

BOGNOR REGIS  
METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS  
MARCH 2001

RAINFALL

136.8mm (5.38ins) on 26 days.  
Greatest fall in 24 hours (09-09h) - 26.5mm (1.04ins) on 20th.  
March 2000 total rainfall - 24.6mm (0.97ins) on 12 days.  
January to March 2001 - 300.1mm (11.81ins)  
January to March 2000 - 96.2mm ( 3.79ins)

TEMPERATURES

Highest Maximum	-	12.5°C (54.5°F)	on 16th & 22nd.
Lowest Maximum	-	3.2°C (37.7°F)	on 2nd.
Highest Minimum	-	8.0°C (46.4°F)	on 11th & 23rd.
Lowest Minimum	-	-2.4°C (27.6°F)	on 2nd.
Lowest Grass	-	-7.1°C (19.2°F)	on 2nd.

SUNSHINE

March 2001 - 71.9 hours on 23 days.  
March 2000 - 147.6 hours on 26 days.  
Maximum sunshine in 24 hours - 10.4 hours on 30th.  
January to March 2001 - 253.2 hours.  
January to March 2000 - 358.0 hours.

SUMMARY

Weatherwise, March was a great disappointment being cold, wet, and dull for a large part of the time. It was the seventh month in succession when the rainfall exceeded the seasonal average. The Met. Office announced that the total rainfall for the year ending 31 March was the wettest since records began in 1766. It was the dullest March on record for Bognor Regis, the previous dullest being March 1947 with 90.8 hours.

The month began with the weather continuing unsettled. For the first five days it was very cold with successive night frosts. It was however relatively dry albeit light snow showers were recorded on the morning of 4th. A depression moved westward across the U.K. on 6th to bring heavy rain (12.6mm) to the area during late evening. The weather continued to be dominated by low pressure and on 11th and 12th both days began with fog. There was heavy rain with thunder on the night 16/17 and heavy rain again during the night 17/18. Throughout, Temperatures remained average for the time of year but it became colder from 17th onwards. It continued cold with little sunshine. During the afternoon of 20th, strong easterly winds brought snow, sleet, and rain to the area. The weather continued unsettled with sunshine in short supply although temperatures began to rise on 21st. There was heavy rain on nights 20/21 and 21/22 and early morning of 23rd. As a result there was the familiar sight of local flooding. The weather remained unsettled through to the end of the month with the final downpour of rain on 27th.

The rainfall total of 136.8mm was more than double the seasonal average of 60.44mm and the wettest since 1981 (137.8mm).

The sunshine total of 71.9 hours was a record low and well below the seasonal average of 131 hours.

The mean maximum temperature of 8.9°C was below its seasonal average of 9.2°C and the mean minimum of 4.4°C just above its seasonal average of 4.0°C