



FEBRUARY 2026

Indigenous UK Weather

FEBRUARY 2026

PREAMBLE



Wildflower of the Month – Snowdrop (blossoms around 2nd),
then Crocus (flowers around 14th).

Flower of The Month: Primrose

Tree of The Month: The Rowan up to 17th, then the Ash

Full Moon this Month: Snow Moon

"The hush of winter landscape is a poem without words."

Emily Dickinson

February 2026

A warm welcome to February.

January has once again made its presence known, bringing blizzard conditions in the Highlands (as predicted) and a significant cold spell across the United Kingdom. Temperatures fell well below freezing, and many regions saw substantial snowfall, disrupting travel, closing schools, and reminding us just how powerful winter can still be.

Here in Dorset, we remain largely snow-starved, so it has been a particular pleasure to see your photographs and observations from across the country. Thank you, as always, to everyone who took the time to share them within our Facebook community – it is a real privilege to witness the season through your eyes.

I look forward to reviewing January in full once the month has ended. These monthly reflections will gradually build within the Reflections section of the forecasts page, offering a gentle record of what the year is bringing and how nature is unfolding.

I have also been deeply enjoying 365 Days of Dave, and I hope that many of you have been following along too. Seeing posts created in his honour has been genuinely moving. Dave would have absolutely loved the thought of people across the country stepping outside, looking up, and noticing the world more closely because of him. It feels a fitting and heartfelt way to carry his spirit forward.

If you have not yet joined our Facebook community and would like to do so, you are very welcome. Simply email me at: indigenousukweather@outlook.com

In addition, you can follow along via our Instagram page:
<https://www.instagram.com/indigenousukweather/>

Honouring Dave – A Community Gathering

Just a quick reminder that we will be hosting a Zoom call on Saturday 31st January at 19:00 in honour of Dave. We will be raising a glass, sharing our favourite memories, and simply honouring his incredible life.

Joining instructions will be sent out to all those who have already expressed an interest during the week commencing 19th January. If you would like to join us and have not yet been in touch, please do reach out using the email address above. It would be lovely to have you with us.

Exciting News

On Friday 30th January, the first edition of a new monthly podcast will be going live. It is called Notes from Nature by Lesley Coyle and will be available via Spotify.

These episodes will be released at the end of each month, reflecting on what the month has brought and what nature has been quietly telling us along the way. I love

listening to a good podcast while cooking dinner or pottering about the house, and I thought this might be a gentle, accessible way to keep building momentum in Dave's honour. I truly hope you enjoy it.

(The podcast will become visible once the first episode is published – it is all set up and ready behind the scenes.)

In other exciting news, I will be recording 2026's first episode of Country Signs on 21st February in Kent. I will be completing the same walk I always did with Dave and sharing as much as I possibly can along the way. Do ensure you are subscribed to the channel – it is completely free and really helps the channel's visibility. The wider the reach, the more content I can produce.

You can subscribe here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@IndigenousUKWeather>

Website Updates

Over the coming month I will be focusing on some website updates. No real downtime is expected, and everything should continue working as normal, however if you do notice any issues, please do let us know so they can be resolved promptly.

With Grateful Thanks

I just want to take a moment to say that over the past couple of months I have been truly blown away by this incredible community. The kindness, generosity, and warmth you show – not just to me, but to one another – has been deeply moving.

I feel utterly cocooned in your support and genuinely honoured to be continuing Dave's legacy alongside you. What we are building here feels special, and I am very grateful to each of you for being part of it.

Final Thoughts

As January comes to a close and February opens, we find ourselves caught in winter's lingering grip. The cold will be biting, and more snow is still to come.

So many people struggle at this time of year, believing they should be further ahead, more productive, or doing better with their New Year's resolutions.

May I be radical and suggest we take a hint from nature?

Why not press pause for another month.

Snuggle up.

Read a good book.

Drink hot chocolate.

Enjoy winter's stillness.

Personally, I think Mother Nature has been giving us the clues for how to live through winter all along, and we humans have tried to override what is natural. Winter is a time for stillness, reflection, and space.

Let February be February. And let us be grateful for it.
Stay warm, keep watching the skies, and embrace the season.
And of course, don't forget your warm cup of tea and your Vitamin D supplements.

Best wishes,

Lesley & Bailey x



Photographers of the Month – Hayley & John Martin

“Excuse Me, That’s My Berry”.



Hayley and John from Hereford managed to capture this superb photo of a fieldfare in an orchard near their home. They stopped in awe to admire its beauty and take it all in.

These fleeting moments in time are what make them all the more magical. A huge thank you to Hayley and John for sharing this photo with us all. What a moment!

Farmers Take a Stand: Supermarket Blockades and the Fight for British Agriculture

British farmers have once again been forced to take dramatic action to highlight the deep crisis facing UK agriculture, staging surprise blockades at major supermarket depots in protest against stagnant farmgate prices, unfair supply chain practices and government tax policies that threaten the future of family farms and national food security.

In the early hours of 12 January 2026, farmers mobilised tractors and farm vehicles to block access to several Tesco supermarket distribution centres across the country, including sites in Peterborough, Doncaster and Hinckley. Loaded lorries were prevented from entering or leaving the depots, although supermarket staff and empty vehicles were allowed through as part of an agreed “static blockade” designed to minimise risk to workers while still disrupting the movement of food supplies as a tactical protest.

These actions were not taken lightly but after years of eroding real incomes on farms, soaring input costs and a lack of fair pricing and transparency in the food supply chain. In interviews at the Peterborough blockade, one farmer explained how prices for key crops and materials have barely budged even as fertiliser, machinery and energy costs have skyrocketed — making farming increasingly unviable.

“In 2008, wheat was £170 a tonne and a 200-horsepower tractor was around £50,000,” he told reporters. “In 2026, wheat is still around £170, fertiliser is well over £400 a tonne and that same tractor now costs £150,000. We just can’t carry on like this.”

Protests Rooted in Long-Standing Concerns

The blockades are part of a broader wave of farmer activism that has continued in the UK over the past year. Many protests have roots in government proposals to change inheritance tax treatment of agricultural land and family farms — a policy critics dubbed a “tractor tax” — which could force struggling family farms to sell land just to meet tax liabilities, breaking up generational holdings and weakening Britain’s domestic food production.

Earlier phases of this movement included tractor rallies in London and London-area demonstrations, as well as planned protests to coincide with the autumn Budget, all aimed at urging political leaders to reconsider measures that farmers believe threaten the survival of family farms and the wider agricultural sector.

Blockading supermarket distribution centres is an escalation in that campaign, reflecting deep frustration not only with government policy but with how the food supply chain currently works — where farmers are being squeezed by slim margins while supermarkets and importers benefit from cheaper produce that often meets lower production standards.

Clear Signals from the Ground

Farmers participating in the blockades have also raised slogans and messages aimed squarely at policymakers — including calls for a full U-turn on inheritance tax changes and fairer treatment throughout the supply chain. Some protestors have even made their views about current political leadership clear, emphasising the desperation many in the agricultural community feel as they struggle to make ends meet.

While these protests have attracted significant attention and some political commentary, they speak to a real and deeply felt concern: the future viability of British farming. For many family farms — whose work underpins national food security, rural communities and traditional ways of life — the threat is not abstract but existential. Maintaining a productive farming sector in the UK is essential not only for rural economies but for the resilience and sustainability of the nation as a whole.

Standing with Farmers

It's clear that farmers are not resorting to these tactics lightly. They are doing so out of necessity — feeling unheard for too long and now compelled to take direct action to make their voices heard. Their focus is on fair prices, equitable market practices, sensible tax policies and a viable future for family farms.

At a time when global food systems are under pressure, and when local production plays an increasingly important role in resilience and sustainability, it's vital that the concerns of British farmers are taken seriously by retailers, policymakers and the public alike. Ensuring the survival of family farms and a fair supply chain is not just a rural issue — it's a national one.

For many rural communities, farms are the heart of local life, passing through generations and contributing to the fabric of British culture, landscape and economy. Supporting them is not only a matter of fairness, but also about safeguarding food security, stewardship of the land, and the future of our countryside.

Source links:

- 🔗 Farmers blockade Tesco supermarket depots in surprise raid – Farmers Weekly (12 January 2026)
- 🔗 Farmers launch surprise 'Labour out' supermarket blockade in demand for FULL inheritance tax U-turn – GB News (12 January 2026)
- 🔗 2024–2025 United Kingdom farmers' protests – Wikipedia (background on protests and inheritance tax context)

How You Can Support British Farmers

If, like us, you stand firmly with our farmers, there are meaningful ways you can show your support – both locally and nationally.

- **Buy British where you can.**

Choose British produce in supermarkets, farm shops and markets. Look for Red Tractor and local assurance schemes, and don't be afraid to ask where your food comes from.

- **Support farm shops, butchers and local producers.**

Every pound spent locally strengthens rural businesses and helps keep family farms viable.

- **Write to your MP.**

A short, respectful email asking them to support fair taxation, sensible inheritance policy and a sustainable future for British farming really does matter. Politicians count correspondence.

- **Share farmers' voices.**

When farmers speak out, listen. Share their stories, their concerns and their perspectives. Visibility matters. If you are a farmer and would ever like space here to share your perspective, experiences or concerns, please do reach out. This is your community too, and your voice would be very welcome.

- **Talk about it.**

With friends, family, schools and communities. The more people understand what is at stake, the harder it becomes for decision-makers to ignore.

British farmers are not asking for special treatment – they are asking for fairness, respect and the chance to keep doing what they do best: feeding the nation and caring for the land.

We stand with them. And we know many of you do too.

30,000 HOMES LEFT HIGH & DRY

Imagine waking up and your tap doesn't work — not a trickle, not a dribble, nothing. No water for washing, drinking, flushing or even making tea. Luxuries? Forget them.

This is exactly what tens of thousands of households across Kent and Sussex have been forced to endure for six days, thanks to a catastrophic failure by the very water companies we pay to provide the most basic service imaginable.

Around 30,000 homes were left without running water after severe disruption to supply, prompting Kent County Council to declare a major incident — a move reserved for situations so serious that normal emergency responses are overwhelmed. Schools and public buildings were closed, hospitals were forced to move appointments online, and residents queued for bottled water in freezing January conditions. Then some stations that will remain nameless ran out of bottled water, of course!

Let that sink in.

This is Britain. In 2026.

A “MAJOR INCIDENT” — AND A MAJOR FAILURE

The outage was blamed on a combination of storm damage, burst and frozen pipes, and treatment works struggling to cope. Weather happens — but what doesn't happen by accident is years of under-investment, fragile infrastructure, and repeated profit driven failures.

This wasn't a one-off. Large parts of the same region suffered weeks without reliable water supply in late 2024, with thousands of customers still reporting problems long after the company claimed the issue was resolved.

Once again, it was customers who paid the price.

BILLS UP 20% — SERVICE DOWN TO ZERO

What makes this situation especially infuriating is the timing. South East Water customers have already been hit with around a 20% increase in bills since April, sold as a necessary step to “invest in infrastructure” and “secure future resilience”.

So let's be clear:

- Bills have gone up sharply meaning customers have paid more than ever
- And yet 30,000 households were left without water

For what, exactly?

When households are paying significantly more for a service, it is not unreasonable to expect that service to actually exist.

ANGER, INVESTIGATIONS – AND STILL NO ACCOUNTABILITY

Public anger has been swift and justified. MPs, local authorities and residents have all demanded answers, and Ofwat has launched an investigation into whether South East Water breached its obligations to customers.

But for many people, this feels depressingly familiar. The UK's privatised water system allows companies to raise bills, pay executive bonuses, and distribute shareholder returns — even while infrastructure fails and communities are left scrambling for bottled water.

Meanwhile, vulnerable residents, care homes and small businesses bore the real-world consequences of a system that simply does not work.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

This wasn't just an inconvenience. It was a failure of planning, investment and accountability — and it has rightly reignited debate about whether essential utilities should be run for profit at all. Spoiler: they shouldn't.

Customers are being asked to pay more, accept less, and stay patient — while the same problems repeat again and again.

Frankly?

It's not good enough.

We deserve a water system that works, is resilient, and doesn't collapse the moment conditions get tough — especially when bills have risen by 20%.

Sources:

- BBC News – Water supply disruption in Kent and Sussex leaves thousands without water
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czdqv5vvq1go.amp>
- The Guardian – Major incident declared as 30,000 homes left without water in Kent and Sussex
<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2026/jan/12/major-incident-declared-as-30000-homes-left-without-water-in-kent-and-sussex>
- Financial Times – UK water firms face scrutiny after supply failures
<https://www.ft.com/content/f3272bb8-c67c-4434-bd49-958dc6ec5320>

February Spotlight:

Macdonald Spey Valley Resort

Christmas 2025 was not one I had expected to enjoy.

Dave had only just passed away, and if I'm honest, I wasn't feeling remotely festive. But I have young children, and I knew that however heavy my heart felt, I still had a responsibility to create something memory-making for them.

Rather than fight my grief, I decided to lean into it.

Inspired by Dave himself — by his love of weather, wilderness and the healing power of being outdoors — I chose adventure instead of tradition. A change of scenery. Space. Nature. Healing. And so, somewhat impulsively, my extended family and I booked a Christmas trip to Aviemore: eighteen of us, spanning three generations.

None of us had ever been to the Highlands before. Unsure where to begin, a friend recommended the Macdonald Spey Valley Resort — and that was that. Decision made. Bags packed.

Most of the family flew north, but I couldn't bear the thought of being away from our dog Bailey over Christmas, so we drove. I'm endlessly grateful we did. Mile after mile, the landscape grew wilder, quieter, more awe-inspiring. By the time we reached the Cairngorms National Park, I was genuinely breathless. Raw beauty on a scale I had never seen before. The kind that humbles you.

When we arrived at the resort, we were greeted by deep frost and intricate hoar frost — nature's own lacework — spun across the landscape as if specially prepared for our arrival. It felt magical. Otherworldly. Exactly where we were meant to be.

The resort itself struck a rare balance: quietly luxurious, traditional without feeling dated, and deeply comfortable. Every time we entered reception we were met with genuine smiles and effortless warmth. Nothing felt forced. Nothing felt corporate.

Each family within our group had their own holiday home, all positioned together, effectively giving us our own small village for the week — something we hadn't even requested. Given this was a last-minute booking for eighteen people, that level of thoughtfulness was remarkable.

It quickly became clear that this was a place that anticipates its guests — a rarity these days.

On our very first night, we discovered just how true that was. It happened to be my mum's 65th birthday... and I had accidentally booked dinner at the wrong Macdonald resort entirely. Before we'd even realised our mistake, the team at Spey Valley had already contacted their sister resort and rearranged everything. The evening was saved without a hint of fuss. The restaurant manager was outstanding, the food delicious, and the whole experience seamless.

The hospitality didn't stop there. The bar and restaurant staff were consistently warm, attentive and welcoming, making us feel more like regulars than visitors. A particular mention must go to Keiran at the bar, who spent time each day chatting

with us, offering local recommendations, and ensuring we didn't miss the very best of the area.

It was obvious that the people who work here genuinely love what they do — and where they live.

The resort itself was beautifully decorated for Christmas, complementing the frost-covered landscape beyond. Between nature's decorations outdoors and the warmth inside, I genuinely can't imagine a more atmospheric place to spend the festive season. If I'm honest, I'm not sure I'd want to be anywhere else for Christmas now.

Each morning, stepping outside our accommodation meant being greeted by silence, frost, and vast Highland skies — a grounding ritual I came to treasure.

Beyond the accommodation and hospitality, the resort offered everything a multi-generational group could need: a welcoming spa to warm up in, a great swimming pool, a huge games room for the children, evening entertainment ranging from live music to family quizzes, and an expansive golf course set against one of the most spectacular backdrops imaginable.

What surprised me most was the value for money. I had expected something "nice but modest." What we found was comfort, quality and quiet luxury at a price that worked exceptionally well for a family of five — let alone a group of eighteen. It was an unexpected and very welcome surprise.

As a weather enthusiast, the surrounding area was endlessly fascinating. Deep frosts, hoar frost, snow, ice, and treacherous sheet ice (which, I can confirm, is no joke — my poor southern mum discovered this the hard way and ended up briefly in hospital after a spectacular fall). Thankfully she's fine now, but it served as a sharp reminder of just how wild and real this landscape is.

For nature lovers, there is no shortage of wonder. My dad was particularly taken with the birdlife, while the rest of us marvelled at the sheer scale of it all.

We rode the funicular railway to the snow-tipped mountains and visited the UK's highest restaurant, met the UK's only free-roaming reindeer herd, walked the breathtaking shores of Loch Morlich, and explored Aviemore itself — a relaxed, characterful town full of independent shops and a wonderfully laid-back feel. Even with all of that, we still had much to explore and completely ran out of time.

This trip turned out to be one of the most unexpectedly wonderful experiences of my life.

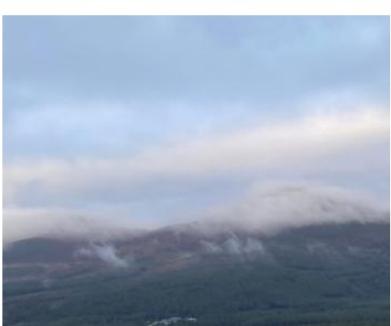
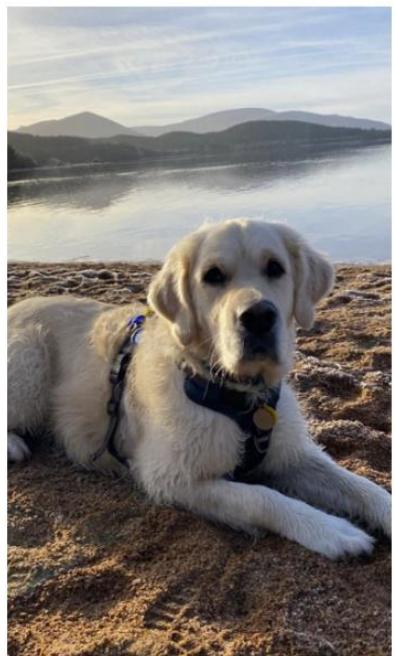
To take eighteen people — from six-year-olds to seventy-year-olds — and somehow please every single one of them is no small feat. Yet that is exactly what happened. Every one of us left feeling restored, connected, and grateful.

I suppose the point of this piece is this: not everyone finds Christmas easy. I certainly didn't expect to enjoy it this year. But choosing adventure over expectation, and nature over noise, turned out to be exactly what I needed.

If you're reading this, chances are you already love weather, landscape and the quiet magic of the natural world. If so, you truly won't go far wrong with Macdonald Spey Valley Resort in Aviemore.

I've shared a few photographs below — and I hope they might inspire you to take the trip.

You won't be disappointed.



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.

This month I am only sharing one item, because it is fascinating. There I was on my totally ordinary daily walk, when I spotted something unfamiliar. On closer inspection I accepted I didn't recognise it, and it would require further research.

I present to you: *Tremella mesenterica* more commonly known as Witches' Butter.



Why is it called Witches Butter?

In British and European folklore, it was believed that witches milked cows from afar. Villagers thought witches could steal milk from neighbouring farms with magic. They'd chant, curse, or use enchanted objects... and the stolen milk would manifest as this buttery substance on trees. So when people found witches butter on a branch, the thinking was:

“A witch has been at work here.” And not in a cosy, herbal-tea way. In a lock up your livestock way.

Butter was serious business in rural life. It meant food, wealth, survival. So anything that looked like butter but didn't behave like butter? Deeply suspicious. There was a strong belief that witches could spoil butter, stop it churning, or steal it outright with magic. Witches butter was seen as physical proof of this mischief. In some areas people would burn it, bury it, or throw it into running water. It was essentially treated as magical contraband.

In British countryside lore, Witches Butter was widely seen as a sign of wet, unsettled weather to come – and often proved uncannily accurate. Some believed witches made witches butter to draw down rain to spoil hay, ruin harvests or cause hardship.

So in that worldview, witches' butter was never just a fungus, it was a warning. And once you've seen it, you never quite walk past a tree the same way again.

🕒 Little Boots' Big Adventures: February

Hello, winter watchers!

February may be the shortest month, but it's one of the busiest if you know where to look. The days are quietly stretching, the light lingers a little longer each afternoon, and the land is beginning to stir — even if it still feels cold.

This is a month of in-between: winter isn't finished yet, but spring is starting to whisper. Look closely, listen carefully, and February will tell you its secrets.

🌼 Candlemas & Snowdrop Spotting

Early February brings Candlemas, a traditional turning point of the year. Folklore says this is when winter decides whether to stay or go — but whatever the weather, nature is already preparing.

Snowdrops often appear around this time, pushing bravely through frozen ground. I have noticed they are way ahead of schedule this year. Have you spotted any?

Can you find:

- Snowdrops peeping out under trees
- Green shoots at the base of trees
- Buds swelling on bare branches

Little Boots tip:

Snowdrops love sheltered spots. Check churchyards, woodland edges, under trees, and shady banks.

🐦 Feathered Friends Festival (All Month Long)

February is still a brilliant month for birds. With trees bare and food scarce, gardens and hedges are full of activity.

You might spot:

- Robins defending their winter territories
- Blackbirds searching for worms on milder days
- Blue tits and great tits visiting feeders
- Dunnocks hopping quietly along fences

Listen carefully — cold air carries sound further. You may hear birds before you see them.

🕒 Little Boots Challenge

Keep a February nature notebook.

Each time you go outside, write down:

- One thing you see
- One thing you hear
- One thing that tells you the season is changing

Bonus points if you notice:

- A bird singing instead of just calling
- Water dripping or ice melting
- A new plant you didn't see last week

Snow Moon Wonder

February's full moon is known as the Snow Moon or Hunger Moon, named for the long, lean weeks of late winter.

On a clear night:

- Step outside and look up
- Notice how bright the moon looks in the cold air
- Listen — what nighttime sounds can you hear?

Owls, foxes, wind in bare branches... February nights are full of stories.

Bare Branch Detectives

With leaves still absent, trees reveal their true shapes.

Try this:

- Look at the tips of branches
- Notice buds — are they small, fat, or pointed?
- Compare different trees: which ones look ready for spring?

Little Boots tip:

February may feel quiet, but it is watchful, patient, and full of promise.

Keep your boots muddy, your eyes open, and your ears tuned — spring is closer than it looks.

Magic Sightings waiting to happen in February are:

- Badgers
- Barn Owls
- Bitterns
- Brown Hares
- Crocuses
- Dippers
- Fieldfare
- Frog & Toad Spawn
- Frosted Spiderwebs
- Golden Plovers
- Goshawks
- Great Crested Grebes
- Hazel Catkins
- Lapwing
- Mistletoe
- Otters
- Pink Footed Geese
- Red Squirrels
- Redwing
- Robins
- Snipe
- Snowdrops
- Snowmen
- Starling Murmuration's
- Stoats
- Tawny Owls/ Short Eared Owls

- Black Mustard.
- Three Cornered Leek

Please do not forage mushrooms/ fungi unless you are with a qualified professional.



Redwing – Photo credit to Jim Bishop

This year February is the perfect time to sow broad beans.

Hardy and dependable, they cope well with cold soil and even snow, using the slower conditions to build strong roots.

Sow now, and they'll be ready to surge into growth as soon as the weather softens.

Trust the cold – the earth is working even when it looks asleep.

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

THE SKIES: FEBRUARY 2026

THE SKIES

- 1st: Full Snow Moon
- 17th: Annular Solar Eclipse
- 19th: You may be able to see Mercury



Full Moon:
1st February @ 22:09
Fair & Frosty



3Q Moon:
9th February @ 12:43
Snow if cold enough, else cold rain



New Moon:
17th February @ 12:01
Snow if cold enough, else cold rain



1Q Moon:
24th February @ 12:27
Snow if cold enough, else cold rain



PERIGEE @ 23:03 ON 24th FEBRUARY

APOGEE @ 16:41 ON 10th FEBRUARY

Now the collated expert notes on February:

FEBRUARY - tends overall to be a fairly quiet, dry, and moderately cold month. The term 'Filldyke' applied to February (from February filldyke saying) is an exhortation, not a reference to its excessive rainfall. When the late January and early February storms have finished, that may not be until 4th February, the weather becomes gradually colder. Buchan places his first cold period of the year at 7 – 14th February and in Europe, the spell 7 -13th has been called 'after winter.' Over a 100-year average at Greenwich Observatory, the 11th produces the month's coldest day and 11 -12th produces the coldest night. Severe freezing/icing is not unknown either. Such cold spells however do not occur with the regularity of the stormy periods with a percentage regularity of some 60%, though in most years the North of England & Scotland usually gets some heavy falls of snow around the middle of the month. There is usually a short period of mild unsettled weather around 16 – 20th February, followed by a short return to colder conditions during 21 -25th February, though this is seldom unduly severe. Finally, the last few days of the month return to mild but mainly stormy weather. February is a damp month with the least natural evaporation of the whole year too.

Notes from Nature

The grass was not growing at the turn of the new year. Deep frosts and freezing temperatures have the soil locked in dormancy. This points to two good hay harvests this year.

In terms of the trees, there are dormant buds everywhere – tight, patient, and plentiful. Then there was the brilliant sunshine on Christmas Day, shining from dawn to dusk. All signs point to another good fruit year ahead, with hazel catkins showing well.

It is also worth remembering that fogs in January bring a wet spring. I have counted six so far.

In the more immediate future, squirrels are working overtime. You do not even have to go on woodland walks to find them – they are in the gardens, running along the sides of roads. They know exactly what is on the way.

Snowdrops are well ahead of schedule this year, and in the extreme south there are already daffodils in bloom. Gorse is doing well, and heather is showing signs of life. Look too for primroses.

"If spring borrows from winter, winter will borrow from spring" comes to mind. It is of note that all of these flowers are frost tolerant and able to cope with the wintry conditions still to come.

There remains an abundance of berries available for the birds, and winter migratory species are now feeding in earnest.

I have seen no real insect activity or true signs of spring emerging. February is the heart of winter and the period of lowest evaporation. The Buchan cold period begins on 7th February, by which time I expect us to be fully in winter's grip.

It is also essential to remember that the hottest days of June give the coldest days of February. June 2025 was the warmest England has seen since records began. Heatwave thresholds were met between 16th and 21st June, with the 21st being the hottest day of the month.

Of June, there was then a second heatwave, with temperatures reaching and exceeding 30°C on several occasions. With that, the penny drops. February will be bitter.

February Forecast:

February will start off on a dry, cold, and frosty note. The ground will freeze and by February 7th we are likely to be fully in winter's grip. From 9th February onward, snowfall is likely. This snow will lay and drift, causing disruption to travel and farm husbandry. February looks set to be a snow bound month, with further snowfalls following as the month progresses. Anything falling from the sky this month will be snow.

February was always expected to feel comparable to December 2010 in terms of snowfall levels. While it is unlikely that those record low temperatures will be reached, the severity of the cold should not be underestimated. This will be a shock to the system.

Bitterness is expected to increase as the month goes on, with the end of February shaping up to be the coldest part of winter by far. I am expecting February to be a notably severe month, with snowfall reaching most parts (likely all) by month's end.

This looks to be a prolonged cold spell, extending well into March – and for areas north of the Humber, potentially into April.

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

FEBRUARY 2026

Full Moon = 1st @ 22:09 = Fair and Frosty

Last Quarter Moon = 9th @ 12:43 = Snow if cold enough, else cold rain

New Moon = 17th @ 12:01 = Snow if cold enough, else cold rain

1st Quarter Moon = 24th @ 12:27 = Snow if cold enough, else cold rain

DoP – St Candlemas: 2nd

Highest Spring Tides 3rd – 6th & 18th – 22nd

APOGEE: 9th @ 16:41

PERIGEE: 24th @ 23:03

Met Office Notes: 24th – 28th = Stormy period

BUCHAN NOTES: 7th – 14th = Cold Period

FULL MOON ON THE 1st IS CALLED THE SNOW MOON or ICE/ HUNGER MOON

Monthly Notes & Comments

1st	St Brigid	If white, very ditch full
2nd	Candlemass	aka as Purification Day of BVM. Day of Prediction. Cold weather at Candlemass means colder weather after the feast than before. Snowdrop blossom day Perigee @ 02:47
6th	St Dorothea	Gives the most snow
9th	Apogee @ 16:41	
12 th	St Eulalie's	If sun today, then good for apples and cider. 12th to 14th see below.
14 th	St Valentine	Crocus blossom time
22 nd	St Peter	If cold will last longer - the night gives 40 days weather
24 th	St Matthias Perigee @ 23:03	St Mattee send sap up tree (usually indicates an early spring). If freezing today so for a month.
28 th	St Romanus	Bright and clear, indicates a good year

General Notes and Comments

February was introduced into the Roman calendar by Numa Pompilous when the calendar was extended for ten to twelve. The month comes from the word februs – which means cleansing or purification, and reflects the rituals undertaken before spring.

Candlemass was the name given to the day when all the candles in the church were collected and blessed; some say it was also protection from plague and famine.

The snowdrop, in purest white array, first rears her head on Candlemas day.

The warmest days in the preceding June give the coldest days on the identical dates the following February.

Shortest and worst of all months.

If Candlemass Day be clear and bright, winter will have another flight.
But if it be dark with clouds and rain, winter has gone and will not come again.

If Candlemass be mild and gay, go saddle your horse and buy them hay as half the winters to come this year. (This day is a very reliable day for wind up to the end of May).
This Quarter Day is not however a true 90 day span as are the other three such Quarter days.
Therefore as a Quarter Day it requires more caution.

Where-ever the wind on Candlemass Day, there 'twill stay to the end of May.

A snow cover in February protects the land from the worst excesses of frost and snow, and a slow thaw gently releases the water into the ground.

A sudden thaw accompanied by heavy rain is one of the most damaging of weather combinations. [causing at times severe flooding]

February always brings the rain and the thaws the frozen lakes again.

Much February snow, April summer doth show. [yes 4/5 times true]

A month with snow means spring will be fine.

If freezing on the 24th - will continue for a month, St Mathias breaks the ice, if none, he breaks it.

A sunny February brings wet and stormy summer.

February filldyke, be it black or be it white, but if it be white, 'tis better to like.
[regardless of snow or rain, the ditches will usually fill during February.]

In February if thou hearest thunder, thou shalt see a summer wonder.

Dry February, dry summer.

A warm day in February is a dream of summer.

February spring ain't worth a pin.

On Candlemass Day if thorns be a-drop you can be sure of a good pea crop.
[peas are picked in June which implies a good period]

When drops hang on the fence at Candlemass, icicles will hang on 25th March.

When the wind's in the east, it will stay to the 2nd of May.

If a storm then spring is near, but if bright and clear then spring is late.
If Candlemass Day do bluster and blow, winter is over, as all do know.

All the months of the year curse a fair Februair.

If February brings no rain, 'tis neither good for grass or grain.

February makes a bridge (of ice) and March breaks it.

As the days lengthen so the cold strengthens.

Warm February gives light hay crop, cold February gives heavy hay crop.

Snow in February puts wheat in the granary.

February snow burns the corn.

If the last 18 days of February are wet and the first 10 days of March are mainly rainy, then spring quarter and summer too, will prove wet too. If dry then watch out for drought conditions in the summer.

AND

From local figures of the above February and march dates if the combined rainfall is less than 100mms, then the drought possibility is much higher, A refined calculation.

There will be a deficiency of rain up to Midsummer day.

Fogs in February means frosts in May.

There will be as many frosts in June as fogs in February.

February is a damp month, not because of high rainfall, but because of low evaporation rate.

Often a month of intense cold, as the thermometer falls and the crimson sun sits in an open sky.

A time of burst pipes, and, in a good year, of skating.

So, if you are to have a good summer, alas, February will need to be a cold wet and miserable month.

See reference to St Catherine - 25th November.

[At St Catherine, foul or fair, so 'twill be next Februair.]

When hottest in June - coldest in the following February.[check June readings]

In August, so next February. [check August readings - but what relevance?]

Warm October - cold February. [check readings]

If late October and early November be warm and rainy, then January and February will be frosty and cold. [check previous readings.]

With every thunder with rain in February, there will be a cold spell in May.

Isolated fine days in February are considered as certain to be followed by a storm.

A dry Lent spells a fertile year (not in February this year but kept for reference)

THE FULL MOON THIS MONTH IS KNOWN AS THE SNOW MOON.

ROWAN is the tree of the month up to 17th. Then ASH takes over.

SNOWDROP is the wildflower of the month up to 14th, then CROCUS takes over.

PRIMROSE is the flower of the month.

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	Full @ 22:09	Fair and frosty		St Brigid								
2		Candlemas										Snow drops blossom
3											High Tides	
4											High Tides	
5											High Tides	
6			St Dorothea								High Tides	
7									Cold Period			
8									Cold Period			
9	3Q @ 12:43	Snow if cold enough, else rain							Cold Period			
10							Apogee @ 16:41		Cold Period			
11									Cold Period			
12			St Eulalie's						Cold Period			
13									Cold Period			
14									Cold Period			Crocus Blossom
15												
16												
17	New @ 12:01	Snow if cold enough, else rain										Annular Solar Eclipse
18											High Tides	
19											High Tides	Mercury
20											High Tides	
21											High Tides	
22			St Peter								High Tides	
23												
24	1Q @ 12:27	Snow if cold enough, else rain	St Matthias				Perigee @ 23:03	Stormy Period				
25								Stormy Period				
26								Stormy Period				
27								Stormy Period				
28			St Romanus					Stormy Period				