

# Every summer to be a scorcher... but not until the year 2100

By Sarah Knapton, SCIENCE EDITOR

SHELTERING stoically from the wind and rain beneath a battered umbrella on a blustery seafront will be a familiar summer memory for most Britons.

But not for future generations, because forecasters are predicting that scorching summers will be the norm by the end of the century.

New long-term forecasts from the Met Office suggest a general trend towards hotter and drier summers, and milder winters.

Dr David Sexton, the head of scenarios development at the Met Office, said: "Our new research provides a more detailed picture of the range of seasonal temperatures and rainfall we could see in a given year. The future UK climate can now be described in terms of the extreme hot, cold, wet or dry seasons which could associate with floods, droughts, heatwaves and cold spells that impact society."

Last week's hot spell brought the warmest ever July day, and forecasters are predicting that temperatures could rise past 100F (37C) to reach the highest level ever recorded in the UK by the end of the month.

The new study, published in the journal *Nature Climate Change*, sug-

gests such sweltering conditions could become the norm.

The odds of having a colder than average winter in the UK drop from around 20 per cent in 2020 to 4 per cent by 2100, it predicts.

Very cold winters, such as the one that occurred in 2009-10, become almost non-existent. The chance of experiencing one of these is less than 1 per cent by the end of the century.

Over the next two decades there is still a 35-40 per cent likelihood of summers being wetter than average, but the odds fall to about 20 per cent by 2100. The chances of a very wet summer - defined as 20 per cent more rain than the 1961-1990 average - are expected to fall from 18 per cent in 2020 to 10 per cent eight decades later.

But, by the end of the century, the likelihood of experiencing a blazing hot summer of the kind now seen every 20 years rises to 90 per cent, making scorches the norm.

Dr Glen Harris, a Met Office senior scientist who was co-author of the research, said: "While there is a trend towards warmer winters and drier summers, there will still be a lot of variations in weather from year to year.

"Cold winters and wet summers just become less likely, and we will still have to be prepared for them."

The highest temperature in the recent heatwave was recorded on Wednesday at 98.1F (36.7C) at Heathrow, breaking the record for a July day, while many other places broke the 86F (30C) mark.

The sun is due to return to the UK later this week, but until then the weather is likely to be a tale of two halves. Forecasters predict that the warm, dry weather will continue in the South and South East, broken up by some patchy showers.

Heavy rain and storms are likely in much of the North and West of England, Wales and Scotland until tomorrow, when the outlook brightens again, according to MeteoGroup forecaster John Griffiths.

Weather: Page 28



This picture of Joaquin Sorolla by Louis Comfort Tiffany will feature in a Royal Academy exhibition on the Impressionists and gardens. It will also show works by Renoir and Matisse

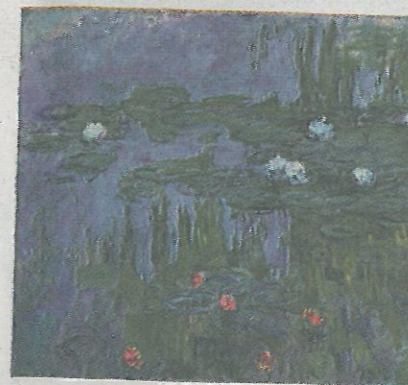
## Monet's work was nearly nipped in the bud

By Anita Singh  
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

SOME of the art world's most recognizable works may not have existed if Claude Monet's neighbours at Giverny had got their way.

A forthcoming Royal Academy exhibition will show how the artist's attempts to gain planning permission for his lily pond were repeatedly blocked by councillors and farmers in the French village, who feared that his exotic plants would poison the water supply and kill their cows.

If they had won, it would have meant that his water lily series would never



One of Monet's water lily paintings: his neighbours fought plans to build the pond

have been painted. "Monet kept himself to himself so they saw him as an outsider. When they got wind that he wanted to make a water garden, they complained," said Ann Dumas, curator of *Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse*. Monet eventually did secure permission and was allowed to divert the River Epte to create his pond.

Council documents from the time will be included in the exhibition, which covers the 1860s to the 1920s and includes 120 Impressionist, Post-Impressionist and Avant-Garde works from artists including Gustav Klimt, Henri Matisse and Wassily Kandinsky. They chart the transformation of gar-

dening from the preserve of the aristocracy to a middle-class pursuit.

A quarter of the works are by Monet, who is described by the Royal Academy as "arguably the most important painter of gardens in the history of art". Also on display will be the artist's horticultural books, journals and even the minutes of a 1922 meeting for iris enthusiasts.

The curators have also sourced Monet's receipts for the pink hybrid water lilies he ordered. "Monet thought of himself as a better gardener than he was a painter," said Ms Dumas.

*Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse* runs from January 30 to April 20 next year.

### Good pay sunshine Weather secret to Fab Four's success

The Beatles could put their success down to singing about the weather, a study suggests.

The Fab Four were among the most prolific writers of songs mentioning the British obsession, with 48 - or 16 per cent - of their tracks referencing the

weather, according to researchers from Oxford and Southampton universities.

"We were all surprised how often weather is communicated in popular music as a simple analogy or a major theme of a song," said Dr Sally Brown.