

2003

## JUNE SUMMARY.

As summer months go, June 2003 was not a bad example. It was very sunny showing a surplus of almost a third over an average June with the 20<sup>th</sup> providing a near maximum of 15.3 hours, just 18 minutes below the all-time record of 15.6 hours set on June 29<sup>th</sup> 1995. Twelve days were sunny [ $>9$  hours daily] which was good but still well behind the 17 set in 1990, the sunniest year ever here. Just one day was totally without sun, the 3<sup>rd</sup>, against the normal expectation of 3 such days.

The month was not exceptionally wet, rain falling on 11 days, all well spaced, but of the total 58.1mm/2.29ins, some 32.3mm/1.27ins or 56% fell on one day, the 22<sup>nd</sup>. June 1998 saw 25 days with rain [83% of the month] whilst in 1949 we had just 3 days of rain [10% of the month] that shows just how variable our weather can be. The highest intensity of rain occurred on the 10<sup>th</sup> at 13.50 GMT when it registered 33mm/1.30ins per hour for a period of several minutes. Thunder was heard on 3 days, fortunately none as severe as that of last month that caused such a great deal of local damage.

In temperature terms June was very kind giving the warmest month since 1992. All readings of temperature, in the air, under soil or grass, were all well above the 30-year averages with the exception of one, that for the warmest night. This was June 19<sup>th</sup> with a temperature of 14.3C/57.5F which ended at 0.4C below the long-term mean. Some figures were exceptional, the coolest day, June 8<sup>th</sup> with 17.7C/63.9F ending over 5C above normal for the month.

Soil temperatures have all held up well, being above the long-term average by amounts varying from +1.6C at 100cm depth to +3.8C for the 5cm depth. In summary, 5 days were "hot" [maximum above 25C/77F]. No frost was recorded and the 3 thunderstorms did not produce any hail. The prevailing wind continued SW on 6 occasions with a mean 09hr speed of 4kn/5mph, the maximum gust of 32kn/38mph occurring on the 19<sup>th</sup> giving another month free of gale force gusts. Cloud amount was variable and ended at 73% cover on average, with a mean humidity of 75%, some 5% below expectation due to the dry air experienced for much of the month.

Evaporation totalled 83.9mm/3.30ins that, against rainfall totals of 58.1mm/2.29ins gave a water deficit of 25.8mm/1.02ins for the month as a whole. The ground remains very dry and rain is soon soaked up with very little, if any, run off. Even the heavy fall on the 22<sup>nd</sup> failed to produce any soil erosion or run off. Pressure patterns were very variable with little evidence of the Azores high having any marked effect on our weather. Much of the month was governed by low-pressure systems, hence the south westerly flow of air and high temperatures.

Looking at long term figures, the highest maximum of 27.6C/81.7F was the highest since 2001 whilst the lowest minimum of 6.4C/43.5F was the same as in 2000. The lowest

maximum of 17.7C/63.9F on the 8<sup>th</sup> was the highest since 1983 with the highest minimum of 14.3C/57.7F recorded on the 19<sup>th</sup> was the lowest since 2000. June 2003 was thus a very pleasant, if not record-breaking, summer month.