

OCTOBER 1985.

October began with the second highest daytime temperature of the year, and the warmest October day in over 30 years at Hayley Green, with an air temperature of 26.3C [79F], on the first. The first week was, in fact, generally warm, though unsettled, with heavy rain on the 3rd. and 6th.

Total rainfall at 44mm [1.74 in], was the least since 1978, though the total of only 4 days on which rain fell made this the driest October in almost half a century. In fact over 60% of the total rain fell on the 6th with 26.4 mm [1.04 in] occurring in a little over 11 hours.

The month was also sunny with 8 hours of bright sunshine on the 13th., though early morning mist and fog meant that it was mainly afternoons which benefitted from the clear skies.

Small cloud amounts around dawn resulted in 8 ground frosts, the worst being of minus 2.3C [28F] on the 28th., some two above expectation.

In summary, a pleasantly warm and very dry month, a bonus after a rather miserable "summer".

C.G.Roberts.