

JULY DELUGE

WITH OVER TWICE THE AVERAGE RAIN FOR THE MONTH, JULY 1988 STILL ONLY MANAGED SECOND PLACE IN THE LEAGUE TABLE OF DISMAL SUMMERS, BEING PIPPED AT THE POST BY THE "SUMMER" OF 1957. WITH A TOTAL OF 128.8MM (5.07INS), THIS YEAR WAS MARGINALLY BETTER THAN THE 129.3MM (5.09 INS) OF 1957 BY A SLIGHT SHOWER !! THUS SOME PARTS OF THE DISTRICT ARE QUITE LIKELY TO HAVE HAD THEIR WETTEST JULY IN ALMOST HALF A CENTURY.

ONLY 8 DAYS WERE COMPLETELY RAIN FREE WITH SEVERAL HAVING HEAVY STORMS, ESPECIALLY THE 20TH WHEN RAIN WAS FALLING AT THE RATE OF 2.39 INS PER HOUR.

IN ADDITION TO THE HEAVY RAIN, TEMPERATURES HAVE ALSO BEEN WELL DOWN ON NORMAL RANGING FROM 23C (73F) ON THE 20TH TO 6.3C (43F) ON THE 3rd. WE HAVE NOT YET HAD A MAXIMUM DAY TEMPERATURE OF 25C (77F).

SUNSHINE HAS ALSO BEEN SPARSE. AT 127.3 HOURS THE TOTAL WAS SOME 43.5 HOURS BELOW NORMAL, THOUGH ONLY ONE DAY, THE 28TH WAS TOTALLY SUNLESS.

THE PREVAILING WIND WAS SW ON 21 DAYS, ITSELF A RECORD, AND WAS UNUSUALLY STRONG FOR A "SUMMER" MONTH AVERAGING 8 MPH. GALE FORCE GUSTS WERE RECORDED ON BOTH THE 25TH AND 26TH.

THE SEVERE ATLANTIC DEPRESSION OF THE 13TH GAVE THE LOWEST SEA LEVEL PRESSURE FOR JULY SINCE AT LEAST 1956. HOWEVER, WE HAVE HAD NO INCIDENCE OF EITHER THUNDER OR HAIL, BOTH EXCEPTIONAL FOR JULY.

DESPITE ITS GENERAL POOR SHOWING, JULY 1988 DOES RANK WITH OTHERS SUCH AS 1953, 1957, 1958 AND 1965, ALL WITH OVER 100MM (3.93 INS) OF RAIN. HOWEVER IT IS THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1978 THAT WE HAVE NOT HAD A DAILY MAXIMUM OF 25C (77F) AND IT HAS BEEN THE COOLEST JULY SINCE 1965.