

FREAK OCTOBER WEATHER.

OCTOBER PRODUCED SOME QUITE EXCEPTIONAL, AND EXTREME, WEATHER CONDITIONS. RECORDS WERE BROKEN IN SEVERAL AREAS

THE FIRST 10 DAYS SAW 80.1MM (3.15 INS) OF RAIN FALL, WELL IN EXCESS OF THE NORMAL FOR THE ENTIRE MONTH, YET THE FINAL 10 DAYS WERE PRACTICALLY DRY, A MERE 0.3MM (0.02IN) FALLING, MAINLY FROM SLIGHT DRIZZLE. SIMILARLY WITH SUNSHINE, THE FINAL WEEK SEEING NO SUN AT ALL, PRECEDED BY AN EXCEPTIONAL 40 HOURS RECORDED JUST ONE WEEK EARLIER. THUS OCTOBER ENDED AS THE FOURTH SUNNIEST ON RECORD AND THE BEST SINCE 1971 IN ADDITION TO BEING THE TENTH WETTEST IN THE LAST 38 YEARS AND THE WORST SINCE 1990.

IT WAS ALSO A COLD MONTH, RESULTING IN THE SECOND COLDEST OCTOBER ON RECORD (THE WORST WAS LAST YEAR). THE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 16.5C (61.7F) WAS THE FIFTH LOWEST OCTOBER MAXIMUM EVER RECORDED HERE, WHILST THE LOW OF MINUS 5C (23F) ON THE 17TH WAS THE COLDEST OCTOBER NIGHT SINCE RECORDS BEGAN IN HALESOWEN IN 1956.

THE MONTH ALSO PRODUCED THE SECOND LOWEST GROUND TEMPERATURE IN 38 YEARS AT MINUS 7.5C (18.5F), ALSO ON THE 17TH. THE SIX AIR FROSTS ALSO SET A NEW RECORD FOR OCTOBER, THE 9 GROUND FROSTS BEING THE SIXTH HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR THE MONTH.