

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE IN WINTER

Bob Caddick

Winter comes on subtly, by degree, from the last rays of warming sun on stubble wheat fields to the gradual colouring of the leaves in the hedgerows.

We celebrate the darkest days after the solstice with lights and festivals, and once again the Christmas trees are carried home or placed in our town centres and villagers gather for the switching on of their lights.

Winter then hits hard with freezing rains and snows, frosts that freeze the locks in the car door and "blood is nipt" by the freezing air.

On sunny bright days the air is crystal clear and the light brilliant in its intensity. And on overcast, grey days the landscape takes on a simple monochrome appearance with shapes reduced to silhouettes or smudges against the sky. Our wildlife has learned to live with the changes that winter brings, sensibly hibernating like hedgehogs, or becoming more active like the thousands of small birds that are constantly foraging for food... taking the gleanings from the now deserted harvest fields or remainders of long picked sprouts or turnips.

But this in turn, signifies the beginning of the end of winter: soon snowdrops will push their noses through the frozen ground and daffodils will brave the chilly air. At last the sun will win its annual battle with the north wind: spring is here and summer is waiting in the wings full of showy splendour... but winter will be back to test us all again next year.

In this journey through winter in Northamptonshire, celebrated photographer Bob Caddick 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

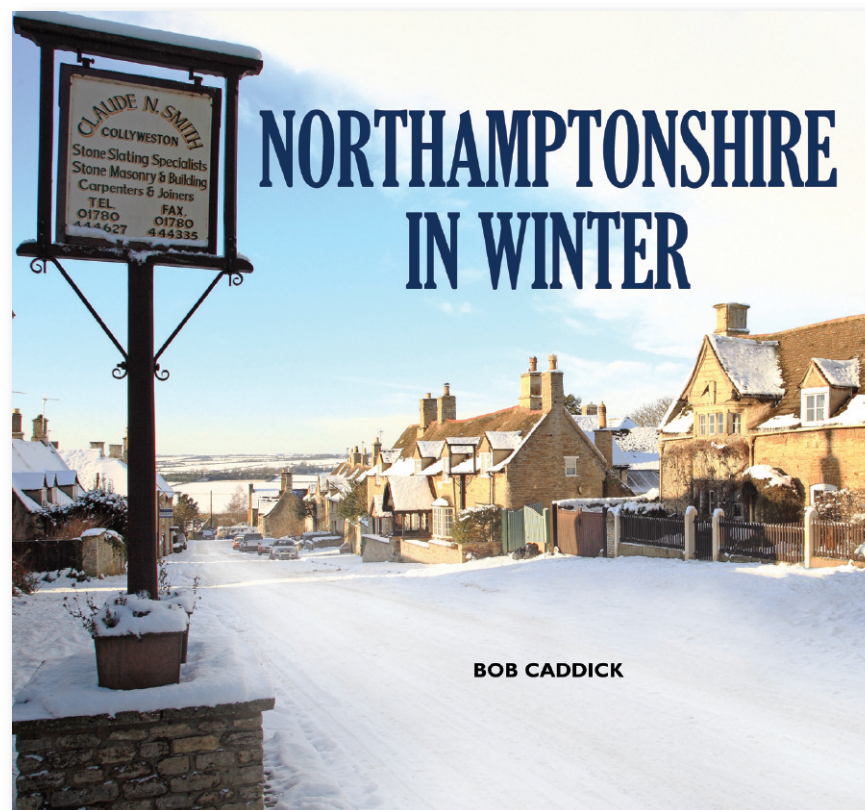
Award-winning photographer, Bob Caddick, is also a freelance writer who brings an editorial approach to his photography, loving to "tell the story" in pictures as well as words. Based in Northamptonshire, his work reflects the varied scenery and activities that attract his eye. Bob Caddick's work appears in magazines and picture libraries across Europe and America, as well as books and newspapers in the UK. He is the author of *Northamptonshire – The Glorious County*, also for Halsgrove.

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Above left: Barnwell Castle

Above right: Coton Manor

Harringworth Viaduct in the Snow

Left: The Wheatsheaf, Titchmarsh

Below: Example of a double-page spread.



Drying Kilns near Barrowden.
Once used in the steel making process called calcification, these drying kilns at Barrowden reminded me of the torrets of some ancient castles. They now lie silent save for the constant cawing of the crows that have built their nests amongst them.

Opposite:
Red Berries in Duddington
It's no coincidence that Santa Claus wears red and white - they look so good together!



Steep Hill, Collyweston