

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT FOR SHANKLIN, ISLE OF WIGHT FOR THE YEAR 2006

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Abstract

Shanklin Weather Station was established approximately 57 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 twice daily at 09.00GMT and 17.00GMT. The Campbell Stokes recorder is located on the roof of Shanklin Theatre which, at 180 feet above sea level, is the highest point in the town. Readings here are taken at 17.00GMT. I have access to some old Weather Diaries and all averages, etc refer to the period 1983 - 2006.

Summary

2006 was a year of records. It began with the coldest winter since 1996/1997. January was the third driest January in 24 years. June was the sunniest, driest and second warmest in 24 years and July was the sunniest and warmest. In the media, July 2006 was cited as the warmest ever month since records began. September and October were the warmest and November was the sunniest in 24 years. The culmination of the high temperatures resulted in the warmest summer and autumn in the last 24 years. 2006 was probably the warmest year on record.

Temperatures

The winter of 2005/2006 was the coldest winter since 1996/1997. The weather warmed up and the subsequent July was the warmest on record with above average temperatures being maintained for the rest of the year the summer and the autumn were the warmest since my records began. The yearly mean temperature was 11.71°C and was 0.93°C above the long-term average. 2006 was the warmest year on record, marginally warmer than 2002, which had a yearly mean of 11.67°C. There were nine months with above average temperatures. The months with positive anomalies were September with 2.7°C, July with 2.6°C, October with 2.5°C, November 1.6°C, December with 1.2°C, June with 1.1°C, April with 0.6°C and May and August each with 0.4°C. There were three months with a negative anomaly; March with 1.1 °C, February with 0.8°C and January with 0.1 °C. Overall the mean minimum temperature was 1.05°C above the yearly average and the mean maximum was 0.83°C above the yearly average.

The highest temperature of the year was 28.8°C and occurred on 17th July. There was a total of 57 days (27 days more than the long-term average) when the temperature reached or exceeded 21.1°C 70F; 11 in June, 24 in July, 13 in August and nine in September. The lowest maximum daytime temperature of 1.2°C was recorded on 2nd February. The highest overnight temperature was 18.2°C and was recorded on 6th August. The lowest overnight minimum temperature was -2.4°C on 25th January. There was a total of 18 air frosts (defined as a temperature below 0.0°C); five in January, six in February, five in March and two in December. The latest spring frost was recorded on 5th March. The first frost of the autumn/winter was recorded on 20th December.

Rainfall

The rainfall for the year 2006 totalled 720.2mm representing 83% of the long-term average. 2006 was the driest year since 1991. 2006 was 2.9mm drier than 2005, and the fourth consecutive year with below average rainfall. There were 155 days with measurable rainfall. The three months with above average rainfall were December with 111.8mm (111% LTA), March with 71.8mm

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(116% LTA) and May with 84.4mm. (188% LTA). The nine months with below average rainfall were: June with 4.4mm (10% LTA), January with 18.4mm (18% LTA), August with 28.4mm (56% LTA), July with 29.3mm (66% LTA), April with 41.9mm (69% LTA), October with 103.2mm (85% LTA), September with 62.2mm (88% LTA), February with 60.4mm (97% LTA), and November with 104.0mm (98% LTA).

An amount of rainfall reaching or exceeding 25.4mm (1 inch) in a 24 hour period ending at 09.00GMT, did not occur during 2006 - the first time since 1984. The wettest day was the 13th September when 24.0mm was recorded.

Sunshine

The total sunshine hours for 2006 was 2083.2 which represents 111% of the long-term average. Last year was the fourth consecutive year where 2000 hours of sunshine was exceeded. The sunshine for the three summer months, June, July and August totalled 918.6 hours. The sunniest month of the year was July with 340.4 hours, representing 134% of its long-term average. During 2006 there were seven months with above average sunshine; November with 155% LTA (126.2 hours), July with 134% LTA (340.4 hours), June with 132% LTA (320.3 hours), March with 109% (135.2 hours) August and September both with 107% LTA (257.9 and 183.4 hours respectively) and April with 103% LTA (196.4 hours). The five months not to attain their monthly average were May with 87% LTA (211.0 hours), February with 89% LTA (78.7 hours), January with 91% (63.6 hours) October and December both with 94% LTA (114.0 hours and 56.1 hours respectively). The sunniest day of 2006 was 14th July when 15.4 hours were recorded.

Between the 1st May and 30th September there were 64 days on which over 10 hours of sunshine were recorded. This is five days more than the long-term average.

Miscellaneous Phenomena

Thunder

Thunder was heard on 13 days compared to the long-term average of 10; four in July, two in August, one in September, five in October and one in November.

Hail

Hail was recorded on 4 days; one in April and three in November.

Sleet / Snow

Sleet and/or snow fell on 10 days: two in January, five in February and three in March. The falls were mainly light in Shanklin although snow was observed lying on the downs on the 24th March.

Gales

Gales occurred on 30 days during the year; two in January, two in February, five in March, four in May, one in September, three in October, five in November and eight in December.

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MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY - 2006

MONTH	AVE. TEMP. °C	MEAN MAX. °C	MEAN MIN. °C	RAINFALL mm	SUNSHINE HOURS
JAN	5.6	7.8	3.4	18.4	63.6
FEB	4.5	6.8	2.1	60.4	78.7
MAR	5.9	8.4	3.4	71.8	135.2
APR	9.2	12.2	6.2	41.9	196.4
MAY	12.3	15.4	9.2	84.4	211.0
JUN	15.7	19.8	11.5	4.4	320.3
JLY	19.4	23.5	15.3	29.3	340.4
AUG	17.5	21.0	14.1	28.4	257.9
SEP	17.6	20.5	14.7	62.2	183.4
OCT	14.7	17.0	12.3	103.2	114.0
NOV	10.3	13.3	7.3	104.0	126.2
DEC	7.9	10.4	5.5	111.8	56.1
YEARLY	11.71	14.67	8.75	720.2	2083.2
FIGURE					

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