

AUGUST 2000.

The month began with a continuation of the unsettled weather which had set in at the end of July. Days were relatively mild with the occasional showers, some heavy and periods of sunshine, none long lasting. The first week was relatively warm with the highest maximum of 24.5C occurring on the 5th and the lowest maximum no lower than 18.9C.

The period was also quite sunny with a total of 43 hours for the week, the best day being the 1st with 10.2 hours and no day completely sunless. Rain fell on 5 days giving a total of 11.2mm, the highest fall of 5.1mm occurring on the 2nd. Winds were mainly north westerly gusting to 24 knots on the 2nd.

The second week remained warm with maximum temperatures in the low to mid 20's for the entire period, peaking at 25.1C on the 12th. Winds were variable and light peaking at 21 knots on the 9th. The week was also relatively dry, a total of just 4mm falling over the 7 days, the worst fall being a mere 2.2mm on the 14th. Sun occurred on every day totalling 28.9 hours, the sunniest day, the 12th, providing 11 hours. The period was characterised by sunny mornings, any rain which fell coming generally during the afternoons and evenings, mainly in the form of showers.

The third week saw a change to more variable weather, conditions being governed by low, rather than high, pressure. The first 4 days saw rain, some of this quite heavy on the 18th as a front moved from the south west across the Midlands. Temperatures also fell back a little, the period from the 10th to the 17th inclusive [8 days] having had maxima above 21C.

The drier interlude which began on the 19th continued until the 25th, no measurable rain falling during this period. Sunshine totals were also well up with 55.1 hours between the 20th and 24th inclusive. Temperatures remained high throughout, peaking at 26.6C on the 25th which was the hottest day of the month. During the 25th a thundery breakdown occurred though this area saw very little of it though lightning was observed over a wide area during the night of the 25th/26th. At around 1143 am on the 28th rain was falling at the rate of 73mm per hour, by far the heaviest of the month.

The last part of the month saw more in the way of low pressure, though rainfall was restricted mainly to shower activity with reasonable spells of sunshine. Mornings were beginning to show signs of impending autumn as mist was quite widespread on the 30th for a period around dawn.

Despite appearances the month was warm, dry and sunny with rainfall less than 70% of expectation and sunshine some fifth above the August average. No day was completely sunless and the daily average ended at 6.6 hours. Temperatures held up well with 19 days seeing values above 21.1C [70F] and 3 days above 25C [77F].