

## THE WINTER OF 1962-63.

The late Mr. Frank V. Mace, a milkman, kept a daily record of the weather conditions during this exceptionally severe winter, and we are grateful for the opportunity to publish his notes.

### December 1962

22nd.	Severe frost.
23rd.	Severe frost.
24th.	Very severe frost; milk freezing solid on milk round.
Christmas Day	Very hard frost.
26th.	Heavy frost followed by a heavy snowfall. Road conditions very poor.
30th.	Heavy snowfalls and blizzards between 5.20 and 9.00 a.m.

### January 1963

1st.	Sharp frosts, followed by heavy snow.
2nd.	Sharp frosts, followed by heavy snow.
3rd.	Sharp frosts, followed by heavy snow.
4th.	Frosts.
5th.	Frosts.
6th.	Frosts.
7th.	Frosts.
8th.	Frosts.
9th.	Frosts.
10th.	14' of frost.
11th.	22' of frost.
12th.	26' of frost.
13th.	13' of frost.
14th.	14' of frost.
15th.	16' of frost.
16th.	17' of frost.
17th.	21' of frost.
18th.	23' of frost.
19th.	A very heavy snowfall during the night.
20th.	14' of frost.

Heavy frosts continued, the lowest temperature of 33' of frost being recorded on January 24th. Temperatures slowly rose to a mere 12' of frost on January 26th. It was reported that during this week of exceptionally low temperatures a Land Rover was driven onto the Avon, which was frozen solid.

More snow fell on January 30th. and 31st., and there were moderate falls until February 2nd., when there were 20' of frost. Strong east winds blew, making it seem even colder.

### February 1963.

3rd.	14' of frost.
4th.	20' of frost.
5th.	6' of frost.
6th.	There was a slight thaw.

7th.	No frost.
8th.	No frost.
9th.	6° of frost.
10th.	A heavy snowfall.
Between February 11th. and 14th. there was an average of 6° of frost, and on the 15th. snow fell again.	
17th.	7° of frost.
18th.	14° of frost.
19th.	6° of frost.
20th.	8° of frost.
From the 21st. to the 23rd, there was an average of 8° of frost.	
24th.	16° of frost.
25th.	22° of frost.
26th.	18° of frost.
27th.	14° of frost.
28th.	14° of frost.

*March 1963.*

The low temperatures continued for the first few days of the month, falling as low as 17° of frost, but on March 5th. the thaw began, to be followed by severe floods.

During the whole of this period of exceptionally severe weather and difficult road conditions Mr. Mace never failed to complete his deliveries.

G.H.Baker.

Note:

**The Late Gordon Baker: Gordon recalled that winter because he was a carpenter working on the new houses in Pyke Road, Newtown but was prevented from working for weeks and I do not think he received any dole.**

The photographs are in the Library/Museum collection

I think **Degrees of Frost** mean degrees below freezing point of 32°F or 0°C. As it was 1962 it is likely it would be **Degrees Fahrenheit.**

**The coldest temperature would, therefore, be 6°F or -26°C**

According to Peter Finnigan's recordings of December 2021 **the coldest temperature was 26°F or -3°C** - it is reputedly the warmest December on national records[J Dixon].



*Figure 1 Abbey Mill Sluice Gate 193*



*Figure 2 Mr H Styles with his boat in 1963*



*Figure 3 near Bredon Skating on the Avon*



*Figure 4 Snowed up at Ashchurch 1963*



#### OUR MEMORABLE JANUARY

was done by the severe frosts in these parts last week. Most serious of all was the  
 3,500 telephones in this area, including more than 500 in Cheltenham.  
 ning drunkenly under the 3.—A scene near the Shurdington-road bridge, showing  
 s are characteristic of the the damage to the telephone posts and wires.  
 n sleet on Sunday, Jan. 28. 4.—On Cleeve Hill, where telephone poles were at all  
 on the following day on the angles, and wires were draped in artistic curves.  
 5 and 6.—Sheep and horses in the snow at Southam.  
 4lbs., formed round a small 7.—A big barge (on left) was forced by the ice right  
 was one of thousands. across the railway lines on the quay at Tewkesbury.

*"Cheltenham Chronicle" Photographs. Copies 1/- and 1/9.*