



Rescue workers in Osmaniye, Turkey. Feb. 9, 2023. Author: Onur Erdoğan. Public Domain. Feb. 6, 2023 saw earthquakes in two places, a magnitude 7.8 event, followed nine hours later by one of magnitude 7.7. Smaller magnitude earthquakes occurred later in Turkey.

# Prime Meridian (168) February 24, 2023

## Turkey - a wake-up call for the world.

TV news has brought heart-rending accounts from victims and rescue teams from the rubble of the Turkish earthquakes into our homes. Across the world, attempts have been made to launch relief efforts to help remove those trapped alive from collapsed buildings and provide refuge centres.

Emerging from the confusion of the disaster have been statements that raise profound questions about the ability of the authorities to minimise and mitigate threats to human communities. We learn of the failure of Turkey to ensure that construction had always followed appropriate building regulations in an earthquake zone. We hear accounts from earthquake survivors who had complained for years about the safety of their apartments.

This was not just a failure of Turkey, but a wake-up call that must be echoed around the world, urging governments to take more strenuous efforts to safeguard communities in the face of natural or human driven threats.

**January 2023 was the 7<sup>th</sup> warmest January since 1850**



### **Our closest day to the Sun in 2023.**

January 4, 2023. This saw perihelion, the closest point in the Earth's orbit to the Sun, when the centre of the Earth lay 147, 098, 925 km from the centre of the Sun. The image was produced by the NOAA ((National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) space craft DSCOVR (Deep Space Climate Observatory). It is held at the Sun-Earth L1 Lagrange point, 1.5 million km Sunward of the Sun. 11:06:05 UTC.

NASA manages images from the craft. <https://epic.gsfc.nasa.gov/?date=2023-01-04>

### **Global climate: The 7<sup>th</sup> warmest January in record from 1850.**

NOAA (USA's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration): "January 2023 was the seventh-warmest January for the globe in NOAA's 174-year record. The January global surface temperature was 1.57°F (0.87°C) above the 20th-century average of 53.6°F (12.0°C). January 2023 marked the 47th consecutive January and the 527th consecutive month with global temperatures, at least nominally, above the 20th-century average."

<https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/monthly-report/global/202301>





Above: A frozen lake in Belair Park, West Dulwich, South London on January 23, 2023. The artificial lake, resembling a stream, is fed by the ground waters of the “lost” River Effra, which today travels mostly underground in storm drains. Left: Bare trees and ivy on the first day of the month in Belair Park.

## Seasons in South East England

### January 2023

Sunny, rainy, but days with ice.

The provisional mean temperature of the UK was 4.4°C. This was 1.4°C warmer than the 1991-2020 long-term average. That for England as a whole was 4.9°C (1.5°C).

The mean for our region (England SE & Central S) was 5.2°C (1.3°C). The region with the warmest mean temperature (5.1°C; 4.2°C above the norm) was England SW & Wales S.

The means for SE and Central S England were max. temp.: 8.4°C (1.8°C); min. temp.: 1.9°C (0.9°C). Hours of sunshine: 72.3 (137%). Rain: 99.4 mm (129%). Anomalies re. 1991-2020 norm in brackets. Date obtained from Met Office on-line monthly reports.

The UK's lowest temperature was -10.4°C at Drumnadrochit, Invernessshire (Scotland) Jan. 19. Its highest temperature was 15.8°C at Dyce, Aberdeenshire (Scotland) on Jan. 24.





## Some views of the Moon passing through its cycle in January 2023.

Above: As the evening darkened on January 4, 2023, the Moon shone down over the seasonal pond at Beacon Wood Country Park, Kent. The trees on the water margins are goat willows (*Salix caprea*).

Right top: A closer look at the waxing Moon on January 4.

Right centre: January 6 saw the month's Full Moon.

Right below: The waning Moon on January 15.







Hedgerows and runnels after rain in a field above Green Street Green, Kent. Jan. 18.







Views from fields beside the edge of Beacon Wood County Park. January 22, 2023.



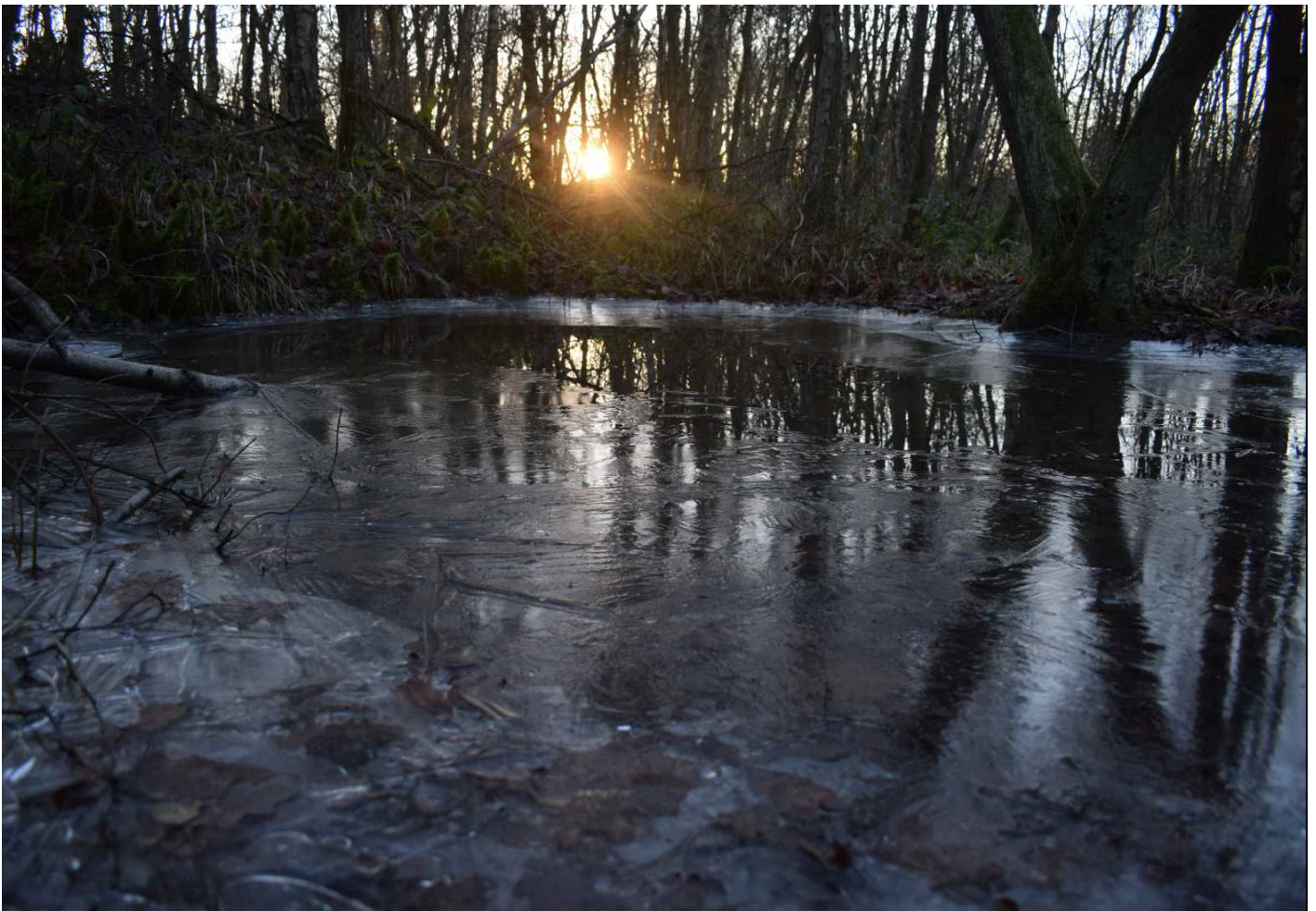




Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides*) emerging from the woodland floor in Beacon Wood Country Park. On the edge of the wood we see the seeds of Old Man's Beard or Traveller's Joy (*Clematis vitalba*). January 22, 2023.







Above: Icy pond among the trees in Beacon Wood County Park (January 18, 2023).  
The icy lake at Belair Park, South London (January 23, 2023)







Above: Sunrise from New Ash Green, Kent. Below: The Moon, waxing again, was caught among the trees at Belair Park, South London. An evening view of the waxing Moon from New Ash Green. January 30, 2023.







Above: The planet Venus was now visible in the evening sky. Here we are looking up on a cold night, from a field scattered with icy ponds. Ash, Kent. January 18, 2023.

Below: A horse out in its winter coat on the last day of January 2023. Ash, Kent.







Above: The waxing gibbous Moon on January 31, 2023. iss068e044225. This view was taken from the International Space Station 417 km above the Gulf of Mexico.

## About Prime Meridian.

Prime Meridian is published by the Ecospheres Project, a research and media collaboration. It looks at the cycle of the seasons in South East England and looks out from the Prime Meridian into the global environment and beyond, into the search for other habitable worlds.

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