

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE MONTH.

July was an exceptional month, hot, dry and sunny. The mean maximum temperature of 24.4C/76F made it the third warmest in half a century behind 1983 (26C/78.8F) and 1976 (24.6C/76.3F). In all 16 days were hot (maximum above 25C/77F), including the last 8 days in succession. The maximum of 31C 87.8F on the 30th was the highest since 1989 (31.7C) and the fifth highest on record here. On the night of the 19th the temperature did not fall below 17.7C 63.9F at all making it the fifth warmest July night on record.

Sunshine totalled 238 hours, 30% above the 30-year mean and marginally below that for last year, but still the fifth sunniest July in 40 years. No day was without sun and the 25th produced almost 15 hours. Fifteen days provided more than 9 hours each and 8 more than 12 hours each, the best overall since 1990.

Rainfall was well down falling on only 6 days the wettest being the 10th with 11.7mm/0.46in. This is now the 5th successive month with below average rainfall.