

Jan 85

January bared its icy teeth

After experiencing a fairly mild December, January bared its teeth. The month was exceptionally cold, only the Januarys of 1979 and 1963 from the last thirty years, being colder.

The snow-surface

radiation temperature at dawn on January 17 was down to minus 18c (minus 0.5F), only a little above that of the coldest yet recorded at Hayley Green on January 23, 1963.

Frost was recorded every day on the ground,

from the first to the 24th, with air frost occurring on 25 occasions. It was so cold that the temperature never managed to struggle up to freezing point from January 15 to January 18.

Temperatures in the air

ranged from 10.7C (51F) on the 31st to minus 10.1C (14F) on the 17th and even the ground froze to a depth of 2 inches between the 6th and 10th.

Precipitation, mainly in the form of snow, amounted to 49mm (1.93ins), over 11mm (0.43in) of this falling as rain on the 29th. Snow depth has, fortunately, been low, the maximum new depth being 3 inches on the 15th.

Winds have been lighter than usual averaging 7 mph, the windiest day being the 27th, with gusts of 44 mph and a mean of 16 mph.