

APRIL SUMMARY.

The flow of pressure systems that had dominated much of the weather during the latter part of March persisted into the new month. This resulted in a continuation of the unsettled conditions with rain, high winds, and relatively low temperatures. The by-now sodden ground was unable to take much in the way of additional rainwater so the threat of floods once more began to dominate the minds of riverside dwellers. Rainfall for the week amounted to 48mm [1.89ins] with the greatest fall of 17.7mm [0.70in] on the 3rd. At 1456 on the 6th rain was falling at the rate of 45mm [1.77in] per hour during a thunderstorm.

With so much rain sunshine was suppressed, the total for the week amounting to 23.1 hours, 7.6 hours of this occurring on the 1st. No day was sunless though on the 5th just 6 minutes was recorded.

Temperatures started high at 16C [61F] on the 1st and then began to fall back under the succession of relatively dull and wet days. By the 7th the daytime maximum was no higher than 9.4C [48.9F]. We are still to see the magical 21C [70F]. Two grass frosts occurred, on the 3rd {-1.1C [30.0F]} and the 5th {-0.8C [30.6F]}.

Winds were generally from a westerly quarter with just one day with an ESE component on the 2nd. No gust exceeded gale force, the maximum being to 29 knots [33mph] on the 3rd.

A further 11.4mm [0.45in] of rain was added to the appreciable total as the second week began, the morning of the 8th being sunny with the by now regular breakdown to rain during the afternoon. Conditions remained generally unsettled with temperatures rather depressed apart from on the 9th when daytime maxima reached 16.0C [61F]. A ground frost to -1.6C [29.1F] occurred on the morning of the 12th with winds again moving to an easterly quarter on the 13th heralding much cooler conditions for the Easter weekend. The week was generally unsettled with total rainfall amounting to 18.7mm [0.74in] and sunshine 13.4 hours. The minimum temperature for the week was 1.2C [34.2F] on the 12th with ground frost to -1.6C [29.1F].

The Easter weekend remained unsettled with spells of sunshine and showers and cool conditions. In fact on the 18th both hail and snow showers were observed during the afternoon in a brisk NW wind. The third week heralded drier, though colder weather, with good sunshine totals. The week produced 40.3 hours of bright sunshine, over 10 hours of this on the 19th and with no sunless days. Rainfall totalled 6mm [0.24in], falling over 5 days. Night frost was quite common, occurring on 5 occasions the worst to -3.4C [25.9F] on the 21st over grass.

The fourth week saw the unsettled spell reintroduced, with heavy rain from the 22nd to 24th inclusive, 15mm [0.59in] falling on the 22nd. The week produced a total fall of 34.3mm [1.35ins], the wettest of the month. Sunshine was good, amounting to 32.2 hours, with 8.9 hrs on the 23rd. Temperatures continued around the lower teens for much of the time the best day being the 27th with 14.3C [16.8F].

The final two days began sunny and remained dry with ground frosts n both days. In fact the 29th saw 10.8 hours sunshine, the best of the month though the final day saw an air, as well as ground frost.