

## October 2023

With deep low pressure out in the North Atlantic and associated fronts draped across much of the UK and a broad belt of more settled high pressure across much of Europe, we sat on the cusp of wet and windy weather to the north and more benign conditions to the south to start the month. A weakening front dropped southeast across southern Britain toward the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> bringing cloudier conditions to the islands but it wasn't until just after daybreak on the 2<sup>nd</sup> that we saw thickening cloud together with mist and hill fog patches which cleared for a time that afternoon before returning with patchy drizzle around early evening.

These fronts slowed their progress eastward before finally moving away in to Central Europe around dawn on the 3<sup>rd</sup> as an extensive Azores High built in from the southwest. A couple of rogue showers glanced by the islands that morning but conditions improved as that high started to dominate our weather, slipping slowly eastward with temperatures a tad cooler than of late, making around 17°C for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> under a mixed sky but with improved visibility.

By the 6<sup>th</sup> that high was centred over Austria and as our winds backed more southerly so we started to see a warmer feed pulled up over the Channel with temperatures rising in to the high teens, again with a mix of cloud and sunshine. Further backing of the wind in to the southeast for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> pulled in even warmer air from the nearby continent taking us up to 24.3°C by day's end on the 8<sup>th</sup> setting a new record for highest October temperature at the airport.

Further north, low pressure was bringing some very wet and windy weather to central and northern parts of the UK with extensive flooding in many parts of the country. Nearer to home we continued to reap the benefits of our continental feed of warm air through the 9<sup>th</sup> with plenty of sunshine and light winds, excellent visibility and temperatures again in the low 20's. While this rather slack pattern persisted, the 10<sup>th</sup> saw a change in wind direction with a cooler, damper flow pull in from the west. Early mist and fog patches cleared through the morning but a veil of low cloud remained over the islands with the mist returning later that evening.

That gentle European High was slipping eastward to be centred over Ukraine by the 11<sup>th</sup>, allowing a series of fronts to drop south over the UK with a freshening southwesterly flow up the Channel. A mostly cloudy day ensued across the Bailiwick with the first few splashes of rain later that evening as those fronts dropped in to the Channel merging with another, weaker, system nudging up from Biscay. The rain became persistent and heavy for a time before turning to drizzle overnight as cloud thickened and lowered with mist and fog through the morning of the 12<sup>th</sup>. An improved afternoon was short lived with rain returning and becoming heavy for a time that evening as this mash of fronts plied their way in from the southwest. There was a brief clearance overnight before more rain by dawn on the 13<sup>th</sup>, which cleared for a time later that morning.

A glance at the charts showed this broad band of weather lying across the south of the UK, the Channel and into northern France. Within this band of weather and to the south was the mild, tropical air of the last week or so, but to the north, and marching steadily south, was much colder air being drawn down across the country by low pressure near Shetland and over Norway. The 13<sup>th</sup> then, saw a transition from some 19°C in the morning to just 12°C by day's end as this cooler air rolled over the islands. A few residual showers greeted the new day on the 14<sup>th</sup> but by mid morning we started to enjoy clearing skies in a brisk northwesterly breeze with more seasonal temperatures. Superb visibility and lower air humidity also welcome by-products of this change in air mass.

Building pressure from the North Atlantic effectively shut off this cold flow from the north later on the 15<sup>th</sup> but it remained cool with overnight air temperatures dropping in to single digits for the first time since the end of May. This high edged slowly eastward to be over Germany by the 16<sup>th</sup> with our winds veering in to the east and freshening as low pressure began to deepen off the coast of Portugal. Extensive medium and high cloud spilled in from this system but it remained dry, still with excellent visibility and occasional dry air.

The UK Met office named this low developing in Biscay as Storm '*Babet*' and the first of the rain from this system arrived late evening on the 17<sup>th</sup>, becoming heavier and persistent just before dawn on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The precipitation continued through most of the day before easing off just after sunset by which time we had

recorded 17.8mm of rainfall. Initially our fresh to strong winds came in from just south of east but veered sharply early afternoon in to the southwest, increasing fresh to strong with gusts up to 53mph noted at the airport early that evening. Fort Albert in Alderney recorded a maximum gust of 73mph around the same time.



Storm 'Babet' passing over the islands early afternoon on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Radar imagery courtesy of Jersey Met Office.

As 'Babet' tracked slowly north-northeast it passed directly overhead the islands, continuing its progress northward for a time before merging with another low moving in from the near Atlantic. These two systems combined to cover most of the UK and Ireland, becoming quasi-stationary and producing large quantities of rain and strong winds in the south of England and also the northeast coast of Scotland.

Lighter winds and deep convection within the general flow led to some sharp showers locally by the 19<sup>th</sup> with a couple of thundery rumbles heard early that afternoon, together with a hefty downpour of some 7mm falling in just one hour. A similar picture unfolded for the 20<sup>th</sup> with a scattering of showers but with the winds settling in to the west, moderate to fresh. A more organised trough of weather dropped down in to the Channel overnight in to the 21<sup>st</sup> with yet more rain and drizzle, heavy at times which cleared to a rash of showers shortly after midday. These showers became more isolated overnight as a temporary ridge built in behind this clearing trough with plenty of sunshine, light to moderate winds and temperatures in the mid teens for the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

With shallow low pressure out to the west the islands sat in a gentle southeast flow for the 23<sup>rd</sup> but as the day unfolded we started to see a line of active weather nudge in from the west as high cloud thickened and lowered through the afternoon. The first few splashes of rain arrived early evening, quickly becoming heavy with a brief thunderstorm before clearing eastward to leave us in a showery southwesterly flow overnight in to the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Showers or longer spells of rain in between bright intervals was very much the order of the day now as extensive low pressure in the North Atlantic and over mainland Europe brought very unsettled weather to many areas. Locally our rainfall totals started to ramp up quickly as a result of some heavier showers but most days we saw some sunshine and with winds coming in off the Atlantic, our temperatures stayed just above average for the most part.

Indeed this wet and windy regime continued through the last week up to the end of the month as a conveyor belt of systems swept in from the west with some quite hefty downpours and gusty winds at times.

Although last October was warmer, with a mean monthly temperature of 14.8°C this was still the 6<sup>th</sup> warmest since our records began back in 1843. After a warm and dry start, the second half of the month yielded over 90% of the month's rainfall but sunshine overall was very close to the long term average. A maximum air temperature of 24.3°C on the 8<sup>th</sup> set a new record for October, surpassing 23.6°C set back in 2011.

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			
Sun	1	1021.5	20.3	16.1	18.2	14.2	17.1	16.9	160	09	6.9	16	NIL	4.3	Fine bec cloudy later			
Mon	2	1017.8	21.3	16.0	18.7	14.3	17.4	16.9	080	07	8.2	25	1.0	1.6	Cldy, with mist & fog am clrng midday. Mist & fog with drz rtn early eve			
Tue	3	1022.4	17.0	13.4	15.2	12.1	17.4	16.9	280	14	12.4	25	TR	9.2	Cldy w ith isol shw rs am bec fair then fine pm			
Wed	4	1029.8	17.1	12.5	14.8	10.0	16.4	16.9	240	08	8.5	19	NIL	3.3	Mainly cldy occn fair			
Thu	5	1027.3	17.6	12.3	15.0	8.5	16.0	16.9	240	06	6.0	13	NIL	6.5	Xtnsv high cloud			
Fri	6	1026.4	18.7	12.7	15.7	8.1	16.3	16.8	190	08	6.5	15	TR(DEW)	6.2	Fair to cldy. Xlnt viz			
Sat	7	1026.2	21.6	14.3	18.0	10.3	15.9	16.6	220	06	6.2	12	NIL	9.4	Fine w ith occn dry air. Xlnt viz			
Sun	8	1025.4	24.3	13.3	18.8	9.6	16.0	16.6	150	08	4.7	13	NIL	10.1	Fine am, fair pm w ith occn dry air. Fine eve			
Mon	9	1024.3	22.7	15.2	19.0	8.4	15.8	16.5	250	04	4.8	09	NIL	8.6	Fine w ith high cloud persistent at times			
Tue	10	1021.0	17.6	14.4	16.0	10.6	16.0	16.4	260	10	10.7	20	NIL	NIL	Cldy w ith fog ptches am, misty eve			
Wed	11	1016.0	18.9	14.0	16.5	12.4	16.1	16.4	180	12	10.4	20	2.3	2.7	Cldy occn fair. Rain late eve, occn hvy			
Thu	12	1014.5	17.6	16.1	16.9	15.8	16.7	16.4	250	16	11.6	23	6.2	NIL	Cldy w ith rain, drz, mist & fog am. Rain late pm, prstnt & occn hvy			
Fri	13	1004.6	20.3	12.5	16.4	16.1	16.7	16.3	220	15	16.1	38	0.9	1.9	Cldy occn fair. Rain from daw n to mid am and late pm. Fine eve			
Sat	14	1019.9	14.7	10.8	12.8	9.1	15.5	16.4	300	12	10.0	25	TR	7.6	Fair w ith isol shw rs am & early eve. Dry air & xlnt viz			
Sun	15	1026.6	13.8	9.3	11.6	5.2	14.2	16.4	010	07	7.2	18	NIL	4.6	Fair or fine. Xtnsv high cloud from mid am. Dry air & xlnt viz			
Mon	16	1018.5	12.8	9.1	11.0	6.6	13.5	16.2	110	17	15.4	28	NIL	3.6	Fair, xtnsv high cloud. Dry air & xlnt viz			
Tue	17	1009.7	15.5	9.6	12.6	7.6	13.1	15.9	100	16	15.7	27	5.6	1.0	Cldy, mainly med/high level. Rain late eve			
Wed	18	989.8	17.7	14.1	15.9	12.6	14.1	15.7	100	19	19.7	46	12.2	NIL	Cldy w ith rain occn hvy & drz pm. Mist & fog ptchs early pm			
Thu	19	982.5	18.5	13.2	15.9	13.6	14.6	15.6	170	17	12.3	30	10.9	2.3	Cldy occn fair. T/storm (1524z) and hvy rain pm			
Fri	20	978.2	16.7	12.2	14.5	8.3	14.6	15.5	310	04	10.5	33	9.0	5.7	Cldy w ith shw rs am & eve, fair pm			
Sat	21	983.1	13.9	11.9	12.9	11.4	14.7	15.4	260	20	17.1	41	3.4	NIL	Cldy w ith rain am & early pm, clrng to isol shw rs			
Sun	22	1006.4	16.1	11.7	13.9	9.4	13.8	15.4	250	08	10.3	22	0.2	7.4	Fair or fine w ith isol shw rs			
Mon	23	1004.6	16.1	12.5	14.3	10.5	13.9	15.3	110	10	11.3	21	7.4	1.2	Cldy w ith shw rs occn hvy early eve. T/storm (1810z-1821z)			
Tue	24	1002.9	15.3	10.8	13.1	8.5	14.1	15.3	230	10	11.8	23	15.5	2.7	Cldy occn fair. Rain mid pm turning to shw rs eve			
Wed	25	995.2	14.1	11.5	12.8	10.1	13.8	15.1	310	11	9.3	26	5.3	1.1	Cldy w ith frqnt shw rs am occn hvy. Rain & drz late eve			
Thu	26	993.6	15.5	11.2	13.4	10.4	13.7	15.0	220	14	13.1	28	15.7	4.0	Cldy am w ith frqnt shw rs, fair pm. Shw rs eve			
Fri	27	992.1	15.1	10.6	12.9	9.6	13.6	14.9	230	11	15.5	40	5.8	4.8	Fair w ith sct hvy shw rs. Lightning @ 0200z			
Sat	28	990.6	14.9	10.7	12.8	9.4	13.3	14.9	190	14	16.7	43	10.9	0.1	Cldy w ith rain late am, shw rs from mid pm occn hvy			
Sun	29	987.9	14.7	10.4	12.6	8.6	13.0	14.8	210	23	19.0	36	1.0	4.6	Cldy am w ith sct shw rs bec fair pm, fine eve			
Mon	30	995.7	14.6	12.3	13.5	9.3	12.6	14.7	190	12	11.6	26	0.3	4.4	Fair occn cldy. Occn light shw rs pm			
Tue	31	1003.1	14.8	11.2	13.0	9.1	12.9	14.6	260	17	15.4	30	7.9	0.1	Cldy w ith sct shw rs am. Rain from noon clrng by eve			
MEAN		1008.3	17.1	12.4	14.8	10.3	14.9	15.9	SW	11.8	11.4	TOTAL	121.5	119.0	20th - Storm 'Babet'			
30 YEAR AVG 1991-2020		1015.0	15.3	11.1	13.2	8.4	13.7	14.7	SW	11.9	11.7	////	97.9	120.1				
EXTREMES ARE IN BOLD TYPE		NUMBER OF DAYS WITH	RAIN ≥0.2mm 19	WET ≥1.0mm 16	SNOW/ SLEET 0	HAIL 0	THNDER 2	LGHTNG 3	AIR FROST 0	GROUND FROST 0	FOG 4	FOG 9a.m. 0	GALE 0	NO SUN 4	TOTALS FOR YEAR TO DATE			
RECORDS FROM JANUARY 1947														RAINFALL	675.2 mm	SUNSHINE	1697.9 hrs	
WETTEST DAY		59.1mm	DRIEST MONTH		3.4mm	LOWEST MIN		3.5°C	WARMEST MNTH		15.2	SUNNIEST MNTH		176.4hrs	RAINFALL DAYS	142	SUNLESS I	34
DAY/YEAR		12th/2014	YEAR		1978	DAY/YEAR		28th/2003	YEAR		2001/06	YEAR		1971	WET DAYS	97		
WETTEST MNTH		233.9mm	HIGHEST MAX		23.6°C	LOWEST GRASS		-4.0°C	COLDEST MNTH		9.6°C	DULLEST MNTH		72.6hrs				
YEAR		1960	DAY/YEAR		1st/2011	DAY/YEAR		30th/1983	YEAR		1974	YEAR		1968				