

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE MONTH.

February was a more typical winter month than for many years. With 11 days of snow or sleet it was the worst since 1970 which had 16. Snow lay on 7 days the highest total since 1986, to a maximum depth of 24cm (9ins) on the 7th.

The month was cold, all mean air temperatures being down on the 30-year means, the night mean minimum of minus 1.1C (30F) by 1.5C. Soil temperatures are all down on average, by as much as a full degree C at 30cm (1ft depth).

Sunshine has been well above average with over 30% more than usual, the best for 7 years. The 9.9 hours of bright sunshine on the 28th created a new daily record for this area first set in 1961.

It was also wetter than usual, with 57.7mm (2.26ins) of rain falling over 18 days, quite a proportion being as snow or sleet.

Hail was noted on one occasion, though there was no incidence of thunder.