

December 2021 weather summary

Near normal rainfall, very mild especially at night and dull.

Rainfall: 64.5mm (96% of normal).

Rainfall was near normal for the month, but the first half of the month (23.2mm) was the driest since 2016. There were two large falls, 10.0mm (24th) and 15.8mm (25th) the wettest day. The 15.8mm was the highest December daily total since 30.3mm on 23rd 2013.

There were 20 'rain days' (0.2mm or more), this was 3 days more than normal and the lowest since 2018. There were 13 'wet days' (1.0mm or more), this was 2 days more than normal and the lowest since 2016 (equal 2018). However, daily totals of 5mm or more were 4 and 1 day lower than normal and the lowest since 2016.

The highest rain rate was 85mm/hour on 7th.

The last 3 months - (October – November - December)

The 3-month period on average is normally the wettest of the year with 32.1% of the total. In 2021, the total was 176.1mm (79% of normal), making it the driest since 2017, but the 36th in 100 years. The period shows October 95.9mm (123%), November 15.7mm (20%) and December 64.5mm (96%).

The **12-month period** (January to December 2021) provides a total of 683.7mm (98% of average). This period includes the 12th driest April and 3rd driest November in the last 100 years.

In total there were 206 'dry days', 14 days more than normal, 159 'Rain days' (0.2mm or more), 14 days less than normal, 114 'wet days' (1.0mm or more), 3 days less than normal, and 44 days (5mm or more), 5 days less than normal.

Temperature:

The mean maxima were 9.6c (+1.2c above normal), making it the 5th mildest since 2000. The highest maximum temperature was 14.8 (29th), the highest December reading since 15.8c on 17th 2015. The last three days of the month were exceptionally mild (29th 14.8, 30th 14.7 and 31st 14.4) and were the **highest recorded** for those dates in at least the **last 100 years locally**.

The lowest maximum temperature was 4.8c (2nd) and this was the highest since 2015 (9.2c on 13th).

The mean minima were 5.2c (+2.7c above normal), the highest since 2015, but the 2nd highest since at least 1981 (equal with 1998).

The lowest minimum was -4.1c (22nd), the lowest since 2018. The highest minimum was a mild 12.2c (31st). This was the highest since 2015, but the **highest** for that date for at **least 100 years locally**.

The lowest grass minimum recorded was -6.0c (29th).

There were 3 air frosts, which is 7 days lower than normal, and it was the lowest number of air frosts since 2015 when there were zero. Since 2000, only 2015 and 2002 have recorded less air frosts (equal with 2018). There were 10 ground frosts, and the lowest -8.9 (22nd).

The last 3 months - (October – November - December)

The 3-month period indicates a mean maxima of 12.2c (+0.7c), making it the mildest since 2015 (equal 2018).

The mean minima were 6.0c (+1.1c), making it also the mildest since 2015.

The **12-month period** (January to December 2021) the mean maxima were 15.0c (+0.5c) but the lowest since 2013.

The mean minima were 7.0c (+0.3c above normal).

There were 57 air frosts (+13 more than normal) and 105 ground frosts.

Sunshine: 40.7 (68% of normal)

The dullest December since 2010 (22.7 hours), and the 3rd dullest since 2000. The number of sunless days was 15, 4 days below normal and the lowest since 2010 (20 days). However, there were 3 days with 5.0 hours or more 1 day below normal.

The sunniest day was 7.2 hours (2nd). What is noteworthy is the 2nd half of the month (16th to 31st), recorded only 7.2 hours in total the lowest since 2010 and 2nd lowest since at least 2000.

Thunder; there was 1 day with thunder heard (26th). Since 1991, thunder heard in December is quite rare, but recently more frequent and was recorded in 2006, 2009, 2019 (2 days) and 2021.

Hail; there was 0 days with hail.

Snow falling 1 day (3rd). **Snow lying** at 0900 GMT 0 days.

Fog; at the 0900am observation there was 1 day with fog observed on the 19th.

Wind gusts (at or above 50km/hr) There were 2 days with a wind gust at or above 50km/hr on 8th and 28th.

Wind direction (at 0900am observation GMT)

N	0.0%	E	0.0%	S	16.1%	W	0.0%	Calm	16.5%
NNE	3.2%	ESE	0.0%	SSW	19.4%	WNW	0.0%		
NE	9.7%	SE	6.5%	SW	12.9%	NW	6.5%		
ENE	3.2%	SSE	3.2%	WSW	3.2%	NNW	0.0%		



Photo: St Paul's Church Wokingham with a dull cloudy sky, typical of December 2021.