



# JANUARY 2026

Community Update

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PREAMBLE

(Wind Direction on December 21<sup>st</sup>: E/ NE)



Wildflower of the Month – Common Gorse

Flower of The Month: Carnation

Tree of The Month: Silver Birch

Full Moon this Month: Wolf Moon

*"What we have once enjoyed we can never lose; all that we love deeply becomes a part of us."*

Helen Keller

## A New Year

Firstly, a very Happy New Year to one and all. I hope that 2026 brings you peace, purpose, and joy. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and readership. Your emails, kindness, and shared memories over the past month have carried me more than you could possibly know.

It feels surreal to write that this marks the beginning of my third year as Dave's editor — and the first without him. I will be forever humbled and grateful that Dave trusted me with his methodology, his work, and ultimately, his legacy. The two-and-a-bit years I spent under his mentorship were extraordinary. Everything he taught me, and every magical memory we made along the way, will stay with me always.

Of course, the website will gradually need to reflect that Dave is no longer with us. But as it has only been a matter of weeks, this new reality is still very raw. I see little value in rushing these changes. They will come, gently and thoughtfully, when I feel ready to face this new dawn. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

What I can say with certainty is this: Dave will never be erased from this website. Quite the opposite. He will always be its heart and soul. My hope is that his presence will be felt, unmistakably stitched into the fabric of everything I produce here.

I am very aware that I am not Dave and never will be. To continue this project honestly, I need to do so in a way that is true to who I am, while honouring everything Dave left behind. Please be reassured: the methodology will not change. Dave created something truly special, and I will continue to work exactly as he taught me.

What may take time is finding my own rhythm within it. I cannot claim to be 90% accurate with forecasting, as Dave so often was. I hope, in time, to reach around 80% — but only time will tell. Please bear with me as I learn, refine, and grow.

At heart, I am simply a woman, with a family, my dog, and a deep love of walking in nature. If my observations resonate with you, I would love you to stay. But this will never be about Met Office-style forecasts. Indigenous UK Weather has always been about weatherlore, nature, and noticing the world around us – slowly and quietly, and that spirit will remain.

While Dave's remarkable ability to forecast up to 180 days ahead understandably drew a large following, I don't think he ever fully realised just how many people came here simply to learn about, reconnect with, and enjoy nature itself. That side of the work will become increasingly present in my monthly entries, as it feels both natural and necessary to me.

### Honouring Dave in 2026 and Beyond

Over recent weeks I've spent a great deal of time reflecting and speaking with Dave's closest friends and long-standing readers. Together, we've come up with a few ways we'd love to honour him throughout the year ahead.

#### 1. 365 Days of Dave

Beginning on 1st January 2026, I'll be sharing, every single day, something Dave would have been observing or noting on that date. We'd love for you to join in by sharing your own photos, thoughts, and interpretations using the hashtag #365daysofdave.

You can follow along on Instagram here: @indigenoukweather

My heartfelt thanks go to Sarah and Stu, two of Dave's closest friends, for helping shape this idea.

## **2. A Toast to Dave**

On 31st January at 7:00pm, we'll be hosting a Zoom call in Dave's honour — a chance to raise a glass, share memories, and come together as a community.

If you'd like to join us, please email [indigenoukweather@outlook.com](mailto:indigenoukweather@outlook.com), and I'll send you the joining details. We would love to see you there.

## **3. Country Signs Continues**

As they say, the show must go on. Filming of Country Signs will continue. Some of you may have noticed my uncanny ability to avoid 99% of camera time over the past two years! I've always been deeply camera-shy, and "being on TV" will never come naturally to me, but I recognise this is part of the role now, and I'll do my best.

I'd also like to extend a huge thank you to David Andrews, whom I met on my final walk with Dave. David has very kindly agreed to help with filming, so I really do have no excuse now.

## **Looking Ahead to 2026**

My plans for the year ahead are simple at heart: to do work that Dave would be proud of.

- Website updates will appear in due course, reflecting the new situation
- Daily Instagram content as part of 365 Days of Dave
- Continued filming of Country Signs
- The Annual Talk — postponed from November 2025 due to Dave's ill health, but very much happening in 2026
- The 2026 Photographer of the Year competition
- Continued celebration of the community that makes this space what it is

Dave also left me something incredibly precious: his books. Alongside his weather station and vast archive of notes, he left his books to me too, including all royalties. I was deeply moved by this gesture. His books are now available via my shop page.

Please do not order from Weather Without Technology, as David is no longer there to fulfil orders, and the site cannot currently be updated. Any orders placed there will not be

received.

## January Highlights

As long-standing readers will know, I've never felt January is the true beginning of the year. To me, the old April New Year makes far more sense. January is for gentleness, for reconnecting with nature, slowing down, and allowing ourselves a quieter pace.

A few January suggestions:

- BBC Winterwatch — broadcasting from Mount Stewart, County Down (dates TBC but usually the end of January).
- The Big Garden Birdwatch — 23rd–25th January
- Feed the birds.
- Order seeds for the months ahead.
- Make friends with your robins — with patience, they may just eat from your hand. Dave always managed it.

## January's Spotlight

This January, I'm delighted to shine the spotlight on my wonderfully talented sister-in-law, Katie Bradbury. Katie has an incredible gift for all things feng shui, and her insights are both practical and deeply intuitive.

After Dave passed away, I asked Katie for her help in gently bringing fresh energy into our home – and I cannot recommend her highly enough. Her work is thoughtful, grounding, and quietly transformative.

You can follow her beautifully insightful Instagram account here: [@fengshuiwithkatie](#)

If there is anyone you know doing fabulous work within the community then reach out – we love shining a spotlight on all our talented members. 😊

## Thank you

It would be impossible to thank everyone for their love and support over the past month. You have all been so generous with your kindness during this difficult time, and your e-mails have brought me such comfort. There are some people I need to thank specifically. Firstly, thank you to Trevor, David's son, for working his absolute socks off organising his dad's archives. He also helped Rob and me dismantle and reset David's amazing weather station. It has been so lovely getting to know you over the last few weeks. Thank you so much. Thank you to Sarah Brown, one of Dave's closest friends, who has helped me so much with ideas on how to honour Dave, and just generally listening to me be sad when I needed someone to listen. And to David Andrews who has regularly checked in to see how I am holding up. Funny to think I would never have known any of you if it wasn't for Dave – you are all amazing and it has been a pleasure to get to know you.

Last but not least, a huge thank you to David Blackmore from ITV, for organising a beautiful tribute to Dave on ITV's This Morning. I know Dave would have loved it.

## Finally

January can feel bleak at the best of times — and this year more than most. Between the loss of our dear friend Dave and the wider state of the world and this woefully inadequate government, it's easy to feel heavy. But it matters how we step forward. Stay connected. Stay warm. Stay curious. And above all, find moments of joy where you can.

If Dave taught me anything, it is "life is what you make it." It can be hard to switch off grief, impossible really. But it's not enough to survive – we must live! So, let's go into the New Year with excitement, enthusiasm, and gratitude – for Dave, a shining example of a life well lived.

Whatever your plans are for the holidays, enjoy! In the spirit of living life to the full, I am off to the Cairngorms for the holidays. It felt like the perfect time to throw myself into a new adventure.

With very best wishes,

Lesley & Bailey 🐾



Photographer of the Year 2025 – Trevor Eldridge

*“Whooo’s Watching Who?”*

*March 2025.*



Indigenous UK Weather is not the BBC and will never operate as such. Therefore, full transparency – Trevor Eldridge is my dad, but won the vote fair and square with an amazing 197 votes.

Congratulation Dad 😊 I am so excited to give you your trophy and RSPB voucher!

Who will the 2026 Photographer of the Year be?

Judy Woodward Presents:

Photo of the Month: Who Goes There?



This image captures one of those magical moments where nature feels alive and quietly aware, rewarding those who take the time to really look.

Thank you so much for sending in this amazing shot Judy. Sharing moments like this is especially important for members of our community who aren't always able to get out and experience nature first hand – something Dave truly appreciated and spoke of often in his final weeks.

## **Water Woes: Sewage, Forever Chemicals, and a System That Keeps Failing Us**

Another month, another grim reminder that England's water system is failing both people and the environment — not by accident, but through years of neglect, weak regulation, and a culture of damage control rather than prevention.

### **Wessex Water: Fined for Failing — Again**

In November, regulator Ofwat proposed an £11 million enforcement package against Wessex Water after finding that the company failed to properly operate, maintain, and upgrade its wastewater network.

The result? Sewage spills from storm overflows when they should not have been happening at all.

Ofwat's investigation concluded that Wessex Water's systems could not cope with wastewater flows — a basic requirement of any functioning sewerage network. While the company has been described as “proactive” after the fact, this enforcement action exists precisely because the failures were serious, prolonged, and avoidable.

The £11m package is intended to:

- Reduce sewage spills that should never have occurred
- Improve monitoring of storm overflows and treatment works
- Address groundwater infiltration into broken sewer pipes
- Push forward work that otherwise wouldn't have happened until after 2030

This case is not an outlier. It is the sixth enforcement action in Ofwat's largest-ever wastewater investigation, following cases against Thames Water, Yorkshire Water, Northumbrian Water, Anglian Water, and South West Water — with total enforcement now exceeding £240 million.

And yet, sewage continues to pour into rivers, streams, and coastal waters.

## **Drinking Water Contamination: The Hidden Crisis**

While sewage dominates headlines, a quieter, and arguably more disturbing problem is unfolding in our drinking water.

A BBC investigation has revealed that water companies have been issued 23 enforcement notices over elevated levels of PFAS, commonly known as “forever chemicals”, in drinking water sources serving at least six million people.

PFAS are persistent pollutants used since the 1940s in products ranging from frying pans and food packaging to firefighting foam and medical equipment. They do not break down easily. Once in the environment, they stay there — accumulating in water, soil, wildlife, and human bodies.

Since 2021, water companies have been required to test for 47 of the most concerning PFAS compounds. In the last four years:

- 1.7 million individual PFAS tests have been carried out
- 9,432 tests exceeded the Drinking Water Inspectorate’s health-based guidance level
- Two of the most dangerous compounds, PFOA and PFOS appeared in more than 350 drinking water tests in 2024 alone

Earlier this year, the World Health Organization classified PFOA as carcinogenic and PFOS as possibly carcinogenic, linking them to increased risks of kidney, testicular, and thyroid cancers. Both are now banned but banning them does not remove them from water already contaminated.

As one environmental chemist put it: removing PFAS from water is like trying to get milk out of coffee once it’s been poured in.

## **Regulation That Lags Behind Reality**

The Drinking Water Inspectorate insists that drinking water remains safe because sanctions trigger increased testing, treatment changes, or removal of contaminated water sources. But this process can take years, during which affected supplies remain under “monitoring”.

Environmental groups and the Royal Society of Chemistry have raised serious concerns that:

- UK PFAS limits are not legally binding
- They are 2.5 times weaker than those in the United States
- Water companies are not being held to account quickly or firmly enough

An independent government-commissioned review has already concluded that stricter treatment requirements are needed to protect public health and the environment. A government white paper is reportedly in preparation — but for now, contamination continues while responsibility is passed around.

## **The Bigger Picture**

What links sewage spills and forever chemicals is not bad luck or unexpected challenges, it is systemic failure.

Water companies tell us they are investing. Regulators tell us they are enforcing. Industry bodies tell us we have “the best drinking water in the world”.

Meanwhile:

- Rivers are biologically collapsing
- Coastal waters are repeatedly polluted
- Drinking water sources are contaminated with chemicals that persist for generations

As Dave understood, water is not an abstract issue. It is everything. It is health, dignity, nature, and trust. And right now, that trust is being repeatedly broken.

This spotlight will stay firmly on them.

Because it has to.

Sources:

[Ofwat confirms £11 million enforcement package for Wessex Water - Ofwat](#)

[Firms ordered to reduce forever chemicals in drinking water for 6m people - BBC News](#)

## **January's Spotlight: Katie Bradbury**

### **A Woman Who Lives — and Teaches — with Intention**

There are some people who don't just talk about living well — they embody it. They move through the world with a quiet confidence, guided by purpose, intuition, and a deep respect for energy and natural rhythms.

This month, it is with immense pride and genuine admiration that I shine the Spotlight on Katie Bradbury, my beautiful sister-in-law, and a true rockstar in the world of Feng Shui.

Katie's work is transforming the way people experience their homes and their lives. One thoughtful adjustment at a time, she helps bring in clarity, calm, abundance, and flow, while gently clearing what no longer serves. Her approach is grounded, practical, and deeply human. And from personal experience, I can say without hesitation: it works.

### **From Corporate Burnout to Meaningful Work**

Before Feng Shui, Katie spent years in the corporate tech world — long hours, relentless pace, and work increasingly disconnected from the rhythms of real life. Like many of us, she followed the path she was "supposed" to take.

But a pivotal moment changed everything.

After the sudden loss of a colleague and friend, and witnessing how quickly the business world moved on, Katie had a stark realisation: the industry didn't truly care for its people. That moment cracked something open. It sparked a deep questioning — and ultimately, a brave decision to step away and find work that lit her up.

Rather than staying within the confines of corporate life, Katie chose to rewrite the rules. She followed curiosity. She studied energy. She listened to intuition. And what emerged was work that is now genuinely changing lives.

### **Why Her Work Matters (And Why I'm So Grateful)**

Katie is so much more than a Feng Shui consultant. She is a mentor, a nurturer, a guide, and an inspiration. Her ability to see potential, in spaces and in people, is extraordinary.

On a personal level, her work has helped me beyond measure. Our whole family feels the shift. Our home feels calmer, lighter, more aligned. She helped us create the energy we truly needed to thrive — and for that, I will always be grateful.

Life has a way of bringing the right people together, and I will forever be thankful that my little brother brought Katie into our lives. She is not just family, she is someone who inspires me daily with her wisdom, kindness, and unwavering passion.

From that place, Feng Shui with Katie was born.

### **Making Feng Shui Simple, Modern, and Powerful**

Katie recognised that traditional Feng Shui teachings often feel overly complex and inaccessible. She made it her mission to demystify the practice — stripping away confusion, explaining it clearly, and showing just how simple meaningful change can be.

The results speak for themselves — and they are profound.

Katie is quietly revolutionising Feng Shui by making it practical, relatable, and achievable for modern life.

### **A Note from Katie** (in her own words)

I'm a Feng Shui Consultant based in Berkshire and founded Feng Shui with Katie at the beginning of 2025. Before that, I spent almost a decade working in corporate tech — long hours, American companies, late evenings, and completely out of sync with natural rhythms.

When we moved into our home in Warfield, I noticed an immediate change in our cocker spaniel, Indie. She went from hyperactive and chaotic to calm and content almost overnight. Knowing how sensitive animals are to energy, it sparked my curiosity.

I began exploring the energy of our home — and once I applied just a few simple Feng Shui principles, the shifts were incredible. I received an unexpected pay rise, James' career took off, and we both had more energy, slept better, and felt healthier.

That was the moment I knew I had to share this ancient practice — one used for thousands of years, and still embraced by some of the most successful people today — but in a way that feels accessible, practical, and realistic for everyday life.

### **What Is Feng Shui?**

Feng Shui is an ancient Chinese practice over 4,000 years old that studies how energy — known as Qi — flows through our environments.

In China, it's as common to have a Feng Shui assessment for a new home as it is for us in the UK to have an environmental survey.

The aim is to create harmony by clearing energy blocks that may affect our health, relationships, finances, and overall wellbeing.

Katie practices Flying Stars Feng Shui, one of the most advanced forms of the discipline. It blends traditional principles with astrology and takes into account how energy shifts not only year-to-year, but across 20-year cycles — offering a deeply nuanced understanding of space and timing.

### **Feng Shui for January: Gentle Preparation, Not Pressure**

If January feels like the wrong time for big new beginnings, you're not imagining it. In Feng Shui, the New Year doesn't begin until 4th February, following the solar calendar — the midpoint between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox.

January, instead, is about preparation. Here are a few simple, seasonally aligned tips from Katie:

- **Let fresh air in**  
Open your front door for a few minutes each day to invite new energy and opportunities.
- **Bring nature indoors**  
Fresh flowers or healthy houseplants revive stagnant energy and uplift a space.
- **Declutter gently**  
Clutter blocks energy flow and can leave us feeling heavy or unmotivated. Creating space allows new energy to enter.
- **Fix leaks**  
In Feng Shui, water represents wealth. A dripping tap symbolises money leaking away.
- **Close bathroom doors and toilet lids**  
Bathrooms are considered energy “drains” — keeping them closed helps retain good energy.
- **Clean the windows**  
Windows are the eyes of your home. Clean glass allows light and fresh energy to flow freely.

Even small changes can have a powerful impact.

### **How to Find Katie**

Katie works with clients all over the world, offering remote consultations using floor plans, photos, and a home's energetic blueprint.

-  Website: [fengshuiwithkatie.com](https://fengshuiwithkatie.com)

- 📷 Instagram: @fengshuiwithkatie
- 📞 Free consultation calls available for anyone curious about where to start

### **A Final Word**

Here's to you, Katie.

Your work is meaningful. Your energy is powerful. And the way you help people reconnect with their homes, and themselves, is truly special.

You are, quite simply, amazing.

## 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.

Please note the photo in the top left-hand corner is not my own. It was shared by Devon Wildlife Trust, but I thought it was incredible and wanted to highlight this strange phenomenon called “hair ice”, which they found at Dusford Reserve. This delicate candy floss like ice forms under extremely specific conditions: moist, rotting wood from a broadleaf tree, temperatures just below 0c, and the presence of a special fungi (*Exidiopsis effusa*). Hair ice is a rare, beautiful natural formation, and one I've never seen in person – so I had to share it with you!

The other things that have caught my eye this month, are the enormous number of seeds left hanging on the bare trees. It is quite a sight. Another huge year for mistletoe too. Bottom middle you will see a plant called Old Man's Beard or Travellers Joy, which is everywhere this year. All that white fluff exists specifically to help with seed dispersal. It increases the dispersal area – a natural parachute system - and really does look like tangled white hair or beards hanging in the hedges. In folklore, old man's beard is often linked to ancestral presence in winter hedges – old age, wisdom and time. “Traveller's Joy” suggests companionship on journeys and was seen as a marker of thresholds and edges – roadsides, boundaries and transitions. Bottom right we have snowdrops, which are blooming suspiciously early, all too, traditionally signs of a severe winter to come.



Wildly Unexpected reminds us that nature is always doing strange, quiet, wonderful things – especially when we slow down enough to notice. Got whacky sightings? The weirder the better, send them in.

Magic Sightings waiting to happen in January are:

- Curlew
- Fallow deer
- Fieldfare
- Fox
- Frosted Spiderwebs
- Golden Plovers
- Hoar Frost
- Kingfisher
- Lapwing
- Mistletoe
- Mountain Hare
- Otters
- Pink Footed Geese
- Red Deer
- Red Squirrels
- Redwing
- Robins
- Starling Murmurations
- Stoats
- Tawny Owls/ Short Eared Owls
- Teal
- Waxwings (some years)



Red Squirrel

January is a great time of year to plant garlic because it needs cold to thrive. The chill triggers proper bulb formation, while slow winter root growth gives the plant a head start before spring.

Planted now, garlic settles quietly underground, shrugs off frost, and emerges strong and early – making it one of the most reliable, low-effort crops you can put into the ground at the very heart of winter.

- Black Mustard.

January isn't the best time for foraging. There are still a couple of great opportunities for foraging mushrooms/ fungi at this time of year, however I do not and will not advise people to go foraging for these items.

You really need to know what you are doing. Please do not forage mushrooms/ fungi unless you are with a qualified professional.

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

# THE SKIES: JANUARY 2026

## THE SKIES

- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Full Super Moon
- 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>: Quadrantids Meteor Shower
- 10<sup>th</sup>: You may be able to see Jupiter



Full Moon:  
3<sup>rd</sup> January @ 10:02  
Cold & High Winds



3Q Moon:  
10<sup>th</sup> January @ 15:48  
Fair & Mild



New Moon:  
18<sup>th</sup> January @ 19:52  
Fair & Frosty if winds N or NE



1Q Moon:  
26<sup>th</sup> January @ 04:47  
Rain



PERIGEE @ 21:44 ON 1<sup>st</sup> JANUARY &  
29<sup>th</sup> JANUARY @ 21:45

APOGEE @ 20:47 ON 13<sup>th</sup> JANUARY

