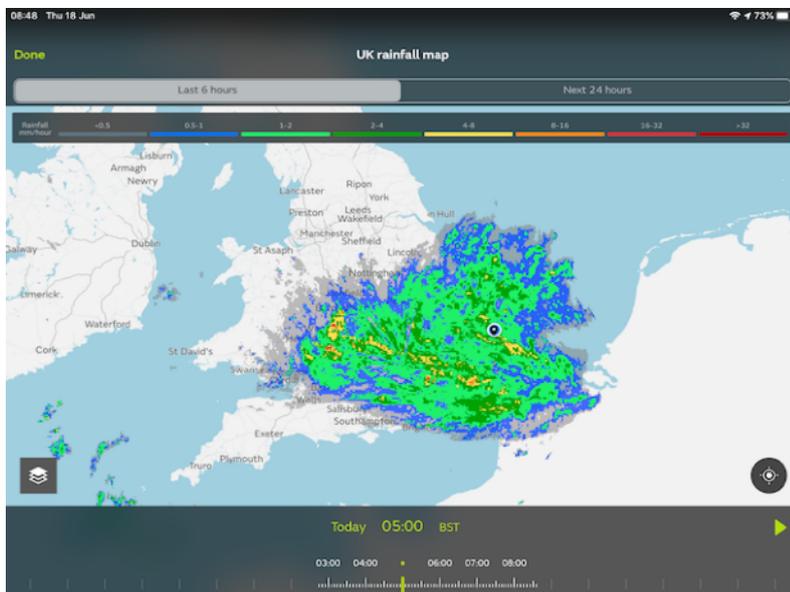


Weather for the Summer Quarter 2020

June began as May had ended with a couple of days of clear, bright (and dry) weather. However by the 3rd a weather front approaching from the north brought cloudier skies and a hint of possible rain to come. On Friday 5th it was actually quite cold with blustery showers and some measurable rain. Quite a relief after such a dry May. Over the Friday and Saturday we had 16.5 mm - it may not have been very seasonal, but it was most welcome, certainly enough to fill the water butts.

The first two weeks of the month continued rather cool and damp. All rather disappointing after such a sunny May, but the overall amount of rain was low. As usual the showers ran out before they reached us! Fortunately we did have a heavy shower at 5 o'clock on 11th June when 9.5 mm was recorded in just one hour. Just the sort of soaking that we really needed. It was only on Saturday 13th that we had the first



5.00 am Thursday 18th June

'proper' June day - and it was wonderful - every thing you would hope for. The fine weather continued over the weekend, but it set off slow-moving thunderstorms elsewhere in the country and the pattern was repeated for several days - just not where we are. In fact we had very pleasant sunny days, if rather humid. However, in the early hours of Thursday 18th we finally had widespread heavy rain - so widespread that it really couldn't miss us - a total of 18.1 mm ($\frac{3}{4}$ " in old money).

The temperature then gradually built each day reaching a peak of 32.6°C on Friday 24th, before thunderstorms set in again - but as usual no rain came our way. The change of weather brought much fresher conditions and strong blustery winds for the weekend of 27th/28th that then carried on for the remainder of the month and did delicate plants in the garden absolutely no good at all!

So overall a rather cool and cloudy month. Only 210 hours of sunshine were recorded at Wattisham (our local Met Office recording station) compared with over 300 hours in May. Rainfall was close to average (54.7mm compared to the 10-year average of 51.6mm) but nearly all of it, 47.7 mm, fell on just 4 days (5th, 6th, 11th and 18th).

And so into July - but it was more of the same in the early part of the month with cloudy, blustery days with very occasional rain. In fact the weekend of 4/5th July brought exceptional strong winds (for July) with 40 mph gusts recorded at Wattisham on the Sunday. July then continued rather cloudy and occasionally rather

damp. Even when high pressure began to build on the weekend of 11/12th it trapped more cloud and didn't result in the sunny week that might have been expected. Only by the following weekend did we return to temperatures in the mid twenties. And so the month went on in rather the same fashion, sometimes with white fluffy clouds, sometimes with dark threatening clouds and blustery winds, but never with bright clear sunny days. Taking the month as a whole there was just one day when the maximum temperature topped 30°C and that was the Friday 31st when very hot air moved up from France. The most disappointing feature of the weather was the lack of sunshine; only 161 hours were recorded at Wattisham - an average of 5.2 hrs/day. This compares with 10.1 hrs/day in May. Despite all the cloud the weather was damp rather than wet with 47.8 mm of rain (compared with a ten-year average of 52.6mm), so garden watering was needed throughout the month.

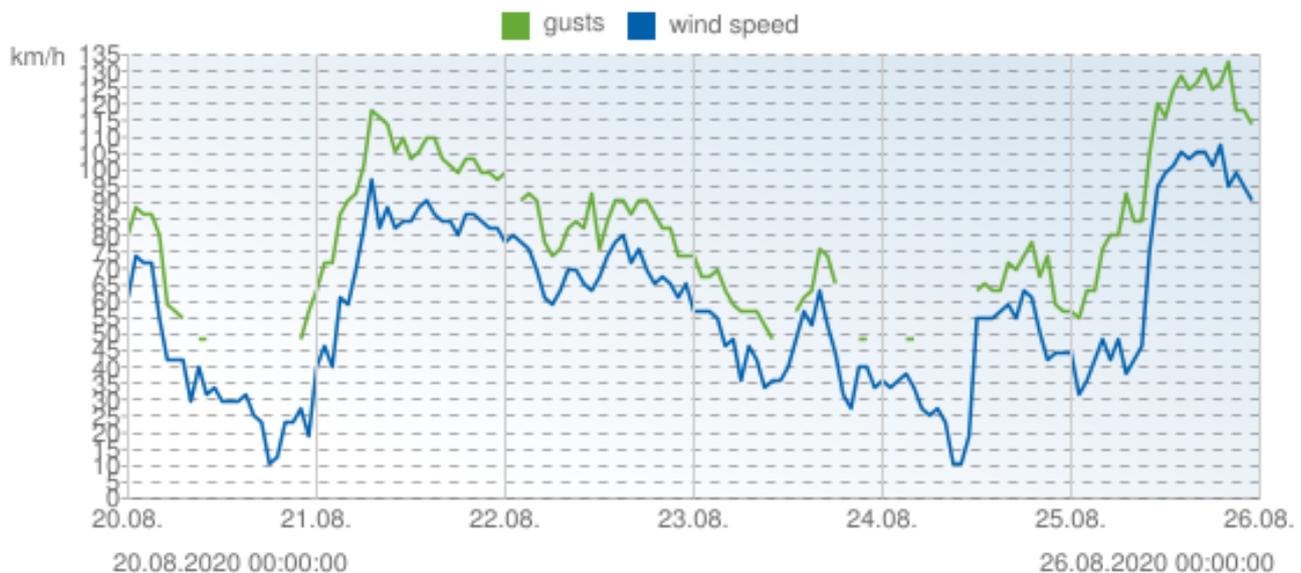
The start of the new month was much more pleasant with warmer days and plenty of sunshine, all building up to another hot weekend on 8th-10th August when the temperature reached 36.9°C on the Friday. Unfortunately it didn't last but the pattern was repeated the following weekend and this time the very warm weather continued until it inevitably broke down into thunderstorms on the 23rd. This stormy



weather continued for four days and brought flash flooding in many parts of the country. Wickham, of course, missed the heavy rain. The final week brought gale force winds over the whole country on 25/26th. Gust of 132 km/hr (82.5 mph) were recorded at the Needles weather station on the Isle of Wight. It was not quite so violent in Wickham but we had strong winds and over 10 mm of rain.

Needles Old Battery (99017)

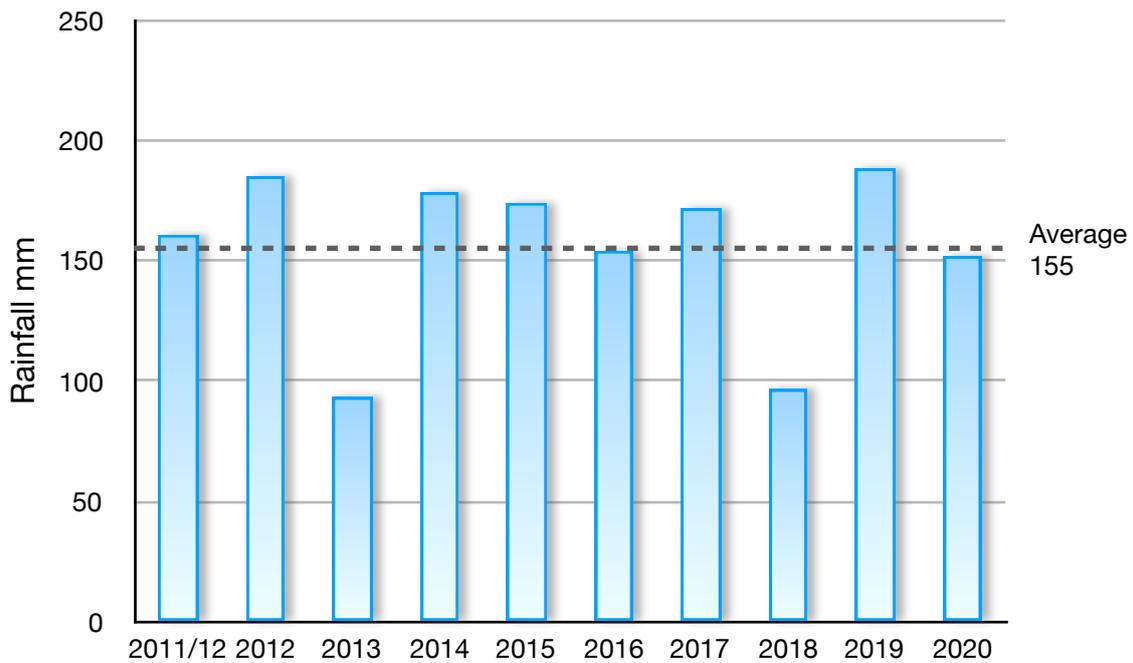
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The month (and the quarter) ended disappointingly with cool, damp weather, leading up to the final Bank holiday of the year. Also dull and damp for the most part - only on the Monday (31st) did we see a little brightness.

Overall the temperatures and rainfall for the summer quarter were very close to the 10 averages, but the weather went from dull and chilly to very hot - and there were a surprising number of very windy days - not like summer at all.

Summer (June, July and August) Rainfall 2020



Average Maximum and Minimum Temperatures

