

## FEBRUARY SUMMARY 2000

The highest maximum of 11.9C was equal to that in 1996 and the lowest for 4 years. Similarly, the warmest night (February 1<sup>st</sup>) was also the lowest since 1996 with 7.1C. Mean temperatures were high, however, the mean maximum of 9.2C being the best for 2 years and 2.8C above the 30 year mean. The mean daily temperature of 5.8C was 2.4C above the mean, though down on the 7.1C recorded last year. In all there were 13 ground and 6 air frosts, well below expectation and also lower in severity than could have been expected for a winter month. The lowest grass temperature of minus 5.7C on the 20<sup>th</sup> was 3.8C higher than usual.

Rainfall was the highest for 10 years and some 20mm above the 30 year mean. The heaviest fall of 20.6mm on the 27<sup>th</sup> was also the highest for 10 years. Rain fell on 19 days for a period of 68.5 hours with a maximum intensity of 44mm per hour on the 9<sup>th</sup>. There were 4 “wetter” and 1 “very wet” day. Snow or sleet occurred on 2 occasions when we could have anticipated 6 and no snow lay at 09.00hr on any day of the month against a norm of 4 such occasions.

Sunshine at 105 hours was the highest on record in Halesowen in data extending back to 1956 and was some 44 hours above the mean for February. There were 9 hours of bright sunshine on the 13<sup>th</sup>, the sunniest day, whilst 6 days only were totally without sun from a norm of 9.6.

Winds were predominantly WSW at 7.9 knots with gusts above gale force on 2 days, the maximum reaching 44 knots on the 9<sup>th</sup>. There was no thunder though hail occurred on 2 occasions.

Yet another example of a very open winter month which seem to be becoming the rule rather than the exception!