



HURSTBOURNE TARRANT RAINFALL

Following on in a similar manner as to that of October, both November and December returned rainfall amounts below average. Firstly, November recorded 62.9 mm.(2.48 ins.), compared to the usual 92.0 mm. (3.62 ins.), while December registered only 33% of its average 90.7 mm.(3.57 ins.), with 29.9 mm.(1.18 ins.). The wettest day during November was the 11th; with 9.9 mm.(0.39 ins.), and for December, 6.4 mm.(0.25 ins.) fell on the 27th.

Over the duration of 2010, the rainfall amounted to 685.1 mm.(26.97 ins.), quite a way short of the 839.5 mm.(33.05 ins.), which is the annual average, it was also the sixth lowest yearly total recorded since 1965. The number of days when precipitation was measured totalled 221 for the year, slightly more than the usual 211 days. February was the wettest month with 81.8 mm.(3.22 ins.), while the month of June was the opposite, with just 24.4 mm.(0.96 ins.). The highest daily rainfall over the twelve months was attributed to the 22nd. August, when 28.5 mm.(1.12 ins.) was recorded.

With the autumn and early winter months returning low rainfall amounts, and the aquifers lower than average, the appearance of the River Swift through the village could be in doubt, unless of course there is significant rainfall during the period January until the end of March. Interestingly, during the initial fifteen days of January, 70.0 mm.(just under 3.0 ins.) of rain had fallen, but this pattern needs to be maintained for quite a while though.

From the archives. During 2010, a new December low temperature of minus 13°C.(8.6°F.) was set on the morning of the 20th; this was marginally lower than the previous record of minus 12.8°C.(9.0°F.), established on the same date of the month in 1999. One other low December temperature during 2010, was minus 12.2°C. (10°F.) on Christmas Day night.

Weather lore. Candlemas Day, 2nd. February, has many weather lores related to it, here are but two: "*When the wind is in the east on Candlemas Day, There it will stick to the 2nd. May;*" and: "*If the sun shines on Candlemas Day, hard frost is sure to set in.*" Other lores for February relate: "*A thunderstorm in February brings an early wet spring;*" and: "*February fills dykes, Thawing by day, freezing by night.*"

Trevor Wheeler.