

G E N E R A L C O M M E N T S O N T H E M O N T H .

The 12 months ending October 31st were the warmest on record for Central England. October was the warmest since 1969 with a mean maximum of 16.3C/61F [16.7C/62F in 1969]. Only 3 ground frosts occurred with no air frost. Since 1956 only three Octobers have been totally frost-free.

It was the third sunniest on record with 132 hours sunshine (138/1959; 35/1971), with only 2 totally sunless days, itself a new record. (3/1975).

Rainfall totalled 45.7mm/1.80ins, giving the driest October since 1985. Rain fell on 8 days, half expectation, with 6 days classed as "wet".

Winds were mainly SW and light averaging 6knots/7mph, though in a vigorous line squall on the 24th gusts of 39knots/45mph occurred with torrential rain falling at the rate of 96mm/3.8ins per hour for a short period around 6.30pm.

Fog occurred on 1 morning, with no hail, thunder or sleet reported.