



## Weather Front

### September 2018

#### Observers Notes.

Sandbags were noted around the centre of Matlock on the 24<sup>th</sup>. It is understood that the town had been flooded overnight 20/21<sup>st</sup>. Press photographs posted on the Internet show some of the night time scenes. Damage to footpaths near the local Sainsbury's store suggest torrential rain.<sup>i</sup>

**Saltfleetby:** First ground frost of the autumn recorded on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Middleton:** The wettest September since 2008, largely due to a fall of 74.3 mm on the 20<sup>th</sup>. This is the largest daily fall for September on the station record; it is also the third largest in any month.

**Derby:** There was a wide range of temperatures during the month. There were two maxima of 25 C or more taking the 2018 total to 38 days, 39 being recorded in 1995. The minimum temperature of 3.3 C was the lowest since 2012. It is probable that more rural places will have had ground frosts on at least two nights in the month.

**Desford:** Cool and dry.

Mountsorrel: A much drier month than usual.

**Mickleover:** First ground frost in September since 2010 and only the second September with a ground frost since the start of the station record (1987). Lowest minimum temperature since 2007 (2.6 C).

**Coton in the Elms:** The absolute minimum temperature of -0.1 C is the lowest for September on the station record and the lowest locally since 1987.

**Lowdham:** The lowest September minimum temperature on the station record (1991) of 2.3 C was observed on the 25<sup>th</sup>. This date also saw the lowest grass minimum temperature for September, again on the station record, of -1.3 C. Ground Frosts on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> were the first recorded for September on the station record.

## 1918

### Observers Notes.

**Derby/Burton on Trent:** Rainfall was very high with totals between 135 and 155 mm over the local rain gauges. It is suggested that it may have been the wettest September in that area since 1866, and not surpassed until September 1957. Maximum temperatures were around 21 to 23 C on the 4<sup>th</sup>, with minima around 1 or 2 C on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.<sup>ii</sup>

District Values for the Midland Counties, taken from the Monthly Weather Report for September 1918, suggest the monthly mean temperature was 11.9 C (-0.9 C of average). Rainfall was 164 mm (115% of average), with 26 days of rain; sunshine was 35% of average. These data are based on the averages for the 35-year period 1881-1915.<sup>iii</sup>

### Monthly Weather Report, September 1918.

#### Observers Notes.

**Allan's Green, Northumberland:** If the weather had been warm and close with no wind the corn would have been spoilt beyond all hope. Fortunately, however, there has been a high wind with low temperature, so that it has always been possible to load a bit of corn now and then.

**Ipswich, Suffolk:** Much the wettest September during [the last] 18 years, and practically the coldest since 1912. [9 C] is the lowest maximum I have recorded in September. Sunshine, however, was not much below the normal.

**Weston Turville, Bucks:** A very unsettled month, gravely interfering with the completion of the harvest.

**Tenbury, Worcester:** The wettest September on record here, the nearest approach to it being in 1896. The temperature has been uniformly low right through the month, the conditions being bad for the latter part of the harvest, "growing out" having badly developed in many cases.

**Bromyard, Hereford:** Abnormally wet month. Late corn harvest damaged.

Leyland, Lancashire: The wettest month experienced here, the rainfall being 426% of the normal. The corn in these parts practically ruined.

**Llandrindod Wells, Radnor:** The wettest September on record in this locality coincided with the most extensive and bountiful grain crops and played deplorable havoc with the latter.

**Dublin (City):** A very unsettled and changeable month. Air pressure was low and unsteady, with strong, squally winds from points between South-West and North-West, and rain was

frequent, the latter being above the normal. The temperature was [1.7 C] below the normal.

**Carrigoran, Co Clare:** The month has been unusually wet, cold, and unseasonable. The lack of sunshine and dry days has caused very widespread loss to the agricultural community, and much damage was done to the hay and corn.

**Hurdlestown, Co. Clare:** The wettest September on record; the total rainfall (206 mm) was 130 mm above normal, and the rain-days 10 above. [The total rainfall in this instance is 271% of average.]<sup>iv</sup> This total has been exceeded in the past 33 years by only two previous months, namely August 1891 (214 mm) and August 1917 (229 mm). Hay and corn have been greatly damaged. Great floods also caused much loss and damage on mountain roads, and most of the low-lying lands are under water.

**Fethard, Waterford:** The rainfall beat all previous records. Between 21 hours on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 9 hours on the 4<sup>th</sup> 58 mm fell, and between 5 hours and 9 hours on the 15<sup>th</sup> 30 mm fell, resulting in extraordinary flooding and damage to roads. Much injury was done to the harvest and much grain sprouted in the “stooks”.<sup>v</sup>

The preceding notes make the MWR headline “**Abnormally Wet and Very Cold**” appear as an understatement!

Temperature throughout the country was below average, ranging from -2.7 C in northern Scotland to -0.6 C in eastern England and the English Channel coast. The highest individual maximum was 24 C at Manchester on the 7<sup>th</sup>, and the lowest was -5 C at Braemar on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Compared to previous Septembers the range of temperature was small and, although varying from day to day, overall the temperature throughout the month remained uniform. On the 29<sup>th</sup> however there were some very low maxima recorded at many stations and were no higher than 7 C. At Totland Bay, again on the 29<sup>th</sup>, a minimum of 4 C was recorded, being the lowest September value in 32 years.<sup>vi</sup>

Rainfall is probably best described from the observers notes.

**Meltham, Yorkshire:** The month’s rainfall (351 mm) was 131 mm greater than the wettest September here during [the last] 38 years, and 69 mm greater than the previous wettest month (November 1888), and was, moreover, more than four times the normal. There were 41 ½ continuous hours of rain from 6:30 on the 11<sup>th</sup> to 24:00 on the 15<sup>th</sup>, yielding 84 mm.

**Blundellsands, Lancashire:** September 30<sup>th</sup> was the thirty-second day of rain, the total for the month (186 mm) being the heaviest recorded in any month since 1875.

**Bolton:** The total rainfall for the month (323 mm) is quite the largest amount measured in any calendar month whatever since 1831. For even a somewhat similar month one has to go back to July 1831, for which month the total is 305 mm. In December 1833 the total was 266 mm.

**Southport:** The total rainfall (214 mm) and the number of rain-days (29) were each greater than in any previous calendar month whatever since the record commenced in 1871. The mean air pressure was the lowest for September in the same interval. Rainfall duration (136 hours) was more than twice the largest previous September value from 1902.

**Ashburton, Devon:** The wettest September during [the last] 53 years, the total for the month being 277 mm, the previous wettest September having been 224 mm in 1896.

At Copper Mill and Intake, in Snowdonia, the monthly rainfall totals were 759 mm and 726 mm respectively.<sup>vii</sup>

Thunderstorms, often accompanied by hailstones, were frequent, especially during the first half of the month, and at Salisbury, on the 4<sup>th</sup>, hailstones “as large as marbles fell and stripped foliage”.<sup>viii</sup>

Sunshine, as during August, was recorded during most days so that the monthly totals were higher than might have been expected, given the high frequency of rain-days. The differences from average ranged from +0.34 hours in eastern Scotland to -0.68 hours in south west England.<sup>ix</sup>

Generally, September 1918 appears to have been a bad month for agriculture, with reports from “The Food Production Department” indicating considerable interruption to the harvest. Reports of “sprouting” and “shedding” showed that crops in the northern counties and Wales were causing some anxiety.

Taken overall, September 1918 appears to have been an “interesting” month, but not one to be repeated!

#### **Central England Data, September 1918.**

Mean Maximum Temperature: 15.1 C, Mean: 17.1 C.

Mean Minimum Temperature: 8.7 C, Mean: 9.1 C.

Mean Temperature: 11.9 C, Mean: 13.1 C

England and Wales Rainfall: 189.5 mm, Mean: 67.4 mm.

Midlands Mean Maximum Temperature: 15.2 C.

Midlands Mean Minimum Temperature: 7.8 C.

Midlands Mean Temperature: 11.5 C.

Midlands Rainfall: 164.3 mm.

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<sup>i</sup> D J Stanier, by email, 25.9.2018.

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- ii D J Stanier, by email, 2.10.2018.
- iii Editors note, taken from The Monthly Weather Report, September 1918, HMSO, 1919.
- iv Editors noted calculated from data in the Monthly Weather Report for September 1918.
- v Monthly Weather report, September 1918, HMSO 1919, page 1, Summary.
- vi MWR, September 1918, p. 1, Temperature.
- vii MWR, September 1918, p. 1, Precipitation.
- viii MWR, September 1918, p. 1, Thunderstorms.
- ix MWR, September 1918, p. 1, Sunshine.