

Weather Predictions for January until May 2021.

(A Seasonal Guide for Kent to Dorset, Cotswold Counties, the Midlands, East Anglia and Lincolnshire)

The winter of 2019/2020 was mild and almost frost free around the coasts, with only the odd frost of $-3^{\circ}\text{C}/27^{\circ}\text{F}$ in the countryside. In fact, Frittenden's coldest day of the winter was 1st January 2020 with a temperature of $4.86^{\circ}\text{C}/40^{\circ}.64^{\circ}\text{F}$. Christmas Day was colder at $4.13^{\circ}\text{C}/39.38^{\circ}\text{F}$, the coldest Christmas since 2010. The coldest day of the whole year was $1.82^{\circ}\text{C}/37.04^{\circ}\text{F}$ on 29th. The first half of December was on the chilly side of average. It remained very mild up to Christmas Eve, then it became cold at the end of the month. 1st January 2021 had a temperature of $2.47^{\circ}\text{C}/36.32^{\circ}\text{F}$, but that will not be our coldest day this winter.

JANUARY 2020- The first half of the month will be trapped between low pressure to the west of the UK and high pressure over Scandinavia. Cold northerly winds from the Arctic will give us our first taste of winter since the mini return of the 'Beast from the East', the 3 day wonder from 17th March 2018. From 4th January, low pressure systems running down the North Sea. Higher ground above 200m/ 600 ft in the Midlands will get 10cms/ 4 inches of snow. Even in Kent and Sussex over the highest Downs will see slight accumulations. From 11th, there will be high pressure with fog, freezing at times bringing hoar frosts. Lovely to look at and to get great photographs. From mid month, the weather will become milder with spells of rain. The heaviest of the rain will be in Dorset. The nights will be frost free. By 16th/17th, the coldest air on a north westerly wind will return. Temperatures will be around $5^{\circ}\text{C}/41^{\circ}\text{F}$. There will be frost in sheltered areas, but in other areas there will be too much breeze for frost to form. Atlantic fronts will move in around 20th to 25th January. There will be high winds that could be named storms. There will be local flooding and winds are likely to exceed 70mph. Temperatures will be quite mild at $11 - 13^{\circ}\text{C}/52 - 55^{\circ}\text{F}$ in all areas that I forecast for. Wind direction will be south or south westerly. High pressure will form over Germany, giving us some sunny days with sharp night frosts. Frost hollows such as Benson in Oxfordshire will see temperatures fall to $-8^{\circ}\text{C}/17^{\circ}\text{F}$. Many places will record their lowest temperatures of the winter so far, dropping to $-6^{\circ}\text{C}/21^{\circ}\text{F}$ in many areas. Dorset could stay less cold with few wintry showers. A weak area of low pressure will run down the North Sea, spreading wintry showers. All counties that border the North Sea will see some snow. After 27th, again ground above 200 metres will have the best chance of having enough snow to make a snowball or two. Cotswold Counties and Lincolnshire and the East Midlands may have up to 15cms/ 6 inches.

January's Highest Day Temperature will be: $13^{\circ}\text{C}/55^{\circ}\text{F}$ in Dorset and Lincolnshire.

January's Lowest Day Temperature will be: $-1^{\circ}\text{C}/30^{\circ}\text{F}$ over the snow fields of the Cotswolds and the Midlands. Even in the South East where fog lingers, there could be sub zero day temperatures.

January's Lowest Night Temperature will be: $-8^{\circ}\text{C}/17.60^{\circ}\text{F}$ in Oxfordshire. Many rural parts will get temperatures down to $-6^{\circ}\text{C}/21^{\circ}\text{F}$.

January's sunshine will be in short supply. The average in England for January is 54 hours, but many places will have less than 50 hours. The average rainfall for England in January is 83mm/ 3.32 inches. The average for Dorset is 101mm/4.04 inches. In Lincolnshire the average is 53mm/2.12 inches. Kent has 69mm/ 2.76 inches and Sussex 91mm/ 3.64 inches. January's average Central England Temperature is $4.10^{\circ}\text{C}/39.38^{\circ}\text{F}$. Dorset's CET is $4.95^{\circ}\text{C}/40.91^{\circ}\text{F}$. Herefordshire is $4.16^{\circ}\text{C}/39.48^{\circ}\text{F}$. Kent $4.64^{\circ}\text{C}/40.35^{\circ}\text{F}$, and Sussex $4.77^{\circ}\text{C}/40.86^{\circ}\text{F}$. This January, the CET will be $0.3^{\circ}\text{C} - 0.54^{\circ}\text{F}$ below average at $3.8^{\circ}\text{C}/3.84^{\circ}\text{F}$. It will be the first January to have below normal since 2013 when the average was $3.5^{\circ}\text{C}/38.30^{\circ}\text{F}$.

FEBRUARY- February 2019 was outstanding, weatherwise, with a couple of cold days at the beginning of the month, two days with a temperature of $3.3^{\circ}\text{C}/38^{\circ}\text{F}$. After that, only 5 days of the month failed to reach temperatures in double figures. On 26th, for the first time a winter month exceeded $20^{\circ}\text{C}/68^{\circ}\text{F}$. In fact, Kew Gardens in London reached $21.2^{\circ}\text{C}/70.16^{\circ}\text{F}$. This is the average temperature for the Kent coast in July. That day, I recorded a temperature of $19.29^{\circ}\text{C}/66.74^{\circ}\text{F}$. February 2020 had just 10 days that had temperatures failing to reach double figures. The coldest day of the month was 27th with $7.8^{\circ}\text{C}/46.04^{\circ}\text{F}$. East Malling was the warmest at $16^{\circ}\text{C}/60.80^{\circ}\text{F}$. May in February. Frittenden reached $15.03^{\circ}\text{C}/59^{\circ}\text{F}$. It was the wettest February on record for the UK with 209mm/8.28 inches. Frittenden had 115.4mm/ 4.54 inches. The warmest February was way back in 1779 with a central England temperature (CET) of $7.9^{\circ}\text{C}/46.2^{\circ}\text{F}$. February 2019 had a CET of $6.7^{\circ}\text{C}/44.06^{\circ}\text{F}$.

This February (2021) will be topsy turvy. It is likely to be another wet one, but on the positive side, it will be 50% drier than last February. February's CET will be $4.12^{\circ}\text{C}/39.46^{\circ}\text{F}$, just a fraction warmer than January. I have been through the monthly averages since 1659, including the combined winter months data – December, January and February. In all those years, since 1659, 21 winters have been cold or had one extremely cold month. 1921 was above average throughout January with a CET of $7.3^{\circ}\text{C}/45.14^{\circ}\text{F}$. We have not had a January that mild since. February 2021 will have a cold start with local frost. There will be some fairly bright days, and the South East will see the best of the sunshine. From 3rd, a deep area of low pressure will spread wind and rain to all parts. North Norfolk and Lincolnshire will see some transient snow, before joining the rest of us in mild, windy weather. Temperatures will be around $10 - 12^{\circ}\text{C}/50 - 54^{\circ}\text{F}$. High pressure over Scandinavia and low pressure to the west of Ireland will put us back into the same situation as we were in at the beginning of the year, only this time we will have cold, northerly winds, near gale force down the North Sea. There could be local flooding on the coasts of Norfolk, Lincolnshire and possibly Essex. Driving rain at times

will fall as snow over the Chilterns and the highest points of Buckinghamshire, up to 267m/875 feet, could easily have 10cm/ 4 inches of snow. There could also be some snow over the highest western Cotswold counties. The North Kent Downs could also see snow at times. High pressure will move closer to the UK and winds will fall light. Winds will continue from the north or north west. From 6th, there will be spells of freezing weather, bringing hoar frosts. There will be sunshine where fog clears. The Midlands will see the thickest of the fog. The M5 could be badly affected. Parts of Surrey, Cambridge, Oxfordshire, Suffolk and Dorset will see the lowest of the temperatures that England will see this winter, -7 to -9°C/ 19.40 to 15.80°F. The Weald of Kent will have temperatures as low as -6°C/ 21.20°F, the lowest temperature since the 'Beast from the East'. As we approach the middle of the month, Atlantic fronts will spread in on milder air. On fresh westerlies, there will be rapid snow melt on higher ground, causing local flooding. The weather will remain very changeable, with spells of rain. There could be the odd gale in the Channel and possible coastal flooding. There will be some drier spells of 72 hours and it will become temporarily colder, at 5 - 7°C/ 41 - 45°F with night frosts down to -2°C/ 28°F in sheltered parts. This will take us up to 25th, the high pressure will be back in control. Winds will be from the east or south east. The air will be very dry, but no hoar frosts. There will be some lovely sparkly days, but temperatures could struggle to get higher than 0°C/ 32°F. The air will be more moist, and we could see some granules of snow in East Anglia close to The Wash. The weather will be a little less cold in the western counties that I forecast for.

February's Highest Day Temperature will be: 14°C/ 57.20°F. Possibly in Chippenham, Wiltshire. No 60°F+ this year.

February's Lowest Day Temperature will be: -2°C/ 28.40°F in Benson, Oxfordshire. Many places in the Midlands, in the freezing fog, may not rise above 0°C/ 32°F.

February's Lowest Night Temperature will be: -9°C/ 15.80°F. This was the day maximum temperature in Frittenden and Marden in the Weald of Kent on 12th January 1987.

February's rainfall for will be 60 – 90mm/ 2.36 to 3.54 inches. Some places could exceed 100mm/ 4 inches. February is England's third driest month with an average of 60.3mm/ 2.37 inches of rain. The average for Kent is 47.8mm/ 1.88 inches. The average rainfall for April in Kent is 49.2mm/ 1.93 inches. July in Kent averages 46.7mm/1.839 inches. The average sunshine over England in February is 74 hours. The average for Dorset is 80.3 hours, Worcestershire 73.3 hours, Sussex 82.8 hours, Lincolnshire 78.8 hours and Kent 78.3 hours. The South East will get average sunshine this February, elsewhere 5% below average. February's average **Central England Temperature** is 4.12°C/ 39.40°F. In Kent the average CET is 4.56°C/ 40.28°F. This February, the CET will be 3.5°C/ 38.3°F. It will be the coldest February since 2018, when the CET was 2.9°C/ 37.22°F (the Beast from the East).

MARCH – In folk lore, March is known as the month of many weathers. The sun is now strong enough to boost temperatures under the right conditions. On 29th March 1929, temperatures equalled the record from 1965 at 25°C/ 77°F. The same temperature was reached at Cromer and Santon Downham, Norfolk, but the highest March temperature was at Mepal, Cambridgeshire on 29th March 2012 at 25.6°C/ 78.06°F. Aboyne in Aberdeenshire reached 24°C/ 75.20°F. Many a summer in Scotland has been less warm. 1947 was the coldest winter, with the coldest February on record (records go back to 1659) with temperatures as low as -1.9°C/ 28.58°F. This was followed by a freezing March with a temperature of 3.6°C/ 38.48°F. The average Central England Temperature for March is 6.19°C/ 43.12°F. In 1947, many lambs and ewes were lost in snow drifts, then later in the month, severe flooding occurred after the thaw. 2013 was even colder, but thankfully there was much less snow. That March, the CET was 2.7°C/ 36.86°F, the coldest March since 1962, when it was 2.8°C/ 37.04°F. In fact, 2013 equalled the March of 1892 at 2.7°C/ 36.86°F.

March 2021 will have a chilly start with a widespread frost, but lovely sunny mornings. Frost hollows will see temperatures as low as -6°/21°F in areas such as the South Midlands, Suffolk, Norfolk and Dorset. Even Kent could see temperatures dropping to -4°C/ 25°F. Winds will be calm and north westerly. There will be some early morning fog patches, which will be freezing until the sun gets to work on them. Day temperatures will be around 5°C/ 41°F by 4th/5th March. High pressure will be to the south west of the UK, bringing us a spell of warm, southerly winds. There will often be a lot of cloud, but also some warm, sunny afternoons. Holbeach in Lincolnshire could reach 20°C/ 68°F, very pleasant so early in the month. Having said that, Channel coastal counties could have lower temperatures of 10°C/ 50°F due to the cold Channel wind. By 9th March, low pressure will be back in charge, and weather fronts will bring bands of rain followed by showers with squally winds. There could be hail and one-bang thunderstorms. This period of weather will start mild in south westerly winds, but by mid-month, winds will be more north westerly. In well sheltered parts of the Weald of Kent and Sussex, there will be night frosts. So no heatwave for St. Patrick's Day on 17th. High pressure from Scandinavia will dominate our weather for at least 10 days, with a cold north easterly wind. The Spring vernal equinox is on 20th, and North Sea counties may see snow granules, and temperatures will be around 4°C/ 39°F, but in Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire, as well as counties bordering Wales, there could be local frost and some nice spells of sunshine. Temperatures will be around 11- 13°C/ 52 - 55°F, a shade above average. Low pressure will win out by 28th, when British Summertime begins. There will be spells of wet and windy weather with gales in the Bristol Channel and the English Channel. There could be respite of 18 hours between weather fronts. Temperatures will be close to late March averages, between 10 and 12°C/ 50 to 54°F.

March's **Highest Day Temperature** will be: At Holbeach in Lincolnshire at 20°C/ 68°F on 5th or 6th. London will not exceed 17°C/ 62.60°F.

March's **Lowest Day Temperature** will be: 1°C/ 33.8°F, early in the month where fog lingers in some frost hollows, again, later in the month at Peterborough, Cambridge and Norwich, Norfolk on 21st.

March's **Lowest Night Temperature** will be: -6°C/ 21°F in Thetford, Norfolk, the South Midlands and Dorset. March's average **Rainfall** is 64mm/ 2.52 inches. Dorset averages 73.6mm/ 2.89 inches, Kent 48.3mm/ 1.92 inches, Lincolnshire 43.4mm/ 1.79 inches. March will be our third month in a row to have above average rainfall. Many places will get 7.5 to 15mm above average, locally 25mm, just under one inch. England's average **sunshine** for March is 107.6 hours. Dorset average 117.2 hours, Kent 115 hours and Gloucestershire 110 hours. Most places this March will get 5% below average, but Dorset and Cotswold Counties that border Wales could get 140 hours, which is 25% above average. March's average **Central England Temperature** is 6.19°C/ 43.16°F. Last March it was 7°C/ 44.60°F, 1.4°C/ 1.52°F above average. This March, the CET will be 5.5°C/ 41.90°F, which is 0.7°C/ 1.26°F, below average. A real mixed bag for shepherds. Lambs do not like cold and wet weather, as they get hypothermia. Fruit farmers will be pleased with the colder winter as it makes flowering later, hopefully missing the later frosts. Grass needs a temperature of 6°C/ 42.80°F. March 2021 will be a slow start for grass growing apart from in the West Country.

APRIL – If you cast your mind back to April 2020, when England had just started its first lockdown (on 23rd March). Due to the lockdown, the roads were very quiet and most aircraft were grounded. This allowed us to hear birdsong much more clearly. The sun shone day after day, and at times April felt like July. Even Easter was warm and sunny. On Good Friday Bude in Cornwall reached temperatures of 25°C/ 77°F and St. James' Park had 25.5°C/ 77.90°F. Easter Saturday again reached 25°C/ 77°F, then there was a huge drop in temperatures by Easter Monday 13th April. The highest temperature in the UK on Easter Monday was Cardenham in Cornwall at just 14.4°C/ 57.92°F. April 2020 was the sunniest April on record in the UK. The Isle of Wight reached 279 hours of sunshine. The average April sunshine in the South East, Southern and Central England is 169.8 hours. April was the fifth warmest on record. The average Central England Temperature for April is 10.4°C/ 50.72°F. April 2011 holds the record at 11.8°C/ 53.24°F. Many places in the South East did not record any rainfall until 17th. Frittenden recorded 30.4mm/ 1.19 inches. Kent's average rainfall for Kent is 49.2mm/ 1.94 inches.

April 2021 will have a cool, showery start in a breezy westerly. Temperatures in most places will fail to reach double figures in the areas that I forecast for. By Easter Sunday, we will be under the influence of high pressure from Scandinavia. Winds will be almost calm, except for areas close to the North Sea counties. Inland, apart from early morning frost and fog, and easterly or north easterly

winds, the days will have lovely sparkling, clear blue skies. The strong April sun could boost temperatures up to 15°C/ 59°F. By Easter Monday, there will be no heatwave, but the weather will be very pleasant. In 1946, there was a mini heatwave on 3rd April and Whitstable reached a temperature of 25.6°C/ 78°F. On 4th, Greenwich in London had temperatures of 26.5°C/ 79.7°F. High pressure will continue to dominate. More cloud will pick up from the North Sea from 8th April, and there may even be a few coastal showers. The weather will be cold and overcast from Thanet all the way up to the Lincolnshire coast, where temperatures will be around 8°C/ 46°F. A north easterly wind of around 10 – 15mph will make temperatures feel quite raw 50 miles away from the coasts. There will be a better chance of seeing some broken cloud in London, when temperatures will be around 12°C/ 54°F. The Channel coast will get some sunny spells, from West Sussex to Dorset inland, where temperatures will be around 17 - 19°C/ 63 - 66°F. Low pressure will take over around 18th bringing spells of rain, heaviest in Dorset, Wiltshire and Somerset. On the plus side, this spell will introduce a breezy southerly. Thanet in Kent and CAMBRIDGE, Norfolk will break into temperatures in the low 70°Fs/ 21 - 22°F by 21st April. The warm temperatures will set off local thunder storms. The most likely places for this is Hampshire, London, Oxfordshire and East Anglia. Relatively low pressure will continue up to 28th, and there will be a lot of cloud at times with showers, but some days, especially in Central Southern England, London and Eastern Coastal Counties will get 48 hours of fine weather before or after late afternoon showers. North Norfolk and Lincolnshire will see the least of the showers, and have the highest temperatures. Between 23rd and 28th, they could get temperatures of 20°C/ 68°F each day. The rest of us will have 15 - 17°C/ 59 - 63°F, still above average by a couple of degrees. From 29th, we will have our first spell of Azores high. This will bring clear blue skies to the whole area that I forecast for. Heathrow and St. James' Park may reach 25°C/ 77°F on the last day of the month. The other areas will enjoy temperatures of 23 - 24°C/ 73 - 75°F. This will bring out the spring flowers in abundance. Hopefully by then Covid restrictions will be eased, and family groups of six will be able to meet up, or drive to local landmarks. Nothing is more uplifting to the spirits than the wonders of nature's Spring, but meeting up with family and friends to appreciate it will be perfect, even if we have to continue to wear masks.

April's Highest Day Temperature will be: 25°C/ 77°F, on the last day of the month in London. Many other places could reach at least 23.3°C/ 74°F.

April's Lowest Day Temperature will be: 8°C/ 46°F, on many places on the east coast from Thanet to Lincolnshire. With a chilly breeze, temperatures will feel more like 5°C/ 41°F.

April's Lowest Night Temperature will be: Just below 0°C/ 32°F, in the countryside. Areas with sandy soil that are prone to frosts such as Benson in Oxfordshire could get temperatures as low as -4°C/ 25°F. Gardeners take note, on the first few days of the month.

April's average rainfall for England is 58.7mm/ 2.3 inches. The average for Dorset for the month is 61.8mm/ 2.43 inches, Gloucester is 56.5mm/ 2.24 inches, Kent 49.2mm/ 1.93 inches and Lincolnshire 47.5mm/ 1.87 inches. This April, most places will have 10% above the long term average. Parts of north Norfolk and Lincolnshire may get less than an inch of rain.

April's sunshine average for April is 155.2 hours. Dorset's average is 176.7 hours, Kent is 172.7 hours and Lincolnshire 150.8 hours. April was an outstandingly sunny month last year, and England averaged 239 hours. The Isle of Wight was top with 279 hours, 154% above average. Many places in the South East clocked up 250 hours. This year, April will have 150 hours of sunshine, but only 130 hours on the east coast. April's Central England Temperature will be 8.14°C/ 46.65°F. Last year, April's CET was 10.4°C = 50.72°F, an anomaly of +1.9°C/ 34.2°F higher than the average. 2011 recorded a Central England Temperature of 11.8°C/ 53.24°F. This will take some beating. In fact it is one degree farenheight warmer than the May average, and 3.66°C/ 6.48°F above the April average.

MAY – May 2020 was outstandingly dry and sunny. In fact, it was the driest May on record in England with an average of just 9.6mm/ 0.37 inches of rain. It was also the sunniest calendar month since 1929 with 299.4 hours of sunshine. Some towns have sunshine records dating back to the 1860's, so finding out the sunniest place is a little problematical, so I am still trying to find out from the Met Office. Last May, Frittenden had rain on only 3 days. On 23rd we had 9mm/0.3 inch. Some places recorded no rain, or less than 5mm/ 0.19 inch. Will we see a repeat performance of that weather this May?. In a word, no. High pressure at the end of April 2021 and at the beginning of May will give way to thundery low pressure systems, so any early May Day Holiday celebrations (if they happen this year), could be interrupted by a storm. It will still be warm for the time of year at 20°C/ 68°F. Average is around 15°C/ 59°F. Storms are most likely to occur south of Norwich to Bristol. Areas north of this will continue fine, but temperatures will return to normal at 16°C/ 61°F. From 6th, low pressure will be dominant, and a band of rain will be driven across the whole of England and Wales like it's on a conveyor belt. This spell of rain could last for a couple of weeks. There will be some dry spells lasting up to 72 hours before the next band of rain arrives. Central England through to the Midlands, East Anglia, Lincolnshire, Cotswold Counties and Dorset will be the wettest. It will be difficult weather conditions for silage making, but excellent for livestock and for grass to grow for later haymaking in the South East, East Anglia and parts of the Midlands. Last Summer's hay crop was the lightest since 1976. Temperatures in this unsettled spell will be nothing to write home about, 14 - 18°C/ 57 - 64°F, possibly up to 20°C/ 68°F in the odd drier spell. High pressure will make a welcome return from 19th May until 29th. We will have an Atlantic high rather than the Azores high, which often brings us the most settled, warmest summer weather in late Spring. Winds will sometimes be a bit breezy, especially near the South Coast. There will be some fair weather cloud at

times, and many places in the areas that I forecast for will get around 10 hours of sunshine each day. Essex and Suffolk will get the highest temperatures of 25°C/ 77°F. Last year in the UK, May had 8 days with temperatures exceeding 24°C/ 75.2°F. This year I expect just 4 days of that temperature or above. No day in England will exceed temperatures of 26°C/ 78.8°F, except at the very end of May. Low pressure over France will spread thundery showers over the whole area that I forecast for. There will always be some sunshine, and it will feel humid with temperatures at 19 - 21°C/ 66 - 70°F. Parts of Sussex and the Channel Isles may have huge deluges of rain which will cause flash flooding. Other counties will not be immune from this risk. There will be some squally winds in the severest storms.

May's Highest Day Temperature will be: 26°C/78.8°F, in the 3rd week of the month in Writtle, Essex and Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk. London may not exceed 25°C/ 77°F, despite the record sunny May. The highest May temperature on record was at Santon Downham, Suffolk, and equalling May days were on 22nd May in 1922, when Camden Square London reached 32.8°C/ 91°F and Horsham, West Sussex, Tonbridge in Kent and Regent Park in London reached the same temperature in 1944.

May's Lowest Day Temperature will be: around 14°C/ 57°F, but some wet days in Oxfordshire and Warwickshire may not get much better than 11°C/ 52°F.

May's Lowest Night Temperature will be: 2°C/ 36°F, mid month at Santon Downham, Suffolk and Thetford, Norfolk between 18th and 22nd. There will be no air frost in this unsettled month, which should please soft fruit growers. The average rainfall for May in England is 58.4mm/ 2.29 inches. The average for Dorset is 58.9mm/ 2.31 inches, Kent's average is 51.1 mm/ 2.01 inches, Lincolnshire 48.4mm/ 1.96 inches. The whole area will get at least 10% above their average where storms occur. Jersey, Guernsey, Brighton and Hastings could get 125mm/ 4.92 inches. The sunshine average for May in England is 190.6 hours. The average for Dorset is 206.6 hours, Lincolnshire 193.8 hours and Kent 207.3 hours. In England, May is our second sunniest month of the year. June has 182.6 hours, July 193.5 hours and August 183.2 hours. August is just ahead of June in the sunny stakes, but has an hour less each day in London than June. The Met Office kindly told me the official sunniest place in the UK in May 2020 with 365.5 hours of sunshine was Preston Cove House, a couple of miles north of Weymouth, Dorset. The **Central England Temperature** in May 2020 was 12.5°C/ 54.50°F, 1.44°F above the average of 11.3°C/ 52.34°F. The hottest May on record was 1833 had a CET of 15.1°C/ 59.18°F. The JUNE average CET is 14.04°C/ 57.20°F, so 3.7°C/ 6.48°F above average. That will take some beating.

The weather of 2020 broke a number of records in the UK:

February was the wettest month with an average over the UK of 209.1mm/ 8.23 inches of rain. England averaged 154.9 mm/ 6.09 inches. Frittenden had 115.4mm/ 4.54 inches, the 5th wettest calendar month.

On 29th June 2020, a new record was set for the most rain in a 24 hour period at Honister Pass in Cumbria, where there was 212.8mm/ 8.36 inches.

On 3rd October 2020, the whole of the UK recorded 31.7mm/ 1.248 inch. The month had an average of 140.6mm/ 5.53 inches, the 5th wettest October since 1862.

Spring turned out to be exceptionally dry and outstandingly sunny. In fact, it was the sunniest calendar month since 1929. Oxfordshire averaged 331 sunshine hours, which is 10.67 hours per day. Just like the Mediterranean in May. This beat July 1911 that had 310 hours, 10 hours per day. Central Southern England and the South East recorded more than 360 hours (11.61 hours/day). Eastbourne is still top in the sunshine league with 383 hours for the month, which is 12.35 hours per day. It is very rare that England matches the Mediterranean in high summer.

August 2020 set a new record for heat from 7th until 12th. It was the first time that 6 days in a row have exceeded a temperature of 34.4°C/ 94°F in England. Frittenden had the top temperature on the 7th with 34.59°C/ 94.62°F. This was equalled by Wiggonholt, Herstmonceux, East Sussex, setting a new record for the date. On 8th, Heathrow had the highest temperature in the run of 6 days at 36.4°C/ 97.52°F. On 31st July, Heathrow in London reached a temperature of 37.8°C/ 100.4°F, the third highest temperature ever recorded in the UK in modern times. The second highest was Faversham, Kent with 38.5°C/ 101.3°F in 2003 and Cambridge University Botanic Gardens had first place with 38.7°C/ 101.66°F.

England recorded its second warmest year on record with the annual Central England Temperature of 10.76°C/ 51.36°F. Only 2014 has been higher at 10.95°C/ 51.71°F. 2020's global temperature equalled 2016. These records have been kept since the Industrial Revolution of 1860. In the Paris Agreement, countries have pledged to keep to the limit of Global Warming of 2°C above the pre-industrial age of the 1860's. No chance of that until we get China, India, Brazil, the USA and Russia on board. Weather predictions worked out on 7th January, suggest that the winter of 2020/21 will be much colder than the winter of 2019/20, and just as wet. It is predicted that the snow will be the most widespread since the 'Beast from the East'. Will the UK reach 100° f for the third year in a row?. Most unlikely, but July's Central England Temperature was 15.7°C/ 60.26°F. This year it will be warmer.

In 1921, Thanet in Kent recorded just 236mm/ 9.21 inches in the whole year. That record still stands. There is no chance that 2021 will break that record.