

Meteorological Report for 2003
(Shide, Newport)

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The following account and summary of the weather during 2003 has been completed from my own records. The comparisons and averages relate to the 30-year period 1971/2000 inclusive. The sunshine averages for the same period have been calculated by reference to comparison with Ryde records over several years and have been approved by the Climatological Observers' Link, to which organisation I send my records.

RAINFALL The total of 833.5 mm (32.81 in) was 94% of the long-period average and 3.59 mm less than in 2002. Only three months had above-average rainfall (see summary) and rain fell on 141 days (24 less than the 30-year average). Falls of 25.4mm (1 inch) or more occurred on January 18th (26.2 mm) October 30th (25.4 mm), November 25th (30.5 mm), November 30th (36.1 mm) and December 27th (33.7 mm), five days in all. Six such very wet days occurred in 2002 and 4 in 2001. November again held the record with 205 mm, although this was considerably less than the massive total of 256 mm in 2002.

TEMPERATURE The 2002/3 winter started with a mainly mild December. January had mild and cold spells alternating. February was the coldest for seven years but still a little milder than the long-term average. Spring started with the mildest March for five years and only April 2002 was warmer in records going back to 1969. May was cooler than others in the previous 10 years. Summer began with the warmest June since 1976, followed by the warmest July for four years. August was the warmest for eight years and included a high maximum of 34° C (93.2 ° F) on the 10th, the hottest of any summer day since 4th August 1990. The autumn, too, began with the warmest September days since before 1968, but the coldest nights since 1990 due to clear skies and lower humidity. It was something of a shock that October proved the coldest since 1993. November was mild but less so than in 2002. December was slightly milder than average. The April – September period produced 98 days of 21° C (70° F) or more, 28 and 25 days respectively in August and July. Long-period average for these six months is 54 days. 26.5 ° C (80°F) was reached or exceeded on 18 days (11 above average) and the most since 1995 when 31 such days were recorded. Warm nights of 15.4° C (60° F) or more occurred on 32 occasions, of which 16 were in August. Freezing nights (- 0.1° C or less in the screen) also totalled 32, one above average.

SUNSHINE Above average total hours were recorded in all but three months this year (May June and July), which had only slightly below-average totals. Nine hours or more were recorded on 87 days (10 above average) and the total of completely sunless days was 48 (12 below average). The annual total of 1954 hours was 256 hours above the 1971/2000 average and highest since 1990. (In 2002, the total was 1702.8 hours and in 2001, it was 1802.1 hours).

SNOWFALL Insignificant falls occurred on three days in January, two in February and one overnight in December. The total of six days was two below average. There were no occasions with snow lying at 09.00 hours GMT (the long-term average is three).

THUNDER was heard on five days in June, two in July one in August, three in October and two in November. The total of 13 days was one above the long-term average. Again, there were no significant storms locally.

WIND My sheltered location is not representative of Newport as a whole, but gusts of Beaufort force 7 (32-38 mph) occurred on 18 days - a quiet year, overall. Maximum gusts of only 38 mph occurred on 30th January and 26th December. Much higher gusts would have been recorded at exposed sites such as St. Catherine's Point and The Needles. The prevailing wind at 09.00 hours GMT was south-west (71 mornings). Winds between south-west and north-west were noted on 150 mornings and between north-east and south-east on 145 mornings.

FOG I noted fog at some hour of the day on 12 occasions, including four mornings at 09.00 GMT (February 21st, March 4th, and 25th and December 10th). The long-period averages 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 (less than 5 mm) on two days only (November 26th and December 27th) Stones up to 10 mm fell together with small stones on December 27th. The long-term average is 9 days.

GENERAL A mainly dry, warm and sunny year, but ending with a very wet November and December. Driest overall since 1996, and sunniest since 1990. A good year in most people's eyes but gardeners were concerned at the long dry spell in "the growing season".

Mr Simmons is affiliated to the Climatological Observers' Link, 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, ISLE OF WIGHT 2003

| Month | Sunshine | | | | | Rainfall # | | | | | | Temperatures | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------|------------|--------|--------|----------|------|--------------------|--------------|---------|--------------|---------|----------|---------|-------------------------|----------|--------|------------|
| | Total (hrs) | % of mean | Max (hrs) | Date | Days | Total mm | % mean | Max mm | Date | Days | Dev. 0.2mm or more | Mean max. °C | Dev. °C | Mean min. °C | Dev. °C | Mean °C | Dev. °C | Extremes of Temperature | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | max °C | Date | min °C | Date |
| Jan | 106.2 | 180 | 7.4 | 27th | 27 | 94.7 | 95 | 26.2 | 18th | 16 | -2 | 8.6 | +0.7 | 2.9 | +0.1 | 5.75 | +0.4 | 14.1 | 27th | -6.4 | 12th |
| Feb | * 90.0 | 118 | 8.3 | 22nd | 22 | 45.5 | 66 | 15.7 | 8th | 12 | -2 | 8.7 | +0.6 | 2.6 | norm | 5.65 | +0.3 | 13.1 | 27th | -3.8 | 6th |
| Mar | 180.5 | 132 | 11.7 | 31st | 25 | 32.3 | 46 | 9.1 | 1st | 9 | -7 | 13.2 | +2.7 | 4.8 | +0.9 | 9.0 | +1.8 | 18.2 | 30th | -1.2 | 17th, 20th |
| Apr | 184.5 | 108 | 12.4 | 16th, 17th | 29 | 41.9 | 78 | 15.7 | 27th | 10 | -2 | 15.7 | +2.6 | 5.5 | +0.5 | 10.6 | +1.5 | 24.7 | 17th | -2.6 | 10th |
| May | 213.1 | 99 | 14.4 | 29th | 30 | 32.3 | 63 | 7.6 | 16th | 15 | 3 | 17.0 | +0.3 | 8.6 | +0.4 | 12.8 | +0.3 | 25.2 | 29th | 2.5 | 15th |
| Jun | 227.4 | 98 | 15.2 | 20th | 30 | 53.1 | 99 | 16.0 | 22nd | 12 | 1 | 21.2 | +1.9 | 12.15 | +1.2 | 16.65 | +1.55 | 25.8 | 15th | 7.2 | 29th |
| Jul | 211.4 | 98 | 15.1 | 13th | 30 | 49.0 | 116 | 8.9 | 26th | 12 | 3 | 22.9 | +1.2 | 14.3 | +1.2 | 18.6 | +1.2 | 29.9 | 15th | 9.2 | 7th |
| Aug | 254.5 | 124 | 14.1 | 2nd | 30 | 10.9 | 20 | 6.9 | 28th | 5 | -6 | 25.3 | +3.7 | 14.45 | +1.45 | 19.9 | +2.6 | 34.0 | 10th | 7.2 | 31st |
| Sep | 195.8 | 129 | 12.0 | 4th | 29 | 6.1 | 7 | 4.3 | 9th | 4 | -9 | 21.5 | +2.7 | 9.46 | -1.5 | 15.5 | +0.6 | 26.7 | 16th | 1.8 | 24th |
| Oct | 150.9 | 127 | 10.1 | 5th | 28 | 99.1 | 96 | 25.4 | 30th | 11 | -4 | 15.1 | norm | 6.9 | -1.5 | 11.0 | -0.7 | 20.0 | 11th | -1.9 | 25th |
| Nov | 84.0 | 127 | 8.5 | 1st | 19 | 205.0 | 203 | 36.1 | 30th | 18 | 1 | 12.3 | +1.2 | 6.7 | +1.5 | 9.5 | +1.4 | 18.5 | 6th | -1.0 | 28th |
| Dec | 55.7 | 107 | 6.6 | 9th, 14th | 18 | 163.6 | 153 | 33.7 | 27th | 17 | norm | 9.4 | +0.5 | 3.7 | -0.1 | 6.5 | +0.2 | 12.8 | 11th | -2.9 | 16th |
| YEAR | 1954.0 | 115 | 15.2 | 20th Jun | 317 | 833.5 | 94 | 36.1 | 30th Nov | 141 | -24 | 15.9 | +1.5 | 7.67 | +0.37 | 11.8 | +1.0 | 34.0 | 10th Aug | -6.4 | 12th Jan |
| | | | | | | (32.81 “) | | | | | | (60.3 °F) | | (45.8°F) | | (53.2°F) | | | | | |

* Estimated; sensor needed adjustment

Measured in inches and converted to nearest mm equivalent

Dev. indicates deviation from 1971/2000 average

Conversion factor 25.4mm = 1 inch; ° C to ° F $9/5 \text{ } ^\circ \text{C} + 32 = \text{ } ^\circ \text{F}$

Sunshine % means based on comparison work with Ryde records on a percentage basis and approved by Climatological Observers' Link