

Jan 83

January weather the mildest on record

January 1983 will go into the record books as one of the mildest on record.

Only once in the last 28 years of observing at the Halesowen Climatological Station, has the mean daily temperature been higher, that of January 1975 with 6.8C (44F).

This January stood at 6.4C (43.5F). In fact the afternoons have been the warmest ever recorded here, the mean maximum of 9.1C (48F) being 6F above expectation.

Another record, that for the highest January temperature of 13.2C (56F) was equalled on January 5. Indeed, air temperatures have been consistently above expectation by almost 6.5F, ranging from minus 3.9C (25F) on January 20, to 13.2C (56F) on January 5.

Air frost was only 15 per cent of normal and ground frost 65 per cent. An ex-

ceptional month by any standards!

Rainfall at 63mm (2.48 ins) has been about normal, with the bulk of this at either end of the month. The middle nine days were very dry, the heaviest fall of 13mm (0.51in) falling on the last day, mainly as snow!

Sunshine was 11 per cent above usual at 51.4 hours total, the sunniest day being January 15 with 5.4 hours.

In all, 11 days were totally sunless, with 18 mornings overcast.

Snow fell on four occasions but lay on only two mornings.

Winds were mainly SW and fresh, averaging 12 mph. Gusts to gale force occurred on ten days, the most severe being 47 mph on January 5 when the mean speed over the day was a very high 21 mph.

In all, a month which will be long remembered as exceptionally mild, windy and fairly sunny.