

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT FOR SHANKLIN, ISLE OF WIGHT FOR THE YEAR 2004

Clive Cooper

Abstract

Shanklin Weather Station was established approximately 56 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 1983-2004.

TEMPERATURES

The yearly mean temperature was 11.3°C and was 0.6°C above the long-term average. 2004 was marginally warmer than 2003 by 2/100 of a degree, making it the 5th warmest year since 1983. The months with the highest positive anomalies were June with 1.4°C, January with 1.1°C, April and September each with 1.0°C. There were two months with a negative anomaly; March with 0.1°C and July with 0.6°C. Overall the mean minimum temperature was 0.7° above the yearly average and the mean maximum was 0.5° above the yearly average.

The highest temperature of the year was 26.8°C and occurred on 15th June. There was a total of 29 days (1 day less than the long-term average) when the temperature reached or exceeded 21.1°C (70°F): - 2 in May, 6 in June, 6 in July, 8 in August and 7 in September. The lowest maximum daytime temperature of 4.7°C was recorded on 25th February and the 26th December. The highest overnight temperature was 17.5°C and was recorded on the 3rd August. The lowest overnight minimum temperature was -3.8°C on 2nd March. There was a total of 18 air frosts, defined as a temperature below 0.0°C, 3 in January, 8 in February, 5 in March and 2 in December. The latest frost was recorded on 10th March. The first frost of the autumn was recorded on 26th December. This was the fifth consecutive year without an air frost being recorded in November at Shanklin.

RAINFALL

The rainfall for the year 2004 totalled 773.2mm representing 88% of the long-term average. 2004 was the driest year since 1996. There were 162 days with measurable rainfall. The five months with above average rainfall were August with 90.8mm, April with 85.6mm, July 53.5mm, October 144.4mm and January with 108.9mm. This represented 186%, 142%, 125%, 122%, and 110% respective positive anomalies. The seven months with below average rainfall were November with 35.2mm, February with 24.0mm, June with 23.9mm, September with 43.0mm, May with 32.7mm, March with 47.9mm, and December with 83.3mm, This represents 31%, 36%, 52%, 57%, 71%, 75%, 80%, 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 one day; 18th December with 30.1mm.

SUNSHINE

The total sunshine hours for 2004 was 2011.2 which represents 107% of the long-term average. The sunshine for the three summer months, June, July and August totalled 780.5hrs. The sunniest

CLIVE COOPER

month of the year was June with 295.0 hours, representing 123% of its long-term average. During 2004 there were eight months with above average sunshine. The months with the highest sunshine anomalies were June with 123% LTA (295.0 hours), January with 122% LTA (83.6 hours), March with 120% LTA (148.6 hours), September with 116% LTA (196.3 hours) and May with 114% (272.6 hours). The four months not to attain their monthly average were July with 97% LTA (245.5 hours), October with 96% LTA (118.4 hours), November with 80% LTA (64.3 hours) and December with 92% LTA (53.8 hours). The sunniest day of the year occurred on the 21st June when 15.4 hours of sunshine was recorded.

Between the 1st May and 30th September there were 65 days on which over 10 hours of sunshine was recorded. This is seven days more than the long-term average.

MISCELLANEOUS PHENOMENA

Thunder

Thunder was heard on 14 days compared to the long-term average of 10; 1 in February, March, April, May, 2 in June and July, 5 in October and 1 in November.

Hail

Hail was recorded on 13 days; 2 in January, February, and April. 6 in March, and 1 in October.

Sleet / Snow

Sleet and/or snow fell on 9 days: 1 day in January, 5 days in February, 2 in March and 1 in November. The falls were mainly light in Shanklin although snow was observed lying on two days 30th January and February 27th.

Gales

Gales occurred on 24 days during the year, 4 in January, 4 in February, 3 in March, 1 in June, 1 in July, 2 in September and 9 in October.

MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – 2004

MONTH	AVERAGE TEMP.	MEAN MAX.	MEAN MIN.	RAINFALL	SUN HOURS
JAN	6.7	9.1	4.4	108.9	83.6
FEB	6.1	8.7	3.6	24.0	94.7
MAR	6.9	9.9	3.8	47.9	148.6
APR	9.5	12.8	6.1	85.6	198.4
MAY	12.7	16.5	8.9	32.7	272.6
JUN	15.9	19.5	12.3	23.9	295.0
JLY	16.2	19.3	13.1	53.5	245.5
AUG	17.7	20.6	14.7	90.8	240.0
SEP	15.9	19.1	12.8	43.0	196.3
OCT	12.5	15.1	9.8	144.4	118.4
NOV	9.2	11.6	6.8	35.2	64.3
DEC	6.9	9.5	4.3	83.3	53.8
YEARLY FIGURE	11.3	14.3	8.4	773.2	2011.2

Author : Clive Cooper, 78 Whitecross Avenue, Shanklin, Isle of Wight PO37 7ET