

SIGNIFICANT FEATURES OF THE MONTH:

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DECEMBER MARKS THE ONSET OF WINTER AND HAS LOW SUNSHINE TOTALS. THE ALL TIME LOW WAS IN DECEMBER 1989 WITH A MERE 10.5 HRS OF BRIGHT SUNSHINE, A QUARTER OF EXPECTATION.

THE WORST SPELL OF COLD WEATHER WAS IN 1962 WITH 8 DAYS BETWEEN THE 2ND AND 31ST WHEN THE TEMPERATURE FAILED TO RISE ABOVE ZERO AT ALL. THIS WAS THE START OF THE INFAMOUS WINTER OF 1963!!

AMONGST THE WET DECEMBERS WAS 1952 WHEN BETWEEN THE 3RD AND 25TH 61.7MM OF RAIN FELL IN 11 WET DAYS, 8 OF THEM CONSECUTIVE. 1969 SAW 51.3MM OF RAIN BETWEEN THE 10TH AND 25TH, WITH 16 CONSECUTIVE WET DAYS.

A DRY DECEMBER WAS 1947 WHEN ONLY 1.3 MM OF RAIN FELL BETWEEN THE 8TH AND 23RD. IN 1961 NO RAIN AT ALL FELL FOR A PERIOD OF 14 DAYS BETWEEN THE 14TH AND 28TH AND 1963 SAW ONLY 1.8 MM OF RAIN BETWEEN THE 3RD AND 23RD WITH 12 CONSECUTIVE DRY DAYS.

THE WORST SPELL OF AIR FROST WAS IN 1981 WITH 22 OCCURRENCES, WHILST IN 1961, 1962 AND 1981 THERE WERE 23 INCIDENCES OF GROUND FROST. THE LOWEST NUMBER OF DECEMBER GROUND FROSTS WAS 5 IN 1974, WHILST THE LOWEST INCIDENCE OF AIR FROST WAS 1 IN 1971.