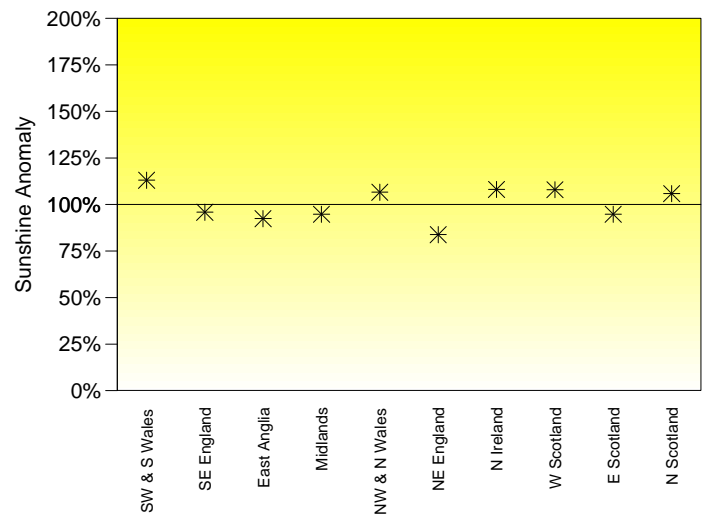
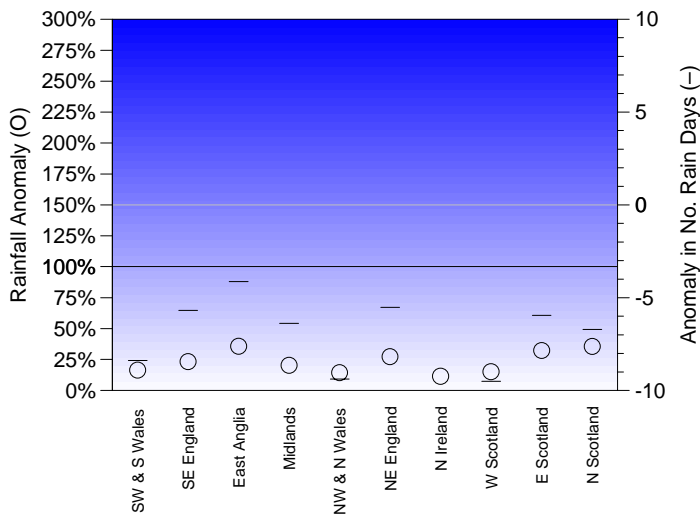


Extremes for September 2014	
Hottest:	27.0°C Jersey St Helier, Channel Islands, 16th
Coldest:	0.0°C Katesbridge, County Down, 8th
Most Rain:	41.2mm Exeter, Devon, 19th
Most Sun:	12.3hrs Ronaldsway Airport, Isle of Man, 7th
Windiest:	61mph Lerwick, Shetland, 26th
Warmest:	18.5°C Jersey St Helier, Channel Islands
Coolest:	11.8°C Braemar No 2, Avon
Wettest:	120.6mm Lerwick, Shetland
Driest:	1.8mm Stormont Castle, County Down
Sunniest:	274.4hrs Jersey St Helier, Channel Islands
Dullest:	80.6hrs Kirkwall, Orkney



September marks the start of Autumn - and storms certainly become more frequent as the Atlantic circulation gains in mobility. However, the month can also be remarkably warm (e.g. 2006) and dry (e.g. 2002) and settled. 2014 was an outstanding example of a September that was both dry and very warm - with temperatures that would have been respectable even in high summer.

Weak fronts gave a little light rain over England and Wales on the 1st, but high pressure then dominated until the 17th. Days were often fine and warm with light winds, and maxima above 21°C (70°F) were commonplace - culminating in the month's highest of 26.3°C (79°F) at Wigginholt (West Sussex) on the 18th. As is typical with autumn anticyclones, north eastern coasts were often masked overnight by low cloud, which was then slow to burn off next morning. The phenomena is known as "Haar" and was especially evident 14th - 19th. By the 17th, pressure was still high over Scandinavia but low pressure over Biscay was struggling valiantly to exert an influence. A very humid and thundery spell ensued over England and Wales 18th - 20th and there were some notable downpours; e.g. 47.8mm in the 24 hours ending 0900 on the 19th at Linkenholt (Hampshire). Much cooler and fresher weather extended to all areas by the end of the 21st. During the next week, pressure remained high in the south, where it remained largely settled and dry, but weak fronts affected northern areas, bringing cloud and a little rain. The 26th was very windy for a time across northern Scotland with a gust of 66mph recorded at Sella Ness (Shetland). England and Wales basked in very warm sunshine again over the final weekend of the 27th/28th before showers spread north on the 29th and temperatures began to fall.

It was the persistent warmth, rather than individual outstanding temperatures, that stamped the character of the month, and this was the fourth warmest September for the UK in 100 years. Remarkably, the UK mean temperature exceeded that of August, a very unusual (though not unprecedented) event. For the UK as a whole, it was also the driest September ever recorded - and the driest calendar month since August 1995. This belies the fact that a few locations which caught localised thundery downpours had monthly totals close to or above normal! Interestingly, despite its warmth and its aridity, sunshine was much closer to normal than might be expected owing to the preponderance of morning mist and low cloud. Western areas fared best in the sunshine stakes.

Parts of northwest Europe also experienced an exceptionally dry September. Malin Head on the North Atlantic coast of Ireland experienced its driest September for 81 years. In sharp contrast, flooding occurred in southwest Europe on the 29th. Montpellier, France recorded 300mm for the day - the majority falling in just three hours!

Remnants of hurricane Norbert brought record-breaking rainfall to the Southwest USA on 8th/9th creating havoc for early-morning commuters in Phoenix, Arizona. Further powerful storms swept through the Southwest on the 27 th-28th, ravaging local infrastructures with destructive winds and deluges. At Phoenix Airport, 40 flights had to be diverted as winds roared up to 67mph and tore apart the airport's roof, littering debris across the runway.

In Alberta, Canada, September was aptly referred to as "Snowtember", as unseasonable, heavy snow fell across the Calgary region, bringing down trees and power lines, and causing chaos to transport. The spectacular cold front on the morning of the 8th dumped 12cm of snow at the airport. Temperatures struggled to rise above freezing through the afternoon, an amazing contrast to the summery 25°C (77°F) recorded the previous day! Another round of snow struck the city on 9th-10th and thousands of trees, still in full leaf, collapsed under its weight, cutting power to 30,000 homes and leading to major traffic disruption. Blizzards also swept the US states of Montana, Wyoming and the Dakotas. By the 11th, 20cm had accumulated on the Black Hills in South Dakota.

On the 15th, Hurricane Odile hammered Mexico's Baja California Peninsula with maximum sustained winds of 109mph. The storm, which made landfall as a Category 3 hurricane, toppled trees, power poles and road signs along the main highway, which was also swamped by surging floodwaters.

21st - 25th Typhoon Fung-wong brought torrential rain, flooding and mudslides to the Philippines, China, Taiwan and South Korea after the storm first made landfall in north-eastern Luzon Island. After flooding the northern Philippines, Fung-wong turned north and buffeted Taiwan. The storm affected more than one million people across its track, 206,000 people were evacuated and more than 2,000 homes destroyed. In 48 hours, the capital Manila recorded 194mm of rain, whilst nearby Quezon City, recorded 410mm and Baguio to the north, 500mm. Winds peaked at 90mph in Pengjiayu, just to the north of mainland Taiwan.