

August 2023

Unseasonably low pressure out in the near Atlantic continued to bring unsettled weather to our shores for the start of August with a particularly vigorous system, Storm '*Patricia*', bringing freshening southerly winds and rain from late afternoon on the 1st, together with mist and hill fog patches through the evening. The rain became persistent and heavy later that evening and overnight before clearing in the small hours of the 2nd. That 24 hour period yielded some 42.0mm of rainfall, the wettest day recorded at the airport since 1st October 2020.

Following that overnight cold front clearance our winds continued to increase through the morning to a steady F7 with gusts up to 50mph, still from the southwest. This was accompanied by a rash of blustery showers which became more isolated that afternoon as those winds finally started to ease off. As the low responsible for this rather inclement spell barrelled away up the Channel to be just off the coast of Germany by dawn on the 3rd, our showers pepped up as the associated occluded front dropped down in to the Channel. Mist and low cloud plagued the islands up until mid morning and it stayed cloudy for the bulk of the rest of the day. With the departure of that low, more settled ridge conditions pushed in from the west for the 4th with a generally fair morning but extensive high cloud that afternoon heralded the imminent arrival of the next low pressure system overnight in to the 5th.

The first drops of rain arrived shortly before dawn as this next vigorous low, Storm '*Antoni*', swept in across southern Ireland and up the Bristol Channel, but this time the bulk of the rain kept to the north as the cold front cleared though around midday. Our winds ramped up that afternoon to a solid F6 from the west with gusts just short of 50mph. Again though, this storm was a fast mover and by midnight was centred over the Low Countries as our winds veered in to the northwest and eased to a moderate F4 by daybreak on the 6th.

A welcome Azores High was nosing up from the southwest by now ensuring a fine and dry day across the islands, although temperatures remained slightly on the cool side for early August. That ridge maintained its benign influence for us until late on the 7th when a weakening low edged in to the western Channel. A much weaker system than the last two lows, we started to see the cloud thicken and lower overnight and through the morning of the 8th before patchy drizzle and local mist rolled in for the afternoon. Whilst that low started to lose its identity as it stalled in the Channel, the high moisture values remained resulting in extensive fog enshrouding the islands overnight in to the 9th. This fog slowly burnt back to the coasts during the morning to leave some patchy sea fog which eventually moved away northward as our winds settled in from the southeast.

A weak ridge stretched in for the start of the 10th to allow brighter conditions although with a couple of rogue showers early morning, but the respite was all too brief as the next Atlantic low was pushing in from the west with fronts arriving locally late that evening. Rain, drizzle and fog overnight was reluctant to clear the next day as that front stalled in the Channel, but some drier interludes at times on the 11th lead to the odd brighter spell. That front did manage to edge away to the east overnight but the low responsible had slowed its progress, still grinding away off the northwest coast of Ireland. Fresh southwest winds and mostly cloudy skies greeted the us for the 12th but we managed some sunshine through the day although temperatures remained on the cool side for mid August.

A rash of early morning showers on the 13th gave way to clearer skies thereafter, and with the winds easing down through the afternoon it felt quite pleasant. Unfortunately the next weather system was already making steady progress in from the west as cloud thickened later that evening, with the first few spots of rain around midnight. As this low tracked across North Wales the associated front dropped in to the Channel with frequent showers across the Bailiwick mid morning on the 14th and as the cloud thickened and lowered it turned more to drizzle for the afternoon with mist over higher ground. The eventual clearance was just before sunset, with improved visibility and by dawn on the 15th we were greeted with much brighter, drier conditions with just a scattering of cloud through the day.

Pressure built swiftly from the southwest but with light winds and clear skies we started to see shallow fog forming extensively around the island overnight in to the 16th, together with a heavy dew, but this burnt off quite readily shortly after daybreak.



Shallow fog shortly before dawn on the 16th with high *Cirrus* . Photo credit Ian Brouard

This belt of high pressure covered most of the UK through the day and in to the 17th, but as it drifted slowly away northeast to be centred over Norway by the start of the 18th, our winds fell in to the east allowing warmer Continental air to feed in across the islands. Temperatures picked up in to the low 20's°C both days but weakening fronts encroaching from the west overnight in to the 18th saw a few spots of rain in the early hours. Those fronts were a precursor to yet another vigorous low, Storm 'Betty' deepening over Biscay and set to affect most of Ireland and western parts of the UK later in the day. Thankfully the bulk of any associated wind and rain squeezed past us out to the west with just 0.2mm of rain recorded locally that evening.

The 19th dawned fairly clear with our winds back in from the southwest bringing slightly cooler conditions but with plenty of brightness through the day as 'Betty' tracked north up the Irish Sea and filled. Pressure once again filled in behind with a settled belt stretching up from Biscay to Denmark, with generally fair and dry weather for the islands but with the odd misty morning until late on the 23rd when a slow moving trough edged its way northward out of France. That high had by now drifted eastward to be centred over Eastern Europe allowing yet another Atlantic low to sweep in across the UK. Warm, unstable air brought cloudier conditions to our shores for the 24th with some hefty showers rolling up the Channel. One such cell brought a brief but intense thunderstorm to Alderney early that afternoon before clearing swiftly away up-channel.

A weak frontal clearance overnight brought brighter, clearer and fresher weather for the 25th with excellent visibility as our winds veered in to a more northwesterly direction. Late morning saw a brief shower from some of the more well developed *Cumulus* cloud, together with several sightings of Funnel Clouds dropping out from these cloud bases. A rash of showers overnight and through the morning of the 26th gave way to a brighter afternoon as low pressure now over the North Sea maintained a northwesterly flow across the islands.

The next frontal system wasn't too far away however and by the afternoon of the 27th cloud was thickening and lowering with showers turning to rain and drizzle by evening. The next morning dawned bright and clear though, as that low cleared to the east to leave us with a pleasant Bank Holiday Monday across the Bailiwick with light northwesterly winds and temperatures up in to the high teens. More sightings of Funnel Clouds off the west coast of Guernsey were noted, as well as a few to the southeast of Sark.

Yet again another series of fronts were waiting in the wings though, and by the evening of the 29th we saw outbreaks of rain and drizzle which cleared quite smartly late evening to leave us with dry but mostly cloudy conditions overnight and through the 30th with a return to those light northwesters with excellent visibility and yet more sightings of Funnel Clouds around the island's coastline.

Unfortunately the mobile and unsettled nature of this month had one more card to play as another set of fronts rolled in from the west overnight with a low nudging in from the North Atlantic. Our winds backed in to the

south overnight with cloud thickening and lowering by dawn on the 31st with outbreaks of rain and drizzle together with mist and fog patches which lasted most of the morning. We enjoyed a dry but cloudy afternoon before further rain, drizzle, mist and fog rolled back in for the evening leading to the only sunless day of the month.

August was generally disappointing as Atlantic low pressure dominated for most of the month with just 22.9°C recorded on the 10th as the month's top temperature. Despite this the monthly mean temperature was similar to the long term average, due mainly to the overnight minimums staying up above average. With just 179.2 hours of sunshine this was the dullest August for 8 years and 83.7mm of rainfall gave us the wettest since 2017. Some 50% of that total fell on the 1st (wettest August day since 1993) with another 14.2mm falling on the 31st. A maximum recorded gust of 44 knots on the 2nd was the highest noted for this month for 31 years.

Summer started well with the warmest June since 1976 with plenty of sunshine and well below average rainfall. July again was warmer and slightly drier but duller than average and August was dull and wet with only average temperatures. With a mean temperature of 17.0°C this was the 9th warmest summer since 1843 and despite a wet August we ended up slightly below average rainfall for those 3 months. Sunshine was some 56 hours down on the long term average due to both July and August being dull.

Summer	2023	30 Yr Avg	Anomaly/%
Rain (mm)	140.2	147.6	95.0
Sun (hrs)	670.1	726.0	92.3
Mean Max (°C)	19.8	19.1	+0.7
Mean Min (°C)	14.1	13.3	+0.8
Mean (°C)	17.0	16.2	+0.8

AUGUST 2023

DAY	DATE	BAROMETER		TEMPERATURE deg C				WIND				RAIN	SUN	WEATHER					
		hPa	AIR			GRASS	SOIL		DIR'N	SPEED(knots)			mm		hrs				
		at 9a.m.	MAX	MIN	MEAN	MIN	30cm	100cm	9a.m.	9a.m.	MEAN	MAX							
Tue	1	1007.5	19.3	15.2	17.3	13.7	17.1	16.8	250	16	14.6	31	42.0	1.4	Cldy with occn shw rs am. Rain occn hvy from late pm, mist & fog eve				
Wed	2	991.9	17.9	14.5	16.2	14.3	17.4	16.8	230	24	22.8	44	4.5	0.8	Cldy. Early hvy rain & fog clrng to shw rs by daw n				
Thu	3	1006.9	18.3	14.5	16.4	14.6	17.0	16.7	310	11	11.6	25	TR	2.5	Cldy with sct shw rs am, occn fair pm with isol shw r				
Fri	4	1020.3	18.1	14.4	16.3	12.2	16.9	16.7	330	10	9.8	19	1.1	4.3	Fair periods am, mainly cldy pm				
Sat	5	1008.1	16.9	13.1	15.0	11.4	16.9	16.7	240	22	19.4	42	TR	0.5	Cldy with rain & drz am. Cldy pm bec fine late eve				
Sun	6	1020.5	18.3	13.8	16.1	11.5	16.4	16.7	310	12	11.8	26	NIL	13.0	Fair to cldy bec fine				
Mon	7	1023.4	18.6	13.3	16.0	10.0	17.0	16.6	270	10	8.6	18	TR	6.8	Mainly fine am, bec cldy with occn light rain eve				
Tue	8	1018.0	18.8	12.8	15.8	10.5	17.2	16.5	220	12	12.5	26	TR	3.3	Fair am, cloudy with ptchy light drz pm				
Wed	9	1019.7	20.0	15.1	17.6	15.1	17.4	16.6	280	07	6.5	16	TR	3.7	Ovc with fog, mist and drz until mid pm. Fine from late pm				
Thu	10	1018.4	22.9	15.8	19.4	14.8	17.9	16.6	150	10	8.9	17	1.6	8.2	Fair or fine but cldy mid am w with isol shw r. Fog ptchs & rain late eve				
Fri	11	1020.0	19.6	15.4	17.5	15.9	19.3	16.6	200	09	8.2	17	0.7	0.8	Cldy with rain, drizzle, fog & mist. Briefly fair				
Sat	12	1017.1	20.3	15.3	17.8	14.8	18.7	16.9	230	16	14.0	28	0.5	5.4	Cldy occn fair				
Sun	13	1016.6	20.0	16.0	18.0	14.8	18.3	17.0	240	13	9.8	20	2.4	8.1	Cldy with shw rs am. Fair pm bec cloudy with rain eve				
Mon	14	1011.4	18.5	14.7	16.6	14.7	18.6	17.1	180	10	8.3	18	6.3	0.2	Cldy, show ery rain turned to drz pm				
Tue	15	1018.0	19.2	13.2	16.2	8.8	17.8	17.2	290	09	6.3	14	TR(DEW)	11.2	Fair of fine occn cldy eve. Shallow fog late eve				
Wed	16	1020.6	19.9	12.9	16.4	8.3	18.5	17.1	220	02	3.6	11	TR(DEW)	10.6	Early shallow fog & fog ptchs bec fair				
Thu	17	1016.3	22.4	14.8	18.6	10.9	18.2	17.1	100	15	10.6	23	TR	9.4	Early am mist & shallow fog, bec fine, med/high cloud inc				
Fri	18	1010.6	22.5	18.4	20.5	17.5	19.4	17.1	120	07	8.3	22	0.2	3.3	Cldy with early isol shw r. Rain from late pm				
Sat	19	1015.4	21.2	16.1	18.7	15.2	19.2	17.3	230	15	9.7	23	NIL	10.1	Fair or fine, occn cldy				
Sun	20	1023.6	21.5	15.1	18.3	11.7	19.0	17.4	210	07	5.0	11	NIL	10.4	Cldy by daw n bec fair late am, fine pm, cldy eve. Mist & fog ptchs late eve				
Mon	21	1025.4	21.4	15.4	18.4	13.5	19.7	17.5	200	06	3.8	10	NIL	6.2	Cldy until noon then fine. Cld inc for a time, clrng by early eve				
Tue	22	1023.0	21.3	14.7	18.0	10.8	19.4	17.7	290	06	4.7	11	NIL	8.9	Early mist clrng after daw n bec mainly fine				
Wed	23	1021.0	22.5	14.3	18.4	9.9	19.3	17.7	070	04	5.4	17	0.4	9.0	Fine with early mist & fog, bec cloudy pm with isol shw rs eve				
Thu	24	1012.8	20.0	16.0	18.0	15.5	19.6	17.8	010	06	7.6	20	NIL	1.1	Mainly cldy, light shw rs am. Lightning @ 1220z				
Fri	25	1013.2	19.2	13.6	16.4	11.3	18.6	17.8	280	08	11.8	24	2.3	10.0	Fair occn cldy, isol shw r mid am & late eve. Funnel cloud @ 0926z				
Sat	26	1011.1	19.4	13.6	16.5	11.9	18.2	17.7	260	14	11.1	22	0.5	11.1	Cldy/fair with occn shw rs, mainly am. Bec fine from mid pm				
Sun	27	1013.9	18.4	14.4	16.4	11.7	18.2	17.7	310	15	10.9	26	3.9	5.3	Fair bec cldy with shw rs late pm bec rain & drz eve				
Mon	28	1016.6	18.7	14.3	16.5	11.4	18.0	17.6	320	09	7.6	16	TR	9.6	Fair bec cldy eve. Funnel cloud @ 0720z				
Tue	29	1015.5	17.8	14.6	16.2	12.3	18.1	17.6	280	06	8.6	20	0.9	0.2	Cldy with rain & drz by eve clrng later				
Wed	30	1011.8	18.1	13.4	15.8	11.0	17.5	17.5	330	06	8.0	16	2.2	3.8	Cldy occn fair, xlint viz pm. Funnel cloud @ 0910z & 1130z				
Thu	31	1009.5	18.5	12.5	15.5	10.9	17.4	17.4	230	13	12.1	25	14.2	NIL	Cldy with fog, rain & drz am clrng pm, retrrng eve with hvy rain				
MEAN		1015.4	19.7	14.6	17.1	12.6	18.1	17.1	SW	10.6	9.7	TOTAL	83.7	179.2	2nd - Storm 'Patricia'				
30 YEAR AVG															4th - Storm 'Antoni'				
1991-2020		1017.0	19.9	14.2	17.1	11.8	18.1	17.2	W	9.7	9.3	/////	56.6	226.8	18th - Storm 'Betty'				
EXTREMES ARE IN		NUMBER OF DAYS	RAIN ≥0.2mm	WET ≥1.0mm	SNOW/ SLEET	HAIL	THNDER	LGHTNG	AIR FROST	GROUND FROST	FOG	FOG 9a.m.	GALE	NO SUN	TOTALS FOR YEAR TO DATE				
BOLD TYPE		WITH	16	10	0	0	0	1	0	0	9	2	0	1					
RECORDS FROM JANUARY 1947															RAINFALL		498.7 mm	SUNSHINE	1394.2 hrs
WETTEST DAY		55.8mm	DRIEST MONTH		3.8mm	LOWEST MIN		9.2°C	WARMEST MNTH		19.3°C	SUNNIEST MNTH		323.0hrs	RAIN DAYS		111	SUNLESS I	29
DAY/YEAR		22nd/1973	YEAR		1955	DAY/YEAR		28th/1986	YEAR		2022	YEAR		1955	WET DAYS		77		
WETTEST MNTH		122.0mm	HIGHEST MAX		34.3	LOWEST GRASS		0.8°C	COLDEST MNTH		14.3°C	DULLEST MNTH		139.2hrs					
YEAR		1951	DAY/YEAR		9th/2003	DAY/YEAR		11th/1981	YEAR		1956	YEAR		1992					