

## FEBRUARY SUMMARY.

The month began with high pressure dominating the weather of much of Europe, bringing in cold, Continental air and much night frost to the UK. However, frontal systems and depressions gained access to the country by flowing around the northern top of the high pressure, descending southwards bringing in belts of rain. The first week saw a total of 28.1mm [1.11ins] of rain and 16,3 hours of sunshine. The coldest night was the 1<sup>st</sup> with a minimum of  $-2.8\text{C}$  [27F] whilst the maximum daytime temperature was  $11.3\text{C}$  [52.3F] on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

The start of the second week was influenced by low pressure, though initially it was less wet though remaining mild. Rainfall for the week totalled 21.3mm [0.84in] with the heaviest fall of 10.1mm [0.40in] on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Sunshine occurred on every day save two and amounted to 27.7 hours, two days producing in excess of 9 hours with the highest total standing at 9.2 hours on the 14<sup>th</sup>, excellent for so early in the year. Temperatures also remained high, peaking at  $11.6\text{C}$  [52.9F] on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

High pressure, low temperatures and sunny days dominated the third week. Mean sea level pressure peaked at 1044.3 hPa on the 17<sup>th</sup> resulting in plummeting night temperatures and quite dense fog on occasions. The lowest grass temperature of  $-6.4\text{C}$  [20.5F] occurred on the 18<sup>th</sup> with the lowest in the air of  $-3.8\text{C}$  [25.2F] on the same date. Rainfall amounted to no more than 1.3mm [0.05in], though traces occurred on most nights from condensed fog or hoar frost. Sunshine was good, totalling 29.3 hours for the seven-day period, no day being sunless.

By the beginning of the fourth week the high pressure was declining allowing the wind to swing round to the northwest. This heralded much cooler air and a possible return to the wintry conditions seen in late January. Ground frosts occurred every night save two, with the coldest night of the month down to  $-8.5\text{C}$  [16.7F] on the 25<sup>th</sup>. With this much colder air snow showers occurred on 4 days though no appreciable snow lay on any morning at 9.0 am. The final week saw only one sunless day, a total of 24.2 hours being recorded over the 7 days.

### THE MONTH SUMMARISED.

February was a sunny month with 37 hours more sunshine than usual though slightly less than last year which was a record month. Two days were sunny [over 9 hours] the best of 9.2 hours on the 14<sup>th</sup>. In all 5 days were sunless.

It was also a wet month with 66m [2.60ins] of rain, or 130% of the usual fall. Rain fell on 17 days for a period of 76 hours the heaviest fall being of 20mm [0.79in] per hour on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

Snow fell on 4 days with snow or sleet on 6, though snow did not lie on any morning to appreciable depth. Hail occurred twice with one thunderstorm, though this was not heavy.

All soil temperatures except that at 100cm are above average though no records were broken. Mean air temperatures, despite the 15 air and 17 ground frosts, remained around average.

It was not a windy month, the prevailing NW wind peaking above gale force on only one day, the 6<sup>th</sup> and then just to 35 knots. Pressure was relatively low with depressions dominating much of the weather of the month.