

**AUGUST STATISTICS RECORDED  
AT LERWICK OBSERVATORY**

	<b>August 2009</b>	<b>Averages 1971-2000</b>
Mean maximum temperature	15.3°C	14.2°C
Mean minimum temperature	11.0°C	8.8°C
Daily mean temperature	12.9°C	11.8°C
Mean sea-level pressure	1007.5 hPa (mb)	1012.0 hPa (mb)
Total rainfall	121.2 mm	78.3 mm
Wet days => 1 mm	19 days	12.5 days
Sunshine (electronic sensor)	135.9 hours	124.6 hours
Air frosts	0 days	0.0 days
Ground frosts	0 days	0.4 days
Snow/sleet	0 days	0.0 days
Days with gale	0 days	0.4 days
Maximum daily mean temp.	14.9°C on 4 <sup>th</sup>	
Minimum daily mean temp.	11.1°C on 29 <sup>th</sup>	
Highest maximum	16.9°C on 4 <sup>th</sup>	
Lowest day maximum	13.0°C on 29 <sup>th</sup>	
Highest night minimum	13.7°C on 5 <sup>th</sup>	
Lowest minimum	8.5°C on 17 <sup>th</sup>	
Lowest grass minimum	4.3°C on 17 <sup>th</sup>	
Wettest day	16.8 mm on 19 <sup>th</sup>	
Sunniest day	12.8 hours on 6 <sup>th</sup>	

**A MILD, WET MONTH WITH SOME SUNNY INTERLUDES**

**August was unsettled throughout, with showers or longer outbreaks of rain and just a few short drier and sunnier spells. For much of Scotland it was a very wet month, with well above-average rainfall. Provisionally it equalled 1985 as the wettest August for western Scotland in a series extending back to 1914. While most southern and western areas had less than normal sunshine, the Northern Isles and places closer to the east coast fared better, with about 110% of average. Mean temperatures were 0.5 to 1.0 °C above the 1971-2000 normal.**

1st to 7th: The month began with a depression to the west of Scotland. Rain or drizzle and hill fog, accompanied by a fresh SE'ly wind, spread from the west as fronts moved east over Shetland. Brighter, drier conditions followed for the 2nd as the low filled and pressure built across the area. The 3rd was dry and sunny, as was much of the next day, although SE'ly winds gradually freshened as another depression - deepening to the west - drove fronts across Scotland. These brought rain and mild, misty conditions with extensive hill fog later on the 4th. As the filling low moved away towards Iceland, winds became light S or SE'ly as an anticyclone developed over Scandinavia, and the 5th and 6th were two mainly dry and sunny days with a total of 27.1 hours sunshine for Fair Isle and 24.5 hours for Lerwick. The 7th, though still dry and bright, was misty at times with coastal and hill fog, as an old front - pushed towards Shetland by building high pressure to the east - added that extra bit of moisture to the light SE'ly winds.

8th to 15th: With a shallow area of low pressure to the west, the 8th and 9th were rather cloudy though mainly dry days. A moderate SE'ly breeze brought misty conditions with patchy hill fog, before clearer conditions followed as winds veered SW'ly. Rain arrived early on the 10th, as low pressure tracked east across the north of mainland Scotland and fronts approached the Northern Isles. Freshening winds backed NE'ly in the rain and eventually NW'ly, as brighter conditions returned to Shetland from the north. Light SW'ly winds brought mainly cloudy conditions with patchy light rain or drizzle on the 11th and 12th, as a shallow low tracked east to the north of Shetland. As the low moved away and pressure built to the west, NW'ly winds brought a sunny, mainly dry day on the 13th. A ridge declined east on the 14th, with rain and strengthening SE'ly winds following later in the day, as a deepening depression - swinging in towards northwest Scotland - pushed fronts northeast. Low pressure, lingering close to northern Scotland, brought rain or showers - heavy at times - and occasionally misty conditions on the 15th.

16th to 23rd: As the low moved east and winds freshened NW'ly, the 16th was a rather cloudy and showery day. A much brighter and mainly dry, sunny day followed on the 17th, as the East Greenland high ridged south

east across Iceland towards the UK. Still under the influence of the high, a cool night followed, with a slight grass frost recorded on Fair Isle. The 18th remained dry though rather cloudy and a little milder, as a weak front pushed up from the south. The high relinquished its hold and - driven east by a large area of low pressure approaching western Scotland - more active fronts brought heavy rain and strong S'ly wind on the 19th. During the 20th a small low centre, running north along a front slow-moving near Shetland, brought further periods of occasionally heavy rain and locally strong cyclonic winds, gusting to over 40mph in Lerwick. Low pressure moved away northwards and brisk S to SW'ly winds brought a brighter day with sunny spells and a few showers on the 21st. Winds veered SW to W'ly on the 22nd and, while a few places may have seen a shower, many remained dry with lengthy sunny periods. As the next Atlantic low pushed fronts east, winds backed SE'ly and increased fresh to strong on the 23rd, with patchy rain or drizzle spreading from the west.

24th to 31st: With a filling depression to the west of Scotland and fronts slow-moving near the Northern Isles, the 24th was rather cloudy with outbreaks of rain dying out. However, as winds fell light it turned rather misty, with fog developing along coasts and over hills. The 25th was much brighter and mostly dry with sunny spells as the low slipped south, leaving building high pressure in its place. However, the fine weather did not last long, with rain or drizzle accompanied by misty conditions spreading northeast later on the 26th, as winds backed NE'ly, ahead of fronts driven over the Northern isles by a low. Outbreaks of heavy rain or showers continued on the 27th and 28th, as the low tracked northeast over the Northern Isles. Strong W'ly winds and frequent showers followed on the 29th as the low continued northwards. The 30th was a brighter and drier day with lighter winds, as the low moved away into the Norwegian Sea and a ridge crossed the area from the west. August ended as it began, with a front - pushed northeast over Shetland by the next Atlantic depression - bringing patchy rain on the 31st.

#### **Initial Statistical details for Scotland as a whole (1961-1990 average) for August:**

**Mean Temperature** – 13.5°C (0.7°C above average).

**Rainfall** – 197.1 mm (183% of average).

**Sunshine** – 133.0 hours (95% of average).

#### **Summer 2009 (June, July, August)**

Based on the data from Lerwick, this summer in Shetland was more than a degree milder than normal, with a mean temperature of 12.4°C compared to the normal 11.1°C. It was - despite a dry June - wet, with rainfall 116.6% above normal, mainly because of a very wet August. Despite this, sunshine was well above average for the three months, with 124.9%. All months were sunny, especially June, with almost twice the normal sunshine.

Across the UK as a whole, the mean temperature for the summer was 14.7°C: 0.6 °C above the average. Rainfall was above normal but, as in Shetland, the three months had contrasting patterns, with June drier than normal in most areas. July was much wetter, with over 200% of average rainfall across the country. In August the wettest weather tended to be focussed in the north and west.

Sunshine totals for summer were close to average generally across the UK, but were well above average across northern Scotland. June was the sunniest month, with 125% of normal for the UK, and it was particularly sunny over Northern Ireland, northern and western Scotland (150%). Provisionally, it was the second sunniest June over northern Scotland in series that begin in 1929.

**Dave Wheeler**

**Data from the UK Met Office**