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Our November weather

November began with a period of quiet, settled, but very cold weather, a legacy left from the anticyclonic conditions which had established themselves at the end of October.

At the Halesowen Climatological Station winds were predominantly north-easterly and light, which led to a gradual fall-off in night temperatures culminating in a very severe ground frost of -6.8C (20F) on the 3rd.

Daytime temperatures, also, were to remain on the low side until the middle of the month, though night frost was no longer widespread or severe.

SUNSHINE

Sunshine over the first two weeks was substantial with a total of 7.8 hours on the 12th, which was the sunniest day.

By the fourteenth ground frost had occurred on nine nights with air frost on four, though in most cases this was only slight, occurring around dawn.

The pressure pattern changed from the 5th onwards, with Atlantic depressions tracking from west to east over the area. These brought rain on every day from the 3rd to the 8th, though none of this was heavy.

QUICK CHANGE

On Friday the 14th the weather changed abruptly, very mild air encroaching from the

south west. This heralded much higher temperatures, which, by the 22nd were approaching 14C (57F).

Heavy rainfall also returned, each day from the 13th to the 27th being wet.

The heaviest daily fall of 15.2mm (0.60cm) took place on the 15th in a period of a little over six hours.

This part of the month also saw a succession of dull, damp days with little in the way of bright sunshine, there being 11 completely overcast days between the 14th and the 25th.

A very intense anticyclone began developing to the north-east on the 26th, and this progressed down the North Sea.

By the 30th the central pressure in this system stood at an all-time November high of 1048 mf (30.95 ins).

SNOW

Very clear and calm nights ensued and air temperatures quickly fell.

The coldest night of the month was on the last day when -2.3C (28F) was recorded in the air, and the surrounding ground was covered to a depth of 1cm with snow.

Winds were a little stronger in November, averaging 9kt (10.5 mph). Gusts of 36kt (41.5mph) were recorded on the 6th and 27th, the latter during a squall as a cold front passed over the area at 11 pm.

The month's "run of wind"

was 7233 miles averaging 241 miles per day, with the windiest day the 6th with a mean speed of 17 mph.

Total rainfall at 60mm (2.38in), was only 78% of the expected fall.

Rain fell on 20 days, with 14 "wet" and 2 "very wet" days. During the final three days precipitation was in the form of snow, giving accumulations of 1 cm from the 28th to the 30th.

Sunshine totalled 67 hours, with nine completely sunless days, these figures being a little better than expectation.

In all, a month of extremes with a very cold beginning and end, but uncharacteristically mild during the middle weeks.

SECOND WORST

The autumn which ended on November 30 was, in general conditions the second worst, since readings began at the Halesowen Climatological Station, in 1956, and was exceeded only by that of 1965.

It was the fifth wettest since 1946 with 278mm (10.95in) of rain, but was also, surprisingly, the seventh sunniest with 314 hours of bright sunshine.

It was sixth in order of severity of air frosts during the same period, yet, contrary to expectation, managed to turn out among the warmer of the autumn seasons.