

BOGNOR REGIS

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

JANUARY 2004

RAINFALL

78.2mm (3.08ins) on 22 *days*.

Greatest fall in 24 hours (09—09h) — 11.7mm (0.46ins) on 12th.

January 2003 total rainfall - 74.1mm (2.92ins) on 18 days.

TEMPERATURES

Highest Maximum - 12.2°C (54.0°F) on 6th.

Lowest Maximum - 5.5°C (41.9°F) on 27th.

Highest Minimum - 9.4°C (49.0°F) on 11th.

Lowest Minimum - -2.2°C (28.0°F) on 29th.

Lowest Grass - -4.4°C (24.0°F) on 29th.

SUNSHINE

January 2004 - 81.8 hours on 21 days.

January 2003 —116.4 hours on 28 days.

Maximum sunshine in 24 hours - 8.5 hours on 29th.

SUMMARY

January was a mild month with mostly changeable weather. It was often windy with frequent deep depressions crossing the country. There was a total of ten sunless days albeit the total of 81.8 hours was above the seasonal average. The many cloudy nights during the month resulted in a total of just three air frosts. There were ten ground frosts most of which were in the slight category.

The month began with the weather cloudy and unsettled with slight rain in evidence. There was little sunshine but temperatures remained above the seasonal average. On 8th, a deep depression moved across the U.K. bringing with it heavy rain and strong to gale force winds. The weather continued unsettled with the wind remaining fairly brisk. Sunshine was in short supply and because of continuous frontal activity it rained on successive days up to the 15th. The skies cleared on 16th to give three successive days of sunshine (21 hours). Alas this was short lived when there followed, from 19th to 23rd, five days of overcast dismal days. On 25th a cold spell was anticipated with the winds backing to the north. Temperatures dropped into single figures. A mini blizzard hit Bognor Regis during the early evening of 28th. It was short lived (45 mins) and was accompanied by thunder and lightning. Conditions were severe enough to cause traffic chaos. It was followed by a cold frosty night resulting in many incidents of black ice on the roads the following morning. However, the ice soon thawed and a glorious sunny day followed. The temperature increased on 30th but the weather was overcast. A depression brought rain with strong to gale force winds to the area to end the month.

Note:— Thunder and lightning with snowfalls is a meteorological phenomenon in these parts. It is caused by the contrast between warm air in the lower atmosphere and the movement of cold air aloft.

The rainfall total of 78.2mm was above the seasonal average of 72.8mm.

Despite the number of dull days during the month, the total sunshine hours of 81.8 hours was well above the seasonal average of 67.9 hours albeit less than the 116.4 hours of 2003.

The mean maximum temperature of 9.0°C and minimum of 4.3°C were both well above their respective seasonal averages of 7.4°C and 2.8°C.

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