

## February 2005

The 1<sup>st</sup> was a dull day but dry until the evening when a little drizzle fell. Max 8.7c. The 2<sup>nd</sup> was another cloudy day but there was a little sunshine around midday Max 7.9. The 3<sup>rd</sup> was again cloudy a little drizzle / light rain around 0800hr. but otherwise dry. One of six days with Nil sunshine, max 10.2. The 4<sup>th</sup> continued with similar conditions of grey overcast skies and another day with nil sunshine, max 9.3c. The 5<sup>th</sup> was dull but dry with a max of 7.0, again sunshine limited 0.1hrs. The 6<sup>th</sup> began with rain / drizzle overnight but there was some sunshine during the morning and a little during the afternoon, a dry day max 9.2c The 7<sup>th</sup> started with an air frost and 2.9hrs of frost duration together with dense fog at 0700hr 200m which had thinned a little to 400m at 0900hr. Some sunshine late morning but limited to just 0.9hrs and a max of 6.7c. The 8<sup>th</sup> saw another air frost but this had occurred at 2054-2154hr on 7<sup>th</sup>. A cloudy and dry day with a little sunshine, max 9.4c. The 9<sup>th</sup> continued with cloudy skies but there was a 'red dawn' when 0.15hrs of sunshine were recorded, a max of 9.8 which was beaten by the 0900hr air temperature on 10<sup>th</sup> of 10.1c The night of the 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> was mild with 2100-0900hr falling to only 8.6c at 2100hr. The day consisted of outbreaks of rain which continued into the evening. The 1<sup>st</sup> began with a damp night and a fall in temperature at 0315hr from 9.2c to 6.3c at 0415hr (fall of 2.9c in 1 hour). A day of outbreaks of rain / drizzle and a max of 10.9c which was beaten by an 11.8 recorded at 0245hr. This would have been one of the warmest nights on record with a min of 10.9c (21-09hr) but the 090-090hr temp. was 5.7c at 0900hr on 11<sup>th</sup>. The 12<sup>th</sup> was mild with a max of 13.0c but the day was blustery with a gust of 33 knots at 1200hr from the NW. There were also some light showers and sunny spells. Colder air began to move into the area from 1445 as air temperature fell from 11.4 at 1445 to 9.7c at 1545hr (fall of 1.7c in 30 mins. The 13<sup>th</sup> saw a contrast with much lower temperatures and at 0800 and 0900hr light sleet fell. The day consisted of sunny spells but hail (5mm) fell during the late morning. Max 6.3c. The 14<sup>th</sup> generally felt cold with sunny spells but it remained dry, max 6.2. The 15<sup>th</sup> was also dry but there were a few isolated showers around the area and sunny spells, max 6.4c. The 16<sup>th</sup> was much colder with a max of only 4.6c and limited sunshine of 1.6hrs. It however remained dry. The 17<sup>th</sup> began with 5.4hrs of air frost but cloud moved into the area and it remained dry but cloudy in the morning with outbreaks of rain from late morning and into the afternoon, although rainfall was still low at 1.3mm. Max 5.9c The 18<sup>th</sup> was a cloudy morning with some sunshine around midday and into the afternoon before light rain fell. Max 9.0c. The 19<sup>th</sup> was bright and



sunny with 7.2hrs of sunshine the highest of the month but cooler with max of 5.6c. The night of the 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> had seen 7.7hrs of air frost but a bright start, with cloud increasing and by the afternoon the sunshine was limited. It remained dry until 2100hr when snow fell. Max 4.2c The 21<sup>st</sup> was a cold day with outbreaks of light snow flurries during the morning and snow showers during the afternoon. Snow fall between 2100 and 2300hr led to settlement. Max 5.4c

The night of 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> saw further snow fall and by 0900hr 1cm of lying snow was recorded, this being the first lying snow of the winter. Although there were further snow showers during the day the lying snow had thawed by 1400hr. *Photo above of Martins Heron Station at 0715hr on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February.* A max of 4.1 was followed by a cold night with 10.8hrs of air frost and further snow flurries during the morning and afternoon of the 23<sup>rd</sup> and a max of only 3.3c. The 24<sup>th</sup> was a cold day with wet snow and sleet turning to rain at times. A max of only 2.0c was recorded the lowest of the month. However, the evening saw snow falling which began to settle on the grass areas and following 10.6hrs of frost where much of the wet snow /sleet during the evening had thawed turned to ice. Further snow fell overnight and from 0700 until c0930hr causing major problems with travel as the snow settled onto ice on surfaced areas. 2cm was recorded as lying snow at 0900hr. There were further outbreaks of snow showers during the morning and afternoon but as the air temperature rose above 0c a rapid thaw set in and roads and footways were all clear of snow and ice by 1030hr.

*Photo on right is of Ralphs Ride at 0845hr on 25<sup>th</sup> February.*

A max of 2.5c was recorded.

Overnight snow on the 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> gave a covering of 1cm at 0900hr on 26<sup>th</sup> after 5.5hrs of air frost. The day was cloudy and cold with some snow showers during the afternoon a max of 4.6c was recorded. The 27<sup>th</sup> saw 5.5hrs of sunshine but there had been some snow overnight. The day was generally



dry but there were a few snow showers around midday. Max 3.3c. The night of the 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> was very cold with a minimum of -6.9c the lowest minimum since 1991 and a grass min of -10.8c which was the 8<sup>th</sup> lowest since records began in 1976. There had been 15.5hrs of air frost, the highest of the month. The day was dry in general but there were some snow showers during the afternoon. Max 3.6c. The night of the 28<sup>th</sup> / 1<sup>st</sup> was less cold with a min of 0.4c.

### **Daily Notes**

Mean Max 6.8c the lowest since 1996. Lowest minimum -6.9 (28th) lowest since 1991. Rainfall: Highest fall 4.4mm (10th) the lowest since 1998 and 3rd lowest on 35 year record.

### **Monthly Station Notes**

Rainfall: Total for month 20.0mm the lowest since 1998 and 8th lowest for February in 35 years. Snow falling 10 days, the highest since 1986 and equal with 1991. Snow lying, (at 0090hr) 3 days, the highest since 1996. The 25th with 2cm depth was the deepest snow in February since 1996.

### **Winter Season Station Notes (December 2004 to February 2005)**

Temperatures: Mean was slightly above the average (1971-2000),

Rainfall: Winter total was 93.5mm, 52% making it the 3rd driest Winter in 35 years. Only 1991/92 (47.3mm) and 1975/76 (64.3mm) have been drier. Snowfall: 15 days was the highest winter total since 1996 (18 days), however days with an air frost was the lowest 23 days, since the winter of 1994/95 with 18 days.

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