

Aug 87

# Driest season for 36 years

August continued the pattern of abnormally dry months, starting with June, and was also warmer and sunnier than usual.

Rainfall at 31mm (1.22in) provided only 39 per cent of the expected fall, giving the area its lowest seasonal rainfall since records began at Halesowen Climatological Station in 1946.

The wettest day, August 6, with a fall of 22mm (0.87in) yielded three-quarters of the entire month's rain. In all only nine days had rain, five being "wet" days and two "very wet".

Sunshine totalled 180 hours, 15 per cent above normal, the sunniest day being the second with 13.7 hours. Only four days were completely sunless in a month when the mean daily sunshine reached 5.8 hours.

Mean temperatures were 2c above average, ranging from 27.8c (82F) on August 27 to 5.5C (42F) on the second when the grass fell to 3.1C (38F).

Pressure was markedly above expectation due to the influence of nearby an-

ticyclones, resulting in a month of very light, predominantly NW winds.

Total wind run was 3,311 miles, 107 miles per day at four mph. The period August 23-29 was almost calm, the mean speed being a mere 1.6 mph.

Thunder was heard on two days in a month which has been exceptional for August, sunny, warm and very dry—almost continental in fact!