Radcliffe Meteorological Station
School of Geography - University of Oxford
Monthly Summary of Weather at Oxford for *March 2018*

		Difference from long period mean
Mean air temperature (°C)	5.4	-0.4
Absolute maximum air temperature (°C)	14.0 (10th)	-2.4
Lowest maximum air temperature (°C)	-1.9 (1st)	---
Mean maximum air temperature (°C)	9.1	-1.1
Absolute minimum air temperature (°C)	-6.1 (1st)	**-2.8**
Mean minimum air temperature (°C)	2.4	-0.1
Absolute minimum grass temperature (°C)	-7.8 (1st)	-0.5
Mean minimum grass temperature (°C)	0.3	+0.4
Absolute minimum concrete temperature (°C)	-6.1 (1st)	**-1.8**
Mean minimum concrete temperature (°C)	1.6	-0.5
Mean soil temperature at 30 cm (°C)	5.6	-0.4
Mean soil temperature at 100 cm (°C)	Error	---
Highest daily rainfall (mm)	12.8 (30th)	---
Total rainfall (mm)	83.4†	**+41.9**
Total bright sunshine (hours)	79.1	**-34.8**
Mean daily bright sunshine (hours)	2.6	---
Mean wind speed (knots)	6.5	---
No. of rain days (0.2 mm or more rainfall)	23.0†	**+8.9**
No. of wet days (1.0 mm or more rainfall)	15.0†	---
No. of days with minimum temperature less than 0°C	6.0	-1.2
No. of days with ground temperature less than 0°C	17.0	+0.9
No. of days with fog at 0900 GMT	0.0	-1.8
No. of days with snow lying at 0900 GMT	7.0	**+6.1****

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bold denotes anomalies in excess of **one** standard deviation above/below the long-term mean for March.
****** denotes anomalies in excess of **three** standard deviations above/below the long-term mean for March.
† One day missing value

Notes

March was an unusually cold month for our RMS long term record. All but one temperature metric listed above is below the long term average for this month, though only two were a standard deviation away from the mean. With the "Beast from the East", the month started off with a chilly overnight low of -6.1, the coldest since 1965, and four days with snow lying at 0900 GMT. After the absolute minimum on the night of the 1st, the temperature increased almost monotonically for the next three days, with the 9am temperature on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd being within 0.5 degrees of the previous day's maximum and the next day's minimum. This was followed by another cold spell from the 17th to the 19th, bringing the number of snow days up to 7, compared to the long term average of 0.9. The last March with this many snowy days was 1970.

March was also wetter than normal, with 83.4 mm recorded (even after a botched snow melt on the 1st left us with missing data for that day) and a total of 23 days with precipitation above 0.2 mm (including snowfall).

Emma Howard (04/04/18)
Radcliffe Meteorological Observer