Ansty Weather Station.

Weather statistics for 2017

TEMPERATURE ° C								
YEAR	MONTH	MEAN MAX ° C	MEAN MIN ° C	MEAN ° C	HIGHEST ° C	DAY	LOWEST ° C	DAY
2017	1	7.1	-0.4	3.2	11.5	31	-7.1	21
2017	2	9	2.9	6.1	13.2	22	-2.2	6
2017	3	13.3	4.4	8.8	19.6	30	-1	22
2017	4	16.3	2.8	9.3	23	9	-4.3	27
2017	5	19.5	7.8	13.5	27.7	26	-0.6	10
2017	6	22.7	10.8	16.7	32.8	19	5.1	4
2017	7	23.5	12.3	17.5	31.2	6	7.7	23
2017	8	22.3	10.6	16.4	29.1	28	5.8	31
2017	9	18.5	8.8	13.5	22.6	1	2.4	22
2017	10	16.1	8.2	12.4	19.7	8	-0.5	30
2017	11	10.7	2.5	6.7	15.4	1	-2.2	24
2017	12	7.7	2.2	5	13.3	30	-2.5	9
Annual averages 2017		15.6	6.1	10.8	Night Frosts		43	
					Day Frosts		0	
Annual averages 2017		16*	6.3*	11*	Annual Total Frosts 2017		43	
Long term annual averages (1980 - 2010)		14	6	10	Long term annual average total frosts (1980-2000)		50	

* This is the overall mean computed from continuous real time temperature observations.

PRECIPITATION (in inches/mm)

YEAR	MONTH	TOTAL inches	TOTAL mm	MAX OBSERVED DAY	DATE	DAYS OF RAIN 0.01	OVER 0.1	1.00
2017	1	3.62	91.95	0.62	29th Jan	15	11	0
2017	2	2.81	71.37	0.54	2nd Feb	15	10	0
2017	3	3.11	78.99	0.78	3rd March	18	9	0
2017	4	**0.37**	**9.40**	0.17	30th April	5	1	0
2017	5	2.65	67.31	0.96	17th May	10	6	0
2017	6	2.82	71.63	1.08	28th June	8	5	1
2017	7	3.77	95.76	**1.12**	21st July	11	8	1
2017	8	2.08	52.83	0.58	2nd August	13	6	0
2017	9	3.30	83.82	0.75	11th Sept	22	9	0
2017	10	1.89	48.01	0.37	19th Oct	16	7	0
2017	11	2.71	68.83	0.70	4th Nov	16	5	0
2017	12	**4.24**	**107.70**	0.84	8th Dec	15	13	0
						164	**90**	**2**
Annual Total 2017		**33.37**	**847.60**					
Average long term annual total (1980 - 2010)		**35**	**889.00**					

Sun Days	Rain Days
175	164

WIND SPEED

YEAR	MONTH	AVG SPEED mph	AVG SPEED km/h	MAX GUST mph	MAX GUST km/h	DATE	DOMINANT DIRECTION
2017	1	1.4	2.25	23.5	37.84	16	SSW
2017	2	3.0	4.83	25.3	40.73	2	SSW
2017	3	3.2	5.15	19.9	32.04	25	SSW
2017	4	2.0	3.22	17.7	28.50	25	N
2017	5	2.5	4.03	17.9	28.82	5	NE
2017	6	2.2	3.54	17.9	28.82	6	SSW
2017	7	2.3	3.70	14.8	23.83	21	SSW
2017	8	2.2	3.54	17.2	27.69	3	SSW
2017	9	2.0	3.22	19.9	32.04	12	SSW
2017	10	2.7	4.35	23.7	38.16	21	SSW
2017	11	2.2	3.54	**30.2**	**48.62**	**22**	SSW
2017	12	3.0	4.83	23.5	37.84	7	SSW

Because of the sheltered nature and alignment of the coombe valley where this weather station is located and the surrounding slopes the wind direction either blows up the valley (NE) or down the valley (SW). Wind Speed in the valley is generally half that found on the tops of the slopes!

	MONTHLY SUMMARY NOTES
JAN	TWO WET SPELLS; TWO COLD SPELLS; QUITE A SUNNY MONTH; AVERAGE RAINFALL SLIGHTLY BELOW MEAN TEMP; HIGH PRESSURE DOMINATES; FROSTY SPELL LATE JAN
FEB	A LITTLE ABOVE AVERAGE RAINFALL; A VERY MILD MONTH (2C+ ABOVE AV); FEW FROSTS (2) FAIRLY DULL; QUITE HUMID
MAR	ABOVE AVERAGE RAINFALL; ONLY 2 FROSTS; QUITE A CLOUDY MONTH (11/30 SUNNY) A VERY MILD, HUMID MONTH: TEMPERATURES WELL ABOVE AVERAGE (2.4C+).) BREEZY AT TIMES
APR	EXCEPTIONALLY DRY MONTH; A VERY SUNNY MONTH; WELL ABOVE AVERAGE BY DAY; COOLER THAN AV BY NIGHT; GEN HIGH PRESSURE DOMINATED; DAMAGING FROST ON 27TH
MAY	ABOVE AVERAGE RAIN, 2 MAJOR RAIN SPELLS; AND YET A SUNNY MONTH! ABOVE AVERAGE TEMPERATURES; WARM AND WET MONTH
JUN	ABOVE AVERAGE RAINFALL; 2 VERY WET SPELLS; ABOVE AVERAGE TEMPS; A SUNNY MONTH; SURPRISINGLY HUMID
JUL	HIGH RAINFALL: 165% OF AVERAGE; 2 C ABOVE AVERAGE MAX; 1C ABOVE AVERAGE MEAN. A VERY SUNNY MONTH 23/31 DAYS; 2 SPELLS OF RAIN OF OVER 1" WARM WET & SUNNY!
AUG	BELOW AVERAGE RAINFALL; AVERAGE TEMPS; QUITE A SUNNY MONTH. QUITE SHOWERY; HUMID
SEP	SLIGHTLY ABOVE AVERAGE RAINFALL; TEMPS JUST BELOW AV. A CLOUDY MONTH; OFTEN HUMID
OCT	A MILD MONTH; 48% RAINFALL = 'DRY'; EXCEPTIONALLY HUMID; DULL. ONLY ONE FROST. THE RED OPHELIA SUN PHENOMENON CAUSED BY SAHARA DESERT DUST AND SMOKE FROM PORTUGAL.
NOV	A COOL MONTH; BELOW AVERAGE RAINFALL (71% RAINFALL) – YET OFTEN DAMP- AND HUMID; 46% SUNNY/BRIGHT DAYS; 8 AIR FROSTS
DEC	QUITE A DULL MONTH – AVERAGE TEMPERATURES; 10 NIGHT FROSTS; ABOVE AVERAGE RAINFALL. TWO VERY MILD SPELLS INTERSPERSED WITH TWO LONGER COLD SPELLS

The heat goes on!

2017 was yet another year with very little in the way of 'proper snow' that lasted a few days on the ground. There was just a couple of days when we had a 'smattering' of snow that was gone within a few hours. Indeed our last winter for decent snow was 2010 and that bucked a trend of mild winters for almost a decade before that!

Provisional Met Office statistics for the UK suggest that 2017 was another 'warm' year. Our local figures confirm this with an average mean of 10.8C or 0.8C above the 1981-2010 range. 0.8C might not seem a lot but when looking at climate statistics over time, it is. If you take the continuous real time computed figures then the average mean is about 1C above the 1981-2010 range. You 'takes' your choice but the trend is the same. The nine warmest years since 1910 have all occurred after 2000. The warmest year ever recorded was 2014. 2017 looks set to join the list to make it ten.

Interestingly our rainfall total for 2017 was a tad below average but the Environment Agency has warned us that reservoirs and aquifers that supply most of our water in southern England are below the requisite levels and could lead to hose pipe bans next summer. 2017 can be summed up as warm, 'damp' and sunny – perfect for lush vegetation growth!

The rise of Atmospheric Humidity.

This year has highlighted something most people don't really notice or are not aware of. Certainly it has been a noticeable feature of the last decade or more. My figures show that the relative humidity of our local atmosphere appears to have increased. It affects the way we feel – especially on hot summer days. We use the word muggy to describe such a day. Humans are very sensitive to humidity.

I recall back in the 1950s and 1960s that although it rained quite frequently things soon dried up after the rain. Washing actually dried on the line. It was also cooler!

From the late 1960s until the early 2000s there was a definite downward trend to drier conditions overall (that is, lower relative humidity readings) reaching a low point in the 1990s. Indeed gardening experts started to encourage us to plan our planting to survive drought conditions….

But by the early 2000s this drier trend has been reversed and in the last decade humidity readings have risen noticeably along with increasing temperatures. One of the most interesting phenomenon I have noticed this year is just how 'damp' the air was even on so called 'dry' summer days. Today there seem to be quite a few 'dry' days when washing just doesn't seem to dry outdoors: the air is saturated with 'humidity'!

Our local farmers noticed this particularly this year, when trying to decide when to harvest crops. It wasn't easy! This 'damp' trend looks set to continue (if the science is right) and will manifest itself in all sorts of ways.

For instance this year we saw the 'thuggish' growth of many wild and cultivated plants; particularly broad leafed weeds, nettles, many grasses, brambles, hogweed, Japanese knotweed, rhododendrons.

Trees and hedges have put on phenomenal growth this year: yet management of forests, copses, hedgerows and verges has become really poor or non-existent. No wonder bugs and pathogens are taking advantage and causing mayhem! Even some of our own local woodlands are now in a dire state.

Small meadows in our parish are becoming wetland meadows. Then there are more mosses on paths, lanes, walls and roofs; lawns needed mowing more often; fungi grew in abundance in the autumn and waterlogged ground has become common where nothing dries out between mid-October and March. Have you noticed? Welcome to the 'new norm'!

There are many reasons for this but it would seem that increasing carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere which sustains vegetation growth has also led to the so called 'greenhouse effect' – trapping radiated heat resulting in rising temperatures (here and worldwide) which means the air can hold much more water vapour (and cloud). This coupled with the increasing levels of nitrates in the air and ground (from chemical fertilisers, vehicles and other industrial processes) has seemingly led to this increased vegetation growth.

If this is a continuing trend then without a proper plan it may well become a huge and expensive issue for all of us not so very far into the future. Watch this space!