

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE MONTH.

The month began cold and unsettled with spells of snow. Easter Monday had 1 cm of snow lying, only the 2nd time for such an event in 38 years. Snow or sleet was noted on 8 days, 3 times the normal, with hail on 3 and thunder on 4 almost 6 times expectation. The maximum temperature of 21.2C (70F) occurred on the 30th, whilst the night minimum of 11.7C (53F) on the 28th gave the warmest April night on record here. Such is the variability of the British weather.

Sunshine was marginally above normal at 162 hours, the best day being the 30th with almost 13 hours of bright sunshine. Only one day was sunless, just a quarter of the 30-year mean.

Total rainfall was below expectation at 51mm (2.00ins), though ground frost numbering 14, was an eighth up on expectation for April

Soil temperatures are now quite reasonable, but we can still expect 4 ground frosts in May. On 19th May 1956 we had 8.3deg. of ground frost!!!
