

Annual Weather Statistics for Ansty Parish 2023

The yearly average temperature for this year was 10.7 C – which is + 0.7 C degree above the long-term average – another warm year, unfortunately, but not as high as might have been expected for our locality. However, global wise, 2023 still looks to be the warmest year so far as climate change intensifies. Our climate was cooler this year because we had much more cloud and rain than last year and a few colder periods too.

Bear in mind too, that it has been a very long time indeed since we saw the mean annual temperature actually dip below the long-term average! Of course, our long-term average baseline has been shifted by the statisticians too and some ways this blunts the actual statistics that show how temperatures have increased because of carbon emissions and other human activity.

Overall, the winter of 2023 was around average temperature wise; though there some cold spells – especially in January. February was notably dry, while March was very wet! Indeed, there was more than average rainfall for most months in 2023 especially in July, August, October, November and December. Humidity was higher and dank conditions often prevailed. The overall annual rainfall total for 2023 in Ansty is the wettest since 2012 – the overlap 2012-2013 saw many floods in our locality especially in Salisbury.

May and June were the best month for bright sunshine – with over 50 days of full sunshine. After that the summer stuttered as a moist Atlantic airstream took charge with copious rainfall but still plenty of warmth and brightness though, and by jove, didn't things grow well? This set the pattern for the rest of the summer, well into autumn. December was incredibly cloudy, very mild and wet!

The landscape in and around Ansty looked vibrant and green all year. The groundwater supplies were steadily replenished throughout the year until in December, everywhere was totally waterlogged! Indeed, the copious rainfall did cause some worry to the farming community – but once again harvests and crop yields turned out to be very satisfactory – as we saw in our Harvest Supper Reports.

After a damp September the rainfall deficit from last year was no more. Indeed, by the end of the year we had received roughly 3 months extra rainfall a welcome surfeit of water – too much some might say – sometimes swamping winter sown crop seeds.

The annual rainfall total for Ansty this year was well above average when looking at the long-term figures. What still is still very noticeable these days is how that rainfall is delivered, often arriving in the form of heavy dense downpours embedded in widespread frontal rain - not so much thundery – just heavy and persistent – racking up the rainfall rate. Here in Wiltshire, we also seem to get more grey days in the winter months with cloud and drizzle falling for days at a time - the kind of weather that Devon, Cornwall, and west Wales have been used to for longer: the maritime conditions are penetrating further east. This ties in with the fact that the annual relative humidity figures this year was over 88% - very humid indeed and these figures have been slowly rising year on year for the last 2 or 3 decades.

Having said that we did get a reasonable 176 days of bright sunshine tempered by 181 days of precipitation this year. December was the wettest month by far with 7.61 inches of rain – causing minor flooding problems here and there in the Ansty area.

As our local weather stations are in a relatively sheltered valley locations our winds do not always reflect the general pattern of wind direction over our parish, so this year we have used the Wind Direction as recorded by the professional weather station at Boscombe Down.

We have continued with our local wind speeds but of course, down in the Coombes it is really sheltered, and we reckon that you can easily double the wind speed for our more open areas and on top of the open plains and hills of the parish. This year was rather more windy than 2022 with gusts of over 30 mph being recorded in January, March, April, and December and these values would easily translate to 60+ mph in our more exposed areas. Indeed, in January and December some branches and a tree did come down.

All in all – 2023 was another 'warm' year and one's perception is that it is likely to be another in the 'warmer' category for this part of England, but it seems highly likely that when all the global statistics have been crunched for the World itself 2023 will probably be the warmest ever recorded. The UK is lucky to be surrounded by large bodies of water which keeps the temperatures down – but our climate is still changing far too rapidly.

ANSTY MONTHLY SUMMARY NOTES FOR 2023

JAN	<i>A month of startling contrasts: a very mild and very wet first half: a mostly dry and much colder second half with sharp frosts – meaning average temperatures for the month – above average rainfall yet quite sunny too!</i>
FEB	<i>Often very mild by day and cold by night leading to above average monthly temperatures. Often cloudy by day but there was some bright sunshine too. The month was dry with low rainfall amounts. No storms and no snow either!</i>
MAR	<i>Cold first half of month; mild second half resulting in near average temperatures. Very wet (24/31 days when rain fell); Dull (only 6 days of reasonable sunshine). 10-night frosts. One day of lying snow!</i>
APR	<i>A cool month with below average temperatures. Quite Wet (16 days when rain fell); Rather cloudy (but with 13 days of reasonable sunshine). 7-night frosts.</i>
MAY	<i>A sunny month with rather above average temperatures. Cool nights; warm days. Average monthly rainfall, but with 25 days of sunshine! No night frosts.</i>
JUN	<i>Another sunny month with well above average temperatures. Some cool nights; mostly very warm days. Below average monthly rainfall, but with 26 days of sunshine!</i>
JUL	<i>A very wet month but with average temperatures. Only one very warm day! A constant humid, showery Atlantic air stream with pulses of heavy rain but with 15 days of sunshine!</i>
AUG	<i>Quite a wet month but with average temperatures again. Three warm or very warm days. Maintaining a humid, showery Atlantic air stream with some pulses of heavier rain but with 14 days of sunshine!</i>
SEP	<i>An exceptionally warm month: 6 days recording 30C +! Somewhat above average rainfall; Dry and sunny in the first half of the month; a showery Atlantic air stream with pulses of heavier rain in the 2nd half! 17 days of sunshine though!</i>
OCT	<i>Another 'warm month': first 14 days exceptionally warm. Well above average rainfall; Relatively dry in the 1st half of the month. Cooler, mobile, showery Atlantic air stream with several pulses of heavy rain in the 2nd half! 16 days of rain.</i>
NOV	<i>An 'average month': but with a mild spell for ¾ of the month and a much colder spell in the last week. Well above average rainfall with 18 days of rain. Some sharp frosts and cold days towards the end of November</i>
DEC	<i>A very mild month – 3 C degrees above monthly average mean; Exceptionally wet with 22 rainy days. A cloudy month, sun shone properly on only 5 days. 6 Night frosts. A windy month too. Very dank throughout!</i>

ANSTY WEATHER OBSERVATIONS 2023 STATISTICS

TEMPERATURE ° C

YEAR	MONTH	MEAN MAX ° C	MEAN MIN ° C	MEAN ° C	HIGHEST ° C	DAY	LOWEST ° C	DAY
2023	1	8	-0.5	3.7	11.7	7	-8.5	22
2023	2	10	0.8	5.4	13.8	15	-7.9	8
2023	3	10.1	3.3	6.7	15.1	18	-3.2	15
2023	4	13.5	2	7.7	18	28	-2.4	22
2023	5	19.2	6	12.6	23.7	28	1.2	16
2023	6	24.2	9.9	17	30.1	13	5.1	3
2023	7	20.9	11.1	16	26.4	7	5.5	21
2023	8	22	11	16.5	28.3	23	5.8	30
2023	9	22.8	10.5	16.7	32	9	3.1	23
2023	10	16.7	7.4	12	24.7	7	-1.7	16
2023	11	10.8	3.4	7.1	14.8	18	-6	25
2023	12	9.7	4.4	7	13.4	24	-4.6	2
Annual averages 2023		15.7	5.8	10.7	Night Frosts		59	
		2023 warmer by: 0.7+C			Day Frosts		1	
Long term annual averages (1971 -2000)		14	6	10	Annual Total Frosts 2023		60	
					Long term annual average total frosts (1981-2010)		50	

PRECIPITATION (in inches/mm)

				MAX		DAYS OF RAIN		
				OBSERVED		At or > than	OVER	
YEAR	MONTH	TOTAL inches	TOTAL mm	DAY	DATE	0.01"	0.1"	1"
2023	1	4.47	113.54	0.72	14	18	9	0
2023	2	0.44	11.18	0.16	16	7	2	0
2023	3	5.04	128.02	0.76	31	24	13	0
2023	4	3.55	90.17	0.53	10	16	11	0
2023	5	2.43	61.72	0.61	7	8	7	0
2023	6	1.45	36.83	1.04	20	5	3	1
2023	7	5.81	147.57	1.12	14	19	9	3
2023	8	3.49	88.65	0.66	2	14	9	0
2023	9	3.30	83.82	1.27	20	14	7	1
2023	10	5.69	144.53	0.61	19	16	14	0
2023	11	5.40	137.16	0.83	2	18	13	0
2023	12	7.61	193.29	1.03	5	22	13	1
						181	110	6
Annual Total 2023		48.68	1236.47			2023		No. of days of lying snow
		139%				Sun Days	Rain Days	
Average long term annual total (1981 - 2010)		35	889.00			172	181	1

WIND SPEED/DIRECTION								Humidity
		AVG SPEED		MAX GUST			DOMINANT DIRECTION	Monthly Average Humidity %
YEAR	MONTH	mph	km/h	mph	km/h	DATE		
2023	1	2.3	3.70	31.2	50.23	7	WSW	93.4
2023	2	1.7	2.74	19.3	31.07	18	VAR	91.2
2023	3	3.0	4.83	30.8	49.59	13	SSW	91.2
2023	4	2.3	3.70	32.5	52.33	12	VAR	84.6
2023	5	2.3	3.70	16.3	26.24	15	NE	80.5
2023	6	2.2	3.54	17.3	27.85	25	VAR	78.3
2023	7	2.6	4.19	23.7	38.16	15	SW	84.5
2023	8	1.9	3.06	24.0	38.64	12	WNW	86.7
2023	9	1.7	2.74	22.3	35.90	20	SSW	87.8
2023	10	1.7	2.74	18.7	30.11	28	SSW	92.2
2023	11	2.3	3.70	21.4	34.45	13	WSW	93.1
2023	12	3.2	5.15	32.2	51.84	27	SW	93.7
<p>Because of the 'rolling landscape' our our local region with its sheltered valleys and exposed chalk downland we take our wind direction from the nearest professional weather station at Boscombe Down in Wiltshire. Our wind speed is based on local stations but the speed is generally about half that found on the top of our local downs and other exposed locations.</p> <p>Statistics are based on figures derived from 2 very local weather stations.</p>								Annual Average Humidity %
								88.1

