

OCTOBER 1984

Statistically, October was a fairly average month, though this belied the fact that there were quite untypical extremes, mainly in temperature.

After a fairly cool start, temperatures climbed steadily, reaching 20C [68F] on the 8th., the warmest day. Conditions remained mild until the 27th., when a sharp ground and slight air frost brought a sudden chill to the morning. Temperatures fell to minus 4.7C [24F] on grass, and minus 0.6C [31F] in the air, the coldest conditions since May 14th. In complete contrast, very warm south Atlantic air brought unseasonably high temperatures during the last three days, 16C [61F] being recorded on the 29th.

Rainfall has been well above expectation at 77mm [3.94ins], the bulk falling during the first and final weeks. The wettest day, October 3rd saw a total of 19mm [0.75in] fall in heavy bursts accompanied by hail and thunder.

Sunshine has been below normal, several days being dull and generally overcast.

Winds, mainly south or south westerly, have been moderate, averaging 8 mph over the month. On October 18th., during a stormy spell gusts reached gale force on 7 occasions, the strongest being to 47 mph.

In summary, a month which showed both the sharp fangs of the winter ahead, and the balmy days of the summer past.