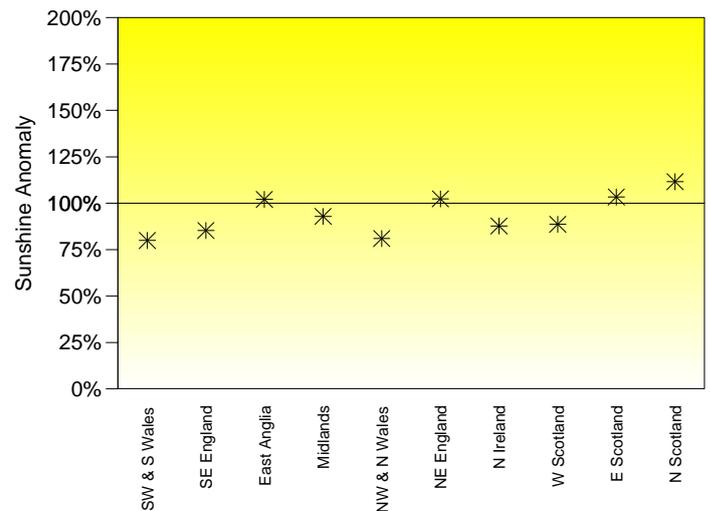
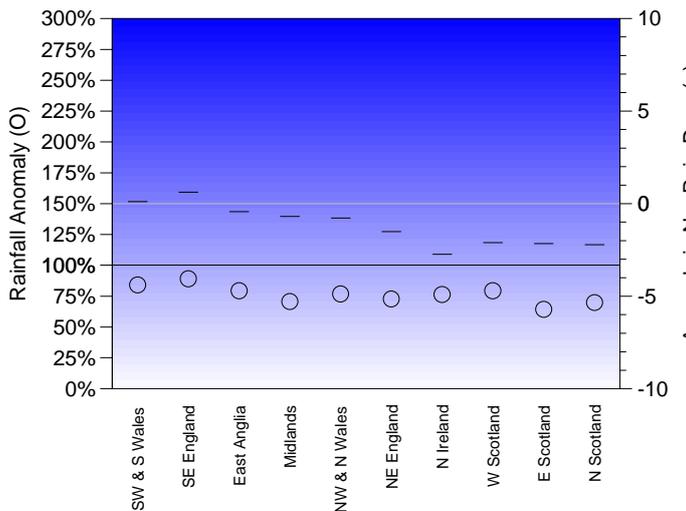


Extremes for September 2013	
Hottest:	32.0°C Leigh-on-Sea 2, Essex, 5th
Coldest:	-2.2°C Aviemore, Highland, 26th
Most Rain:	68.8mm Normanby, North Yorkshire, 6th
Most Sun:	13.8hrs Monifieth, Tayside, 2nd
Windiest:	67mph Aberdaron SAWS, Gwynedd, 15th
Warmest:	16.1°C Jersey Airport, Channel Islands
Coolest:	10.2°C Dalwhinnie No 2, Tayside
Wettest:	193.8mm Cluanie Inn No 3, Ross & Cromarty
Driest:	14.0mm Balmoral, Grampian
Sunniest:	214.5hrs Radstock, Somerset
Dullest:	63.8hrs Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway



'I saw old autumn in the misty morn
Stand shadowless like Silence, listening
To silence.....'

Such is the opening of Thomas Hood's poem on autumn. It illustrates the fact that by September, the sun's power is declining - with mist and fog taking longer to burn off. Despite this, September days can still be remarkably warm. Indeed, September contains the hottest day of the year around once in every decade. Greenland and the Canadian Arctic cool quickly from mid-month in the rapidly waning daylight and this makes for increasingly vigorous Atlantic depressions. Gales become ever more likely after the equinox on the 22nd.

Spectacular lenticular clouds over the Pennines signalled warm fronts racing across northern areas on the 1st, but a persistent anticyclone over southern Britain gave a week of settled weather for many. It became steadily warmer by day, but with light winds, mist and fog were prevalent at night. Shortly after dawn on the 5th, fog caused a 100 car pile up on the A249 Isle of Sheppey crossing in Kent. Remarkably, no one was killed. A steamy day followed in the south and east with 30°C (86°F) exceeded in parts of Kent and Essex. By this time, a cold front was introducing much cooler air to Scotland and Northern Ireland, and as an area of low pressure developed along it the next day, there was prolonged heavy rain in the north-east. Nunraw Abbey (East Lothian) recorded 71.2mm in 24 hours, and maxima in some places were 10°C (18°F) lower than on the 5th! A notable hailstorm in Falmouth on the 6th led to wintry scenes as the ground was whitened, and drains struggled to cope with the melt water. After a couple of showery days on the 7th and 8th with further hail and thunder in places, the south had a cold, wet day on the 9th courtesy of a small depression. It then became changeable with large amounts of cloud and depressed temperatures. A small wave depression running east across southern England on the 13th gave some places their highest 24 hour rainfall total of the year so far with totals exceeding 15mm widespread. A weak ridge then brought a clear, cold night with ground frost in places. Further autumnal weather followed as the first really deep depression of the season spread wind and rain south-east to all areas by the end of the 14th. Needles Old Battery (Isle of Wight) recorded a gust of 75mph. A showery, blustery day on the 15th ushered in another cool week with more rain or showers in a north-westerly flow. A rise of pressure on the 20th/21st introduced a change as drier, more settled conditions prevailed except in the far north. It became humid and was often cloudy, but pleasantly warm when the sun broke through. Thunder storms formed along the south coast on the 28th, but for many the dry weather continued until month end.

For September as a whole, mean temperatures and sunshine were close to average. Rainfall was more variable, but many parts of the UK had a relatively dry month overall.

Plenty of wet weather was to be experienced by those venturing abroad during September. In the Russian city of Sochi, host to the 2014 Winter Olympics, a total of 241mm fell 23rd - 25th and caused severe flooding. In Moscow it was the wettest September since rainfall records began there in 1879. In stark contrast, Scandinavia was unusually dry and Jonkoping-Flahult (Sweden) had its driest September since 1875.

In the United States, Colorado was hit by rainfall of epic proportions. Between 1800 on the 12th and 1800 on the 13th, a total of 231mm was measured at the official Boulder site - nearly double the previous all time daily record of 120mm. From 1800 9th to 1800 on the 13th, the total was even more prodigious. A colossal 436mm fell during the 96 hours - more than the previous record for any calendar month! The resulting floods were responsible for at least 8 deaths, 1,500 homes were destroyed and another 17,000 damaged. Towards month end intense low pressure brought a deluge to the Pacific Northwest. In Astoria (Oregon) 80mm fell on the 28th, and there, as elsewhere in Oregon, September 2013 became the wettest month in a record spanning 100 years. In Mexico, 170 people were killed when two tropical cyclones (Ingrid on the Atlantic and Manuel in the eastern Pacific) struck from different directions. Torrents of rain caused severe flooding and deadly mudslides. Sierra de Guerrero, on the west coast, received 987mm 11th - 18th with the rains isolating the popular resort of Acapulco.

In the Pacific, six tropical cyclones formed during the month. Usagi, on the 19th became the first tropical hurricane in 2013 to reach the highest level (category 5) Usagi passed just south of Taiwan and Jinfeng recorded 567mm of rainfall in 24 hours. A tornado ripped through parts of eastern Japan on the 2nd leaving 63 people injured and many properties damaged. Australia enjoyed its warmest ever September. Temperatures exceeded 40°C (104°F) somewhere in the country on more than half of days and Fitroy Crossing reported 41.6 °C (107°F) on the 26th and 27th. Despite this, and far to the south, Antarctica's ice shelf remained at its most expansive since 1979.