

## **BOGNOR REGIS**

### **METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS**

#### **MARCH 2003**

##### **RAINFALL**

34.3 mm (1.35ins) on 11 days.  
Greatest fall in 24 hours (09-09h) - 19.7mm (0.78ins) on 1st.  
March 2002 total rainfall - 52.6mm (2.07ins) on 15 days.  
January to March 2003 - 130.5mm (5.14ins)  
January to March 2002 - 238.6mm (9.39ins)

##### **TEMPERATURES**

Highest Maximum	-	18.0 °C (64.4°F) on 27th
Lowest Maximum	-	8.8 ° C (47.8°F) on 3rd.
Highest Minimum	-	9.5 ° C (49 1°F) on 29th
Lowest Minimum	-	1.0 ° C (30:2°F) on 20th
Lowest Grass	-	2.8 ° C (27.0°F) on 19th.

##### **SUNSHINE**

March 2003 - 174.4 hours on 26 days.  
March 2002 - 125.2 hours on 25 days.  
Maximum sunshine in 24 hours - 11.2 hours on 31st  
January to March 2003 - 389.2 hours.  
January to March 2002 - 272.3 hours.

##### **SUMMARY**

Weather-wise, the month of March was a remarkable one. It was overall a dry month with all of the well below the average rainfall being recorded during the first eleven days. Sunshine hours were well in excess of the seasonal average and it was the fifth sunniest March in the last 30 years. Day temperatures too were well above the seasonal average and there were many days where conditions could have been compared to those of early summer.

The month began with low pressure dominating the weather scene. Frontal activity brought showers to the area during the afternoon of the 1st and very heavy showers (17.0mm) during the early morning of 2nd. The weather continued unsettled with periods of rain and little sunshine. Day temperatures were near normal. The weather became windy on 7th with rain during the afternoon. The 6th saw 8.2 hours of sunshine but thereafter sunshine was hard to find. On 11th, high pressure moved over the U.K. The weather became more settled albeit it became cooler with northerly to easterly winds. The high pressure became firmly established over the U.K. to dominate the weather scene through to the end of the month. As a result there were successive days of long periods of sunshine and a complete absence of rain. In fact 19 successive dry days. There were some cold nights particularly between the 17th and 23rd when a total of six ground frosts was recorded; there was just one air frost on 20th.

The total rainfall of 34.3mm was well below the seasonal average of 60.44mm.

The sunshine total of 174.4 hours was well above the seasonal average of 131.0 hours. It was the fifth sunniest March in the last 30 years.

The mean maximum temperature of 12.3°C and minimum of 4.5°C were both above their respective seasonal averages of 9.2°C and 4.0°C. It was the second warmest in the last 30 years taking second spot to 1997 with 12,5°C and 4.9°C.

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