

January 2024

With low pressure over central and northern parts of the UK we opened the New Year with unsettled conditions locally with fresh to strong southwesterly winds and blustery showers, which gave way to more general rain through the afternoon of the 1st. A deepening low, Storm 'Henke', swept in with associated fronts bringing rain, drizzle, mist and fog to our shores through the evening, overnight and in to the morning of the 2nd before clearing to the east shortly after midday. We recorded a brief gale just as the cold front went through, leaving us with brighter skies but with a rash of squally showers with some lightning noted to the northwest around early evening. A maximum temperature reached around noon of 13.3°C was the equal highest recorded for January at the airport.

The general flow continued from the southwest following 'Henke's' departure, still strong but mild as those scattered showers peppered the islands through the 3rd as well. The showers became more isolated overnight in to the 4th as cloud thickened once again in advance of a developing low pushing up through Biscay. There was some concern regarding this particular system with heavy rain and strong winds forecast to affect the islands that evening and overnight. The first splashes of rain arrived shortly before dawn on the 4th as the winds backed in to the southeast, then became heavier and more persistent through the morning before clearing to showers around mid afternoon. Thankfully the worst of the weather brushed past us to the northwest but we still received over half an inch of rain that evening with a rash of heavy showers, some of which contained hail.

Following the departure of this low we started to draw our winds down from the northwest with a noticeable drop in air temperatures but with much improved visibility outside of any showers. The last of these showers eased away by dawn on the 6th to leave us with a very welcome dry, bright and calm day across the Bailiwick as our winds veered still further round to the north. A slim but extensive belt of high pressure was building up the west side of Ireland from off the coast of Portugal by now, effectively shutting off any Atlantic influence to our weather. As that anticyclone edged eastward so our winds veered further in to the northeast with a few showers starting to form in the Channel upwind of us. Temperatures continued their slow decline too as gradually that high started to pull in much cooler air from Scandinavia and Eastern Europe.

By the 8th temperatures had dropped to just 5°C with showers turning progressively wintrier as the day progressed. A trough of more organised snow pushed in from northern France through the early hours of the 9th with light rain and snow showers becoming more persistent leading to a reasonable dusting of snow across the higher parishes by dawn. Lower parts of the island, together with Alderney, saw mostly just rain or sleet. Jersey received the majority of the weather from this trough though with some quite heavy and prolonged periods of snow through the day. Locally our snow turned more to sleet then rain by mid morning and by noon nearly all traces of snow had melted. Air temperatures remained low however, with just 2.5°C the best through daylight hours. Temperatures dipped below freezing overnight in to the 10th, down as low as -0.9°C at the airport; the first air frost since 13th February 2021.

That high to the north of us more or less maintained its position over the next few days, and with low pressure still covering much of the Mediterranean we remained in that dull, cool, mainly easterly flow with a just a few light showers at times. By the 13th we started to see a change as that high over the UK edged west back over the North Atlantic, allowing a cold Polar flow to establish over Scotland and more northern parts of the UK. A series of weakening fronts dropped south across the country with progressively lower temperatures also edging south. This dry and very cold air arrived over the Bailiwick late on the 15th with excellent visibility and plenty of welcome sunshine. At the same time developing low pressure, with milder air, was pushing up from Biscay with the promise of meeting that colder air somewhere in the English Channel.

Storm 'Irene' duly arrived in the Southwest Approaches late on the 16th as cloud thickened and lowered locally that afternoon. The rain started shortly after 2100hrs that evening and continued non-stop for some 24 hours with 31.2mm of rainfall recorded at the airport. The 17th then was a pretty grim day across the Bailiwick with no sunshine, stiff northeasterly winds and temperatures barely making 5°C.

'Irene' had cleared all but her upper cloud shield by daybreak on the 18th though as a cold Polar flow dropped in from the north, with clearing skies, excellent visibility once more and much lighter winds. We only managed 5.3°C that day but 7.4 hours of sunshine more than made up for it. Overnight clear skies and virtually no wind saw air temperatures dropping to just +1.3°C but -4.1°C on the grass leading to widespread hoar frost. Plenty of sunshine followed on though for the next couple of days as that area of settling high pressure transited slowly eastward in to Central Europe to allow a low pressure feature near Iceland to drape a couple of weather fronts down over the UK.



Small amounts of *Stratocumulus* and *Cirrus* with excellent visibility overlooking Vazon as the islands enjoyed a brief respite between systems early on the 20th.

Cloud thickened slowly through the 20th with rain arriving late evening, briefly becoming heavy before clearing to showers on the 21st. Winds freshened too, bringing much milder air up from the Tropics, initially from the south before veering southwest as Storm 'Isha' swept in across Northern England from the near Atlantic. Very strong winds and copious amounts of rain fell across nearly all parts of the country but it was central and northern parts that seemed to fare the worst, with a gust of 99mph was recorded at Brizlee Wood in Northumberland.

Locally southwesterly winds reached F7 for a time in the early hours of the 22nd with a maximum recorded gust of 47 knots (54 mph) at 0118hrs. Bright and breezy conditions with a scattering of showers ensued for the rest of the day but feeling less cold than the last couple of weeks as we remained in this mild but rather unsettled Atlantic flow. Indeed, Storm 'Jocelyn' followed hot on the heels of 'Isha', arriving across western parts of the British Isles by dawn on the 23rd. Again we escaped the worst of the wind and rain as this low tracked east to the north of Scotland but southwesterly winds strengthened across the Bailiwick that afternoon with outbreaks of drizzle, mist and hill fog patches into the evening. The clearing cold front had just about dropped to the south of us by dawn on the 24th so we saw a drier although mostly cloudy day before that front waved back in to the Channel late afternoon with a return to drizzle, mist and fog for the evening.

A rather complex weather pattern was by now setting up across the country with a daisy-chain of shallow wave depressions within a strong southwesterly Atlantic flow with the main centre of low pressure way up above Iceland. The resulting collection of fronts edged their way steadily across the UK through the 25th with conditions finally improving early on the 26th as an anticyclonic ridge built in behind the last of those departing fronts. Temperatures dipped within this cooler flow, particularly overnight and in to the early hours of the 27th, with just +0.2°C on the grass by dawn.

As that ridge moved away to the northeast our winds backed in to the southeast with a weak front spilling a shield of high cloud across the islands making the sunshine hazy at times, although it did remain dry for the next couple of days. Early on the 29th saw overnight mist thickening to fog by the small hours clearing later that morning although staying cloudy for the rest of the day.

Shallow low pressure out in the Southwest Approaches led to some patchy rain and drizzle overnight in to the 30th but this system cleared through by dawn with brighter conditions and much improved visibility as another ridge built in behind, lasting until later on the 31st when a weak warm front waved in to the Channel with patchy drizzle and mist to round the month off.

January saw a rollercoaster of temperatures with maximums ranging from a record equalling 13.3°C on the 2nd to just 2.5°C (lowest daytime maximum for 11 years) on the 9th but overall we ended up slightly cooler than average, just the second month in the last 2 years to be below average temperature. Over two thirds of the month's rain fell on just four days with the month's total just above the long term average. We also noted the sunniest January for 7 years.

JANUARY 2024

DAY	DATE	BAROMETER							TEMPERATURE deg C				WIND				RAIN	SUN	WEATHER
		hPa	AIR			GRASS	SOIL		DIR'N	SPEED(knots)									
		at 9a.m.	MAX	MIN	MEAN	MIN	30cm	100cm	9a.m.	9a.m.	MEAN	MAX	mm	hrs					
Mon	1	1007.8	11.4	7.2	9.3	5.2	9.1	11.2	240	09	19.4	41	19.7	1.0	Cldy occn fair, sct shw rs am. Rain & drz from mid pm				
Tue	2	990.4	13.3	10.2	11.8	9.5	10.3	11.1	210	21	24.3	51	5.3	1.5	Cldy occn fair. Rain, drz & fog ptchs am, isol shw rs pm/eve. Lghtnng eve. Gale				
Wed	3	995.0	11.9	8.7	10.3	8.4	10.3	11.0	240	22	24.0	42	2.2	2.6	Cldy occn fair w ith frqnt shw rs am bec sct then isol pm/eve				
Thu	4	1004.2	11.3	6.4	8.9	6.6	9.8	11.0	200	14	16.4	41	16.7	0.1	Cldy by daw n w ith rain prstnt & hvy clrng early pm. Hvy shw rs pm & eve				
Fri	5	1004.1	9.1	6.3	7.7	3.5	9.7	11.0	300	08	9.6	28	1.5	4.3	Fair w ith sct rain/hail shw rs. Xlnt viz				
Sat	6	1017.1	9.0	6.1	7.6	5.0	8.7	10.9	360	13	10.4	22	0.8	6.2	Fair w ith isol shw rs. Xlnt viz				
Sun	7	1026.1	7.2	4.5	5.9	3.0	8.2	10.8	020	12	9.3	23	0.7	0.7	Cldy w ith sct shw rs. Xlnt viz & dry air				
Mon	8	1029.3	5.8	1.2	3.5	0.7	7.4	10.6	080	09	12.2	29	3.6	1.0	Briefly fine/fair early am, bec cldy. Wintry shw rs from late am				
Tue	9	1026.5	2.5	0.1	1.3	0.0	6.5	10.5	080	09	10.6	26	0.7	NIL	Snow shw rs, bec snow then sleet turning rain, clrng late am				
Wed	10	1026.2	4.7	-0.9	1.9	-1.5	6.2	10.3	080	11	11.0	25	TR	0.2	Cloudy w ith patchy rain early eve				
Thu	11	1033.6	6.6	0.4	3.5	-1.1	5.7	9.9	060	09	11.1	29	TR	0.2	Fair early bec mostly cloudy by daw n				
Fri	12	1035.6	7.0	5.0	6.0	3.7	6.4	9.7	060	11	10.9	21	TR	NIL	Cloudy w ith occn patchy light rain				
Sat	13	1026.9	6.8	2.0	4.4	1.6	6.6	9.5	080	05	6.1	17	TR	NIL	Cloudy				
Sun	14	1016.3	6.6	0.8	3.7	0.1	6.3	9.4	330	03	4.1	12	TR	0.1	Cldy clrng pm, clear eve				
Mon	15	1012.1	6.3	1.6	4.0	0.4	6.5	9.4	360	10	6.9	19	NIL	6.0	Cloudy bec fine				
Tue	16	1011.7	4.8	0.5	2.7	-3.1	5.2	9.3	110	03	6.6	19	11.7	1.5	Mainly fine/fair bec cloudy pm. Light rain from late pm				
Wed	17	987.3	4.6	1.6	3.1	1.3	5.3	9.1	060	16	13.0	28	19.5	NIL	Overcast, persistent moderate rain cleared late eve				
Thu	18	1006.1	5.3	1.6	3.5	-1.1	5.1	8.9	020	09	9.0	24	NIL	7.4	Cldy bec fine mid am. Xlnt viz & dry air				
Fri	19	1023.9	7.8	1.3	4.6	-4.1	4.1	8.7	200	02	4.2	16	NIL	7.7	Fine w ith early hoar frost. Dry air & xlnt viz				
Sat	20	1027.2	6.1	2.9	4.5	-1.2	4.3	8.6	200	14	15.1	30	1.3	6.9	Hazy sunshine. Rain late eve				
Sun	21	1018.3	12.4	4.6	8.5	2.3	5.5	8.3	200	16	19.1	44	4.7	0.1	Cldy w ith rain early am & again from late pm, hvy at times				
Mon	22	1014.2	12.8	8.2	10.5	7.4	7.4	8.2	250	21	21.9	47	1.0	4.5	Cldy w ith early rain & drz clrng to sct shw rs, bec isol pm				
Tue	23	1025.2	12.0	9.0	10.5	6.8	7.6	8.3	190	16	18.8	38	0.8	NIL	Cldy w ith occn rain am. Drzl & fog patches pm & eve				
Wed	24	1029.6	12.4	10.4	11.4	9.1	8.6	8.5	260	13	13.3	35	4.7	1.9	Cldy w ith occn mist. Drz heavy at times w ith fog eve				
Thu	25	1028.3	12.2	10.4	11.3	9.2	9.1	8.7	200	10	11.7	25	3.6	NIL	Cldy. Drz & fog ptches am & eve. Cldy pm				
Fri	26	1031.1	11.9	5.5	8.7	6.2	9.4	8.8	310	12	9.7	35	NIL	7.0	Early am fog & drz bec fair at daw n then fine pm w ith dry air				
Sat	27	1033.8	8.7	4.1	6.4	0.2	7.4	9.1	160	11	10.5	21	NIL	4.5	Hazy sunshine				
Sun	28	1022.3	10.6	7.0	8.8	5.3	7.5	9.1	150	14	13.2	21	TR(FOG)	6.1	Hazy sunshine				
Mon	29	1023.3	11.4	9.3	10.4	7.7	8.3	9.1	150	12	13.7	32	TR	NIL	Cldy w ith early mist thickening to fog, clrng late am. Rain & drz eve				
Tue	30	1030.5	10.9	5.1	8.0	6.0	8.7	9.1	290	09	7.7	25	NIL	3.9	Fair				
Wed	31	1034.2	10.8	4.6	7.7	-1.0	7.6	9.2	210	08	11.4	26	1.3	1.0	Cldy, occn fair w ith xlnt viz am. Light drz & mist late pm & eve				
MEAN	1019.3	8.8	4.7	6.8	3.1	7.4	9.6	S	11.4	12.4	TOTAL	99.8	76.4	1st & 2nd - Storm 'Henke'					
30 YEAR AVG	1017.6	9.0	5.4	7.2	3.1	7.3	8.6	SW	13.2	13.4	/////	92.0	62.6	16th & 17th - Storm 'Irene'					
1991-2020														21st & 22nd - Storm 'Isha'					
EXTREMES ARE IN BOLD TYPE	NUMBER OF DAYS WITH	RAIN ≥0.2mm	WET ≥1.0mm	SNOW/SLEET	HAIL	THNDR	LGHTNG	AIR FROST	GROUND FROST	FOG	FOG 9a.m.	GALE	NO SUN	TOTALS FOR YEAR TO DATE					
		18	14	2	2	0	3	1	7	6	2	1	7						
RECORDS FROM JANUARY 1947														RAINFALL	99.8	mm	SUNSHINE	76.4	hrs
WETTEST DAY	35.8mm	DRIEST MONTH		15.4mm	LOWEST MIN		-7.8°C	WARMEST MNTH		9.0°C	SUNNIEST MNTH		112.8hrs	RAIN DAYS	18	SUNLESS I	7		
DAY/YEAR	11th/2001	YEAR		1992	DAY/YEAR		20th/1963	YEAR		2007	YEAR		1998	WET DAYS	14				
WETTEST MNTH	210.0mm	HIGHEST MAX		13.3°C	LOWEST GRASS		-10.0°C	COLDEST MONTH		1.5°C	DULLEST MNTH		26.0hrs						
YEAR	2001	DAY/YEAR		4th/'48,9th/'07	DAY/YEAR		29th/1947	YEAR		1963	YEAR		1966						