are being impacted by long duration interruptions – with some companies being repeat offenders. We have held companies to account for poor performance across the 2020-25 period. Our underperformance payments have led to bill reductions – with In addition to underperformance payments, where necessary, we have taken enforcement action to drive better outcomes for customers and the

environment – we launched investigations into all wastewater companies in 2021 and as of October 2025, five of those have concluded, with more than £240 million in financial redress secured. We have actively engaged and challenged companies on performance and are pleased to see some companies have responded to our challenge in some areas. We have begun to see more monitoring, more use of data and analytics and more use of innovative approaches supported by our Innovation Fund. We have also started to hear a positive new narrative from some companies; that challenges such as weather are not an excuse for poor performance. We want to see more of this from the sector; more ownership, more leadership and more delivery. We continue to work with the sector to improve the levels of asset management maturity. As part of this collaboration we are exploring whether further targeted asset investment could deliver better outcomes for customers and the environment. We also recognise some of the upheavals of the past five years that have affected the water sector and company performance. These include the COVID-19 pandemic and rising inflation, which increased sector costs and placed additional pressure on household finances. While the publication of the Independent Water Commission's report has put the spotlight on reforms to the regulatory framework, water companies remain central to ensuring that the sector delivers better results. What we need from water companies now is leadership, a proactive culture and a clear focus on delivery so that we see lasting improvements for both customers and the environment through the £104bn upgrade for the sector approved in the 2024 price review. The funding is in place – it is now up to water companies to deliver a better future.– Helen Campbell, Interim Executive Director.

Water companies provide essential services for customers and the environment. The 2019 price review set, and companies accepted, stretching performance commitments for 2020 to 2025 to improve services for customers and to better protect the environment. This report looks at the performance of the 16 largest water and wastewater companies in England and Wales for a set of key performance and expenditure metrics.<sup>1</sup> It is based on information and data published by companies in their annual performance reports (APRs). The data used in this report is published on our website.<sup>2</sup> We will not update this report with any changes made as part of our final determination of 2024-25 outcome delivery incentive payments, but we will update the published dashboard and data model.<sup>3</sup> This report:

- assesses companies' performance in 2024-25 against key performance commitment levels set for that year;
- looks at trends in performance for the 2020-25 period; and
- categorises companies' performance on the extent to which they are delivering services.

It provides information on some other key areas of company performance:

- company progress on enhancement expenditure (page 44);
- an update on greenhouse gas emissions (pages 46-47);
- company progress on open data (page 48); and
- an update on affordability – household arrears and social tariffs; this is new for 2024-25 (page 49)

This report also highlights the areas where we are taking action. Our approach to driving performance improvement is set out on page 11. <sup>1</sup>Bristol Water's regulated business was transferred to South West Water Limited on 1 February 2023, but the company will still report separately on performance in the pre-existing South West Water and Bristol Water areas against their performance commitments for the 2020-25 price control period. This report shows South West Water - Bristol region



performance and South West Water – South West region performance separately. 2 Water Company Performance - Ofwat. 3 Figures presented in the report are as stated in our draft determinations of 2024-25 outcome delivery incentive payments. Our 2024-25 final determinations will be published by 15 November 2025, following responses to our draft decisions For the 2020-25 period companies overall committed to: 30% Reducing pollution incidents Reducing leakage Reducing internal sewer flooding incidents 16% 41%

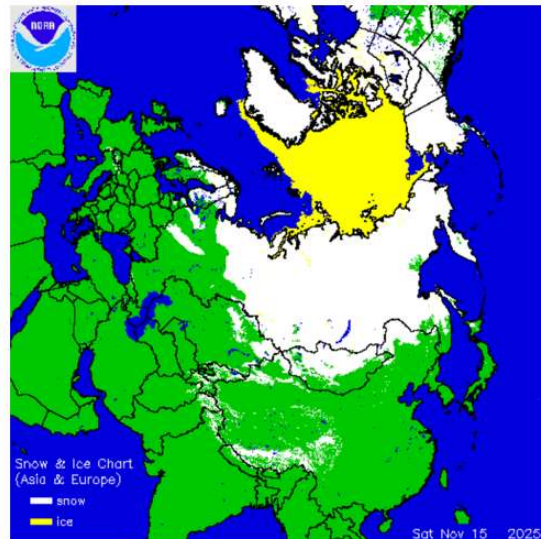
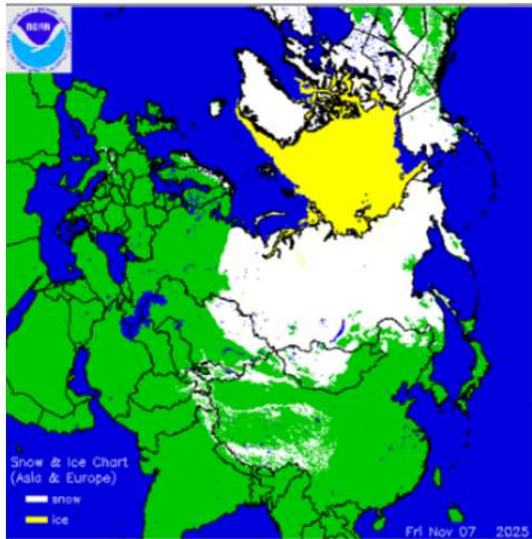
Company summaries – water and wastewater companies (2020-25) Anglian Water Has made improvements in some areas over the period, for example reducing per capita consumption - meeting the adjusted performance commitment level in 2024-25. It needs to make improvements in some key areas, for example, pollution incidents. Dŵr Cymru Has been a top performer for internal sewer flooding for the last four years but needs to make material improvements in several areas. It needs to do more to improve resilience to supply interruptions and needs to continue the leakage improvement observed in 2024-25 to get back on track for delivery of its strategic targets. Hafren Dyfrdwy Has shown consistently strong performance in several areas over the period, for example pollution incidents and its drinking water quality compliance score but it needs to improve its performance on internal sewer flooding. Northumbrian Water Has had strong performance over the period in multiple areas, for example it has been a top performer in internal sewer flooding for the last three years and ended the period as a top performer in water supply interruptions. Reducing pollution incidents is an area where we expect the company to improve. Severn Trent Water Has had strong performance over the period in multiple areas, for example in reducing leakage and treatment works compliance. Reducing the number of pollution incidents is an area where we expect the company to improve. Thames Water Is currently in our turnaround oversight regime which covers (among other aspects), improvement in key areas of operational performance. It needs to deliver material improvements across multiple areas including leakage and internal sewer flooding. Priority services register performance, has been good across the period. Northumbrian Water United Utilities Yorkshire Water Anglian Water Dŵr Cymru Severn Trent Water Hafren Dyfrdwy South West Water Wessex Water Thames Water Southern Water Southern Water Has made improvements in some areas, for example in reducing the number of pollution incidents and reducing annual leakage from 2023-24 levels. However, it still needs to deliver material improvements on these and other measures if it is to meet its long-term commitments. Long duration interruptions to water supply are particularly concerning. Wessex Water Has been a strong performer in several areas over the period, for example treatment works compliance and customer satisfaction. Reducing leakage and pollution incidents are two areas where we expect the company to improve. South West Water – South West region Has performed well in some areas over the period, for example it has been a top performer in all five years for internal sewer flooding. Reducing pollution incidents and water supply interruptions are both areas where we expect the company to improve. Yorkshire Water Performance across the period has been mixed, with good performance in some areas, for example reducing leakage and sewer collapses. However, performance in other areas needs to improve, for example internal sewer flooding and water supply interruptions. United Utilities Has consistently performed well in some areas over the

period, for example mains repairs and its priority services register targets, but it needs to deliver improvements in some areas, for example water supply interruptions and pollution incidents. ▲ Contents 8 Affinity Water AFW Has had strong performance over the period in multiple areas, for example it has been a top performer in supply interruptions for the last two years and has consistently met its unplanned outage and priority services register targets. The company needs to reduce per capita consumption and improve its customer experience performance. South Staffs Water SSC Has performed well in some areas over the period, for example unplanned outages and has been a top performer in supply interruptions for four of the past five years. However, it needs to reduce per capita consumption across its South Staffs region. SSC BRL AFW SSC AFW AFW SEW SEW SES PRT SES Water SES Has performed well in some areas, for example leakage and water quality compliance. However, the company needs to improve in some areas, for example water supply interruptions and unplanned outage, where it saw deterioration in 2024 25. Portsmouth Water PRT Has performed well in most areas over the past five years, having been a top performer in supply interruptions in each year. It needs to further reduce demand to get back on track to deliver its strategic targets for both leakage and per capita consumption. South West Water – Bristol region BRL Has consistently performed well in some areas, for example, its customer satisfaction and priority services register targets. We expect the company to continue to improve in other areas, for example reducing water supply interruption durations to previous levels. Company summaries – water only companies (2020-25) South East Water SEW Has performed well in some areas over the last five years, for example, its priority services register targets and unplanned outages. However, the company needs to improve in other areas, for example reducing leakage and the amount of time lost to supply interruptions

@David King    Edenbridge    November 2025

## Winter Snow Charts 2025/26

It makes sense at this time of year to keep an eye on the snow level maps from Europe and Asia, which I'll be sharing with you over the coming weeks. All of these charts are available via [www.eldoradoweather.com](http://www.eldoradoweather.com) – an excellent site that you'll no doubt enjoy. The snow maps update daily and can become quite addictive! I'll track them once a week, which is all that's required for our purposes. We're doing very well for snow cover this year, I reckon! Check it out and let me know what you think.



## Wildly Unexpected: Whacky Sightings from the Natural World

*Because nature's weird side deserves the spotlight.*

Welcome to Wildly Unexpected – a monthly feature celebrating those wonderfully odd, easily missed, or downright head scratching moments you stumble across when you slow down and really look at the world around you. Every month, you send in the most incredible photos from your walks. This feature gives us the perfect excuse to share a few more of them.

This month's Wild & Whacky Sightings inbox has been buzzing. We've had oak leaves stubbornly hanging on and turning brown (photo from November 11<sup>th</sup> – a proper little wink from the old weatherlore playbook), some fabulously funky fungi popping up like they own the place, a perfectly time halo moon dazzling the night sky, and wait for it... what looks suspiciously like a beaver dam. If nature's trying to keep us on our toes, it's absolutely nailing it!



Whether it's plants quirks, insect antics, or fungus that looks like it belongs on another planet, we're here for the weird, the wild, and the wonderful.

Got whacky sightings? Send it in... the weirder, the better!



## Little Boots' Big Adventures: December

Hello, Winter-Wanderers! December tiptoes in with frosty mornings, twinkly evenings, and that magical hush that only winter brings. The world might feel sleepy, but outdoors it's bursting with festive sparkle if you know where to look. Evergreen branches gleam like tiny fairy lights, robins puff their little chests like they're posing for Christmas cards, and hedgerows hide bright berries just waiting to be spotted. Wrap up warm, follow the crunch of frozen grass, and see what wintry wonders Little Boots can find this month...

### **Evergreen Explorers**

Take a walk and see how many evergreens you can spot — holly, ivy, pine, yew, even rosemary in gardens. These hardy plants stay green all winter and were once used to decorate homes long before Christmas trees arrived!

Challenge: can you make a tiny "Winter Posy" using any safe-to-pick evergreens (avoid yew!) and a little ribbon?

### **Frosty Morning Hunt**

If you're up early, keep an eye out for Jack Frost's overnight masterpieces — sparkling spiderwebs, frosty grass, or tiny ice patterns on car windows.

Family challenge: go on a "Frost Safari" and see who can find the prettiest patch of ice. Bonus points for spotting frozen puddles you can carefully crack.

### **Starry Night Magic**

December's long nights are perfect for stargazing. Look up on a clear evening and see if you can spot Orion's Belt or the bright winter star Sirius.

Try this: stand still and listen... what can you hear in the nighttime quiet that you don't notice in summer?

### **Winter Wildlife Watch**

Animals are busy this month! Squirrels stash food, foxes roam earlier, and birds flock to gardens in search of seeds.

Challenge: make a simple "Festive Bird Feast" by hanging half an apple on a string or scattering oats for robins. Watch who comes to visit!

### **Cold Moon Wonder**

December's full moon is called the Cold Moon, shining bright in the crisp winter sky. It often lights up frosty fields like daylight.

Try this: step outside during the full moon and see how many shadows you can spot — even at night!

Magic Sightings waiting to happen in December are:

- Elves
- December Moth
- Fieldfare
- Fungi
- Golden Plovers
- Grey Seal Pups
- Lapwing
- Mistletoe
- Otters
- Pink Footed Geese
- Redwing
- Reindeer
- Santa
- Snowmen
- Starling Murmurations
- Stoats
- Tawny Owls/ Short Eared Owls
- Teal
- Waxwings (some years)
- Wigeons
- Whooper Swans



Photo Credit: Trevor Eldridge

Now is the perfect time of year to take out of the freezer the plums we foraged in September. Defrost, slice, heat up and serve with custard! Delicious! Remember your foraged redcurrants too – they make fabulous cheesecake toppers. 😊

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

OBVIOUSLY, AUTUMN IS EPIC FOR FORAGING FUNGI/ MUSHROOMS HOWEVER I DO NOT RECOMMEND THIS – YOU REALLY NEED TO KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING IN ORDER TO DO SO SAFELY. YOU WILL FIND NO SUCH RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ME ON THIS TOPIC.

- Blackthorn (Sloe)
- Dandelion (Roots)
- Dog Rose/ Field Rose
- Hawthorn (Berries)

Clearly mushrooms and fungi are prolific at this time of year, but I do not and will not advise people to go foraging for these items – you really need to know what you're doing. Please do not forage these items unless you are with a qualified professional.

### THE SKIES

- 4<sup>th</sup>: Full super moon.
- 7<sup>th</sup>: May be able to see Mercury just before sunrise.
- 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>: Geminid Meteor Shower.
- 21<sup>st</sup>: December Solstice
- 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>: Ursids Meteor Shower



Full Moon:  
4<sup>th</sup> December @ 23:14  
Fair & Frosty



3Q Moon:  
11<sup>th</sup> December @ 20:51  
Snow if cold enough, else rain



New Moon:  
20<sup>th</sup> December @ 01:43  
Frosty, unless winds SW



1Q Moon:  
27<sup>th</sup> December @ 19:09  
Fair & Frosty



PERIGEE @ 11:09 ON 4<sup>TH</sup>  
APOGEE @ 06:10 ON 17<sup>TH</sup>

### Now for the collated expert notes on December:

December starts with a relatively warmer period from the 3rd - 14th, as discovered by Alexander Buchan the Victorian meteorologist, certainly in the south of England this claim has some justification producing much warmer weather than between mid-December and Christmas, but the difference is not marked. About a week of cold, relatively dry - though somewhat still and foggy weather does tend to develop just before Christmas and this makes the second half of the month colder than the first in most years. The average duration of this cold dry period is 18-24th December, with a peak around 19-21st. Night frosts are widespread during this period. Around 25th commences one of the most definite of all our weather spells. It has been called the 'post-Christmas storm,' occurring most years it lasts about a week from 25th to the 1st January with peak around the 28th December. Structural damage from such storms is generally considerable. December starts mild, but, as the month progresses it gets colder before the end of the month with widespread snow often following the mild start in Scotland and northern England. This snow may reach East Anglia and the Midlands in some years, but seldom the southern and western areas to any great extent, where floods are more frequent at this time than blizzards.

### MY NOTES:

#### Notes from Nature

The wind on November 11th (St Martin's) couldn't be used due to gales at sea around the whole of the UK. Once things finally settled, the wind quickly swung easterly and then north-easterly the following day. The extreme northwest did experience north-westerly winds for a time, and the far north in general saw northerlies — exactly as David had feared. A long, hard, bitter winter ahead.

As of November 16th, the oaks are still holding onto their leaves, which have caramelised and turned waterproof — a natural windproof coat for the birds. Many berries remain intact too: snowberries, berberis, cotoneaster, pyracantha. By looking at the amount of hips, haws, berries, seeds and fruits, one can judge the intensity of the winter to come with great accuracy.

Fungi and lichen are thriving too. It's a wonderful time of year to watch what the birds are up to, and waxwings have already been reported in good numbers in Scotland and the northern regions. Ducks and geese of all varieties can be spotted on lakes and ponds. The coats on sheep are thick (as you may have noticed with your own pets), and the fur around the napes of cattle is exceptionally dense this year.

As always, my dear friend David was absolutely right. The signs are written loud and clear: this winter will be hard — cold, long, and menacing. In fact, David has long predicted this winter will be as cold and harsh as the winter of 2010, with the peak occurring in February.

#### December Forecast:

We have the combination of a full supermoon, perigee and highest tides to deal with on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Alas, I fear this will mean further flooding for flood prone areas, particularly as this occurs during a met office stormy period. Do take practical precautions now. December is likely to be a cold month, with potential snow falls north of the Humber in particular. Cold, frosty weather everywhere else. If cold enough, snow could crop up almost anywhere during December, and particularly around 11<sup>th</sup> December. However, I don't think south of the Humber will have anything too significant at this stage. Christmas day is likely to be cold and frosty, with some sunshine. A white Christmas is unlikely for most, but not impossible this year — particularly north of the Humber.



In summary, a cold month for all, colder than average, getting more bitter as the month progresses. Reasonably settled conditions will take hold as the month progresses. Snow showers could crop up almost anywhere, particularly the further north you are. Any snow that does occur, south of the Humber, shouldn't be too disruptive at this stage, although I do have one eye on December 11<sup>th</sup> – which if disruptive snow does fall, should be around then. By the end of winter 2025/6 everyone will have seen disruptive snow (check out the winter forecast if you haven't already).

Lunar phases and folklore remain important tools in indigenous weather forecasting – here's how they align this December:

#### December 2025



Full Moon:  
4th December @ 23:14  
Fair & Frosty



3Q Moon:  
11th December @ 20:51  
Snow if cold enough, else rain



New Moon:  
20th December @ 01:43  
Frosty, unless winds SW



1Q Moon:  
27th December @ 19:09  
Fair & Frosty

DoP = 21<sup>st</sup>: St Thomas + Quarter Day (Vital Wind Day)/ Winter Equinox

Highest Spring Tides: 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>

APOGEE: 17th @ 06:10/ PERIGEE: 4th @ 11:09

Geminids Meteor Shower: 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>/ Ursids Meteor Shower: 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>

#### Met Office Notes:

1st – 13th = Stormy period/ 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> = Quiet period/ 25<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> = Stormy period

BUCHAN NOTES: Warm Period: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>

FULL MOON ON THE 4th IS CALLED HUNTING MOON/ COLD MOON

The tree of the month up to 22nd is the Elder, there is no tree on 23rd, thereafter the Birch.

### Monthly Notes & Comments

4 <sup>th</sup>	Perigee @ 11:09	
6 <sup>th</sup>	St Nicolas	Patron saint of children, and a festival in the Netherlands and surrounding countries, when St Nicolas is said to bring sweets and presents to well behaved children – this later evolved to Christmas day
7 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> in Advent	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent
13 <sup>th</sup> / 14 <sup>th</sup>	Geminids	Geminids Meteor Shower
14 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> in Advent	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent
17 <sup>th</sup>	Apogee @ 06:10	
21 <sup>st</sup>	St Thomas/ 4 <sup>th</sup> in Advent	DoP. Quarter Day. Shortest day of the year. Weather up to 2/2. Winter Solstice – Pagan celebration known as Yule, one of the oldest celebrations in the world.
25 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Day	Holly and Ivy flower at about this time
26 <sup>th</sup>	St Stephen	Boxing Day
28 <sup>th</sup>	Childermass/ Innocents Day	Unluckiest day of the year when no work should be started. See notes below.
31 <sup>st</sup>	Hogmanay	Celebrates the solar diversity of Hogmanay

### General Notes and Comments

December used to be the 10th month of the Roman Calendar, and gets its name from Decem, which means ten.

In the northern hemisphere this marks the beginning of winter, a time of rain, wind, and snow.

Expect gale force winds. The portents generally threaten a nasty month, but a hint of better things to come with the worst over. It ought however to be over by the end of January.

21st - 31st normally/traditionally a stormy period.

Day of Prediction (21st) portends weather until 2nd February and the direction of the prevailing wind up to the vernal equinox on 21st March. If it freezes this day the price of corn will fall - which implies a good harvest - but also a hard winter. If, however mild, the price of corn will rise.

If Christmas falls on a Sunday, it shall be a warm winter, the summer hot and dry. If Christmas day and Thursday be - a windy winter will shall see.

If it rains on the first Sunday of December, before mass, it will rain for a week.

Christmas can be Green - in the old sense of 'bright' (clear/light and bright) - yielding a good harvest (proven) - a peaceful year of plenty.

Black - will bode ill for next year's weather. White - a muddy Easter. Warm - a cold Easter. Wet - empty granary and barrel. Windy - trees will bring much fruit, but if the weather grows stormy before sunset, it betokened sickness in the spring and summer quarters. Snow - good hay crop next year. But if the Milky Way shows clear you may safely count on a fruitful year.

[This can be a good indicator]

If it snows during Christmas night, the crops will do well.

Light Christmas, light wheat sheaf - dark Christmas, heavy wheat sheaf (if full moon about Christmas Day)

If Christmas ice hangs on the willow, clover may be cut at Easter.

A windy Christmas and a calm Candle mass are signs of a good year.

Thunder in December presages fine weather.

Thunder during Christmas week indicates that there will be much snow during the winter.

A Green Christmas means a full churchyard.

If Christmas Day be on a Saturday, the weather be great with wind, snow and cold, the summer good and there shall be war in many lands. (except the last, quite accurate)

If berries on trees at Christmas, they'll stay 'til snow is down. If gone then a mild winter.

St Thomas Day is always grey. The longest night and the shortest day.

A dull Christmas with no sun, bodes ill for the harvest.

When the sun shines through the apple trees on Christmas Day, when Autumn comes, they will a load of fruit display.

[reliable - also indicates a good Spring with few late frosts, frost-free May and a good Autumn.]

If ice bears before Christmas, it won't bear a goose afterwards.

Christmas in snow, Easter in mud. Easter in snow, Christmas in mud.

If much rain during the 12 days of Christmas a wet year to come.

If on a New Years Eve the winds blow south, it betokened warmth and growth.

If west, much milk, and fish in the sea. If north, cold and storms there will be.

If east, the trees will bear much fruit. If north-east, then flee it man and beast.

26th - If windy, bad for next years grapes.

28th Childermass Day - if lowering and wet there will be scarcity. If fair it promises plenty.

Much rain in October. much wind in December. [check October readings]

In December, keep yourself warm, and sleep.

A winter fog will freeze a dog.

Every mile is two in winter.

25/12 to 5/1. These 12 days are said to be the keys of the weather for the whole year.

THE FULL MOON THIS MONTH IS CALLED THE COLD MOON/MOON  
BEFORE THE YULE/LONG NIGHTS MOON

The tree up-to the 22nd is the Elder. There is no tree on the 23rd. The Birch then becomes the monthly tree.

MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR EDENBRIDGE (USING 1991-2020 FIGURES)  
All the figures below have now been updated to comply with the current 30 year period above.

Mean Max:	9C	Mean Min:	2.2C	Mean Avg:	5.6C
Rainfall:	100.1mm	Sunshine:	62hrs (day = 2hrs)		

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.

1 <sup>st</sup>	7.84C	7.29C
31 <sup>st</sup>	6.26C	5.91C



DECEMBER 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	
1								Stormy period				
2								Stormy period				
3								Stormy period	Warm Period			
4	FULL @ 23:14	Fair and frosty					Perigee @ 11:09	Stormy period	Warm Period	SUPER MOON	Highest Tides	
5								Stormy period	Warm Period		(V) High Tides	
6				St Nicholas				Stormy period	Warm Period		(V) High Tides	
7								Stormy period	Warm Period		(V) High Tides	
8								Stormy period	Warm Period		(V) High Tides	
9								Stormy period	Warm Period			
10								Stormy period	Warm Period			
11	3Q @ 20:51	Rain or Snow if winds S or SW						Stormy period	Warm Period			
12								Stormy period	Warm Period			
13								Stormy period	Warm Period			Geminids Meteor Shower
14								Stormy period	Warm Period			Geminids Meteor Shower
15												
16												
17							Apogee @ 06:10					
18												
19												
20	NEW @ 01:43	Frost unless wind SW										
21			QUARTER	St Thomas								Ursids Meteor Shower
22												Ursids Meteor Shower
23												
24												
25	T			Christmas Day				Stormy period				Bank Holiday
26	F			St Stephen/ Boxing Day				Stormy period				Bank Holiday
27	S 1Q @ 19:09	Fair and Frosty if winds N or NE						Stormy period				
28	S			Childermass				Stormy period				
29	M							Stormy period				
30	T							Stormy period				
31	W			Hogmanay				Stormy period				