What they said about

The heatwave

Prof Hannah Cloke, natural hazards researcher at the University of Reading
“As heatwaves become more common we will have to get used to forecasting and responding to heat hazards more often. An increase in heatwaves is one of the clearest impacts of climate change. Killer heat events of this kind will become even more widespread by the middle of the century in Europe, but this outlook could get worse unless action is taken to curb future greenhouse gas emissions.”

Dr Khaled Sadek, GP at The Smart Clinics
“Increases in heat load and a rising body core temperature can lead to a range of health effects, the worst of which is life-threatening heatstroke. “While all sectors of the population are at risk of illness and death when exposed to increased heat, and especially extreme heat, particular sub-groups are more vulnerable than others. The elderly appear more likely than other age groups to experience illness and death as a result of extreme heat events.”

Morten Thaysen, Greenpeace UK
“The tragic deaths being caused across Europe by the latest heatwave are a bitter reminder of what we have coming in the next couple of decades, but also of the far bigger disasters already occurring in hotter, poorer countries in the global south. Climate change is already killing people, and the death toll will rise dramatically.”

Fiona Harvey, Guardian
“It is not possible to pin the current heatwave definitively on climate change, because the weather varies so much naturally. Moreover, the likely effects of climate change are not simple. For example, heavy rain and cloudy weather across swathes of northern Europe, including the UK, are likely to become more common as a result of the build-up of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere causing the jet stream weather system to become fixed in position. However, this year’s weather is certainly in line with the predictions scientists have made of rising temperatures, more heatwaves and prolonged droughts interspersed with periods of heavy flooding in some areas.”