

"IN LIKE A LION, OUT LIKE A LAMB": MARCH WEATHER IN A NUTSHELL.

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The exceptionally mild weather of February continued into March which had a mean daily temperature of 8.7C (48F), some 3.4C above expectation and which equalled the record set in March 1957. Indeed, all temperatures from 3 ft under the soil to the grass minimum were significantly above average. The 18th saw the highest temperature of the month with 20C (68F), the warmest March day since 1968 and the 3rd warmest on record (21.7C in 1965).

The month began stormy, continuing the trend set in February, winds gusting to gale force on the 1st, 5th and 8th. More settled conditions ensued the month ending settled, sunny and very warm.

Rainfall at 18mm (0.71in) was a mere 30% of normal and fell on just 5 days totalling 10 hours in duration, giving the driest March since 1961 (7.2mm) and the 3rd driest in almost half a century.

Sunshine was half as much again as usual at 161 hours, the sunniest day, the 31st providing almost 10 hours giving the sunniest March since 1967 (166 hours) and the 3rd sunniest on record.

The month ended more akin to May than March and continued the succession of very mild months giving us our second successive and predominantly mild and dry Winter.