

June 2005

The 1st was a dull cloudy and cool day with drizzle in the afternoon and no sunshine and this was the first day with a Nil since 23rd April. The max 16.1 was the lowest for the month. The 2nd was also dull but generally dry, a little warmer but only 1 hr of sunshine. The 3rd was warmer with 0900hr temperature beating the 2nd max at 17.5c. There was some warm sunshine in the morning but thunderstorm in the afternoon brought some heavy rain with 6.5mm falling in 60 mins with a 5c fall in temperature between 1500 and 1600hr. The 4th saw some improvement with more sunshine, generally dry and quite warm with a max of 20.1c. The 5th was cooler and cloudy and a max of 17.9c. The 6th continued cool, with a max of only 16.8c. It was dry but generally cloudy. The 7th began cold, with a minimum of 3.3c and grass minimum of 0.4, the 10th lowest in 35 years. However the clear sky allowed for 15hrs of sunshine and a little warmer with a max of 18.9c. A distinct sea breeze at 1900hr occurred. Barometric pressure reached 1038.0mb at 2300hr and again at 0745hr on the 8th, this was the highest for the month and highest for June locally since 1959. Temperature rose quickly with 6.7c rise in 60 mins 0515 to 0615hr. Another sunny day and warmer with a max of 22.3c. The 9th continued the good weather but a little cloudier and a max of 23.1c. The 10th was generally cloudy, some sunshine, but dry and warm max 20.2. The 11th saw a return to more sunshine but a little cooler with a max of 18.9c. A fall of Sahara dust fell during a shower at 0330hr on the 12th, which was a dry but cloudy day with some bright spells. Max 19.8c. The 13th was dry and sunny and a max of 20.4c. The 14th was also warm but duller and it remained dry max 20.3c. The 15th began with some light rain/drizzle during the early hours, which continued until 1130hr. The afternoon improved with some sunshine and it remained dry Max 20.9c. The 16th saw generally cloudy conditions with some showers around, especially during the morning. A late max occurred at 1815hr 18.9c during late evening sunshine. The 17th saw an explosion of heat, with the 16th max. beaten at 0730hr on the 17th 20.4c. The day was generally cloudy but temperatures reached a max of 26.1c with some short sunny spells. The 18th was hot and sunny and a max of 29.1c and 14.2hrs of sunshine. The 19th after a very mild night min. 17.2c (3rd highest in 35 years) saw a new record broken at 0900hr 28.1c and a max of 31.0c under 14.8hrs of sunshine. The 20th was another record breaker with a minimum of 18.6c the highest in 35 years and maybe 101 years locally. A cloudier day but still 8 hrs of sunshine and a max of 27.7c. The 21st was another sunny and hot day with a max of 26.6c and 13.5hrs of sunshine. The 22nd saw temperatures rise again to reach a max of 29.5c under 15.2hrs of sunshine. The 23rd continued hot and sunny with 12hrs of bright sunshine and a max of 30.4c, but change was in the air during the morning of 24th as Ac (fl) was observed and normally signals thunderstorms. The increasing cloud saw an early max of 24.2c at 0945hr and thunderstorms affected the area from 1130hr, with further storms during the afternoon. The 25th saw a mild and damp night and the day although dry was dull, with no sunshine and a max of only 18.4c, some 12c lower than 48 hours beforehand. The 26th was warmer and brighter and it was dry with a max of 21.9c. A left hand sun dog observed at 1915hr. The 27th was sunny and hot with a max of 26.6c and 13.9hrs of sunshine. However, after a warm start the 28th became very windy and cloud increased with thunderstorms by 1830hr. Some of these were quite violent to the east of Bracknell. However, Bracknell escaped the worst of them but slight dust fall in the storm. Max 26.7c at 1345hr. The 29th

saw a misty start with sunny spells developing and becoming quite warm, max 24.5c The 30th was dull and cloudy a few showers around and a max of 18.8c.

A Hot Week in June

The week of Friday 17th to Thursday 24th June, can be described as hot. The term ‘hot’ applies when the air temperature reaches or exceeds 25c. Weather records for Bracknell (Harmanswater) are available for the past 35 years (1971-2005), together with records kept at the former Met Office HQ, 1 km from the Harmanswater site, between 1963 and 1970, therefore extending the ‘Bracknell’ record to 43 years. Analysis of this data has been carried out providing a comparison with previous years. The criterion set is that there is a ‘week’ of 7 days, all the dates must be continuous where the maximum must have reached or exceed 25c. This has only occurred 5 times in the 43 years as indicated the table 1 below.

Table 1

Day	1970	1976	1986	1989	2005
1	25.0	30.0	25.5	27.2	26.1
2	26.3	32.4	27.0	26.9	29.1
3	28.3	35.0	29.7	26.6	31.0
4	29.4	34.0	30.0	27.0	27.7
5	29.3	34.0	28.3	26.5	26.6
6	29.2	31.0	28.5	29.0	29.5
7	25.2	30.8	26.3	30.0	30.4
Ave	27.5	32.4	27.9	27.6	28.6
Dates	6-12 th	24-30 th	25-1 st	14-20 th	17-24 th
Rank	5	1	3	4	2

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There were many single days or a run of several days where the maximum reached or exceeded 25c, the saying “the two hot days and a thunderstorm” comes to mind. The highest ten readings for the last 35 June’s, 1971-2005 are indicated in table 2.

Table 2

Rank	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Reading	35.0	34.0	32.4	32.0	31.0	30.8	30.4	30.1	30.0	29.7
Date(s)	26/76	27/76 28/76	25/76	30/05	29/76 18/00 19/05	26/01	23/05	23/76 8/04	24/76 28/86 20/89 7/96	27/86

Daily Notes

Two maxima recorded during June 2005 entered the Ten Highest readings in 35 years of records. 31.0c recorded on the 19th (5th highest), 30.4c recorded on the 23rd (7th highest). With these readings now in the top ten, 29.5c recorded on the 22nd and 29.1c recorded on the 18th are now just outside the top ten in the 11th and 12th positions but would have been well inside the top ten except for high readings during 2004 and 2005 June's. A new record broken at 0900hr on the 19th with a temperature of 28.1c. Minima readings also entered the top ten warmest, with a new record high of 18.6c on the 20th, with 17.2c recorded on the 19th in 3rd spot and 16.4c recorded on the 17th and 25th in 7th position. Remarkably, the grass minimum on the 7th (0.4c) and the 13th (0.9c) entered the top ten lowest in the 35 years in 9th and 10th position. 5c fall in 60 minutes on the 3rd, during thunderstorm. Distinct sea-breeze on the 7th. The highest rainfall total, 8.3mm on the 24th was the lowest 24 hour fall since 1996. Possible Sahara dust fall on the 12th at 0330hr during shower and possible slight dust fall on the 28th during thunderstorm 1830-1900hr.

Monthly Notes

The mean maximum 22.6c, the mean minimum 11.6c together with the mean, 17.1c were the 3rd highest within their respective categories in 35 years of Harmanwater records. The 'Hot Week', see above for details was the 2nd highest in 43 years of 'Bracknell' records with only 1976 being higher. Rainfall total of 24.6mm was the 8th lowest in 35 years and 7th out of 8 months in the November 2004 to June 2005 (8 months) period, which now has a total of only 285.6mm (62%), which is still 110.4mm higher than the driest equivalent period in the 35 years during 1976. The number of 'wet days' (1.0mm or greater) 5 days, was the lowest since 2001 (4 days). The number of days with thunder heard, 3 was the highest since 1997 (4) and equal with 2003.

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

Web site 2 www.metlink.org/data