

Summer ends in flood

One of the heaviest rain storms this year signalled the end of the fortnight's Indian summer — and brought traffic hazards to Halesowen's roads.

Roads were transformed into rivers of water making conditions difficult for motorists, but surprisingly there were few accidents reported although in places the water reached flood level.

Water poured on to Coombs Road near its junction with Lodgefield Road as a new drain at the road side overflowed.

The weather had kept many regular churchgoers away and the congregation at St Paul's, Blackheath for their annual harvest festival was down at least 50 per cent on the usual attendance.

This report from Halesowen Climatological Station at Hayley Green features the much improved September weather, in contrast to the miserable summer's weather.

Mr C. G. Roberts reports: "September turned up trumps. The month was,

untypically, warmer than August with a mean temperature of 14.7c (58F) — the highest in 30 years of recording at Hayley Green.

An indication of how dry September proved is given by the fact that rain fell on only six days, totalling 21mm (0.85in). As a result it was the fourth driest September since 1946 — just 30 per cent of the expected amount of rain falling.

Air temperatures ranged from 24.4C (76F) on the 12th to 4.1C (39F) on the 7th.

Sunshine was only marginally above average at 4.4 hours per day — three days being completely sunless in the month. On 15 occasions the sky was overcast at 9 am.

October started with the second highest night temperature in 30 years for October 1 — 14C (57F).

During the day, the highest October maximum in well over half a century 26.3C (79F) was reached, which was the second hottest day this year.