

## GENERAL FEATURES OF THE MONTH.

October was a month of contrasts. It had both very warm days and some really cold nights. Additionally, an exceptional fall of rain on the 8<sup>th</sup> was followed by a near-drought during the second half of the month.

The mean daily temperature of 9.9C, which was 0.3C below the 30-year mean, belies the fact that some days were very warm. The maximum as late as the 18<sup>th</sup> was 22.3C. In contrast the end of the month from the 22<sup>nd</sup> onwards saw a succession of quite cold nights under mainly anticyclonic conditions. The -4.1C recorded on the night of the 29<sup>th</sup> was the second lowest on file here whilst the 8 air frosts noted from the 22<sup>nd</sup> itself set a new record. The 10 ground frosts over the same period, though above expectation, ended as the 5<sup>th</sup> equal worst for October.

Sunshine was also at record levels, the 153.6 hours being almost 60% above the normal for October (97.5 hours), with 3 days registering over 9 hours each. In all only 6 days were totally sunless from a norm of 11 for the month. October thus ended as the sunniest on record here by a considerable margin.

Rainfall ended a little above expectation though almost half of the monthly fall occurred in a spell of heavy convective rain overnight on the 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup>. A little after midnight rain was falling at a rate of over 90mm an hour, with over 19mm falling in the hour from midnight to 1 am. This was sever enough to cause local flooding. In total contrast the final 15 days produced little in the way of measurable rain as blocking anticyclones straddled the United Kingdom.

Thunder was heard on 2 days though there was no incidence of hail, sleet or snow.