

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT FOR 2001
(Shide, Newport)

Denis J Simmons

The following account and summary of the weather during 2001 have been completed from my own records. The comparisons and averages relate to the 32-year period 1969/2000 inclusive except for sunshine (1988/2000 inclusive).

RAINFALL The total of 841.5 mm was 95% of the long-period average and 452.6 mm less than in 2000, thankfully, and much to the relief of those unfortunate folk who suffered so much flooding in the Autumn and Winter last year.

Although January to April, and especially March continued the above-average rainfall so prevalent since mid-September 2000, thereafter 4 of the ensuing 5 months were much drier than usual. October was very wet again but both November and December were the driest for 13 years, being largely dominated by anticyclones.

Rain fell on 165 days (1 below the 32 year average) and 28 less than the previous year. More than 25.4 mm (1 inch) fell on 4 days: March 10th (25.6 mm), March 28th (25.9 mm), October 1st (29.5 mm) and October 7th (27.9 mm); 11 such very wet days occurred in 2000.

SUNSHINE Above average totals were recorded in January, February, June, July, November and December; the last named surpassed previous Island records over the 20th Century. Sunshine was near average in May but below by varying amounts in March, April, August, September and October. March was exceptionally dull. It was remarkable that both November and December were sunnier than October this year. 9 hours or more was recorded on 72 days (5 below average) but completely sunless days numbered only 42 (18 below average). The annual total of 1802.1 hours was very close to the 1988/2000 average and 161 hours above that of 2000.

TEMPERATURE The 2000/2001 Winter (December - February) showed a mean temperature 0.6 °C above the 32 year average but was less mild than the previous three Winters; there has been a gradual fall-off in temperature since the exceptionally mild 1997/98 season. The May - October period provided 67 days of 21+ °C (70+ °F), 14 above average and 8 days of at least 26.5 °C (80 °F), 1 above average. Warm nights (15.4 °C, 60 °F or more) occurred on 25 occasions: 2 in June, 9 in July, 10 in August, 3 in September and 1 in October compared with an average of 16. Freezing nights (-0.1 °C or less in the Screen) totalled 34 (2 above average). The hottest day was July 27th with 30.3 °C (86.5 °F), the highest in July since 1995 whilst the warmest night was that of 25/26th August with 18.9 °C (66.0 °F), the highest minimum since 21/07/89. The year's coldest day was 29th December (max 2.8 °C, 37 °F) and the coldest nights -4.2 °C (24.0 °F) on 19/20th January and 1/2nd March.

SNOWFALL Snow or sleet were seen to fall on 10 days: January 2nd; February 25th, 26th; March 1st, 3rd, 4th, 10th; November 8th; December 22nd, 29th but covered at least half the ground on only 3 mornings at 0900 hrs - ¼ inch on February 25th, ½ inch on March 4th and ½ inch on December 29th. Long-term averages are 8 and 3 respectively.

THUNDER There were no overhead storms this year, thunder being heard at a distance on only 9 days: January 25th; July 4th, 5th, 7th; August 25th, 26th, 31st; September 13th, 24th. The long-term average is 12.

WIND My sheltered situation is not representative of Newport as a whole but gusts of Beaufort Force 7 (32 - 38 mph) occurred on 17 days and Beaufort Force 8 (39 - 46 mph) on 3 days with a maximum of 46 mph on October 7th. Gusts of 81 and 82 mph were recorded at The Needles on October 1st and 7th respectively.

The prevailing wind at 0900 GMT was south-west (66 mornings); SW-NW winds were noted on 117 mornings whilst NE-SE winds occurred on 170 mornings. North winds were unusually prevalent in September (11 mornings).

FOG I noted fog at some hour of the day on 15 occasions including 2 mornings at 0900 GMT (1st April and 28th May). The long-period means are 19 and 7 days respectively (I record fog if I am unable to see Pan Down).

HAIL was seen to fall in small stones on January 23rd, 25th; February 23rd and November 8th. The year's total of only 4 days was 5 below average.

GENERAL A definite improvement on 2000 with considerably less rain on fewer days, more sunshine, a warmer and brighter summer and autumn overall. Although the mean temperature was lower than the previous 4 years it was still 0.6 °C above the long-term average.

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 2001

	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	82.7	131	7.6	28th	21	110.0	108	18.5	3rd	16	7.8	-0.1	2.7	-0.2	5.25	-0.15	11.7	1/23rd	-4.2	20th
Feb	99.3	113	9.0	14th	22	93.2	136	20.3	7th	16	9.7	+1.8	2.5	0.0	6.1	+0.9	12.7	21/22nd	-2.5	19th
Mar	61.4	48	11.0	30th	23	162.3	227	25.9	27th	24	10.0	-0.3	4.6	+0.8	7.3	+0.25	15.1	7th	-4.2	2nd
Apr	129.2	74	11.5	28th	29	64.0	119	11.4	5th	19	13.1	+0.2	5.7	+0.7	9.4	+0.45	18.2	2nd	-0.7	19th
May	239.9	101	15.0	21/29th	31	25.9	49	11.4	15th	4	18.8	+1.2	8.4	-0.1	13.6	+1.2	26.0	12th	2.7	5th
Jun	275.6	128	15.5	19/24th	30	8.6	17	3.3	15th	5	20.5	+1.2	10.5	+0.1	15.5	+0.7	27.2	25th	2.7	9th
Jul	273.1	113	15.4	2nd	30	48.8	114	18.8	17th	10	23.2	+1.5	13.4	+0.3	18.3	+0.9	30.3	27th	7.1	16th
Aug	194.2	82	13.0	21st	31	37.8	67	8.4	26th	15	22.2	+0.7	14.0	+1.0	18.1	+0.8	27.9	25th	9.3	10th
Sep	148.0	92	10.6	14th	27	45.0	56	12.5	30th	13	19.5	+0.8	11.0	-0.1	15.25	+0.35	22.7	7th	5.7	25th
Oct	94.1	76	8.6	12th	29	173.0	177	29.5	1st	18	17.6	+2.4	12.5	+4.1	15.05	+3.2	24.0	13th	5.6	22nd
Nov	100.4	121	8.5	1st	24	38.9	36	10.4	30th	14	12.3	+1.2	4.4	-0.9	8.3	+0.1	16.5	2nd	-1.6	10th
Dec	104.2	199	6.6	10/15/ 23/31st	26	34.0	33	12.7	4th	11	8.4	-0.4	1.7	-2.0	5.05	-1.2	14.3	5th	-3.9	23rd
YEAR	1802.1	99.8	15.5	19/24th June	323	841.5 (33.13 ins)	95	29.5	1st Oct	165	15.3 (59.5 °F)	+0.9	7.6 (45.7 °F)	+0.3	11.45 (52.6 °F)	+0.6	30.3 (86.5 °F)	27th July	-4.2 (24.4 °F)	20th Jan/ 2nd Mar

† measured in inches and converted to nearest mm equivalent

Dev. indicates the deviation from the mean 1969/2000; conversion factors 25.4mm = 1 inch ; °C to °F $9/5 \text{ °C} + 32 = \text{°F}$; Sunshine % of 1988/2000 mean