

Sep 80

Touch of 'Battle' days in September weather

September began with a period of settled anticyclonic weather and high temperatures, reminiscent of 1940 when the Battle of Britain was being fought. The maximum temperature recorded for the month at the Halesowen Climatological Station was 23.2C (74F), on Wednesday the third, with winds light and from the south.

Weather became gradually more unsettled as winds veered south westerly and low pressure systems moved in from the Atlantic.

From Thursday the fourth until Thursday the twenty-third there were only four days on which no measurable rain was recorded.

HEAVY RAIN

On Friday the nineteenth a vigorous cold front crossed the Midlands and, during a five hour period of torrential rain, 33.2mm (1.31ins), fell.

This was followed on the twentieth by a further fall of 37.3mm (1.47ins) over a ten-hour period.

In all, by the end of Sunday the twenty-first almost 3 inches of rain had fallen in the space of about thirty-two

hours. Though this was a particularly wet spell, it did not breach any long-standing records.

DRIER SPELL

This rather disturbed weather was to continue until the twenty-eighth, by which time an anticyclone was again building over the country. This led to much drier weather, though night temperatures were to fall noticeably under the influence of clear skies and very light winds.

Apart from a short period centred on Friday the twelfth when a near-gale was blowing, the month was one of very light winds. On most mornings speeds were in the region of 5 knots (6 mph) or less, with the maximum gust of 27 knots (31 mph) recorded on the twelfth.

Due to a preponderance of southerly winds which blew on 26 days of the month, temperatures were well up on normal.

RECORD

In fact, a new record was set on Thursday the twenty-sixth when the lowest air

temperature for the month, 6.3C (43F), was recorded. This was the highest, minimum night temperature yet recorded here for September.

All air temperatures were well up on average, the mean daily at 14.6C (58F) by 1.4C, the mean maximum at 18.6C (65F) and the mean minimum at 10.5C (51F) also up by the same amount.

The month has proved to be the second warmest since records began here in 1956, bettered only by September 1973.

In view of the high rainfall amounts, sunshine has, surprisingly, also been well up on average by 19 per cent at 151 hours.

Thursday the second proved the sunniest day with 11½ hours of bright sunshine.

In addition we only had three completely sunless days.

Yet we have also had 117mm (4.59 ins) of rain, up on a normal September by over 72 per cent, making the month one of anomalies: higher than usual temperatures, almost double the usual rainfall, yet much sunnier than normal.

HAYLEY GREEN

52°26'N 02°04'W 155m AMSL