

This tracked across the Midlands during the 18<sup>th</sup> heading for the North Sea, pushing a frontal system across all areas. This gave a period of steady, often moderate, rain during the morning as winds strengthened from the SW, turning more intermittent during the day and finally petering out late in the afternoon. In all a total of 8.4mm of rain fell in the 48 hour period ending at 0900 on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> an intensifying anticyclone was developing to the north of the country with depressions to both the west and east. This pulled a very cold northerly air stream across the country with plummeting temperatures and heavy falls of snow in the Scottish mountains and as far south as the coast of East Anglia. The maximum temperature on the 19<sup>th</sup> was no higher than 3.8C as opposed to the 7.7C on the previous day. Under clear skies overnight on the 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> a quite widespread, and in cases severe, ground frost occurred, grass temperatures here falling to minus 4.3C around dawn on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The day was thus one of sunny spells and cold north westerlies with an appreciable wind chill.

Low pressure was to remain the dominant synoptic feature in the vicinity of the British Isles over the next three days, though an area of high pressure was developing over the north east Norwegian Sea. Frontal systems crossed the area on the 21<sup>st</sup> after an early and quite sharp frost, giving spells of intermittent rain and only brief sunshine, temperatures remaining around 5C. The 22<sup>nd</sup> was a depressingly dull and damp day, the early mist thickening to fog for much of daylight hours, with spells of intermittent drizzle.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> was a little brighter with over 2 hours of sunshine, frontal systems lying well to the north of the country. Temperatures fell quickly under clearing skies during the early evening, leading to a ground frost. The anticyclone near to northern Scotland intensified over the next few days bringing settled weather with a little sunshine and night frosts. The resultant north easterly wind flow meant low temperatures by day as well as night with considerable wind chill. At 9.0 am on the 25<sup>th</sup> the mean sea level pressure stood at 1037 hPa, the highest of the month to date.

The remainder of the month was to be dominated by high pressure, its centre being predominantly over, or near to the UK. This maintained a cool to cold easterly air stream over the region, which, coupled with clear skies at night, resulted in sharp frosts. The grass temperature on the 28<sup>th</sup> fell as low as minus 8.1C with minus 4.8C recorded in the air. Days were, however, plagued by anticyclonic gloom with nil sunshine on 3 days, only the 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> producing brighter skies and sunshine.

By the 31<sup>st</sup> the centre of high pressure was in sea area Viking and was migrating towards Germany. An associated cold front situated over the northern area of the country began slow movement south westwards dragging colder air in its wake. The resultant weather over the Midlands was of low cloud and mist with daytime temperatures struggling to reach 4.6C, though it did remain dry.

## JANUARY SUMMARY.

January was a relatively mild month, the mean daily temperature ending 1.1C above the 30 year mean at 4.6C, giving the best figures since 1994 which ended at 4.9C. The mean maximum was 1.0C above average and the mean minimum 1.2C above, both being the mildest since 1994. The maximum daily temperature of 13.3C on the 10<sup>th</sup> was the equal highest with that of January 1957 in data extending back to 1956. The coldest night of -4.8C on the 28<sup>th</sup> was the "warmest" since 1990 which ended at -2.1C. In all there were 8 air frosts, the least since 1994 which had 6, plus 20 ground frosts, three fewer than last year. No snow lay at 09 hr on any day of the month, the best figures since 1994, and snow or sleet occurred on only 2 occasions, the lowest since 1994 which saw 1 incidence.

Sunshine totalled 45.8 hours, the sunniest since 1995 which had 53.2 hours. A normal January would provide 48.4 hours. In all 11 days were sunless from a norm of 13.6, the lowest figures since 1994 which produced 8 days without any sun.

Rainfall totalled 76.3mm, some 113% of the 30 year mean. January 1995 saw a fall of 118.4mm. During the month 16 days saw rain equalling more than 0.2mm over the 24 hour period.