

Bracknell (Harmanswater) Monthly Notes 2005

January

The 1st was a cloudy day but mild with dry conditions until 1450hr when outbreaks of rain began, although these were generally light. A late maximum at 1745hr 11.4c and there was Nil sunshine. The 2nd saw a slight ground frost as the cloud cleared to provide plenty of sunshine in the morning. Although some cloud moved into the area during the afternoon, 6.9hrs of sunshine were recorded, but it was cooler with a max of 7.8c. The 3rd began bright with sunshine, after a slight ground frost but cloud increased quickly and outbreaks of rain fell from mid afternoon. It was 'mildish' with a max of 9.9 at 1415hr.. The evening / night were quite windy and these conditions continued into the 4th, which was a dull and cloudy day, some outbreaks of light rain during the morning but more prolonged during the mid to late afternoon before dying out during the evening. Temperature had fallen slowly from the max at 1315hr 10.8c but as the frontal system crossed the area the wind veered SW to W at 1730hr with a fall in temperature as follows: 9.4c (1715), 8.2c (1815) 7.5c (1915) 15.8c (2015). Skies began to clear at this stage. The 5th began with an extensive hoar frost but air minimum was +2.5c at 0615hr. Cloud moved into the area quite quickly and sunshine was limited. It remained dry until evening when outbreaks of light rain fell. Max 8.8c at 1430hr. The 6th began with a 'mildish' night with temperatures around 5-6c, under cloudy skies. However, the cloud cleared to leave a bright sunny start to the day. The cloud thickened during the afternoon, it remained dry for the rest of the day Max 10.9 at 2015hr. However, under cloudy skies, temperatures continued to rise to a max of 12.3c at 0600 and 0900hr on the 7th with a min (21-09) of 10.6. This would have been the 2nd highest min in 35 years, but the 0900hr air temperature of the 6th is lower. The night of the 6th/7th was very windy and these conditions continued into the daytime with a 37-knot gust at 1330hr. It remained dry during the day and a max of 13.5c was recorded at 1215hr making it the 6th highest reading in 35 years. The 8th continued with windy / gusty conditions and rain fell overnight amounting to 3.6mm. Again a 37 knot gust was recorded at 0120hr but gusts in the range 25 to 30 knots were common for the majority of the night. The temperature fell 1.1c in 10 mins 0715hr 8.9c to 7.8c at 0725hr as the cold front passed through the area. There was local damage to trees in the area following the high winds on the 7th / 8th with 10 reports of trees falling onto roads with Bracknell Forest (*Bracknell News 13th January 2005*). The afternoon of the 8th was generally sunny and winds began to ease. The 9th was a quieter day, but dull with cloudy skies and temperatures rose all day to a max by 2100hr of 12.6c. According the *Bracknell News 13th January edition*) 150 homes were blacked out in Crowthorne after a tree fell onto power lines at 0453hr on the 9th. Some homes were without power for 12 hours. However, this date is suspect as a gust of 30 knots occurred on 10th at 0345hr. The 10th began with a mild night and a max of 12.6c at 0015hr and min (21-09hr) of 11.4c at 0900hr. Again no record within the 35 years due to the 0900hr on the 9th was lower. It was a dull day with no sunshine, and outbreaks of rain, which became more prolonged by midday and continued into the afternoon. Max of 11.4c occurred at 0900hr. The 11th was another dull day with no sunshine mild with a max of 12.1c. Although the morning was dry the afternoon was wet with light drizzle / rain. The 12th was generally sunny but cooler with a max of 8.6 and it remained dry. After a ground frost of -3.7c the 13th was dry coolish and sunny Max 9.1c. The 14th saw 6.5 hrs

of frost with a minimum of -1.6c at 0030hr before patchy cloud moved into the area. Fog had formed to the east of Bracknell at Sunningdale. It was a day of sunny spells with a quite pleasant max of 7.8 in lightish winds. The night of the 14th /15th has seen cloud increase with temperatures rising and there were outbreaks of light rain. It was a damp morning with a little sunshine by midday which continued into the afternoon Max 9.8c . The 16th was generally dry and cloudy with some sunny spells and it felt 'spring like' at 11.9c . The 17th was generally 'damp' with outbreaks of light rain but there were some moderate bursts during the afternoon. A cold front crossed the area during the night as temperatures fell 6.2c (2300h), 5.7c (2315h), 5.1c (2330h), 4.8c (2345h), 4.6c (2400h),.. The 18th began with a cloudy night and outbreaks of light rain temperature fell 1.6c from 0500hr in 60 mins. A slight ground frost, but the morning was cloudy and these conditions continued until late afternoon as sunny spells developed and a late max. of 6.2 at 1600hr. The 19th began sunny after a slight ground frost but cloud increased with outbreaks of light rain during the afternoon. Max 10.1c at 2100hr. A mild night followed with a max of 11.1c at 0845hr. However, it remained generally cloudy but dry and mild. Max 13.3c (8th highest reading in 35 years). The passage of a cold front overnight on the 20th/21st saw the introduction of colder air and temperatures fell steadily from 2320hr to a min of 3.8 at 0725. Some limited sunshine, but mainly cloudy and dry. The cloud cleared during the early hours on the 22nd to allow 3.9hrs of air frost and a minimum of -1.2c Sunny start but cloud moved into the area and by the afternoon it was cloudy with outbreaks of light rain by evening, with some slight sleet observed. The 23rd saw further air frost with 1.2hrs recorded. It was a sunny day with 7.4 hrs of sunshine recorded, the highest for the month. It was coldish with a max of 5.2c The 24th saw some light snow flurries around dawn and outbreaks of light sleet / wet snow during the morning and afternoon. A colder day with a max of 4.3c . The 25th saw similar conditions of slight sleet outbreaks around dawn until around 1045hr when it became dry but cloudy. There were a few sunny spells during the afternoon but again coldish with max of 5.1c . The 26th began cloudy but skies cleared to allow 8.2hrs of frost and a minimum of -1.3c . A generally sunny day, but patchy cloud began increasing especially during late afternoon and into the evening. The 27th was cloudy and less cold, by the afternoon it felt milder but there were outbreaks of light rain. The 28th was dry at first but cloudy, however outbreaks of light rain fell from late afternoon. It was dry but cloudy evening. The 29th was another cloudy day with a little sunshine. It was dry though during the day, with outbreaks of light rain overnight into the 30th.

Summary for Month:

Daily Notes

Maximum 13.5c on 7th was the 6th and 13.3c on 20th the 8th highest reading in January in 35 years. Lowest maximum (4.3c on 24th and 26th) were the highest since 1990.

Highest Minimum (7.3c on 10th) lowest since 1998. Lowest Minimum (-1.6c on 14th) was the highest since 1990. Rainfall: Highest daily fall 5.6mm (10th) was the lowest since 1989. Sunshine, last 5 days of month only 0.8hrs.

Monthly Notes

Mean Max (9.1c) Mean Min (3.1c) were both the 5th warmest since Harmanwater records began in 1971 (35 years). Mean (6.1c) the 4th warmest in 35 years.

Rainfall 23.0mm (35%) the 7th driest in 35 years and driest since 2000. Rain (14) and wet (6) days lowest since 2000. Air frosts (4) lowest since 1983 (equal 1990). Snow falling (4 days) average but highest since 1997 (equal with 2003). Strong winds on 7th /8th January caused damage to the electricity system whereby 150 homes in the Crowthorne area to the south of Bracknell were without power for up to 12 hours. (*Bracknell News*)

© Paul Fishwick Observer FRMetS 2005

E-mail P.Fishwick@tesco.net.

Web site 1 www.bracknell-berkshire.co.uk/services/weather

Web site 2 www.metlink.org/data