

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT FOR 1999 (Shide, Newport)

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The following account and summary of the weather in 1999 have been compiled from my own records at Shide. The comparisons and averages relate to the 30 year period 1969/98 inclusive.

RAINFALL The total fall of 931.9 mm was 57.1 mm above the 1969/98 average but 128.8 mm below that of 1998. January, April, June, August, September and December were wetter than average, especially September and December, the latter was second-wettest since 1968; only 1993 soaked us more thoroughly. February, March, May, July, October and November were drier than average, especially July. Rainfall occurred on 177 days, 12 above the 30 year average. 25.4 mm (1 inch) fell on June 1st and 28.7 mm on August 2nd, 47.7 mm on September 22nd and 31.7 mm on December 24th.

SUNSHINE The only months with below average totals were April, May and August. Highest percentages in relation to my 11 year average were in October and December. The annual total of 1897.2 hrs was 225.2 hrs up on 1998 and 84.6 hrs above the 11 year average (1988/98 inclusive).

TEMPERATURE **The warmest year in my records.** The Winter period December 1998-February 1999 was mild again, January especially so (mildest since 1990). The Spring was also warmer than average, particularly in May with the third highest mean temperature in 31 years of records here. The Summer provided near-average warmth in June, the warmest July since 1995 and a quite warm August, particularly at night. Maxima reached or exceeded 20.9°C (70 °F to the nearest whole degree) on 7 days in May, 11 in June, 26 in July, 22 in August and 11 in September. The annual total of 77 days was 25 above average, and 10 more than in 1998. Maxima of 26.5 °C or more (80 °F to the nearest whole degree) occurred on as many as 12 days in July, 2 in August and 2 in September; total 16, the highest for 4 years. Warm nights (minimum in the Screen 15 °C, 59 °F or more) occurred as follows: 1 in June, 8 in July, 13 in August, and 5 in September, totalling 27 nights (21 in 1998). Freezing nights (-0.1 °C or less in the Screen) numbered 24 which was 9 below average. Ground frosts occurred on 62 nights (23 year average is 68). The hottest day was August 1st with 30.5 °C (87 °F), it was 81 °F at Shanklin and Ventnor on that day. The warmest night occurred on 2/3 August with 17.7 °C (64 °F). The year's coldest day (2.3 °C) was on 19th December, and the coldest night -4.9 °C (23.2 °F). **Every month of the year was warmer than average, probably a unique occurrence.**

SNOWFALL Snow fell as a shower in the early morning 15th April whilst a few blobs of sleet were noted a.m. on 8th February and late p.m. on 18th December; total 3 days. There were again no days with snow lying at 0900 hours. The 30 year averages are 9 and 3 respectively.

THUNDER was heard on the following days: January 16th, 17th; May 27th; June 1st, 2nd; August 2nd, 4th, 6th, 14th, 16th, 25th (2 significant storms on the 2nd). The total of 8 days thunder heard this Summer compares with 0 in 1998 and 10 in 1997. September also

produced thunder on 22nd, 23rd, 24th (storms quite significant on 22nd). A rumble of thunder on December 25th was reported to me.

WIND Whilst my sheltered situation is not representative of Newport as a whole, gusts to Beaufort Force 7 (32-38 mph) occurred on 27 days and reached Force 8 (39-46 mph) on 8 days. The highest gust was 45 mph on 15th January and the next highest 44 mph on Christmas Eve. It is likely that gusts reached 70/75 mph in exposed localities such as St Catherine's Point and the Needles on these days. The prevailing wind at 0900 GMT was south-west on 85 mornings, 21 above average), SW-NW winds were noted on 202 mornings (+23), whilst NE-SE winds occurred on 95 mornings (-17).

FOG I noted fog at some hour on 17 days, including 2 mornings at 0900 GMT: January 21st and March 12th. The 30 year averages are 19 and 9 days respectively (I record fog if I am unable to see St George's Down).

HAIL was seen to fall in small stones on January 26th; February 9th; March 3rd, 26th; April 12th, 13th, 14th; September 20th; December 25th. The total of 9 days was average for the 30 year period 1969/1998.

GENERAL An improvement on 1998. This was the warmest year in my records and the sunniest since 1995 with only 34 completely sunless days. Although rainfall was a little above average, overall, dry spells occurred in each season, the prize going to July. December, however, concluded the year with excessive rainfall and frequent high winds. All in all a good year although the wetness in the final month no doubt coloured some people's impressions to the year's detriment.

Mr Simmons is affiliated to the Weather Observers Network, a nation-wide amateur weather recorders' organisation. He has recorded the weather at Shide since 1969, where his station is classified as 'B' and has an exposure rating of 4. A 'B' category station has a standard screen with standard maximum and minimum thermometers, and official pattern rain gauge; morning observations are made at 0900 GMT or as near as possible. Exposure 4 is described as 'rather sheltered', 5 being average. A very exposed site would be allocated 9 and a very sheltered site 0. Sunshine is recorded by an Electronic Sunshine Recorder (R&D Electronics).

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF WEATHER AT SHIDE, NEWPORT IW 1999

	SUNSHINE (HOURS)					RAINFALL (MM)					TEMPERATURE (°C)				EXTREMES					
	Total (Hrs)	% of mean	Max Daily hrs	Date	Days	Total (mm)	% of Mean	Max Daily mm	Date	Days ≥ 0.2mm	Mean Max °C	Dev. °C	Mean Min °C	Dev. °C	Mean Temp °C	Dev. °C	Extremes of Temperature			
																	Max	Date	Min	Date
Jan	72.0	117	7.4	22nd	26	146.0	143	24.9	15th	24	9.9	+2.1	4.7	+1.9	7.3	+2.0	13.2	5,6th	-2.2	12th
Feb	95.8	112	8.4	9th	23	37.6	54	12.2	26th	15	9.6	+1.8	3.7	+1.3	6.7	+1.6	13.1	18th	-4.0	14th
Mar	147.0	117	11.1	28th	27	35.1	47	8.4	2nd	14	12.6	+2.4	4.1	+0.4	8.4	+1.4	20.7	17th	-1.7	10th
Apr	168.5	94	13.3	28th	28	59.2	117	15.5	20th	14	14.6	+1.7	6.4	+1.5	10.5	+1.6	20.1	27th	-0.7	14th
May	202.2	84	14.9	26th	29	23.4	45	12.5	17th	10	18.7	+2.2	10.1	+2.0	14.4	+2.1	25.7	29th	6.0	16th
Jun	243.6	114	15.4	24/25th	29	72.1	137	25.4	1st	15	20.0	+0.7	10.5	-0.4	15.3	+0.2	25.1	16th	6.5	8th
Jul	282.1	117	14.8	18th	31	6.1	14	4.3	19th	4	24.5	+3.0	13.6	+0.5	19.1	+1.8	30.1	11th	9.0	23rd
Aug	202.1	84	13.8	1st	30	98.0	178	28.7	2nd	16	22.1	+0.6	13.9	+0.9	18.0	+0.7	30.5	1st	8.3	20th
Sep	173.4	106	12.2	2nd	29	150.6	200	47.7	22nd	17	21.2	+2.6	13.2	+2.3	17.2	+2.5	27.7	11th	9.0	13th
Oct	152.0	123	10.3	5th	29	62.7	67	17.8	23rd	11	16.3	+1.2	8.4	0.0	12.3	+0.6	19.2	10th	0.6	6th
Nov	85.4	102	7.4	6th	28	43.7	41	10.7	5th	14	11.7	+0.6	6.0	+0.8	8.8	+0.7	16.8	1st	0.1	30th
Dec	73.1	138	6.6	19th	22	197.4	201	31.7	24th	23	9.4	+0.7	3.8	+0.1	6.6	+0.4	14.2	1st	-4.9	20th
YEAR	1897.2	105	15.4	24/25 June	331	931.9	106	47.7	22nd Sept	177	15.9	+1.6	8.2	+1.0	12.05	+1.3	30.5	1st Aug	-4.9	20th Dec

Dev. indicates the deviation from the mean 1969/98; conversion factors 25.4mm=1 inch ; °C to °F $9/5 °C +32 = °F$; Sunshine % of 1988/1998 mean