

## Durlston weather summary 2012

The year began with a storm judged to be the most severe for 13 years bringing very strong winds on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, followed by further strong winds which brought widespread travel disruption to the UK. Gusts of 64mph were recorded at Durlston.

From April to July 2012 the UK experienced a period of exceptionally high wet weather, breaking previous records and bringing the England and Wales drought of 2010 to early 2012 to an abrupt end. The period April to July was the wettest on record in the Met Office's England and Wales precipitation series since 1766, while for the UK overall all, the summer (June, July and August) was the wettest since 1912. The jet stream shifted to a much more southerly track than usual, bringing a succession of Atlantic low pressure systems and associated fronts across the southern half of the UK.

A sequence of low pressure systems at the end of November resulted in one of the wettest weeks in England in the last 50 years, leading to flooding and landslides.

At Durlston, the total rainfall for 2012 was 1091.9mm, about 15% above the 10 year mean rainfall and a contrast to 668.4mm recorded in 2011.

The maximum temperature recorded was 25.7C on 26<sup>th</sup> July, the minimum was -5.5C on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb. Sub-zero temperatures were recorded on 14 days (Jan, Feb, November, December)

**January** – below average rainfall, storm force winds on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, mild until frost on 31<sup>st</sup>

**February** – high pressure, E winds and hard frosts until mid month then mostly W winds, warm, very low rainfall

**March** – fair, warm, no frosts, very low rainfall

**April** – fair until 8<sup>th</sup> then heavy rain showers, above average rain (118.7mm, contrast to 5.1mm rain recorded in 2011 (10 year mean 72.4mm), cool

**May** – mostly fair, warm, heat wave from 23<sup>rd</sup>, average rainfall

**June** – cool, periods of heavy rain and gales, above average rainfall, wettest June in Durlston records since 1988

**July** – above average rainfall, periods of heavy rain in first half then hot, max temperature of year (25.7C) recorded on 26<sup>th</sup>. London Olympics started on 27<sup>th</sup>

**August** – mostly fair in the first half, gales on 25<sup>th</sup> and periods of heavy rain

**September** – mostly fair, high pressure, gales and periods of heavy rain at the end of the month

**October** – warm, periods of heavy rain and gales, above average rainfall

**November** – variable, periods of heavy rain and gales, hard frosts at the end of the month

**December** – variable, fair periods, heavy rain, 125.6mm in total