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G E N E R A L      C O M M E N T S      O N      T H E      M O N T H .  
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DECEMBER HAS BEEN AN EXCEPTIONAL MONTH, BEING THE SECOND WARMEST IN 33 YEARS OF RECORDING AT HALESOWEN AND BETTERED ONLY BY 1974. TEMPERATURES HAVE BEEN WELL ABOVE AVERAGE BY AS MUCH AS 4 DEGREES AND ONLY TWO AIR FROSTS WERE RECORDED JUST LESS THAN A FIFTH OF EXPECTATION. INCIDENCE OF SNOW WAS ALSO LESS THAN A QUARTER OF NORMAL AND RAINFALL AT 26 MM (1.02 IN) WAS ONLY A THIRD OF THAT EXPECTED IN DECEMBER.

BOXING DAY WAS THE WARMEST IN 33 YEARS WHILST CHRISTMAS DAY WAS THE SECOND WARMEST, AGAIN TO 1974. IN FACT SINCE 1956 ONLY 4 CHRISTMAS DAYS HAVE BEEN WHITE, THE LAST IN 1981. A BALMY START TO WINTER.

HOWEVER WE MUST BEAR IN MIND THAT OUR COLDEST MONTH IS FEBRUARY AND WE STILL HAVE TWO THIRDS OF THE WINTER TO COME.