

The unsettled theme continued into the 22<sup>nd</sup> with a dominant low pressure area off the north western coast of the UK. The day was one of intermittent light rain and long sunny periods. During the 23<sup>rd</sup> this low pressure area moved across the country to lie near Humber late in the afternoon. As a vigorous front crossed the Midlands, the early light rain gave way to more persistent and heavy falls over the midday period, this persisting on and off until the late evening giving a total of 16.8mm of rain by 09.00UTC on the 24<sup>th</sup>, the heaviest fall of the month to date.

This rain had moderated overnight on the 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> and skies gradually cleared by late morning to give a sunny and relatively warm afternoon. Late on the 24<sup>th</sup> a further area of low pressure had arrived off the western seaboard of the UK and this pushed frontal systems eastwards into Ireland early in the day. These crossed the region bringing spells of light and intermittent rain which lasted throughout the day which saw accumulated totals of 1.4mm of rain and 2 hours sunshine.

By the 26<sup>th</sup> the parent depression had crossed central England and was heading into Europe, a strong ridge developing from an Atlantic high into the south west Approaches. Fronts crossed the Midlands during the day, a cold front at 07.00 and an occluded one at 17.45 UTC. This resulted in a dull, damp and cool day, winds veering from SW through NW and N to NE, skies not clearing until late evening. Dawn on the 27<sup>th</sup> was heralded with a strengthening high over SW Ireland which killed off the remaining light rain as the fronts finally cleared from the south east. The resultant day over the Midlands was sunny, a total of 10.9 hours being recorded once the skies had cleared, though maximum temperatures climbed no higher than 19C under the influence of a north westerly wind.

The high over south west Ireland began a slow migration south eastwards on the 28<sup>th</sup> maintaining a broad north westerly flow across the UK, whilst a low in the Baltic also moved slowly south east into central Europe. After a heavy overnight dew, skies gradually clouded over and a slight shower ensued around 1556 UTC, just 2.4 hours of sunshine being recorded. The 29<sup>th</sup> was another rather cloudy day with a SE wind. Sunshine was pegged back to 2.5 hours and maximum temperatures to 19.5C as the anticyclone declined to form a ridge.

Pressure began a slow fall on the 30<sup>th</sup> as an Atlantic low approached Ireland maintaining a broad SE air flow across the UK. The morning was almost cloudless with prolonged early sunshine, though the afternoon became more cloudy as time progressed. Maximum temperatures reached 21.1C and a total of 7.5 hours of bright sunshine was recorded. The 31<sup>st</sup> dawned with more in the way of cloud, mostly high or medium, and the day thus saw less in the way of sunshine as the SE wind gradually freshened. Afternoon sunshine was very limited though temperatures did climb to 20.4C. By 18.36 UTC the sky was obscured and intermittent light rain commenced, which was to last until 2224 by which time it had become continuous. The overnight fall to 09.00 UTC on the 1<sup>st</sup> was 3.1mm.

### AUGUST SUMMARY.

August did a little to salvage the summer of 1998, ending with all mean temperatures around, or a little above, normal. In fact the warmest day, the 11<sup>th</sup>, with a maximum of 27.5C was a degree above expectation. Five days saw maximums equal to, or above, 25C, far fewer than either last year (15) or 1995 (17).

Sunshine was around a fifth above average at 203.3 hours, and only one day was totally sunless, barely a third of normal whilst the sunniest day (5<sup>th</sup> with 13.8 hours) was some 10 percent higher than expectation.

Total rainfall ended at 63 percent of the 30 year mean, with rain falling over 11 days of which 8 were "wet" and 4 "wetter" ( $\geq 5\text{mm}$ ). No day saw a fall in excess of 25.4mm and amongst wet Augusts 1946 still holds the record with its fall of 185.7mm.