

Dec 82

January 11, 1983, COUNTY EXTRA 31

December blew 'hot and cold'

The most noticeable feature of December's weather was its changeability.

The coldest night, December 24, with a minimum of minus 4.9C (23F) was followed, 24 hours later, by the warmest night with a temperature of 8.1C (47F).

In fact, the whole month blew "mild and cold" with a relatively warm spell in the middle. Air temperatures ranged from 14C (57F) on the 15th to minus 4.9 (23F) on the 25th.

Frost

Night frosts were prevalent, occurring on 21 occasions on the ground and on 12 in the air, both well above expectation.

Rainfall, too, was variable, the middle of the month being the wettest with some rain falling every day from the 14th to 24th.

Apart from this, the rest of

the month was relatively dry, the total rainfall being 58mm (2.28ins) or 81 per cent of normal. Rain fell on 16 days with nine being "wet" and four "very wet."

Snow

Snow fell on four days, though it only lay on three mornings, and then to no appreciable depth.

December was also a windy month, the year's strongest gust of 46 knots (52 mph) occurring during the gale of the 19th. The mean speed was over 10 knots (12 mph) on nine days.

Sunshine was very sparse, only 74 per cent of the normal being recorded with a total of only 33 hours. In fact 12 days were completely sunless, several others coming very near to this, in a month which was dull, very changeable and with temperatures slightly down on normal due to the frosty nights.