

## And that was the warmest spring ever (yes, really)

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IT may not have felt like it – but Britain has just had its warmest spring on record.

If you weren't outdoors enough to realise though, that may be because it was also the sixth wettest since Victorian times.

An average temperature of 9.37C (48.87F) means this spring beat the previous record of 9.12C (48.42F) in 2017. But the country also saw 11.9 inches (301.7mm) of rainfall – making it the wettest spring since 1986.

Last month alone saw an average temperature of 13.1C (55.6F) – boosted by warmer weather in Scotland – making it the warmest May on record.

Copernicus, the EU's climate monitoring service, said the past month was also the warmest May globally, with the average surface

### 'High overnight temperatures'

air temperature 0.65C above the 1991-2020 average. But UK rainfall was also above average during the month, with some areas in the South seeing a third more rain than normal.

If you were hoping for better barbecue weather this summer, then unfortunately there are also dark clouds ahead.

The Met Office has predicted 'large bands of rain' over the next fortnight followed by 'average' temperatures during the last two weeks of June.

A Met Office spokesman said that high overnight temperatures helped push the mercury up over the season, adding: 'Despite the warmth, sunshine hours during the season were well below average, though not troubling any national records.'

But, in the text, it admits that it was "**the wettest spring since 1986**"

Peter's statistics and observations do not go back that far unfortunately.

In our May Reflections I commented: .  
*"May, as with February-April was consistently wet as the farmers claim, and I find it generally cool. When will the cool and wet Spring end – when, if ever, will summer begin?"*

*"May 2024 was the 6<sup>th</sup> wettest since 2000, - you will perhaps be surprised that May 2007 was the wettest May, followed by June and a cataclysmic July!*

*Interestingly, most of the rain fell on only 2 days – 20 units on 3 May and 30 units on 22 May - a day of a special visit to a garden centre! The 26-29<sup>th</sup> were also wet."*

*The afternoons were a little warmer than average, but should we be cheered **that mornings were quite significantly warmer** - so we ought to be gardening at 07.00!*

**So we in the Oldbury can agree with the BBC and the Mail?**

**But he Mail/Met Office's prediction does not offer much cheer. We shall see!**