

Despite the warmth it has not been exceptionally sunny, nor has it been particularly dry. Sunshine totals at 82.5 hours are 20 hours below normal, with 12 totally sunless days, 5 above expectation for March. We have also had 72.6mm (2.86ins) of rain, a fifth more than average, falling over 14 days for a total of 169.8 hours.

The warmth has been due to a mainly south to south westerly air flow from the Iberian peninsula and south Atlantic, rather than to a preponderance of warm sunshine.

And to set the month into context: the warmest March day was March 29th 1965 with 21.7C (71.1F) whilst the coldest night was also in 1965 on the 3rd, with minus 11.1C (12F). Our wettest March was in 1947 with 151.6mm (5.97ins) whilst the sunniest was in 1961 with 166.5 hours.