Why July seemed hot and sticky

The July weather has again been characterised by its variability. Temperatures were the highest, on average, since the heatwave of 1976, the mean daily of 16.7C (62F) being 1C above normal.

Air temperatures at the Halesowen Climatological Station varied from 27.5C (82F) on the 8th to 6.7C (44F) on the 17th, the lowest grass temperature of 3.7C (39F) occurring on the 28th.

Rainfall showed marked deficits, only nine days having had rain, and producing a total of 47.7 mm (1.88 ins) or 72 per cent of that for a normal July. Of this total, 30.1 mm (1.19 ins) or 63 per cent fell in under four hours on the 15th.

Thunder was again prevalent, storms occurring on July 14, 15 and 31, that of the 15th being severe with a rainfall intensity of 100 mm/hour (3.94 ins/hour) around 2 pm.

Winds were light and predominantly north easterly which accounted for the fairly cloudy mornings, 16 being overcast at 8 am. Humidity has been higher than normal at 87 per cent, producing the "sticky" conditions so common to an English summer. Anticyclones were the prevalent weather systems, pressure in general being well up on seasonal values.

Sunshine at 150 hours was only 91 per cent of usual, the sunniest day being the 29th with 11.9 hours. However, only three days were totally sunless in a month which was warmer and drier than normal.