**Weather and Climate Group** (Len Wood)

I wonder if you were annoyed with South West Water for imposing a hose pipe ban on us in 2023. Quite rightly annoyed because droughts are nothing new in our region. The previous year 2022 was a dry year with below average rainfall from January to August which led to drought conditions and some reservoirs being as low as 20% full. A lack of planning and investment perhaps from South West Water. Thereafter the rain returned and 2023 was a very wet year with 1226 mm compared with a 30-yr annual average of 1051 mm.

Below shows monthly rainfall above and below average for the last two years. The recovery from the drought is clear to see.

Rainfall measurements were made in a 5-inch copper gauge in a garden near the top of Church Rd in Wembury.

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