

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

DECEMBER 2006

RAINFALL

84.5mm (3.33ins) on 16 days.

Greatest fall in 24 hours (09-09h) - 13.0mm (0.51ins) on 11th.

December 2005 total rainfall - 65.1mm (2.56ins) on 11 days.

January to December 2006 - 646.9mm. (25.47ins)

January to December 2005 - 537.3mm (21.15ins)

TEMPERATURES

Highest Maximum -13.3°C (56.0°F) on 4th & 5th.

Lowest Maximum -5.0°C (41.0°F) on 21st.

Highest Minimum -11.5°C (52.7°F) on 14th.

Lowest Minimum --1.3°C (29.6°F) on 21st.

Lowest Grass --4.3°C (24.2°F) on 19th.

SUNSHINE

December 2006 - 60.9 hours on 16 days.

December 2005 - 97.0 hours on 26 days.

Maximum sunshine in 24 hours - 7.9 hours on 20th.

January to December 2006 2039.6 hours.

January to December 2005 1960.6 hours.

SUMMARY

The weather during the month was for the first half dominated by low pressure and for the second half, except for the last three days when low pressure took over, by high pressure. Atmospheric pressure was exceptionally high during the period 19th to 26th when the barometer remained at 1040 plus millibars. During this period, although it was less windy and it remained dry, anti-cyclonic gloom was very much in evidence to produce over the holiday period seven successive days when a total of just a half an hour of sunshine was recorded. In contrast, during the first half of the month 80% of the month's rainfall was recorded.

The month began on a wet and windy note. During the nights 1/2 and 2/3, heavy rainfall was recorded (10.3mm's). Day and night temperatures remained well above the seasonal average. Between the 2nd and the 4th a very deep depression tracked slowly across the northern U.K. As a result, strong to gale force winds affected the area. It remained very windy particularly on 11th when gale force winds with heavy rain were recorded (13.0mm). On 16th, pressure began to rise over the Azores. There followed a period of more settled weather. Winds moved to the north west and became much lighter. It became noticeably cooler with ground frosts recorded between the 18th and 22nd and a slight air frost on 21st. The 20th was the sunniest day of the month with 7.9 hours of sunshine recorded, but thereafter, anti-cyclonic gloom prevailed. Low pressure returned on 29th to end the month as it began with strong winds and rain.

The rainfall total of 84.5mm was above the seasonal average of 75.54mm.

The sunshine total of 60.9 hours fell just short of the seasonal average of 62.3 hours.

The mean maximum temperature of 10.1°C and mean minimum of 5.5°C were both well above their seasonal averages of 8.7°C and 4.2°C respectively.

A.E.S. 04 JAN 07