

BOGNOR REGIS
METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS
OCTOBER 2000

RAINFALL

216.9mm (8.54ins) on 27 days.
Greatest fall in 24 hours (09-09h) - 37.5mm (1.48ins) on 9th.
October 1999 total rainfall - 53.1mm (2.09ins) on 13 days.
January to October 2000 - 754.1mm (29.69ins)
January to October 1999 - 517.9mm (20.39ins)

TEMPERATURES

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|----------|
| Highest Maximum | - | 17.2°C (63.0°F) | on 1st. |
| Lowest Maximum | - | 12.2°C (54.0°F) | on 21st. |
| Highest Minimum | - | 13.0°C (55.4°F) | on 4th. |
| Lowest Minimum | - | 5.5°C (41.9°F) | on 17th. |
| Lowest Grass | - | 1.7°C (35.0°F) | on 17th. |

SUNSHINE

October 2000 - 101.0 hours on 23 days.
October 1999 - 178.6 hours on 28 days.
Maximum sunshine in 24 hours - 8.2 hours on 19th.
January to October 2000 - 1681.6 hours.
January to October 1999 - 1970.1 hours.

SUMMARY

The weather during October will be long remembered for its excessive rainfall and strong winds. Not surprisingly, sunshine was well below the seasonal average but temperatures were around normal for the time of year. The heavy rains virtually came in two parts viz. between 9th and 11th and 27th and 31st. In fact, the total rainfall during the former period exceeded the seasonal average of 83mm by some 6mm. For the most part the weather was dominated by successive deep depressions crossing the U.K. from west to east. The associated fronts, sometimes slow moving resulted in very heavy rainfall and caused wide spread flooding. The deep depressions also brought gale force winds especially towards the end of the month and culminating in a "Twister" which caused severe structural damage to parts of Bognor Regis on the afternoon of 28th.

The month began with a continuation of the September unsettled weather and was to continue, apart from the odd sunny day, throughout the month. During the first week of the month, a press report described the elements as "The disturbed Autumnal weather". Little did the author realise what was to come. On 9th, heavy rain throughout much of the day brought considerable local flooding. During the next three days more heavy rains brought severe flooding to East Sussex with the towns of Uckfield and Lewes experiencing the worst flooding for 40 years. Bognor Regis too had some local flooding but to a much lesser degree. The weather continued unsettled with some sunshine here and there and the rainfall becoming comparatively light. However, storm clouds loomed on 27th and from then on to the end of the month heavy rain and strong winds were much in evidence. During the night 29/30 gale force winds and heavy rain brought widespread flooding. There was structural damage in the area with fallen trees an added hazard. Early on 30th, Selsey Bill and Hayling Island each experienced a twister. The last day of the month was comparatively calm.

The total rainfall of 216.9mm was well above the seasonal average of 83.62. It was the second wettest on record. (1987 - 225.1mm)

The sunshine total of 101.1 hours was well below the seasonal average of 127.9 hours. The dullest since 1982 (91.6 hours).

The mean maximum temperature of 14.8°C and minimum of 9.0°C were both close to their respective seasonal averages of 14.4°C and 9.1°C.

A.E.S.

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