

Dec 80

Annual 1980

Doom and gloom 1980 also turned out to be bad year for weather

The most noteworthy feature of the weather of 1980 was its wetness. Rainfall totals were higher than in any year since 1960.

Records kept at the Halesowen Climatological Centre show that the first three months all produced rainfall amounts in excess of normal. March was exceptionally wet with above double the normal fall.

Both January and March were also very chilly, though February was pleasantly warm.

The winter totalled 51 ground and 23 air frosts, the coldest night being January 2 with an air temperature of -6.5C (20F).

DRY SPELL

April and May were quite uncharacteristic in that a prolonged dry spell ensued, no rain falling between April 3 and April 21 inclusive, and there being only four days with rain between April 3 and May 18.

Temperatures were by now peaking in the mid-twenties centigrade (mid to upper seventies fahrenheit), under the influence of warm and dry easterly winds.

Heavy rainfall began at the end of May, and this was to continue with little let-up until the end of the year.

WET JUNE

June was a very wet month with twice the usual rainfall, there being only six rain-free days in the entire month, which made it the third wettest since 1946.

Temperatures were, however, up to expectation, the maximum of the summer at 28.3C (83F) occurring on the fourth.

Cold and damp conditions continued into July, though rain fall was slightly below normal. The unusually cold weather which set in early in the month was to continue until the twenty-fifth when temperatures suddenly rose to 27.6C (82F) and

over half of the month's rainfall occurred in a severe storm on the twenty-ninth.

WARM SEPTEMBER

The peak holiday month of August was pleasantly warm, and drier than for many past years, though the summer as a whole was the fifth worst in a quarter of a century.

With the beginning of autumn in September the sun appeared and the month turned out to be the second warmest since records began here in 1956, with sunshine also totalling a surplus of 19 per cent.

Surprisingly, the month was also very wet, though this was due to two consecutive days with rainfall in excess of an inch on the nineteenth and twentieth.

October was depressing and dripping, there being only 11 rain-free days in a month which provided 84 per cent more rain than usual.

In addition, temperatures were also well down and seven ground and two air frosts occurred during the latter part of the month.

Sunshine was slightly above average in November, with rainfall substantially down at 78 per cent. Though on the low side to begin with, temperatures picked up appreciably mid-month making November reasonably pleasant.

The autumn season which ended on November 30 was the second worst in 26 years, continuing the pattern set by the poor summer.

The final month was generally cold and damp, ground frost being widespread on all but six nights between the first and twenty-second with rainfall frequent, but not heavy.