

MARCH 2025

PREAMBLE



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

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

Full Moon this Month: SAP Moon

*“March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers”.*

*Proverb*

## March 2025

### Welcome to our March update!

It's hard to believe we're already stepping into March, marking the first day of meteorological spring. However, Dave and I still feel a touch of winter lingers - more on that later in this entry. Nonetheless, this month is a significant milestone as we eagerly anticipate longer days, budding flowers, and (hopefully) a little more sunshine and warmth.

### Book Club News

Our inaugural book club meeting on January 31st was a delight, and we can't wait to gather again on March 28th! We meet on the last Friday of every other month, and everyone is welcome. If you'd like to join, just email [indigeniousukweather@outlook.com](mailto:indigeniousukweather@outlook.com), and we'll get you up to speed and send you an invite.

### Country Signs Series

The next instalment of our Country Signs series will be filmed on Sunday, March 2nd and will be available on our YouTube channel as soon as possible: <https://youtube.com/@indigeniousukweather>.

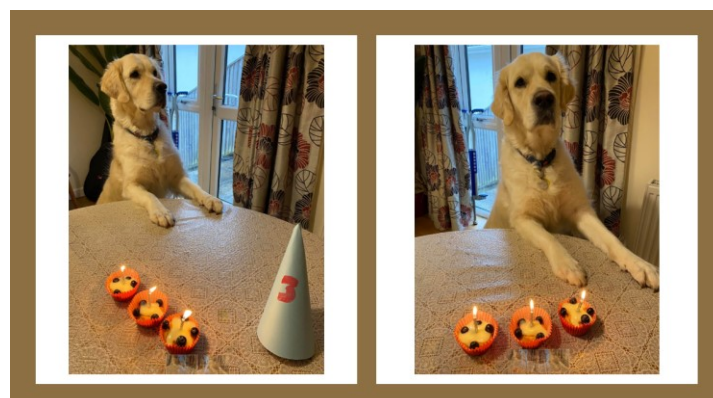
If you enjoy our content, please consider subscribing (it's completely free!) and share it with those who might appreciate it. Your support helps us spread the word - thank you!

### Photographer of the Month

This month's accolade goes to Trevor Eldridge for his stunning photograph of a short-eared owl at Staines Moor. It's an incredible shot, and we're thrilled to share it with our community. Thank you so much for capturing and sharing this moment with us. I know our readers will enjoy this photograph every bit as much as we have!

### Bailey Turns Three!

Of course, no update would be complete without mentioning Bailey - our beloved, goofy team member - who recently turned three! Naturally, he celebrated with his very own "pupcakes." We've shared the recipe on our Instagram page: <https://www.instagram.com/indigeniousukweather/>. They're delicious, healthy, and Bailey-approved! So, if you have a special dog in your life, why not give them a whirl?



### **Join Our Community**

Our Facebook group remains the heart and soul of our community. To join, just email [indigenousukweather@outlook.com](mailto:indigenousukweather@outlook.com), and we'll send you the link!

### **This Month's Features**

As always, Dave has put together some fantastic articles for you to enjoy. And this month, we also have a couple of brilliant features from Jim on butterflies and dragonflies - plenty to dive into! Huge thanks to both of you; this website wouldn't be the same without your contributions.

### **Spotlight Feature**

This month, I'm proud to shine a spotlight on my dear friend Seran Eves, whose work inspiring children to be their best is truly remarkable.

Do you know someone making a real difference in the world? If so, we'd love to hear about them! Send us your nominations for our spotlight feature - we're always keen to celebrate those doing incredible things.

That's all for now! Stay warm, keep up with your Vitamin D, and we'll see you next month as we embrace the long-awaited arrival of spring.

Best wishes,

*Lesley & Dave*

## Photographer of the Month – Trevor Eldridge

“Whooo’s Watching Who”?



Trevor (my dad 😊), managed to capture this incredible photograph of a short-eared owl at Staines Moor. Thanks so much for sending this in dad! It is a truly amazing shot, and I wouldn't mind betting most children these days would have never seen an owl in the wild, so it will make our 'Little Explorers' very happy too. You definitely are well deserving of the title of “Our March Photographer of the Month”.

## WATER UTILITY INCREASES FROM 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2025

As often remarked on this website over the years, parts of the UK are currently acutely short of usable domestic water. We are an island surrounded by water, the climate is conducive to ample rainfall, yet the problem, especially in summer months is now a regular feature, with restrictions the order of the day. We have an innate ability to waste what valuable water we have, and it gets more critical by the year. The main problem is the lack of reservoirs, the last one being constructed in the late 1980's. This is exacerbated using concrete, tarmac, building in general, decking, removal of vital tree coverage and the rise in population and industry, lack of essential vital maintenance.

Then provision of new reservoirs is dealt with elsewhere here, as too is the repair, maintenance, and construction of flood defences. However, the highest ever Water Utility rises will operate from 1<sup>st</sup> April, these being the highest since the privatisation of water 36 years ago, and average rise of £123. It is not without significance that some of the highest rises are in areas where fines for deliberate violations of the wastewater regulations are most pronounced. Then official table of the new bills is listed below.

The changes below will take effect from April 1st 2025. National average water bills for the coming year are forecast to be £603 (a rise of £123 or 26%). This equates to an increase of around £10 a month

Water and wastewater companies	2024-25	2025-26	Change £	Change %
Anglian Water	£527	£626	£99	19%
Dŵr Cymru (Welsh Water)	£503	£639	£136	27%
Hafren Dyfrdwy	£447	£590	£143	32%
Northumbrian Water	£426	£506	£79	19%
Severn Trent Water	£457	£556	£99	22%
South West Water (south west region)	£520	£686	£166	32%

The changes below will take effect from April 1st 2025. National average water bills for the coming year are forecast to be £603 (a rise of £123 or 26%). This equates to an increase of around £10 a month

<b>Water and wastewater companies</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>Change £</b>	<b>Change %</b>
<b>Southern Water</b>	£478	£703	<b>£224</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>Thames Water</b>	£488	£639	<b>£151</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>United Utilities</b>	£486	£598	<b>£112</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>Wessex Water</b>	£556	£669	<b>£113</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Yorkshire Water</b>	£467	£602	<b>£136</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>Water-only companies</b>				
<b>Affinity Water (central region)</b>	£192	£235	<b>£43</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>Affinity Water (east region)</b>	£225	£278	<b>£53</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>Affinity Water (south east region)</b>	£249	£291	<b>£43</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>Bournemouth Water</b>	£144	£191	<b>£47</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>Bristol Water</b>	£226	£234	<b>£9</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Essex and Suffolk Water</b>	£286	£318	<b>£32</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Portsmouth Water</b>	£120	£150	<b>£30</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>South East Water</b>	£245	£294	<b>£49</b>	<b>20%</b>

@David King

Edenbridge

February 2025

Lesley Coyle

Dorset

28<sup>th</sup> February 2025

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY CHANCELLOR OF NINE NEW RESERVOIRS

On January 25<sup>th</sup> 2025, the Chancellor announced that nine new reservoirs would be built in England.

An effort to discover the exact locations of such new reservoirs has proved to be illusive, despite deep research the best I can find are as follows:

Abingdon – to provide an additional 270 million litres a day water to some 15 million people.

Somerset, two new reservoirs, the first possibly a 'Cheddar 2,' at that location, the second maybe at Torr works Quarry near Shepton Mallet.

Cambridgeshire, maybe a new reservoir near Chatteris.

However, finding information concerning the remaining five locations, they are being, Suffolk, Kent, East Sussex, West Midlands, and Hampshire (though maybe the existing reservoir at Havant might be extended) has proved nigh impossible.

An interesting Freedom of Information Act request as below does not assist with any answers. Which prompts the comment, cynic though I may be, is this yet another government 'kite-flying,' exercise, since the reply to the request is quite negative.

However, as many know already planning applications take for ever, with objections, appeals and referrals commonplace, therefore it may well be another ten years before the first spade is dug for any of these grand projects. In the meantime, without water, many grand projects, like 1.5 million houses, as proposed again by this Chancellor, is just another grand project.

### Reservoir funding announcement

[Steve Loftus](#) made this Freedom of Information request to [HM Treasury](#)

Steve Loftus [3 February 2025](#)

[Delivered](#)

Dear HM Treasury,

Rachel Reeves recently gave a speech where she announced funding of £7.9bn for reservoirs. The media briefing said this was for 9 new reservoirs.

My questions are,

1. What are the 9 reservoirs?
2. How is the funding divided?
3. What is the mechanism for this funding?

Yours faithfully,

Steve Loftus

Link to this: [Report](#)

FOI Requests, HM Treasury [4 February 2025](#)

Our ref: FOI2025/02538

Dear Steve Loftus,

Thank you for your request for information which we are considering under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

This is to confirm receipt of your request and to let you know that it is receiving attention. If you have any enquiries regarding your request do not hesitate to contact us.

Please note: HM Treasury has a dedicated email address for the public to make Freedom of Information requests: [\[email address\]](#)

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team | HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ [1][www.gov.uk/hm-treasury](http://www.gov.uk/hm-treasury)

#### References

##### Visible links

1. <http://www.gov.uk/hm-treasury>

The reply from HM Treasury tells us all we need to know.



## FLOOD DEFENCES FUND



Government pledges £2.65bn investment in UK flood defences over next two years

**05 Feb, 2025 By [Rob Hakimian](#)**

The UK government has announced a £2.65bn investment package aimed at bolstering flood defences across the country in response to increased flooding risks linked to climate change.

The “record” sum will be allocated over the next two years to enhance infrastructure that protects both homes and businesses, with benefits projected for up to 66,500 properties by March 2026.

As part of this new investment initiative, 52,000 properties will receive new flood defences, while an additional 14,500 homes will benefit from repairs and maintenance of existing structures. This is seen as a critical move given the increasing frequency of severe weather events, which have had devastating impacts on communities and the economy, costing billions annually.

This new investment supersedes the pledge by the [Environment Agency under previous government to invest £5.2bn in flood defences between 2021 and 2027](#). The new government says it doesn’t recognise any spending commitments made before the General Election.

Historically, the UK has faced challenges regarding the condition of flood assets. The current government has inherited extensive flood infrastructure that has been underfunded, with 3,000 of the Environment Agency’s 38,000 high-risk assets languishing below the required condition standards.

Recent flood risk assessment by the Environment Agency using enhanced data has shown that [up to 8M properties could be at risk of flooding by 2050 due to climate change](#).

Among the key projects receiving funding are:

- £43M allocated to the Bridgwater Tidal Barrier Flood Defence Scheme in Somerset
- The “Our City Our River” project in Derby, receiving £35M
- £2M for the Beales Corner project in Bewdley, West Midlands
- £3.5M for flood defences from Poole Bridge to Hunger Hill in Dorset
- A collective £2.5M for flood resilience schemes in Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire

In addition to new projects, £72M is earmarked for maintenance of flood defence assets. This includes over £7M designated for Phase 3 of the Stallingborough Sea Defences along the Humber estuary and £3.8M for repairing local sea defences at Pevensy Bay.

Furthermore, £140M will prioritise 31 shovel-ready projects to expedite their delivery.

This year, the government will allocate £36M for urgent repairs stemming from damage caused by last winter's severe flooding. Additionally, over £57M has already been disbursed to support farmers affected by severe weather between October 2023 and March 2024, while a £50M grant is set aside for internal drainage boards to ensure effective water management in agriculture.

The announcement coincides with the first meeting of the government's Floods Resilience Taskforce, which is convened by Flood Re, a joint initiative between the Government and insurers aimed at making the flood cover part of household insurance policies more affordable. The taskforce includes representatives from various sectors, including the Met Office and the National Farmers' Union and is expected to examine the impact of this winter's storms, including Storms Bert, Conall and Éowyn.

As part of a broader strategy to enhance the nation's resilience, the government will consult on updating [the existing “outdated” funding formula](#) that governs financial allocations for flood and coastal erosion defence schemes, aiming to streamline processes and integrate innovative flood management approaches.

The Environment Agency has confirmed plans for 34 natural flood management projects, which will utilise natural methods to increase flood resilience across various locations in England, including a collaborative project in Leicestershire aimed at enhancing flood risk reduction through sustainable drainage solutions and habitat restoration efforts.

Secretary of state for environment, food and rural affairs Steve Reed said: “The storms this winter have devastated lives and livelihoods. The role of any Government is to protect its citizens.

“Under our Plan for Change, we are investing a record £2.65bn to build and maintenance flood defences to protect lives, homes and businesses from the dangers of flooding.”

Environment Agency chair Alan Lovell said: “The impact of flooding on our communities will only become greater as climate change brings more extreme weather, like Storms Bert, Conall and Éowyn.

“With this new funding, we will work closely with the Government to deliver the vital projects that are needed across the country, ensuring our investment goes to those communities who need it the most.

#### ADDITIONALLY

12700 farms have received flood recovery payments from the Flood Recovery Fund, which has been raised from £50 million to £60 million.

## **FINDING AND IDENTIFYING BUTTERFLIES AND DAY FLYING-MOTHS**

Firstly, thank you to Lesley for that amazing introduction last month; I will try to live up to her kind words. In the next few months, I will attempt to introduce you to the more common butterflies and day-flying moths, you are likely to see when you are out and about, or if you are lucky, visiting your garden. I am not a scientist; any theories I have are based on observation and my logic (which may well be different to yours).

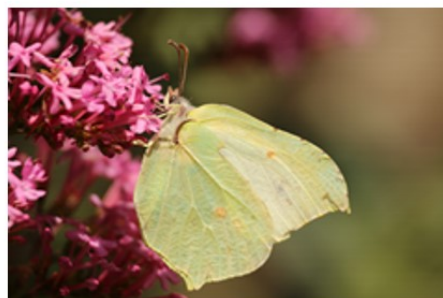
For each butterfly I have tried to indicate the best places to look, but nature is unpredictable so you may have to search an area more than once to find your quarry. The best days for butterfly hunting are sunny and still; early and late in the day will normally see butterflies less flighty and posing for photos. If I mention a food plant, this is what their caterpillars eat, so will be where the eggs are laid. I have described butterflies as either; Large, which have a 60-70 mm wingspan such as a Red Admiral, think 3 x 10p coins side by side, medium, which have a 40-50mm wingspan, such as a Speckled Wood, think 2x 10p coins side by side and small, which have a 25-35mm Wingspan such as a Common Blue, think 2 x 5p coins side by side.

### **Butterflies to see in March**

The first 5 Butterflies to appear are those that hibernate over the winter in the adult (Imago) form; **Brimstone, Comma, Peacock, Red Admiral** and **Small Tortoiseshell**. When the temperature rises above 13°C they will start to emerge from the shelter of hedgerows, trees and outbuildings and take to the wing. This can be earlier than March if you get local 'hotspots' where the sun warms up an area, such as a hedgerow, above the magic number.

### **Brimstone (March to October)**

A flash of yellow signals the arrival of the Brimstone. This medium-sized butterfly can be seen flying along verges, the edge of woodland, the churchyard and in gardens, as they hunt for nectar and a mate. The males (bottom Left) have the incredible brimstone yellow colour whilst the females (bottom right) are a pale green (almost white). They will always rest with their wings closed so are best identified by their distinctive leaf shape. Although they only produce one batch of young each year, they are a very long-lived butterfly, so can be seen for most of the year. Their food plant is buckthorn or alder buckthorn; the adults enjoy purple or mauve flowers. They are very fast fliers so you may only just catch glimpses of these yellow beauties.





### **Comma (March to October)**

Named after the comma shaped white mark on the underwing (bottom left) rather than the distinctive ragged wing shape, this medium-sized butterfly is instantly recognisable. It uses Common Nettle, Elms, Hops and Willows as food plants so is often found around the edges of woodland; the adults aren't fussy and will nectar on a wide variety of flowers. Take a walk along the footpaths with hedges and wildflowers; they feed early in the morning and again in late afternoon and in between will spend their time hunting for a mate.



### **Peacock (March-October)**

The beautiful colours of the Peacock (below) and their glorious eyespots are in stark contrast to the almost pure black underwing. This large butterfly will often be seen in gardens as well as along verges and hedgerows where they will feed and bask in the sun. They lay eggs on common nettles, you might want to consider a patch of nettles for them in your butterfly-friendly garden or Wild Space (more of that later). The adults will take nectar from a wide variety of plants, but you will often see them on Buddleia and Lavender.



### **Small Tortoiseshell (March to October)**

The Small Tortoiseshell (right), a medium sized butterfly, used to be a common sight in our countryside but have been on the decline for years now. Whilst climate change has a part to play a new species of parasitic fly called *Sturmia bella* was discovered in the 1990s. These flies lay their eggs on nettles which the caterpillars eat, the eggs then hatch inside the caterpillar and feast. Parasitic flies are common predators of butterflies and moths and the huge numbers in which insects reproduce normally allows for a balance to be struck eventually as it is never in the interests of a parasite to destroy the host species. However,

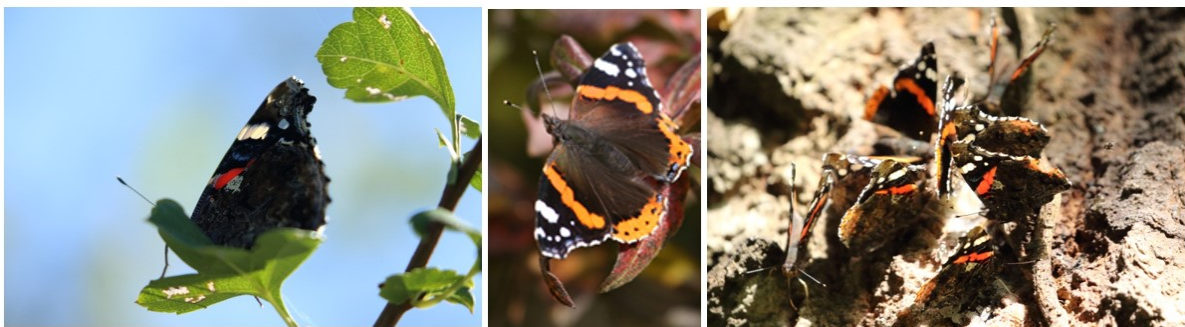
the introduction of a new species inevitably knocks things out of kilter and it will take time for a balance to be struck or not – that's evolution I guess.

In case you were wondering, yes there is a Large Tortoiseshell but they are very rare visitors to these isles having become extinct in the last century. A few are spotted on the south coast each year but it is unknown whether these are migrants from Europe or are being released by local captive breeders. There are more conspiracy theorists in the butterfly world than you would imagine!



### **Red Admiral (March to October)**

Although some successfully hibernate here, the majority of this large butterfly, migrate from mainland Europe each year. Those you see in March and April have overwintered here, from May onwards the migrants start to appear to lay their eggs on common nettles. With 4 out of the 5 early butterflies using the common nettle as their food plant, please bear this in mind the next time you are clearing 'weeds' and leave some - you won't regret it! The adults have a very sweet tooth and can be attracted to feed on rotting fruit. They will also feed on tree sap and can congregate in large numbers in the autumn around these food sources.



So those are the 5 to keep your eyes peeled for in March, if you like a bit of citizen science then why not download the 'I-Record butterflies' App if you want to find out more click [here](#) .

The other thing you can do is create your own little (or large) Wild Space, click [here](#) .



**Coming to a garden near you in April.....**



@Jim Bishop

Lympsham

February 2025

Lesley Coyle

Dorset

28<sup>th</sup> February 2025



**There be Dragons and Damsels**  
**(A short guide to common Dragonflies and Damselflies by Jim Bishop)**

I have found that as a result of spending time hunting for butterflies, I have discovered lots of other creepy crawlies and fluttering things too. By far the most impressive of these are Dragonflies, which have been on this earth for over 300 million years and once reached impressive wingspans of up to 70 cm, and Damselflies, their beautiful smaller cousins. Over the next few pages I hope to introduce you to our more often seen *Odonata* (meaning – ‘toothed jaws’).

Dragonflies and Damselflies are truly fascinating creatures and well worth doing your own research on. Their life cycle can take 1-5 years depending on the species with the majority of it spent in water as eggs and larva before they emerge as winged adults to reproduce. If 4 wings are stretched out wide when at rest it's a Dragonfly, if they are held along the length of the body it will be a Damselfly (which are also generally smaller than Dragonflies). You most often see Damselflies amongst the reeds and vegetation in and along the side of ponds, ditches and streams whereas dragonflies range much further and are often seen in hedgerows, hunting along roads and paths or just hanging around in trees. However they are at their most spectacular when hunting and mating over ponds

The ones I have most frequently seen and photographed around my local area are pictured below with their names and flight periods.



Emperor (Male)  
Flying late May to September



Broad-bodied Chaser (Male)  
Flying early May to August



Blacked-tailed Skimmer (Male)  
Flying late May to September



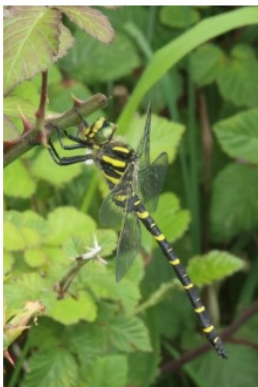
Emperor (Female)  
(Ovipositing) in water



Broad-bodied Chaser (Female)



Blacked-tailed Skimmer (Female)



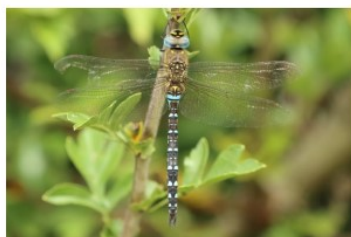
Common Darter (Male)  
Flying April to October



Common Darter (Female)

Dragonflies mainly eat flying insects which they hunt on the wing. Larger species like the Emperor and the magnificent Gold-ringed Dragonfly (left) will also eat butterflies, moths and also other smaller Dragonflies

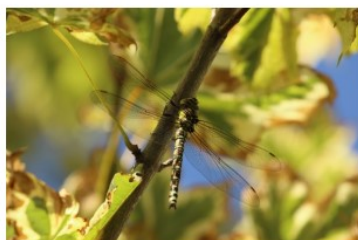




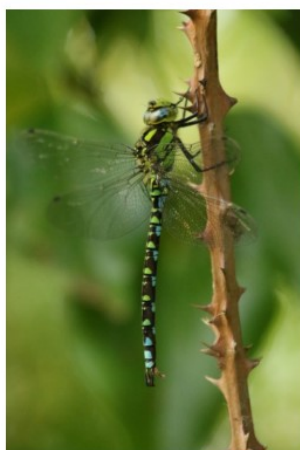
Migrant Hawker (Male)



Flying July to November



Migrant Hawker (Female)



Southern Hawker (Male)  
Flying June to October



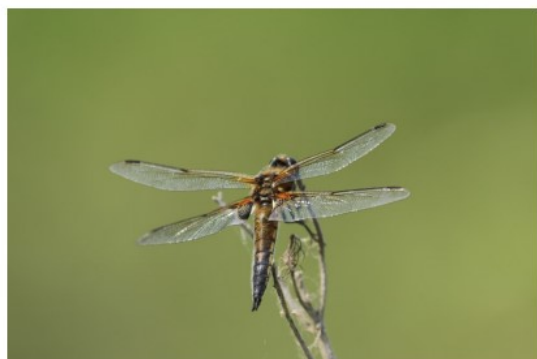
Southern Hawker (Female)  
Laying eggs in marginal plants.



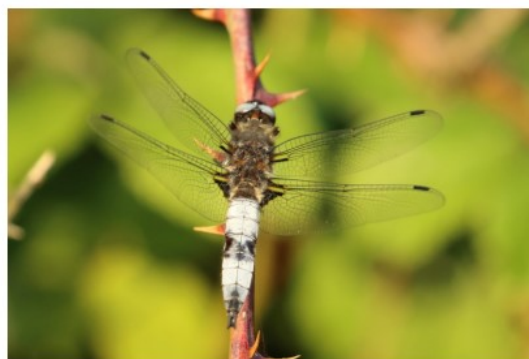
Ruddy Darter (Female) very similar to the  
Common darter except for it's all black legs



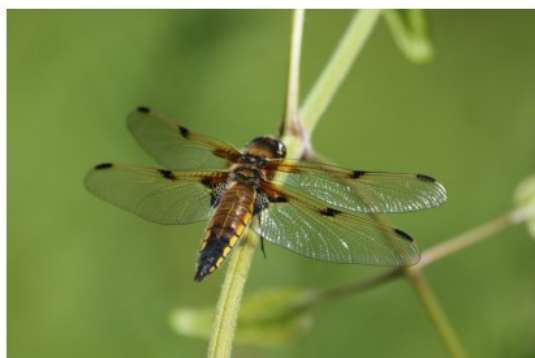
Ruddy Darter (Male)  
Flying June to September



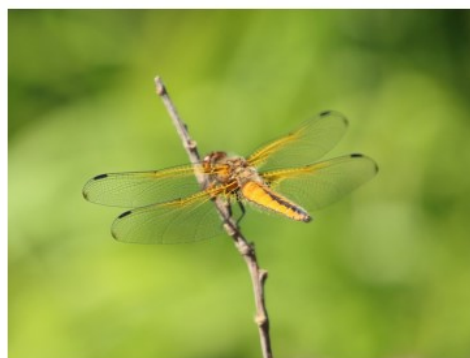
Four-spotted Chaser (Male)  
Flying April to August



Scarce Chaser (Male)  
Flying May to early August



Four-spotted Chaser (Female)  
Named after the 4 spots on each pair of wings

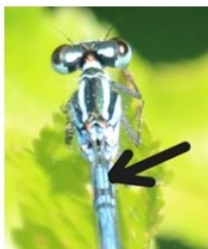


Scarce Chaser (Female)

Damselflies, being smaller and usually different shades of blue can be very difficult to tell apart. The 3 most common ones I tend to see locally are the Common Blue, Azure and Blue- tailed. The Male Azure and Common Blue are very similar in appearance but can be distinguished by the different markings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> segment of their abdomen.



Azure Damselfly (Male)  
Flying May to September



The male Azure Damselfly  
has a black **U** shape here  
on its abdomen.



Azure Damselfly (Female)



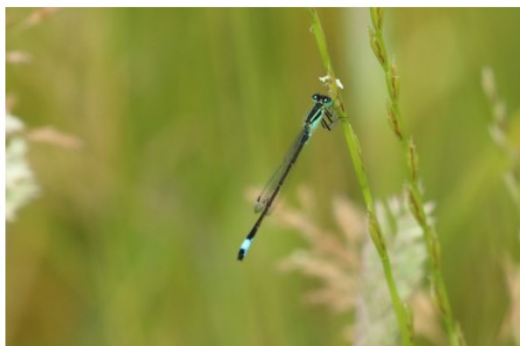
Common Blue Damselfly (Male)  
Flying May to October



The male Common Blue Damselfly  
has a black circle or club shape  
here on its abdomen.



Mating Common Blue Damselflies



Blue-tailed Damselfly (Male)  
Flying May to September



Blue-tailed Damselfly (Female)



Perhaps the most stunning of the Damselflies are called Demoiselles. The Banded Demoiselle, inhabits slow flowing muddy bottomed water whilst the Beautiful Demoiselle prefers faster flowing gravel bottomed streams. Both can be seen flying between May and September.



Beautiful Demoiselle (Male)



Banded Demoiselle (Male)



Beautiful Demoiselle (Female)



Banded Demoiselle (Female)



Face to face with a Beautiful Demoiselle



The detail and geometric shapes on the wing of a Beautiful Demoiselle (like all Dragonflies and Damselflies) is quite stunning and is well worth taking a close look at next time you are near one.



So there you have it, a few more things to look out for on your travels around the countryside and some fantastic reason to think about introducing a Wildlife pond into your garden. It's not too late to create a Wild Space, it will attract more than butterflies!

@Jim Bishop

Lympsham

February 2025

Lesley Coyle

Dorset

28<sup>th</sup> February 2025

## **March's Spotlight: Seran Eves – A Trailblazer in Education & Holistic Learning**

There are some people in life who radiate passion, wisdom, and an unwavering dedication to making the world a better place—and Seran Eves is undoubtedly one of them. It is with immense pride and admiration that I shine this month's Spotlight on Seran, a true rockstar in the world of education, whose work is transforming the way children learn, grow, and connect with the world around them.

Seran is so much more than an educator—she's a pioneer, a mentor, a nurturer, and an inspiration to so many. A former primary school teacher and early years leader, she has spent her career shaping young minds. But rather than staying within the confines of the traditional education system, she chose to rewrite the rules—leading her down a path of innovation, holistic learning, and child-centred education that is truly changing lives.

And from personal experience, I can say that her work is nothing short of life changing. Seran has helped both of my own children beyond measure, providing them with the support, encouragement, and personalised learning they needed to truly thrive. For that, I will forever be grateful.

### **Life Has a Way of Bringing the Right People Together**

Some friendships feel destined, and mine with Seran is undoubtedly one of them. Life has kept inexplicably pulling us together in the most extraordinary ways, as if the universe knew we were meant to walk part of this journey side by side. And I am so, so glad it has. Seran has become not just one of my most cherished friends, but someone who inspires me daily – with her wisdom, her kindness, her unwavering passion, and her ability to see the beauty and potential in everything and everyone around her.

### **Revolutionising Education with Happy Healthy Juniors & Growing Nurture**

Seran's journey led her to create not one, but two incredible ventures that are reshaping education:

🌟 **Happy Healthy Juniors** – A dynamic initiative offering micro schooling, private tutoring, and children's wellbeing coaching, tailored to the individual needs of each child.

🌱 **Growing Nurture** – A game-changing resource for home-educating families, built on the belief that education should be meaningful, interconnected, and deeply rooted in real-world experiences.

Seran recognised that traditional schooling often leaves gaps—especially as more families turn to home education. Driven by her passion to provide holistic, enriching, and child-led learning experiences, she began crafting curriculums that break free from rigid subjects and instead weave knowledge together in a way that is truly engaging.

## **A Curriculum Like No Other**

Education, in Seran's world, is alive—it's not confined to textbooks or rigid timetables. Through her unique approach, she creates interconnected learning experiences that integrate:

- ✓ Core academics – Maths, English, grammar, spelling, and creative writing
- ✓ Nature & science – Encouraging children to explore the world around them
- ✓ History & geography – Learning through stories and hands-on discovery
- ✓ Nutrition & herbalism – Understanding the healing power of food and plants
- ✓ Movement & creativity – Making learning active, playful, and exciting

One of her most brilliant projects recently was a Railway Children-themed curriculum, where students didn't just learn language arts—they embarked on a journey through history, geography, drama, and art, culminating in a movie screening that tied everything together. This is learning as it should be—joyful, immersive, and deeply meaningful.

## **The Power of Nature, Herbalism & Holistic Learning**

Seran's passion doesn't stop at education—she is also deeply committed to herbalism and natural healing. Currently studying herbal medicine, she is expanding her knowledge of nature's healing power and integrating it into her work, helping children and families connect with the natural world in a way that has been long forgotten in mainstream education.

And if you think she's stopping there—think again! Seran is already working on a new project for Growing Nurture that will combine education, wellbeing, and the wisdom of nature—and I, for one, cannot wait to see what she creates next!

## **A Future Collaboration!**

It's no secret that Seran and I share a deep passion for education, nature, and reconnecting children with the world around them—so I'm beyond thrilled to share that we will be collaborating on a project together in the future! While details are still under wraps, I can say with certainty that it will be something truly special, and I can't wait to bring it to life alongside someone as brilliant and visionary as Seran.

## **Seran's Instagram – A Daily Source of Inspiration**

If you want a daily dose of inspiration, I cannot recommend Seran's Instagram channels highly enough. Her posts are beautiful, insightful, and full of wisdom, covering everything from education and homeschooling to nature, herbalism, and child wellbeing.

I personally draw inspiration from them every single day—whether it's a thought-provoking insight into how children learn best, a nature-inspired activity, or a reminder to slow down and embrace the simple joys of learning and living.

 Follow Seran for incredible content that will uplift, educate, and inspire!

 <https://www.instagram.com/growingnuture/>

### **Why Seran is So Deserving of This Spotlight**

I can say, without hesitation, that Seran is one of the most inspiring people I know. She pours her heart and soul into everything she does, driven by a deep love for learning, children, and the natural world. She is proof that education can be reimagined, that learning can be joyful and connected, and that the best teachers are the ones who never stop learning themselves.

Seran, I am so proud to shine this spotlight on you. Your work is changing lives, and your passion is a gift to the world.

If you're a parent, educator, or just someone who believes that learning should be more than worksheets and exams, go and check out her work—you will be blown away.

Seran, you are a force of nature, and I am so grateful to know you. Keep doing what you do—you are making magic happen. The world is better because of you, and I can't wait to see what's next. Here's to you! ✨❤

## A Historic February? A Month of Extremes & Surprises

February 2025 brought notably dynamic weather to the UK, featuring an early-month cold snap with widespread frost, a mid-month swing to unseasonable warmth, and storm episodes causing wind damage and flooding. Below is a summary of the month's standout weather facts, with dates, comparisons to past years, and meteorological insights from the Met Office and other sources.

### **Widespread Frosts and Low Temperatures**

High pressure over Scandinavia dominated early February, drawing in cold easterly air. This led to clear nights and widespread frosts across much of the UK. Subzero overnight lows were common, with temperatures dropping as low as  $-9.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  in Scotland on February 8th. The UK Health Security Agency issued a cold-weather health alert for large parts of England from 7–11 February, underscoring the unusual severity of the cold.

### **“Anticyclonic Gloom”**

Many areas, especially in England, experienced very dull, overcast skies under the high-pressure system—a phenomenon dubbed “anticyclonic gloom” by forecasters. Sunshine was scarce, and daytime temperatures stayed a “good few degree” below average for early February.

Southern England, for example, saw daytime highs only a few degrees above freezing, accompanied by thick cloud and fog. This gloomy, bitter weather persisted through mid-month, making it one of the longest winter spells in recent years (the longest since February 2021's cold snap, which saw lows down to  $-23^{\circ}\text{C}$  in Scotland).

### **Light Snowfall in Unusual Areas**

Despite the cold, snowfall was limited for many. However, some normally milder lowland areas saw surprise snow. Over the weekend of 15–16 February, parts of East Anglia received a dusting—about 2 cm in Norfolk and 1 cm in Suffolk—as cold air wrapped around the high-pressure system.

Light snow and sleet also affected higher ground in southern England and the Midlands during this period, though accumulations were small. The Met Office had warned of icy patches and hill snow, even in southern counties.

By contrast, the last notably snowy February was in 2021, when a week-long easterly brought heavy snow showers to eastern England. In comparison, February 2025's snow was much lighter.

### **Mid-Month Mild Spell and Temperature Swings**

Around February 18–20, the weather underwent a dramatic turnaround. As the Scandinavian high retreated, milder Atlantic air flooded in. By February 20th, daytime highs reached  $15.3^{\circ}\text{C}$  in London, a jump of more than  $10^{\circ}\text{C}$  from the previous week's temperatures.

The Met Office noted this as a “noticeable shift” to much milder conditions. For context, mid-February averages are around 6 °C in Scotland and 9 °C in southern England—so these highs were well above normal, bringing an almost spring-like feel.

### **Breaking the Gloom**

Along with higher temperatures came a return of sunshine, ending the dreary fortnight of overcast skies. Many areas reported seeing the sun for the first time in weeks as the anticyclonic gloom cleared.

By Thursday, 20 February, most of the UK was in double digits (11–15 °C), with some blue skies appearing—a stark contrast from the preceding deep chill.

### **Above Average, But No Records**

Despite the warmth, no all-time temperature records were broken in February 2025. Meteorologists pointed out that while 15.3 °C is warm for February, it did not match the record-breaking February temperatures of 2019, when a remarkable 21.2 °C was recorded at Kew Gardens, London (the UK’s warmest February day on record).

Nonetheless, the mid-month mild spell of 2025 was unusual in its intensity and timing, coming directly on the heels of a major freeze. The contrast—switching from subzero snow to mild, spring-like weather in a week—highlighted the high variability of the UK climate.

### **Flooding and Impacts**

Heavy rainfall between 22–25 February led to local flood alerts across Yorkshire and the Midlands. Strong winds brought down trees and power lines, with power outages reported in regions hit by the worst gusts.

However, snowfall was not a major cause of disruption in February 2025, apart from in higher elevations. The month’s wild swings were characterized more by freeze-flood cycles than by prolonged snow cover.

### **How February 2025 Compares to Recent Years**

February 2025 was unusually cold and volatile compared to the milder February’s of the early 2020s.

- February 2024 was the warmest on record in southern England and very wet.
- February 2025, in contrast, was the coldest February CET since February 2021, and before that, the coldest since 2018.
- While colder than recent years, February 2025 did not match the extreme cold of 2018, when the “Beast from the East” brought widespread heavy snow and lows below –10 °C.

### **Met Office Commentary: Key Takeaways**

◆ Cold Spell Drivers – The Scandinavian High funnelled cold air into the UK, but conditions were not as extreme as 2018’s Beast from the East.

◆ Storm Frequency – The UK experienced 12 named storms by mid-February, with some of the worst wind and rain damage in recent years.



◆ Temperature Anomalies – The shift from deep freeze to 15 °C within a week was highly unusual, but not record-breaking.

◆ Global Climate Signals – While January 2025 was the warmest January on record **globally**, the UK's winter cold snaps have shown that regional weather can differ significantly from global trends.

◆ Weather Whiplash – February 2025 highlighted the UK's wild climate variability, featuring a major frost event, sudden spring-like warmth, and storm activity—all within one month.

### **Forecast Review: Learning for the Future**

Looking back at my winter forecast, I am pleased with my predictions for November through January. However, February did not unfold as expected. The first two weeks were extremely cold, as forecasted but with precious little snow. In addition, I should have given more weight to the “Fair Moon” on February 20th, which signalled the arrival of milder conditions, which did in fact arrive.

Additionally, this morning (February 28th), I woke up to frost, exactly as predicted by the “Frost Moon”.

Every time a forecast doesn't go as expected, I review my methods carefully to refine my approach and improve future accuracy. I believe I have identified key areas for improvement, and I will continue working to strengthen my understanding of the methodology. That said, on reviewing the March 2024 website entry I wrote a similar statement about my forecast for February 2024. Perhaps I am not good at forecasting February's? Time will tell.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

### **Sources:**

- Met Office News Releases & Forecasts (February 2025)
- The Independent – UK Weather Updates (17 Feb 2025)
- The Guardian – UK Weather News (Jan–Feb 2025)
- Environment Agency Flood Reports
- World Meteorological Organization (January 2025 Climate Summary)

Magic Sightings waiting to happen in March are:

- Badgers
- Bitterns
- Brown Hares
- Crocuses
- Curlews
- Dippers
- Fieldfare
- Frog & Toad Spawn
- Frosted Spiderwebs
- Golden Plovers
  - Goshawks
- Great Crested Grebes
  - Lapwing
  - Mistletoe
  - Otters
- Oyster Catchers
- Red Squirrels
  - Robins
  - Snipe
- Snowdrops
- Snowmen
- Stoats
- Tawny Owls/ Short Eared Owls



Short eared owl: Credit to Trevor Eldridge

March is a great time to start growing peas.

Peas love cool temperatures! They thrive in the mild, moist conditions of early spring and struggle in the heat of the summer.

Planting in March will give them time to establish deep healthy roots.

Sowing in March means you'll enjoy fresh peas by June.

For best results soak seeds overnight before planting to speed up germination.

- Dandelion
- Gorse
- Stinging Nettle
- Wild Garlic

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

## THE SKIES: MARCH 2025

- March Full Moon: SAP Moon
- 1<sup>st</sup>: You may be able to see Venus just before sunset
- 8<sup>th</sup>: You may be able to see Mercury just after sunset
- 20<sup>th</sup>: March Equinox
- 29<sup>th</sup>: Partial Solar Eclipse may be visible



1Q Moon:  
6<sup>th</sup> March @ 16:31  
Fair



Full Moon:  
14<sup>th</sup> March @ 06:54  
Stormy



3Q Moon:  
22<sup>nd</sup> March @ 11:29  
Cold & High Winds



New Moon:  
29<sup>th</sup> March @ 10:57  
Cold & High Winds



PERIGEE @ 21:21 ON MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>

APOGEE @ 16:36 ON MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>

EQUINOX ON MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup>

### 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 2025

There are lesser celandines everywhere now, the first primrose, more crocuses, and snowdrops. Red deadnettle and lungwort, primula, some daffodils flowering, but due to cold soil, not very tall. A few periwinkles, several dog violets and Dave has spotted just one aubretia, but this was well sheltered from the frost. Dogs' mercury and annual mercury starting to show too with petty spurge and spring spurge. At long last some colour beginning to show. However, hardly any movement on trees and bushes. One would expect the early honeysuckle and hawthorn to be showing more signs of life than they are by now, but the soil being so cold, it will take a lot of sun to stir any such movement. Lots of daisies in Dorset, but not so many in Kent. Several dandelions and the three-cornered garlic plant too. Many marble galls and robins pin cushions still available, along with many varieties of berries, including snowberries, and ivy fruits galore. 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. Nature is pointing towards a lot cold to come. All the winter birds, ducks and geese are still here and show no sign of any movement back to their lands either. There are plenty of woodpeckers working hard at the moment as well - another sign of further cold on its way.

### MY NOTES:

#### February Review:

I have reviewed my February forecast in detail in the article above. The first two weeks of February were indeed extremely cold delivering widespread frosts for most, as we expected. Most people did not see snow in February at all. We had an extremely mild spell mid-month, although did end the month with a widespread frost once again on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

February was not a perfect forecast, but you can't win them all. That said February has been a cold month, and indeed this has been a long, hard, and cold winter as we predicted. The trend was correct, the snowfall didn't deliver this month.

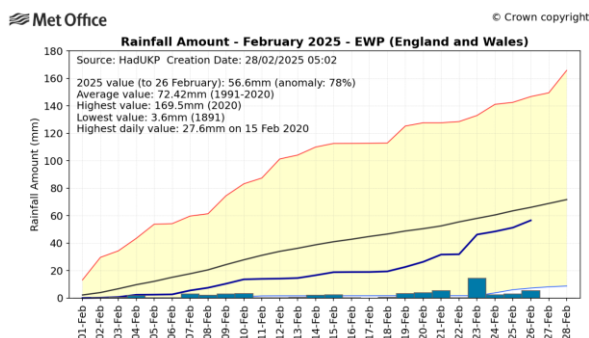
## Useful Reference Points: February 2025

### **February 2025 Mean Central England Temperature: 5.4c (provisional to 27<sup>th</sup>)**

This is 1.6c above the 1961 – 1990 average (provisional to 27<sup>th</sup> February).

**Context:** February 2025 was the coldest February since 2021, and before that the coldest since 2018.

### **Rainfall Amount for February: Below average**



### March 2025 Forecast:

Given that February has not left us in the position I had envisaged I have reviewed the March forecast accordingly, and my updated March forecast is now as follows:

We will likely start off the month with widespread overnight frosts for most, but bright, sunny, and clear days, often cold.

Around March 14<sup>th</sup>, we may see outbreaks of snowfall in some areas if cold enough, particularly in the West. Zonal weather will likely get back in control slowly but surely from this point onwards.

From around 22<sup>nd</sup> March onwards we will see cold weather and high winds. If the wind comes in from the East, then snow is possible. If not, it will simply be cold and windy. If zonal weather from the West, meets colder weather from the east we could be in for all sorts of fun and games with snowfall, but at this point this is just an outside chance. The most likely

#### Top tips for March:

- Ensure to keep a close eye on the weather on Shrove Tuesday, “as the weather is on Shrove Tuesday, so it will be till the end of lent.” A dry lent spells a fertile year.
- When the last frosts have gone then this is signified by the cowslips appearing and most importantly the red, white, and pink campion flowers – these champions cannot tolerate such frosts, as such they are the best indicator of no such frosts.
- It is best not to plant out until after Ice Maidens this year (May 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>).

forecast for March is cold and on the dryer side of average, other than mid-month where we will see an increase in rainfall (an outside chance of snowfall if cold enough).

### MARCH 2025

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Moon = 6th @ 16:31 = Fair

Full Moon = 14th @ 06:54 = Stormy

Last Quarter Moon = 22nd @ 11:29 = Cold & High Winds

New Moon = 29th @ 10:57 = Cold & High Winds

Spring/ Vernal Equinox = March 20<sup>th</sup>

DoP & Quarter Day = March 21<sup>st</sup>

BST begins = March 30<sup>th</sup>

Highest Spring Tides: 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>

APOGEE: 17th @ 16:36

PERIGEE: 1st @ 21:21

FULL MOON KNOWN AS SAP MOON

29th: Partial Solar Eclipse/ Super Moon

Met Office Notes: None

Buchan Notes: None

## Monthly Notes & Comments

1 <sup>st</sup>	St David/ Perigee @ 21:21	Ever on St David'd Day, put oats and barley in clay.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	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 <sup>rd</sup>	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 <sup>th</sup>	St Pirrans	Cornish festival. Patrol Saint of Cornwall.
17 <sup>th</sup>	St Patricks Day/ Apogee @ 16:36	Known for freakish weather
19 <sup>th</sup>	St Joseph of Nazareth	A fertile year if clear and dry
20 <sup>th</sup>	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 <sup>st</sup>	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 <sup>th</sup>	Lady Day	The day the cardamine flower blooms. Daffodil day.
30 <sup>th</sup>	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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 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	Notes
1 S				St David			Perigee @ 21:21					
2 S				St Chad								
3 M				St Winnowal								Sow peas day
4 T				Shrove Tuesday								
5 W				Ash Wednesday/ St Pirrans								
6 T	1Q @ 16.31	Fair										
7 F												
8 S												
9 S												
10 M												
11 T												Cheltenham races
12 W												Cheltenham races
13 T												Cheltenham races
14 F	Full @ 06.54	Stormy										Cheltenham races
15 S												
16 S												
17 M							Apogee @ 16:36					
18 T												
19 W				St Nazareth								
20 T					March Equinox							
21 F			QUARTER	St Benedict								
22 S	3Q @ 11.29	Cold & High Winds										
23 S												
24 M												
25 T					Lady Day							
26 W												
27 T												
28 F												
29 S	New @ 10.57	Cold & High Winds								Super Moon	Highest Tides	
30 S					Mothers Day						Highest Tides	BST BEGINS
31 M											Highest Tides	