

## FEBRUARY SUMMARY.

February ended as another warm month with all mean air temperatures significantly above the 30-year averages, the mean maximum by as much as 3.4°C, the highest figures since 1998 [10.6°C/15.1°F]. Even the coldest night, February 15<sup>th</sup> with an air minimum of -3.0°C/26.6°F was 2.6°C above expectation. The 14.6°C/58.3°F on the 11<sup>th</sup> was the best since 1998 and the second warmest February day since 1990. Despite this, there were still 12 ground and 4 air frosts, the worst on the grass to -6.3°C/20.7°F on the 15<sup>th</sup>, most of the others being just touches. As a result all soil temperatures are well up indicating the likelihood of an early spring.

Rainfall was well above average by over 80% making it the wettest February since 1977. Rain fell on 23 days, 82% of the month, for a total time of 188.9 hours, some of this being heavy leading to further flooding along the Severn valley. On the 5<sup>th</sup> for a short time, rain was falling at the rate of 47mm/1.85 ins per hour.

Despite the wetness sunshine remained a fifth above expectation at 72.8 hours, though still the worst figures for 5 years! Nine days were totally sun-less, about average for February, the sunniest day, February 28<sup>th</sup> producing 8.1 hours of bright sunshine.

Snow or sleet fell on 3 occasions with hail on 2 and thunder on 1 day. Winds were predominantly SSW at 8.7 knots/11mph, a little higher than usual, with the end of the month very stormy with gusts to 50 knots/60mph on the 25<sup>th</sup>. In all gale force gusts occurred on 5 days with mean speeds in excess of 16knots/20mph for 15 hours making it the stormiest February since 1997.