

BOGNOR REGIS
METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

DECEMBER 2002

RAINFALL

118.5mm (4.67ins) on 25 days.
Greatest fall in 24 hours (09-09h) - 23.6mm (0.93ins) on 21st.
December 2001 total rainfall - 31.9mm (1.26ins) on 12 days.
January to December 2002 - 940.5mm (37.03ins)
January to December 2001 - 746.7mm (29.40ins)

TEMPERATURES

| | | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|----|-------|
| Highest Maximum | - | 12.4 ^o C (54.3 ^o F) | on | 1st. |
| Lowest Maximum | - | 3.5 ^o C (38.3 ^o F) | on | 9th. |
| Highest Minimum | - | 11.2 ^o C (52.1 ^o F) | on | 30th. |
| Lowest Minimum | - | -0.9 ^o C (30.3 ^o F) | on | 10th. |
| Lowest Grass | - | -2.8 ^o C (27.0 ^o F) | on | 10th. |

SUNSHINE

December 2002 - 48.7 hours on 14 days.
December 2001 - 71.5 hours on 22 days.
Maximum sunshine in 24 hours - 7.1 hours on 5th.
January to December 2002 - 1829.3 hours.
January to December 2001 - 1908.9 hours.

SUMMARY

December was a dull and wet month with the total sunshine hours well below and the rainfall well above the seasonal average. It was the second dullest December since 1987 (43.6 hours) and the wettest since 1993 (169.8mm). A white Christmas wasn't even a near thing with a day temperature of 11.4^oC recorded on Christmas Day.

The month began with the weather unsettled and frontal activity bringing heavy rain (12.4mm) during the morning of the 1st. The weather continued in this vein with rain and very little sunshine. On 5th, a ridge of high pressure took over to give a rare dry and sunny day. It became colder with day temperatures dropping to single figures. High pressure over Scandinavia began to dominate the weather scene from 6th. The resultant north easterly air flow brought a cold spell with the wind chill keeping temperatures below zero. The weather continued very cold and unsettled through to the 12th when the day temperatures doubled. However, from 12th to the 17th the total sunshine hours was zero. On 18th, pressure rose to give a sunny day. This was alas shortlived, and on 20th there began four successive sunless days. The day temperature rose on 20th into double figures and there also began eleven successive days of rain, drizzle, and at times mist. Frontal activity during the night 21/22 brought the heaviest rainfall of the month (23.6mm) to cause some local flooding. The mild, overcast, and unsettled weather continued through to the end of the month.

The total rainfall of 118.5mm was well above the seasonal average of 75.54mm and contributed much to the severe flooding which was to occur at the start of the new year.

The sunshine total of 48.7 hours was well below the seasonal average of 62.3 hours. There was a total of 17 days without any sunshine.

The mean maximum temperature of 8.8^oC and minimum of 5.2^oC were both above their respective seasonal averages of 8.7^oC and 4.2^oC. The presence of cloud cover on most nights kept the air frosts down to two and ground frosts to six.

A.E.S.

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