

SUMMARY FOR APRIL 2000

April was the wettest on record here, at least since 1946, with almost 260% of the monthly average falling. Rain fell on 20 days for a total of 227.9 hours making it an exceptionally wet month. 18 days were "wet" (>1m [0.04in]) and 13 "wetter" (>5mm[0.20in]) with 7 days "very wet" producing over 10mm [0.39in]. The maximum intensity of 28mm/hr (1.10in/hr) occurred on the 26th.

Despite all of the rain the month ended with a surplus of sunshine with 142.2 hours in total. There were 6 sunless days, twice the monthly mean with the sunniest days producing 12.1 hours on the 6th.

Temperatures were depressed as a result of the almost incessant rain, the mean maximum being down by 0.2C and the mean daily by 0.1C. The 3rd managed a maximum of just 3.1C (37.6F) giving the coldest April day since 1986 with its 2.8C (37.0F) and the 5th coldest since 1956.

To add to the gloom snow occurred on 2 days with snow or sleet on 4 and hail on 1. Thunder was heard on 3 occasions, over 4 times the normal for the month, though no gales occurred winds being predominantly from the south at 5.7 knots (6.6mph). The maximum gust on the 4th reached 35 knots (40mph) giving the only day when gusts were above gale force.

There were 5 air and 9 ground frosts, both about normal for April and all soil temperatures have managed to maintain positive anomalies. This was mainly due to the high levels of global radiation, the maximum of 1.1452 kw/sq.metre occurring on the 27th and with the total for the month reaching 5089 kw/sq.metre.

All in all a very poor Spring month. Let us hope better things are in store for May.