

Apr 83

April — a month best forgotten

In almost 40 years of recording at Halesowen, there has been only one April with a greater amount of rain, that of 1961 with 5.55 inches.

Last month provided a total of 5.00 inches, approximately two and a half times the normal April amount, making this the second wettest April on record.

In other respects, April has been the worst ever recorded here.

It had more hours of rainfall than any other, with 102 hours of measurable rain against the normal 54 hours.

There have been more days of heavy rain, nine, exceeding the previous record set in 1961, by one. Also with 19 "wet" days, this April was marginally worse than any since records began.

Indeed, with only five rain-free days, and April 10 and 20 with almost an inch on each day, it is likely to be many years before we see another April to match this one with its 244% rainfall!

Because of the continuous rainfall, temperatures have also been depressed, ranging from 17.4C (63F) on the 30th, to minus 2.3C (28F) on the 9th.

Night minimums have been well below average, with an

absolute minimum of minus 7C (19F) on the grass on the 19th. The 19 ground frosts recorded make this April the worst since recording began here, with two more than the previous record set in 1969.

The mean daily temperature of 6.7C (44F) renders the month the sixth coldest since 1956.

Sunshine has also been below normal, the only really sunny days being the 15th and 30th. What sunshine there was occurred generally in the mornings, showers or heavier rain taking over in the afternoons, thunderstorms

breaking out on four occasions and causing widespread flooding.

To add to the catalogue of gloom, snow or sleet was recorded on four occasions, with snow lying on two mornings.

There were four hail storms, but winds were generally light, and blew from every point of the compass.

In all, a month best committed to the record books and purged from the memory. Cold, very wet and generally cheerless.