

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT FOR SHANKLIN, ISLE OF WIGHT FOR THE YEAR 2009

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Abstract

Shanklin Weather Station was established approximately 59 years ago. It is classed as a Health Resort Station and is owned and maintained by the Isle of Wight Council. The station is situated at The Mead, a park area just past 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 four thermometers. Readings and observations are taken once daily at 09.00GMT. The Campbell Stokes sunshine hours recorder is located on the roof of Shanklin Theatre which, at 180 feet above sea level, is the highest point in the town.

TEMPERATURES

The yearly mean temperature was 11.29°C and was 0.41°C above the long-term average. The months with the highest positive anomalies were November with 2.0°C, April with 1.5°C, October with 1.0°C, September with 0.9°C, June with 0.8°C, March with 0.7°C, May with 0.6°C, and August with 0.4°C. February's average temperature was equal to its long-term average. There were three months with a negative anomaly; July with 0.1°C, December with 1.1°C and January with 1.6°C. The winter period December 2008 - February 2009 was the coldest since the winter December 1996 - February 1997. The spring of 2009 was the second warmest behind 2007 in the last 27 years and the autumn was the second warmest behind 2006. However, the average summer temperature was close to its average.

The highest temperature of the year was 24.0°C and occurred on 14th August. There was a total of 26 days (5 days less than the long-term average) when the temperature reached or exceeded 21.1°C (70°F): - 1 in May, 8 in June, 2 in July, 11 in August and 4 in September. The lowest maximum daytime temperature, 1.5°C, was recorded on 6th January. The highest overnight temperature was 17.3°C and was recorded on the 1st August. The lowest overnight minimum temperature was - 5.4°C on 7th January. There was a total of 22 air frosts, defined as a temperature below 0.0°C; 7 in January, 5 in February, 1 in March and 9 in December. The latest frost was recorded on 21st March. The first frost of the autumn was recorded on 14th December.

RAINFALL

The rainfall for the year 2009 totalled 1001.1mm representing 115% of the long-term average. This is the 5th time in 27 years that over 1000mm have been recorded in Shanklin, the other years being 1993 with 1011.3mm, 1994 with 1013.9mm, 2000 with 1190.4mm and 2002 with 1206.1mm. There were 176 days with measurable rainfall, the highest number of rain days since the year 2000. The five months with above average rainfall were November with 251.7mm, December with 153.2mm, January with 130.3mm, July with 62.6mm and February with 79.0mm. This represented 238%, 154%, 139%, 130%, and 124%, respective positive anomalies. The seven months with below average rainfall were September with 37.5mm, August with 31.8mm, May with 33.8mm, March with 41.7mm, June with 31.7mm, April with 45.4mm and October with 102.4mm. This represents 53%, 62%, 65%, 66%, 70%, 79%, 88% respective negative monthly anomalies.

An amount of rainfall reaching or exceeding 25.4mm (1 inch) in a 24hr period ending at 09.00GMT, occurred on four days; 22nd January with 30.9mm, 8th February with 40.3mm, 7th October with 30.4mm, 12th November with 32.0mm.

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SUNSHINE

The total sunshine hours for 2009 was 2050.1, which represents 115% of the long-term average. The sunshine for the three summer months, June, July and August totalled 748.5hrs. The sunniest month of the year was June with 260.3 hours, representing 105% of its long-term average. During 2009 six months of the year had above average sunshine hours. The months with the highest sunshine anomalies were March with 213.0 hours - 165% long term average, December with 85.2 hours - 139% long term average, September with 201.8 - 117% long term average and April 215.2hours - 110% long term average. May and June had slightly above average sunshine hours but were within 10% of the normal. January equalled its average. There were five months that did not attain their monthly average; October with 105.9 hours of sunshine achieved only 85% of its long term average. The other months that did not reach their long average were February and November with 90% and July and August with 98% of their long term average. The sunniest day of the year occurred on the 2nd June when 15.1 hours of sunshine was recorded.

Between the 1st May and 30th September there were 56 days on which over 10 hours of sunshine was recorded. This is four days less than the long-term average.

MISCELLANEOUS PHENOMENA

Thunder

Thunder was heard on 3 days compared to the long-term average of 10; 1 in February and 2 in July.

Hail

Hail was recorded on 3 days; 1 each in March, November and December.

Sleet / Snow

Sleet and/or snow fell on 9 days; 1 day in January, 4 days in February, 1 day in March and 3 days in December. Falls were mainly light in Shanklin apart from the 3rd February, when 2cm was recorded on Shanklin Mead.

Gales

Gales occurred on 19 days during the year; 2 in January, 1 in February, 1 in March, 1 in August, 2 in September, 1 in October and 11 in November. November was very stormy and around mid month mean wind speeds were about 50 miles per hour with gusts approaching 70 miles per hour causing trees to be blown down and ferries disrupted.

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MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – 2009

MONTH HOURS	AVERAGE TEMP.	MEAN MAX.	MEAN MIN.	RAINFALL	SUN
JAN	4.3	6.7	1.9	130.3	68.5
FEB	5.5	8.1	3.0	79.0	80.6
MAR	7.7	11.0	4.4	41.7	213.0
APR	10.3	13.5	7.0	45.4	215.2
MAY	12.6	15.9	9.3	33.8	255.9
JUN	15.5	19.2	11.7	31.7	260.3
JLY	16.7	19.4	14.0	62.6	252.0
AUG	17.5	20.5	14.4	31.8	236.2
SEP	15.9	19.3	12.4	37.5	201.8
OCT	13.3	15.7	10.9	102.4	105.9
NOV	10.7	12.8	8.7	251.7	75.5
DEC	5.6	8.2	2.9	153.2	85.2
YEARLY FIGURE	11.29	14.19	8.38	1001.1	2050.1

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