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Siberian weather

People haven't needed to be told that the weather has been arctic-like — they could see that from the frozen pipes in their bathrooms, the frost on their windows and the icy road conditions when they went out on foot or in their cars.

Information given by Mr Roberts of Hayley Green, shows that for the 10-day period February 9-18 Halesowen people have been experiencing weather as bad as in the 1947 winter.

A foretaste of what was in store came on Friday, February 8 when snow began to fall. The temperature dropped alarmingly during the night, and by the first light on Saturday morning, roads were in a treacherous state with snow inches thick.

From the night of February 9 till last weekend the air temperature minimims were below freezing. At his climatological station at Hayley Green Mr Roberts recorded a temperature on February 13 of minus 11.6 centigrade.

The lowest temperature in the recent spell was Wednesday, February 13: minus 19.5 centigrade at snow level (compares with minus 20.5 in 1963).

"It has been below

freezing every day since Saturday, February 9," said Mr Roberts on Monday. The worst of the Siberian weather was on Sunday, February 10 when a wind speed of 25 knots brought the wind chill down to a temperature equivalent to minus 25 centigrade.

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Lowest for 40 years

February provided both the second coldest night since 1956 with minus 11.6C (11F), on the 13th, and the second warmest day with 14.4C (58F), on the 27th.

At ground level the temperature of minus 19.5C (minus 3F), also on the 13th, was the lowest February temperature recorded at Hayley Green in 40 years.

Mean daily temperatures were well down on normal, the average being 2C (36F), some 1½ degrees below expectation.

Precipitation, mainly in the form of snow, amounted to 38mm (1.48in), only 75% of expectation, the heaviest

fall being 13mm (0.52in) on the 18th.

Snow fell on two days, though the ground was snow-covered on 13 mornings, well over twice

the normal.

Sunshine was slightly up on average, the cold spell giving some days of uninterrupted sunshine.

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