

## METEOROLOGICAL REPORT FOR SHANKLIN, ISLE OF WIGHT, 2023

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### Abstract

Shanklin Weather Station was established in January 1947 for the recording of rainfall, and January 1948 for the recording of temperature and sunshine. The Station is owned by the Isle of Wight Council and is maintained by the Met Office. The station is situated at The Mead, a park area near Shanklin 'Old Village' towards the outskirts of the town and is 50 feet above sea level. The station is a simple one consisting of a 5" standard rain gauge and a Stevenson's Screen equipped with three thermometers. Readings and observations are taken once daily at 09.00GMT. The Campbell Stokes sunshine recorder is located on the roof of Shanklin Theatre, at a height of 180 feet above sea level. All averages refer to the Shanklin climate data set 1991-2020.

The weather for 2023 was yet again remarkable: it was provisionally the warmest year on record and also the wettest year on record. The winter was drier than normal with February being very dry followed by a wet March. The last three months of the year were very wet with October being the wettest October since my records began. The record high temperature for September, 27.6°C, was recorded on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

### JANUARY

2023 started wet and mild, with a colder spell from the 16<sup>th</sup> of the month. The mean temperature for January was 6.37°C, which was 0.20°C above average. The warmest day was the 4<sup>th</sup>, when 12.3°C was recorded. The coldest day was the 17<sup>th</sup> when the temperature only reached 2.9°C. The coldest night was the 23<sup>rd</sup> with an overnight temperature of -3.7°C, one of the five air frosts recorded in January. This was the lowest January overnight temperature since 2015.

The rainfall total was 131.1mm, 125% of its average. Rain was recorded on 17 days; the average is 18. The highest amount in a 24-hour period was recorded on the 15<sup>th</sup> and was 25.2mm.



**Fig. 1:** A mammatus cloud, photographed on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 above Godshill.

This phenomenon occurs after a heavy shower has passed over, and it is caused by turbulence inside the cloud.  
Photo: Clive Cooper

### FEBRUARY

February was a very mild month. The mean temperature was 6.81°C; this was 0.89°C above the average. The warmest day was the 19<sup>th</sup> with 12.0°C. The coldest day was the 28<sup>th</sup> with 7.2°C. The

minimum temperature was recorded on the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup>, when -1.8°C was logged.

The rainfall total was 10.4mm, which was 14% of the average. In my records, going back to 1983, the driest February was 1991 with 10.3mm. Rain was recorded on 7 days; the average is 14 and there was a period from 26<sup>th</sup> January to 14<sup>th</sup> February with no measurable rainfall. The wettest day was the 15<sup>th</sup> with 3.9mm of rain.

There was a dull, misty period from the 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### MARCH

March was a mild, wet month, with a mean temperature of 7.80°C; this was 0.6°C above the long-term average. The warmest day was the 17<sup>th</sup> with 13.2°C. The coldest day was the 10<sup>th</sup> with 6.0°C. The coldest overnight temperature, recorded on the 15<sup>th</sup>, was 0.3°C.

Rainfall for March amounted to 132.4mm which was 221% of the average. The wettest day was the 9<sup>th</sup> with 25.7mm. Rain was recorded on 22 days; the average is 14.

### APRIL

April was a wet, cold month. The mean temperature was 8.91°C which was 0.50°C below the long-term average. The warmest day was the 20<sup>th</sup> with 15.6°C. The coldest day was 14<sup>th</sup> with 8.9°C. The coldest night was recorded on the morning of 5<sup>th</sup> when 0.3°C was logged.

The rainfall amounted to 81.7mm, 151% of the average. The wettest day was 27<sup>th</sup> with 21.9mm of rain.

### MAY

May was a mild, dry month. The mean temperature for May was 13.09°C and was 0.78°C above the average. The warmest days in May when a temperature of 20.4°C was recorded were 24<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. The coldest day was 2<sup>nd</sup>, with a recorded maximum of 13.0°C. The coldest overnight temperature, recorded on the morning of 17<sup>th</sup>, was 6.7°C.

The rainfall amounted to 45.0mm, which was 86% of the average. The wettest day was 8<sup>th</sup>, with 21.7mm recorded. Rain was recorded on 9 days; the average is 11. There was no rainfall recorded from the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

### JUNE

June was a hot and dry month. The mean temperature for June was 17.24°C, which was 2.30°C above average. The warmest day was the 13<sup>th</sup> with

26.4°C recorded. This was one of 15 days when the temperature exceeded 21.1°C. The coldest day was the 2<sup>nd</sup> with 15.9°C recorded. The coldest overnight temperature was recorded on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, when 8.2°C was logged.

Rainfall totalled 18.2mm and was 34% of average. The wettest day was the 19<sup>th</sup> with 6.9mm. Rain was recorded on 7 days, compared to the average of 10. The dry spell from May lasted till the 9<sup>th</sup> June.

Thunder was recorded early on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

After the first six months of 2023, the total rainfall was 418.8mm. This was 105% of the 1991-2020 average of 399.0mm, indicating so far the year had been slightly wetter than normal.

Temperatures were also higher than normal with five months having an above-average mean temperature. The six-month mean was 10.04°C, against the 1991-2020 average of 9.36°C.

#### JULY

The month was slightly cooler than average, and wet. The mean temperature for July was 16.82°C, 0.23°C below the average. The warmest day was the 8<sup>th</sup> with a recorded maximum of 23.6°C, one of 4 days when the temperature exceeded 21°C. The coldest day was the 4<sup>th</sup>, with a recorded maximum of 17.6°C. The coldest overnight temperature, recorded on the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup>, was 10.4°C.

July was a wet month with 117.3mm of rain, which was 224% of the average. The wettest day was the 26<sup>th</sup> with 29.6mm, closely followed by the 22<sup>nd</sup> with 25.7mm, of rain. Rain was recorded on 15 days; the average is 9.

Gales were recorded on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### AUGUST

A wet and slightly cooler than average month. The mean temperature for August was 16.86°C which was 0.32°C below the average. The hottest day was the 10<sup>th</sup>, with a recorded temperature of 22.8°C. There were 10 days when the temperature reached or exceeded 21.1°C. The coldest day was 2<sup>nd</sup> with 17.9°C. The lowest overnight temperature was on the 6<sup>th</sup>, when 10.4°C was recorded.

Rainfall for the month amounted to 120.2mm, 180% of the average. The wettest day was 17<sup>th</sup> with 34.7mm. Rain was recorded on 18 days; the average is 11.

Thunder was recorded on 24<sup>th</sup>.

Gales were recorded on 2<sup>nd</sup> of the month.

#### SEPTEMBER

Very warm and drier than normal. The mean temperature for September was 17.54°C and was 2.27°C above the average. The warmest day was the 9<sup>th</sup> with 27.6°C recorded, one of twelve days when the maximum temperature reached or exceeded 21.1°C. The temperature logged on the 9<sup>th</sup> was the highest September temperature that I have recorded. The coldest day was the 23<sup>rd</sup> when the temperature was 17.1°C. The lowest temperature overnight was recorded on the morning of the 23<sup>rd</sup> when 9.5°C was recorded.

Rainfall was 57.6mm, 80% of its average. The wettest days were 17<sup>th</sup> with 21.8mm and 20<sup>th</sup> with 19.3mm.

Storm Agnes arrived on the 27<sup>th</sup>; it was the first named storm of the season.

#### OCTOBER

Mild and very wet. The mean temperature for October was 14.50°C and was 2.05°C above average. The warmest day was the 8<sup>th</sup> with 22.9°C; the coldest day was the 15<sup>th</sup> with 12.2°C. The coldest overnight temperature was recorded on the 15<sup>th</sup> when the temperature fell to 5.2°C. October 2023 was a mild month and was equal 4<sup>th</sup> warmest with 2005, since my records began in 1983.

The rainfall for October was 287.3mm, 253% of its average. There were 19 days with rain recorded, compared to the average of 15. The days with the highest rainfall totals were 24<sup>th</sup> with 69.2mm, 27<sup>th</sup> with 29.3mm, and 30<sup>th</sup> with 28.9mm of rain. In total, 205.3mm of rain fell between 21<sup>st</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. This is the wettest October that I have recorded and the second wettest month that I have recorded. After November 2022, when 298.8mm of rain fell.

Thunder was recorded on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

There was one named storm, Babet, on 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### NOVEMBER

A very wet and mild month. The mean temperature for November was 9.62°C and was 0.49°C above the average. The warmest day was the 12<sup>th</sup> when 15.1°C was recorded. The coldest day was the 30<sup>th</sup> when 4.9°C was recorded. The lowest overnight temperature was recorded on the morning of 26<sup>th</sup> when -0.1°C was recorded, the first air frost of the autumn/winter. The temperature exceeded 10°C on 24 days.

There was 195.2mm of rain during the month which equated to 165% of the climate average. The wettest days were the 12<sup>th</sup> with 29.4mm of rain, 1<sup>st</sup> with 20.1mm, 8<sup>th</sup> with 19.3mm and 26<sup>th</sup> with 17.9mm. There were 21 days with rain recorded; the average is 16.

Gales were recorded on the 13<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Storm Ciaran arrived on 1<sup>st</sup> persisting into 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Storm Debi raged between 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### DECEMBER

A cold start, then very wet and mild from 7<sup>th</sup>. The mean temperature for December was 8.89°C and was 2.00°C above the average. The highest temperature was recorded on the 21<sup>st</sup> when 13.6°C was recorded. The coldest day occurred on the 1<sup>st</sup> when the temperature only reached 2.6°C. The lowest overnight temperature was recorded on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> when the temperature fell to -2.0°C, giving two of the four air frosts recorded during December.

Rainfall amounted to 178.3mm and was 150% of the climate average. The wettest day was 8<sup>th</sup> with 37.1mm; other high daily totals were recorded on 3<sup>rd</sup> with 29.6mm, 7<sup>th</sup> with 20.6mm and 19<sup>th</sup> with 10.9mm. There were 24 days with rain recorded; the average for December is 16.

There was a very windy spell at the end of the month. In the last nine days of the month, gales were recorded on six of them.

There were three named storms for December: Storm Elin on 9<sup>th</sup>, Fergus on 10<sup>th</sup> and Gerrit on 27<sup>th</sup>.

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Comparisons of 2023 figures with the climate average 1991 - 2020 serve to emphasise the exceptional weather conditions that we have experienced this year

**Table 1: Monthly Weather Summary - 2023**

Month	Average Temp °C	Mean Max. Temp °C	Mean Min. Temp. °C	Rainfall mm
January	6.37	8.72	4.02	131.10
February	6.81	9.33	4.28	10.40
March	7.80	10.15	5.45	132.40
April	8.91	11.97	5.85	81.70
May	13.09	16.91	9.26	45.00
June	17.24	21.36	13.12	18.20
July	16.82	19.63	14.00	117.30
August	16.86	19.98	13.75	120.20
September	17.54	20.91	14.17	57.60
October	14.50	16.84	12.16	287.30
November	9.62	11.91	7.33	195.20
December	8.89	11.08	6.69	178.30
<b>Yearly Figure</b>	<b>12.04</b>	<b>14.90</b>	<b>9.17</b>	<b>1374.70</b>

**Table 2: Monthly Weather Averages 1991-2020**

Month	Mean Max. Temp °C	Mean Min. Temp. °C	Rainfall mm
January	8.46	3.87	105.1
February	8.41	3.42	73.57
March	10.31	4.49	60.01
April	12.86	5.96	53.99
May	15.85	8.78	52.19
June	18.41	11.47	54.15
July	20.49	13.61	52.27
August	20.53	13.84	66.81
September	18.49	12.05	72.43
October	15.17	9.73	113.4
November	11.69	6.57	118.4
December	9.27	4.51	118.8
<b>Yearly Figure</b>	<b>14.19</b>	<b>8.22</b>	<b>941.2</b>

NB Hours of sunshine not recorded in 2023

