

SUMMARY FOR APRIL.

April was both very wet, was less sunny and generally cooler than an average month. The total rainfall of 107mm [4.21ins] made it the third April from the last four to have produced over 100mm [3.94ins] of rain. In addition, the last twelve calendar months have been the wettest in 200 years. Rain fell on 21 days, 7 more than average, over a period of 92.9 hours itself some 67% above expectation. From the entire month only 4 days were completely free of precipitation.

Sunshine totalled 128.8 hours, 10 hours down on normal and the dulllest since 1998, yet only 2 days were totally sunless. The best day, the 29th saw almost 11 hours of bright sunshine with 4 days registering over 9 hours each.

It was a cold month, 12 ground frosts being recorded, the worst to -5.9C [21.4F] on the 21st and 4 nights with frost in the air, the worst to -2.3C [27.9F] also on the 21st. Both figures were slightly above the average for April. The warmest day, the 9th with 16C [60.8F] was over three degrees below expectation for the month, whilst the warmest night with 8.3C [46.9F] was 0.7C below expectation. All mean air temperatures recorded negative anomalies by as much as -0.9C for the mean maximum.

Due to the large number of frosts ground temperatures are now depressed, the mean 10cm by as much as 1.2C. The worst figure was for the maximum 30cm soil temperature which was 4 degrees down on normal. There were 3 days with hail and 2 with snow, with one occasion of thunder. However, winds were light averaging 6.1 knots [7mph] from the SW, the maximum gust of 29 knots [33 mph] occurring on the 15th.

These are generally rather poor figures for the mid-month of the spring season!.