

Apr 82

April showers? No, a drought!

Despite the weather lore, April continues to be the driest month of the year.

This April has been no exception, total rainfall at the Halesowen Climatological Station being a mere 21mm (0.82in) or 40 per cent of normal. The wettest day, April 6, saw a fall of 8.6mm (0.34in) in a little over nine hours.

Apart from the first week, in which the month's total fall

occurred, the remainder of the month was dry and sunny resulting in an absolute drought from April 24 until May 1.

Temperatures have been much above average, ranging from 19.5C (67F) on the 27th to minus 1.6C (29F) on the 14th.

The mean daily temperature of 8.2C (47F) has been 1C (2F) above normal, giving the third warmest April for a decade at Halesowen.

Despite this ground frosts, numbering 14, have been more prevalent than usual. As far as maximum temperatures go, April 1982 produced a mean of 13.7C (57F). Apart from 1980 which was marginally better, we have to go back at least to 1956 to find an April with warmer afternoons.

Wind direction was predominantly NW with one day calm, the maximum gust of 43 mph occurring on April 7.

Total sunshine at 126 hours was five per cent above normal, the sunniest day being April 23 with 12.5 hours. Afternoons were, in general, far less cloudy than the mornings and only one day was completely sunless in a month which has been both drier and warmer than usual.