

**SEPTEMBER STATISTICS RECORDED  
AT LERWICK OBSERVATORY**

	<b>September 2009</b>	<b>Averages 1971-2000</b>
Mean maximum temperature	13.5°C	12.4°C
Mean minimum temperature	9.8°C	8.2°C
Daily mean temperature	11.5°C	10.1°C
Mean sea-level pressure	1013.2 hPa (mb)	1009.5 hPa (mb)
Total rainfall	75.0 mm	115.3 mm
Wet days => 1 mm	16 days	17.4 days
Sunshine (electronic sensor)	105.8 hours	100.8 hours
Air frosts	0 days	0.0 days
Ground frosts	1 day	1.7 days
Snow/sleet	0 days	0.2 days
Days with gale	6 days	2.1 days
Maximum daily mean temp.	13.5°C on 8 <sup>th</sup>	
Minimum daily mean temp.	7.0°C on 29 <sup>th</sup>	
Highest maximum	16.7°C on 8 <sup>th</sup>	
Lowest day maximum	9.4°C on 29 <sup>th</sup>	
Highest night minimum	12.5°C on 1 <sup>st</sup>	
Lowest minimum	4.3°C on 30 <sup>th</sup>	
Lowest grass minimum	-0.1°C on 30 <sup>th</sup>	
Wettest day	12.0 mm on 6 <sup>th</sup>	
Sunniest day	9.7 hours on 2 <sup>nd</sup>	

**MILD, RELATIVELY DRY AND SUNNY, BUT RATHER WINDY**

**September saw a reverse of the pressure field of July and August, with below normal pressure over Greenland, the Norwegian Sea and northern Scandinavia, and above normal pressure over the British Isles and much of central Europe. As a result, the general trend was for a SW to W'ly airflow over Shetland.**

**With pressure low and complex over the Northeast Atlantic, cyclonic conditions dominated the weather of the Northern Isles during the first third of the month.**

**While not producing the fine and settled spell seen further south, the middle third was at least less unsettled as an anticyclone moved over the UK (giving a September record of 1041mb on the 11th). On the northern edge of this high, Shetland lay in a broad WSW'ly airflow off the Atlantic.**

**The last third of the month saw the high pressure move further away from the UK, with a more changeable SW'ly airflow over the Northern Isles.**

The month began with a complex area of low pressure over the northwest of the British Isles and fronts slow-moving across northeast Scotland. Early rain and misty conditions cleared and, apart from a few well-scattered showers, the 1st was then mainly dry with some sunny spells and moderate SW'ly winds.

As a secondary low tracked east across mainland UK, Shetland remained bright with a few scattered showers and light WSW'ly winds. The low deepened as it moved out over the northern North Sea, and winds backed fresh NE'ly as heavy rain spread north later on the 3rd. Although - as the low tracked away into Scandinavia - rain cleared early, the 4th remained cloudy with showers and a fresh to strong NW'ly wind.

A weak ridge followed from the west, bringing a dry, bright start on the 5th. As this declined, the cool NW'ly winds were replaced by milder, cloudy SW'lies, bringing patchy rain and drizzle later. Heavy rain followed overnight. A front remained slow-moving close to the Northern Isles on the 6th, with cloudy conditions, patchy rain or drizzle and easing SW'ly winds. Cloud and outbreaks of rain cleared to occasional showers and strong to gale SW'ly winds on the 7th, as a wave-low on the front ran past northwest Scotland.

On the 8th a deep Atlantic low - running quickly northeast over Faeroe - brought strong to locally gale-force S'ly winds and heavy rain. Showers followed the rain as the fronts cleared through, and winds veered W'ly and increased gale or severe gale, with gusts to 69mph reported at Lerwick and 62mph on Fair Isle. W'ly gales moderated and showers eased away on the 9th, as the low moved away and the Azores high extended into southern Britain.

The 10th-12th saw mainly cloudy conditions with moderate or fresh W to NW'ly winds and patchy rain or drizzle, as weak fronts drifted around the northern flank of a small anticyclone moving from the southwest over central areas of the UK. The 13th was also cloudy, but mainly dry with easing NW winds, as the high meandered away to the west of Scotland.

Between the 14th-17th Atlantic high pressure maintained a ridge over Scotland, bringing moderate NW'ly winds and mainly dry - though often cloudy - conditions to Shetland. As the anticyclone began to ease away eastwards, a complex area of low pressure developed south of Iceland, While S'ly winds freshened, Atlantic fronts remained out to the west, their progress blocked by high pressure to the east. As a result, the 18th-20th were mainly dry days with sunny or clear spells. A front eventually reached Shetland, bringing some light, showery rain, on 21st as SW'ly winds increased strong to gale-force.

From the 21st to the 28th pressure remained high across southern Britain. As a sequence of quite deep Atlantic depressions tracked northeast between Scotland and Iceland, fronts affected the Northern Isles from time to time, bringing rain or showers separated by brighter drier interludes. SW'ly winds were generally strong, reaching gale-force on the 21st and 22nd - with gusts to 69mph in Lerwick - and also the 23rd and 25th.

On the 29th pressure built to the south of Iceland, the developing high extending a ridge over Shetland. Showers died out as easing SW'ly winds veered NW'ly. A large area of high pressure was established over the North Atlantic and North Sea by the 30th, bringing light winds and a cool start to the day with a touch of grass frost locally. However, a slow-moving front did produce a little showery rain at times.

### **Dave Wheeler**

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

**Mean Temperature** – 11.8°C (1.3°C above average).

**Rainfall** – 121.2 mm (87% of average).

**Sunshine** – 106.0 hours (101% of average).

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