

Aug 79

Heavy rainfall was recorded in August

Though August is traditionally the holiday month for the majority of the British it also holds, with November, the dubious distinction of being the wettest month of the year.

This August has proved no exception, 95mm (3.74 in) of rain having fallen in a period of 49.5 hours during the month.

By far the wettest day in Halesowen was August 13 when 36mm (1.41 in) fell in a 13 hour spell of continuous rain, making this the fourth heaviest August fall since 1946.

In fact out of the first three weeks of the month we only had five dry days and comparing this month with a normal year we have had 122 per cent of the expected rainfall.

MONOTONY

The first two thirds of the month was dominated by low pressure areas which crossed the country from West to East with depressing monotony. Many days were cloudy and cool with winds blowing mainly from the north west.

Tuesday August 14 produced a south westerly gale which, after causing havoc to the Fastnet Race, crossed the Midlands in the late morning and early afternoon, uprooting trees and causing widespread structural damage. Gusts were regularly recorded in excess of 45 knots.

Despite the very unsettled weather we did have some warm sunshine during the first half of the month, especially Sunday August 12 which proved the warmest day with a maximum of 25C (77F). This day was incidentally the only dry one in an otherwise unbroken spell of 11 wet days and, in view of the very clear air, produced a radiation temperature of 52.4C (126F).

From August 23 pressure began to rise and an anticyclone developed over the British Isles. This brought clearer skies and gave a spell of fine, summer weather, though nights and mornings were noticeably cool and misty. In view of the clear night skies temperatures fell appreciably and we had our

coldest night on August 28 with an air minimum of 3.7C (39F) and grass minimum of 1.1C (34F), some low lying sheltered areas suffering a slight ground frost.

Thunder was heard only once, on August 7, when we might have expected two or three such storms. No hail was recorded and fog was totally absent, though morning mists were quite frequent.

FROSTS

Soil temperatures, as expected, have never recovered from the exceptionally low values of last winter and remain below average at all depths apart from 8in and 1ft. Since both air and soil temperatures reach their peak in July, we can expect a fairly brisk fall off in both as the days shorten. It will not be long before ground frosts are recorded, with the first air frosts being possible by the end of the month. On the credit side, September and October can produce some very warm and pleasant days.

Wettest August day for years

The Black Country experienced one of its wettest August days for many years this week.

The rainfall from 9 am on Monday to 9 am on Tuesday was 1.41 inches which was the fourth heaviest August rainfall since 1945.

Weather experts at the Climatological station in Halesowen said the region experienced about 13 hours of rain during the day.

A spokesman there said it was the heaviest August fall since 1970 when 3.15 inches of rain fell.

HAYLEY GREEN
52°26'N 02°04'W 155m AMSL

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