

JANUARY SUMMARY.

January was a relatively warm month with all mean air temperatures showing positive anomalies. These ranged from +1.7C for the mean maximum to +0.8C for the mean minimum. The warmest day, January 30th with 12.5C was also 1.3C above the 30 -year mean, about par for the past 5 years.

Ground radiation temperatures have also been well above average, the minimum on grass of minus 6.0C on the 20th being 5 degrees above the mean for the month. However, we did have 20 ground frosts, though some were just touches, with just 9 air frosts, itself down on the usual 12.

Sunshine was well above expectation, the 63 hours showing a surplus of 14.6 hours over a normal January. In fact, with only 5 sunless days this month was the best on record, the previous lowest of 7 occurring in 1984. The highest daily total of 6.8 hours recorded on the 9th was down on last year but is still 6% better than in an average year.

The month was fairly dry with 22.2mm of rain from a norm of 67.5mm, just 33% of average making this month the driest since 1997 and the 2nd driest since 1964. Rain fell on 12 days for a total of 28.1 hours, the maximum intensity of 26mm/hour occurring on the 5th in a spell of heavy rain. Only one day was "wet" (more than 5mm per day), though some precipitation, even though very light on occasions, occurred for a period of 72 hours.

Winds were predominantly SSW at a mean speed of 6.8 knots, though gale force gusts occurred on 3 days, the highest to 38 knots on the 30th. The latter part of the month was the most unsettled, particularly in the north.

Radiation levels are now rising as the sun gets higher in the sky. The January total was 1054.3 Kilowatts per sq metre with a maximum of 74.9 Kilowatts per sq metre occurring on the 26th.

The was no incidence of snow or sleet during the month, only the fourth time since 1956, the previous occasion being in 1989. No thunder was heard and there was no occurrence of hail, so with all temperatures showing positive anomalies we have had yet another mild mid-winter month.