

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT FOR 2000
(Shide, Newport)

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The following account and summary of the weather in 2000 have been completed from my own records at Shide. The comparisons and averages relate to the 31 year period 1969/99 inclusive except for sunshine (1988/99 inclusive).

RAINFALL The total fall of 1294.1 mm was 417 mm above the 1969/99 average. February, April, May, September, October, November and December were wetter than average, April and October having the greatest excess relative to long-term means whilst January, March, June, July and August were drier than usual; January and March particularly so. The excessively wet period from mid-September to the end of November accounted for almost half the annual total. Rain fell on 193 days (28 above the 31 year average). Falls of at least 25.4 mm (1 inch) occurred on May 27th (27.9 mm), July 4th (27.4 mm), September 15th (54.1 mm), September 19th (27.9 mm), October 9th (51.1 mm), October 11th (34.3 mm), October 29th (37.9 mm), November 5th (45.0 mm), November 6th (26.2 mm), December 12th (25.9 mm) and December 31st (27.4 mm) – 11 days in all (31 year average is 3 days). Flooding occurred in some parts of the Island on September 15th, October 9th, November 15/16th and December 12th. 1960 seems to be the only year in the 20th Century to compare with 2000 for excessive rainfall when I recorded 1248.4 mm (49.15 in) on 206 days at Lake whilst Shanklin had 1370.3 mm (53.95 in) on 209 days.

SUNSHINE The year started well with January, February and March having above average sunshine; thereafter occurred nine months with varying degrees of shortage (see summary). The year's total of 1641.1 hrs was only 90% of the 1988/99 average and 256.1 hrs below that of 1999.

TEMPERATURE The Winter period December 1999- February 2000 inclusive was mild again overall, February particularly so. The Spring was predominantly mild in March and May but with some chilly days in April. Summer (June – August) temperatures were near-average with August being the warmest of the three months. Maxima reached or exceeded 20.9 °C (70 °F to the nearest whole degree) on 9 days in May (still Spring), 9 in June, 18 in July, 26 in August and 8 in September (Autumn). The total of 70 days was 17 above the 31 year average (77 in 1999) but only one day reached at least 80 °F (7 below the 31 year average). Warm nights (minimum in the Screen of above 15 °C, 59 °F) occurred as follows: 1 in June, 0 in July, 8 in August, and 8 in September, totalling 17 (1 above average). Freezing nights (-0.1 °C or less in the Screen) numbered 23 (10 below average). Ground frosts occurred on 61 nights (24 year average is 68). The hottest day (August 24th) had a maximum of 27.1 °C (80.8 °F). Shanklin had only 72 °F the same day owing to an onshore E – SE wind. The warmest night occurred on 13/14th August with 18.0 °C (64.4 °F). The year's coldest day (0.3 °C) was on 29th December, and the coldest night -5.7 °C (21.7 °F) occurred on 26/27th January.

SNOWFALL Again, another year with insignificant falls – a few grains (minute snowflakes) early on 24th January and light falls locally early on 4th April, during the morning of 27th December plus a few blobs of sleet in the rain on the afternoon of 31st December. No snow

lying at 0900 hrs for the third year in succession. The 31 year averages of snow/sleet seen and snow lying are 8 and 3 respectively.

THUNDER was heard on the following days: 17th, 18th April; 6th, 7th, 11th May (a significant storm mid-morning on 6th May); 9th, 20th June; 29th July; 3rd, 26th August; 15th September (heavy evening storm); 11th, 12th, 30th, 31st October; 10th, 13th December; a total of 17 days in all (31 year average 12).

WIND Whilst my sheltered situation is not representative of Newport as a whole, gusts to Beaufort Force 7 (32 - 38 mph) occurred on 37 days and reached Force 8 (39 - 46 mph) on 7 days (8 in 1999). The highest gust was 55 mph (Force 10) on 29th October when a 100 mph gust occurred at The Needles. The prevailing wind at 0900 GMT was south-west on 85 mornings, SW-NW winds were noted on 204 mornings whilst NE-SE winds occurred on 87 mornings.

FOG I noted fog at some hour on 19 days, including 2 mornings at 0900 GMT. The 31 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 26th, 28th March; 17th April; 27th May; 11th, 30th October; 2nd, 6th November and 13th December. The total of 9 days was average for the 31 year period.

GENERAL A very disappointing year with excessive rainfall in several months, particularly in the Autumn during the 11 weeks to 30th November. The Island was, however, relatively favoured in the Summer months with often pleasant, but not excess, warmth and quite low rainfall. Over the year as a whole sunshine was often in short supply. Only the mostly mild conditions were a "plus" in the year 2000.

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 2000

	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 ≥ 0.2 mm	Mean Max °C	Dev. °C	Mean Min °C	Dev. °C	Mean Temp °C	Dev. °C	Extremes of Temperature			
																	Max	Date	Min	Date
Jan	75.6	121	7.6	25th	25	34.8	33	18.3	3rd	11	8.8	+0.9	2.0	-0.9	5.4	0.0	12.2	30th	-5.7	27th
Feb	97.9	113	9.8	25th	24	78.0	114	14.0	7th	20	11.0	+3.1	4.5	+2.0	7.7	+2.5	13.2	8th	-2.3	20th
Mar	135.1	106	11.0	15th	27	19.6	27	3.6	3rd	12	12.4	+2.2	4.9	+1.1	8.6	+1.7	16.2	13th	-1.6	5th
Apr	141.3	79	12.4	29th	25	142.0	279	24.1	3rd	22	12.8	-0.1	5.3	+0.4	9.1	+0.1	17.1	30th	0.4	7th
May	224.7	95	14.2	29th	27	102.6	201	27.9	27th	15	18.3	+1.7	9.7	+1.6	14.0	+1.6	25.2	15th	4.7	20th
Jun	198.9	92	15.4	18th	29	24.4	46	10.2	19th	10	19.8	+0.5	11.8	+0.9	15.8	+0.7	25.2	18th	6.6	25th
Jul	210.1	86	14.4	18/19th	30	36.8	85	27.4	4th	7	21.6	-0.1	12.5	-0.6	17.0	-0.3	25.7	20th	7.1	12th
Aug	223.7	94	13.3	12th	31	45.0	80	10.2	2nd	11	22.6	+1.1	13.6	+0.6	18.1	+0.8	27.1	24th	8.5	21st
Sep	130.1	80	11.9	3rd	27	158.0	203	54.1	15th	14	19.8	+1.1	13.0	+2.0	16.4	+1.6	25.6	11th	6.0	4th
Oct	90.4	72	7.7	6th	24	248.2	268	51.1	9th	27	15.3	+0.2	9.1	+0.7	12.2	+0.4	19.0	1st	4.6	17th
Nov	76.6	94	6.9	12th	25	229.9	220	45.0	5th	23	11.5	+0.4	5.2	0.0	8.3	+0.2	14.0	28th	-0.3	21st
Dec	36.7	67	6.6	30th	20	175.0	173	27.4	31st	21	9.3	+0.5	5.3	+1.6	7.3	+1.1	13.9	7th	-4.5	30th
YEAR	1641.1	90	15.4	18th June	314	1294.1 (50.95 ins)	148	54.1	15th Sept	193	15.3 (59.5 °F)	+1.0	8.1 (46.6 °F)	+0.8	11.7 (53.1 °F)	+0.9	27.1 (80.8 °F)	24th Aug	-5.7 (21.7 °F)	27th Jan

† measured in inches and converted to nearest mm equivalent

Dev. indicates the deviation from the mean 1969/99; conversion factors 25.4mm = 1 inch ; °C to °F 9/5 °C +32 = °F ; Sunshine % of 1988/1999 mean