

## Wettest June since 1914 - Official

A recent article in the Sunday Times described the Month of June in Great Britain thus: *"Savage downpours. Lightning strikes. Wretched scenes of flooding. The lowest Wimbledon attendances in a decade. Hailstones (not quite) the size of tennis balls, but big enough for children to throw at each other. Monotonous rain soaking the meadows, pounding the pavements, depressing the mood of the populace."*



A tourist enjoying the Scottish summer.

June was officially the wettest since 1914, but it is difficult to say exactly why. It was suggested last week that cooler sea temperatures in the Pacific Ocean prompted by the La Niña weather system (sister to El Niño), were the likely cause of the rainstorms. But many experts say La Niña's knock-on effect in the northern hemisphere is tenuous. The fact is, it is very difficult to say.

In April the Met Office said there was a high probability that summer would be warmer than normal. This was in the context of a statement about global mean temperatures; 2007 as a whole, it said, "is likely to be the warmest ever year on record going back to 1850, beating the current record set in 1998". All this was mistaken by the media to mean "a hot summer in Britain".

And yet, while we worry about global warming and pick the moss out of our socks, there is also something in the British character that welcomes the downpour as an old, if annoying, friend.

No other nation gets dressed up for the rain as we do. This is the country that invented the Wellington, the Barbour, galoshes with fake rubber laces, and those special elderly-lady hoods that fold into a concertina and emerge from handbags at bus stops with the first spot of drizzle. Asda sold 220 per cent more slippers last month compared with June 2006.

Two rain-pelt Scotsmen, John Loudon McAdam and Charles Macintosh, gave us waterproof roads and waterproof raincoats. The British umbrella is our national foliage. We spend £65 million on umbrellas every year, and one in ten people manages to lose or destroy at least four a year. Rainfall helped us to win at Crécy (1346, by dampening their crossbow strings), Agincourt (1415, by turning the battlefield to mud and bogging down the overarmoured French knights) and Waterloo (1815, by forcing Napoleon to delay his attack, thus giving the Prussians time to turn up). Without rain, we would definitely be speaking French.

Source: [www.timesonline.co.uk](http://www.timesonline.co.uk)

### Timeline: Canada A chronology of key events:

**1993 -** Mulroney resigns as leader of the Progressive Conservatives in February but remains prime minister until June. He is succeeded by Kim Campbell, Canada's first female prime minister. Campbell calls an election in October, but her party suffers a humiliating defeat, winning only 2 seats when previously it had held 169. Campbell resigns. Jean Chretien of the Liberals becomes prime minister.

**1998:** Court says Quebec can't go it alone  
**1995 -** A referendum in Quebec rejects independence by a margin of only 1%.

**1997 -** Chretien re-elected prime minister with a reduced majority.

## ***Brown is UK's new prime minister***



Gordon Brown has become the UK's prime minister, succeeding Tony Blair. Mr Blair has stood down as MP for Sedgefield after 24 years to become a Middle East peace envoy.

Gordon Brown said his priorities were education, health and restoring trust in politics and promised to "try my utmost".

Before entering 10 Downing Street, Mr Brown said: "This will be a new government with new priorities. And I have been privileged to have been granted the great opportunity to serve my country.

"And at all times I will be strong in purpose, steadfast in will, resolute in action in the service of what matters to the British people, meeting the concerns and aspirations of our whole country."

And the new Cabinet?

**Home Secretary:** Jacqui Smith  
**Foreign Secretary:** David Miliband  
**Chancellor:** Alistair Darling  
**Health Secretary:** Alan Johnson  
**International Development:** Douglas Alexander  
**Justice Secretary:** Jack Straw  
**Culture:** James Purnell  
**Defence Secretary:** Des Browne  
**Environment Secretary:** Hilary Benn  
**Schools and children:** Ed Balls  
**Business and Enterprise:** John Hutton  
**Commons Leader:** Harriet Harman  
**Work and Pensions:** Peter Hain  
**Transport Secretary:** Ruth Kelly  
**Communities:** Hazel Blears  
**Chief Whip:** Geoff Hoon

**Cabinet Office Minister:** Ed Miliband  
**Northern Ireland Secretary:** Shaun Woodward  
**Lords Leader:** Baroness Ashton  
**Chief Treasury Secretary:** Andy Burnham  
**Innovation and Universities:** John Denham  
**Olympics and London:** Tessa Jowell  
**Children and Youth Justice:** Beverley Hughes  
**Lords Chief Whip:** Lord Grocott  
**Attorney General:** Baroness Scotland  
**Housing:** Yvette Cooper  
**Africa, Asia and UN:** Lord Malloch Brown  
**Parliamentary Private Secretaries:** Ian Austin, Angela E Smith

"If we can fulfil the potential and realise the talents of all our people then I'm absolutely sure that Britain can be the great global success story of this century," he told reporters in Downing Street.

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk>

## ***Terror in Glasgow***

An eighth person was arrested on July 2nd and two doctors are among those held in Britain in connection with a suspected al-Qaeda plot to detonate car bombs in London and Scotland.

One of the doctors, named by police sources as Bilal Abdulla, trained and qualified in Iraq in 2004, and the other, Mohammed Asha, qualified in Jordan in the same year. Dr. Asha's wife is one of the other suspects being held, police said.

Those arrested are believed to be linked to a plot to detonate two car bombs loaded with fuel, gas canisters and nails in London, and an attack on Glasgow airport in Scotland on Saturday using a fuel-laden Jeep Cherokee.

Police said the eighth person, a male, was apprehended "at an undisclosed location." Channel Seven News in Sydney, Australia, reported earlier today that police in Brisbane arrested the suspect. "We are told he was detained [by] federal police trying to board a flight to Singapore," the station said.

Mr. Ruddock said the man held in Brisbane was also a doctor. He had been working as a registrar at the Gold Coast Hospital, south of the city. The detention followed advice from police in Britain, and police had also carried out several searches, including one at the hospital, Mr. Ruddock said.

In what authorities have described as a "dynamic investigation," police yesterday cordoned off a hospital in Paisley, a town just outside Glasgow, and carried out several controlled detonations. The hospital, the Royal Alexandra, is where Dr. Abdulla worked, staff said, and where he is also believed to have been treated for severe burns after taking part in the attack on Glasgow airport, when his vehicle was turned into a fireball.

Salil Vengalil, a doctor at North Staffordshire Hospital, near the Midlands town of Newcastle-under-Lyme, said Dr. Asha worked in that hospital's neurology department. Fearing further attacks, police banned cars and other vehicles from directly approaching airports, and security measures were stepped up across the country as authorities kept the threat level at "critical," the highest rating.

Source: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com>

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## ***Britain failing to check migrants on terror database***

The Interpol general secretary, Ronald Noble, said Gordon Brown had not yet met a promise to share a list of terrorism suspects with other countries. The head of Interpol made an unprecedented attack on the British government yesterday, saying it was putting its citizens at risk by failing to check immigrants against a database of suspected terrorists.

Ronald Noble, secretary general of the international police cooperation agency, said Britain needed to "catch up" and enact tougher checks. The comments came as the UK security minister warned of a battle of up to 15 years against al-Qaida-inspired terrorism, and as the investigation into attempted car bombings in London and Glasgow continued across three continents. Mr Noble, who was a leading law enforcement official in the US treasury department under Bill Clinton, told the Sunday Telegraph of his concerns. "We have the passport numbers, fingerprints and photos of more than 11,000 suspected terrorists on our database. But the UK does not check it against immigrants coming into the country or

foreign nationals it has arrested," he said. "The guys detained last week could be wanted, arrested or convicted anywhere in the world and the UK would not know."

Six out of the seven suspects held in Britain over the recent attempted car bombings and the attack on Glasgow airport are not British. It is not known whether they are on Interpol's database. Interpol said last night that the UK makes just 50 checks a month of the database; France by comparison makes 700,000 checks and Switzerland makes 300,000.

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk>

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## Finance

### So just what do you housewives (Husbands) do all day?

Is you average day something like this?

*Cooked breakfast, woke the kids, set out their school clothes, fed them breakfast, packed their lunches, took them to the school bus, came home, put the laundry in the machine, paid the electricity and telephone bills, went grocery shopping, came home and put away the groceries, cleaned the cat's litter box and bathed the dog. By now it's 1:00 pm, hurried to make the beds, do the laundry, vacuum, dust, and sweep and mop the kitchen floor. Rushed to the school bus to pick up the kids and got into an argument with them on the way home, sorted it out in a gentle 'motherly' fashion, set out cookies and milk and got the kids organised to do their homework, then set up the ironing board and was able to watch a bit of TV while ironing. It was 4:30 pm, so peeled the potatoes and washed greens for salads, prepared the chops and fresh vegetables and got everything ready in time for an early dinner. After supper, cleaned the kitchen, ran the dishwasher, folded laundry, bathed the kids, and put them to bed. Now 9:00 pm and exhausted and although chores aren't finished for the day, went to bed.*

Yes?

### So when do you find the time to sort out your finances?

If you organised your finances in a more efficient way, making sure you pay as little tax as possible and that your money works as hard as possible for you, you will have more cash. If you have more available cash you could employ a cleaner, send the laundry out to be washed and ironed and spend a bit more time on yourself.

**We have the time** to plan your finances for you because it is our job. At the same time we want to educate you and guide you effortlessly through the planning process. The Gazette has been working hard to make sure the British population of Montreal is informed about the differences between the British and the Canadian financial systems.

So much so that we can now offer financial planning services in association with MDMM ([www.mdmm.ca](http://www.mdmm.ca)).



MDMM is Marc Dacosta, a financial planner working in Montreal for over 20 years, and Mick McCafferty, a British immigrant and editor of The BritClub Gazette and founder of [www.britclub.ca](http://www.britclub.ca).

*"We want you to be our clients for as long as possible and, to this end, we promise that we will work as hard as possible to make you richer"*

## ***And Finally!***

### **The master of British comedy, John Cleese, attempts to sort out the USA (Continued):**

11. Therefore, you will no longer be allowed to own or carry anything more dangerous than a vegetable peeler. A permit will be required if you wish to carry a vegetable peeler in public.

12. All American cars are hereby banned. They are rubbish and this is for your own good. When we show you German cars, you will understand what we mean.

12. All intersections will be replaced with roundabouts, and you will start driving on the left with immediate effect. At the same time, you will go metric immediately and without the benefit of conversion tables. Both roundabouts and metrication will help you understand the British sense of humour.

13. The Former USA will adopt UK prices on petrol (which you have been calling "gasoline") - roughly \$6/US gallon. Get used to it.

14. You will learn to make real chips. Those things you call French fries are not real chips, and those things you insist on calling potato chips are properly called "crisps." Real chips are thick cut, fried in animal fat, and dressed not with mayonnaise but with vinegar.

15. Waiters and waitresses will be trained to be more aggressive with customers.

16. The cold tasteless stuff you insist on calling beer is not actually beer at all. Henceforth, only proper British Bitter will be referred to as "beer," and European brews of known and accepted provenance will be referred to as "Lager." American brands will be referred to as "Near-Frozen Gnat's Urine," so that all can be sold without risk of further confusion.

17. Hollywood will be required occasionally to cast English actors as good guys. Hollywood will also be required to cast English actors to play English characters. Watching Andie MacDowell attempt English dialogue in "Four Weddings and a Funeral" was an experience akin to having one's ears removed with a cheese grater.

18. You will cease playing American "football." There is only one kind of proper football; you call it "soccer". Those of you brave enough will, in time, be allowed to play rugby (which has some similarities to American "football", but does not involve stopping for a rest every twenty seconds or wearing full kevlar body armour like a bunch of nancies).

19. Further, you will stop playing baseball. It is not reasonable to host an event called the "World Series" for a game which is not played outside of America. Since only 2.1% of you are aware that there is a world beyond your borders, your error is understandable.

20. You must tell us who killed JFK. It's been driving us mad.

21. An internal revenue agent (i.e. tax collector) from Her Majesty's Government will be with you shortly to ensure the acquisition of all monies due backdated to 1776.

Thank you for your co-operation.

John Cleese

## Other News & Events

### Record-breaking June rainfall figures

Provisional statistics from the Met Office have today shown that June has been the wettest since records began in 1914. The UK-wide average figure of 134.5 mm has beaten the previous highest June total of 121.2 mm in 1980. Records for England and Northern Ireland have also been broken.

The month saw some extremely high daily rainfall totals, with 103.1 mm falling in the 24-hour period ending at 10 p.m. on 25 June in Fylingdales, North Yorkshire. At this stage, it is not possible to say whether intense rainfall events are caused by climate change.

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk>

### 3-Yr-Old British Toddler Freed

NIGER Delta militants last night released a British toddler, Miss Margaret Hill, after four days in captivity.

Daily Champion learnt that the toddler was handed safely to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hill at the State Security service (SSS) headquarters, Port Harcourt t 10:30 p.m. last night.

Sequel to the British girl's release, the upper legislative chamber, Senate, yesterday warned against payment of ransom to kidnapers of Miss Hill, while calling for her immediate release.

Details of the release of the British toddler were sketchy last night as both government officials and security operatives refused to divulge information on how the girl was freed.

It is also not clear if ransom was paid on the British girl.

<http://allafrica.com>

### Wimbledon

Tears of relief as the greatest player of the moment, possibly of all time, knew that he had

never been as close before to losing his stranglehold on the championship that he holds most dear.

Federer equalled Bjorn Borg's record of five consecutive Wimbledon victories by beating Rafael Nadal 7-6, 4-6, 7-6, 2-6, 6-2 in 3 hours and 34 minutes. But for a 40-minute spell in the middle of that epic, Federer almost unravelled before our eyes. The cool master of Wimbledon was seething and, as his anger rose, so his grip on the trophy slackened. In Federer's mind, he also had to beat the Hawk-Eye electronic line-calling system and the huge weight of expectation that had amassed as Federer closed in on Borg's record.

<http://www.wimbledon.org>

### British Court Finds 4 Muslim Extremists Guilty in 2005 London Bomb Plot

A British court has handed guilty verdicts for four men in plotting to bomb London's transport system in July 2005. Jury deliberations continue for two others implicated in the plot. VOA's Sonja Pace reports from London the verdicts come amid stinging criticism of Britain's anti-terror efforts. Monday's guilty verdicts stem from charges against six men accused of attempting to set off homemade bombs on several subway trains and a bus in London on July 21, 2005. The devices failed to explode and no one was injured in the attempted attacks. All six are Muslims of African origin. The failed bombings came just two weeks after coordinated suicide attacks on London's transport system on July 7, 2005, which killed 52 commuters.

<http://www.voanews.com>

### Weaker Euro means cheaper wines coming to Quebec

The cost of some wines is set to drop in Quebec as the province's liquor board adjusts its standard exchange rate used to buy wholesale European exports. The Euro's value has dropped by 9.7 per cent against the Canadian dollar in recent months, which means Quebec's liquor board — known as the SAQ — is paying less to import wholesale European wines.

<http://www.cbc.ca>

### Iran blasts Britain for giving Rushdie a knighthood

Iran condemned Britain on Sunday over its awarding of a knighthood to author Salman Rushdie, the India-born British citizen who spent more than a decade in hiding after being accused of blaspheming against Islam in a novel.

Rushdie went into hiding after Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini issued a fatwa, or religious edict, in 1989 that ordered Muslims to kill the author for allegedly insulting Islam in his novel *The Satanic Verses*. He didn't come out of hiding until after 1998, when the Iranian government declared that it would no longer support Khomeini's fatwa.

However, Ali Hosseini, a spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, said in Tehran on Sunday that Britain's decision to grant its highest honour to Rushdie was an act of Islamophobia.

"Giving a medal to someone who is among the most detested figures in the Islamic community is ... a blatant example of the anti-Islamism of senior British officials," Hosseini said during a press conference in Tehran.

<http://www.cbc.ca>

## Health - GlucoAid

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Glucoaid is endorsed by the Treehouse Child Care Centre, Hudson. You can buy the GlucoAid online at [www.britclub.ca](http://www.britclub.ca)

## Language Training for immigrants

The Government of Canada, in cooperation with provincial governments, school boards, community colleges, and immigrant and community organizations, offers free language training across the country for adult permanent residents. In most provinces, the name of the program is LINC, which stands for Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada. These centres can assess your language training needs and refer you to the right LINC classes for your needs.

Most universities and community colleges also offer language classes, as do some private language schools and community organizations. You can contact these groups directly for more information. Remember to ask about fees, since these courses may not be free.

### Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) Program

LINC offers both full- and part-time classes to suit your needs, and some centres offer free childcare while you attend classes. Most LINC centres can also refer you to other language training classes in your area. Remember, language classes are available for every adult in your family, not just the person who may be looking for work.

In Quebec contact the Ministère des relations avec les citoyens et de l'immigration. <http://www.micc.gouv.qc.ca/fr/index.asp>

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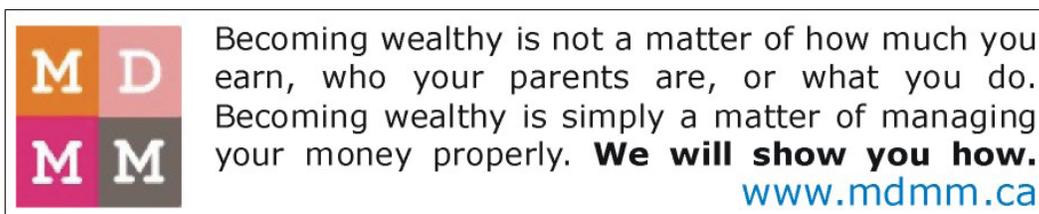
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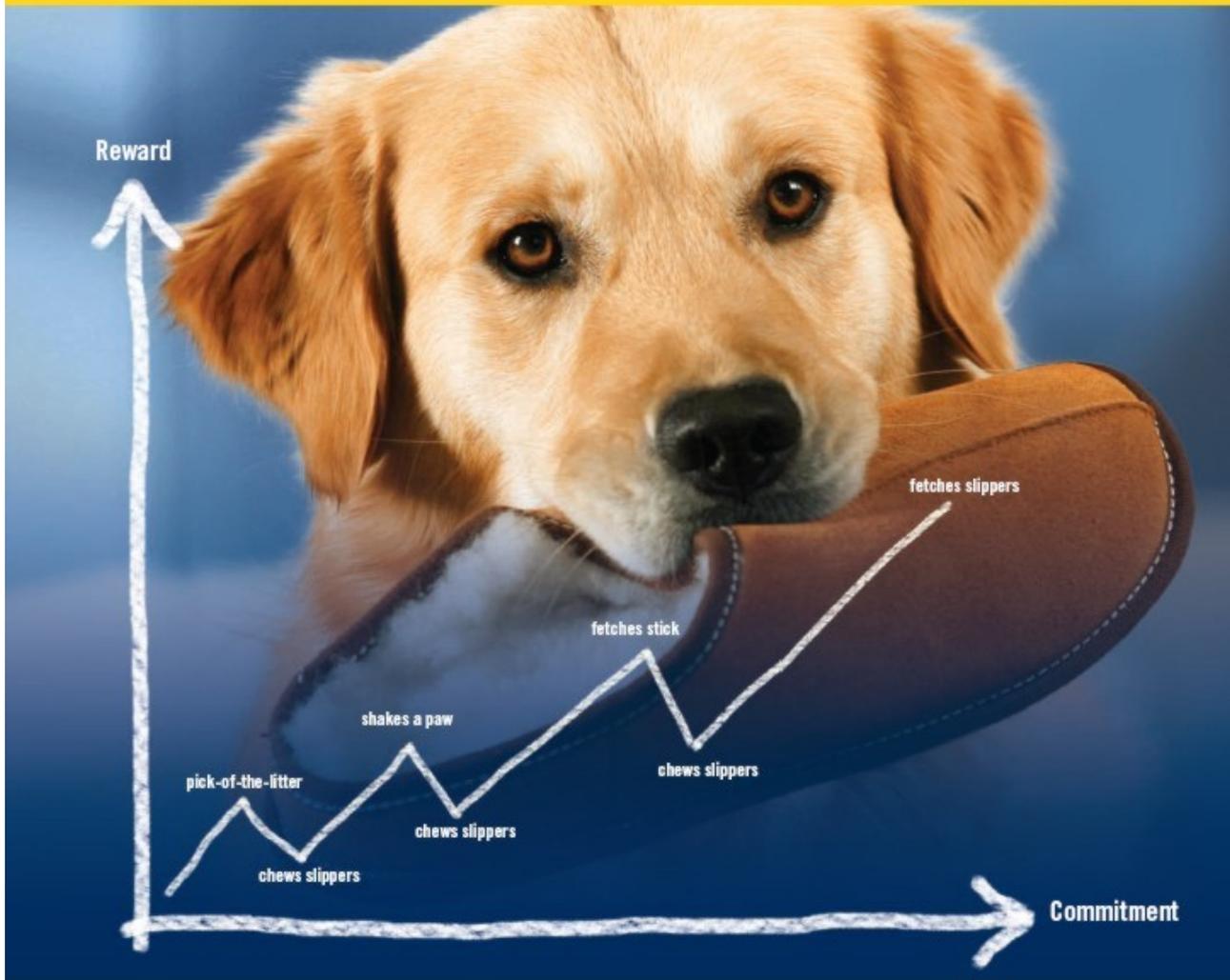
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