

RECORDS TUMBLE IN MILD WINTER.

The weather in February continued to break long-established statistics.

It was the warmest on record with a mean daily temperature of 7C [45F], double the normal. The 23rd produced an air maximum of 16C [61F] another record for the district and more in line with April. This was some 5C [9F] above usual, with almost all temperatures being well above average, some by as much as 9C [16F]. The night of the 23rd-24th also broke the record for the warmest February night when the temperature never fell below 11C [52F] during the hours of darkness.

It was also a wet month, almost 180% of the February mean being recorded at 92 mm [3.62ins]. The wettest day, the 7th, produced a fall of 21mm [0.83in] in a little over 13 hours making this the 5th wettest February since at least 1946.

Sunshine, though up on average at 72 hours, was not as high as the previous 4 years, but still managed a third above expectation.

The significant feature of the month was the wind. With a mean speed of 12 knots [14mph] it was the windiest February on record in Halesowen. In all 707 gusts above gale force were recorded over 119 hours on 18 days of the month, the worst being to 58 knots [67mph] at around 5.30 am on the 25th.

All in all, the continuing mild and unseasonable weather has given the second best winter in over half a century behind that of last year.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE MONTH.

FEBRUARY BROKE ALL TEMPERATURE RECORDS WITH A MEAN DAILY OF 7C [45F], ALMOST TWICE THE NORM. WITH 16C [61F] ON THE 23RD ANOTHER RECORD WAS SET. ALL TEMPERATURES WERE ABOVE NORMAL, SOME BY AS MUCH AS 9C [16F].

FEBRUARY WAS ALSO WET, 180% OF THE USUAL FALL OCCURRING WITH 92 MM [3.62INS] THE 7TH WAS THE WETTEST WITH 21 MM [0.83IN] IN A LITTLE OVER 13 HRS GIVING THE 5TH WETTEST FEBRUARY SINCE AT LEAST 1946.

SUNSHINE, UP ON AVERAGE BY A THIRD, WAS STILL DOWN ON THE PREVIOUS 4 YRS.

THE SIGNIFICANT FEATURE OF THE MONTH WAS WIND, THE MEAN SPEED OF 12KNOTS [14MPH] PRODUCING THE WINDIEST FEBRUARY ON RECORD HERE. 707 GALE-FORCE GUSTS OCCURRED IN 119 HRS ON 18DAYS, WITH 58KN [67MPH] RECORDED ON THE 25TH AT 5.30AM