

over 1cm of fresh snow to the area. Sunshine for the day totalled 9.4 hours. Under quickly clearing skies this lay unmelted as a sharp ground and slight air frost developed. A grass temperature of minus 4C and air temperature of minus 1.5C occurred near dawn on the 13th.

The 13th began with clear skies and good sunshine, though large cumulus and cumulo nimbus clouds again brought frequent and heavy snow shows across the Midlands under a brisk northerly wind. Maximum temperatures reached no higher than 7.5C though it was quite sunny with 7.5 hours recorded. Further snow occurred during the night of the 13th/14th though this was insufficient to give ground cover by the 09.00 GMT observation. A deep depression lay in the southern North Sea and this moved slowly westwards, whilst a further area of low pressure moved along the Channel threatening a period of sleet or snow later in the day. With bright sunshine to start the day on the 14th temperatures reached 9.6C with slight rain falling from 16.00 to 17.00 GMT. By this time temperatures had fallen to 0C and the rain turned to snow giving a cover by 20.00.

Low pressure still dominated the weather over the country on the 15th, the cold northerly wind bringing in a period of moderate snow from 0530 to 1030 GMT giving a 1cm cover of wet snow by 0900 GMT. The snow turned to rain, continuing until 1726 intermittently, the maximum afternoon temperature being no higher than 5.7C. Clearing skies after sunset led to a slight ground frost of minus 2.8C by dawn on the 16th. The day was again cold with a light northerly and a spell of slight snow from 0236 to 0445 GMT. There then followed a drier interlude, daylight hours producing a total of 1.5 hours of weak sunshine and a maximum temperature of 9.3C.

The dumbelling low pressure systems continued to influence the weather on the 17th which was a day of intermittent sunshine and slight showery rain amounting to little more than a trace. Temperatures remained depressed climbing to a maximum of only 9.4C under the still persisting cool northerly winds. Clearing skies overnight on the 17th/18th led to a touch of ground frost around dawn, the day again being cool with spells of sunshine and slight showers as a weakening ridge attempted to push across the country from the west during the 18th.

The 18th remained under the influence of low pressure as the weak ridge declined. This gave a day of short sunny periods and isolated light showers, maximum temperatures reaching no higher than 10.5C. Skies cleared late in the evening allowing a widespread ground frost to develop, grass temperatures falling to minus 2C around dawn on the 19th. Skies soon clouded over and the wind turned SE heralding the start of a spell of intermittent light rain for much of the day which was to see nothing in the way of sunshine.

With Atlantic lows approaching from the south west and relatively high pressure on the Continent, a more pronounced south westerly air flow became established across the UK on the 20th. This allowed afternoon temperatures to reach 12.4C, the highest since the 7th, though the air became more unstable with many cumulonimbus clouds developing during the afternoon. This brought the isolated thunderstorm to parts of the Midlands, and a brief shower of light hail here at 1335 GMT. After a slight ground frost early on the 21st, the approaching frontal systems from a further Atlantic low spread rain across the whole area during the morning which was to last all day. With a totally sunless day, even the influence of a mainly southerly air stream could not lift the daytime maximum above 12.2C.

Further low pressure systems from the Atlantic moved rapidly across the area on the 22nd, their frontal systems pushing rain belts eastwards and northwards. A sunny interlude during the morning sent air temperatures soaring in the mainly southerly air flow, maximums in the region of 17.4C being registered during the afternoon. This was sufficient to set off thunderstorms and hail showers in the very unstable convective air during the later afternoon and evening, much of this lying to the south and east of the Midlands.

A rapidly moving low crossed the region on the 23rd as it made its way into the near Continent, the associated fronts spreading rain, some heavy, to the Midlands during the day after a spell of fleeting sunshine just after dawn. By the 24th an very complex area of low pressure still lay to the north west of the country and this pushed frontal systems southwards and eastwards during the day. Further light showers occurred, though only a little over 3 hours of sunshine was noted with a maximum temperature of 16.4C.

By the early morning of the 25th the cold front had not cleared from the coast of Kent, the remainder of the country coming under the influence of a very unstable air mass. This precipitated frequent showers, some heavy and with thunder, though the day here was predominantly warm and sunny with over 10 hours of bright sunshine and a maximum of 16C. Low pressure persisted near to the western shores of the UK over the 26th and 27th maintaining a very unstable air mass. Frequent showers occurred with hail around midday on the 26th though sunny periods were predominant. The daytime maximum on the 26th was a little down at 14.5C with almost 8 hours of bright sunshine.

The 27th saw a continuation of low pressure to the west of Ireland which maintained an unstable south westerly air mass over the UK. This spawned heavy showers and several