

BOGNOR REGIS

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

MARCH 2005

RAINFALL

44.7mm (1.76ins) on 12 days.

Greatest fall in 24 hours (09-09h) 10.4mm (0.41ins) on 1st.

March 2004 total rainfall 41.4mm (1.63ins) on 18 days.

January to March 2005 108.0mm (4.25ins)

January to March 2004 134.4mm (5.29ins)

TEMPERATURES

Highest Maximum - 14.7°C (58.4°F) on 26th.

Lowest Maximum - 3.7°C (38.6°F) on 2nd.

Highest Minimum - 8.6°C (47.4°F) on 31st.

Lowest Minimum - -3.3°C (26.1°F) on 4th.

Lowest Grass - -6.1°C (21.0°F) on 4th.

SUNSHINE

March 2005 104.6 hours on 23 days.

March 2004 127.6 hours on 24 days.

Maximum sunshine in 24 hours 9.9 hours on 26th.

January to March 2005 203.9 hours.

January to March 2004 296.2 Hours.

SUMMARY

March was generally a dull month with sunshine well below the norm. It was also a dry month with rainfall substantially below the average. There were strong hints in the media of the possibility of impending drought conditions this Summer. The day temperatures took up to the middle of the month to cast off their Winter chill and begin to register double figures.

The month began where February left off, cold with at times a bitterly northerly wind. There were sleet showers on 4th. On 6th, high pressure to the west of the U.K. began to dominate the weather scene. There followed a variable amount of sunshine and ground frosts became a nightly occurrence. It continued mainly dry and cloudy and day temperatures began to gradually rise. Between 7th and 10th, a total of just one hour of sunshine was recorded. Winds remained generally light. From 14th, day temperatures rose to reach 11.0°C on 16th. Night temperatures also moved above freezing on 14th. On 18th, an anti cyclone stabilised itself over the U.K. bringing with it Spring like weather. There was dense fog on the littoral on the morning of 19th and again during the same evening. Pressure dropped on 21st and frontal activity during the night 21/22 brought rain to the area (7.4mm), first rain of any significance since 1st (10.4mm). There was heavy rain followed by dense fog (10.1mm) during the silent hours 23/24. The Easter week-end (25-28) turned out weatherwise better than expected with Easter Saturday producing a temperature of 14.7°C and a total of 9.9 hours of sunshine.. The month ended on a dull note with three successive sunless days.

The rainfall total of 44.7mm was well below its seasonal average of 60.44mm.

The sunshine total of 104.6 hours was well below the seasonal average of 131.0 hours. The second dullest since 2001 71.9 hours and 1976 88.9 hours.

The mean maximum temperature of 9.5°C and minimum of 3.9°C were both close to their respective seasonal averages of 9.2°C and 4.0°C.

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