

SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY 1999.

February was a relatively warm, sunny and drier than usual month. Sunshine was a fifth above average, the sunniest day providing 9 hours on the 10th. With only 6 sunless days as opposed to the customary 10 it was better than usual, although last February saw only 2 sunless days !

Rainfall totals were down to 82% of usual, well above the 14mm of rain recorded last year, but the best thence since 1993 (8mm). Rain fell on 17 days (normal 14) against the 5 of last year, though 1993 with 19 was the last year to better this. Rain was falling for 132 hours in all, though only 66 hours of this was at the rate of 1mm per hour or more.

Temperatures held up very well, all means showing positive anomalies by, on average, +1.3C. The highest maximum of 13.5C was the fifth highest in the last 20 years. With the mean maximum 1.4C above normal, the mean minimum 1.3C and the mean daily 1.3C above normal, nothing was exceptional in terms of the past few years.

Snow lay on 1 day to a depth of 1cm with snow or sleet falling on 8 days, slightly above expectation. Hail occurred twice whilst we had no thunder or gales. There were 15 ground and 8 air frosts, both below average for February.

Thundering winds were from the WSW at Jackson's with a max gust to 37 knots on the 5th. Winds marked fall force on 2 days.