

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY 1991.

August Bank holiday 1991 was better than usual, being fine, sunny and very warm. Out of the last 36 August Bank holidays only 21 have been rain free. Some have been disastrous. In 1962 54mm (2.13in) of rain fell, whilst no longer ago than 1986 saw 58mm (2.25in) in the day.

Others have been decidedly cool. In 1986 the temperature failed to rise above 13.2C (56F) and no less than 16 out of the 36 have failed to reach 21C (70F). In 1980 the minimum for the day was a mere 1.4C above freezing. This year's 24.3C (76F) gave the second warmest August Bank holiday on record.

Sunshine has also varied widely, but only 4 August Bank holiday Mondays have recorded no sun at all. The best was in 1960 with 11 hours, followed by 1989 with 10.6 hours. This year's 8.5 hours gave the 6th sunniest on record here.

The date of the August Bank holiday was changed from the first to the last Monday in the month in 1966, supposedly to catch better weather. However, the benefits of this have been hardly conclusive.