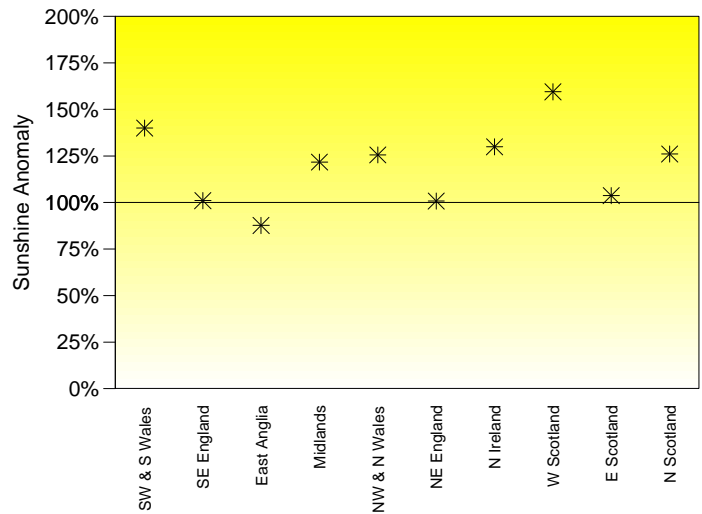
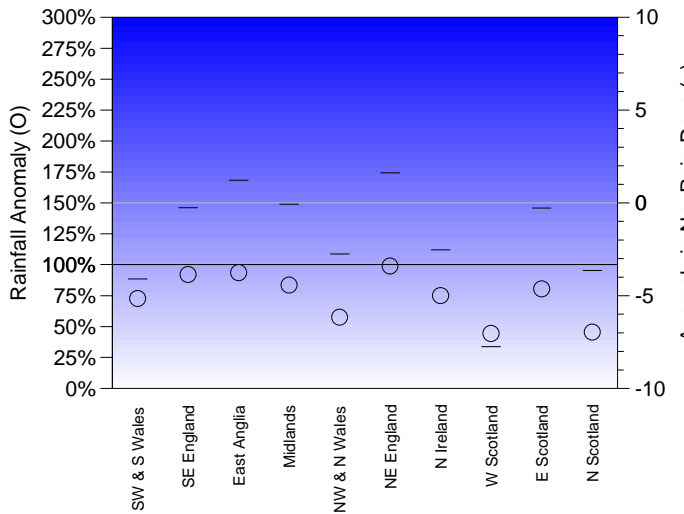


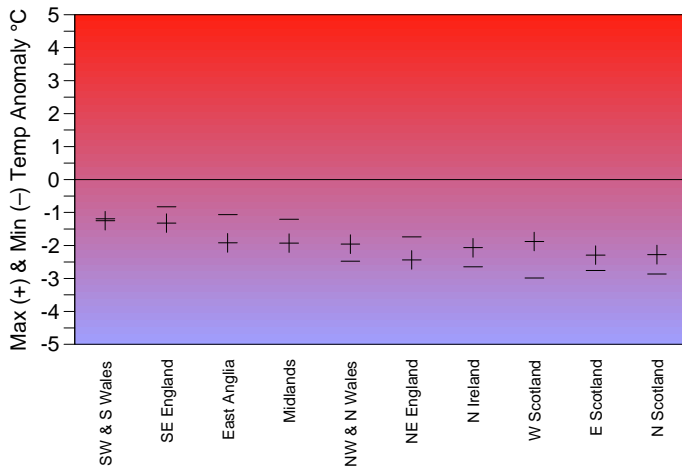
Extremes for January 2010	
Hottest:	12.4°C Exeter, Devon, 16th
Coldest:	-22.3°C Altnaharra SAWS, Highland, 8th
Most Rain:	59.2mm Kinbrace, Highland, 12th
Most Sun:	8.8hrs Portchester, Hampshire, 30th
Windiest:	75mph Sule Skerry MAWS, Orkney, 16th
Warmest:	6.4°C Scilly St. Mary's SAWS, Cornwall
Coolest:	-0.9°C Carterhouse, Borders
Wettest:	136.0mm Ballypatrick Forest SAWS, County Antrim
Driest:	28.1mm Cambridge University, Cambridgeshire
Sunniest:	102.5hrs Camborne, Cornwall
Dullest:	27.8hrs Aviemore, Highland



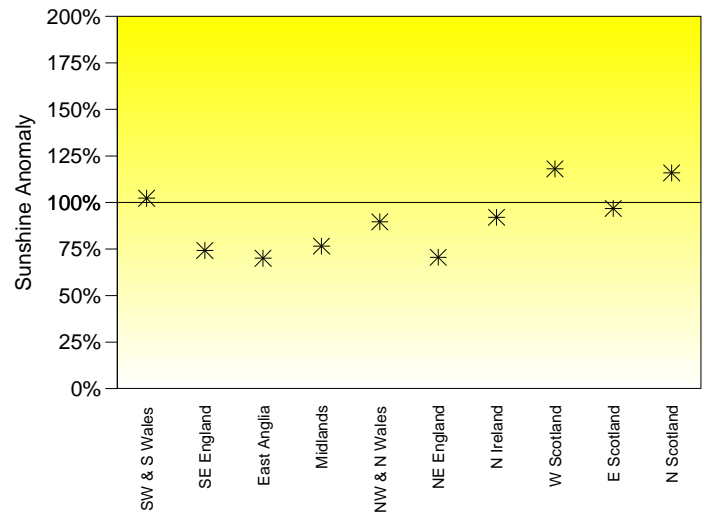
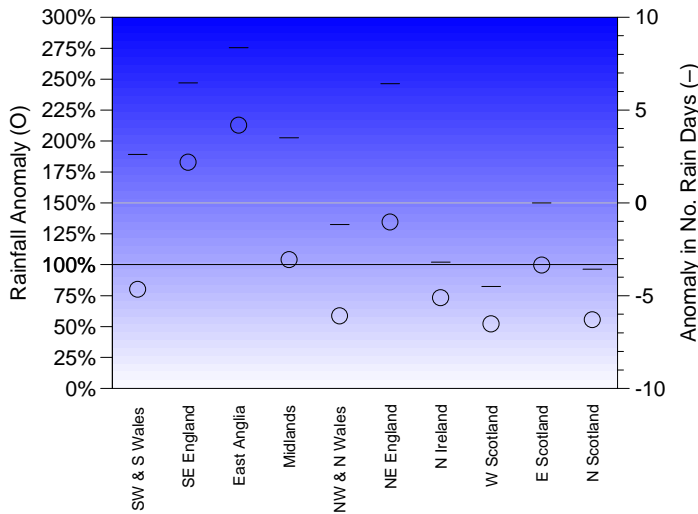
The days draw out noticeably in January but after the festivities of Christmas, it still often seems a dark and gloomy month. The first half is notoriously mild, wet and stormy as the Atlantic westerlies reach maximum strength, but this year the cold winter persisted and winds from the north and east brought frost and more snow.

Starry skies greeted most midnight revellers as the New Year opened and the first few days of 2010 saw plentiful sunshine, hard night frosts and scattered snow showers. On the 3rd, there was a minimum of -16.7°C (2°F) at Braemar, Aberdeenshire. By the 5th, pressure began to fall as fronts moved southwards, bringing a band of snow to the Scottish borders which closed schools just as the new term started. This turned out to be merely the prelude to very heavy snowfall over much of central and southern England overnight and into the 6th. There was widespread disruption to road and rail traffic, airports were closed and motorists were left stranded overnight on the A3 in Hampshire. The area of snow edged away from south east England late on the 6th, leaving accumulations of 25-30cm widely across central and southern parts of the UK, and up to 40-50cm across north east England and southern Scotland. More snow followed over the next few days, especially over Yorkshire and Humberside during the evening of the 8th - but it was the low night-time temperatures that were most noteworthy. Benson (Oxfordshire) recorded a minimum of -17.7°C (0°F) on the 7th and Altnaharra (Highland), a numbing -22.3°C (-8°F) early on the 8th. A fresh band of snow approached southern England from the continent on the 9th and 10th but this turned out to be less heavy and more localised than had been initially forecast. On the 12th, however, rain over the far southwest of England turned to snow as it moved inland and met colder air. Transport chaos ensued across southwest England and south Wales, and 'blizzard' conditions extended slowly to other parts of England and Wales on the 13th - closing many schools and disrupting pupils due to sit public exams. A slow thaw then set in beneath dull and misty skies, and this gathered momentum on the 16th as Atlantic fronts brought sleet then rain. The 17th was brighter, but a sluggish weather pattern brought grey and gloomy weather over the following week. Temperatures fell again on the 20th with further snowfall over parts of Wales, the Midlands and southern England. Fronts brought rain and higher temperatures on the 22nd but quiet weather resumed thereafter as the system stagnated in the North Sea. During the final few days, the main focus of high pressure transferred to mid-Atlantic and the flow veered north-westerly and then northerly, introducing a plunge of Arctic air. This gave sunshine inland, sharp night frosts and wintry showers around exposed coasts - bringing the month to a crisp, invigorating end. Provisionally, it was the coldest January in the UK since 1987 and equal eighth coldest in a series from 1914. Precipitation was close to or below normal, especially in western areas, while sunshine was well above average in the west but rather below average along the east coast.

In contrast to the frigid UK, New Years Day on Crete saw Heraklion basking in 29.8°C (80°F) - a record high January temperature for Europe! Elsewhere on the continent, however the lengthy cold spell that began in December continued. Geneva airport was shut down over the weekend of January 8th due to heavy snow. Over 90% of flights at Frankfurt airport (Germany's busiest) were also cancelled on the 8th, while on the 10th snow drifts 2m deep near Freiburg trapped hundreds of drivers in their vehicles. In Poland, at least 200,000 households were left without power and 1.5m of snow was reported in Leszno. In Holland, icebreakers were deployed to clear shipping routes such as the Twente canal and the harbours of Almelo and Enschede. Seville, Spain reported snow for the first time in 50 years. Between January 20th and 27th another severely cold spell affected eastern Europe. At Intorsura Buzauli (Romania) on the 25th, temperatures fell to -35°C (-31°F) and in Bulgaria, emergency workers struggled through 4m snowdrifts to deliver supplies to stranded villages. Severe cold also hit the United States during the first fortnight. International Falls, Minnesota set a new record low temperature of -38°C (-37°F) on both the 2nd and 3rd. In northern Florida, citrus crops were hit hard when temperatures dipped below -2°C (28°F) on several nights. Widespread snow fell across the state - even in Orlando - a very rare event. In China, central Beijing received 8cm of snow on the 2nd, the heaviest fall since 1951, while some suburbs reported 33cm. In the aftermath, on the night of 4th, temperatures plummeted to -18°C (-1°F). 28cm of snow fell in Seoul, South Korea on the 3rd, the greatest snowfall since records began in 1937. In the southern hemisphere, the first summer snowfall since records began occurred on January 18th in the town of Bombala, New South Wales, Australia. Just 1 week earlier, temperatures in the region had exceeded (45°C) 113°F!



Extremes for February 2010		
Hottest:	12.5°C	Carrefour-au-Clercq, Channel Islands, 23rd
Coldest:	-19.2°C	Braemar No 2, Avon, 23rd
Most Rain:	49.0mm	Lerwick, Shetland, 25th
Most Sun:	9.5hrs	Kinloss, Grampian, 23rd
Windiest:	72mph	Jersey Airport, Channel Islands, 17th
Warmest:	7.0°C	Scilly St. Mary's SAWS, Cornwall
Coolest:	-1.4°C	Tulloch Bridge SAWS, Highland
Wettest:	138.6mm	Herstmonceux West End, East Sussex
Driest:	9.1mm	Cambridge University, Cambridgeshire
Sunniest:	102.2hrs	Dunstaffnage, Strathclyde
Dullest:	33.2hrs	Swaffham, Norfolk

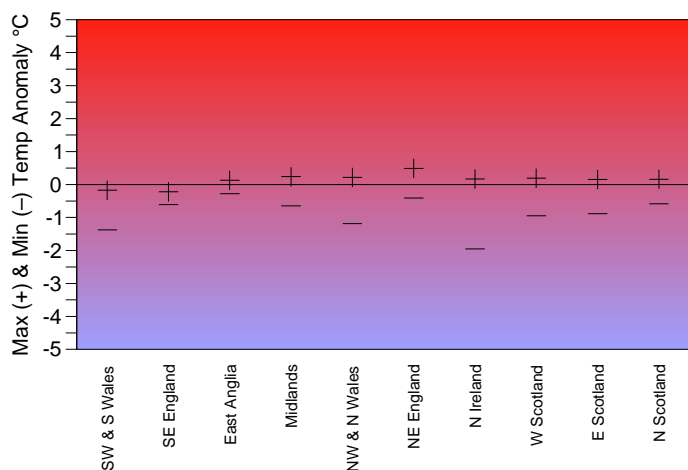


The saying "a February spring isn't worth a pin" reflects the fact that despite the noticeable lengthening of the days, winter has not finished with us yet. Indeed, February can provide some of our harshest weather - because the seas around our shores are slow to gain their heat. In some south-western coastal areas February is statistically a colder month than January. This year, the freezing and snowy conditions of previous months continued...

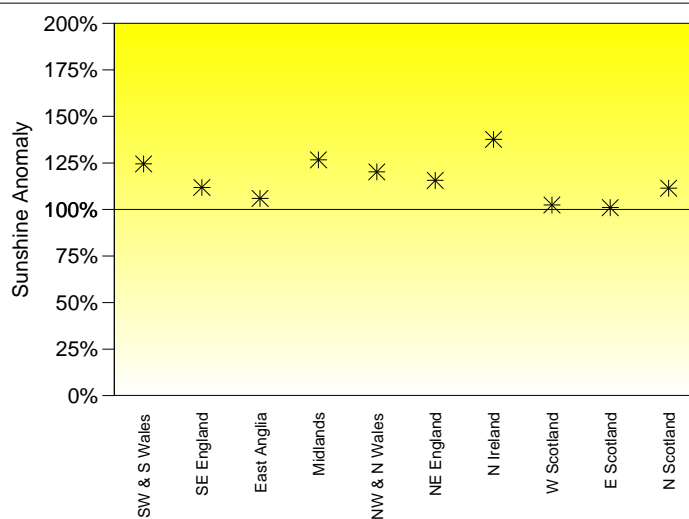
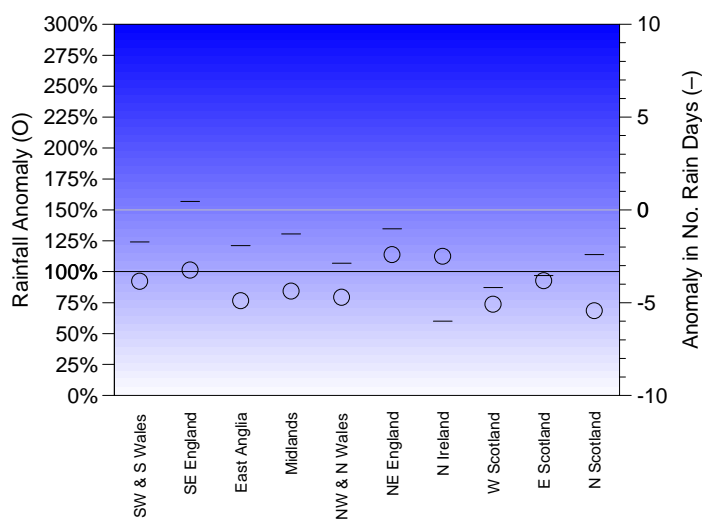
The month opened with a cold, bright day but milder weather began to push northwards from the 3rd behind frontal systems. On the 5th, temperatures in the south rose above 10°C (50°F) for the first time since 10th December 2009, but the mild spell was brief. Cold north-east winds returned on the 7th and persisted throughout the following week. There were more snow showers in central and eastern areas and some were heavy, leading to significant accumulations, especially in Kent overnight on the 10th/11th. From the 14th, a complex set of fronts sank southwards across the UK giving several days of cold, damp weather, with a messy mixture of rain, sleet and snow. The 19th to 21st were brighter but still with wintry showers, and the 22nd saw more widespread snowfall across the Midlands. Scotland had some penetrating frosts, with -19°C (-2°F) at Braemar early on the 22nd and 23rd. By this time, milder weather was pushing north across England and Wales with rain preceded by snow, but the frontal zone dividing the very cold air to the north and milder air to the south became slow-moving across Scotland on the 24th and 25th. This gave lengthy snowfall and blizzards in the Highlands that closed many roads and left thousands of homes in Perthshire without power. To the delight of skiers, 44cm of lying snow was reported from Aviemore, Highlands at 0900 on the 25th. On the 26th and 27th, snowfall became lighter and more sporadic but the mild weather never came to dominate across Scotland. On the 28th, a deep depression moving from Biscay to north-east France gave a wet and windy day in the south-east but northern and western areas were brighter.

Overall it was another cold month, provisionally the coldest February for the UK as a whole since 1991, making this the coldest winter for 31 years. Sunshine totals ranged from below normal across eastern England to well above average near western coasts - typical of a month dominated by easterlies. Precipitation was mostly below normal except in eastern and south-eastern areas of England where up to twice the normal rainfall equivalent fell.

Severe winter weather continued to affect continental Europe. In Scandinavia, temperatures fell to -42°C at Kautokeino, Norway, on the 21st, while in north-west Russia temperatures plunged below -50°C on the 19th. Thousands of snow-clearing machines worked to dig the Russian capital Moscow out of a record-breaking snowfall of 63cm 20th-21st. On the 12th Rome experienced its heaviest snowfall since 1986, closing Ciampino airport and slowing the city's traffic to a crawl. On 27th-28th at least 50 people were killed as storm 'Cynthia' lashed Spain, Portugal and France. Worst affected were the Vendee and Charente-Maritime regions on the western coast of France. Huge waves and gusts over 80mph battered many coastal towns, spreading floods inland and destroying buildings. More than a million homes in France lost electricity, dozens of flights were cancelled from Paris Charles de Gaulle airport and hundreds of train services were delayed because of flooded tracks. On the 20th at least 32 people were killed in floods and mudslides after torrential rains (132mm in 12 hours) hit the Atlantic island of Madeira. The main city, Funchal, and other towns and villages on the south coast were worst affected. Trees were felled and rocks carried away by the muddy floodwaters, blocking roads and hampering emergency services. In the USA an historic blizzard, dubbed 'Snowmageddon', hit the mid-Atlantic region on the 5th and 6th. Colesville, a suburb of Washington D.C. received 102cm. A state record of 65cm was recorded at Wilmington, Delaware, while 72cm at Philadelphia was its second heaviest fall on record. Washington Dulles Airport received 82cm - its largest ever two-day snowfall. Bulldozers had to be used in place of traditional snowploughs. Hundreds of thousands of homes lost power; schools, shops and airports closed; and roofs caved in from the weight of snow. On the 9th and 10th a second major blizzard struck the eastern U.S. This brought 48 cm of new snow to Baltimore, up to 41cm to New York City and 51cm to New Jersey. All-time seasonal snowfall records were broken for Washington, Baltimore, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia and economic losses estimated to have exceeded \$2B. On February 13th, snow was present in all 49 mainland U.S. states while across the border Vancouver, host to the Winter Olympics was conspicuously snow-free!



Extremes for March 2010	
Hottest:	18.0°C Weybourne, Norfolk, 18th
Coldest:	-18.6°C Braemar No 2, Avon, 4th
Most Rain:	65.0mm Helens Bay, County Down, 30th
Most Sun:	11.6hrs Newtownards, County Down, 21st
Windiest:	73mph Fair Isle, Shetland, 19th
Warmest:	8.1°C Scilly St. Mary's SAWS, Cornwall
Coolest:	1.8°C Dalwhinnie No 2, Tayside
Wettest:	283.4mm Cluanie Inn No 3, Ross & Cromarty
Driest:	5.4mm Cambridge University, Cambridgeshire
Sunniest:	215.2hrs Radstock, Somerset
Dullest:	72.6hrs Kinlochewe, Highland

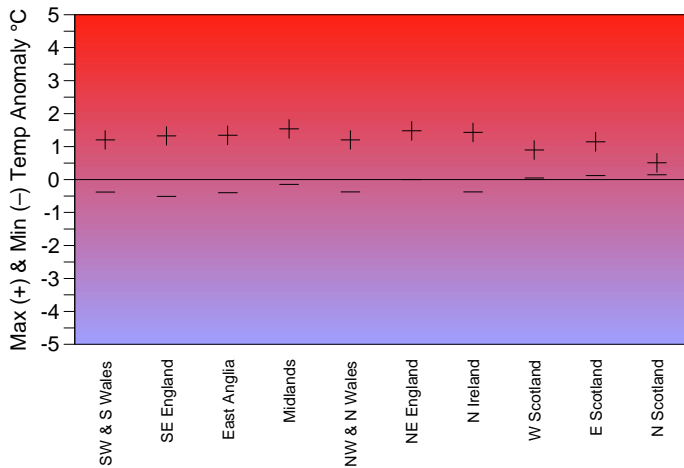


March often marks the transition from winter to spring as daffodils appear and lambs begin to gambol in the fields. Winter weather is far from over however, and while the sun now has the strength to thaw lying snow quickly at low levels, it can still persist over higher ground. This year, March may have come in 'like a lamb' but it certainly went out 'like a lion'.

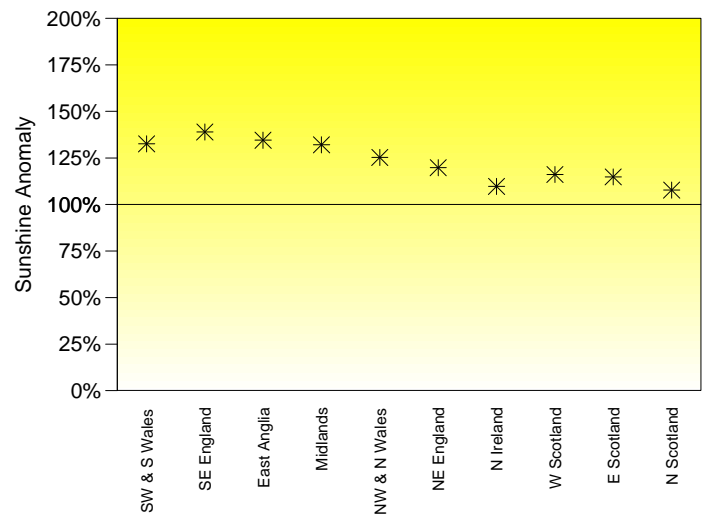
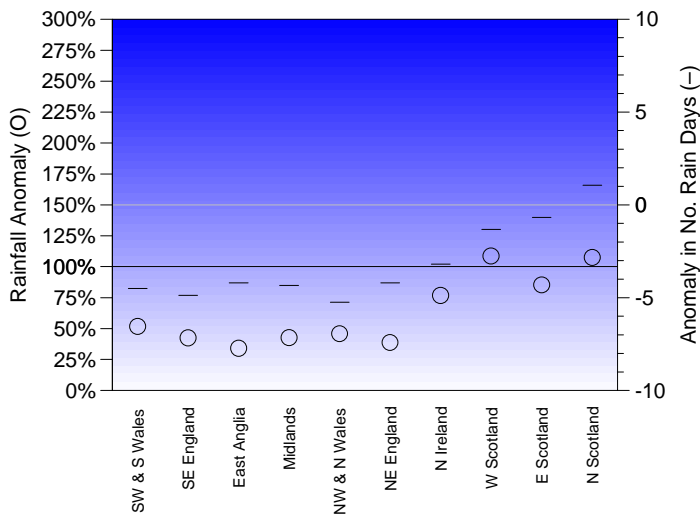
The storm that brought damaging gales to northern Spain and western France at the end of February was over the Baltic by the 1st of March and the month opened bright but chilly. Frost was widespread over the first week with -18.6°C (-2°F) at Braemar (Aberdeenshire) on the 4th but days were sunny and crisp. Still colder air infiltrated from the east on the 7th, and high pressure remained firmly in charge over the northern UK giving a raw NE wind in the south. The focus of high pressure transferred to the eastern Atlantic by the 12th, allowing weak fronts to slip southwards and giving rise to cloud and a little rain. Winds then turned north westerly and it became less cold over the next few days but cloud amounts were very variable. A major change began on the 17th as SSW winds freshened, and the 18th was the warmest day of the year so far with a maximum of 18°C (64°F) at Weybourne (Norfolk). An unsettled period followed with fronts giving spells of rain but there were brighter interludes and it remained mild; indeed, balmy southerly breezes on the 24th gave widespread maxima above 16°C (61°F). The illusion of Spring was short-lived however, and more fronts associated with a deep depression to the south-west brought heavy, thundery rain on the 25th and this was followed by a couple of showery, rather blustery days. The 28th started bright over England and Wales, but cloud increased and an ominous sea mist rolled onto Channel coasts heralding rain from a warm front. A very disturbed spell then saw the month out as the associated deepening depression moved across the UK. Heavy rain was widespread and as colder air from the Arctic became entrained in the low's circulation, snow developed over high ground in Scotland and N. Ireland. The snow was of the wet, clinging variety and its weight brought down numerous power lines. By midday on the 31st, it was estimated that some 20,000 homes were without power in Dumfries and Galloway and NE Scotland. Tragically, a coach overturned in treacherous driving conditions in Lanarkshire, causing serious injuries and one fatality. Meanwhile, in N. Ireland, 300 motorists were trapped in their vehicles in the Glen Shane pass as snowdrifts 4 feet deep piled up on the night of the 30th/31st.

The contrasting spells meant that overall mean temperatures were close to average. It was generally a sunny month with precipitation somewhat below normal except in parts of northern England, southern Scotland and Northern Ireland.

A severe cold wave swept across southern Europe in the first half of March. On the 7th, up to 40cm of snow fell in France's central southern region causing serious disruption to road, rail and flights. In Spain, nearly a quarter of a million people in the north-east were left without power after snowstorms on the 8th and 9th. 1m of snow fell in the Pyrenees leaving 6,000 travellers stranded and blocking up to 40 roads on the border between Spain and France. Barcelona recorded its heaviest snowfall since 1962 and thousands of workers were left stranded after leaving their offices at lunchtime to witness and photograph the rare scenes of the beach blanketed in snow. 50cm snow fell at Girona - leaving it effectively cut off from the rest of Spain and 10cm across the holiday island of Majorca where surprised holidaymakers were forced indoors! On 11th, blizzards struck northern Italy, depositing 36cm of snow in Modena and Bologna. The Bora wind also brought heavy seas to the north Adriatic. Beaches were damaged by waves up to 6m high and winds gusted to 101 mph near Venice. Further east, the Bulgarian capital Sofia was paralysed following heavy snowfalls. The northern towns of Razgrad, Shumen and Montana were even harder hit with cars, trucks and buses stranded in the snow. Across the Atlantic, a severe winter storm wreaked havoc along the east coast on the 13th. Rainfall of 150-240mm and strong winds killed at least 11 people and left approximately 500,000 people without electricity in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut. New Jersey's largest utility company stated that the storm was the worst in its history, with 420,000 power outages to customers. In the Pacific, Tropical Cyclone Tomas, a category 4 storm at its peak, battered Fiji from 13th-16th with sustained winds of 132 mph and gusts up to 161 mph. A 7m storm surge was reported and more than 350 mm of rain was dumped over some areas.



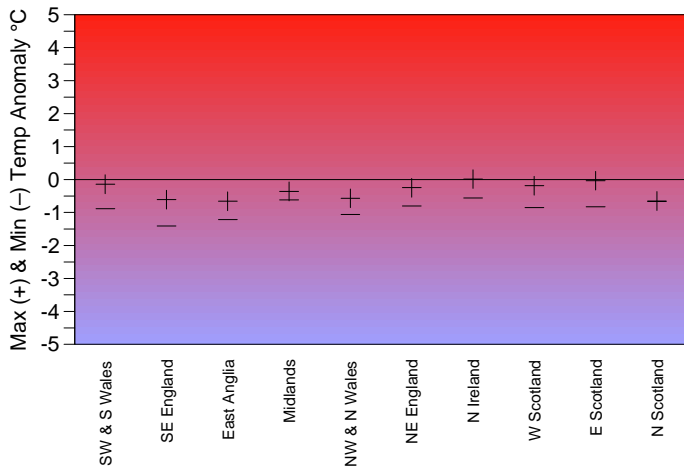
Extremes for April 2010	
Hottest:	23.1°C Leigh-on-Sea 2, Essex, 29th
Coldest:	-7.0°C Braemar No 2, Avon, 2nd
Most Rain:	54.4mm Cluanie Inn No 3, Ross & Cromarty, 5th
Most Sun:	13.9hrs Coleshill, Warwickshire, 17th
Windiest:	68mph Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd, 5th
Warmest:	11.3°C London Olympic Park South, Greater London
Coolest:	5.8°C Loch Glascarnoch, Highland
Wettest:	192.0mm Cluanie Inn No 3, Ross & Cromarty
Driest:	0.0mm Cambridge University, Cambridgeshire
Sunniest:	281.6hrs Radstock, Somerset
Dullest:	108.3hrs Lerwick, Shetland



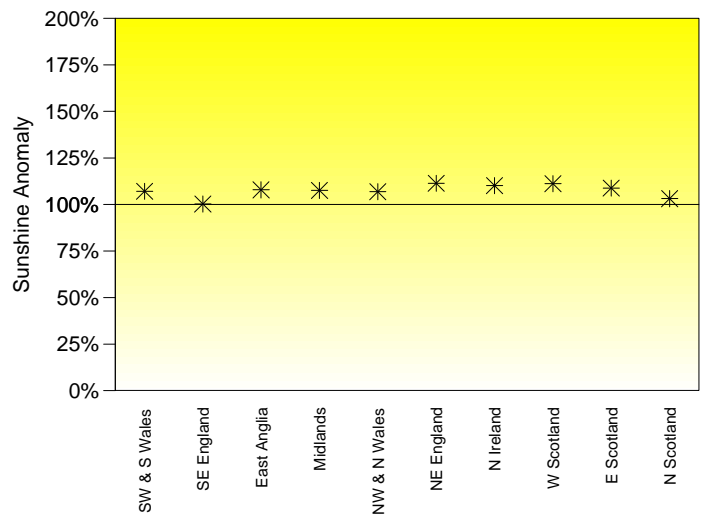
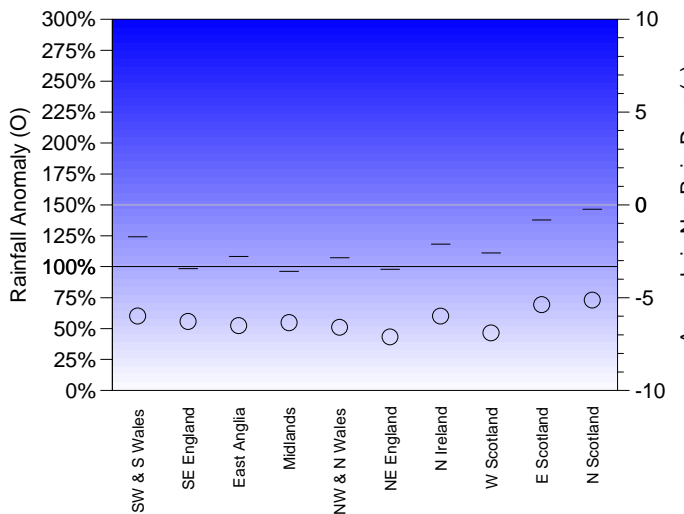
Despite its reputation for showers, April is often one of our driest months. Night frosts are still common and snow is not unusual - but the sun now has much greater strength and its return, with the profusion of spring flowers, makes a welcome change after the sombre days of winter.

April began rather cold and unsettled following the very wintry finish to March. On the 1st, skiers at Aviemore, Highland enjoyed excellent conditions with 39cm of lying snow. A band of persistent rain on the 2nd was followed by showers on the 3rd but a ridge brought brighter skies on Easter Sunday. Active fronts on the 5th and 6th meant it was wet and windy in the north and west, but sunnier and warmer in the south and east. After clearance of a front late on the 7th pressure rose strongly. It became settled and warm by day although cold at night with some frosts (e.g. -2.9°C (27°F) at Benson, Oxfordshire early on the 8th) By the 11th, a raw north-east wind was picking up in the south - but it remained dry. On the 14th the eruption of Eyjafjallajökull in Iceland began to spew black smoke and white steam into the atmosphere - and from the 15th, ash from the volcanic plume spread south-east towards the UK. Such was the pattern of upper winds over the following week that unprecedented flight disruption followed for much of central and northern Europe. Amidst all the chaos, the UK continued to bask in settled conditions, though Arctic air, sleet and even snow showers affected Scotland periodically from the 17th. Chilly north-west winds then covered the whole of the UK on the 20th, and frosts were widespread over the next few nights whilst days were brilliantly sunny. It became warm again by the 24th with widespread maxima above 19°C (66°F) over England and Wales but a front moving eastward on the 25th brought showery rain. South-west winds ensured that very warm conditions returned during the final week. Leeming, North Yorkshire recorded 22°C (72°F) on the 28th. Fronts plagued the north and west - and Welsh and Channel coasts were often shrouded in sea fog. During the last two days there was a gradual breakdown to cooler, unsettled weather just in time for the Bank Holiday. For April and the UK as a whole, daytime temperatures were above average but night time temperatures near normal - the result of frequent clear skies. It was a sunny month everywhere and a notably dry one for England and Wales.

In the USA, a heat wave affected the north east. On the 7th temperatures soared to 33°C (92°F) in Providence, Rhode Island and 34°C (93°F) in Hartford, Connecticut, while Boston reported 32°C (90°F) - the earliest ever date for a 90°F reading. Three weeks later, a late-season snowstorm battered New England with over 30cm of snow in an area from New York to Maine, causing travel chaos and numerous power outages. Jeffersonville, Vermont, topped the snowfall totals with 48cm (19in). On the 23rd a tornado hit the south-eastern state of Mississippi, killing at least 10 people. A church in Yazoo City was flattened and houses reduced to rubble and the National Guard was deployed to help in the search and rescue operation. The tornado was unusually large, measuring 1.75 miles wide and followed a 150-mile track from Tallulah, La., through Mississippi, before dissipating in Oktibbeha County in the north-east of the state. In South America, at least 20 people were killed in central Peru after heavy rains sparked a mudslide that engulfed a village in the Huanuco region on the 2nd. On the 4th & 5th 280 mm of rain fell within 24-hours in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - the heaviest rainfall event recorded in 48 years. At least 246 people were killed and thousands lost their homes as the deluge triggered mudslides which cascaded down hillsides and turned streets into raging torrents. On the sub-continent during April, 250,000 people were made homeless by a tornado which tore across isolated rural areas of northeast India and Bangladesh. Meanwhile, the Indian Capital Delhi reeled under heat wave conditions with temperatures soaring to 43°C (109°F) on the 11th. The west of Siberian Russia also basked in some unusual Spring warmth. At Omsk on the 27th temperatures reached 30°C (86°F) - remarkable for April this far north. In contrast, in the southern hemisphere, the world record low temperature for April was smashed (by several degrees) on the 23rd with an awesome -80°C (-112°F) at Vostok, Antarctica!



Extremes for May 2010	
Hottest:	31.0°C Leigh-on-Sea 2, Essex, 24th
Coldest:	-6.0°C Braemar No 2, Avon, 8th
Most Rain:	36.6mm Hampstead, Greater London, 2nd
Most Sun:	16.7hrs Northwood, Greater London, 19th
Windiest:	61mph Spadeadam No. 2, Cumbria, 5th
Warmest:	13.4°C Gloucester, Gloucestershire
Coolest:	7.2°C Lerwick, Shetland
Wettest:	77.7mm Penzance Heamoor, Cornwall
Driest:	7.4mm Bramham, West Yorkshire
Sunniest:	317.8hrs Radstock, Somerset
Dullest:	128.2hrs Aviemore, Highland



May is often a pleasant month as spring drifts gently into summer. The first really warm days may occur but there is a saying that "he who shears his sheep before St Saviour's day (May 13th) loves his wool more than his sheep". May 11th marks the feast day of St Mamertus and the 12th that of St Pancras, and these were named the Ice Saints, so called because mid-May was often regarded as a cold time where frosts might cause damage to young plants and fruit blossom. May this year had just such a trick up its sleeve.

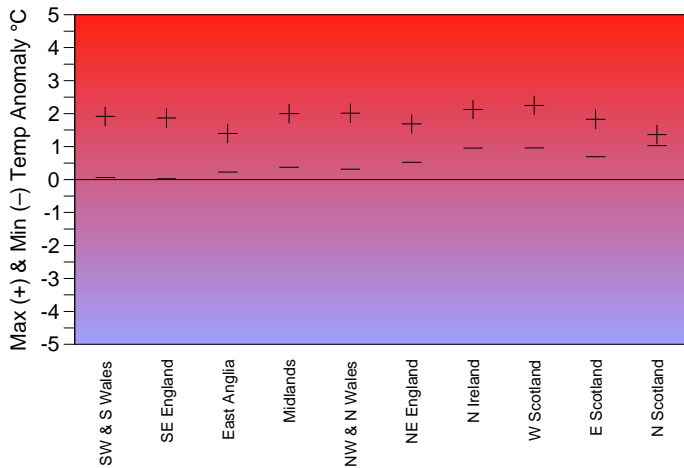
The month began with some very cool and unsettled weather over the Bank Holiday. Rain across southern Britain on the 1st and 2nd was slow to clear from the south-east, and the 3rd was showery with reports of hail. It remained rather cool and cloudy for the rest of the week and a raw north-easterly set in on the 7th and 8th with eastern areas overcast and damp. High pressure then transferred to the mid-Atlantic and drew Arctic air across the UK in time for the Ice Saints' festival. Snow was reported from Newcastle and Aberdeen on the 11th and the next two nights saw the coldest May minima for 15 years with widespread air frosts and temperatures as low as -5°C (23°F) or -6°C (21°F) in the Highlands. A ridge brought a sunnier day on the 13th and temperatures slowly recovered thereafter but weak fronts moving south-east caused widespread rain or showers. On the 17th pressure began to build across the UK and while fronts brought cloud, drizzle and sea fog to western coasts, other areas became sunnier and much warmer. By the 22nd much of the country was cloud-free and new temperature records for May were set across Scotland - e.g. 26.2°C (79°F) at Leuchars. The hot weather reached its climax in the south on the 24th when 28.8°C (84°F) was recorded at Heathrow. By this time cooler air was invading the north and the rest of the week saw lower temperatures everywhere though with some sunshine. Heavy, thundery showers affected Scotland on the 27th and the Bank Holiday was a mixed affair. Widespread rain in the south on the 29th was followed by a brighter but blustery day on the 30th, and such was the strength of the winds that 'planes had difficulty in landing at Stansted airport. The final day was cool and rather cloudy with more rain approaching western parts.

Average temperatures for the month as a whole ended up close to normal - but it was the driest May across the UK since 1998. Sunshine totals were close to, or a little above normal.

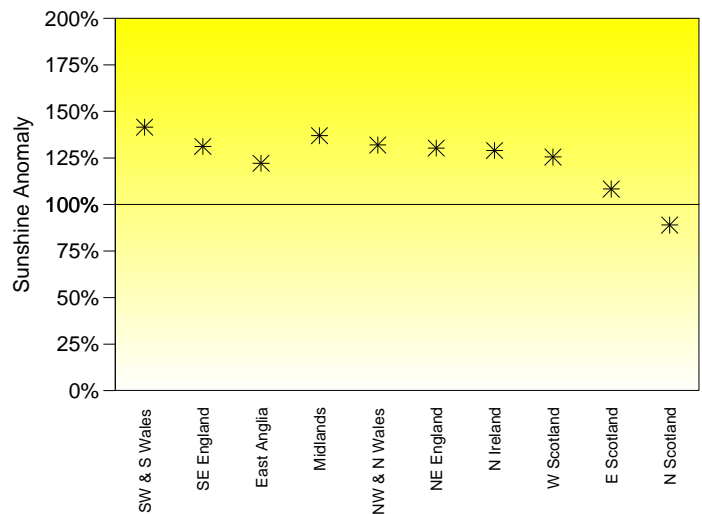
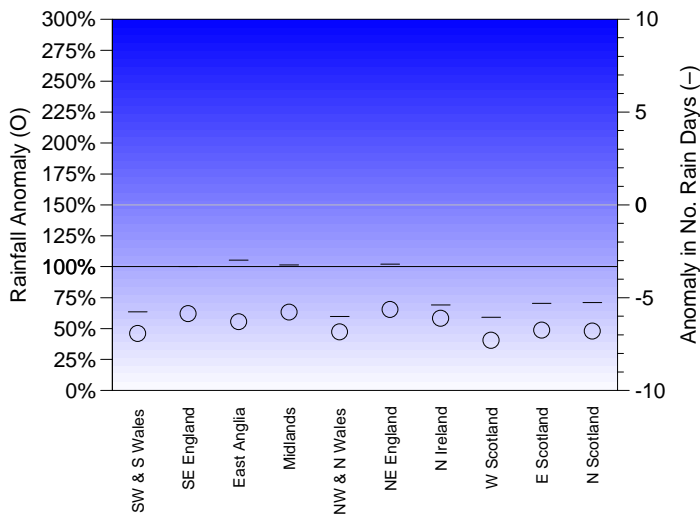
In Europe, up to 200mm of rain fell in 24 hours over southern Poland and the Czech Republic on the 16th - 17th. Rivers burst their banks forcing tens of thousands of people from their homes and inflicting an estimated 2 billion euros in damage. Further torrential rain struck Poland on the 31st with Zakopane recording 124mm and Kasprowy Wierch 108mm. Tornadoes swept across eastern Germany on the 24th killing one person in Saxony and injuring a further 38. In the town of Walda-Kleinthiemig, almost 80% of houses lost their roofs and many trees were uprooted.

Across the Atlantic, a massive storm system stagnated over the Central U.S.A as the month began. Thousands of homes and businesses were flooded by record breaking rainfall - and 29 people were killed. Bowling Green, Kentucky recorded a total of 245mm for the 1st and 2nd and Nashville, Tennessee, 344mm. 52 of Tennessee's 95 counties were declared disaster areas, as were 73 of Kentucky's 120 counties. Damages were estimated at more than \$1.5 billion. The storms spawned at least 45 tornadoes and one person was killed by flying debris in Arkansas. Unusual heat gripped eastern Canada during the last week. On the 25th, Timmins in north-western Ontario experienced its warmest May day since records began in 1955 with 34.6°C (94.3°F) - an astonishing 15.6°C (28.1°F) above normal for this time of year.

In Asia on the 2nd, at least 17 people were killed and 50 injured by lightning strikes as thunderstorms and hailstorms pounded Bangladesh. A remorseless pre-monsoon heat wave continued in Pakistan and 53.5°C (128°F) was recorded on 26th at Mahenso-Daro, a new national record high. India's capital city, Delhi, topped out at 45°C (113°F) the same day.



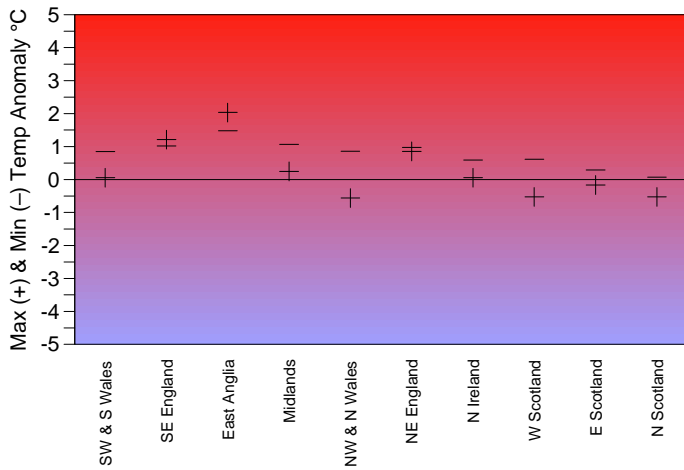
Extremes for June 2010		
Hottest:	31.0°C	Culford, Suffolk, 27th
Coldest:	-0.1°C	Carterhouse, Borders, 20th
Most Rain:	57.2mm	Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd, 28th
Most Sun:	17.2hrs	Swaffham, Norfolk, 3rd
Windiest:	56mph	Warcop Range SAWS, Cumbria, 9th
Warmest:	18.0°C	London Olympic Park South, Greater London
Coolest:	10.4°C	Foula No 2, Shetland
Wettest:	83.2mm	Cardinham (Bodmin) SAWS, Cornwall
Driest:	2.8mm	Kinlochewe, Highland
Sunniest:	339.5hrs	Radstock, Somerset
Dullest:	70.7hrs	Lerwick, Shetland



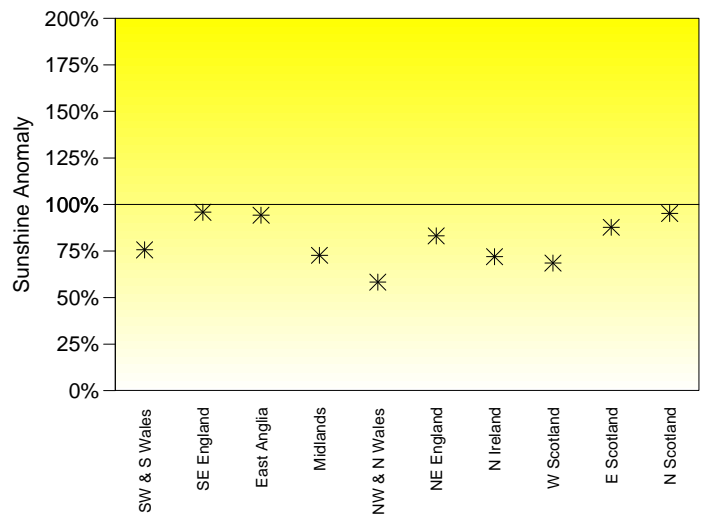
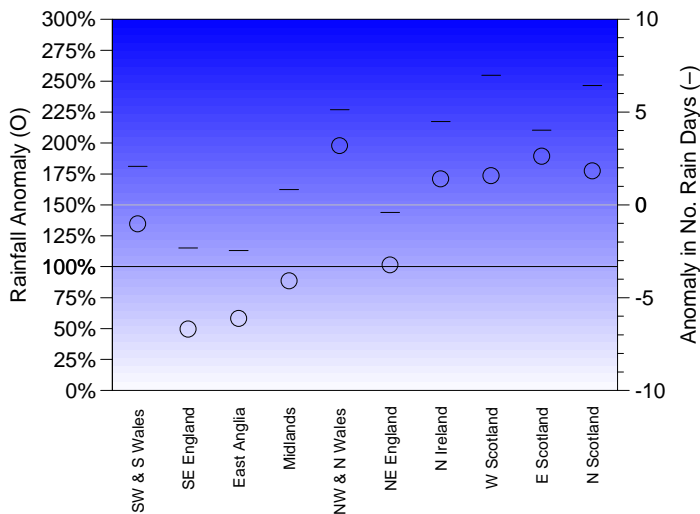
Glastonbury, Wimbledon and disappointingly cool, wet and unsettled weather are three things commonly associated with the long days of June. This year however bucked the trend set in recent times and brought widespread warm and dry conditions - with many parched gardens in eastern areas by the month's end.

The 1st was a wet day across central and eastern districts but rising pressure soon brought fine weather - and it became steadily warmer with 28°C (82°F) at Heathrow on the 5th. By this time, scattered heavy and occasionally thundery showers were breaking out. A week or more of unsettled weather followed and overnight on the 10th / 11th 20-30mm rain fell widely over Sussex and Kent. Most places were brighter and drier on the 12th but there were more showers in southern areas on the 13th. The next five days were dominated by high pressure just to the west or north-west of the UK. Northeast winds were brisk over south east England but light elsewhere, and there was abundant sunshine by day, and chilly temperatures by night - with local ground frost. A deepening depression moving into Scandinavia brought a band of rain southwards across England and Wales on the 18th, followed by bracing northerlies on the 19th. Eastern parts were draped in cloud but much of the west and north experienced more sunshine. A clear, cold night followed and there was an air frost -0.1°C (31°F) at Carterhouse, Borders, early on the 20th - just a day before the summer solstice! Settled weather then returned and lasted until the month's end, apart from a few thundery downpours in some western and northern areas on the 28th and 29th. Daytime temperatures climbed steadily, reaching 30.9°C (88°F) at Gravesend, Kent, on the 27th, and the nights also became increasingly warm and humid. By the 26th, minima were falling no lower than 15°C in parts of south-east England. For the month as a whole, mean temperatures were above average everywhere, and by as much as 2°C over Northern Ireland and western Scotland. It was also notably sunny except for northern and eastern Scotland. Most remarkable however was the month's aridity. Indeed the first 6 months of 2010 have been among the driest on record in parts of northwest England where reservoirs are running dangerously low.

While dry weather affected the UK, destructive floods hit several European countries during June. In Hungary, 3000 people were evacuated from eight villages after the Vistula River spilled over near Szcuzin on the 5th. Violent thunderstorms caused devastating flash floods in the Provence region of southern France on the 15th - and were responsible for 25 deaths. At Le Luc 175mm rain fell in just five hours and in the Vars region of Les Arcs 400mm was recorded for the day. Heavy rains in Bosnia and then north-eastern Romania during the latter fortnight led to many rivers bursting their banks, landslides and flooding that was responsible for at least 22 deaths. Meanwhile torrid heat baked the Middle East. In Kuwait, Jeddah endured highs of 52°C (126°F) on the 21st and 22nd. Further east central Asia witnessed some remarkable temperature changes. Heilongjiang, China, experienced three sub-freezing nights 19th - 21st. Then on the 22nd, it warmed from a morning low of 5°C to an afternoon high of 37°C (99°F)! Heavy monsoon rain on 14th-15th brought landslides and flooding to south-eastern Bangladesh and western Myanmar where 340mm of rain fell within 24 hours. At least 63 people were killed and half a million homes and buildings damaged or destroyed. The monsoon rains also wreaked havoc in India where flooding and landslides killed at least 46 residents of the western state of Maharashtra. Australia's, biggest cities shivered towards the end of June.... Sydney awoke to 4°C on the 30th, its coldest June morning since 1983, and capital city Canberra was carpeted in frost!



Extremes for July 2010		
Hottest:	33.0°C	Donna Nook SAMOS, Lincolnshire, 7th
Coldest:	0.0°C	Donna Nook SAMOS, Lincolnshire, 8th
Most Rain:	70.0mm	Hawarden, Clwyd, 20th
Most Sun:	15.7hrs	Lerwick, Shetland, 13th
Windiest:	78mph	Aberdaron SAWS, Gwynedd, 15th
Warmest:	20.6°C	London Olympic Park South, Greater London
Coolest:	12.3°C	Foula No 2, Shetland
Wettest:	368.9mm	Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd
Driest:	3.0mm	Norwich Airport, Norfolk
Sunniest:	326.3hrs	Radstock, Somerset
Dullest:	66.1hrs	Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway

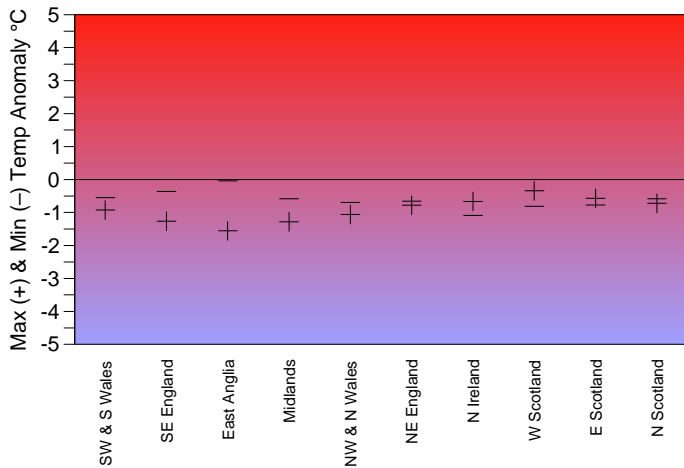


July is normally the warmest month of the year and the 6 weeks commencing 3rd when the star Sirius rises and sets at about the same time are known as the "Dog Days", a period which is supposed to be particularly warm and stuffy. The Roman poet Horace referred to "the harsh season of the blazing Dog Star".

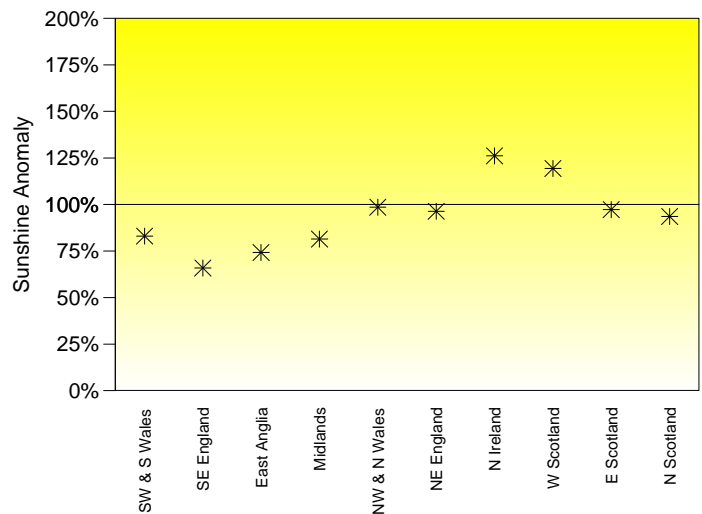
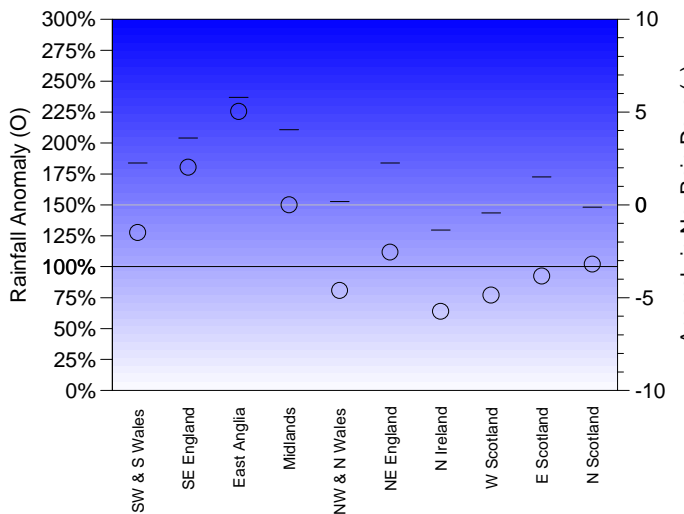
July this year was characterised by an Atlantic regime, and it was much duller and wetter in western areas than in the east. The month began with a deep area of low pressure off Eire, giving rain or showers in the west and north of the UK but mostly dry, very warm and muggy conditions in the south-east. Another depression zipped across northern Scotland on the 4th, bringing rain and high winds to the north but again, very little rain to the south and east. The following week continued in a similar vein with further cloud and rain across the west and north, and very warm, mostly dry weather elsewhere. The highest temperature of the year so far occurred on the afternoon of the 9th with Gravesend, Kent, recording 31.7°C (89°F) in brilliant sunshine. It was almost as hot the following day, but cooler weather reached all areas on the 12th with some welcome rain for parched gardens in the south-east; Manston, Kent, recorded 28mm. The next week was much more unsettled. Most places had rain or showers, and thunderstorms occurred over the Midlands on the 14th. Heavy rain and strong winds buffeted western areas overnight on the 15th /16th as a deep depression sped north through the Irish Sea, and there was a gust of 84mph at Aberdaron, Gwynedd. Pressure then rose again in the south, and the rest of the month reverted to its familiar pattern displaying some stark geographical contrasts in weather. On the 20th a deluge of rain fell over western areas and caused some localised flooding whilst the south-east remained dry and very warm with maxima above 28°C (82°F). The following day widespread heavy storm affected Wales and the north west (e.g. 68mm at Hawarden Airport, Flintshire, 47mm at Ness Gardens, Cheshire, and 45mm at Preston, Lancs) Conditions were quieter during the final week, but weak fronts still brought some light rain to the north, and it was rather warm and humid everywhere.

For the month as a whole there was a marked west-east gradient in temperature ranging from near average in much of Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and western England, to 2.0°C above average in East Anglia. Rainfall was well above normal in many northern and western areas, but much of the Midlands, eastern and southern England was very dry - with less than half the normal amount in counties from Cambridgeshire to Sussex. Many places were duller than average as a result of the relatively cloudy Atlantic airstreams.

A remorseless heat wave gripped Russia during July and the country registered its hottest ever temperature on the 11th, when Yashkul, Kalmykia Republic reached 44°C (111.2°F) In Moscow, temperatures exceeded 30°C (86°F) every day from the 9th onwards and the capital recorded its hottest ever day on the 26th with 37.5°C (99.5°F) - trumped by 38.2°C (100.8°F) 3 days later. Forest and peat fires led to dangerous air pollution levels in Moscow and hundreds of citizens collapsed from heat exhaustion. Elsewhere in the country more than 1,200 deaths by drowning were reported as people tried to escape the heat and nearly 1000 forest fires were triggered, searing 26,000 hectares and destroying hundreds of homes in 18 Russian provinces. Neighbouring Finland recorded its hottest ever day on the 29th when the mercury hit 37.2°C (99°F) at Joensuu - smashing the old record of 35.9°C (97°F) Further afield, Qatar also sweltered in record breaking temperatures - on July 14th, Doha Airport reached 50.4°C (122.7°F)! In early July, heavy monsoon rains triggered floods and landslides in both southern (Kerala) and north-eastern (Assam) India. An estimated 500,000 people were forced to leave their homes. Later, on 29th - 30th, extreme monsoon rains in northwest Pakistan flooded rivers, submerged villages and triggered landslides; Peshawar recorded 333mm rain in 48 hours and Risalpur 401mm - ten times the average for the whole month! In the USA, a massive hailstorm hit the town of Vivian, South Dakota on the 23rd. One of the stones collected broke the U.S. record not only for the largest hailstone ever - but also the heaviest. The stone measured >20cm in diameter, and weighed nearly 1Kg - even after being stored in a freezer that lost power! Whilst heat waves were affecting the Northern Hemisphere, frigid air from Antarctica gripped South America. In Buenos Aires, the minimum temperature plunged to -1.5°C (29°F) on the 15th - the city's lowest temperature for a decade. At least 37 people died from cold in Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Uruguay. In the Peruvian Andes temperatures fell to -17°C (1°F)



Extremes for August 2010	
Hottest:	26.7°C Weybourne, Norfolk, 21st
Coldest:	-1.3°C Altnaharra SAWS, Highland, 26th
Most Rain:	60.0mm Mumbles Head, West Glamorgan, 25th
Most Sun:	14.1hrs Prestwick RNAS, Strathclyde, 15th
Windiest:	65mph Stornoway, Western Isles, 20th
Warmest:	17.9°C London Olympic Park South, Greater London
Coolest:	11.5°C Loch Glascarnoch, Highland
Wettest:	174.6mm Ebbw Vale, Gwent
Driest:	37.7mm Trawscoed SAWS, Dyfed
Sunniest:	288.4hrs Radstock, Somerset
Dullest:	72.2hrs Kinlochewe, Highland

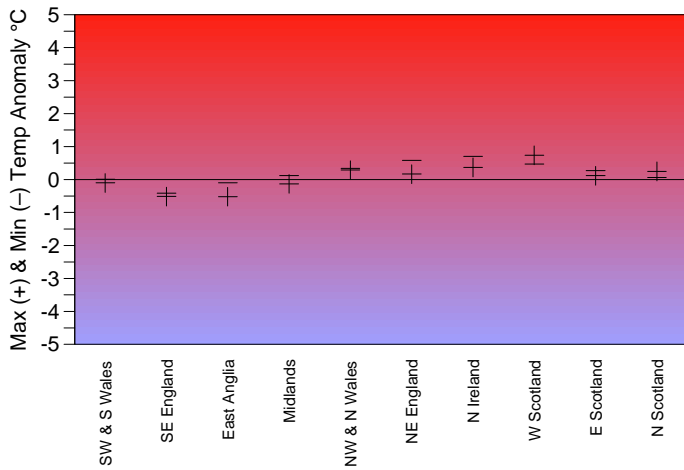


Despite its reputation as a summer month, August can be very unsettled - much to the annoyance of holiday-makers. In eastern England, it is the most thundery month of the year and as the summer solstice recedes fast, the nights draw in noticeably and morning mists beckon in the autumn.

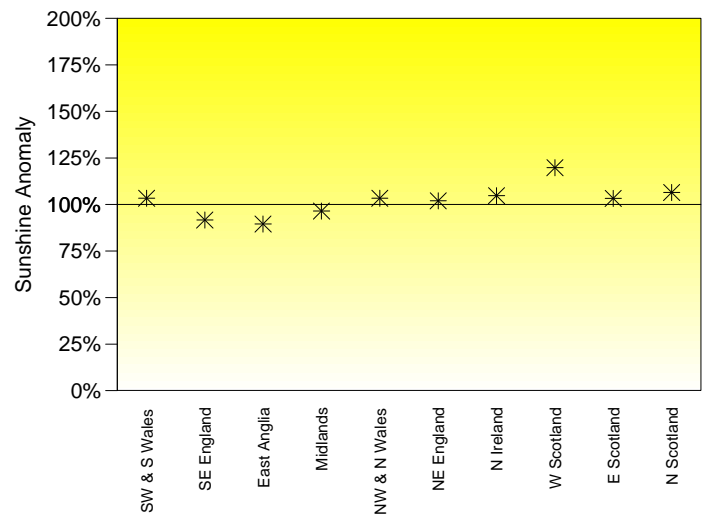
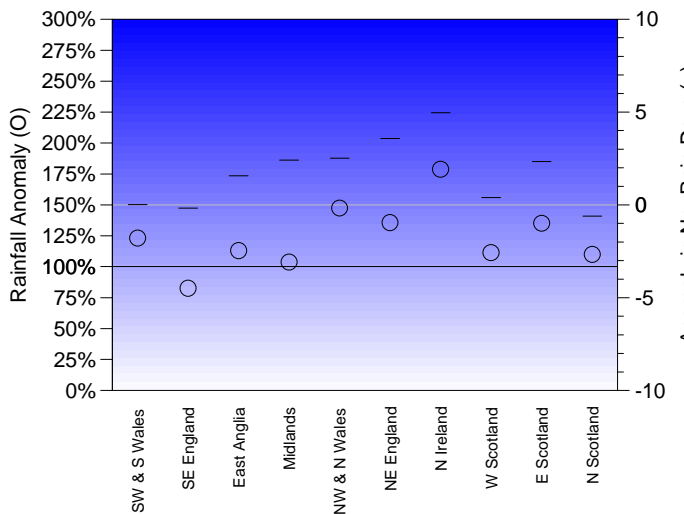
August opened rather cloudy and muggy with some thundery showers on the 4th - which led to localised flooding in Sussex. The 5th dawned fresher and brighter, but further fronts swept in on the 6th bringing more rain, and showers followed the next day. A ridge brought a brief glimpse of summer on the 8th and 9th with brighter skies and warm temperatures - especially in the south-east. A wave running along a trailing cold front gave a wet day in the south on the 10th, and an area of low pressure over the North Sea dominated the UK's weather for the next 4 days with widespread heavy showers. These were particularly lively across the north-west on the 12th, and southern areas on the 14th when thunder was reported widely with torrential downpours. Marham, Norfolk, recorded 35mm in the 24 hours to 0900 on the 14th. The depression gradually migrated to the Continent by the 16th, but the changeable, rather cool weather continued across the UK with more showers or longer spells of rain. A humid airstream that invaded behind a warm front on the 20th, gave copious rainfall on western hills, but 26.7°C (80°F) was achieved at Lowestoft, Suffolk, the same day. The cold front was slow to clear southern areas, with muggy, cloudy weather persisting, and another frontal wave gave widespread rain overnight on the 22nd/23rd. A depression approaching south-west England on the 25th brought prolonged heavy rainfall overnight and into the 26th. 20mm of rain was reported widely and 40mm locally. 46mm fell at Wattisham, Suffolk, and a colossal 64mm at Mumbles Head, Swansea, in the 24 hours to 0900 on the 26th. Meanwhile most of the north remained dry and bright - if rather cool. The complex low at last moved slowly away into the Continent on the 27th, allowing a cool, showery air mass to encroach from the north - just in time for the Bank Holiday weekend. The 29th was a particularly cool and blustery day and snow fell on the tops of the Scottish mountains. As the winds eased, ground frost occurred in some rural areas on the final two nights of the month. Just as the return to work began on the 31st, high pressure began to build...

Nationally it was the coolest August since 1993 even though mean temperatures were only a little below normal. Most areas experienced a dull month and rainfall was well above normal over the south and east of England and south-east Wales. By contrast, areas to the north and west were drier than average - a marked reversal of fortunes from July's weather.

In eastern Europe, the exceptional heat of July persisted into August. On the 1st, Nicosia, Cyprus, recorded 45.6°C (114°F) - its highest temperature for at least 100 years. In Russia, temperatures in smoke shrouded Moscow exceeded 35°C (95°F) from 4th to the 9th inclusive and surpassed 30°C (86°F) for 38 successive days up to 15th August! St Petersburg hit 37.1°C (99°F) on 7th - an all time record, while in the south, Jaskul recorded 43.5°C (110°F) on 10th. At the beginning of August, 1,740km² was ablaze with over 600 active wildfires; the fires charred homes and farmland around Moscow and were expected to have a major impact on the wheat harvest. Temperatures in neighbouring Ukraine reached an all time high of 42°C (108°F) at Luhans on the 7th and that day Belarus also broke its highest ever temperature record with 38.9°C (102°F) at Gomel. Meanwhile, as the hot air receded very slowly eastwards, violent storms and severe floods affected central Europe. A dike broke near Bad Muskau, Poland, inundating two villages and flood damages was estimated at \$215M in the Czech Republic alone. In Väike-Maarja, Estonia, winds gusted to 83 mph on the 8th uprooting trees and damaging buildings. During the early hours of 23rd a hailstorm battered north-west Poland. First size hailstones brought down trees and power lines, damaged homes and injured residents. On the 27th torrential rains triggered landslides and floods which swept through Gundogdu, in northern Turkey - killing at least 12 people. Further afield, in China floods triggered by torrential rains pounded north-eastern Jilin province. The summer floods in China have caused tens of billions of dollars in damage across 28 provinces and regions. About 875,000 homes have been destroyed, 9.61 million people evacuated, and 22 million acres of crops ruined. The devastating Asian Monsoon rains continued in Pakistan through August. Across the country more than 1,600 people were killed by the floods and six million were forced to flee their homes. 20 million people were affected and entire villages were submerged as an estimated 20% (160,000km²) of the country was under water. On August 24th tropical Storm Mindulle made landfall along Vietnam's north-central coast. With sustained winds of 70mph, Mindulle dumped up to 275mm of rain near Vinh within 12-hours. 47,000 homes and 158,000 acres of rice fields were destroyed. Towards the Arctic, on August 15th, Fairbanks (Alaska) recorded a temperature of 32.8°C (91°F), smashing the old high of 30°C (86°F) set in 1926. On the 5th a 250km² chunk of ice broke off the Petermann Glacier in northwest Greenland.



Extremes for September 2010	
Hottest:	25.0°C Culford, Suffolk, 22nd
Coldest:	-4.4°C Tyndrum No 3, Perthshire, 26th
Most Rain:	84.0mm Lough Fea Waterworks, County Fermanagh,
Most Sun:	13.2hrs Kinloss, Grampian, 2nd
Windiest:	63mph Foula No 2, Shetland, 16th
Warmest:	15.8°C Scilly St. Mary's SAWS, Cornwall
Coolest:	10.2°C Dalwhinnie No 2, Tayside
Wettest:	327.9mm Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd
Driest:	27.6mm Winchcombe Sudeley Castle, Gloucestershire
Sunniest:	230.0hrs Radstock, Somerset
Dullest:	66.7hrs Swaffham, Norfolk

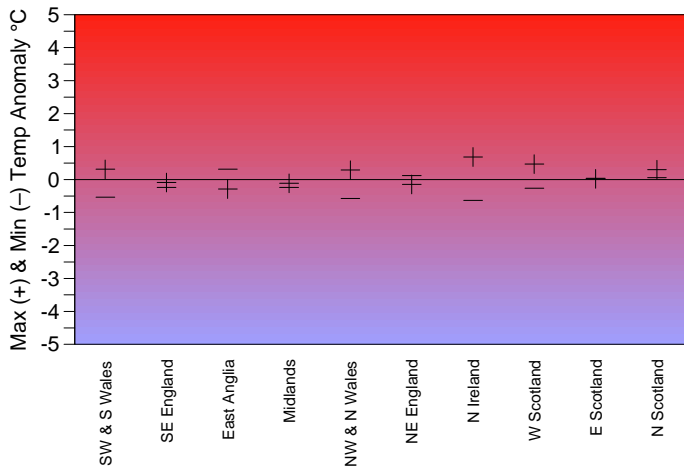


September marks the start of autumn proper and mist and fog is slower to clear in the mornings as the sun's strength wanes. Stormy weather may also occur as the remnants of Atlantic hurricanes become caught up in vigorous depressions, blowing the first leaves from trees.

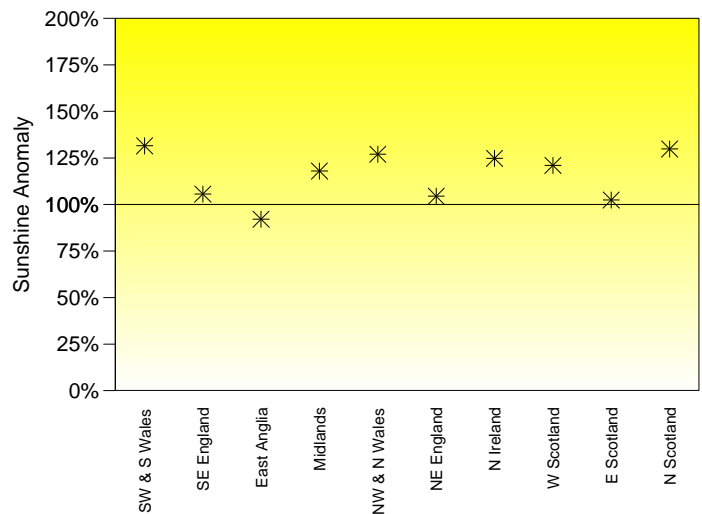
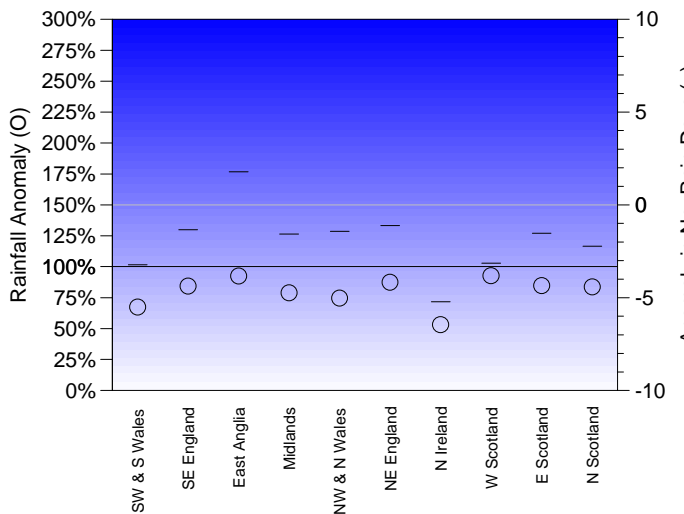
September began fine and dry under an anticyclone but as this began to transfer to Scandinavia on the 4th and 5th, fronts edging in from the south-west heralded rather more changeable conditions for the next week. Some places reported thunder on the 7th and strong easterly winds and high tides caused problems along the east coast of Scotland. The 12th was a sunny, crisp autumn day under a weak ridge but rain reached western Scotland and Northern Ireland late in the day, and the following 5 days were windy and unsettled as a deep depression transferred to Scandinavia. Blustery showers or longer spells of rain battered most places and there was a gust of 68mph at Capel Curig (Conwy) on the 15th. Arctic air was drawn down across Scotland on the 16th and 17th, and snow showers fell on the high Cairngorms. Exeter airport recorded a minimum of 2°C (36°F) early on the 18th. A warmer spell then followed, as winds turned southerly. Maxima in excess of 21°C (70°F) were widespread across England and Wales on the 22nd in golden autumn sunshine, and Gravesend (Kent) reported 24.6°C (77°F)! Conditions for Scotland and Northern Ireland were rather more changeable and Hunterston (Ayrshire) was deluged by 67mm of rain in 24 hours to 0900 on the 23rd. On the 24th, it turned much cooler everywhere as winds reverted from the north. Snow fell again on the Scottish mountains, and the temperature fell to -4.4C (25F) at Tyndrum (Stirling) on the 26th and Kinbrace (Highland) on the 27th. As September drew to a close there were cloudy, damp conditions for most as fronts penetrated from the west, but made only sluggish progress against a persistent Scandinavian anticyclone. For the month as a whole, temperatures were close to normal, but a little above normal for Northern Ireland and northern England. Rainfall was well above average for Northern Ireland, parts of eastern Scotland and northern England, but much of south-east England and the south Midlands was dry. Sunshine was generally close to or a little above average nationwide.

In Europe, Ireland's Knock airport recorded 87mm of rain on 6th - its wettest day since local records began in 1988. On the 17th, hailstorms battered Spain's Caceres province leaving cars trapped by hail and properties flooded. Sudden early season snowfalls in Switzerland and the French Alps overnight 23rd-24th closed 5 mountain passes. Across the Atlantic, hurricane Earl reached its peak on the 2nd with sustained winds of 145 mph. Earl sped north-northeastward close to the eastern U.S. seaboard, eventually making landfall on the 4th in Nova Scotia, Canada. It pounded Halifax, the region's largest city, leaving nearly 1 million residents without power. In contrast, under hot, dry, and windy conditions, a major wildfire broke out in Fourmile Canyon near Boulder, Colorado on the 6th. The fire scorched an estimated 6,400 acres of land and destroyed 166 homes, becoming the most destructive blaze in Colorado's history. A macroburst (a sudden violent windstorm), tore through New York City on the 16th. Winds peaked at 125 mph and 2 tornadoes also touched down, adding to the mayhem. One person was killed, tens of thousands were left without power, and an estimated 3,000 trees were uprooted. In the Caribbean, hurricanes Igor and Julia became simultaneous Category 4 storms on the 15th - the first such instance since 1926. However, Hurricane Karl, which formed east of the Yucatan Peninsula on September 14th, ultimately proved more destructive as it made landfall in Veracruz, Mexico on the 17th with 115 mph winds. 15 people were killed by the storm in Mexico as oil rigs were evacuated and the country's nuclear power facility was shut down. In Texas, Corpus Christi received 182 mm of rain on the 19th - a daily record, with 248mm over two days. A car and its occupant were swept away by raging waters. Category 2 typhoon Fanapi tore into southern Taiwan on the 19th packing 100mph winds and dumping more than 1m of rainfall over Majia, in Pingtung County. Fanapi made landfall in China on the 20th in Fujian Province, and Yangchun City recorded 530 mm of rain in 24 hours - triggering flooding and landslides which were responsible damage costing at least \$250M.

Heavy snow and ice wreaked havoc in Australia's southern state of Tasmania on the 16th and winds gusted to 88 mph at Cape Bruny. Enormous swells were generated off the coast, and a near record 18.4 m (60ft) wave was witnessed off Cape Sorrell. New Zealand was hit the following day, and the capital, Wellington, recorded winds of 80mph whilst snow and blizzard conditions affected South Island - where it was feared that up to one million lambs perished.



Extremes for October 2010		
Hottest:	23.2°C	Carrefour-au-Clercq, Channel Islands, 9th
Coldest:	-6.9°C	Corsock, Dumfries and Galloway, 25th
Most Rain:	59.0mm	Velindre, Powys, 3rd
Most Sun:	12.9hrs	Lyneham, Wiltshire, 4th
Windiest:	71mph	Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd, 29th
Warmest:	13.3°C	Scilly St. Mary's SAWS, Cornwall
Coolest:	7.1°C	Braemar No 2, Avon
Wettest:	305.8mm	Cluanie Inn No 3, Ross & Cromarty
Driest:	32.0mm	Gloucester, Gloucestershire
Sunniest:	165.2hrs	Radstock, Somerset
Dullest:	39.2hrs	Swaffham, Norfolk

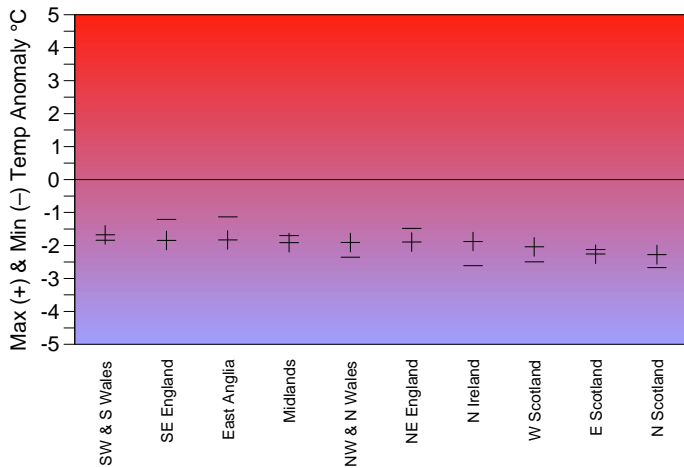


October can display marked contrasts in weather. Rain, gales, frosts and the first snow to whiten our northern hills may all feature, but there can also be golden, warm, hazy days as a reminder of summer just past. As the clocks go back at the month's end, however, it seems as if winter's dark and icy finger is beckoning.

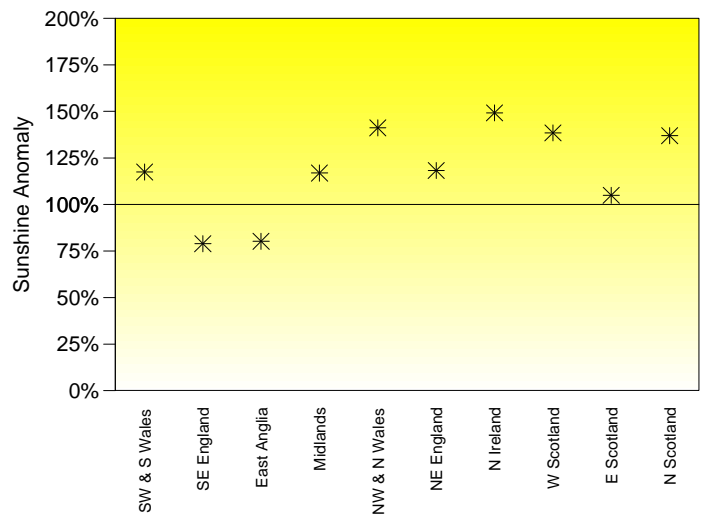
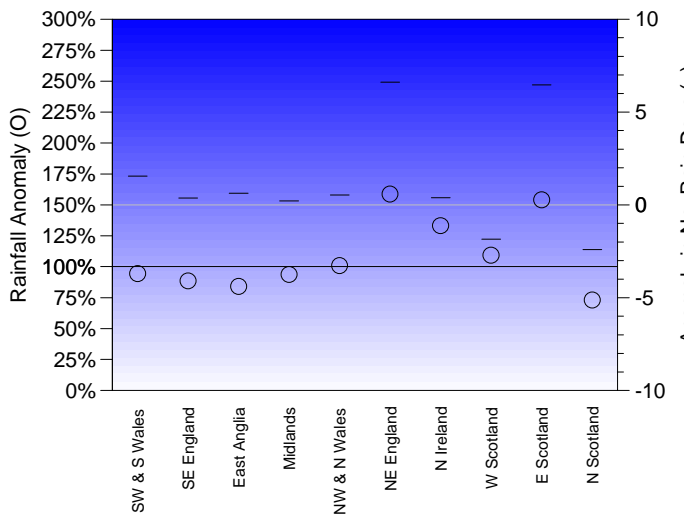
October began wet and windy. 32.6mm of rain fell in 24 hours at Fylingdales, N. Yorks, and severe gales swept Shetland (gusts to 59 knots at Lerwick and Foula). More bands of rain spread northward from the south coast on the 2nd and 3rd but it remained unseasonably warm, and Manston, Kent, reached 19.9°C (68°F) on the 3rd. The mild, unsettled weather persisted as further fronts followed 4th-6th, but by the 7th, pressure was building to the east. A long settled spell ensued and although cloud amounts were variable, there were some warm and gloriously sunny days. Woodford, Greater Manchester, notched up 10.3 hours of bright sunshine on the 7th, while Chivenor, Devon, achieved 23.1°C (73°F) on the 8th. Lee-on-Solent, Hampshire, recorded 22.5°C (72°F) on the 10th. Temperatures fell during the following week in cloudier north-easterlies but the dry weather continued apart from a little light rain near eastern coasts. By the 17th high pressure had begun to retreat west and on the 18th and 19th bands of rain moved south across the UK driven by cold northerly winds. Snow and sleet fell on high ground in Scotland. Tyndrum, Perthshire, experienced a hard frost early on the 20th with a minimum of -5.0°C (23°F). Milder westerly winds briefly resumed but heavy rain on the night of the 22nd/23rd was followed by another surge of Arctic air. Levens Hall, Cumbria, dropped to -6.6°C (20°F) early on the 25th, while West Freugh, Dumfries and Galloway, recorded -5.2°C (23°F) - making it the coldest October night there since records began in 1990. The 25th was a beautiful crisp and sunny autumn day everywhere. The month ended as it had begun with south westerly winds, mild but unsettled weather. The episodic nature of the month meant that mean temperatures and rainfall were very close to average in many areas. The west was drier and also sunnier than normal - especially in Wales and Northern Ireland.

The still warm Mediterranean and Aegean Sea's can be a trigger for severe weather in October. On the 18th-19th flash floods hit the islands of Ikaria and Chios, and two people were washed away in floods and drowned. Houses were demolished, and drivers had to be rescued from stranded cars. On the 25th a massive thunderstorm system passed over the Maltese Islands producing torrential rain and flooding that carried cars away and inundated homes. The highest rainfall totals were at Qormi and Birkirkara with 120mm, while the capital Valletta experienced its wettest October day ever with 105mm. Fierce storms wreaked havoc across the western United States on the 5th and 6th. Phoenix, Arizona, was struck by a microburst (fast-sinking air under a thunderstorm) while baseball-sized hail and 70 mph winds damaged homes. Elsewhere six tornadoes tore through northern Arizona in the pre-dawn darkness damaging more than 100 houses, throwing rail cars off their tracks, and pushing trucks off the highway. Then, on the 26th, 24 tornadoes and 282 reports of damaging high winds came from another spectacular storm system extending from the Dakotas to North Carolina. Eight tornadoes touched down in Indiana, three in Kentucky, and six in Ohio, including one with gusts of over 111 mph that ripped through a village in the northwest of the state, destroying several homes.

Over in Asia, on the 11th nearly half a million people were evacuated after the heaviest rains for decades deluged 90% of the island of Haiwan in the South China Sea. A further 100,000 people were evacuated on the 17th after 200 villages were swamped following 200mm more rain. From the 14th-18th torrential rain battered central Vietnam. Nearly 1m of rain fell in Nghe An, and Ha Tinh. At least 32 people were killed and more than 150,000 homes were flooded. Super Typhoon Megi struck the northern Philippine island of Luzon on the 18th packing sustained winds of 167 mph. Prior to landfall, on the 16th, winds had reached Category 5 strength, with gusts up to 220 mph! Megi later hit Taiwan and was responsible for landslides and devastating floods in Thailand's rural northeast. The antipodean spring was interrupted by some notable rainstorms. On the 11th 250mm of rain fell on the Gold Coast area of Queensland (Australia) while 150mm drenched Brisbane. Meanwhile, the first -30°C (-22°F) reading of the winter was registered at Oymyakon, Siberia on the 20th. By the 26th temperatures had plummeted to a numbing -38.2°C (-38°F) - just 3 months after a July heat wave that had brought the town its all-time high of 34.6°C (94°F)!



Extremes for November 2010		
Hottest:	19.0°C	St James Park, Greater London, 4th
Coldest:	-18.0°C	Llysdinam, Powys, 28th
Most Rain:	63.9mm	Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd, 4th
Most Sun:	8.7hrs	Portchester, Hampshire, 10th
Windiest:	89mph	Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd, 11th
Warmest:	9.5°C	Scilly St. Mary's SAWS, Cornwall
Coolest:	2.0°C	Tulloch Bridge SAWS, Highland
Wettest:	245.6mm	Tyndrum No 3, Perthshire
Driest:	10.2mm	Rochdale, Greater Manchester
Sunniest:	95.4hrs	Copley, Durham
Dullest:	18.7hrs	Swaffham, Norfolk



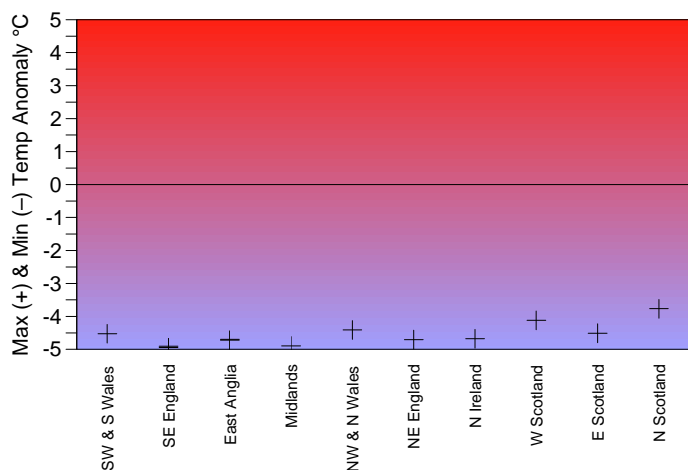
There are often two faces to November weather - stormy with damaging gales, or dank, cold and misty with persistent fog as the rapidly declining sun continues to lose its strength. This year, the UK experienced just about everything that November can throw at us - rain, gales, fog, sunshine, anticyclonic gloom and finally, snow and frost at the month's end.

The month began with a run of very mild south-westerlies. Western and northern coasts and hills were very wet but the south and east remained mainly dry and exceptionally mild both by day and night; St James' Park, London, reached 19°C (66°F) on the 4th. It turned rather colder but brighter over the weekend of the 6th/7th, but the 8th was a wet day for many with a raw south-easterly wind and snow over northern hills. The 10th was sunny but the following day was stormy for many as a deep depression moved east across northern Scotland. High winds and heavy rain led to considerable disruption to road, rail and ferry routes in south and west Scotland, Wales and northern England and there were power cuts in Northern Ireland. By the 15th, conditions were quieter but overnight fog proved slow to clear during the day. Freshening south-east winds on the 17th lifted the fog but an occlusion brought a band of rain north-eastwards. Cornwall experienced severe flooding with many homes and businesses inundated in the St Austell and Bodmin areas, including the Eden project. A chilly north-east breeze developed by the 21st giving gloomy weather and by then, a formidable anticyclone was forming over Greenland. As often occurs in these situations, very cold air began to feed southwards across the UK, and the final week was bitter with heavy snowfalls in the north-east causing chaos on the roads. There were some exceptionally cold nights, with some stations in the west reporting their coldest November night on record on the 27th/28th. Llysdinam, Powys recorded a minimum of -18°C (-0.4°F) and Loch Fea, Northern Ireland -9.5°C (15°F), setting new November records for Wales and Northern Ireland respectively. As the month drew to its close snowfall spread to other parts of eastern and southern England. Lincolnshire, Kent and Surrey were particularly badly affected. Transport disruption was extensive; 400 lorries were trapped on the M25 in Surrey overnight on the 30th and Gatwick and Edinburgh airports were forced to close.

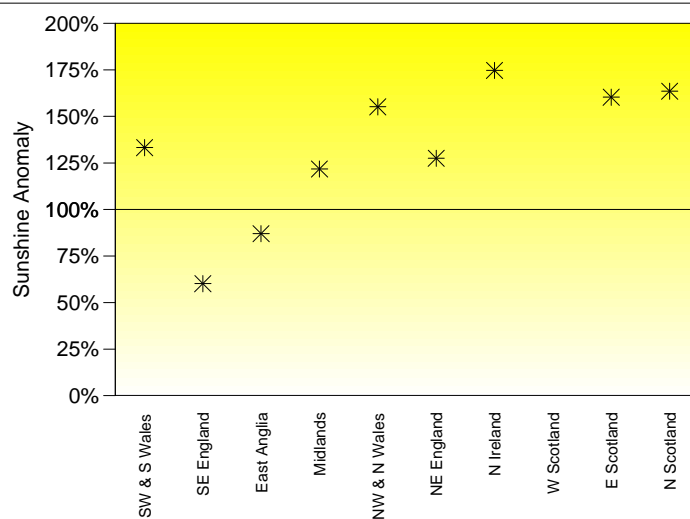
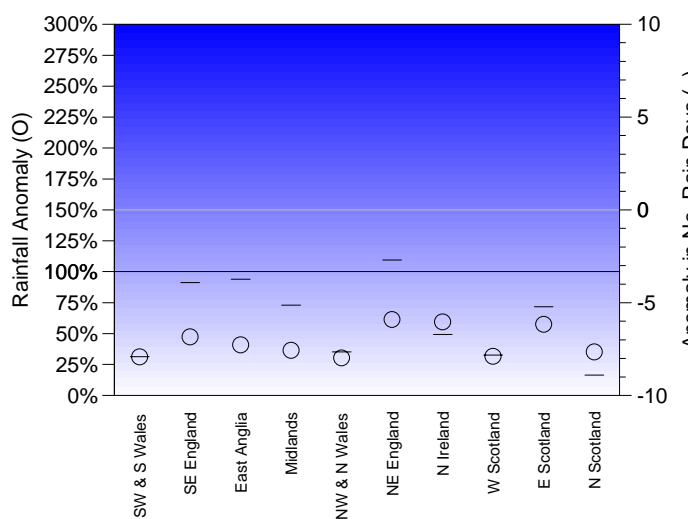
The cold snap offset the mild start to the month, and mean temperatures were typically 1.5-2°C below normal, making it the coldest November across the UK since 1993. Rainfall was close to average generally, though well above near the coasts of north-east England, and well below in north-west Scotland and the Northern Isles. It was a dull month in East Anglia and south-east England but Northern Ireland and western Scotland enjoyed one of their sunniest Novembers on record.

On November 13th, a storm brought flooding to northern France and Belgium with the worst flooding in fifty years southwest of Brussels. In Halle, several villages were evacuated as the Brussels-Charleroi canal flooded. Maastricht recorded 70mm with a 3 day total of 96mm. The cold wave of late November swept all of northwest Europe towards month end. In Ireland on the 28th, both Dublin and Casement Airports recorded minima of 9.1°C - record low temperatures for November. In France, temperatures at Orleans in the Loire valley plunged to -15.3°C (4°F) on 30th - surpassing the previous November record (set in 1956) by 6°C! Norway experienced its coldest November since 1919. On the 24th, -36.6°C (-35°F) was measured in Nikkaluokta while Kvikkjokk recorded -34.4°C (-31°F) - the lowest November temperature there since records began in 1888. A severe snowstorm affected central and south Sweden towards month end and on the 30th the capital, Stockholm shivered in -11.3°C (12°F) - the lowest November temperature since 1965. In the western Mediterranean, Gibraltar was deluged with 149mm of rain on the 27th, while 248mm fell in 48 hours at Chefchaouen, Morocco on 28-29th.

In southern California temperatures hit 37.8°C (100°F) at San Diego Airport on the 4th, the hottest November temperature ever. On the 13th, a rare early season winter storm swept across the U.S. states of Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, depositing 20-30cm of snow, just three days after the region experienced record breaking warm temperatures! Temperatures dived to -23°C (-10°F) in Cut Bank, Montana and nearly 115,000 people were left without power. In Chicago, on the afternoon of the 23rd an active cold front triggered a line of fierce thunderstorms. A tornado spanning 800m swept through the nearby town of Caledonia, while hail up to 5cm in diameter fell in west and northwest Illinois damaging grain silos, barns and other buildings. In central and southern America, heavy rainfall in Costa Rica led to flooding and landslides on the 3rd that resulted in at least 25 fatalities and caused 2,500 people in the capital, San José, to evacuate for fear of a dam burst. Cyclone Jal brought record breaking rainfall to India and Sri Lanka 7th-11th. Winds reached 80mph and satellite estimates indicated over 600 mm of rainfall across southern India. On 10th-11th in Sri Lanka residents of the capital Colombo were left marooned by flooding following 445mm of rain - the most to fall in a single day since 1992.



Extremes for December 2010	
Hottest:	13.4°C Penzance Heamoor, Cornwall, 28th
Coldest:	-21.3°C Altnaharra SAWS, Highland, 3rd
Most Rain:	48.2mm Fyvie Castle, Grampian, 10th
Most Sun:	7.7hrs Jersey St Helier, Channel Islands, 13th
Windiest:	62mph Foula No 2, Shetland, 10th
Warmest:	6.1°C Scilly St. Mary's SAWS, Cornwall
Coolest:	-3.3°C Tulloch Bridge SAWS, Highland
Wettest:	144.1mm Altnaharra SAWS, Highland
Driest:	6.2mm Edgbaston, West Midlands
Sunniest:	90.2hrs Auchincruive, Strathclyde
Dullest:	8.3hrs Threave, Kirkcudbrightshire



December is the darkest month as the winter solstice approaches but it is rarely the coldest. Despite the wealth of folklore about snow at Christmas, it is more often green than 'white'. This year, significant falls in the run up led to picture postcard scenes for many places.

The wintry weather of late November continued into December. A piercing east wind delivered snow showers to eastern areas and day maxima were near to or below freezing in many areas. Altnaharra, Sutherland, recorded a minimum of -21.3°C (-6°F) on the 2nd while the mercury only struggled to a maximum of -14°C (7°F) during the day! Extensive disruption to transport continued, but there was a brief, slight thaw over the weekend of the 4th/5th with rain for central and southern parts. Colder conditions soon returned from the north however and light winds allowed freezing fog to develop widely. A northerly breeze cleared the fog and low cloud on the 8th and it then turned briefly milder as winds backed to the north-west. Temperatures rose to near normal values on the 10th and 11th but dropped once more after a weak cold front moved south, and high pressure began to build. After a few days of quiet weather a very wintry spell began on the 16th as a deepening depression moved from the Norwegian Sea into Scandinavia and high pressure over Greenland reasserted its dominance. A cold front moved south introducing air straight from the Arctic and there was a sharp temperature drop with rain turning quickly to snow and widespread ice forming after dark. Conditions were very hazardous for motorists and there were a spate of road accidents. Further snow fell on the 17th and was heaviest in the north and west and temperatures struggled to rise much above freezing anywhere. A small depression brought more snow to England and Wales on the 18th and this time, southern England was badly affected, with airports closed and chaos on the roads. The weather remained very cold in the run-up to Christmas, and although it became quieter, there was further snowfall for some, especially SW England on the 20th (an extra 15-25cm in places) and then the Midlands and East Anglia on the 22nd. The combination of a snow cover, clear skies and low daylight hours led to exceptionally low night-time minima. Among the many bone-chilling highlights were: -19.6°C (-3°F) at Chesham, Bucks, on the 20th, -17.8°C (0°F) at Katesbridge, County Down, on the 21st and -20.2°C (-4°F) at Altnaharra, Sutherland. Christmas Day saw a few snow flurries in the north but most places continued dry and very cold, with patchy freezing fog. The wintry spell slowly abated from the 27th as weakening Atlantic fronts pushed in from the west. The thaw presented its own collection of hazards as burst pipes led to post-Christmas misery for some, especially in Northern Ireland. Also, as milder and very moist air encountered the frozen ground it was quickly cooled to its dew point and much of the UK became shrouded in a pall of low cloud and fog from the 28th, giving a grey and gloomy end to 2010.

Mean temperatures were well below the 1971-2000 average everywhere by some 5°C, making it the coldest December in over 100 years, and the coldest calendar month since February 1986. The number of days with air frost was the highest for December for over 50 years. It was also a very dry month, the driest December since 1963, and very sunny in the west and north but dull in south-east England with only 60% of normal sunshine owing to persistent easterly and north-easterly winds.

In Europe, torrential rain brought flooding to the Balkans during the first week. Elsewhere severe cold made the headlines. Italy's island of Capri recorded its first snowfall in 25 years. Christmas Day was the coldest ever recorded in Ireland with -17.5°C (0.5°F) at Straide, Co Mayo in the west. In Russia, an ice storm in Moscow on the 23rd badly disrupted air traffic and left more than 400,000 people without electricity.

In the Americas, the "Pineapple Express" - a southwest wind bringing warm moist air off the Pacific, drenched the American west coast. Los Angeles recorded a total of 171mm of rain from the 17th-22nd, equivalent to more than one-third of its annual average. Much further north, the Mount Washington ski resort on Vancouver Island received 250cm (2.5m!) of snow in 48 hours. A gargantuan blizzard swept up the east coast of America on Boxing Day. South Carolina had its first Christmas snow since records began in 1887, while Lincoln Park and Lyndhurst, both New Jersey, recorded 74cm.

Extreme rainstorms and catastrophic flooding occurred in Australia. In Queensland four people were killed and thousands were forced to evacuate their homes as rivers overflowed their banks. On the 20th, 245 mm of rain fell over Carnarvon, and the nearby Gascoyne River reached its highest levels ever.