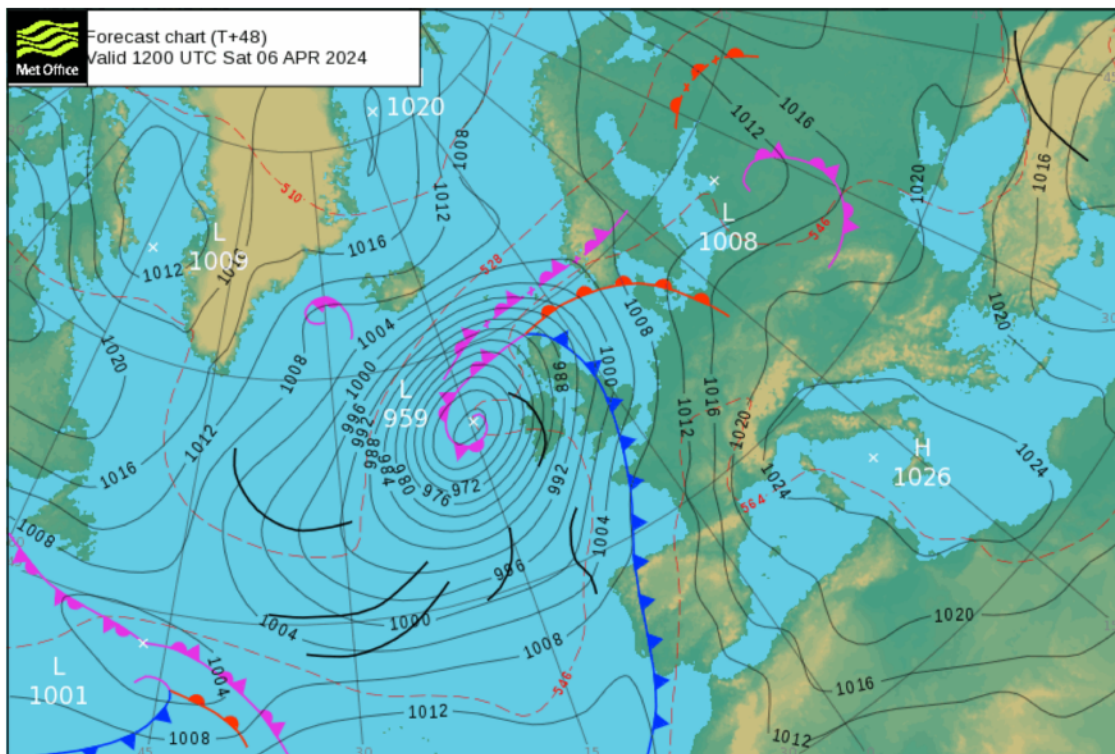


## Weather for the Spring Quarter 2024

Following a very wet winter quarter March also began rather dull and wet. We had few sunny days but usually with a cold northerly wind - not conducive to either country walking or spring gardening. Only on the 14<sup>th</sup> did it begin to feel like proper Spring, unfortunately the month remained rather variable and the Easter weekends was mixed to say the least. Easter Sunday was a particularly chilly, damp day - most disappointing.

March was not particularly wet overall, just rather dull and damp. We had 31.2 mm of rain compared to a ten-year average of 42.8 (There was much more rain elsewhere in the country). We had only 89.1 hours of sunshine (as measured at Wattisham) compared to an average of 133.2.

The 1<sup>st</sup> April began with a brighter day with some warm sunshine - a sign of things to come perhaps, but April proved to be rather mixed.! Storm Katherine brought a deep area of low pressure that moved up the West Coast of Ireland and brought very strong winds across the whole country. There was significant flooding to southern coastal areas in England when the strong southerly winds were combined with high spring tides.



< 12:00 (UTC) on Sat 6 Apr 2024 >

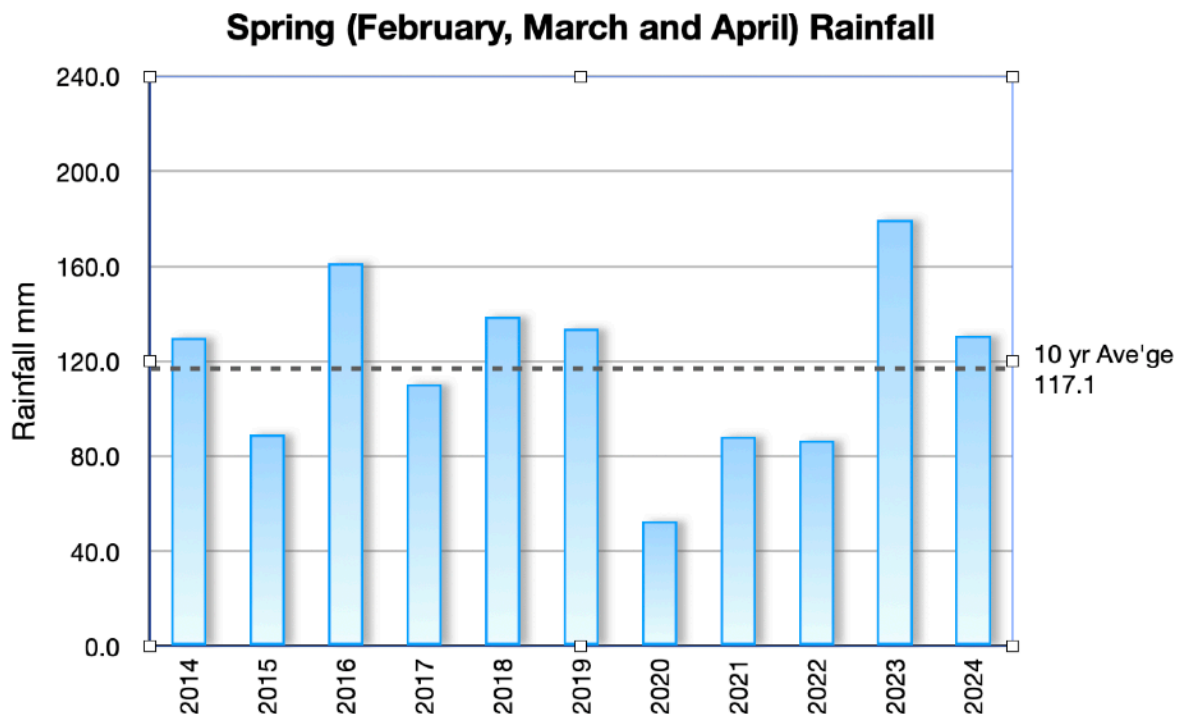
Closer to home there was some damage in the garden in particular to a very beautiful tree peony which proved to be too brittle for it's own good.

Despite a few drier and warmer days for in Wickham many parts of the country remained rather wet. Monday April 15<sup>th</sup> brought us a narrow band of intense rain

that gave us 3.3 mm of rain in just 30 minutes. This was followed by 2 weeks for cold rather dull weather when day after day northerly winds brought in occasional showers from the North Sea. There was not a lot of rain in total but a pervading feeling of dull dampness. The month ended with a couple of slightly warmer, but distinctly wetter days - 17.7 mm on the 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup>. Not surprisingly the sunshine hours were well down - just 142 hours against a 10-year average of 187.

May was not particularly wet, at least not in Wickham - just 51.4 mm compared to a 10-year average of 48.7 mm. However there were sufficient wet days and dull sunless days in between to provide no opportunity for the surface soli to dry out. The slugs had a field day with the young vegetables and annuals. The generally dull weather did at least protect us from late frosts, but the sunshine hours were very disappointing: just 190.4 hours recorded at Wattisham compared to a ten-year average of 191.7

So overall Spring was rather wet, rather dull and very disappointing. The rainfall 130.8 mm in the 3 months was above the 20-year average of 117.1 mm and following the very wet winter quarter gave us some very wet soli conditions. It was not cold and the weeds loved the conditions, but not so some of the young vegetables and flowers. The sunshine was particularly disappointing with only 292.5 hrs (recorded at Wattisham) compared with an average of 409.7.



### Average Maximum and Minimum Temperatures

