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March was wet but sunnier!

Climatologically, March was a month of contradictions. With almost three weeks of continual rain, it was a very wet month, yet it also managed to accumulate over 128 hours of bright sunshine, 25 per cent more than usual.

The first three weeks were depressing and wet, almost all of the 103mm (4.05ins) of rain falling in this period. Rain fell on 21 days with 18 being 'wet' and six 'very wet.' Rain duration was 83.3 hours, 23.2 hours of this being on the 6th when over an inch fell.

Temperatures have been well up on expectation, the mean daily being 5.8C (42F) and ranged from 18C (64F) on the 26th when we had our warmest March day since 1968, to minus 2.8C (27F) on the 5th.

Ground frosts were very prevalent, 23 occurring during the month, the worst being minus 6.1C (21F), again on the 5th.

March, true to form, was also very windy. Gales occurred on the 2nd and 3rd with gusts in excess of 46 mph on the latter date.

From the weather angle, at the Halesowen Climatological Station, spring began on March 22, for, from that date the mean daily temperature has exceeded 6C (43F).

The soil is also currently up to plant-growth temperature.