

## April 2005

The 1<sup>st</sup> was dry but generally cloudy day, although the low stratus in the morning cleared to leave thin altostratus allowing some weak sunshine. Max 15.3c. The 2<sup>nd</sup> was a sunny day but the blue sky was quite 'milky' and may have been sahara dust trapped in the atmosphere. Relative humidity was below 30% between 1145 and 1630 and reached a minimum of 24% at 1415, 1500 and 1630hr. Temperature rose 3.9c in 60 minutes from 0745hr but fell 3.2c in 60 minutes from 1630hr with a 1c fall in 15 minutes at 1645hr. Max 19.1c The 3<sup>rd</sup> was another generally sunny day, but a stiff breeze took the edge off the temperature. Max 18.9c The 4<sup>th</sup> was cloudy with outbreaks of rain / drizzle with a maximum of 12.7c The 5<sup>th</sup> began quite cool with a slight ground frost and a good sunny start but cloud moved into the area which caused the sun to be 'dimmed'. Max 12.0c. The 6<sup>th</sup> began with a cloudy night and a little rain at 0700hr. There was a 'wet' spel during the morning and a stiff breeze. However, from midday the cloud cleared with a distinct 'back edge' to allow a sunny and quite pleasant afternoon. Max 14.4c. The 7<sup>th</sup> began sunny but the day was a contrast of sunshine and showers. Large Cb around but no thunderheard, however the lightening detector was quite active around 1700-1900hr. Temp. fell 2.7c in 45 mins from 1530hr and a further 2.6c in 45 mins from 1630hr. 5.0mm of rain fell in 60 mins from 1645hr. *To the right, typical conditions on the 7<sup>th</sup> April. This shower produced 5mm in 60 minutes.*



The 8<sup>th</sup> was much colder with sleet and snow showers 0910-50hr and during the afternoon. Artic air had reached the area on a northerly airstream and temperatures struggled to reach a max of 6.9c. During the 0910-50hr sleet/snow period the temperature fell to 2.5c. It felt cold as a stiff breeze took the edge of the temperature. 7.8 hours of air frost was recorded on the night of 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> with a cold and frosty start on the 9<sup>th</sup> but cloud increased quickly. However, the day remained dry with sunny periods although it felt 'chilly'. By the evening it was cloudy and the temperature became steady and with lighter winds it felt 'milder'. Max 11.1c but beaten at 0900hr on 10<sup>th</sup> 11.7c. The Artic airstream was now 'cut off' and temperatures recovered with the 10<sup>th</sup> being milder with sunny periods. Max 16.4c. The 11<sup>th</sup> was a reasonably sunny day feeling 'spring like' with a max of 17.9c RH fell to 38% at 1030 and 1115-30hr. By evening time cloud had started to increase with a sheet of AC/SC moving into the area. The 12<sup>th</sup> was cloudy as a frontal system moved over the area. It remained generally dry and there were a few short spells of sunshine. Max 15.1c The 15<sup>th</sup> saw outbreaks of rain during the early hours which died out around 0800hr. It then remained a cloudy day with the odd sunny spell. Max 13.4c The 14<sup>th</sup> saw a little rain around 0100hr and a cloudy and chilly morning. A band of showers moved into the area around 1600hr. Some locations reporting thunder, especially to the north of Bracknell with hail but none heard at Bracknell (H/W). The showers continued into the evening and temperatures fell quite quickly once the cloud cleared. Max 13.3. The 15<sup>th</sup> began with a cold start, with a ground frost. But it was cloudy and foggy by dawn (visibility 800m at 0600hr.) and it remained quite a chilly day. It was a 'raw' day with

outbreaks of rain during the afternoon and an active lightening detector. However, no T was reported at Bracknell (H/W). The cloud gradually cleared during the evening. Max 9.0c but this was beaten by the 0900hr temp. on the 16<sup>th</sup> 9.3c The 16<sup>th</sup> was a better day with sunny periods after another ground frost. However, sunshine hours were disappointing compared to the forecast with only 3.3hrs. when around at least 6 hrs was expected. This was reflected in the max. with only 10.7c recorded, which was beaten by the 0845hr temp on the 17<sup>th</sup> 11.6c. The 17<sup>th</sup> began with 2.8 hours of air frost minimum -0.8c and sunny conditions. A dramatic rise in temperature took place with a rise of 5.7c in 60 mins from 0700hr with RH falling 47% from 0700hr. Max 14.3c occurred shortly before a quick change in conditions as a frontal system moved into the area, with to the east 'blue sky' a band of Cs and As with rain falling as the 'blue sky' disappeared to the east. The night of the 17<sup>th</sup> / 18<sup>th</sup> turned out to be 'wet' with 6.7mm of rain recorded. However, the day time was dry and the cloud soon broke to allow long sunny spells, it was quite breezy. Max. 14.9c. The 19<sup>th</sup> saw a rain shower between 0630 and 0700hr following a slight ground frost. There were some sunny spells during the morning and into the early part of the afternoon but a band of thundary showers moved into the area with thunder heard at Bracknell (HW) during the afternoon. Some of the rain around the area was moderate / heavy but a maximum fall at Bracknell (HW) was only 2.0mm in 30 mins. Max 14.8c. The 29<sup>th</sup> began cool with another ground frost, but after a sunny start cloud moved into the area from the north, (old front) and made the rest of the day dull, but dry. However, the sky cleared at 200hr to allow temperatures to fall quite quickly. After another ground frost during the early hours of the 21<sup>st</sup>. the day began dull with featureless St. This was the remnants of an old frontal system. The sun finally broke through this cloud sheet around 0940hr to allow long sunny periods to develop. And RH fell to a low of 28% at 1545 and 1630hr. Max 16.7c. The 22<sup>nd</sup> got off to a chilly start with a ground frost and a little mist. It was a sunny day but the breezy conditions took the 'edge' of the temperature. Around 1730hr the sunshine was 'lost' as cloud had increased from the west. The moon was still visible through the As during the evening. Max 17.4c. The 23<sup>rd</sup> was in total contrast to the 22<sup>nd</sup> with outbreaks of light rain/drizzle, cool with a max of 13.8c. The 24<sup>th</sup> started bright and sunny and a little warmer with the sunny spells continuing until c1500yr when extensive cloud cover moved into the area, but it remained dry. Max 16.4c. The 25<sup>th</sup> began with a 'wet' night and by 0900hr 16.0mm had fallen. The rain continued until 1130hr when it became light and patchy. The afternoon became dry after 1330hr. A further 4.0mm had fallen making the total fall of rain to be 20.0mm. There was some brightness late afternoon / early evg. A cool day with a max of 12.1 occurring at 1815hr. The 26<sup>th</sup> was only a little warmer with a max of 14.9c (1630hr), after a cloudy morning with some sunny spells but bands of showers moved through the area which continued into the afternoon. Sunny spells developed mid to late afternoon and a moderate shower fell at 1940hr producing 4.1mm in 10 minutes. The 27<sup>th</sup> saw a sunny start with Cu developing quickly to Cb by midday. A pleasant morning but a thunderstorm observed at Bracknell between 1230 and 1250hr. which was overhead at 1245hr. 3.5mm fell in the 20 minutes. The storm consisted of two separate cells, the first to the west of Harmanswater and the second that tracked overhead. Max 15.2c. The 28<sup>th</sup> was a cloudy day and quite dull at times, but it did remain generally dry, apart from a few spits and spots of rain at times. A 09-21hr max was 13.7c, but this was beaten by the 0900hr temperature on the 29<sup>th</sup> of 15.2c, after a mild night, minimum 10.1c. It was a sunny start to the day with extensive contrails. A blanket of Ac moved into the area at midday, restricting the sunshine but the Ac was patchy in nature allowing plenty of sunshine. Max 19.5c. The

30<sup>th</sup> began warm after a new 35-year record highest minimum of 12.8c. However, the day was disappointing, compared to the forecast, with low St for most of the morning lifting to Sc / Cu by afternoon allowing some sunshine, it was warm and by the late afternoon 'thundary' skies were observed to the south west. An electrical storm broke out from 0100hr until 0200hr on the 1<sup>st</sup> with continuous thunder and lighting. The storm tracked from the SW – W – NW of Harmanswater and there was no rain observed at the station.

#### DAILY Notes

Temperature: Highest maximum (21.9 on 30th) was the lowest for 4 years. Lowest maximum (6.9 on 8th) was the lowest for 5 years. Highest Minimum on the (12.8c on 30th) was the highest for April since records began in 1971 (35 years). Lowest minimum (-2.8 on 9th) was the lowest since 2003.

#### MONTHLY Notes:

Temperature: Mean minimum (5.3c) was the 5th warmest and Mean (10.0c) was the 3rd warmest on the 35 year Harmanswater record.

Rainfall: Rainfall total 56.9mm (112%) this was the first month since October to be above the 1971-2000 average. Rain days: (19) highest for 5 years and wet days: (11) the highest for 4 years.

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