

THE SUMMER OF 1994 IN CONTEXT

THOUGH THE SUMMER WHICH ENDED ON AUGUST 31ST BROKE NO LONG-STANDING RECORDS, IT DID MERIT ITS POSITION AS THE BEST IN 18 YEARS, LYING SECOND TO THAT OF 1976 FOR THIS AREA IN OVERALL CONDITIONS.

THE MEAN DAILY TEMPERATURE OF 16.1C/61F WAS THE FIFTH BEST IN 39 YEARS LYING JUST BEHIND THAT OF 1990. THE ALL-TIME RECORD SUMMER OF 1978 SAW A MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 17.3C/63F.

THE SUMMER OF 1994 PRODUCED 14 HOT DAYS (TEMPERATURES ABOVE 25C/77F), WHILST 1993 SAW ONLY 4 AND 1992 JUST 5. EXCEPTIONALLY HOT SUMMERS WERE 1990, 1989 AND 1989. THE HOTTEST OF ALL, 1976, SAW 35 DAYS WITH TEMPERATURES ABOVE 25C/77F.

IN TERMS OF SUNSHINE 1994, WITH ITS 659 HOURS, LAY IN 5TH POSITION OVERALL SINCE 1956, WITH 1989 THE BEST ON RECORD. THE DULLEST SUMMER WAS 1987.

THE TOTAL OF SUNLESS DAYS THIS SUMMER WAS 5, EQUALLING 1960 AND 1970, AND WAS IN 4TH EQUAL POSITION IN 39 YEARS OF RECORDS. THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF SUNLESS DAYS OCCURRED IN 1977, CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY 1992. THUS 1994 PRODUCED A SUMMER WELL ABOVE THE NORMAL FOR THE AREA.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WITH AN EYE FOR PATTERNS IN NATURE, GIVE THIS A LITTLE THOUGHT. WE HAD SEVERE WINTERS IN 1947, 1963 AND 1979, WHICH REVEALS A SEQUENCE DIFFERING BY 16 EACH TIME. SIXTEEN YEARS FROM 1979 GIVES US 1995. NOT A PREDICTION, BUT WORTH WATCHING.