

March 2026

Indigenous UK Weather Forecast

MARCH 2026

PREAMBLE



Wildflower of the month: Daffodil/ Flower of the month: Jonquil

Tree of the month: Up to 17th March is the Ash, followed by Alder till 14th April

Full Moon this Month: SAP Moon

"To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often."

Winston Churchill

March 2026

Welcome to our March update!

Our winter forecast centred heavily on February, with expectations of around three weeks of cold and snow. While some regions did see wintry conditions, overall the season hasn't unfolded as we expected.

The methodology works well, and produces good results highlighting major problems like storms and flooding well ahead of the actual event. And indeed, this winter has been long, hard and miserable... and incredibly wet.

The observant readers will have noticed a profusion of late ivy being produced, as well as plenty of bryony berries, ash seeds and left over food for the birds. Thousands of hazel catkins too. Catkins contain an enzyme and protein that if left to mature produce hazel nuts. However this enzyme and protein content is also produced in years of prolonged and poor conditions, when access by birds to other food sources is difficult, be it from flooding, snow or frost on the ground. Nature has produced a vitamin supplement, really.

Looking at the lunar phases in March, it is likely to be a cool month. If cold enough, perhaps the snow we anticipated will arrive. There are indications that a Sudden Stratospheric Warming event may be influencing the polar vortex in March. We will see, as always, time will tell.

What we can say for sure, is with the ground already saturated, if not flooded, in many places, and bearing in mind February is the month of least evaporation, further ground problems are likely. Therefore nature has provided extra food for the birds with renewed supplies of the above. With the absence of any sure signs of spring as I write this, I will continue with my forecast of a long, hard winter. Flooding also prolongs difficult conditions, even without snow. Although I wouldn't be in the least bit surprised if that long anticipated snow did make an appearance in March. This winter extends well into spring either way, at best spring will be at least four weeks behind schedule this year.

Encouragingly, the signs suggest a strong fruit and nut harvest ahead, and St Eualalie's Day brought particularly good news for our cider producers.

Best wishes,

Lesley & David

(I am referring to David Andrews – please check March Community Update if you haven't already)

THE SKIES: MARCH 2026

THE SKIES

- 3rd: Full SAP Moon (Blood Moon, Lunar Eclipse)
- 7th & 8th: See Saturn half hour after sunset
- 31st: See Venus half hour after sunset



Full Moon:
3rd March @ 11:37
Cold & High Winds



3Q Moon:
11th March @ 09:38
Cold Rain if wind NW



New Moon:
19th March @ 01:23
Frost unless wind SW



1Q Moon:
25th March @ 19:17
Fair & Frosty if wind N or NE



PERIGEE @ 11:43 ON 22nd March

APOGEE @ 13:43 ON 10th March

Now for the collated expert notes on March:

The first part of March is normally unsettled and stormy over western Europe particularly between Britain and the Baltic and is associated with north to northeast airstreams. On average, the stormiest parts of this period over Britain are the 1-2nd and 6-9th March, with Scotland and northern parts of Britain receiving stronger winds than districts further south. By contrast, 12-19th March is normally less stormy and produces markedly fine conditions. In east Scotland and many other districts of Britain, it is the driest period of the year. Night frost, however, is likely despite quite warm day temperatures at times. In the Home Counties and SE England, it normally remains dry until 25th March, and the period 17-25th March the driest part of the year for the London area. There is a tradition the equinoctial gales begin on or near the 21st of March. In fact, they do not normally affect Britain before 24-25th March, beginning first in the northern and western districts. From then until the end of the month the weather is normally very stormy, and there is a general lowering of temperature as the winds blow first from the SW or west and then veer to the NW or north. Sleet and snow over northern districts and over high ground and elsewhere are a fairly regular feature of the last few days of March and produces storms two out of every three years.

Nature's Notes on March 2026

Daffodils are well underway, as we noted some time ago, along with pussy willow, and hazel catkins. Crocuses and snowdrops still in abundance and the first primroses. In Dorset we even have daisies popping up. The hedgerows should be starting to come alive with white blossoms, and I have had a few reports of the beginnings of this, but I haven't seen this for myself as yet. There is an abundance of new Ivy berries, and plenty of remaining berries and seeds left over for the birds. Plenty of crab apples and robin's pin cushions too.

There is very little movement in the trees and bushes (aside from the cherry blossom). With more cold (and possible snow) still to come, nature will not bring the trees and shrubs along until it is safe to do so. There are still plenty of squirrels and woodpeckers working hard at the moment as well - another sign of further cold on its way.

There is talk of a major SSW causing a split in the polar vortex – thus a higher chance of colder weather. That's not part of the methodology here, but it would fit, as we have long forecasted a long, hard and cold winter. It is said if March comes in like a lion it will go out like a lamb (and vice-versa), but this only applies to the last 2-3 days of the month.

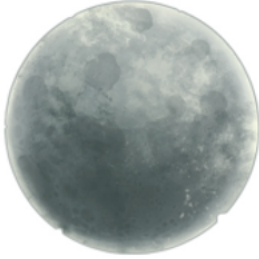
As always, time will tell.

March 2026 Forecast:

March should start off cool to cold and windy. Should snow develop in the Highlands, blizzard conditions would be possible – similar to those seen in early January. Around the 11th a spell of cold rain looks likely, though if temperatures were low enough this would fall as snow. Later in the month, conditions may turn calmer, drier and increasingly frosty, with the possibility of some decent sunshine to close March.

Lunar phases and folklore remain important tools in the indigenous uk weather forecasting, and here's how they align this month:

MARCH 2026



Full Moon:
3rd March @ 11:37
Cold & High Winds



3Q Moon:
11th March @ 09:38
Cold Rain if wind NW



New Moon:
19th March @ 01:23
Frost unless wind SW



1Q Moon:
25th March @ 19:17
Fair & Frosty if wind N or NE

Spring/ Vernal Equinox = March 20th

DoP & Quarter Day = March 21st

BST begins = March 29th

Highest Spring Tides: 4th – 7th & 18th – 22nd

Apogee @ 13:43
and
Perigee @ 11:43

FULL MOON KNOWN AS SAP MOON

3rd: Lunar Eclipse/ Blood Moon

Met Office Notes: None

Buchan Notes: None

Monthly Notes & Comments

1 st	St David	Ever on St David'd Day, put oats and barley in clay.
2 nd	St Chad	Every goose lays before St Chad, whether goose good or bad (if your goose has not laid by this day start fattening for the pot for she is not a good layer). Sow Peas Day.
3 rd	St Winneral	St Winneral: the holy day of the saint who controls tides and weather. If stormy today bad winds to follow, but if quiet - quiet end to month.
5 th	St Pirrans	Cornish festival. Patrol Saint of Cornwall.
17 th	St Patricks Day/	Known for freakish weather
19 th	St Joseph of Nazareth	A fertile year if clear and dry
20 th	Spring Equinox/	Vernal Equinox. When there has been no particular storm around the time of spring equinox, if a storm arise from the East on or before that day, or if a storm from any point of the compass arise after the

		equinox, then in either of these cases, the succeeding summer is generally dry (4/5). But if a storm arise from SW or WSW or a frost before spring equinox, then summer is generally wet (5/6).
21 st	DoP/ St Benedict	Quarter Day. As the wind today it will stay for three months. A fertile year if not freezing today. See below for frost precautions.
25 th	Lady Day	The day the cardamine flower blooms. Daffodil day.
30 th	BST/ Mothers Day	BST begins.

Full moon this month is known as the Full Sap moon also known as Worm moon, sugaring moon, crow moon, storm moon, sap moon, lantern moon or crust moon.

Tree of the month up to 17th is the Ash, thereafter is the Alder.

General Notes and Comments

The word 'March' comes from the Roman 'Martius,' this was originally the first month of the Roman calendar and was named of Mars, the god of war.

March was the beginning of our calendar year, which was changed to the 'New Style' or 'Gregorian calendar' in 1752 and only since then has the year began with January 1st

The Four wind days, Quarter Days, are among the most reliable in the year and give the prevailing wind until the next Quarter Day.

The month of renewal - The month of winds and new life. March - many weathers.

If the winds for Candlemass (2nd February) and St Benedict (21st) are contradictory,

then St Benedict takes preference.

10th - If it does not freeze, a fertile year may be expected; mists or hoar frosts indicate a plentiful year, but not without some diseases.

21st, St Benedict. This Quarter Day will give you the wind up to 24th June (St John) which is just 95 days later. St Benedict will take precedence over Candlemass should the winds directions be contradictory.

St Benedict - sow thy peas or keep them in the nick.

March is traditionally a boisterous month throughout the temperate zones of the northern hemisphere. >>>>>>

The reason is that the polar regions are at their coldest after nearly six months of night, while the equatorial regions are at their hottest because the sun is overhead.

The strength of the atmospheric circulation depends primarily on the difference of temperature between the equator and poles; hence it is most vigorous when the contrasts of hot and cold are greatest in March.

When there has been no particular storm about the time of the spring equinox, if a storm arise from the east on or before that day, or, if a storm from any point of the compass arise a week after the equinox, then, in either of these cases, the succeeding summer is generally dry (4/5). But if a storm arise from the SW or WSW or a frost before the spring equinox, the summer is generally wet. (5/6).

There are generally some warm days at the end of March or the beginning of April, which will bring the Blackthorn into bloom, and, which are followed by a cold period called the Blackthorn Winter (11-14th April). Fogs in March - frosts in

May. [This is quite accurate, in London there are on average four foggy mornings in March and four nights average ground frost in May]

Fog in March - Thunder in July. [doubtful].

As much fog in March, so much rain in summer.

As it rains in March so in June. [doubtful]

A wet March makes a sad harvest.

March damp and warm does the farmer much harm.

When March has April weather, April will have March weather.

Dry March, wet April, dry May and wet June are generally said to bring everything in tune.

A windy March and a rainy April makes a beautiful May.

A showery March and a showery May portend a wholesome summer - if there be a showery April between.

Dust in March brings grass and foliage.

A peck of March dust to be sold, is worth a King's ransom.

March dust on apple leaf, brings all kinds of fruit to grief.

The March sun rises but dissolves not. March sun lets snow stand on a stone.

If you've March in January the January will appear in March

After a frosty winter there will be a good fruit harvest.

If March winds start early it will be a dry Easter.

A dry lent spells a fertile year.

A windy/dry March fortells a dry May.

March flowers make no summer bowers.

March dry - good rye.

A dry cold March never begs its bread.[a good grain harvest implies a dry July and August]

March snow hurts the seeds.

Snow in March is bad for fruit and grape vines.

Moles are a good guide for a fortnight or so, it is a sure sign of warmer weather when they start to become active - it may only be a short warm period.

Field mice however, when scurrying around are a prelude to bad weather. They are laying in stocks of food.

Better bitten by a snake than feel the sun in March.

March, month of many weathers, wildly comes in hail and snow and threatening
floods and burns.

A peck of March dust and a shower in May makes the corn green and meadows all
gay.

The month of winds and new life.

After a frosty winter there will be a good pea harvest.

For the elderly - February search, March try - April says weather you live or die.

Broadly speaking, significant plant growth commences at 6C or above.

March tends to be the driest month of the year - but subject to cold snaps and frost.

The third week of March is often the driest of the whole year.

A dry March and a wet may, fill barns and bays with corn and hay.

As it rains in March, so it rains in June.

It is also said that March borrows its last week from April, which indicates the tail of
the month is often more spring like than the rest of it.

The last three days are called 'borrowing days' for if they are unusually stormy,
March is said to have borrowed them from April. Three days of wind and
rain is more the norm.

Also - one day rain. one day snow and the other, the worst day they ever knew.

The third week of the month (around the 17th St Patrick's day) is fronted by Cheltenham Gold Cup race meeting. This period will certainly produce a combination of most variable weather, from rain/snow/sleet and winds to hot dry and sunny.

March is usually a very varied month and a sensible traveller will be prepared for anything.

If March comes in like a lion it will go out like a lamb (and vice-versa).
[dependable, but it only applies to the first and last two or three days of the month]

If March comes in all stormy and black, she carries winter away on her back.

As in September, so next March - sometimes. [check previous September readings]

As in October wet, March dry:- yes if October wet is above average then March below average. October cold, March (warm) cold - is more likely cold from local records.

October warm, March cold(er than average) - from local records.

If the last 18 days of February are wet and the first 10 days of March be for the most part rainy, then the spring and summer quarters are likely to be wet too, and a drought is unknown but that it entered that season. [this is very true - so watch the drought situation]

AND

If the rainfall from the above dates is less than 100mms then the drought possibility

is far higher. This is a refined local calculation.

Northerly winds over northern Europe reach their highest frequency around 15th June. But are rare after 20th June. Meanwhile SW winds blow comparatively infrequently from late March until 10th June, but are very much more common during the rest of June.>>>>>

From the same research, taking England & Wales as a whole, the driest months of the year are:- March, April & May, and occasionally February and June.

These months are also the months when long drags of unsettled westerly winds are unlikely to occur. Monthly rainfall is between 2.3/2.6 ins (58/66mms) for each month from February to June.

From July onwards 3.2/3.8ins (81/96mms).

A dry Lent spells a fertile year.

Oranges & Lemons: In the days when the river Thames wider, barges carrying oranges and lemons landed just below the churchyard of St Clements Dane Church (which is roughly midway between the current Waterloo and Blackfriars bridges).

On the last day of March, local primary school children gathered at the church to attend a service, during which they recite the famous nursery rhyme and play the tune on hand-bells. At the end of the service each are presented with an orange and a lemon. Hence the rhyme 'Oranges and lemons say the bells of St Clements.'

FULL MOON THIS MONTH IS KNOWN AS THE SAP MOON, or worm moon, sugaring moon, crow moon, storm moon.

The tree of the month up to the 17th is the ASH. Thereafter the Alder.

MARCH 2026

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				St David's Day								
2				St Chad								
3	FULL @ 11:37	Cold and high winds		St Winnerral								Blood Moon Lunar Eclipse
4											High Tides	
5				St Piran's 2026							High Tides	
6											High Tides	
7											High Tides	Saturn half hour after sunset
8												Saturn half hour after sunset
9												
10							Apogee @ 13:43					
11	3Q @ 09:38	Cold rain if wind NW										
12												
13												
14												
15												Mothers Day
16												
17				St Patrick's								
18											High Tides	
19	New @ 01:23	Frost unless wind SW		Nazareth							High Tides	
20											High Tides	Spring Equinox
21			Quarter Day	St Benedict							High Tides	
22							Perigee @ 11:43				High Tides	
23												
24												
25	1Q @ 19:17	Fair and frosty if wind N or NE		Lady Day								
26												
27												
28												
29												BST BEGINS
30												
31												Venus half hour after sunset