

September The 1st began with the coldest night since 22nd June for air and 23rd May for grass minimum temperatures, 7.1 and 2.1c respectively. It became a warm and sunny day with a max of 22.7c. The 2nd was also warm but with more cloud around restricting the sunshine a little, but a max of 24.1c was achieved. The 3rd was hot and sunny with a max of 26.2c. The 4th was another hot and sunny day with almost maximum sunshine, 12.57 hours and the air max of 27.2 was the 7th highest on the 'Harmanswater' record back to 1971.



(Photo. Above taken on 5th September at 1415hr indicates the 'pollution haze' to the east of Bracknell (Jealotts Hill) looking east towards Heathrow airport and the M25).

However, the 5th recorded an even higher max of 28.9c which was the 2nd highest on the 'Harmanswater' record and only beaten by the 1973 reading of 29.0c also on the 5th On local records back to 1904, it was the 7th highest for September. Again near maximum sunshine recorded of 12.56 hours. The 6th was again hot and sunny after a hazy start to the day but there was more cloud around, and by late afternoon the sunshine had given way to a cloudy end to the day. Max lower than of late at 25.6c. The 7th began with the 2nd warmest night reading, (minimum 16.4c) since 1971 on Bracknell Harmanswater records behind a 16.5c recorded on 2nd 1987 and 17th 1989. This was the 6th warmest minimum reading in 90 years on local records. A cloudy but, dry morning with a little brightness around midday. An afternoon of sunny spells, warm but with gusty winds, max of 24.3c The 8th was sunny and warm with gusty winds. It remained dry, with minimal cloud, max of 23.7c. The 9th was the last of the hot / very warm days with plenty of sunshine and a max of 25.9c High level ci/cs moved in from the south west during the afternoon, which gradually affected the sunshine. The 10th began cloudy, but a band of showers moved into the area from around 0650 until 0820hr, which were moderate at times. This was the first rainfall since 30th August ending a 9-day absolute drought. The showers contained Sahara dust (light brown / sandy in colour.) The rest of the day remained cloudy and humid max 20.2c, some 5.7c lowers than the 9th. The 11th was Dry with sunny spells and gusty winds. A max of 20.9c was recorded, but showers moved into the area early evening with some heavy bursts. The 12th began sunny with cloud increasing quite quickly during the day. The morning felt warmish, but by mid-afternoon it felt a lot cooler under cloudy skies. Gusty winds prevailed during the day with outbreaks of light rain during the evening. Max of 18.3. The 13th began generally cloudy with outbreaks of light rain, with some heavy bursts, this died out around 0730hr to be replaced by brighter conditions, however by the afternoon some heavy showers moved into the area. Max 18.3. The 14th began with a thunderstorm at 0215-30hr accompanied by heavy burst of rain (rate 40.4mm/hr.). The day was showery and windy, but by late afternoon the wind had eased. There was a pressure 'low' of 998.9mb at

0715hr the lowest of the month. Max 18.6 The 15th was dry and sunny with 9.41hrs of sunshine and a max of 18.9, a pleasant day but under clear skies the evening was cool. The 16th began cold with the first ground frost of the season -1.0°C and a minimum air temp. of 4.6°C . However, the day was sunny and pleasant with 10.42hrs of sunshine, and a max of 18.1°C . In contrast the 17th was cloudy and dull with some outbreaks of light drizzle and 0.03hrs of sunshine and a max of 17.9°C which was beaten on the 18th at 0900hr at 19.1°C . However, the night of the 17th/18th was the 8th mildest in 34 years at 15.5°C . A cloudy damp start with outbreaks of light drizzle and windy which gave way to some sunshine, but a weakening cold front moved across the area in the afternoon, with rain from 1515hr until 1600hr. Cloud cleared to provide some sunshine before sunset. Max 19.8°C . The 19th felt cool, especially during the cloudy periods, there were a few outbreaks of light rain but a max of 16.7°C . The 20th was another cloudy day with outbreaks of rain, but light/moderate and it was windy with gusts around 20 to 25 knots. Max 17.5°C . The 21st was much improved with sunny spells and dry, it felt quite cool despite the sunshine. An interesting sunset with a 'pink coloured' patches of cloud. Max 16.9°C . The 22nd was another cloudy dull day with outbreaks of light rain during the afternoon. Max of 18.9°C was beaten at 0900hr on 23rd at 19.7°C . A mild night with a min of 16.4°C (21-09hr) but 09-09 min 15.3°C so therefore not within the 'top ten' mildest. A warm start to the 23rd but a cold front moved through the area around 1130hr after a max of 20.9°C with temp falling from 20.3°C (1120hr) to 16.7°C (1145) and 15.8°C (1215) The afternoon was brighter but cooler, with a much cooler evening. The 24th was much cooler, 7.8°C lower at 0900hr compared with the 23rd. There was a max of 15.3°C however it was generally sunny and dry. The 25th began cold with min of 4.0°C and ground min of 0.1°C but cloud moved into the area and rain fell between 1245 and 1415hr. It was a 'coldish' day with max of 14.5°C . The 26th was coldish with cloudy conditions and some outbreaks of light rain. Some sunshine during the afternoon lifted the temp to a max of 20.7°C . The 27th was cloudy and dull with a few spots of rain, but it was 'mildish' at 19.3°C . The 28th was very similar cloudy and dull with a max of 18.3°C . The 29th was cloudy and dull with Nil sunshine, it was cooler with rain during the afternoon. The 30th continued with cloudy, dull and damp conditions with a band of rain crossing the area between 0815 to 0915. The rest of the morning was cloudy, but this cleared during the afternoon to allow some sunshine and it was quite pleasant. Max 19.6°C .

Summary; It was the 3rd warmest September on the 1971-2004 record with 15.9°C mean temperature, 20.5°C mean maximum and 11.3°C mean minimum. It was also the warmest since 1999. The maximum of 28.9°C on the 5th was the 2nd highest since the 'Harmanswater' records began in 1971 and the 7th highest on local records back to 1904. The minimum of 16.4°C on the 7th was the 2nd highest on the 'Harmanswater' record and 6th highest on local records. Sahara dust fell in rain during the morning of 10th. The rainfall total of 25.9mm (42% of average) was the 7th driest on the 'Harmanswater' record. The 12.57 hours of bright sunshine on the 4th was the highest in the area since local records began in 1971 and 8 of the first 9 days of the month recorded 9 hours or more. The 177.52 hours of sunshine for the month (128%), but 2003 was sunnier.

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