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Britain records warmest September day since 1911

BRITAIN recorded its warmest September day in more than 100 years yesterday with temperatures rising to over 34 degrees Celsius in the southern county of Kent.

The Met Office said on its Twitter page the town of Gravesend recorded a temperature of 34.4 degrees Celsius (93.92°Fahrenheit), making it the hottest day of the year. "This makes it the warmest September day since 1911," it said. London's Heathrow airport and Kew Gardens recorded temperatures of 32.8 Celsius, The Met said earlier. Londoners took to the city's numerous parks to

make the most of the sunshine while in the southern city of Brighton, swimmers headed to the beach. At London Zoo, keepers sought to cool animals down from the heat, such as giving ice cubes packed with tasty morsels to the meerkats. "They come from the Kalahari desert in southern Africa so it can get very warm during the day but they weren't born in the Kalahari desert so they are quite acclimatised to the UK weather," zookeeper Grant Kother said.

"So although they are quite hardy when it comes to warm weather, it is always nice to give them an option to cool down."

WATER WOES



● Calvia council pulls the plug on public showers on beaches and also park fountains.

Palma.—The lack of rain is starting to bite and local councils are being forced to pull the plug on public showers on beaches and in Manacor the council have introduced restrictions.

Councils across the island have introduced big water

saving schemes. The lack of water has hit more than 20 municipalities on the island and there is growing concern.

On Monday the Palma city council announced that they were turning the tap off on public showers on the

● Some parts of Manacor will be without water for 12 hours a day in water saving scheme.

beaches in the Playa de Palma. The Calvia council quickly followed their lead and others are expected to take similar action. Local reservoirs have reached danger levels and the local government could be forced to take radical action.



Activists, participants clash at Spanish bull-lancing festival

Madrid—Animal rights activists clashed with locals holding an annual bull-lancing festival in central Spain yesterday at which participants were for the first time in centuries banned from killing a bull after chasing it on horseback.

The "Toro de la Vega" (Bull of the Plain) festival, in the small town of Tordesillas, dates back to 1534 and traditionally involves hunters on horses and on foot hounding a bull from the streets into a pine forest until it is brought down with spears and lances.

Regional authorities said in May that the festival could no longer culminate with the hunters slaying the bull.

Animal rights groups claimed the ruling as a victory in a country still known for its tradition of blood sports and descended on the town in central Spain for its first edition since the change.

Small scuffles broke out at the heavily-policed event between supporters and opponents of the festival in the run-up to the hunt - renamed Toro de la Peña, or Bull of the Rock - where the bull was chased with sticks before being led away.