

shade was apparent the frost persisted all day ground frost having been noted every morning from the 15th onwards, the most severe being to $-6.5C/20.3F$ on the 16th. All of this was the result of persistent high

winter, though it was insignificant in amount.

Nights saw a continuation of frost, days being cool or cold depending on wind direction, by now 14 grass frosts having been recorded out of the 22



pressure from an anticyclone centred over, or near to, the country for much of the time. Only irregular incursions of frontal systems occurred, the high fending off most of the wet weather. However, by the 19th it was clear that the high pressure was beginning to collapse into Continental Europe and that a series of fronts lay ready to make inroads into the UK as soon as the pressure fell.

Both the 19th and 20th saw significant amounts of rainfall, the total for the two days amounting to 17.7mm/0.70in, this falling over 12 hours in all. The 21st saw a rapid change in conditions as a frontal system swept southwards bringing in its wake north-westerly winds and scattered snow and sleet showers, howbeit short-lived. This was the first snow seen this

available days. The cooler interlude was short-lived as winds swung to the southwest flooding the country with much milder air, temperatures rising from below average to above average in less than 24 hours. By Christmas Eve it was quite mild with dull days and milder nights, grass temperatures rising from $-1.7C/28.9f$ on the 23rd to $5.6C/42.1F$ on Christmas morning with brisk SW winds.

The Christmas period was very mild, though it remained dry, winds being south-westerly most of the time. A spell of heavy rain swept across the region on the evening of Boxing Day after which rapid cooling led to a widespread ground frost. Snow was again mentioned in the forecast period heralding the possibility of a colder end to the month. December 28th dawned with cloudless skies for the 09hr

observation, but by 09.20 the sky was overcast with quite heavy snow falling, though this showed little sign of settling. Further light snow showers occurred on the 30th though no appreciable cover ensued. Both days and nights remained cold under northerly winds with widespread ground frost and slight air frost. Breaks in the cloud cover allowed some sunshine, though this was short-lived and amounted to a maximum of 3.6 hours on the 28th. The persistent cold brought both soil and earth temperatures down, the 10cm being below $2C/35.6F$ and the 100cm depth around $7.5C/45.5F$ by the 30th, decidedly cool when put against the $17C/62.6F$ and $15.9C/60.6F$ being registered at the end of July.

The final few days of the old year saw a continuation of the night frost with little in the way of extensive sunshine. The 31st began frosty and cloud-free with reasonable sunshine, but ended with continuous rain, some heavy and strong SW winds. As the old year faded, the weather did little to raise the spirits, ending on a rather wet and windy note.