

**METEOROLOGICAL REPORT FOR 2002**  
**(Shide, Newport)**

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The following account and summary of the weather during 2002 have been completed from my own records. The comparisons and averages relate to the 33-year period 1969/2001 inclusive except for sunshine which relates to the 1988/2001 period.

**RAINFALL** The total of 1192.5 mm (46.95 in) was 134% of the long-period average and 351 mm more than in 2001. Only 4 months had below average rainfall, the driest being August with only 36.1 mm closely followed by April with 37.3 mm. Of the 8 wetter months, November held the record with a massive 256.3 mm; both February and December had large totals also.

Rain fell on 189 days (23 above the 33 year average). More than 25.4 mm (1 inch) fell on 6 days: January 26th (29.2 mm), February 3rd (31.2 mm), July 2nd (42.7 mm), September 9th (61.2 mm), November 5th (26.2 mm) and December 21st (33.0 mm). 11 such very wet days occurred in 2000 and 4 in 2001.

**TEMPERATURE** The 2001/2002 Winter started with the coldest December since 1996 and contained the coldest average minimum at night for 20 years. This was followed by the mildest January since 1990, then a very mild February, also the mildest since 1990. March and April were both mild Spring months (the latter the mildest since before 1969), but May was the coolest since 1997.

The summer started with the coolest June since 1991, July was close to average and August was the warmest since 1997. September was warm by day but slightly cooler than average by night, October had near-average temperatures and November and December was the mildest since 1994.

The May - October period produced 63 days of 21°C+ (70°F+), which was 10 above average and 5 days of at least 26.5 °C (80 °F); 2 below average. There were no prolonged hot spells. Warm nights (15.4 °C, 60 °F or more) occurred on 11 occasions: 7 in July, 3 in August, and 1 in September (5 below normal). Freezing nights (-0.1 °C or less in the Screen) totalled only 8 this year, which was 24 below normal. The hottest day was 29th July with 29.1 °C (84.4 °F), whilst the warmest night was that of 29/30th August with 17.5 °C (63.5 °F). The year's coldest day was 9th December (max 4.2 °C, 39.5 °F) and the coldest night was 31st December 2001/1st January 2002 at -6.2 °C (20.8 °F).

**SUNSHINE** Above average totals were recorded in March, April and September, the latter two months being very sunny. Unusually, April was the year's sunniest month. Below average sunshine occurred in all other months, especially November and December. 9 hours or more was recorded on 65 days (12 below average) and completely sunless days on 62 occasions (2 above average).

The annual total of 1702.8 hours was 1024 hours below the 1988/2001 average but closer to the 30 year average (1971/2000) which I have calculated by reference to Ryde records on a percentage basis. (This will be used from 2003, having been approved by Climatological Observers Link, to which I am recommencing records in addition to the Weather Observers Network).

**SNOWFALL** No snow or sleet were seen January to April and only a brief flurry on the morning of 10th December. There were no days with snow lying. Long-term averages are 8 and 3 respectively.

**THUNDER** was heard on February 5th, May 20th, August 18th, October 25th, 26th, November 3rd, 15th, 16th, and 24th, giving a total of 9 days. The long-term average is 12.

**WIND** My sheltered location is not representative of Newport as a whole but gusts of Beaufort Force 7 (32 - 38 mph) occurred on 29 days, Beaufort Force 8 (39 - 46 mph) on 13 days and Beaufort 9 (47 - 54 mph) on 2 days, with a maximum of 52 mph early on 14 November. Much higher gusts would have been recorded at exposed sites.

The prevailing wind at 0900 GMT was south-west (85 mornings) whilst SW-NW winds were noted on 181 mornings and NE-SE winds occurred on 108 mornings. North winds were unusually prevalent in August (9 mornings) and easterlies in September (10 mornings).

**FOG** I noted fog at some hour of the day on 13 occasions including 3 mornings at 0900 GMT (8th, 17th February and 25th November). 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 10 days (1 above average).

**GENERAL** The year was considerably wetter than 2001 with 99 hours less sunshine; however every month, except June and July, was warmer than the long-term average and the summer improved as it went on, followed by a pleasant September. Then we “went downhill” from 11 October followed by a wet and dreary November and December. Let’s hope 2003 will be sunnier and drier than 2002.

*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 2002**

	<b>SUNSHINE (HOURS)</b>					<b>RAINFALL (MM)</b>					<b>TEMPERATURE (°C)</b>				<b>EXTREMES</b>					
	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			
																	Abs. Max. °C	Date	Abs. Min. °C	Date
Jan	55.6	86	6.2	3rd	19	98.5	97	29.2	26th	22	9.9	+2.0	4.8	+2.0	7.35	+2.0	12.5	28th	-6.2	1st
Feb	77.6	88	9.0	16th	21	137.2	198	31.2	3rd	20	11.3	+3.3	5.75	+3.2	8.5	+3.3	14.9	22nd	-0.8	7th
Mar	128.2	104	11.5	29th	24	60.7	82	10.9	17th	16	12.6	+2.3	5.3	+1.6	8.95	+1.9	17.1	29th	0.0	1st
Apr	221.7	129	12.4	16th	29	37.3	69	14.5	27th	7	15.6	+2.6	6.1	+1.1	10.85	+1.9	21.7	4th	0.2	16th
May	211.3	89	15.0	31st	30	82.8	160	18.0	13th	16	16.9	+0.2	9.3	+1.1	13.1	+0.7	22.1	16th	2.8	2nd
Jun	186.9	85	15.3	24th	28	57.9	114	20.8	5th	13	18.9	-0.4	11.4	+0.5	15.15	0.0	21.5	2nd	6.2	1st
Jul	202.8	83	15.1	14th	28	85.9	199	42.7	2nd	15	21.3	-0.4	13.1	0.0	17.2	-0.2	29.1	29th	9.1	22nd
Aug	207.1	89	12.8	16th	30	36.1	66	9.9	9th	11	23.2	+1.7	13.6	+0.6	18.4	+1.1	28.0	15th	8.6	1st
Sep	205.9	128	12.3	2nd	28	81.8	103	61.2	9th	3	20.9	+2.1	10.9	-0.2	15.9	+1.0	24.8	13th	5.2	25th
Oct	111.2	92	9.3	12th	27	111.2	111	20.6	26th	17	16.0	+0.8	8.9	+0.4	12.5	+0.6	21.0	5th	-1.3	19th
Nov	52.9	63	7.1	7th	21	256.3	240	26.2	5th	26	13.2	+2.1	7.8	+2.6	10.5	+2.3	15.8	2nd	1.3	18th
Dec	41.6	73	6.8	5th	18	146.8	144	33.0	21st	23	9.2	+0.4	6.0	+2.3	7.6	+1.4	12.8	1st/3rd /24th	0.3	10/11th
YEAR	1702.8	94	15.3	24th June	303 (-2)	1192.5 (46.95 ins)	134	61.2	9th Sept	189 (+23)	15.7 (60.3 °F)	+1.3	8.6 (47.5 °F)	+1.3	12.15 (53.9 °F)	+1.3	29.1 (84.4 °F)	29th July	-6.2 (20.8 °F)	1st Jan

† measured in inches and converted to nearest mm equivalent

Dev. indicates the deviation from the mean 1969/2001; conversion factors 25.4mm = 1 inch ; °C to °F 9/5 °C +32 = °F ; Sunshine % of 1988/2001 mean