

DURLSTON COUNTRY PARK WEATHER RECORDS

ANNUAL SUMMARY 2009

In a year of marked contrasts, catastrophic floods in the north of the country were followed by country-wide and unusually persistent cold conditions with snow and ice later. In the south it was less extreme: even so here the total precipitation, 1001.6 mm (39.4 in) was well above average, being one of only seven years when the total has exceeded 1000 mm since our records began in 1988. The average for Durlston is of the order of 36 inches per annum. The jet stream had moved further south than usual, allowing the constant passage of Atlantic depressions across the British Isles. Some of these exceptionally vigorous, resulting in storm force winds, gusting to more than 60 mph as they moved up-Channel along the south coast. Autumn was the wettest season with an above average rainfall total, falling predominantly in November. Spring was amongst one of the driest on record, and summer was below average in rainfall, although July was unusually wet.

It was not a cold year, despite a cold beginning and the extreme conditions at the end, when snow and low temperatures disrupted train services from Wareham around Christmas. Spring was warm with equinoctial high pressure and above average temperatures; summer was a cool disappointment, apart from one hot day in mid-August, on the fringe of a continental heat wave which caused many deaths abroad.

Monthly Summery

- JAN.** Cold, wet, windy. Max gust 67 mph; thunder
FEB. Wet, lightning. Hard winter ended mid-month.
MAR. Spring began with 2cm snow, then warm and dry spell
APR. Unusually dry and warm
MAY. Hot, dry end to spring
JUN. Warm to very warm (23C, 74F). Thunderstorms
JUL. Very wet, windy
AUG. Cloudy, dull, damp. Disappointing end to summer
SEP. Equinoctial high pressure; particularly warm at first
OCT. Warm for autumn, dry. 'St Luke's summer' at close
NOV. Very wet, thundery, mild. 5th wettest Autumn
DEC. Wet, with thunderstorms (gusts to 67 mph). Turned cold, with widespread frost.