

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE MONTH.

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An excellent mid-Spring month; very sunny, warm and very dry. With a mean maximum temperature of 14.2C (58F), April was the warmest since 1987 and the third warmest in 40-years. The mean daily of 9.2C (49F) was below the record 10.7C set in 1987 but was still the third warmest on file here. All soil temperatures are now well above the means, by as much as 2.7C at 5cm depth.

With only 13.4mm (0.53in) of rain, April was the driest since 1984 (4.4mm) and was the third driest in half a century in Halesowen. Rain fell on only 5 days, the same as in 1990, only 1957 and 1954 being "drier" with 4 days each.

Sunshine was also well above the 30 year mean at 200.6 hours (154%), the sunniest since the record of 222.6 hours set in 1984 and the second best on record. Only three days were without any sun, whilst 12.7 hours was recorded on the 13th.

Snow or sleet was noted on 4 occasions, and hail once. No thunder was heard.

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