

## Bracknell Harmanswater Weather Summary – August 2004

**August** The 1<sup>st</sup> began with a warm night, minimum 15.3c after July's hottest day on the 31<sup>st</sup>. The day was sunny and hot with a maximum of 27.7c, which may have been higher if not hampered by a band of cloud, which moved into the area late morning to late afternoon. The 2<sup>nd</sup> began sunny but cloud, mainly Ac moved into the area and hampered the sunshine, a maximum of 28.9c was recorded though and there was a little light rain around 1530hr. It became quite humid but the cloud cleared to leave a sunny and hot end to the day. The night of the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> was very warm with a minimum of 17.8c and humid, difficult to sleep and it remained generally cloudy overnight, but there was a little sunshine before 0700hr. The day became hot and humid under cloudy skies and around 1455hr thunder began to be heard to the west with a second storm to the east, which was closer, and continued until 1550hr. No rain at Harmanswater except a few spots at 1550hr Localised flooding reported at Chobham and Sunningdale, but only a trace recorded at Bagshot. The 4<sup>th</sup> was hot with generally sunny spells, some cloud around and feeling less humid than the 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was another warm night on the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>, with a minimum of 17.6c. A hazy start to the day with cloud increasing and little sunshine, but hot and very humid Thunder heard at 1220-25hr to the west. Further storms moved over the area at 1455-

1630hr. with heavy rain and hail observed in Harmanswater of up to 20mm. There was similar size hail observed in Crown Wood and the Southern Industrial area of Bracknell around 1600-10hr. West side of Bracknell 1610-20hr. Temperature fell from 27.1c at 1430 to 22.4c at 1500hr (fall 4.7c in 30 mins.) and 17.9c at 1515hr (fall 4.5c in 15 mins.) Reports on BBC of hail up to 45mm (Golf ball size) has not been confirmed. *(Photo. To the right, flooding at School Road Bagshot on 5<sup>th</sup> August).* At Harmanswater 14.0mm fell in 1 hour



commencing at 1500hr and at a maximum rate of 53.8mm/hr at 1500hr. However, 10.0mm fell in only 15 mins. commencing at 1500hr. The 6<sup>th</sup> was a much calmer day with hot and sunny conditions and it was dry. Max 28.6c. The 7<sup>th</sup> was hot and sunny with 13.92hrs of sunshine, the highest of the month and a max of 29.8c. The 8<sup>th</sup> was also hot with a maximum of 30.2c the highest temperature for the month and beating the 30.1c recorded on the 8<sup>th</sup> June making it the highest this year. There was more cloud around restricting sunshine to 7.91hrs, and during the afternoon the wind became gusty. The night of the 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> was the 3<sup>rd</sup> warmest on record (since 1973) with a minimum of 19.5c. However, although the air temperature had a 'good start' with such a high minimum value, it with cloudy dull conditions and some light rain the maximum reached only 21.9c some 8.3c below the 8<sup>th</sup> max 24hrs earlier. Heavy rain overnight on the 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> produced 19.0mm of rainfall to 0900hr on the 10<sup>th</sup>, the highest total for the month, with 7.9mm in 1 hour commencing at 0430hr. The 10<sup>th</sup> saw an improvement in conditions during the day with the afternoon sunny and hot and a max of 26.0c. The 11<sup>th</sup> was disappointing with short sunny spells and some light showers, max 23.7. The 12<sup>th</sup> was similar to the 11<sup>th</sup>

with light showers and some sunny spells, but more sunshine was recorded. The 13<sup>th</sup> started cloudy and dull but gradually improved during the day with a max of 24.1c. The 14<sup>th</sup> was generally dull but dry until late afternoon when some light showers moved into the area. It was warm though with a max of 24.2. The 15<sup>th</sup> was similar to the 14<sup>th</sup> with dull conditions, little sunshine and a few light showers. The 16<sup>th</sup> was again cloudy with limited sunshine and showers but it was cooler than of late, max 21.3c, the first maximum below average since 18<sup>th</sup> July. Storms were observed to the east of Bracknell, photo taken at 1939hr. but no rainfall recorded at Harmanwater. (*see photo to the right*). The 17<sup>th</sup> was brighter and warmer with a max of 23.1 however during the cloudy periods it felt quite cool. The 18<sup>th</sup> was again generally cloudy but more sunshine towards midday. Showers moved into the area in the afternoon, some heavy with thunder heard at 1535-50hr. A maximum rainfall rate of 53.8mm/hr was recorded at 1545hr 2.9mm of rain fell in 30 minutes commencing at 1545hr. Max 22.6c. The 19<sup>th</sup> was again a day with sunshine with some showers, some large Cb around but no thunder



heard. Max 21.8c The 20<sup>th</sup> began with plenty of sunshine during the morning but cloud increased during the afternoon. A band of storms moved SE into the area during the late afternoon and early evening but although thunder was heard to the NW at 1617-1700hr no rain fell at Harmanwater. Some showers fell during the night of 20<sup>th</sup> /21<sup>st</sup> and the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup> began cooler than of late with a min of 9.8c and grass min of 5.4c. However, it felt much fresher with sunshine and medium Cu. By the afternoon the cloud was gradually clearing. However the late afternoon saw large patches of Sc. move into the area, which reduced the sunshine hours substantially. It was much cooler than of late with a max of only 20.8 however it did remain dry. The 22<sup>nd</sup> began cloudy with increasing amounts of sunshine, although by late afternoon this was reduced by cloud moving back into the area. It remained dry during the day with a max of 21.0c The 23<sup>rd</sup> saw rain during the 'early hours' producing 7.7mm by 0900hr. The day turned out to be sunshine and showers with large Cb observed but no thunder heard. Max 21.2c. The 24<sup>th</sup> began with a thunderstorm at 0255 - 0300hr distant to the south and 0.8mm of rainfall. The day was again a mixture of sunshine and showers with large Cb around, but no further thunder heard, and a max of 20.5c. The 25<sup>th</sup> was another day of sunshine and showers, some were moderate to heavy. Thunder heard at 1645hr distant to the east. Max 22.2c. The 26<sup>th</sup> began a little misty with sunny spells and it remained dry. Max 22.2c. The 27<sup>th</sup> saw rain during the early hours but mainly light, which continued into the daylight hours of the morning, however it was patchy. The afternoon was dry and brighter with max of 21.9c. The 28<sup>th</sup> began cool with a minimum of 8.9c the second lowest of the month but a grass min of 4.1c the lowest of the month. It was a cooler day than of late with a max of 20.6c and sunny spells but the cloudy periods were quite lengthy and it felt cold during this time. The 29<sup>th</sup> was even cooler with a max of only 18.6c the lowest of the

month. It was a dry and cloudy day with limited sunshine. A heavy shower fell at 1610-1615hr producing 1.1mm with a burst of 40.6mm/hr. The 30<sup>th</sup> (Bank Holiday Monday) was disappointing in that it was cool with sunny spells and some light showers with a max of 20.4c. The 31<sup>st</sup> began with a minimum of 8.2c the lowest of the month and if it was not for cloud moving into the area it may well have been lower. The cloud broke to allow some sunny spells during the morning and into the afternoon with a max of 22.0c.

August overall was warmer than average, thanks mainly due to the heat of the first half of the month, with the mean temperature making it the 5<sup>th</sup> warmest since 1971. However, no records were broken for high temperatures this year although the maximum of 30.2c on the 8<sup>th</sup> was the highest for the year and the minimum of 19.5c on the 9<sup>th</sup> was the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest since 1971. However, it was also wetter than average, but not a record, unlike many other locations in the UK where rainfall records have been broken for daily and monthly totals. The total for the month of 71.8mm (135%) made it the 9<sup>th</sup> wettest on local records back to 1961, with 1977 still the wettest with 143.6mm based on local records back to 1860, a period of 144 years. Bracknell seemed to miss most of the storms that affected many other locations, with no 'high' daily totals (25mm of greater) with the highest total of 19.0mm on the 9<sup>th</sup> not even making the top ten highest falls on local records since 1961. Rain days (20) and wet days (14) were the highest since 1992, (equal with 1999). However days with thunder heard equalled the local record of 6 days held with 1975 and 1999. The hail on the 5<sup>th</sup> August was the first time that hail had been recorded during August on local records back to 1971. Sunshine was disappointingly low at 170.04 hrs (85%).

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