

WARMER SINCE WHEN?

By Mike Swadling ([Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [Gettr](#))



Source: Assyifa Averrin, [Wikimedia \(CC BY-SA 4.0\)](#)

Only eleven times in the last sixty years has snow fallen in London on Christmas Day, but this was not always so. The River Thames held its first frost fair in 1608 and the last was in 1814. These took place during the Little Ice Age lasting from about 1300 to about 1850. Clearly, we have warmed since then. The Little Ice Age started without man-made input and ended before any serious global industrialisation. It's almost as if temperatures change without a man-made cause. Incidentally the coldest Christmas Day on record since 1659 was in 2010 – so much for global warming.

What if I was to pick different dates to measure warming? The English wine market is once again growing, centred in the south. Of course, the Romans grew grapes and made wine at Hadrian's Wall, not something we could do today without artificial heaters. Later tax records show the Britons extensively grew their own wine grapes in the eleventh century. Compared to then, we are colder not warmer.

The later growing took place in the Medieval Warm Period lasting from around 950 to 1250 AD. The warming saw the Vikings break out of Scandinavia, conquer much of Europe and even grow barley in Greenland. The same warming in the east produced more rain, and grass for the grazing animals that Genghis Khan's Mongolian horseman rode and fed from. This abundance allowed his descendants to conquer much of Eurasia. The Medieval Warm Period was not caused by car journeys, aircraft, coal fuelled power stations or even the Saxons use of trial by fire. The climate changes and it often has little to do with man. Compared to then, we are colder not warmer.

The climate changes – we know. Global temperature is not fixed. We have had ice ages. We have had warming periods. The premise here is typically the following (with thanks to Dennis Prager):

- The globe is warming
- The warming is man-made – if this isn't because of human influenced greenhouse gas emissions, then the currently prescribed actions are meaningless
- The warming will be catastrophic – there is little point in acting if the impact is only two more weeks of summer and not much else

Warmer since when? For someone to say the globe is warming requires them to state over which period they are measuring and justify why that period rather than some other timeframe. To believe the last two premises you must believe in the predictions of people who have told us food would run out in the 1980s, that New York City would currently be underwater, that Britain would suffer a "famine" within ten years from 2002, and that in 2009 we only had "eight years to save the planet". I ask anyone who believes these people to get in touch with me about a bridge I have for sale.

If we do assume global warming is a threat, then what can we do about it? Let's not start by throwing away civilization's manna from heaven. All the abundance you see around you, that has allowed billions of people to move from calorie insecurity to having commodity goods in our lifetimes, is fed by fuel – mostly fossil fuels. It is a manna showing no end. We have more oil reserves than all the oil we have ever used, with new technology opening even further access to fuel. If you have a proven, working source of fuel that reduces pollution, then let's use it. If you are saying we need to change the basis of our modern civilisation and put at risk the food supply chains for billions of people, you better be sure of your predictions.

Despite the supposedly dangerous level of carbon dioxide of one part per 2400, life has never been better. We may have a cost-of-living crisis, but prior to lockdown, poverty had never been lower. An estimated 3.2 billion people, or forty-two per cent of the total world population, are now in the global middle class with many of them enjoying today in countries we used to consider third world – a better standard of living than some of us grew up with.



Source: Mediastudent2001, [Wikimedia \(CC BY-SA 4.0\)](#)

Humans are exceptional. Two hundred years ago, global life expectancy was under thirty years. Today life expectancy in the poorest countries is over fifty and the global average is over seventy. When I was at school people starved in many countries, yet today hunger has almost disappeared except where war or governments stop food supplies. Since the turn of the century the expanding global economy has meant that China has a middle class the size of the population of Europe, with India only a few years behind.

Despite expanding populations and doomsday predictions, the number of people dying from extreme weather events continues to collapse. The climate has changed for millennia before mankind, during our existence and will continue to change for many more years to come without our interference. For over thirty years, 'experts' in receipt of hefty grants have told us of impending doom from global warming, rising sea levels, agricultural failures, and a scorched planet. None of this has happened, and the planet is greening every year.



Source: GodeNehler, [Wikimedia \(CC BY-SA 4.0\)](#)

But don't just take my word for this. If you're based in, or are just south of London, you might like to hear the thoughts of Harry Wilkinson, Head of Policy at Net Zero Watch, and Harry Fone, Grassroots Campaign Manager at the Taxpayers' Alliance. [They will be presenting on 'Climate – rational action and affordability' on Wednesday 28th September from 7pm, upstairs at Elliott's Bar in Purley, South London.](#) If you are in the area, come and join us.

Is global warming a threat? I don't think so, but maybe. However, I have no doubt by making use of the energy buried all around us human ingenuity will rise to the challenge. We will excel and overcome it.

IS IT TOO GOOD TO BE BLUE?

By Christopher J. Wilkinson ([Website](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Telegram](#), [MeWe](#))



Source: Policy Exchange, Wikimedia (CC BY 2.0)

Finally, we appear to have a Conservative government that, after twelve and a half years in office, has finally woken up to the fact that they're Conservatives. Was Kwasi Kwarteng's mini budget a libertarian's dream come true, or was it the beginning of a nightmare about to happen? His statement certainly swung the right way – taxes cut and government spending cut; the only fiscal formula proven to induce a rollback of the state. With his party strained by scandal and age, he had nothing to lose by being bold.

Among the measures, the basic rate of income tax is to be cut to nineteen per cent one year earlier than planned, while the abolition of the forty-five per cent top rate has saved the Conservative Party from sustaining the embarrassing fact that, for over a decade, they've had a higher top rate than in any year under Tony Blair's government. Freezing corporation tax at nineteen per cent is a welcome boost for employment and investment as the UK faces recession. Other proposals included [immediate help on power prices, planning and business regulations, scrapping the bankers' bonus cap, and new anti-union legislation](#).

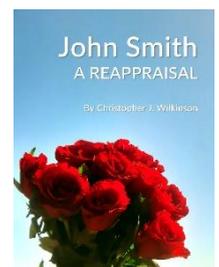
With [the tax burden already at its highest level since the Second World War](#) and millions of individuals and families staring down the gun barrel at skyrocketing winter energy costs, the media's criticism of tax cuts and deregulation is both loathsome and shameful. Exhibiting a general sense of economic illiteracy, [Sky News has claimed that Kwarteng's plans will add £72 billion extra to borrowing](#). They forget that when George Osborne cut the top rate from fifty to forty-five per cent in 2012, [revenues to the Exchequer increased by £8 billion](#). They neglect to mention that the global slide in stock and FOREX values hasn't suddenly been triggered by Kwarteng's mini budget. The reaction has been amateurish.

The Guardian has slammed the "go for growth" strategy, [stoking fears of an inflationary hangover akin to the Barber Boom in the early 1970s](#). There are two blindingly obvious problems with that assumption. Firstly, [there is currently no growth in Britain](#) as the Queen's national mourning has almost certainly tipped the economy into recession – why worry about a "boom" when the economy is contracting? Secondly, the "inflation" caused by the Barber Boom stemmed from higher import prices due to Britain's entry into the EEC in January 1972 – [a valuable Thames TV illustrates the damaging impact of the Common Agricultural Policy](#) – and the first OPEC oil price shock of October 1973. Further to this, [I explained in a recent podcast with the Croydon Constitutionalists the causes of Britain's high inflation and prospects for the economy](#).

The taps are running, and it seems clear blue water is finally coming through the pipes. Political circumstances are adverse, but at least this statement has given us hope. Now if only we could do something about that disastrous Brexit deal...

Christopher's latest release, *John Smith: A Reappraisal*, [is now available to buy as an eBook from Amazon](#).

A critical reappraisal of the late Labour Party leader, John Smith, whose leadership from 1992 until his untimely death in 1994. The title features original interviews from leading Labour figures of the period plus original research using source material from the Labour Party Archive in Manchester.



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BEAUTY

By Zachary Stiling ([Website](#))

In August, the Croydon Constitutionals hosted a free speech event which permitted speakers an open mic to address topics of their choosing. A speech given by Zachary Stiling has been reproduced here with permission from the original author.

In post-Renaissance Europe, there can be no excuse for ugliness, and yet it abounds. Some people see no problem; many things which are ugly happen to be cheap and convenient, and perversely popular. This points to one thing: that some people are not receptive to beauty.

It does not point towards one of the most irritating, hackneyed, and untruthful phrases in circulation: that "beauty is in the eye of the beholder", which implies subjectivity. I propose, from observation, that beauty is an objective truth. Those of us with notions of beauty will agree on what is beautiful. Sunsets, fertile valleys, swallows in flight – who will refute it? If the matter was subjective, would someone not wish to assert that the warm glow of dusk is an aesthetic abomination? We may quibble over minutiae because beauty is metaphysical, its laws written not in numbers as the language of physics but perceived through feeling rather than deciphered through equations. But as it exists objectively, we perceive it in broadly the same way.

I now speak only for myself, but as one who feels exalted by beauty, you may imagine how the opposite effect is induced by its absence. A while ago, standing on the platform of my local station, East Croydon, it occurred to me that I could see nothing beautiful, and it occasioned a sadness which was profound enough to be memorable. Also take the example of Edridge Road in my town of Croydon. Face south towards Surrey and bask in a sense of homeliness as you look past the modest Victorian bricks and mortar to the spire of St. Peter's Church. Then have your cosy contentment shattered as you about-turn 180 degrees and look north towards London and the hard, jackbooted tower blocks of the town centre, mocking you with their indomitable girth.



Source: Simon Koopmann,
[Wikimedia \(CC BY-SA 2.0 DE\)](#)

But I am fortunate. I am not entirely cut off from beauty as long so long as I live in leafy suburbia and travel the country for work. Consider the person raised on an inadequate housing estate, forced to drive every day along an anonymous dual carriageway to work in a post-war town centre designed by accountants. What nourishment does their soul get? What lifts their minds higher? It is common today that certain egalitarians should denigrate true beauty as elitist because it takes time, money, and effort to create, and some people have little aptitude for it. But far from being elitist, anyone may be touched by beauty, and its benefits are limitless. It gives the aimless aspiration, brings joy to the depressed and is something to he who has nothing.

Let us reject the weasel words which justify bad art and architecture – "innovative", "diverse", "inclusive", "subversive", "empowering" and "progressive" – and make planning authorities, developers, the Arts Council and other organisations responsible for the physical and cultural landscape work towards a beautiful world, for everyone's sake.

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