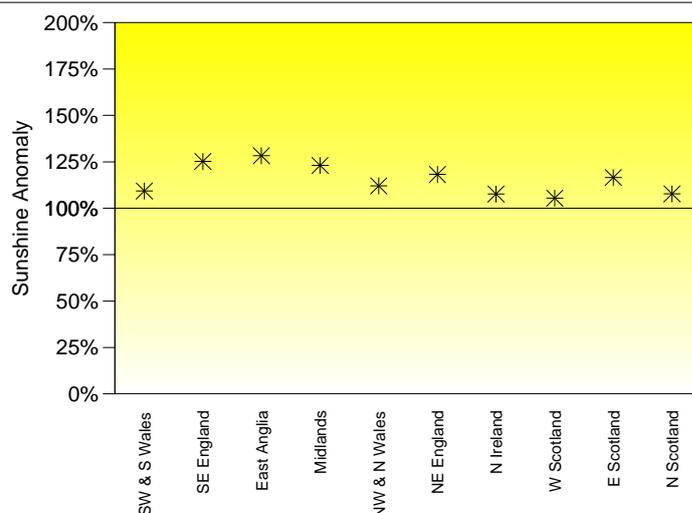
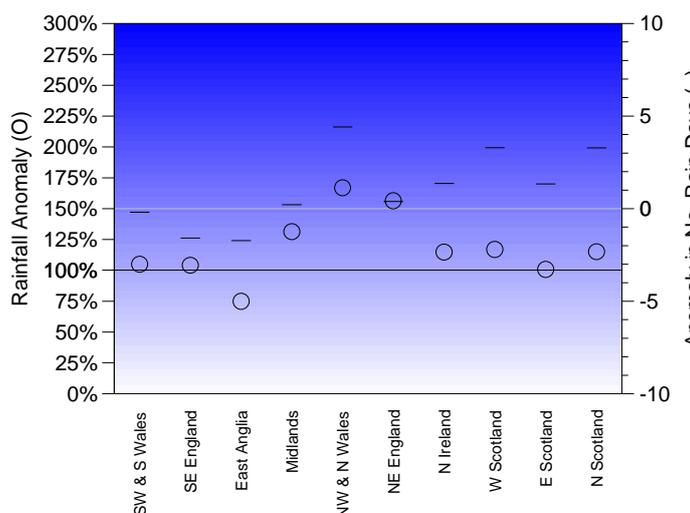


Extremes for September 2012	
Hottest:	30.1°C Leigh-on-Sea 2, Essex, 9th
Coldest:	-4.1°C Braemar No 2, Avon, 23rd
Most Rain:	78.0mm KillyLane, County Antrim, 24th
Most Sun:	12.7hrs Portchester, Hampshire, 5th
Windiest:	73mph Foula No 2, Shetland, 4th
Warmest:	15.5°C St James Park, Greater London
Coolest:	9.5°C Dalwhinnie No 2, Tayside
Wettest:	354.0mm Cluanie Inn No 3, Ross & Cromarty
Driest:	24.6mm Wych Cross, East Sussex
Sunniest:	194.7hrs Manston, Kent
Dullest:	63.4hrs Kinlochewe, Highland



September is on the cusp of summer and autumn - and frequently features contrasting weather. Fine, warm, hazy days can provide a late blast of summer but equally there can be spells of wind and rain as North Atlantic systems gather strength. The nights draw in rapidly after the Equinox on the 22nd and ground frosts become common.

High pressure prevailed at the start of the month, although weak fronts brought cloud and a little rain during the first four days. Northern Scotland was very windy on the 4th. Nights were sometimes chilly and Sennybridge, Powys recorded just 2.8°C (37°F) early on the 5th. Days became steadily warmer with widespread maxima above 25°C (77°F) culminating in 29.3°C (84°F) at Cambridge on the 9th. The following week was markedly cooler in a mainly north-westerly flow. Many areas saw showers or longer spells of rain but amounts were small in the south where pressure remained relatively high, and the Paralympics took place in mainly fine conditions. The next week saw a continuation of this trend with plenty of dry but rather cool weather. Many places saw their first ground frost of the autumn on the 19th and Topcliffe, North Yorks recorded a minimum of -2°C (28°F). The 22nd was a sparkling, crisp day beneath a small anticyclone but this turned out to be the calm before the storm: The 23rd was very cold with a raw easterly wind and widespread maxima below 13°C (55°F) and a deepening depression spread wind and rain into southern and central areas. The fronts continued slowly northwards and the low stagnated, resulting in prolonged heavy rainfall over northern England 24th-26th. Some places experienced 2 months' worth of rainfall in little more than 48 hours and there were numerous reports of flooding. The A1 was closed near Catterick, North Yorkshire, owing to the volume of standing water and around 600 homes and businesses were reported to be flooded across England and Wales. Meanwhile, strong winds in eastern Scotland led to fallen trees, power cuts and restrictions on road bridges. The low began to relax its grip on the 26th, and although further fronts moved south-east during the final 4 days, rainfall was much less intense.

Northern England, southern Scotland, North Wales and the east of Northern Ireland had a wet or very wet September. Elsewhere rainfall was close to average despite the soggy finish. Temperatures were generally rather lower than usual and for the UK as a whole; it was the coolest September since 1994. The fine start meant that most places enjoyed a little more sunshine than normal.

The end of September also saw some very unsettled weather in parts of Europe. On the 28-29th at least 10 people died after heavy rains triggered flash floods in southern Spain. Cars were overturned, roads and railway lines closed and hundreds forced to leave their homes. Amongst the hardest hit were the Murcia region and the provinces of Malaga and Almeria. In Andalucia an almost biblical 245 mm of rain fell on the morning of the 28th forcing the evacuation of at least 600 residents. Further north, in Gandia, a tornado struck a temporary fairground, injuring 35 people, many seriously.

The "Entertainment Capital of the World", Las Vegas, recorded 13 thunderstorm days during August, breaking the previous monthly record of 12 days. On the 8th, two rare tornadoes hit the New York City borough of Queens and Brooklyn, damaging homes, causing blackouts and forcing the suspension of the US Open tennis tournament. On the 11th, former hurricane Leslie buffeted Newfoundland with storm surge, driving rain, raging surf and winds of up to 82mph. In Nova Scotia, Tracadie recorded 116 mm rain with 112 mm falling on Caribou Point. In South America on the 17th, temperatures reached 42°C (107°F) in the southern Brazilian province of Parana. The unusual heat for September triggered violent storms which pounded neighbouring Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay. Winds exceeded 90mph and rainfall 250mm in the southern Brazilian states 15th - 19th.

On the 25th, nearly 1.5 million people were evacuated from their homes as the north-eastern state of Assam, India, was hit by a second round of massive flooding. 18 out of 27 districts were inundated and 11 people were drowned. On the 30th, monsoon floods swept across Pakistan and an estimated 4.5 million people were affected. On the 29th, Typhoon Jelawat wreaked havoc in the Western Pacific. The Okinawa Islands, were struck by winds exceeding 136 mph and >300mm of rain was dumped over some parts of Taiwan.

While summer ice melt was causing concern in the Arctic, at the other end of the globe, Vostok in Antarctica registered some remarkably low late-winter temperatures - even for the coldest spot on Earth. Three nights saw the temperature break through the -80°C barrier, culminating with -84.2°C (121°F) on the 15th.