

BOGNOR REGIS  
METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS  
MARCH 1999

RAINFALL

40.8mm (1.61ins) on 17 days.  
Greatest fall in 24 hours (09-09h) - 7.5mm (0.29ins) on 2nd.  
March 1998 total rainfall - 63.7mm (2.51ins) on 16 days.  
January to March 1999 - 147.9mm (5.82ins)  
January to March 1998 - 171.8mm (6.76ins)

TEMPERATURES

Highest Maximum	-	17.5°C (63.5°F)	on 17th.
Lowest Maximum	-	7.1°C (44.7°F)	on 5th & 9th.
Highest Minimum	-	9.9°C (49.8°F)	on 30th.
Lowest Minimum	-	-1.3°C (29.6°F)	on 8th.
Lowest Grass	-	-4.0°C (24.8°F)	on 8th.

SUNSHINE

March 1999 - 157.4 hours on 26 days.  
March 1998 - 100.8 hours on 20 days.  
Maximum sunshine in 24 hours - 11.7 hours on 27th.  
January to March 1999 - 363.4 hours.  
January to March 1998 - 307.5 hours.

SUMMARY

March was again mild with temperatures above the seasonal average for the second successive year. The weather however was rather changeable especially during the first two weeks of the month. Sunshine was well above the average and rainfall well below the average for March.

The month began with low pressure dominating the weather scene with Atlantic fronts moving across the U.K. bringing strong winds, some rain, and restricting sunshine. Winds gusting to gale force were recorded on 3rd and the old adage of March coming in like a lion etc. came very much to mind - it did in fact subsequently go out like a lamb. The weather continued changeable with a succession of ground frosts or near ground frosts from 5th to 16th. On 13th, a ridge of high pressure moved into the south of the U.K. There followed a succession of mild, dry, sunny days with the warmest on 17th - the warmest St. Patricks day since 1972. The high pressure moved away to the south west on 19th. The wind veered to the north west and it became cooler with more cloud cover. Pressure dropped during the night 20/21 and the associated fronts brought strong winds and showers; some heavy. The weather continued unsettled through to the end of the month with heavy cloud producing a thunderstorm with hail on the afternoon of 26th. Throughout, the weather stayed mild with the winds generally light to moderate. Fog was recorded on the morning of 30th with visibility restricted to 200 yards or less. It cleared by mid-day but it remained dull with drizzle for the rest of the day. In contrast the last day of the month produced nearly eleven hours of sunshine.

The total rainfall of 40.8mm was well below the seasonal average of 60.44mm.

The sunshine total of 157.4 hours was well in excess of the seasonal average of 131.0 hours. The highest since 1995 (204.9 hours)

The mean maximum temperature of 11.5°C and minimum of 4.2°C were both above their respective seasonal averages of 9.2°C and 4.0°C.