

A transient ridge of high pressure covered the UK on the 12<sup>th</sup> which dawned clear with grass temperatures as low as 2.6C, some sheltered spots seeing a slight ground frost. With near cloudless skies it was a day of almost unbroken sunshine amounting to 12.7 hours, the first day to breach the 12 hour mark this year.

This better weather was short lived, for further frontal systems crossed the area on the 13<sup>th</sup> as a low pressure centre approached the north west from the Atlantic and translated towards the southern North Sea. This brought spells of drizzle and heavier rain under leaden skies and a brisk south easterly wind. A further 6mm of rain fell in almost 7 hours with just 0.3 hour of sunshine on a miserable "summer's" day.

This rather slack and slow moving area of low pressure was to dominate the weather over the next few days as frontal systems swept low stratus and rain across the area with little in the way of bright sunshine or reasonable temperatures. The 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> saw a mere 0.1 and 0.2 hour of sunshine, barely a glimpse, with spells of intermittent, or even more prolonged, rain. On the 16<sup>th</sup> the weather took up slightly, 3.4 hours of sunshine being recorded with a maximum temperature of 17.5C.

However, by dawn on the 17<sup>th</sup> skies were again overcast with a persistent drizzle mixed with rain. This was to last all day, precipitation in some form or another occurring for 21.53 hours out of the 24 from 0900 on the 17<sup>th</sup> to 0900 on the 18<sup>th</sup> producing a total of 9.6 mm of rain. This poor weather continued well into the 18<sup>th</sup> though by late afternoon skies had lifted as the area of cloud and rain made slow progress northwards.

The spell of dreary weather lifted temporarily on the 19<sup>th</sup> which was a day of long sunny spells and soaring temperatures, the latter reaching 24.4C by late afternoon under the influence of south to south westerly winds. With low pressure centres still well in evidence on the northern extremities of the country the general weather pattern remained mainly unsettled, the 20<sup>th</sup> seeing a spell of light rain during the morning as a small low moved quite rapidly across the area towards northern England. Temperatures reached a very humid 25C during the late afternoon, skies eventually clearing at dusk to give a warm and sticky night.

The 21<sup>st</sup> was to be the only totally rain free day since the 4<sup>th</sup>, afternoon temperatures reaching 22.4C in the late afternoon. Low pressure still dominated the scene however, and the dry interlude was only short lived. By 2300 UTC on the 22<sup>nd</sup> rain was again falling as a frontal system crossed the area. By 0900 UTC on the 23<sup>rd</sup> a further 2.6 mm of rain had accumulated, an additional spell of moderate rain occurring from 1100 UTC to 1450 UTC.

The large and complex area of low pressure was still resident over the western fringes of the UK and this fed frontal troughs eastwards bringing spells of rain, some heavy and thundery to many parts of the country. Afternoon temperatures on the 24<sup>th</sup> reached 19C with spells of moderate rain occurring until 1315 UTC. By the 25<sup>th</sup> a vigorous trough crossed the country bringing heavy and thundery showers. A line trough at 1525 UTC saw winds rise to a peak of 30 knots in a little over a minute with squally rain, thunder occurring to the NE at 1725 UTC.

Low pressure still dominated the scene on the 26<sup>th</sup>, further troughs crossing eastwards to maintain the very unsettled weather. The day was one of showers and longer periods of rain with only spells of fleeting sunshine. A further total of 7.5mm of rain had fallen by 0900 UTC on the 27<sup>th</sup> bringing the month's total to 109.3mm. Thundery troughs crossed the region during the afternoon of the 27<sup>th</sup> with two thunderstorms occurring from cells at 1223 UTC and 1312 UTC, though these were neither intense nor long lasting, just 1.8mm of rain being deposited.

A weak and transient tongue of high pressure from the Azores high pushed into the country during the 28<sup>th</sup> and this killed off all shower activity. The day was one with generally broken cumulus and long sunny periods giving a total of 13.7 hours of sunshine, the best day of the month to date. Skies clouded over rapidly after dusk to give a further shower of rain from 2200 to 2215 UTC, the 29<sup>th</sup> dawning cloudy as yet another low pressure area moved