

Feb 73



Weather notes

The weather for February recorded at the Halesowen Climatological Station was in total contrast to that of January.

All temperatures were well below normal by as much as 2C (4F) and ranged, in the air, from 10.1C (50F) on the 26th, to minus 6.5C (20F) on both the 4th and 14th.

The mean of 1.2C (34F) for the month was the lowest since 1969.

Air frost was recorded on 19 occasions and ground frost on 21, both well above normal.

The extreme low of minus 11.1C (12F), or 20 Fahrenheit degrees of frost, occurred around dawn on the morning of the 4th.

At no time during the month has the soil warmed up to the growth temperature of 5.6C (42F).

Rainfall was very sparse, totalling only 18mm (0.72in), this falling mainly during the first 12 and last four days of the month.

Only 36 per cent of the normal month's fall was registered, with measurable rain on 11 days, six being "wet" and none "very wet."

Despite its dryness, the month was not noted for its sunshine, this being about average at 54 hours total. In all six days had no bright sunshine, while the sunniest day, the 22nd, registered 8.4 hours.

Winds were mainly easterly (15 days) or northerly (four days) and this resulted in low temperatures. Speeds were a little up on normal, averaging 9 mph, though a gale on the first brought gusts of 51 mph at times.

In summary, a rather cold but very dry month, with average sunshine.