

THE WEATHER OF FEBRUARY 1991.

February was the coldest since 1986, the last really cold winter. Mean daily temperatures were down to 1.3C (34F) and some severe frosts occurred around mid-month with air temperatures down to minus 10.1C (14F) and minus 17.7C (0F) on the ground.

There have been only three February days colder than the 7th, when the air maximum failed to rise above minus 2.1C (28F) at all during the day long blizzard. In total contrast, there have been only three warmer February nights than the 24th when the air minimum did not fall below 8.8C (48F). Such are the vagaries of the English climate.

Snow lay on 11 mornings, the 1st and from the 8th to 17th to a maximum depth of 9ins on the 10th. A normal February has 4 days of lying snow. Both 1979 and 1986 produced 16, whilst the notorious February of 1963 saw 25.

Sunshine remains slightly above, and rainfall well below the 30 year norms, much of the rain coming as snow on the 7th and on the 21st and 22nd.