DECEMBER WEATHER IN OUTLINE

A cold and frosty month with the day maximum of 12°C (52°F) on the 2nd being the lowest since 1981. The daytime maximum of only minus 1°C (30°F) of the 29th was the first such occurrence of continuous December daytime frost since 1985. All means were down on the 30-year values, the mean daily by 1.1°C at 3.2°C (38°F) making this the lowest value for 11 years and the 8th lowest on record.

Rainfall at 80.4mm (3.56ins) was marginally above the 30-year mean, but the fall of 31.2mm (1.23ins) in a little over 15 hours on the 1st gave the wettest December day since 1979 and the 6th worst on record.

Sunshine was a little above expectation at 49 hours, due to the mainly anticyclonic conditions, with 14 sunless days. Fog occurred at 9 am on two mornings but the incidence of rime (ice accumulation from mist or fog) was quite common from mid-month onwards. No sleet or snow was reported, quite rare for December, and only the sixth time this has occurred since 1956.