

## Bracknell (Harmanswater) Monthly Notes For March 2005

### March 2005

The cold spell that commenced during late February continued into the start of March with the 1<sup>st</sup> seeing snow overnight but turning to rain around 0730hr and then dying out around 0800hr. A cloudy dull and cold day followed with a wet evening of rain and drizzle. Max 5.3c The 2<sup>nd</sup> was another cold day with the max of 3.1c entering the top 10 lowest maxima in 35 years, at 6<sup>th</sup> spot. A dull day, generally dry until late afternoon with snow showers. The 3<sup>rd</sup> saw further snow showers and a snow cover of 30% at 0900hr (<1cm). Extensive ice around before 0900hr from an overnight frost and volume of surface water. The 3<sup>rd</sup> was however a sunny day with 7.1 hrs of sunshine, but still cold with a max of 4.1. The 4<sup>th</sup> began with 1cm of snow lying at 0900hr. the first time during March since 1996. The snow had fallen between 0710 and 0930hr. However a rapid thaw set in from 1130hr. A min of -4.7 and grass of -8.9 had occurred overnight, both the lowest for the month. The air frost duration was 13.4hrs the most for the month. A max of 7.1c was recorded at 1315hr but temp. fell instantly to 4.8c as a hail shower moved through the area producing a covering. The 5<sup>th</sup> was another day with snow showers and a hail shower at 1650hr. A sunnier day with a max of 6.2c. The 6<sup>th</sup> was the last day with snow falling in a series of 15 days commencing on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February. This is the longest unbroken number of days with snowfalling since records began in 1971 (35 years). The 6<sup>th</sup> snow was however a slight snow flurry at 0935hr. The day was cold but dry with 5.2hrs of sunshine. Max 4.6 The 7<sup>th</sup> was dull but dry with a max of 7.3, as milder air began to feed into the area. The 8<sup>th</sup> was dull but dry with a max of 7.7c The 9<sup>th</sup> was also dull and dry with a max of 8.0c The 10<sup>th</sup> was a little brighter, although there was some light rain in the morning and it was milder with a max of 9.1c. The 11<sup>th</sup> was cloudy a little brightness mild, with rain in the evening. Max 9.9c The 12<sup>th</sup> was a much brighter day with 5.9hrs of sunshine a max of 9.2 and a distinctive sunset of red/orange. The 13<sup>th</sup> saw a return to air frosts with 7.3hrs of frost and a sunny start, but generally cloudy thereafter. Max 8.4c The 14<sup>th</sup> was dry and cloudy after 3hrs of air frost but it remained dry. The 15<sup>th</sup> was overcast, but dry and mild at 11.8c The 16<sup>th</sup> saw much warmer air move into the area from the south with a very mid night (min 10.7c) It was a 'spring like' day with 17.3c recorded. The 17<sup>th</sup> began with a min of 10.7c the 5<sup>th</sup> highest in 35 years and the highest for 5 years. A glorious day with 9.5hrs of sunshine and a max of 19.4c the 5<sup>th</sup> highest in 35 years. The 18<sup>th</sup> saw temperatures rise even higher with a max of 20.4c the 4<sup>th</sup> highest in 35 years and again a glorious day with 9.93hrs of sunshine, the highest for the month. The 19<sup>th</sup> began foggy with 400m at 0600hr but by 0900hr this had cleared to a mist (1500m). It was another glorious day with a max of 21.1c the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest since records began 35 years ago, and the highest since 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March 1990. This was also the highest max for the month. There was also 9.75hrs of sunshine. The 20<sup>th</sup> was in stark contrast with a max of only 13.7c under generally cloudy skies only 2 hrs of sunshine which occurred in the afternoon. The majority of the day was overcast skies. The 21<sup>st</sup> saw a max of 15.7c. The day had begun sunny, but cloud spread into the area and the sunshine was 'dimmed' by Cs covering the whole sky during the afternoon. The 22<sup>nd</sup> was dull with rain at times during the morning Max 14.1c The 23<sup>rd</sup> saw a sunny start but by the afternoon cloud had moved into the area, a max of 16.6c occurred. The 24<sup>th</sup> began with a wet night and a fall of 7.8mm in 3 hrs from 0315hr. This included a fall of

3.4mm in 1 hr at 0430hr the most in the month. After the rain had ceased c0615hr the morning was dull but the cloud began to lift and it became brighter, although remaining generally cloudy. Max 15.9c The 25<sup>th</sup> was a cloudy but dry morning and by the afternoon sunny spells had developed, max 16.6c The 26<sup>th</sup> was a sunny day with 8.6hrs of sunshine. And a max of 16.7c The 27<sup>th</sup> was dull and overcast with a max of 11.1c After a misty start the 28<sup>th</sup> was generally sunny with 6 hrs and a max of 15.1c. A foggy start greeted the morning of the 29<sup>th</sup> 800m at 0900hr. However, the morning remained dull and these conditions continued into the afternoon, with rain from 1415hr. A wet afternoon evg. and night. By 0900hr of the 30<sup>th</sup> 19.1mm had fallen the highest 24 hr fall in any month since October 2004 and the highest in March since 1984 (21 years). After a wet night the 30<sup>th</sup> was foggy with 400m visibility at 0900hr. Another dull day, and there was outbreaks of drizzle at times. Visibility was <1000m all day. The 31<sup>st</sup> was the 4<sup>th</sup> in a series of dull days with Nil sunshine. It was another foggy start with 800m at 0900hr. Again outbreaks of light drizzle but also rain occurred at times during the day Max 10.4c

### Daily Notes

The maximum of 21.1c on the 19<sup>th</sup> was the highest since 1990 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in 35 years. The minimum of 10.7 on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> was the highest since 2000 but also the 5<sup>th</sup> highest in 35 years. The rainfall total of 19.1mm on the 29<sup>th</sup> was the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in 35 years and highest during March for 21 years.

### Monthly Notes

The mean max of 11.4c was the lowest since 2001. The mean min was the highest since 1999 (equal with 2002) The rainfall total of 49.1mm was the highest since 2002, but the highest in any month since October 2004. The number of days with snow falling (6 days) was the highest since 1987 (18 years) (equal with 1995). The number of days with snow lying was the highest for 10 years (equal 1996). The 1cm snow depth on the 4<sup>th</sup> March was the deepest in March since 1986 (equal 1995 and 1996). The number of days with hail, (2 days) were the highest since 1995 (equal 2000). The number of days with Fog (at 0900hr) (3 days) was the highest since 1991 (equal 2000).

### Bracknell Harmanswater '5 Day Warm Spells'

The 'warm spell' between 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March was noteworthy as at nearby Wisley Surrey a new UK record was set for the 19<sup>th</sup> March. At Bracknell Harmanswater 3 of the days 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> are included in the top 10 'warmest' days for March. So how does this 'warm spell' compare with previous spells in the last 35 years for Bracknell Harmanswater and 55 years including local records.

Bracknell Harmanswater '5 Day Warm Spells' during March 1971-2005 (35 Years)

Days	1972	1989	1990	1999	2005
1	19.7 (17)	19.4 (27)	<b>21.4 (17)</b>	19.3 (31)	21.1 (19)
2	19.3 (16-17)	19.3 (27-28)	<b>21.3 (17-18)</b>	16.0 (30-31)	20.7 (18-19)
3	18.9 (15-17)	18.7 (26-28)	19.9 (16-18)	15.4 (29-31)	<b>20.3 (17-19)</b>
4	18.6 (15-18) 18.6 (17-20)	17.8 (28-31)	18.3 (15-18)	15.3 (28-31)	<b>19.5 (16-19)</b>
5	<b>18.7 (16-20)</b>	18.1 (27-31)	17.5 (14-18)	15.3 (27-31)	18.4 (16-20)

Notes Days are consecutive with dates in brackets.

Daily local records are available back to 1951 and these indicate that 1965 (27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>) was slightly warmer than 2005 over all 5 days (except equal over 4 days) and 1968 (25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>) which was slightly warmer over days 1 and 2 but cooler over days 3 to 5. The warmest series of days are indicated in **RED**. 2005 was the warmest over 3 and 4 consecutive days.

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