

**OCTOBER STATISTICS RECORDED  
AT LERWICK OBSERVATORY**

	<b>October 2009</b>	<b>Averages 1971-2000</b>
Mean maximum temperature	10.1°C	10.1°C
Mean minimum temperature	6.8°C	6.2°C
Daily mean temperature	8.3°C	8.1°C
Mean sea-level pressure	1012.1 hPa (mb)	1008.0 hPa (mb)
Total rainfall	163.8 mm	131.9 mm
Wet days => 1 mm	21 days	19.4 days
Sunshine (electronic sensor)	57.2 hours	65.4 hours
Air frosts	0 days	0.5 days
Ground frosts	4 days	5.2 days
Snow/sleet	0 days	2.0 days
Days with gale	3 days	4.0 days
Maximum daily mean temp.	11.2°C on 14 <sup>th</sup>	
Minimum daily mean temp.	4.8°C on 8 <sup>th</sup>	
Highest maximum	12.3°C on 28 <sup>th</sup>	
Lowest day maximum	7.3°C on 8 <sup>th</sup>	
Highest night minimum	10.9°C on 15 <sup>th</sup>	
Lowest minimum	1.1°C on 9 <sup>th</sup>	
Lowest grass minimum	-3.2°C on 5 <sup>th</sup>	
Wettest day	23.6 mm on 27 <sup>th</sup>	
Sunniest day	8.7 hours on 16 <sup>th</sup>	
Highest mean hourly wind	40 knots on 25 <sup>th</sup>	
Highest gust	57 knots on 25 <sup>th</sup>	

**RATHER DULL AND WET, WITH NEAR-AVERAGE TEMPERATURES**

**An anticyclonic spell ended as October began, with several depressions - separated by transient ridges - tracking east close to Shetland between the 3rd and 12th. Anticyclonic conditions returned to the UK during a ten-day period mid-month. However - on its northern flank - Shetland lay in a mild and unsettled SW to W'ly airflow. A brief cyclonic period followed, as a deep depression tracked east over mainland Scotland. The last five days of the month were again more anticyclonic. This time - squeezed between high pressure to the east and low over the Atlantic - a strong S'ly airflow affected Shetland.**

With an anticyclone to the west of the British Isles the 1st was a bright day, with a few showers dying out by evening as fresh NW'ly winds fell light, leading to a cool night with a local grass frost. S'ly winds steadily strengthened on the 2nd as high pressure sank south, with a front bringing heavy overnight rain to Shetland. This cleared early on the 3rd and, as a depression tracked east over Shetland, winds fell light and variable for a time before strengthening NW'ly winds brought squally showers across the Isles later. A mixture of sunny spells and scattered showers followed on the 4th, as the low moved away and winds eased.

The 5th started cool and bright with a widespread grass frost. As an Atlantic low - tracking east towards Scotland - pushed fronts northeast over the Northern Isles, SE'ly winds freshened and rain followed later in the day, The low moved east to the north of Shetland on the 6th and rain cleared to sunshine and showers, as strong S to SW'ly winds veered gale-force W'ly. Gusts to 58 mph were reported in Lerwick and on Fair Isle and Foula.

With a filling low moving into Scandinavia, the 7th was cool bright and showery, with fresh NW'ly winds falling light later. With low pressure over southern Scandinavia and high to the west, the 8th was a bright day with showers and occasional sunny spells. N to NW'ly winds increased strong for a time but eased later and, as showers died away, skies cleared and a cold night with a wide-spread grass frost followed.

SE'ly winds strengthened on the 9th and patchy rain spread from the west later, as fronts pushed in off the Atlantic, bringing a wet and windy night. The 10th remained rather cloudy with occasionally heavy rain, though SW'ly winds eased as a filling low drifted down from Iceland towards Shetland. As the low moved away eastwards, fresh NE'ly winds brought brighter, cooler and showery conditions on the 11th.

NE to N'ly winds eased and showers mostly died out on the 12th, as a ridge moved east over the area. More rain - accompanied by freshening S to SE'ly winds - spread northeast overnight as an Atlantic low pushed fronts across Scotland. These brought periods of heavy rain and a fresh to strong S'ly wind on the 13th. Further rain followed overnight as S'ly winds eased.

With pressure high over southern Britain, the North Sea and Scandinavia - and a depression to the west - mild, moist WSW'ly winds blew across Shetland on the 14th, bringing misty conditions and low cloud with some patchy drizzle. Drier, brighter conditions edged north-eastwards on the 15th, as the last of a sequence of fronts cleared and mild SW'ly winds veered to a cooler NW'ly. The 16th was dry and sunny, with fresh NW to N'ly winds easing. A cool night with a local grass frost followed.

The 17th was also dry but - as an anticyclone over western Scotland slipped southeast across the UK - NW'ly winds backed SW'ly, bringing cloudier conditions. A cold front brought outbreaks of rain from the west overnight. Drier, brighter conditions followed on the 18th, as high pressure to the south extended north over Scotland and SW'ly winds veered NW'ly. After a bright start on the 19th, as an anticyclone over the British Isles declined east and a deep Atlantic low moved towards Ireland, freshening SE'ly winds brought outbreaks of rain northwards. From the 20th to 23rd, between a depression to the west and an anticyclone across Scandinavia, strong SE'ly winds persisted across the Northern Isles. With a front slow-moving near Shetland, it was generally cloudy with outbreaks of mainly light rain.

On the 24th, SE'ly winds strengthened further as a small low ran quickly north, with rain becoming heavy and persistent by evening as E'ly gales developed. Winds gusted to 66 mph at Lerwick and 67 mph on Fair Isle during the early hours of the 25th. Heavy rain, accompanied by gale or severe gale-force E'ly winds continued across Shetland, as the low tracked across mainland Scotland and a front pivoted slowly north. As the low eventually moved away over the North Sea, gales subsided early on the 26th. The day was then mainly dry with some sunshine. As pressure built from the northwest, the NE'ly breeze fell light and variable, with a dry, cool and mostly clear evening following. A grass frost was fairly widespread as a ridge moved east overnight.

After a dry start on the 27th, rain spread north to reach all areas by the end of the afternoon, as SE'ly winds increased fresh to strong. On the 28th rain became patchy, with strong SE'ly winds later easing light SW to W'ly. During the last three days of the month, a large and complex area of low pressure over the Atlantic, together with high pressure to the east, brought mild, moist and fresh to strong S'ly winds across Shetland - touching gale-force across Fair Isle on the 30th - with trailing fronts bringing periods of rain, mainly light, but heavy on the 30th.

## **Dave Wheeler**

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

**Mean Temperature** – 8.9°C (1.0°C above average).

**Rainfall** – 162.5 mm (100% of average).

**Sunshine** – 77.3 hours (102% of average).

### **Data from the UK Met Office**