

DECEMBER 1985.

After one of the coldest Novembers in over 30 years in the Halesowen area, December began with almost balmy weather.

A daytime maximum of 14.1C [57F] was recorded on the first, one of the warmest December days since 1977.

Temperatures held up well until the final week, when a blast of Arctic air sent the mercury plunging to minus 9.3C [15F] on the 29th., temperatures failing to rise above minus 1.7C [29F] at all during the day. At dawn on the 29th. grass temperatures were as low as minus 12.1C [10F].

Rainfall at 99 mm [3.90ins], was almost a quarter up on expectation, rain being recorded on 21 days of the month, 18 of these being classed as "wet" and 8 as "very wet". Indeed, December turned out to be the wettest month of the year.

Sunshine was marginally below expectation at 39 hours with over half of the month having no measurable sunshine at all. The sunniest day was the 7th when 6.2 hours were recorded, almost one sixth of the entire total for the month.

Snow was recorded on 2 occasions, with hail on one and fog on three. In all there were 7 air and 8 ground frosts recorded in a month which was unspectacular and which broke no long-standing records.

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