

Mar 93

April 12, 1983, COUNTY EXTRA 23

In like a lamb— out like a lion

Despite the rather severe weather of the final eleven days, March still managed to turn out as an average month, at least as far as temperature was concerned.

At the Halesowen Climatological Station, air temperatures ranged from a maximum of 13.7C (57F) on the 8th, to a minimum of minus 2.8C (26F) on the 28th, the mean daily of 6.1C (43F) being slightly in excess of normal for March.

Had it not been for the succession of night frosts over the final eleven days, the month would have been well above average in temperature.

Rainfall was again down on normal, the 49mm (1.93in) being only 83 per cent of expectation, with almost an eighth of this falling on the 22nd.

Sunshine was also below normal at 73 per cent, the total being 75 hours. Over seven hours was recorded on March 15th.

Winds were predominantly south-westerly and moderate, the mean speed being 9 mph. However, gale force gusts were recorded on three days, the most severe being 50 mph on the 25th.

It is a sobering thought that, despite the arrival of the "calendar" Spring on March 21, the "climatological" Spring still eludes us. The mean daily temperature has to reach, and regularly maintain, 6C (43F) for Spring to be officially in being. At the time of writing (April 5), the mean daily is, and has been, no more than 4C (39F) since March 22.

Unseasonable, true, but not unprecedented!