Wellies and waterproofs have been dragged out of the cupboards in Halesowen which this week had its third wettest August day in 30 years.

By Tuesday morning, 2.28 inches had fallen in a continuous downpour lasting 22½ hours.

The last heavy downpour was on August 19, 1970, when 2.95 inches fell and before that on August 9, 1946 when 2.43 inches fell.

The Bank Holiday rains were mainly as a result of Hurricane Charley which blasted across the Atlantic from America’s East Coast.

Weatherman Mr Cedric Roberts of Halesowen Climatological Centre at Hayley Green, said 4.61 inches of rain has already fallen during this month — nearly twice the amount normally expected during the whole of August.