

THE WINTER OF 1983 - 1984.

The winter has been below average in general, and ranks as the twelfth worst in the last 29 years at Hayley Green. Almost all elements recorded have been worse than usual, with the exception of sunshine. Resulting from the record January, winter sunshine totalled 175 hours, 22% up on normal.

Rainfall totalled 224 mm (8.81in), about 21% above expectation, with December and January providing about equal amounts. In all, rain fell on 56 days, with 43 being "wet" and 20 "very wet". Snow was less prevalent than usual and was lying on only 9 mornings instead of the usual 12.

Frost, both in the air and on the ground, was slightly up on average, though fewer fogs formed than could have been expected. It was also windier than usual, gales occurring on 5 days with gusts to 50kn (58mph) on January 13th, when much structural damage was done. The predominant direction was again from the SW.

We have been spared the long spells of snow cover this year, but in its place have endured 32 overcast and sunless days, persistent freezing fog and above average rainfall. In compensation, temperatures have held up reasonably well to the 30 year averages.

C.C. Roberts. 3rd. March 1984.