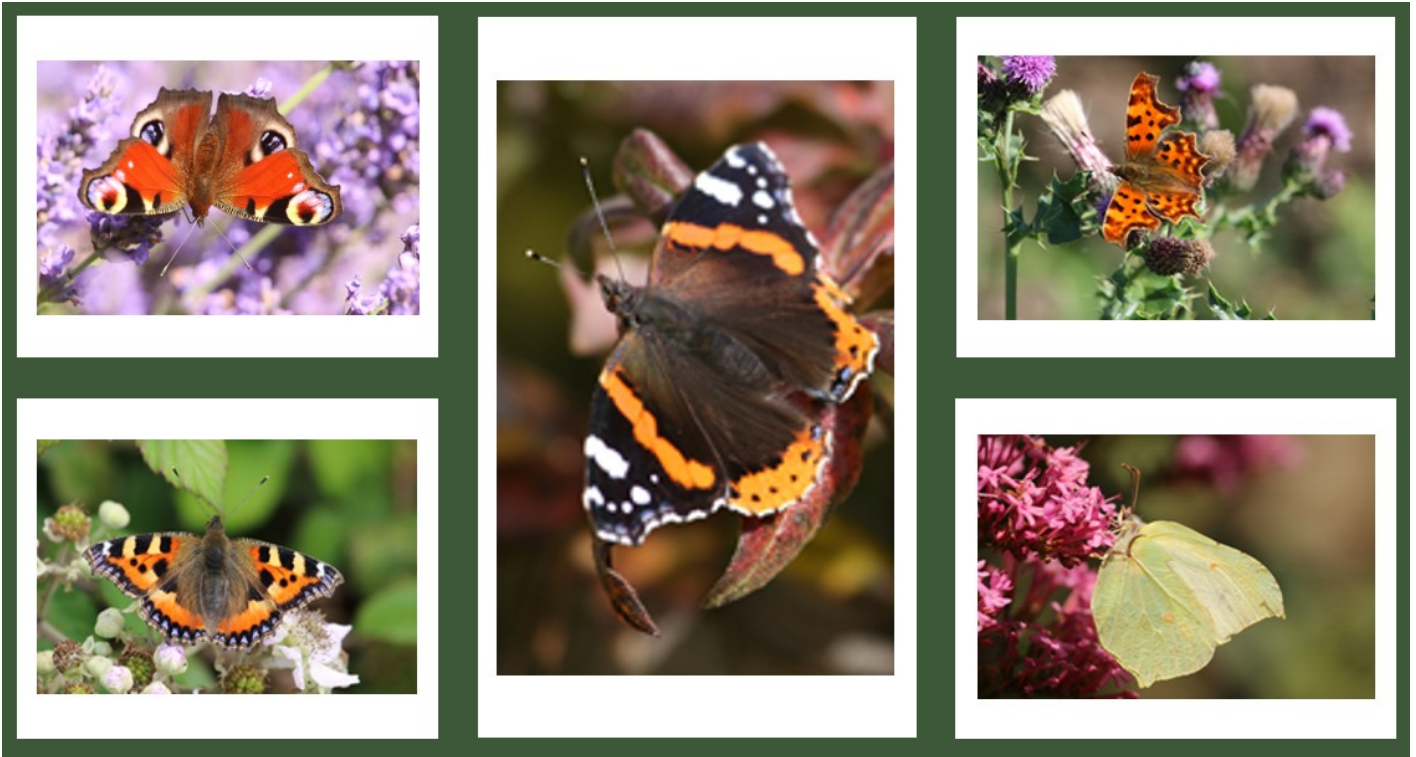


## Advance prediction Spring 2025 (April to June)



*Top left: Peacock, Bottom Left: Small Tortoiseshell, Middle: Red Admiral, Top Right: Comma, Bottom Right: Brimstone*

*Photo credits due to Jim Bishop*

## Species of the Season: The Butterfly

*“Spring is nature’s way of saying, ‘Let’s party!’”  
Robin Williams*

## Welcome to the Spring 2025 website entry.

Welcome to the Spring 2025 website entry, covering the months of April, May, and June. Unlike 2024, when we correctly forecasted an early spring, this year tells a very different story.

As I sit here in early February, I reflect on how well the winter forecast has played out so far. The snow we predicted in November arrived right on cue. December, exactly as expected, was a 'nothing' month. Then January quickly delivered the cold and snowy weather we had anticipated. While the month ended on a milder note, I trust the methodology to deliver, and now sit back to wait for the February bitter cold and snow to arrive.

Our next Snow Moon is on February 12th, and if conditions are cold enough, it will snow. In fact, we expect February to end on an extremely cold note, with March continuing this pattern. For those north of the Humber, winter conditions may persist until mid-April. By the end of February, I expect everyone to have seen snow. Indeed, Winter 2024/25 has already been long, hard and cold – and it's not over yet.

We were always out on a limb with our winter forecast, especially given that the Met Office predicted a mild, wet winter. Yet here we are, with another successful long-range forecast delivered from our kitchen tables, without the £270.02 million (FY23/24) revenue that the Met Office operates with. It does raise the question: should traditional forecasting methods take more notice of natural signs?

### **The Candlemas Connection & the Return of Winter**

While largely ignored by mainstream weather services, Candlemas sayings and wind direction data play a huge role in UK weather leading up to and through early spring.

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, Candlemas the wind for most of the UK was southerly or south-easterly. The weather was indeed 'fair and bright' and as the saying goes:

'If Candlemas Day be fair and bright, Winter will have another flight'.

As the frost melted, the thorns dripped (another key sign), and the birds were unusually loud. Woodpeckers, in particular, were very active, both signs that bitter cold is not far away. This reinforces the forecast for a prolonged winter.

The Easterly/Northeasterly wind direction observed at the last quarter days still stands. Once again, the methodology has proven near perfect, and all of this was correctly forecast months ago.

### **Punxsutawney Phil & the Shadow of Candlemas**

While Candlemas holds significance in the UK, across the Atlantic, all eyes turn to Punxsutawney Phil, the famous Pennsylvanian groundhog.

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, it is said that if Phil sees his shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter. If not, spring is on its way. This year, Phil did see his shadow, aligning with our own forecast for a prolonged winter.

This raises an interesting question: are we both interpreting the same natural signs, just through different traditions?

Phil's shadow can only be seen if the sun is shining, in other words, if Candlemas is fair and bright. In the UK, our traditional saying tells us that such conditions signal a continuation of winter. The US method involves a groundhog and folklore, while ours is based on centuries of weather wisdom and observations, but ultimately, both rely on the presence of light and shadows to predict the coming season.

### **Signs of Spring (or Lack Thereof!)**

Early February has brought snowdrops in mass (as expected each year), along with the odd crocus, yellow celandine, daisy, honeysuckle leaf burst, and black poplar buds stirring. However, there is still little evidence of an early spring.

Compared to last year's observations, the findings couldn't be more different (further proof that nature forewarns and is never wrong). Winter migrant birds remain with us, and there has been no notable butterfly or insect activity.

What is remarkable, however, is how much food remains available in the countryside. This was evident in our recent episode of [Country Signs: January 2025](#).

### **What's Coming Next?**

A Cold & Wet Spring Ahead.

While the thought of more cold and snow might feel disheartening, the rest of this forecast is likely to unfold just as expected.

- March: The cold continues.
- April: Cold, wet, with occasional bright spells, Easter is likely to be cold but fair.
- May: The temperature will tick up a little, but it is still going to be rainy. Chesnut Sunday however, is invariably pleasant (but cold).
- June: As above, rainy.

### **Agriculture & Nature's Warnings**

Dave and I work 12 -18 months ahead, which helps us understand both current conditions and what's coming next. Given the long, hard winter persisting into March (and possibly April in northern regions), soil temperatures will remain below the 6°C required for growth.

To kickstart growth, nature in its wisdom will do what it always does - send warm rain to heat up the cold soil. As a result, a wet spring is inevitable. I wouldn't recommend planting anything outside until after May 14<sup>th</sup> this year.

### **Looking ahead:**

- Christmas Day 2024 was mostly sunless, which historically signals a poor fruit harvest for 2025.
- Buchan Cold Spell (May 9<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>) Aka: Ice Maidens - Potential frost, enough to damage fruit blossoms.
- The grass was not growing in the early part of January. As such farmers can clap their hands, two hay harvests are expected this year (July & September).
- Grain harvest - likely average at best.
- Nut harvest - Expected to be excellent, given the abundance of hazel catkins this year.

- If I were booking a UK summer holiday this year, I would be tempted to put my money on July 13<sup>th</sup> for one week, or the beginning of September. The jury is still out on this, these are just my initial thoughts.

## **Spring Adventures & Final Thoughts**

Despite this forecast, spring will arrive eventually. While it may remain cold until the end of March (and possibly mid-April for those north of the Humber), nature will wake up in its own time.

Personally, I love spring family adventures and extra-long walks (though they'll be extra muddy this year!). Professionally speaking, April and May hold the key to the entire year, which is always exciting!

In the meantime, let's:

- Get outside as much as possible.
- Keep taking Vitamin D supplements.
- Eat healthily to stay strong through the final weeks of winter.

Let's live like it's spring, despite the weather.  
Best wishes

*Lesley & Dave*

## APRIL 2025

Now for the collated expert notes on April: The first week of April normally brings quite uneventful weather to most districts of Britain, though it remains rather in northern districts, with frost at night, and this can be quite severe in the enclosed valleys and over the Scottish Lowlands generally. Mid-April tends to be unsettled, particularly the period 10-15th April, which produces moderately stormy weather two years in every three, the peak day for storms being the 14th April. Prevailing winds at this time blow generally from between west and north-west, bringing heavy showers, these affecting western districts and high ground facing west coasts in particular. Some of the showers fall as hail. This unsettled weather normally acts as a decided check in the seasonal rise of temperature, for day and night temperatures are cold. Between 10 and 13th April very cold nights are frequent in London and the Home Counties areas. The second half of April normally opens the thunderstorm season in Britain. The third week of April is generally quite bright and sunny, but also gives showers at times, and some of these of a thundery character. There is a risk that that the moderately warm daytime temperatures may be countered by a day or two of colder weather, with snowstorms in some northern and eastern districts around 17-19th April. Every other year there is a period of decidedly cool, unsettled weather between 23 and 26th April, with considerable risk of snowfall in Southern England. The final days of the month normally see better weather, with quickly rising day temperatures and less risk of night frosts in all areas.

*To summarise: April will likely still be bitterly cold for those North of the Humber, and chilly for the rest of us too. I expect the first two weeks of April to be showery South of the Humber (possibly snowy North of the Humber), before a fair spell of weather kicks in mid-month, just in time for Easter. Whilst it will be bright, it will continue to be very cold. From around April 21<sup>st</sup> onwards I expect the fair spell of weather to end, reverting back to being cool and showery. The month will likely end on a rainy note.*

## APRIL 2025

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Moon = 5<sup>th</sup> @ 03:14 = Cold & Showers

Full Moon = 13<sup>th</sup> @ 01:22 = Fair

Last Quarter Moon = 21<sup>st</sup> @ 02:35 = Cold & Showers

New Moon = 27<sup>th</sup> @ 20:31 = Rainy if winds S/ SW

Highest Spring Tides: 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>

APOGEE: 13<sup>th</sup> @ 23:38    PERIGEE: 27<sup>th</sup> @ 17:17

Lyrids Meteor Shower – 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, Micro moon – 13<sup>th</sup>

Met Office Notes: None

BUCHAN NOTES: 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> (Blackthorn Winter)

FULL MOON THIS MONTH IS KNOWN AS PINK MOON

## MAY 2025

Now for the collated expert notes on May: The month of May has two notable characteristics: first, there is a rising seasonal temperature trend, but, secondly, a marked degree of day-to-day temperature variation that makes the sequence of warm and cold spells less regular than in most other months of the year. However, there are generally two cold periods. The first occurs 5-9th May, when there are cold winds generally from the north-west, with showers by day and a certain amount of frost at night. A more marked cold period normally sets in around 15-19th May. Winds tend to be gusty, strong, and cold, from the north, with squally showers producing hail, sleet, and snow from time to time, and although accumulations are seldom great in southern England and over lower ground in general, they may be heavy locally over high ground in the north. This period however holds for fruit growers and horticulturalists the most dangerous period of the whole year due to severe night frosts, called the Ice-Maidens, when around 4am the temperature suddenly drops from 4C to minus 4C in less than an hour, and, in so doing burns/kills all the fruit blossoms and tender shoots – hence the advice to refrain from putting out any bedding plants until at best the 26th May. The intervening periods 1-4th May and 10-14th May, produce rather nondescript conditions with no marked temperature or general weather trend. From the 23rd May onwards the weather is often fine and normally gives warm weather with less risk of temperature setbacks than earlier in the month. But the period has been known to produce some notable thunderstorms, at times severe and heavy enough to cause quite considerable local damage and occasional flooding; their greatest impact is in the southern and eastern counties of England.

*To summarise: May is likely to start off on a changeable note, where the weather will likely throw anything and everything at us (think rain, sleet, hail, and snow all in a day), but as the month progresses it will become increasingly rainy. I don't recommend planting anything out until after May 14<sup>th</sup>, when the Ice Maidens have passed.*

## MAY 2025

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Moon = 4<sup>th</sup> @ 14:51 = Changeable

Full Moon = 12<sup>th</sup> @ 17:55 = Rain

Last Quarter Moon = 20<sup>th</sup> @ 12:58 = Very rainy

New Moon = 27<sup>th</sup> @ 04:02 = Rain

DoP: St Urban – 25<sup>th</sup>

Highest Spring Tides: 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>

APOGEE: 11<sup>th</sup> @ 01:47    PERIGEE: 26<sup>th</sup> @ 02:34

Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower – 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, Micro Moon – 12<sup>th</sup>

Met Office Notes: None

BUCHAN NOTES: Cold Period: 9<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> (Ice Maidens)

FULL MOON THIS MONTH IS KNOWN AS FLOWER MOON



## JUNE 2025

Now for the collated expert notes on June: The first week of June tends to be changeable. The first two or three days tending to bring widespread thundery showers to many southern and midland districts and occasionally further north. Then around 3-5th June, there is a change to cooler weather, with fresh north-westerly winds and passing showers in all areas. The drop in temperature at this time is sometimes as much as 6C and in some years frost may occur in sheltered valleys. By 8-10th June there is generally an improvement, and much of this period 8-21st June tends to be moderately fine (Ed note: sadly, in recent years June has tended not to be the 'flaming June' of old but a quite wet month)- not always with spells of drought but with no serious interruptions apart from the odd thunderstorm or showers. From 22nd June to the end of the month there are generally two or four very hot days, but the period is notable for a considerable increase in the risk of heavier type thunderstorms. At times these merge together, and thundery heavy rainfall occurs most often between 27 and 29th June particularly in South Wales and the southern districts of England. Between 30th June and 23 July there is generally a small drop in temperature; this however coincides with the Buchan cold period 29th June to 4th July, hence the propensity for it to rain on the Wimbledon tennis tournament at this time.

*To summarise: June is likely to throw a bit of everything at us. We will likely open the month with rainy conditions, before transitioning into a more 'changeable' spell towards the middle of the month. You can literally expect a bit of everything! As the month draws to a close, we can expect more persistent rain. We will all notice the usual seasonal 'uptick' in temperatures, yet June might not be a welcome relief to many. While the moon phases indicate a wet month, historical temperature correlations suggest that at least some hot weather must occur. The most likely scenario is short, sharp bursts of heat followed by frequent showers and possibly thunderstorms. Expect a month of temperature swings rather than prolonged settled warmth – be ready for everything!*

## JUNE 2025

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Moon = 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 04:40 = Rain

Full Moon = 11<sup>th</sup> @ 08:43 = Changeable

Last Quarter Moon = 18<sup>th</sup> @ 20:19 = Rainy if winds S/ SW

New Moon = 25<sup>th</sup> @ 11:31 = Frequent showers

DoP = June 24<sup>th</sup> (Wind will be SW – TBC)

Highest Spring Tides: 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>

APOGEE: 7<sup>th</sup> @ 11:43      PERIGEE: 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 05:44

Met Office Notes: None

BUCHAN NOTES: Cold Period: 29<sup>th</sup> June – 4<sup>th</sup> July

FULL MOON THIS MONTH IS KNOWN AS BUCK MOON