

APRIL SUMMARY.

The month was dry, especially for the first three weeks which saw just 7.4mm/0.29in of rain falling. Once the spell broke on the 25th rain fell every day sufficient to bring the total for the month to 68% of the normal fall leaving 19 completely dry days, quite unusual for April with its reputation for “showers”. In fact, the most intense fall for the month occurred on the final day with rain at a rate of 42mm/1.65in per hour at 16.19GMT.

Sunshine was almost half as much again as is usual with a total of 201.1 hours that was still the lowest since 1998. No day was sunless and we had a maximum of 12.1 hours on the 6th giving 1 “very sunny” day [<12 hrs] and 9 “sunny” days [<9 hrs].

Temperatures held up very well, peaking at 21.7C/71.1F on the 23rd with a mean maximum of 14.5C/58.1F, 2° above the 30-year mean and the highest since 1987. Nights were cool with 7 ground and 4 air frosts recorded, the former just half of expectation and the lowest since 1999.

Hail occurred on 3 occasions, once with a line squall on the 28th, though no thunder was heard. Neither was there any incidence of snow or sleet. Winds were predominantly westerly at 6.4 knots/7.7mph with a maximum gust of 39 knots/46.8mph on the 28th giving just one day with above gale-force gusts.

Solar radiation temperatures peaked at 54.7C/130.5F on the 24th, a new April record for this site [previous 54.4C/129.9F in 1964]. Solar radiation peaked at 1.092 kwatts.sq. metre on the 28th giving us yet another warm, sunny and dry month.