

NOVEMBER SUM-  
MARY 2002

November has been an untypical month, warm, very wet though not particularly sunny. Much of this was brought about by the prevailing wind direction turning far more easterly than is the norm, deep lows crossing the country bringing spells of moderate or heavy rain and fresh winds, especially in coastal areas.

All soil and earth temperatures show positive anomalies, by as much as  $3.2^{\circ}\text{C}$  for the mean soil surface. The 2nd was the warmest November day since 1998 whilst the 6th produced the warmest November night since 1996 with the grass minimum on the 18th giving the highest such figures on record here falling no lower than  $-2.4^{\circ}\text{C}/27.7^{\circ}\text{F}$ . Solar radiation temperatures also broke old records, the maximum of  $40.1^{\circ}\text{C}/104.2^{\circ}\text{F}$  of the 4th and the mean at  $25.5^{\circ}\text{C}/77.9^{\circ}\text{F}$  both giving the highest figures since records began in 1956.

Rainfall figures gave the 8th wettest November since 1946 whilst the 26 rain days ended just 1 below the absolute record of 27 first set in 1951. It was also the least sunny November since 1997. However, no snow or sleet was recorded, a feature which is becoming more regular nowadays, with 8 such instances in the last decade. Also, no gale force wind gusts were noted.

Full cloud cover occurred on 17 days at 0900 whilst just 9 days saw less than half cover for the same hour. In addition, the 6 ground frosts was the lowest total since 1994 [3] and the 1 air frost was the lowest number since 2000.

The general climate of this area is undoubtedly changing with the "autumns" becoming warmer and very much wetter with a drop in the occurrence of snow, sleet and air frost. What influence man's activities are having on this is much more difficult to determine.