

SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR 2001.

The year 2001 saw something of a “blip” in the trend of Global Warming, the mean daily temperature reaching 9.7°C [49.5°F], 0.5°C [0.8°F] above the 30-year mean, though it was 0.4°C [0.7°F] down on last year and the lowest since 1996. The highest maximum reached was 30.1°C [86.2°F] on June 26th, the best figure since 1997. The number of hot days (max \geq 25°C [77°F]) was 13, around average and the best since 1999. The coldest day with a maximum of 1°C [33.8°F] was January 18th, whilst the warmest night was July 3rd with a minimum no lower than 17.7°C [63.9°F]. Frost occurred on the ground on 111 occasions, the highest since 1991 whilst an air frost occurred on 64 nights, the highest since 1996.

Rainfall totalled 729.9mm [28.74ins], a little down on normal and falling over 644 hours, rather higher than expected. Rain fell on 183 days, the lowest since 1997 with 2 falls in excess of 25.4mm [1in] over 24 hours. The heaviest rate of rainfall was on June 15th when it was recorded at a rate of 137mm/hr [5.40ins/hr].

Snow fell on 19 days with snow or sleet on 22, the lowest figures since 1996. Snow actually lay at 09.00 on just 5 days of which two were in December, and then to a maximum depth of 8cm [3ins]. Hail occurred on 7 occasions, somewhat lower than expectation, with thunder heard on 18 days, the highest since 1983.

Sunshine totalled 1563 hours, the best since 1999 and over 100 hours above the 30-year mean. The sunniest day with 15.2 hours was June 24th, around average, and in all 49 days were totally sunless, also the best since 1999. The 52 days which had over 9 hours sunshine each was similar to the past few years whilst the 18 days seeing above 12 hours daily was the best since 1999.

Wind direction followed the usual pattern with 57 occasions producing a WSW direction and averaging 5.4 knots [6mph] in speed. The maximum gust of 38 knots [46mph] occurred on December 5th though at no time during the year was there a gale.

Mean sea level pressure varied from a high of 1044.8hPa on February 17th to a low of 977.1 hPa on January 2nd, the mean reaching 1015.4 hPa, all values much in line with the annual means .

2001 thus ended slightly cooler overall than the years in the immediate past, but still well above the 1971-2000 means.