

DORSET IN WINTER

Roger Holman

For some people, winter is the period between autumn and spring that has to be endured and can't pass too quickly. But others love the season. They love the snow that brings back memories of childhood days playing snowballs and sledging (when of course the snow was deeper and more frequent!). They also love the bright frosty mornings, as the hoar frost clings to every twig and ice patterns form on windows and on standing water. Of course there are times when the weather is foul, but to sit in front of a roaring log fire while the rain patters on the window, or to crowd into a Christmas-decorated church are experiences to be treasured.

The weather generally smiles benignly on Dorset in winter, although it can be harsh, especially in the north of the county. Even the Poole Harbour shoreline has been known to freeze over on rare occasions. The county can be spectacularly beautiful under a mantle of snow, or when the early morning rays of the sun catch a meadow coated in frost, a church tower standing above the gently lapping mists, or a towering wave crashing onto Dorset's Jurassic shore. Then later on when winter starts to lose its icy grip and the days lengthen, the harbingers of spring in Dorset are all the more beautiful.

In this journey through winter in Dorset, celebrated photographer Roger Holman persuades us through more than 140 crisp and evocative images that winter is a season to be celebrated and savoured. Wrap up well and enjoy it!



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Roger Holman was born in 1932 near Wimborne, not far from where he lives today, and educated at the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School. On leaving he joined the family firm, which he continued to run – apart from time spent in the RAF on National Service – until he handed it over to two of his sons. He discovered photography in his teens and has been photographing aspects of his home county ever since. He is the author of *Images of the Dorset Coast*, *Images of Dorset Country*, *Dorset the Glorious County*, *Spirit of Weymouth and Portland* and co-author of *Dorset's Most Beautiful Buildings*.

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DORSET IN WINTER



Horton Tower.



River Frome, Wareham.



Right: River Frome, Wareham.

Below: Example of a double-page spread.



Fiddisford Mill Pond
The water in the mill pond is very calm, enhancing the reflections and colours of early morning light. I was very much attracted by the serenity of the scene helped by the little boat moored under the tree.

Right: Milton Abbey and School
Milton Abbey and school are connected by the lake in a valley of wooded hills. The original village of Milton Abbas was built around the house and abbey but Lord Milton disliked having such close neighbours so between 1775 and 1786 he had the village dwellings demolished and rebuilt neatly where they now stand elegantly either side of a wide main street.



Golden Cap from Seatown looking east.



It is very infrequently that the temperature drops and stays low enough for the water on the shoreline of Poole Harbour to freeze as it did in 2009/10. On thawing, it produced these little ice-floes.