

Summer 1990

THE SUMMER OF 1990

Despite the record-breaking temperatures of the 3rd. August and the high sunshine totals for July, the summer of 1990 has not equalled in overall excellence those of 1976 or 1984. This is due in the main to the very poor June which was wet and relatively cool.

Rainfall totals for the year as a whole are now worryingly low, the deficit amounting to over 4 inches. August rainfall was again low, only half the customary fall occurring and the summer could rank only eighth driest in the last half century bettered by 1976, 1975, 1981, 1967, 1989, 1984 and 1959.

Temperature records were broken on the 3rd August with a daytime maximum of 34.7C (94F), displacing the 32.6C (91F) of August 5 1975. The mean daily maximum of 24C was only 0.2 below the record also set in August 1975. Yet 1990 ranks only sixth warmest in the last 34 years behind 1976, 1983, 1975, 1984, and 1989.

Sunshine, though not up to the record values of last year, was still 35% above expectation at 217 hours, and the figure of 636 hours for the summer as a whole ranks fifth in the last 34 years behind 1976, 1975, 1989 and 1984.