

## 2004

### **28<sup>th</sup> January (Wednesday)**

<http://www.wiseweather.co.uk/id43.html>

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Cold weather had already begun to grip the UK on the 28th as a northerly flow established itself drawing cold air south across the UK. A spell of overnight snow brought some small accumulations of 2–5 cm down the East coast of England and Scotland combined with a few snow showers but despite this it dawned cold, crisp and sunny for most.

Trouble was brewing in the North of Scotland though, a slow moving cold front had brought some heavy falls of snow accompanied with gusty winds making for, at times, blizzard conditions across the North of Scotland.

During the day the front moved quickly south, as it passed over all areas experienced a sharp drop of temperature to around minus 1C, and heavy snow and strong winds causing visibilities at times to drop to below 500 metres. To the south of the front skies clouded over but temperatures managed to climb to around 5C. As the cold air continued south it forced this relatively warm air to rise very fast and form towering cumulonimbus clouds. Now the front was being associated with thunder, lightning and some intense snow squalls, which although not depositing huge amounts of snow were falling at fast rates of up to 8cm/hr.

Many airports were closed for the duration of the event, roads became ice-rinks as the melting slush froze to the surface causing many road incidents. Falls of up to 15cm were reported in Lincolnshire, and much of the UK was dusted with fresh snowfall from Inverness to Bournemouth on the balmy south coast of England.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/coventry/weather/stories/2004/let-it-snow.shtml>

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On Christmas day many of us saw a tiny flurry of snow, which has just adding to our excitement of hoping for a snowy winter.

While we wait to see if we'll be getting a decent quantity of the fluffy stuff, take a walk down snowy memory lane with our photographs that remind us of the snowy start we had to 2004.

The year's most dramatic snow fell on Wednesday 28 January 2004 and, despite being gorgeous, it caused chaos on the roads across Coventry and Warwickshire.

Journey's home from work that normally took minutes took hours with a number of frustrated motorists left with a slow crawl back home.

Some schools were forced to close the next day - some because of dangerous conditions on their access roads.

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Snow falling heavily in Leamington

### **4<sup>th</sup> February**

<http://www.wiseweather.co.uk/id49.html>

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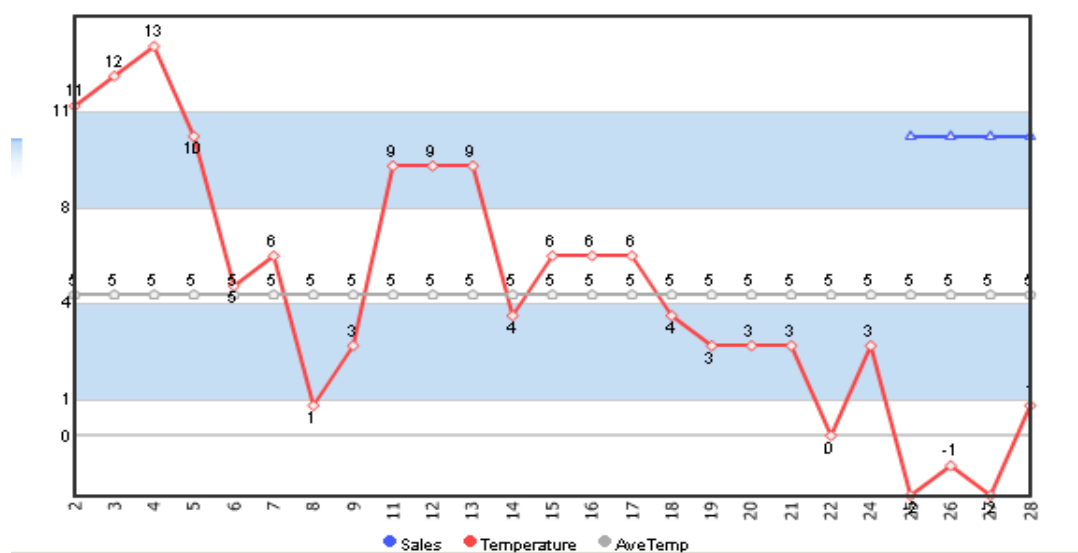
The average maximum temperature for early February is generally around 8C, however on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February a strong SSW'ly flow pumped some unusually mild air up from the Azores

behind a warm front which was meandering across the country, by the 4<sup>th</sup> this front was once again moving north. To the south of the front the stratocumulus dissipated and the winter sun made an appearance, after a very mild night in the south of England with temperatures generally not dropping below 10C the day soon warmed up to give an early taste of spring.

The 18C recorded at Gravesend, Kent (a renowned hot spot) was around 10 degrees centigrade above average and as well as being the warmest ever 4<sup>th</sup> February this was the earliest 18C recorded since records began- an exceptional record

Station	Max Temp	Date
Gravesend, Kent	17.9C	4 Feb
London Weather Centre-Holborn	17.8C	4 Feb
Coltishall, Norfolk	17.0C	4 Feb
Andrewsfield, Essex	16.8C	4 Feb
Lossiemouth, Scotland	16.7C	3 Feb
Church Lawford, Warwickshire	16.6C	4 Feb
Great Malvern, Worcestershire	16.6C	4 Feb
London Heathrow	16.6C	4 Feb
Northolt, NW London	16.6C	4 Feb
Wattisham, Suffolk	16.6C	4 Feb

Maximum degree in February 2004 in Warwickshire



### 25th-26th February

<http://www.wiseweather.co.uk/id47.html>

Another northerly flow gripped the UK during late February. An area of cold (sub 528DM) air had slipped across the south of England during the weekend of 21<sup>st</sup> February bringing a few snow flurries and bitter easterly winds, though temperatures were still hovering above freezing. On the 24<sup>th</sup> a vigorous depression (below 970mb) over Scandinavia drove a cold

front South across the UK introducing much colder air and the start of a particularly snowy and cold period for most, if not all of the UK.

The Northern Isles and NE Scotland were hit by some appalling conditions on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Heavy snowfall and gale force Northerly winds gusting to 60mph at times made for whiteout conditions throughout the day. Lerwick reported rainfall equivalent 31mm in the 12 hrs to 18Z, and the snow depth was recorded as immeasurable due to the very strong winds, although was estimated at 15cm. Aberdeen in the NE of Scotland was hit too and had 6cm lying snow by the evening.

BBC News reports about the event : <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/3485132.stm>

On the 26<sup>th</sup> a wave on the cold front brought a new line of precipitation towards Northern Ireland, this readily turned to snow in the morning and gave the usually green provinces a rare but magical snowfall – in fact the recording of BBC series 'Silent Witness' had to be suspended to ensure continuity(!) The snow moved south to affect Wales during the mid morning and afternoon period, accumulations of up to 20cm were reported in upland areas but the winds were lighter and conditions calmer in the frontal snow band and as a result there were fewer problems. Snow even lay on the usually mild Welsh coast, Aberystwyth had several centimetres the end of the day. The rest of the UK had a mostly fine, dry, albeit cold day with a few snow showers continuing around the coasts. Nowhere in the UK topped 7C during the day and parts of upland Wales had subzero maxima. That night temperatures plummeted over the fresh layer of snow. Sennybridge fell to -10.9C, Trawscoed -10.5C, even Bournemouth on the south coast of England dipped to -7.7C

### 10th -11th March

A southerly tracking low brings a late heavy snowfall to the west of England & Wales.

<http://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/south-warwickshire-news/2004/03/12/snow-chaos-92746-14045267/>

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## Snow chaos

[Mar 12 2004](#)

Rural Warwickshire was brought to a standstill today as snow brought road crashes and school closures.

Motorists faced massive delays as more than 20 crashes in south Warwickshire closed roads and led to long tailbacks.

More than a dozen rural primary schools, particularly around Alcester, Henley, Kineton and Lighthorne closed, as staff struggled to get in, and where children faced long bus journeys.

Town schools fared better although both Leamington and Rugby had a school closed each.

And Kenilworth School - the county's largest - was also shut, one of the few secondaries forced to cancel lessons.

Police said there had been no serious injuries following the several road accidents around the county.

A spokeswoman said: “Drivers experienced long delays on busy routes as they attempted to get to work.

“Road conditions are unlikely to improve until much later today and police appeal to motorists to plan extra time for journeys, to slow down and only travel if the journey is absolutely essential.”

Roads affected in Rugby included the A4071 at Cawston, the B4112 Newbold Road, the A428 Hillmorton Road, and the back road between Brinklow and Harborough Magna.

The A452 between Kenilworth and Balsall Common was shut by two separate collisions near to Gambles garage and at the junction with Red Lane.

And further south there were problems on Banbury Road in Kineton, around Bidford, Fenny Compton, and both the A445 and A425 heading into Leamington, plus lengthy delays were reported on the M40.

#### 19th – 20th March

<http://www.wiseweather.co.uk/id48.html>

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An extremely windy and disturbed weather pattern ensued during the weekend of the 20th March. A mobile westerly flow covered the UK, with deep secondary lows sweeping across the country atop a strong Azores anticyclone (above 1035 mb). Forecasters warned of gale force winds and possible structural damage for the weekend, as behind one of the lows the pressure gradient was to tighten further.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> wet and very windy weather spread across the UK, winds gusted up to 70 mph in places and Capel Curig recorded 35mm rainfall.

It was on the 20<sup>th</sup> that gales really began to batter the UK, with the SW, Wales, Central & North England and East Anglia worst affected. There were locally severe gales along exposed coastlines and gales inland causing many problems. Power lines were brought down in the Northwest disrupting rail networks and road incidents were widespread, at Uttoxeter racecourse the meeting was cancelled after a marquee was lifted into the air, and league football games at Stoke and Burnley had to be postponed on safety grounds due to the daytime gales. The table below shows the widespread and extremely high winds experienced across the UK.

*A list of the mean wind speed and gusts at 13UTC on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2004*

Station	Mean Speed	Gust
Aberporth	48KT	65KT
Lake Vrynwy	42KT	n/a
Shawbury, Shropshire	39KT	60KT
Leeming, Nth Yorkshire	38KT	58KT
Crosby	38KT	51KT
Pembry	38KT	53KT
Dishforth	37KT	54KT
Wittering	37KT	54KT
Donna Nook	36KT	52KT
Cranwell	35KT	48KT
Cottesmore	35KT	53KT

Carlisle	34KT	45KT
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Nb 1Kt = 1 nautical mile per hour or 1.15 mph.

During the afternoon, the area of strongest winds transferred eastwards wreaking further chaos as it did so. In rural parts of East Anglia and Lincolnshire the top soil was dried, lifted off the fields and blown into the air by the gales causing reduced visibility. This effect is known as a 'Fen Blow' which is associated with very strong winds and dry soil and can often lead to heavy soil loss and be disastrous for farmers. Lakenheath among other stations reported widespread dust, as the top gusts reached 78 mph at Cottesmore! Despite the gale force winds it was a mild day across the UK with Coningsby managing to reach 17C.

<http://www.4ni.co.uk/news.asp?id=27147>

### **Severe gales across central England and Wales**

Parts of England and Wales were braced today for severe gales set to sweep across the region on Friday.

Forecasters have warned of high winds, up to 70mph in exposed areas and possible heavy rainfall that may lead to localised flooding.

Wales and northwest England were among the first areas to bear the brunt of the high winds that will affect northern England, the Midlands later today.

This morning forecasters were warning of severe gales affecting northwest England, north east England, the Midlands, Wales, southwest England, east Anglia and Lincolnshire.

Some disruption to travel was expected and drivers were warned to take extra care.

Forecasters said on Friday that the rest of the weekend would be windy.

### **7th – 8th July**

<http://www.wiseweather.co.uk/id58.html>

### **Strong Wind and Heavy rains**

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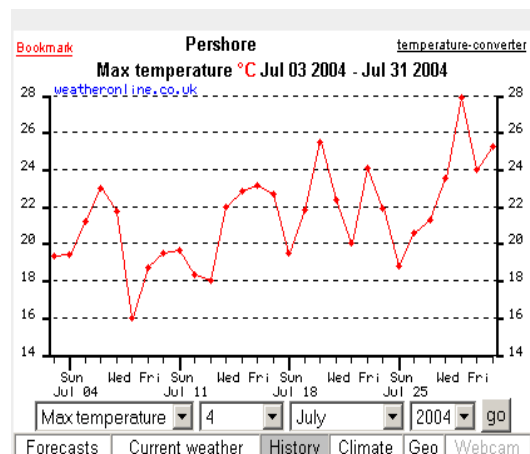
On the 7th July a depression moving up from France intensified and brought another spell of unseasonably strong winds and wet weather to the UK.

The heaviest of the rain moved slowly north through England and Wales during the late afternoon, evening and overnight period. The rain was accompanied by strong winds from the north-east as the depression tracked closer to the UK and deepened further, many homes in East Anglia were left without power for many hours as the storm raged on; gusts of wind reached 68mph at Cudrose, in S Cornwall. The combination of strong winds, heavy rain, and depressed temperatures made it feel more like the middle of November than mid summer – even flooding the Princess Diana Memorial Fountain in Hyde Park just a day after it was opened by the Queen!

What was quite interesting was the widespread nature of very high rainfall totals, throughout East Anglia many places reported 20 – 30mm falling from the rainband during the latter part of the 7th.

On the 8th, the low continued to move across England and eventually out into the North Sea; further spells of heavy rain accompanied the wrap around occlusion and those to the north of it had a rather cold day. In fact Sennybridge was cold with a maximum of just 9.6C, one of lowest ever maximum temperatures ever recorded in July. Many other places, especially in the north of England, West Midlands and the Welsh marshes also had their coldest July day on record with all areas reporting maxes of just 12–14C, including RAF Shawbury with a max of just 11.4C and at Nottingham, Watnall recording a chilly 11.7C as its

maximum – both were the lowest maximum temperatures recorded in July for those particular stations. Elsewhere in England where the occlusion had cleared, it turned brighter and warmer. However intense thundery showers developed and became quite organised, bringing some torrential downpours and atrocious conditions once again. One storm which literally developed over RAF Wittering dropped 51mm in 2 hours, bringing their rainfall total for the 24 hours to 18Z to a huge 108mm -over 4 inches- for the day.



## 22nd July

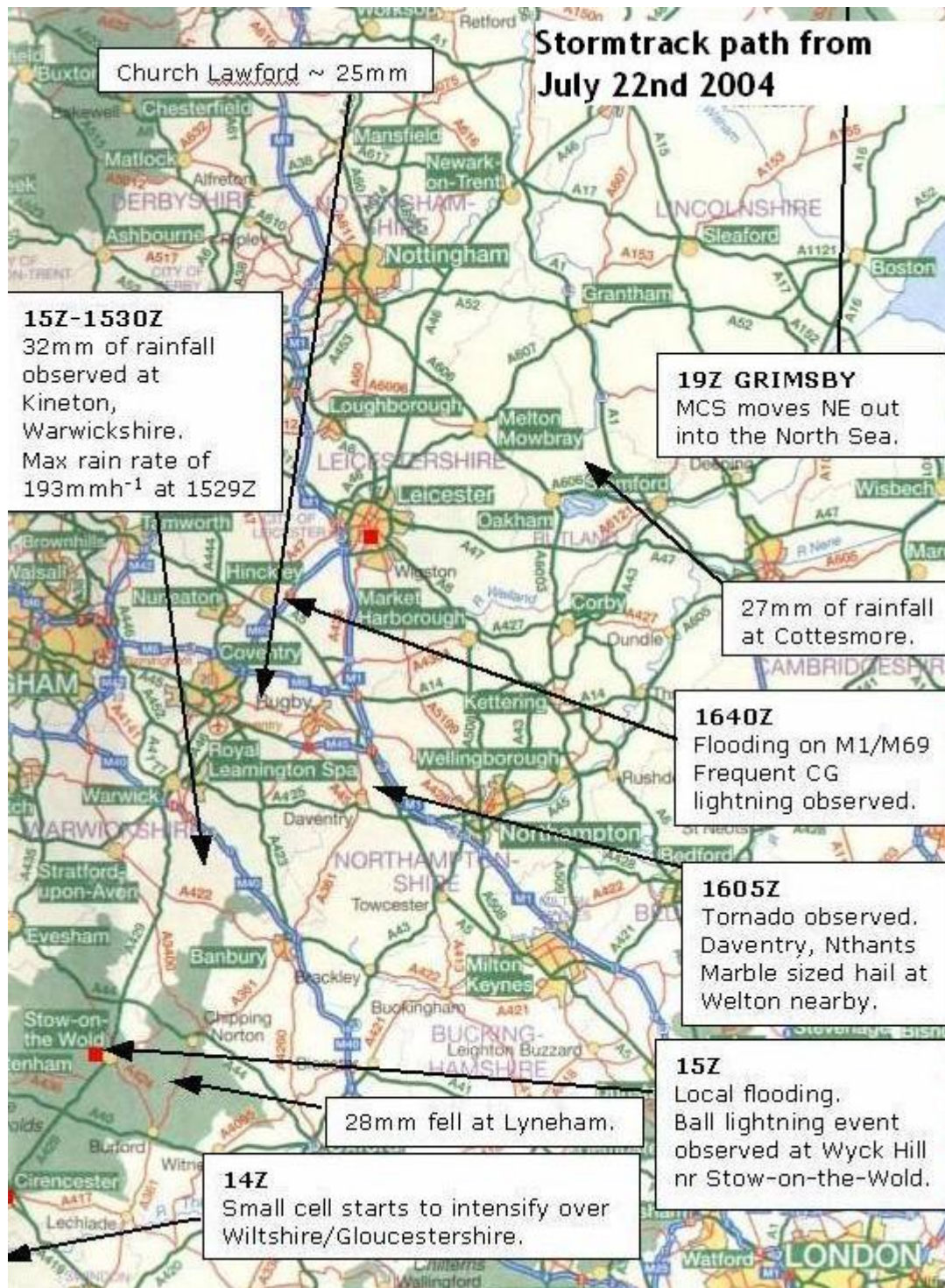
<http://www.wiseweather.co.uk/id64.html>

### Intense mesoscale storms over the Midlands

The synoptic situation on the 22nd was that of a weak southerly flow from the continent over England ahead of a cold front, which at 00Z was lying from W Scotland through to SE Ireland and was moving very slowly ESE. See the synoptic analysis here : <http://www.wetterzentrale.de/archive/2004/brack/bracka20040722.gif>

An MCS (Mesoscale Convective System) developed out of a small cell in the Bristol area only a few miles across during the early afternoon and quickly grew into a small but intense storm. It tracked in a NNE/NE direction across Gloucestershire and Worcestershire, all the time intensifying. Cirencester was first in the firing line, some heavy rain and frequent CG (Cloud ground lightning strikes) were observed. Stow-on-the-Wold in the SW Midlands was also hit with the storm producing some localised flooding and numerous violent lightning strikes. During the thunderstorm a report came in from an unassuming observer of the rare weather phenomena 'ball lightning' near to Stow-on-the-Wold!

The storm continued its track NE through the heart of the Midlands to the east of Birmingham; day turned to almost night under the tall cumulonimbus clouds and torrential rain it brought, reducing visibilities dramatically, the skies all the time illuminated by the constant and intense fork lightning.



The core of the system is thought to have reached its peak over Daventry, strong gusts of wind reported in the area, possibly from a downdraft or gust front (associated with the onset of torrential rain) are thought to have been the cause of 5 miles of debris (leaves, twigs and branches) strewn across all lanes of the M1 between J16 and J17, along with many trees, which shattered as they were struck by lightning – winds were thought to have been at times gusting to at least 40 knots (and possibly as high as 100 knots given the damage sustained and evaluated after the MCS had passed). A tornado was observed at 1605Z as the cell core passed over and marble sized hail also at nearby Welton – which seems to confirm that this area was the worst hit from the MCS

<http://pressreleases.eon-uk.com/blogs/centralnetworkspressreleases/archive/2004/07/23/central-networks-engineers-successfully-battle-against-lightning-storms.aspx>

23 July 2004 00:00 Central Networks engineers successfully battle against lightning storms

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Engineers from Central Networks, the electricity distribution company for the East and West Midlands, battled into the night to restore power to 26,000 customers affected by yesterday's (THURS) devastating lightning storm.

In the UK as a whole there were just under 10,000 lightning hits and a staggering 7,377, or 76%, of those came in the East Midlands alone. With the lightning hitting overhead wires and a transformer as it moved across the region.

Bob Taylor, Managing Director of Central Networks, said: "At HQ near East Midlands Airport we have a lightning monitor that allows us to track storm as they approach our patch.

"It shows lightning hits as red dots and, by the time storm was at its height, the East Midlands was just a sea of red - you really couldn't tell where the county boundaries were any more - yet again the East Midlands has proved itself to be the lightning capital of the UK.

"The beauty of the lightning monitor is that it allows us to predict where strikes are going to be so we get engineers out into the field and up the poles once it's safe to do so.

"Clearly we can't have anyone up the poles when there's a storm but, once it passed, they were able to start work on getting everyone back on power and they did a great job to get tens of thousands of people back on power as quickly as possible."

The storm first hit the region at around 3.50pm yesterday (THURS) and eventually left Lincolnshire at around 11.20pm.

*Customers affected (not at the same time): Coventry and Warwickshire 4,497*

**3rd August**

<http://www.wiseweather.co.uk/id65.html>

## **August 3rd Flooding in severe storms**

### **General overview**

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A ridge of high Pressure which had built across the UK from Scandinavia bringing fine, settled and very warm conditions was starting to decline and a col lay over the UK. Low pressure lay out to the northwest of the UK with a very slow moving trailing cold front through Ireland and a

trough lying through the spine of England. You can view the UKMO chart for the day just [here](#).

After a warm and sticky night across England and Wales where skies were clear the temperature rocketed during the morning with Herstmonceux on the south coast already reporting 25C by 08Z. The high temperatures initiated rapid convection and development of thunderstorms – and the high dewpoints of 16– 20C advected from France provided plentiful moisture for the storms development and this led to the flash flooding produced during the afternoon over London and many other parts of southern and central England.

During the morning violent thunderstorms had already been affecting the West Midlands area. During the rush hour at 0750BST one storm tragically causing the death of a 14year old boy - he was silently sleeping in a tent in Bloxwich when he was struck by lightning.

Those areas further east still clear of cloud soon warmed up and as temperatures widely exceeded the 27C mark in the unstable atmosphere, widespread thunderstorms broke out causing considerable disruption and damage during the afternoon. Heathrow flights were delayed by up to two hours – the worst disruption the airport has had since the heavy snows of January 2003, and a shopping centre in Surrey had to be evacuated after heavy rain caused the collapse of its roof. In Hammersmith, West London reports came in of large hailstones up to 40mm in diameter cracking car windscreens.

The storms also caused flooding in some of London's tube stations (North Ealing, Rayners Lane and West Brompton) and in one of the worst hit areas, Harrow in the northwest of London an hour of heavy rainfall lead to roads flooding with at times 7 inches floodwater – creating further chaos on Londons busy roads. High Wycombe in Buckinghamshire recorded 42.4mm in just over 40 minutes and Hampstead, North London had a very wet 20 minutes in which 17.8mm fell!

As the storms rumbled on North into the night, the clean up began. The wettest place during the day was Pershore in Worcestershire which recorded 47.4mm of rain. The table (below right) shows some of the other high totals recorded.

## **Lightning kills 14yr old boy in West Midlands**

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/west\\_midlands/3532174.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/west_midlands/3532174.stm)

Rain and stormy weather hit the UK

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/3533022.stm>

**18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> November**

## **cold snap**

<http://www.wiseweather.co.uk/id81.html>

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A short but dramatic cold snap gripped the UK for a few days during mid-November bringing with it some quite widespread falls of snow to parts of the UK and some bitterly cold temperatures.

On the 18th November a developing low on the wave of an old front separating relatively warm, moist air to the south and colder, drier polar air to the north; brought a large area of rainfall across the UK throughout the day which edged slowly south-eastwards. To the north of the front across Scotland it was a fairly cold but mainly dry day with a few sleet and snow showers moving into Shetland, Orkney and the far Northeast of Scotland. It was though a thoroughly wet day for central parts of England and Wales with as much as an inch falling under the slow moving front. During the afternoon the much colder polar air to the north began to undercut the warm air lying over central areas - turning the rain readily to snow, catching forecasters and the general public alike by surprise.

By late afternoon moderate snow was falling across much of the higher parts of Northern, central England and Wales, even in Northern Ireland – as much as 8cm (3 inches) were

reported in Hathersage, Derbyshire with accumulations of snow quite widespread in upland areas. Further South across the Midlands and East Anglia the rain even here down to low levels by dusk was turning to snow – reports came in of snow from Birmingham, Leicester and Cambridge - even settling with the consequences of turning the roads quite icy in places. There was also a report of snow on the ground from a recently retired certain Mr. M Fish in Peterborough (!)

***IN PICTURES : The UK's first snow of Winter 2004***  
**[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in\\_pictures/4026257.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_pictures/4026257.stm)**

The 19th was then a cold day for the whole of the UK, and there were some heavy snow showers for the Northern Isles and parts of N and E Scotland giving some accumulations here of up to around 5cms. Elsewhere it was dry and cold with maxima generally only 4C – 6C with parts of the North and East struggling to get much above freezing. As night fell so did the temperatures and quite dramatically too, to as low as -8C at Tulloch Bridge. During the afternoon though a warm front was moving towards Ireland heralding a change to much milder weather.

As the precipitation from the warm front moved North-eastwards, it's progress very slow on the 20th, the leading edge moved into the cold air over the UK and began to fall as sleet or snow. Higher parts of the West of England and Wales had slight accumulations of snow with the Cotswolds and Chilterns turning white throughout the day as the snow continued to fall. Again even at low levels sleet was reported as far south as Surrey making the racing at Lingfield Park quite a wintry affair and bringing a thoroughly cold day to most inland parts. In fact areas in the band of sleet and snow had temperatures remaining at or below 2C for much of the day. In the far N of Scotland it remained dry and cold with Loch Glascarnoch barely making -3C during the day - and the very cold air persisted well into the night allowing temperatures to fall to a bitterly cold -13.2C at Kinbrace, Sutherland, the coldest temperature reported this year.



**1 of 9**

After parts of the UK experienced their first snow of the season on Thursday, this was the scene in Napton on the Hill, Warwickshire, at around 0800 GMT on Friday. The picture was submitted by Deborah Williamson.

**[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in\\_pictures/4026257.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_pictures/4026257.stm)**

## 2005

- **7-8th January**- a major storm developed over Ireland and rapidly developed as it moved across S Scotland into the N Sea towards the Baltic. There is evidence of a 'sting jet' giving winds up to 104mph at St Bees Head and causing widespread destruction and flooding in the UK and parts of N Europe.
- **11th-12th January**: Another major depression (as low as 937mb) developed and ran across the far NW Isles of Scotland giving storm force winds and some damage across parts of the N of Ireland, N Ireland and the N and NW of Scotland and the Shetland and Orkney Isles. A gust of 134mph was recorded at the remote island of N Rona, the second highest gust ever reported in the lowland UK.

### February/ March

- **20th February- 4th March**: A cold spell persisted across much of the UK for this period. It was notable for its length and the frequency of which snow fell, rather than severity; in some parts there were 15 consecutive days with snowfall reported. A more detailed report of this spell can be found [here](#).

### April/May

- **30th April-1 May**: Severe overnight storms affected parts of the south and Midlands and Wales with heavy hail and a lot of mid level lightning reported. A detailed analysis of these storms, by Paul Blight, can be found [here](#)

### June

- **19th-20th June** (also see [here](#)) A *spanish plume* event led to temperatures as high as 33.7C at Wyton, Beds and 33.1C in central London with very high dewpoints and numerous thunderstorms during the latter part of the 19th across the west and north of the UK, including a flash flood around Helmsley in Yorkshire. For details see the article on this site by Dave Jamieson just [here](#). A detailed synoptic discussion of the storms development by Paul Blight can be found [here](#). Further storms broke out in the SE early on the 20th and moved NE into East Anglia during the late morning and early afternoon.
- The **24th-29th June** saw a further period of thunderstorms develop rather widely across the southwest, south, east and central parts of England as warm tropical air moved northeast.

### September

- The period from the **9th-11th September** saw some severe thunderstorms with significant heavy rain and flooding develop across parts of London, the Home counties, E Anglia and the SE of the UK.
- The 24 hours from the **13th-14th September** saw very heavy rainfall locally in NW Scotland- Skye reported 130.6mm

### October

- The period **10th-12th October** saw very warm temperatures followed by heavy rains and flooding along with a damaging tornado..

## November

- Two notable storms with rapid deepening occurred on the **7th-8th November & the 11th-12th November**, along with damaging winds, locally gusting to over 100mph in the far NW Isles
- A notable settled spell along with near record November sunshine amounts occurred across parts of the UK from the **12th- 24th November**, ending as unsettled colder weather swept south on the 25th.
- An early snowfall affected parts of the SW of England, Wales and Scotland causing power cuts and traffic problems locally on the **25th-26th November** partly caused by the 'Pembrokeshire Dangler' affect.

## December

- **A stormy wet spell occurred on the 1st/2nd December as a relatively deep depression tracked through the southwest approaches and across southern England during the latter part of the 2nd.**

## 2006

As a whole 2006 was a remarkable year climatologically. This was so because whilst it had a rather chilly winter and spring period, giving the coolest period for a decade and a relatively cool August, it still managed to be the warmest year on record by some margin. Statistically, June was the warmest since 1976, July and September the hottest for at least three centuries, October also ranked as the fourth warmest with November the warmest locally since 1994, and December the warmest since 1988. The Central England Temperature for the whole year was 10.9C, beating the previous record of 10.67C established in 1990 by a wide margin.

## January

- **10th-12th** A stormy period -though only in the far NW- as a very deep low pressure area affected NW Scotland, with heavy rain and gales. The exposed station at North Rona recorded a gust of 89kt (102mph) whilst South Uist recorded a gust of 69kt. Capel Curig (N Wales) reported 94mm on the 10th/11th and 78mm of rain fell in the same period at Shap. Further severe gales occurred on the 12th with a gust of 68kt at South Uist in mild air, Ballykelly in N Ireland reaching 12.5C.

## February/March

- **27th Feb-7th March** saw a prolonged cold spell and during it a record snowfall in Aberdeen caused by a polar low. A detailed article on the period can be found just **here**.

## March

- **11th-12th March** saw a disruptive frontal snowfall. The snowy spell was possibly the worst to hit the UK in March since 1995 in terms of overall extent, snow depths and disruption caused. An article on it can be found just **here**.

## April

- Heavy snow overnight **9th-10th April** in parts of upland E Sussex, W Kent and Surrey, with 2-5cm at 100m, 5-10cm at approx 200m. Snow depths of 12-15cm were reported from the Tunbridge Wells/East Grinstead with 6 inches in Crowborough and reports of cars having to be 'dug out' of driveways. Local foilage and branch damage to trees, telephone and power lines was reported. A rainfall equivalent of 31.2mm fell at East Malling (Kent)

## May

- A remarkable change in the weather in early May. The temperature reached 21C (70F) for the first time on May 3, the latest date to reach this level for 23 years, but on **4th May** reached 28C, the earliest date to reach this level since 1995. The 4th saw a plume of air that had originated over Southern Europe travelling north to bring much of the UK its first taste of summer. Temperatures reached over 27C in the SE and during the afternoon intense thunderstorms developed across SW Scotland. Paul Blight investigates the development and meteorological repercussions of this event in a detailed article just [here](#).
- **9th-13th May** saw a very unsettled showery period with thunderstorms reported across many parts of -mainly- central & southern England but storms occurred in Wales and the east also. The late afternoon of the 10th was particularly stormy in central southern England and a report of the development of the storms and related activity by Paul Blight can be found just [here](#)

## June

- **12th-13th June**. Parts of the Essex and the east of London were affected by heavy thunderstorms after the hottest 12th June on record. See a report on the event [here](#)

## July

- **July** was the warmest such month since records begun in 1659 and the sunniest since records began in 1881. However it was also one of the twelve driest Julies in the past century. 36.5C was reported on the 19th at Wisley, Surrey, the highest temperature ever recorded in July with fifteen days recording above 30C in the UK during the month; seven days consecutively above 30C reported from the 16th followed by four more from the 24th. A remarkable month that surpassed many other notably hot periods in the last few decades.
- **2nd-6th July** A thundery period after a very hot start to the month (temps were over 5C above average in central England in the first week). For an article about some of storms and their effects see the page just [here](#)
- **22nd July** saw some quite severe thunderstorms sweep across parts of the south and east. Gusts over 60mph were reported in Lincs as well as short term rainfall totals of about three inches in Oxon. An in depth article about this event by Paul Blight can be found [here](#).
- Further significant thunderstorms occurred on the **25th-27th** as well. An article about these can be found [here](#).

## August

- **August** was an unusual month dominated by a northerly flow but it still managed a CET close to average and above 16.0C, partly due to warm sea temperatures.
- **13th August** saw some heavy rain totals across parts of Surrey in thunderstorms, giving severe flooding in some areas, mainly around Woking. Totals above 100mm included 118mm at Virginia Water, 111mm at Bagshot and 102mm at Ash. A funnel cloud was also noted off Clacton and possible ball lightning observed in Knaphill, Surrey.
- **16th-18th August** saw an area of low pressure develop off the Brest Peninsula. Some heavy rain affected parts of Cornwall and Devon as a result in the period with as much as 53mm falling at Penzance, in the 40h ending 09Z on the 17th. See the 00Z image for the 17th here:  
<http://www.wetterzentrale.de/archive/2006/brack/bracka20060817.gif>. It also gave some strong winds in the W Channel at times and whilst they were nothing especially out of the ordinary, **this article**, by Nick Madina, well makes the point that accurate forecasting and good planning are essential for owners of small boats and yachts as they make the Channel crossing at any time of the year.

## September

- **September 2006** has been an exceptionally warm month; by the 20th the CET temperature was almost 3C above average. It looks set to be the warmest September month since at least 1949.
- **13th-14th September** saw a period of unsettled thundery weather across much of the south as a very warm plume of air moved up from France and destabilised across the south. An article about this weather by Paul Blight can be found [here](#).
- **21st September** saw the remains of ex-hurricane Gordon move up across the extreme west of England and Wales and then right across Ireland. Gusts to 80mph were reported with local damage and disruption in places. A detailed article about this event will be available [here](#) shortly.

## October

- **26th October** saw a low pressure area move up across the UK, deepening notably as it did so. An article about the event can be found [here](#).
- **31st October- 1 November** An area of low pressure moved across Scotland into the N Sea, deepening as it did so. Although winds were not especially strong across Scotland, gusts of up to 101mph were recorded at North Rona and 76mph at Sule Skerry. As it moved into the N Sea and high pressure moved in the gradient was especially strong with a gust of 97mph at Ekofisk Oil Platform in the north North Sea. As a result a storm surge developed down the N Sea affecting the E Anglian and the Dutch coasts with localised minor damage.
- October overall was a very mild month, in fact the equal 3rd mildest ever recorded when using the Hadley CET criteria, at 13.0C. As a whole the eight month period from March-October 2006 was the warmest ever recorded.

## November

- **November** was a very sunny month with records established across parts of eastern and central England and up to 136 hours at Bognor Regis (W Sussex).

## December

- The first half of **December** was exceptionally mild, The Central England Temperature (CET) was around 3C above average, ensuring that 2006 was a year of record warmth across the UK with the CET 0.23C higher than the previous record CET figure in 1990.
- **7th December** saw a tornado (rated as around T4-5) cross NW London; properties in Kensal Rise were affected with up to 200 residents made homeless. The total track length was 2.7km from near Willesden Junction to Willesden Lane Cemetery. An article about this event will be posted up shortly on *Wiseweather*.
- **11th December** was very wet indeed in parts of the NW of England. The Lake District reported as much as 180mm in the 18 hours from 18Z on the 10th and 12Z on the 11th, specifically at Honister Pass, a quarry near Styhead, this all from orographic rainfall. In North Wales Capel Curig reported 115mm in the 24 hour period 06Z-06Z.
- **29th-31st December** saw an unsettled and at times stormy period for some. Many New Year celebrations were cancelled due to strong winds and heavy rain, especially in southern and central Scotland. High gusts included those at Malin Head in Ireland (92mph wind on December 31st) and there were reports of tornado damage, both in Reading (Berks) and Crumlin (nr Belfast, N Ireland). A more detailed article about these events can be found [here](#).

## 2007

### January

- **1st January** saw very windy weather continue to sweep across the UK but especially parts of the south with gusts to 76mph at St Just (Cornwall) and 74mph at Sheerness, Kent.
- **9th-15th January** saw a very unsettled period across the UK as a series of low pressure systems developed under a very strong cross Atlantic jet. Some of the highest gusts recorded included 82kt (94mph) at Benbecula ( W Isles) on the 10th 72kt (83mph) at Foula (N Isles) on the 11th and 77kt (89mph) at Lerwick (N Isles) on the 12th and then again on the 15th, 73kt (84mph).
- The **18th of January** saw the period's most damaging winds as a deep area of low pressure ran across Scotland and because the winds were further south in more populated areas they were more prone to damaging high gusts. There were 13 deaths reported as winds gusted to 73kt (84mph) at Liverpool Crosby and also at Blackpool's Squires Gate (Lancs), even London reported 67kt (77mph) at Heathrow Airport. A fuller report and analysis of this storm will be available shortly.

## February

- A short cold spell on the 8th-10th brought widespread snow to many parts of the country, with as much as 15cm reported at Whipsnade (Beds) on the 8th and 27cm at Boltshope Park (Durham) on the 10th. The usual traffic congestion and related road and rail chaos ensued. The period also brought some fairly low day and night time temperatures. On the 7th Altnaharra (Sutherland) only reached -3.0C and then on the 8th it dropped to -10.7°C, the lowest temperature reported all winter and one of the highest 'lowest' min temperatures reported in a recent UK winter.

## March

- **March** was a very sunny month, about the 5th sunniest in the last 100 years.
- 18th March saw a deep depression develop and move near the far north of Scotland with gusts of 94mph at Foula and 91mph at Sule Skerry and Fair Isle reported.

were reported on the 18th

## April

- **April** was very warm and dry. It was the warmest April since 1659 (at least). In parts of the south, esp Sussex, it was an astounding 6C warmer than average. 26.5°C was the highest temperature recorded during the month at Herstmonceux (Sussex) on the 15th.

## May

- **May** was the 10th wettest on record in England & Wales and the wettest since 1967 with 198% of the average across the UK. Parts of the south saw their wettest ever May.
- **25th-26th May**: A deep low developed west of SW England bringing storm force gusts and heavy rain as it Moved SE towards NW France. A report on this by Paul Blight and David Smart can be found [here](#)

## June

- May and June together become the 2nd wettest similar period ever recorded since 1760 across England and Wales. Over 240mm of rain fell on average in the period. June was around the 10th wettest ever recorded (final figures to be confirmed).
- **12th-15th** June saw a very wet period across the Midlands and Northern England. Figures included 113mm in 48h at Edgbaston, 123mm in 60 hours at Wilsden and 115mm in 60h at Emley Moor
- **23rd-25th** June saw further prolonged heavy rain across the north of England and parts of the Midlands. Totals for the 48h to 21h on the 25th included 112mm at Fylingdales (N Yorks), 85mm at Emley Moor (W Yorks), and 85mm at Capel Curig (Snowdonia)

## July

- **20th-21st July** Low pressure sat across central parts in this period

before moving away across Eastern Scotland and its associated slow moving fronts gave some widespread, heavy and prolonged rain, more especially in the south of England and the Midlands as 2 inches fell in a large area. Notable 2 day totals included 157mm at Pershore Agricultural College and 128mm at Brize Norton. Birmingham Egbaston reported its highest ever 24 hour rainfall in July (62mm). The amount allowed some severe flooding down along the Severn and the upper Thames rivers. This was the most notably flood event since 1947 in the area around Tewkesbury and Gloucester and caused widespread loss of water supplies to customers and billions of pounds worth of flood related damage. See related BBC news story at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/6911778.stm>.

- **Wettest July** on record was recorded across England with 129mm of rain beating the previous record of 126.5mm (4.98in) set in 1936; see BBC article at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/6925602.stm>

**Records in 2007 so far** for UK as a whole -unless otherwise stated- (data courtesy Kevin Bradshaw)

- **Wettest period from May-July** on record recorded across England and Wales with **414.1mm** as opposed to next wettest which was 1789 with 349.1mm
- **driest April since 1912** and 4th driest on record but..
- **the wettest June since 1860** and the 2nd wettest on record
- **the wettest July since 1888** and 15th wettest on record

## August

- **August 5th** The warmest day of the year so far saw 29.7C at Holbeach and Congingsby (Lincs) with 30.3C on top of the roof of the old London Weather Centre (though this doesn't stand officially due to the exposure).
- **August 21st:** Early morning storms around 4am hit parts of Kent. Lightning strikes knocked out a signal box and damaged points as well as leading to road closures due to flooding in Dover, Hawkinge and Alkham. Some notable totals were recorded by local stations. In particular a private station in Capel le Ferne 2 miles east of Folkestone reported 68mm in the early morning in just a few hours, another in Seasalter in the Herne Bay area reported 56mm, again in a few hours.

## September

- **Sept 24th:** A deep depression moved across the north of the UK, bringing a lot of rain and strong winds in places. These were mainly confined to an area close to a squally cold front. Strong gusts were recorded in places in the south. Milford on Sea (Hants) reported 60kts (69mph), Brighton Marina reported 53kts (60mph), Chichester Harbour 52kts (59mph) and even inland speeds of up to 67mph at Cranwell and 63mph at Lyneham were reported. Tornadoes were also reported at Northampton, Farnborough and Nuneaton and possibly Long Eaton with substantial damage to property.

## November

- **Nov 8th:** A deep low ran across to the NE of the UK with very strong winds on its northern flank, Fair Isle recorded 93mph and the exposed

North Rona as high as 108mph .

- **Nov 19th:** A deep low to the south dragged cold air up SE from an unusually cold continent for mid November, whilst mild moist air was advected NE from Biscay. Bournemouth was especially wet, seeing 46mm fall, 50% of its average November rainfall, and 42mm of that fell in the space of 12 hours. Also wet were New Milton, Kidderminster and Pershore, all reporting over 40mm in a day. Snowfall was the key story though, with places like Sennybridge (nr Brecon) reporting 7cm and Bromyard as much as 10cm with similar amounts across parts of East Wales, Worcestershire and Shropshire.

## December

- **Dec 2nd:** As a deep low pressure circa 977mb moved E-SE across the Midlands and out into the North Sea it was a very disturbed windy day in the south, along the coast especially, with the WeatherShop's anemograph at Sovereign Harbour reporting 53mph. However there were stronger winds in other exposed areas, these included  
Alderney, Channel Is 78 mph  
Hurst Point, Solent 74mph  
Sandown Pier, IOW 69mph  
Hilbre Island (Wirral) 68mph  
St Catherine's Point 65 mph  
Lee on Solent 65 mph  
Guernsey Airport and St Martin's 65 mph  
Guernsey St Pierre du Bois 63mph  
Isle of Portland 63 mph  
Portland Harbour 62mph

Some of these reports are from AWS reports from local observers as well as official UK Met office reports.

- **Dec 9th:** Yet another deep low produced some exceptionally windy weather in the south west today. As a low moved ESE across Wales (970 mb) and into East Anglia by the afternoon, pressure fell rapidly in Wales (around 10mb in three hours) and a very tight gradient developed to its south and moved across the far SW and up through the western Channel. Gusts of 87mph were reported at Lands End weather station around 7am and 83mph at St Marys' on the Isles of Scilly; on the Channel Isles, Guernsey reported 80mph a few hours later, as the winds veered WNW'ly. Luckily the strongest winds only really affected Cornwall and South Devon and so most areas of the SW were spared damage. The extreme NW of France also saw gusts to 86mph. Winds were still strong 12 hours later, Lands End was reporting gusts above 70mph still as late as 6pm as pressure rose extremely rapidly with a large ridge of high pressure pushing in.

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2008

## January 2008

**January 4th:** Snow was the order of day with quite a lot of it falling across parts of Northern Ireland and Scotland. In fact, Eskdalemuir in southern Scotland reported 16cm at one stage, although milder weather moved across

most parts melting it fairly quickly though a lot of southern Scotland kept it.

**January 7th:** A very unsettled period -a gust of 89mph was recorded at Capel Curig in North Wales around 4am. Further to the north snow fell across parts of Northern Ireland and southern Scotland as well as over the hills of Northern England, adding to the remains of the snow still there from the 4th.

**January 15th:** The wet and windy period continued as a low, around 973mb crossed Wales, giving gales or severe gales to its south, Milford on the Solent's mouth saw a gust to 78mph at 10Z and Dover to 66mph. A ship, the Ice Prince sunk off Start Point, Devon with 5000 tons of logs on board.. most of which washed ashore along Sussex beaches in the following week or two. It followed the wreckage almost 1 year ago of the 'Napoli', in almost the same place and same conditions.

**January 27th:** a condition known as *super geostrophic flow* operated. Basically it occurred because as the upper air flowed up around high pressure to the west where the isobars were well spaced it was then squeezed around and across the north of England where the isobars were much more tightly packed due to lower pressure across Northern Scotland. Atmospheric waves - much like waves at sea- were formed, which brought these stronger winds aloft rolling down to the surface, this being especially pronounced to the lee of high ground. Typically the wind becomes very gusty as these waves roll through. Leeming saw wind gusts reach as high as 70mph and several large lorries were blown off the M1 along with some damage to trees.

**Jan 31st:** January ended stormy as a very deep low crossed the N Isles of 948mb. This gave storm winds in many parts of Scotland at times along with severe gales elsewhere. Gusts as high as 84mph were recorded at several locations during the day including Carlisle and -unofficially- at an amateur weather station at Lee on Solent.

## February 2008

**Feb 4th:** A windy day as a small depression across Southern Ireland deepened, moved north east across the Irish Sea and brought a spell of wet and windy weather to the SW especially and through the Channel. Pressure fell rapidly in places (7mb in one hour at the K3 buoy off S Ireland). Seven Stones Light Vessel near the Scilly Isles recorded a gust of 78mph at 21Z and as the occluded front went through it gave gusts to 70mph in exposed spots in the south and SW; Lands End recorded 71mpg at 2046Z; Polruan (south Cornwall) recorded a mean speed of 54mph and gust of 70mph around 2230Z and Milford on Sea (Dorset) 73mph early on the 5th with heavy rain and hail showers rattling in behind the front overnight too.

**Feb 15th:** Half way through the month and the sunshine totals across the UK were very high indeed. It was already sunnier than an average February for England and Wales in fact. Across England and Wales, the first half of February 2008 was sunnier than the second half of June 2007 and it was sunnier than the first half of July 2007, quite a remarkable statistic. It was also cold and foggy overnight in places, Topcliffe saw as low as -7.3C on the night on the 15th/16th.

**Feb 20th:** Some very cold nights as freezing fog became quite persistent. Topcliffe fell to -9C on the 18th and Dishforth (Yorks) only rose to -2.9C on the 19th giving some areas one of their coldest February days for 20 years or more. The fog was thick enough also in places for freezing precipitation to fall from it and up to 2cm of this icy/snow like feature collected and was reported

in places in the Midlands and north.

**Feb 28th:** February looks likely to be remembered as a dry and very sunny month with some local sunshine records for February being broken, especially across part of eastern England.

### **March 2008**

**March 5th:** A very dry sunny start to the month after an initial cold period. The first five days saw 31% of the rainfall normally expected and 160% of the sunshine.

**March 7th:** An unusually deep low around 940mb at its lowest NW of Ireland early on Monday brought stormy weather across the UK, at least in the west.

**March 16th:** It was very wet in parts of central southern England over a 24 hour period. Brize Norton (Oxon) saw as much as 40mm fall in fact as slow moving fronts gave some persistent and at times heavy rain.

**March 22nd:** A cold Easter with many places seeing a scattering of wintry showers or longer spells of sleet or snow already today. Accumulations are mainly confined to high ground but an area of snow coming south on easter Sunday gave more widespread accumulations east of a line from N Wales to the Isle of Wight. Scunthorpe reported 9cm unofficially. At midday temperatures were as low as 1-3C in a number of places, some 7-8C below the average.

**March 26th:** Braemar in the Scottish Highlands saw its minimum temperature fall to -11.4C overnight, extremely cold even in Highland Scotland for late March. This is the lowest temperature ever recorded on this date and in fact, more remarkably perhaps, the lowest temperature so late in the spring since 1969.