

Press Release

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Weather forecasts suggest the Groundhog will be wrong

Today (2 February) is Candlemas Day in the UK and Groundhog Day in the USA; both are associated with 'amateur' weather forecasting and wintry weather.

Weather lore suggests that winter is far from over if, like this year, Groundhog Day or Candlemas Day is sunny. However the latest 10-day forecast from The Met. Office is predicting generally mild weather.

In the USA, groundhogs are dragged from hibernation to see whether they cast a shadow. If they do, winter is soon expected to return. In the UK, Candlemas Day has a number of weather 'rhymes' associated with it, but the most popular follows similar sentiments to the groundhog's weather forecasting abilities: 'If Candlemas Day be gay and bright, Winter will have another flight. But if Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain, Winter has gone and won't come again.'

Ewen McCallum, Head of Forecasting at The Met. Office said: "These weather sayings are a bit of fun, but in most cases they don't work too well. Certainly, there is little sign of a prolonged cold snap in the next week or so."

for further information:

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