

July 83

Wet . . . but wonderful

July proved to be a month of extremes at both ends of the scale, according to local weather watchers.

The Halesowen Climatological station reported 14 days when temperatures exceeded 26.7C (80F) — and there were only 10 such days in the heatwave of 1976.

The mean daily temperature of 19.8C (67.6F) made July the warmest month this century, the maximum of 32.1C (90F) occurring on July 12.

But if the weather was hot in July, it was also very wet. The region saw a third more rain than usual.

The bulk of the extra water fell on three occasions — July 6, 14 and 18. There were eight very heavy thunderstorms.

Winds were very light during the month with only seven days seeing gusts over 20kt (23 mph). The highest was 28 mph on July 17 in a thunderstorm.

Sunshine was up on average, daytime cloud cover being marginally above 50 per cent.