

July 2023

An unsettled look to the charts to start the month as low pressure off the west coast of Scotland drove a series of weather fronts across the British Isles borne along on fresh westerly winds. Early rain, drizzle and fog cleared the Bailiwick by dawn on the 1st with just the odd rogue shower that morning, but it brightened up thereafter with the winds easing down overnight in to the 2nd.

As that low tracked away to the northeast we remained in a westerly flow with variable amounts of cloud at times over the next couple of days, again with the odd light shower. Temperatures were fairly consistent around the mid to high teens by day and falling to low to mid teens by night. By the 4th an extensive area of rain over the southwest of the UK was dropping slowly in to the Channel, but another feature over Brittany was steering a rash of heavy showers northward and just ahead of that UK rain band. The showers arrived by mid afternoon on the 4th with patchy mist but those showers quite quickly turned to more general rain & drizzle for a few hours as the two systems merged, before clearing to showers around mid evening. A few more showers overnight heralded the clearance proper of the system as it deepened and developed in to an area of low pressure that rattled its way up through the Dover Straits and in to the southern North Sea by daybreak on the 5th.

Pressure began to build following this clearance with a brighter day in the islands and those moderate to fresh westerly winds generally easing off by the evening. Clear skies and light winds overnight in to the 6th saw some patches of shallow fog in places around the island but these dissipated shortly after dawn to leave us with a fine day in the islands with excellent visibility across the Bailiwick.

Low pressure out to the west of Ireland brought wind and rain to more northern and western parts of the UK as we remained under the influence of that high. As that high edged eastward though, our winds backed in to the southeast introducing a very warm flow up across the Channel. Temperatures peaked at 27.0°C by early afternoon on the 7th, the highest recorded temperature at the airport since 13th August last year. This rather sweltering heat cooled overnight but the mercury was still reading 21.4°C at midnight and by the small hours of the 8th we started to see a scattering of showers cross the islands as a series of thundery troughs headed north out of France. These showers eased off by mid afternoon with a rather disappointing 1.3mm recorded at the airport, but at least air temperatures had dropped to a more manageable 17°C by day's end as that warm continental air was replaced by a cooler, slightly fresher westerly flow off the Atlantic as a weak cold front cleared eastward up the Channel.

With low pressure having now replaced the more settled anti-cyclonic regime of recent days, further showers encroached through the day on the 9th, with more in the way of cloud but temperatures still managing the low 20's. Those showers eased off by late afternoon on the 9th to leave us with a clear night but patchy cloud at times during the 10th kept the edge off sunshine totals. A waving cold front dropped in to the Channel overnight in to the 11th with outbreaks of rain and drizzle from just before dawn, together with mist and patchy hill fog. This feature was reluctant to clear and it was early evening before conditions improved to allow a drier and brighter finish to the day.

Although a mostly unsettled look to the weather across Europe, there was a hint of a flat ridge building once more out of Biscay and it was enough to provide a quiet couple of days in the islands with just the odd isolated light rain shower and light to moderate southwesterly winds that gently backed in to the southeast late on the 13th.

A deepening area of low pressure was by now tracking in from the near Atlantic and while not moving terribly quickly it was packing quite a punch with wind and rain as the associated fronts arrived in to the southwest of the UK through the morning of the 14th. The bulk of the rain went to the north of us but we did see some rain

and drizzle that morning together with mist and fog patches through the afternoon. Winds increased to a steady F5 from the south before veering to the southwest late afternoon and becoming gusty.



Hazy sunshine with *Alto cumulus* and *Cirrus* as seen from Greve de la Ville in Sark on the 13th.

Photo credit B. Bonnefin.

The clearing cold front went through around supper time to leave us with some late evening brightness with just a few isolated showers overnight. By the early hours of the 15th this low was centred just off the north coast of Ireland but had deepened significantly with unseasonably strong winds now affecting all parts of the UK. Our winds ramped up during the morning to a F5 from the southwest with gusts to 44mph leading to some local ferry cancellations, but we managed to avoid the worst of the showers as they again tracked out to the northwest of the islands although we did see a couple of sharp showers overnight.

By the 16th that low moved away over the North Sea and filled allowing our winds to ease down gradually through the day, but there remained a fair amount of cloud within the general circulation along with a few light showers. A flat ridge built to the south for the next couple of days to give us rather a benign spell as shallow low pressure affected more western and northern parts of the UK, so it was a picture of generally fair conditions with just the odd light shower, good visibility and moderate winds mostly in from the west.

A cloudier spell for the 20th and winds veering in to the northwest saw rather disappointing temperatures for mid July, reaching just 18.3°C as a shallow low crossed northern France with a few isolated showers reported around the island. This system lost its identity as it tracked into Central Europe followed by a brief ridge extending in from the southwest for the 21st but it was all eyes to the west for the 22nd as another unseasonably vigorous low swept in from the North Atlantic. Increasing southwesterly winds and thickening cloud through the day heralded the arrival of the leading warm front early evening. Rain turned more to drizzle with mist and hill fog overnight before the cold front cleared across the islands around noon on the 23rd, with some brightness for the late afternoon.

The low pressure responsible for this rather unsettled spell was by now off the west coast of Denmark with that trailing cold front lying across northern and central France and into Biscay. An occluded front extending back across southern England dropped in to the Channel for the 24th leading to another cloudy day in the islands with a scattering of mostly light showers and rather disappointing air temperatures, again failing to reach 20°C for the 5th consecutive day.

By the 25th the last of that system had cleared eastward and we enjoyed another brief ridge of more settled weather, but remaining slightly on the cooler side with Atlantic air covering the Channel. The next low, with associated fronts, was already making progress in from the Atlantic for the 26th though, and after a bright start

cloud thickened through the late morning with outbreaks of light rain and drizzle from late afternoon, continuing overnight and through the next day as those fronts stalled in the Channel. The low itself had become slow moving off the northwest coast of Ireland and it wasn't until around mid morning on the 28th that the drizzle, mist and fog reluctantly cleared eastward, but it remained largely cloudy for the rest of the day.

That low maintained its influence across the UK with variable amounts of cloud within the general circulation but we enjoyed a brighter day on the 29th, although still with that nagging fresh southwesterly breeze. After this brief respite though, the next system was on our doorstep bringing further rain and drizzle with mist and fog to our shores by dawn on the 31st, leading to a dull, wet, windy and overcast day to close out a rather disappointing month.

A rather disappointing month and whilst July was slightly warmer and drier than average, sunshine totals were the lowest for this month for 25 years. Some 44% of the month's rain fell in the last 2 days and it was also the windiest July since 2007. With an average monthly sea level pressure of just 1014.0hPa this was the lowest such figure since 1988 and the 2nd lowest figure since records began at the airport in 1947.

JULY 2023

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	
Sat	1	1011.3	19.7	14.9	17.3	14.6	17.7	16.9	280	15	15.0	26	TR	10.3	Fog, rain & drz clrng early. Fair w ith isol shw r, fine pm, occn hazy			
Sun	2	1016.1	19.3	14.3	16.8	12.3	18.0	16.8	280	15	11.6	23	TR	6.9	Cldy, isol shw r mid am, briefly fine late am. Bec cldy pm			
Mon	3	1016.2	19.3	13.7	16.5	10.9	18.5	16.8	270	11	13.5	27	NIL	11.9	Cldy w ith isol shw r bec fine			
Tue	4	1013.1	17.6	13.0	15.3	11.9	17.8	16.7	210	11	10.5	31	6.2	3.5	Cldy occn fair w ith rain from mid pm turning to shw rs eve			
Wed	5	1015.7	19.5	12.4	16.0	10.8	17.2	16.7	280	13	12.3	22	NIL	12.5	Shw rs clrng by daw n to fair			
Thu	6	1017.9	20.9	11.8	16.4	8.3	17.4	16.7	180	07	5.7	13	NIL	14.5	Early shallow fog. Fine w ith dry air & xlnt vis pm			
Fri	7	1014.9	27.0	13.4	20.2	10.4	18.3	16.7	140	08	7.6	17	TR	12.8	Mainly fine w ith a few fair spells, dry air and xlnt vis			
Sat	8	1014.3	21.9	16.2	19.1	15.7	19.9	16.7	190	09	6.9	17	1.3	3.1	Cldy occn fair w ith shw rs am to mid pm			
Sun	9	1019.8	21.3	14.1	17.7	11.3	18.4	16.9	170	08	6.9	18	NIL	5.1	Cldy occn fair w ith isol shw rs			
Mon	10	1020.9	22.1	14.4	18.3	11.6	18.5	16.9	170	12	9.1	20	0.7	8.1	Cldy late am & eve, otherw ise fair or fine			
Tue	11	1012.7	18.6	15.5	17.1	15.3	19.0	16.9	230	10	12.2	24	0.2	1.6	Cldy w ith rain, driz, fog ptchs am. Occ rain pm, clrng fair eve			
Wed	12	1016.0	20.0	14.1	17.1	10.8	18.1	17.0	260	16	13.8	25	TR	11.2	Fine am, bec fair then cldy late pm. Isol shw r late eve			
Thu	13	1019.6	19.6	14.7	17.2	14.8	18.7	17.0	240	12	11.0	23	0.5	8.1	Cldy occn fair. Rain late eve			
Fri	14	1007.9	19.3	15.1	17.2	14.4	18.2	17.0	140	13	13.3	31	1.7	1.0	Cldy w ith occn rain am, frqnt pm w ith mist & hill fog, clrng by eve			
Sat	15	1002.8	19.7	15.3	17.5	13.7	17.7	17.0	210	16	18.7	38	0.9	10.2	Early isol shw r then fair bec fine pm, cldy eve w ith sct shw rs			
Sun	16	1013.9	19.1	14.2	16.7	12.3	17.7	16.9	230	15	13.6	26	TR	5.4	Cldy w ith isol shw rs am bec fair, fine eve			
Mon	17	1020.6	19.6	13.9	16.8	11.7	17.5	16.9	250	13	9.7	20	TR	12.2	Mainly fair w ith a few shw rs am. Bec fine from late pm			
Tue	18	1018.9	21.8	12.1	17.0	7.7	18.1	16.8	120	07	7.0	21	TR	13.2	Fine w ith good vis, bec cloudy early eve			
Wed	19	1018.6	20.4	14.9	17.7	12.8	18.4	16.8	270	12	11.5	24	NIL	9.2	Isolated light show er am, otherw ise fair or fine			
Thu	20	1017.7	18.3	13.0	15.7	8.5	18.1	16.9	310	05	6.7	15	TR	6.4	Fair/fine bec cldy w ith isol shw rs pm			
Fri	21	1016.9	19.3	13.0	16.2	8.7	17.6	16.9	320	08	9.2	19	0.1	14.0	High cloud am bec fine			
Sat	22	1015.0	19.3	14.1	16.7	11.8	18.0	16.9	230	17	14.3	29	5.2	0.9	Cldy w ith occn shw rs am, rain pm bec prstnt eve w ith drz			
Sun	23	1007.4	19.7	15.4	17.6	15.1	18.1	16.9	240	12	12.5	27	0.5	3.5	Cldy w ith drz/mist/fog ptchs am, fair pm			
Mon	24	1005.5	19.7	14.3	17.0	14.0	17.8	16.9	240	11	9.6	22	0.8	4.1	Cldy w ith isol light shw rs, brief spell of moderate shw rs late eve			
Tue	25	1013.0	19.4	13.8	16.6	12.2	17.7	16.9	310	09	9.5	19	NIL	12.0	Cldy bec fine			
Wed	26	1015.0	19.5	12.0	15.8	6.8	17.5	16.9	170	07	9.8	26	1.8	3.1	Bec cldy by daw n occn fair. Cldy pm w ith rain & drz late pm & eve			
Thu	27	1007.4	17.5	15.8	16.7	15.5	17.8	16.9	230	17	15.3	32	1.0	NIL	Overcast w ith rain, drz & mist. Fog from early pm			
Fri	28	1008.7	21.1	16.0	18.6	15.8	17.7	16.9	270	09	11.6	21	0.3	3.4	Cldy w ith drizzle/mist/fog, isol shw r eve			
Sat	29	1009.5	19.4	15.4	17.4	15.3	18.1	16.8	250	14	13.4	27	TR	8.4	Cldy w ith isol shw r am, fair pm			
Sun	30	1015.8	19.5	14.9	17.2	13.0	17.7	16.9	240	17	16.7	33	7.1	1.9	Cldy w ith isol ppn occn fair. Rain late eve			
Mon	31	1009.6	17.6	14.5	16.1	15.8	17.6	16.9	230	18	14.8	32	9.8	NIL	Overcast w ith rain, drizzle, mist & hill fog, clrng late eve			
MEAN		1014.0	19.9	14.2	17.1	12.4	18.0	16.9	SW	11.8	11.4	TOTAL	38.1	218.5				
30 YEAR AVG																		
1991-2020		1017.3	19.6	13.8	16.7	11.5	17.9	16.4	W	10.1	9.8	/////	43.2	253.3				
EXTREMES ARE IN BOLD TYPE		NUMBER OF DAYS WITH	RAIN ≥0.2mm	WET ≥1.0mm	SNOW/SLEET	HAIL	THNDER	LGHTNG	AIR FROST	GROUND FROST	FOG	FOG 9a.m.	GALE	NO SUN				
			15	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	0	2	TOTALS FOR YEAR TO DATE			
RECORDS FROM JANUARY 1947															RAINFALL	415.0 mm	SUNSHINE	1215.0 hrs
WETTEST DAY		62.5mm	DRIEST MONTH		1.4	LOWEST MIN		8.3°C	WARMEST MNTH		19.4°C	SUNNIEST MNTH		340.5	RAIN DAYS	95	SUNLESS I	28
DAY/YEAR		7th/2004	YEAR		2022	DAY/YEAR		8th/1954	YEAR		1983	YEAR		2018	WET DAYS	67		
WETTEST MNTH		120.2mm	HIGHEST MAX		34.2°C	LOWEST GRASS		1.0°C	COLDEST MNTH		13.8°C	DULLEST MNTH		167.7hrs				
YEAR		1960	DAY/YEAR		18th/2022	DAY/YEAR		7th/1996	YEAR		1954	YEAR		1972				