

SUMMARY FOR AUTUMN 1998.

The autumn of 1998 was the least open since 1993 and ended ranked 14th in 42 years of observations at Halesowen.

Rainfall totalled 283.1mm, the wettest since 1985 when 328.2mm fell making this one of the wetter of the autumn seasons. Rain fell on 54 days, the worst since 1992, a “normal” year seeing 45 days with rain.

One day of sleet or snow was reported, though the autumn of 1970 saw 6 such occurrences. Fog at 0900 was reported once against the 17 occasions in 1958 when we had a succession of “smog”. Thunder was reported on 6 days when the norm is 2, equalling the record first established in 1976.

Sunshine at 286.6 hours was well down on the previous three years though only marginally below the 30-year mean. The 17 sunless days was also well below normal for autumn though much better than the 33 occasions set in 1960.

Both air and ground frosts were about average though it was not a particularly cool season., the mean daily temperature ending at 10.2C against a norm of 9.9C. The best autumn season was in 1995 with a mean daily temperature of 11.0C. The highest maximum of 24.2C was above average and the best since 1993. Night minima were slightly above expectation, the lowest of -3.0C being recorded. The coldest autumn night on record saw the temperature plunge to -6.2C.