

### OCTOBER DATA

As September gave way to October signs at last began to appear that suggested a change in the long spell of dry weather might be at hand. This proved a false hope as the rain, which fell on the first two days, was light and quickly evaporated. High pressure remained very much in evidence, though it was not, by now, the dominant feature of the synoptic situation. Pressure gradually declined though rain fell on only 3 days, the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> totalling 3.7mm/0.15in of which 2.3mm/0.09in fell on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Sunshine was plentiful, with a weekly total of 35.9 hours, the best day, October 3<sup>rd</sup> providing 9.4 hours of this.

Winds were very variable in direction and were light, the maximum gust which occurred on the 5<sup>th</sup> reaching no higher than 20knots/23mph. Radiation levels are now falling quite rapidly with a maximum value of 0.687 kilowatt per square metre occurring on the 5<sup>th</sup>, though, again, the maximum black bulb temperature did not coincide, and was recorded on the 2<sup>nd</sup> at 49.6°C/121.3°F. We are still to record any frost on the ground, though as nights become less cloudy, they are long enough now to produce ground frost in the period around dawn. Soil and earth temperatures are holding up well with values around 15°C/59°F at the surface, to figures in the 14's°C/57's°F at 100cm/39in depth.

The second week of October began with winds still in an easterly quarter though pressure had begun to fall as Atlantic depressions once more started to exert an influence on our weather. Air temperatures fell to more seasonal levels, ranging from a peak of 15.2°C/59.4°F on the 12<sup>th</sup> to a low of 2.1°C/35.8°F on the 13<sup>th</sup>, the grass falling to -1.2°C/29.8°F around dawn giving the first grass frost of the season and the lowest temperature since May 4<sup>th</sup>. The black bulb radiation maximum of 45.8°C/114.4°F occurred on the 12<sup>th</sup> this day also seeing the highest radiation level of 0.607 kilowatt per square metre.

Sunshine totals fell drastically reaching just 16.6 hours for the 7 days, the maximum total of 7.9 hours being recorded on the 9<sup>th</sup>. During the summer months this sort of total was regularly seen over a two-day period. After the spell of very dry weather that had occurred since the start of the summer, substantial rainfall took place during this period, a total of 50.7mm/2.00ins being recorded, the fall of 30.1mm/1.19ins on the 13<sup>th</sup> being the heaviest fall since July 17<sup>th</sup> in 2001. Rainfall duration amounted to 40.1hrs over the week with 21.5 hours of this coming on just one day, the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Winds, from an easterly quarter at first, remained light but became westerly or north westerly by the end of the week producing a maximum gust of 29knots/35mph during the passage of a front on the 13<sup>th</sup>. The high pressure that had dominated our weather for the best part of three months was eventually broken by the first autumnal depression on the 14<sup>th</sup>. This moved from the southwest to enter to North Sea around the Wash and was responsible for the heavy rain of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> as well as the first gales and severe gales of the season. Sea level pressure at 09hr ranged from 1014.1 hPa on the 11<sup>th</sup> to 1008.4hPa on the 14<sup>th</sup>.