

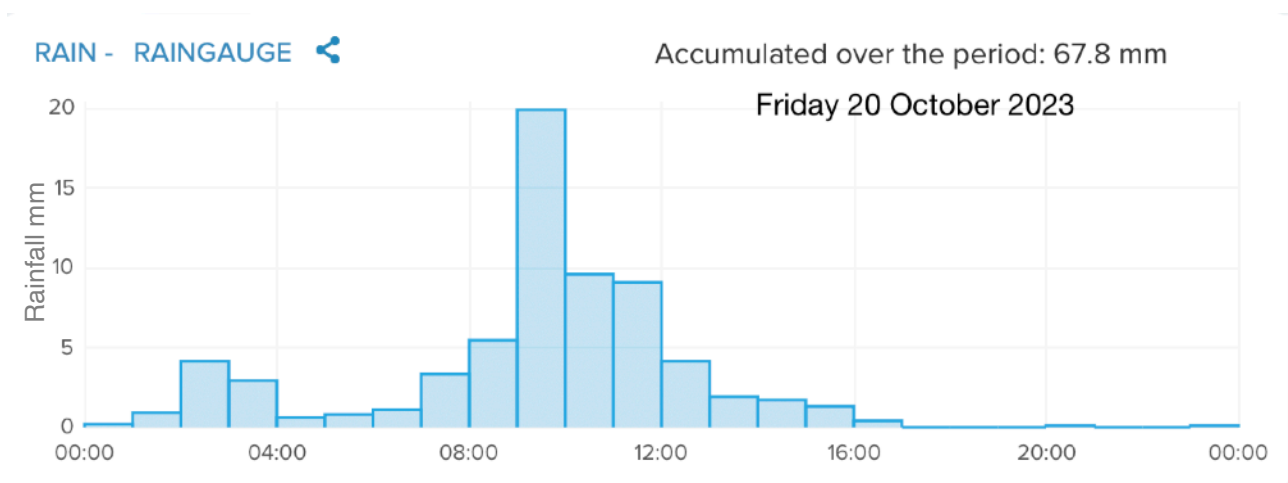
## Weather for the Autumn Quarter 2023

September gave us a long spells of very good weather, particularly in the first half of the month. The highest temperature was 30.5°C on the 10<sup>th</sup>, but there were 9 days when the maximum was over 25°C and 23 days in the month over 20°C. The average temperature for the month (over the whole 24 hours) was 17.6°C compared to a 10-year average of 15.4. This was warmer than the average for August, which had been only 17.4°C. There was plenty of rain, particularly in the second half of the month, coming close to the 10-year average, but we also had lots of sunshine (177 hours recorded at Wattisham, 16.9% above the 10-year average). So overall September gave us very good growing conditions. We even avoided the devastating gales that so often seems to come in the days just before our Autumn Show!



October opened with a disappointingly grey day, but once again southerly winds brought warm air and the temperature reached 22°C. In fact the first 10 days of the month were relatively warm, dry and sunny, but this description could not be applied to the rest of the month! From 11<sup>th</sup> onwards the temperature plunged and we had significant rain.

The 20<sup>th</sup> brought us the tail-end of Storm Babet, but that gave serious rain for the eastern counties of England. It brought us significant flooding, and damage to homes, both in Wickham Market and the surrounding villages. In Wickham 67.8 mm was recorded for the day and most of that between 7.30 am and 12.30 pm. This was the highest daily rainfall since the Garden Club's detailed records began in January 1998.



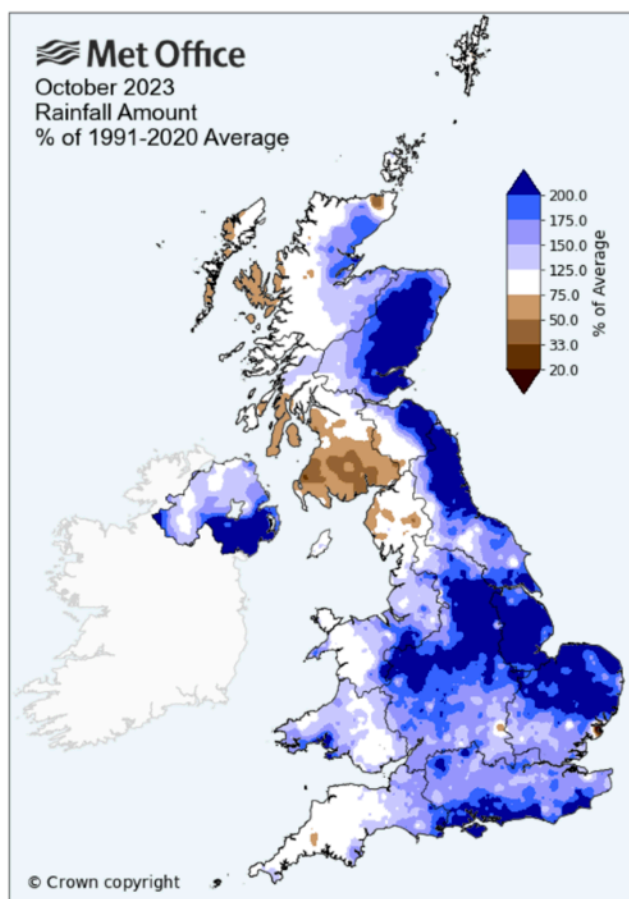
The general dampness then continued for the rest of the month, never giving us a clear spell long enough to dry the surface of the ground. Autumn clearing-up in the garden was severely restricted.

Given all the dampness it was surprising that the sunshine hours for October (as recorded at Wattisham) were above the 10-year average: 113 hours against an average of 99. It must have been due to the fine weather at the start of the month.

However as October ended we were preparing for the next major storm, Ciarán (so named by the Irish Met Office), with warnings locally for high winds and rain. Storm Ciarán followed a unusual southerly track bringing the worst weather to the south coast of England and the Channel Islands. Jersey suffered particularly badly. The storm then swept through northern France and caused problems as far away as Madrid and Tuscany. In comparison Wickham Market got away very lightly - plenty of rain, but no further flooding of properties.

None the less October was one of our wettest months ever with 161.1 mm against a 10-year average of 68.5 mm - that's 235% of the expected rain. It was the highest rainfall for October in the Garden Club records. There was a similar picture for all of the eastern areas of the country. Here is the chart from the Met Office showing the variations of the monthly rainfall for October against the 30-year averages.

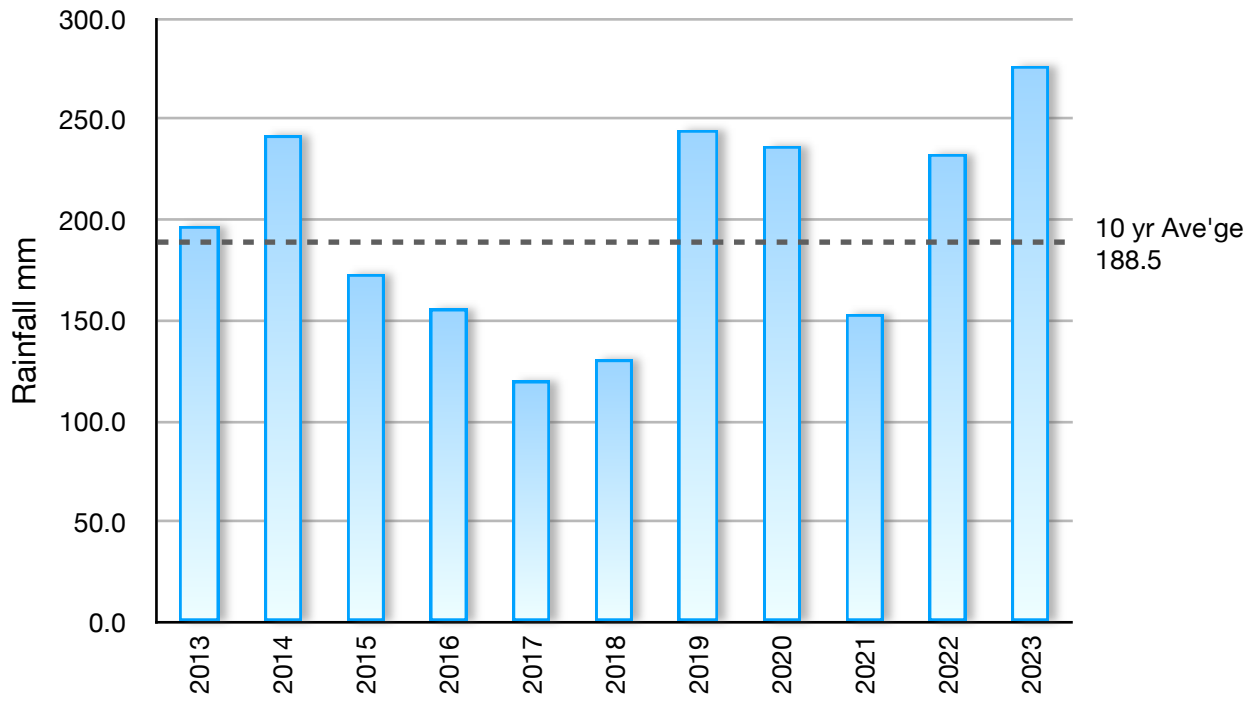
November, in comparison, was dull, damp and unexciting. Generally grey days with just the occasional glimpse of brightness. However the last 3 days of the month brought clear skies and glorious sunshine. - but this was combined with cold northerly winds that brought a very marked drop in temperature and sharp frosts on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> (-1.8°C and -2.7°C). Perhaps a warning of things yet to come?



For the Autumn quarter taken as a whole the average maximum and minimum temperatures were close to 10-year averages, but the overall average temperature for the quarter (calculated over the full 24 hours) was significantly warmer: 10.5°C as against 8.2°C. Not surprisingly the rainfall total was much higher (146% of the 10-year average).

Generally reasonable growing conditionals then, but the very wet ground gave us considerable difficulties with the Autumn clear-up in the garden. What remains undone will now have to wait until the Spring.

### Autumn (Sept, Oct and Nov) Rainfall 2023



### Average Maximum and Minimum Temperatures

