

## SUMMARY FOR APRIL.

April was both very wet, was less sunny and generally cooler than an average month. The total rainfall of 107mm [4.21ins] made it the third April from the last four to have produced over 100mm [3.94ins] of rain. In addition, the last twelve calendar months have been the wettest in 200 years. Rain fell on 21 days, 7 more than average, over a period of 92.9 hours itself some 67% above expectation. From the entire month only 4 days were completely free of precipitation.

Sunshine totalled 128.8 hours, 10 hours down on normal and the dulllest since 1998, yet only 2 days were totally sunless. The best day, the 29<sup>th</sup> saw almost 11 hours of bright sunshine with 4 days registering over 9 hours each.

It was a cold month, 12 ground frosts being recorded, the worst to  $-5.9\text{C}$  [ $21.4\text{F}$ ] on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 4 nights with frost in the air, the worst to  $-2.3\text{C}$  [ $27.9\text{F}$ ] also on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Both figures were slightly above the average for April. The warmest day, the 9<sup>th</sup> with  $16\text{C}$  [ $60.8\text{F}$ ] was over three degrees below expectation for the month, whilst the warmest night with  $8.3\text{C}$  [ $46.9\text{F}$ ] was  $0.7\text{C}$  below expectation. All mean air temperatures recorded negative anomalies by as much as  $-0.9\text{C}$  for the mean maximum.

Due to the large number of frosts ground temperatures are now depressed, the mean 10cm by as much as  $1.2\text{C}$ . The worst figure was for the maximum 30cm soil temperature which was 4 degrees down on normal. There were 3 days with hail and 2 with snow, with one occasion of thunder. However, winds were light averaging 6.1 knots [7mph] from the SW, the maximum gust of 29 knots [33 mph] occurring on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

These are generally rather poor figures for the mid-month of the spring season!.