

Nature's Calendar

WINTER 2026

Welcome

Hello and welcome to the winter edition of the Nature's Calendar newsletter! I hope you all enjoyed the December festivities and are looking forward to all that 2026 may bring.

Have you spotted any flowering hazel catkins? It's time to choose a hazel tree or hedge to observe this winter, if you don't already have one, and record the date when the catkins open enough to see the pollen inside, like the one pictured here. At the time I'm writing this (2nd Jan) we already have over 30 flowering hazel records from across the UK!

Top tip: if you flick the catkin and see pollen released into the air, then that means they are ready to record!

Flowering hazel is one of the events that contribute to the Met Office's [State of UK Climate Report](#) each year. **We're particularly interested in recording flowering hazel because** we are beginning to see a **significant advancement** in the timing of this event between 1999-2024 – see the graph below. Help us to understand if this trend is continuing by adding your record this year!



Credit Alex Marshall WTML

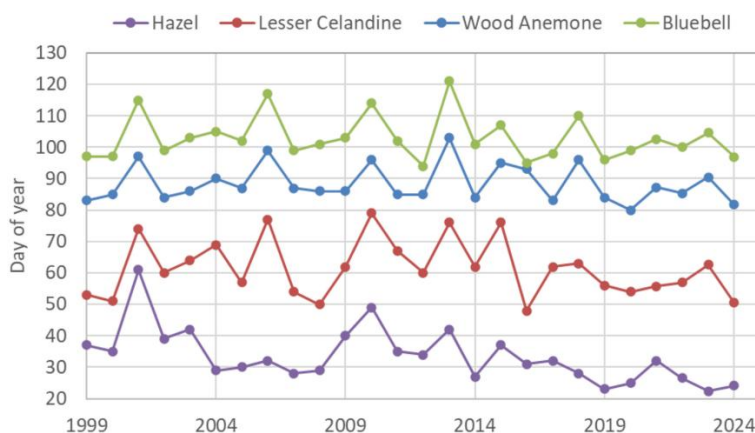


Figure 1. Average day of the year of first flowering for four flower species: Hazel, Lesser Celandine, Wood Anemone and Bluebell, derived from UK observations contributed to Nature's Calendar from 1999 to 2024.

Graph taken from the State of UK Climate 2024 report.

A warm welcome to new volunteers.

Within these newsletters we share project updates or news, insights into your records, reminders of what to look out for and highlights from our blog. We are here to support you in your role, if you have any questions at any point, you can ask us via our project inbox: naturescalendar@woodlandtrust.org.uk

Best wishes,
The Nature's Calendar team.

Your records

Throughout 2025 there were **2573 new registrations** and **10856 new records** added through the Nature's Calendar website. **THANK YOU!!**

Your 2025 top 10's

Top 10 recorded species:

1. *Common Frog*
2. *Hawthorn*
3. *Horse chestnut*
4. *Rowan*
5. *Oak (pedunculate)*
6. *Silver birch*
7. *Elder*
8. *Blackthorn*
9. *Ash*
10. *Brimstone*

Top 10 recorded events:

1. *Frog spawn first seen*
2. *Brimstone first recorded*
3. *Peacock first recorded*
4. *Newts first recorded*
5. *Snowdrop first flowering*
6. *Lesser celandine first flowering*
7. *Blackthorn first flowering*
8. *Song thrush first recorded*
9. *Orange-tip first recorded*
10. *Chiffchaff first recorded*

You can keep track of records in real time as they [appear on our live maps](#), and when logged into the Nature's Calendar website, your record will appear as a red dot on the map!

What to look out for in the coming months

Trees and shrubs:

Elder budburst



Judith Garforth WTML

Hawthorn budburst



Judith Garforth WTML

Blackthorn flowering



Kylie Harrison-Mellor WTML

Hazel flowering



Alex Marshall WTML

Flowers and grasses:

Snowdrop flowering



Margaret Barton WTML

Lesser celandine flowering



Alex Marshall WTML

Lawn first cut



Ben Lee WTML

Birds:

Song thrush singing



Lisa Geoghegan Alamy

Rook nesting



Nick Upton Alamy

Fieldfare & Redwing last recorded



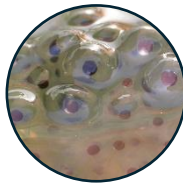
Chris Gomersall Alamy



Colin Varndell Alamy

Amphibians:

Frogspawn first seen



Christine Martin WTML

Newts first seen



Nature's Calendar
volunteer WTML

[Download our phenology calendar here](#) to see the full list of species to look out for based on the time of year.

Celebrating 10 years of Nature's Calendar led by Judith Garforth

Many of you will have seen or heard from Judith during your time as a Nature's Calendar volunteer. She just celebrated 10 years working on the project. We couldn't let this moment pass without saying a massive thank you to her.

If you have been in touch with the project, you will no doubt have heard from Judith, or read her newsletters or heard her on the radio.

Judith's intimate knowledge of the Nature's Calendar data and the science this has facilitated has been significant. The most high profile is her annual contribution to the [State of UK Climate report](#).

We don't think there's a radio station out there that hasn't had Judith's calm, warm, professional and passionate approach to championing this work and what it tells us about how nature is responding to climate change.

Judith is now going to pastures new by moving to the Woodland Trust's National Volunteering team where she will be supporting volunteering right across the organisation.

Thank you, Judith, we'll miss you.

Blog highlights

Volunteer Spotlight: Julie

Nature's Calendar is a citizen science project. Anyone can volunteer to become a citizen scientist, and every single Nature's Calendar volunteer adds vital information to the database. Here we shine a spotlight on some of our most dedicated volunteers.

Credit John Bridges / WTML



Is 2025 a mast year?

Have you noticed a bumper crop of acorns this year? You're not alone – it seems that across the UK, oak trees are producing acorns in mast year like numbers. But does that mean it is a mast year?

Credit Ben Lee / WTML

