

April 2024

Unsettled conditions saw in the new month with low pressure out in the near Atlantic steering in a showery but reasonably mild south-to-southwesterly flow over the islands. Those showers pepped up through the afternoon of the 1st as a series of troughs rolled up the Channel with winds increasing to strong overnight, but those showers became more isolated by dawn on the 2nd ahead of the next system sweeping in from the southwest.

This new low heralded the start of a series of systems initially bringing rain in from around noon on the 2nd, mixed with drizzle at times, clearing mid morning on the 3rd. The following front arrived later that afternoon with rain, heavy at times with mist and hill fog which cleared eastward in the early hours of the 4th. Winds freshened from the southwest once more following this clearance and it wasn't long before the next low swept in with rain arriving mid afternoon, before clearing early evening.

Despite the close proximity of two quite deep low pressure systems on the 5th, we enjoyed a better day with reduced wind strength, temperatures up around 12°C and only a few bits and pieces of rain later that afternoon. The bulk of the rain was steering up over Ireland and western parts of the UK by the 6th, with drier and warmer conditions prevailing across more eastern parts of the British Isles with the Channel Islands nicely in the middle, so staying dry with hazy sunshine and temperatures up in to the mid teens. A weak cold front dropped through us later that day but we remained dry although we lost a couple of degrees of temperature as our winds veered in from the North Atlantic.

A single, extensive, deep low pressure system was now sitting off the west coast of Scotland with a fresh southerly flow across the UK. With the bulk of any weather out to the east or north of us we continued to enjoy a dry and bright, albeit breezy day across the islands for the 7th, although high cloud made sunshine hazy at times. That cloud thickened sufficiently shortly after dawn on the 8th to give us some patchy rain for a time as a series of fronts pushed in from the southwest. These fronts were a precursor to Storm '*Pierrick*', named by Meteo-France, and this vigorous low deepened as it swept up over Devon and Cornwall through the afternoon, tracking northeast. Although our winds gusted up to 46 knots (53mph) from the southwest overnight, we again missed the bulk of the rain with just a scattering of showers which had mostly cleared by dawn on the 9th. These showers became more isolated during the morning but the winds were reluctant to ease off, remaining strong until very late that evening.

'*Pierrick*' continued its progress northeast, all the while filling, until by dawn on the 10th it lost its identity over Scandinavia as a transient ridge of high pressure built atop the UK. That ridge was short lived however, as yet another front rolled in from the west bringing rain from just after sunrise on the 10th that turned to drizzle with mist and fog for the afternoon. The murky conditions briefly cleared around mid evening before returning late evening to eventually clear around midday on the 11th. Mild, tropical air was being drawn up over the islands as a broad belt of high pressure across Central Europe combined with a series of low pressure systems stretching up from mid-Atlantic to Norway. As that high tried to push northward so our weather brightened up by evening with much improved visibility and lighter winds in from the south.

By the 12th that high was very much the dominant influence for us with a warm southerly flow across the Channel and plenty of sunshine, although high cloud turned it a little hazy at times later in the day. Temperatures rose steadily through the morning to peak at 18.4°C around mid afternoon, very pleasant indeed and the warmest day of the year to date by some margin. That high maintained its dominance across Central and Western Europe in to the 13th as well but locally we saw a weak Atlantic front push into the western Channel early that afternoon, with a brief period of mist & fog before clearing to a slightly cooler, fresher westerly flow for the rest of the day. That European high had by now mostly dissipated to allow further frontal activity to nudge in from the Atlantic with cloudier conditions at times with a scattering of showers and stronger winds from early on the 15th although those showers did become more isolated later, together with a bit more brightness following a cold front clearance around midday.

Although low pressure was now driving our weather, winds were veering more northwesterly with daily maximum temperatures just starting to fall away under the influence of a cooler air mass dropping down across

the country. An anticyclone building out in the Atlantic was also starting to exert some influence locally as it edged eastward with any frontal activity being squeezed out over the North Sea. That said, we did see a few light showers pass over the islands during the 16th and 17th but overall we enjoyed a cool, clear and mostly dry spell with very clear air showing off the splendid views off the island's coastline.

That high out to the west continued to influence our weather for the next few days with a run of cool, mainly northerly, winds down over the Channel, still with a few cloudier spells but plenty of sunshine by day. Clearer nights led to air temperatures dropping into mid single figures and ground temperatures dipping as low as +0.7°C by dawn on the 21st. A broad area of light rain in the form of a warm front started to make progress southward during the morning of the 22nd, with cloud thickening locally by midday. The first few spots of rain started to fall around mid afternoon, finally clearing through just before midnight to leave us with another cool night with very light northeasterly winds and air temperatures dropping to just 4.9°C by dawn on the 23rd.

Cloud filled in too by dawn but enough breaks developed at times during the day to produce over 6 hours of sunshine. Thicker cloud through the afternoon briefly led to some patchy light rain and again it remained on the cool side. A mostly northerly drift was affecting the islands with high pressure off the west coast of Ireland pulling down air from chillier climes, and while we did see the occasional shower, it remained mostly dry with continued good visibility.

By the 25th that high out to the west had lost its identity but we remained in a slack pressure gradient with light winds, this time from a more southerly direction with a series of troughs slow moving in the Channel. Light winds and deep convection led to a number of water spouts developing in the local area, particularly off the south coast of Alderney that morning. Out to the west a developing low pressure system was slipping south from Iceland, slowing just off Biscay before turning back northward. The first of the associated fronts arrived in the islands late on the 25th with some quite hefty showers overnight before becoming more isolated by dawn on the 26th.



Two waterspouts seen to the south of Alderney on the morning of the 25th. Photo credit Al Paton.

A second low followed a similar track during the 27th, developing and moving very slowly north over France with the first splashes of rain arriving locally mid afternoon. This rain became heavier by late evening with winds veering in to the north and freshening by midnight as that low tracked past us to the east. The rain continued for a few more hours before clearing to isolated showers which eventually petered out by mid morning. Clearing skies by noon led to a bright afternoon with moderating winds that backed in to the west but still rather disappointing temperatures, just falling short of 13°C by day's end.

Slow moving low pressure out to the west made gradual inroads towards us, with the rain arriving early afternoon on the 30th to close out the month on a damp note.

Another mild month with the mean temperature 0.8°C above the long-term average, bolstered mainly by night time temperatures not falling as low as we'd expect, rather than warmer day time maximums. Sunshine fell just shy of the 30-year average, while rainfall was just a tad higher. The 1st and the 27th together produced nearly half the month's rainfall total and we noted just one sunless day on the 10th.

APRIL 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	<u>994.5</u>	13.0	7.4	10.2	4.0	<u>10.1</u>	<u>10.5</u>	220	13	12.4	32	<u>17.0</u>	7.6	Fine am, then fair with shw rs pm			
Tue	2	1006.5	10.8	8.4	9.6	7.1	10.6	<u>10.5</u>	210	15	18.2	38	6.7	0.2	Cldy with early hvy shw rs, rain from mid am, rain drz & mist pm			
Wed	3	1003.8	13.1	9.2	11.2	8.5	10.7	10.6	260	18	15.4	31	6.3	4.8	Cldy. Rain, drz & mist am. Rain occn hvy w ith fog & drz late pm & eve			
Thu	4	1006.5	14.1	11.0	12.6	9.6	11.3	10.6	230	17	15.4	30	1.3	4.1	Fair bec cldy w ith patchy rain & mist pm, clrng eve			
Fri	5	1005.9	14.7	11.2	13.0	10.3	11.6	10.7	200	13	12.7	32	TR	2.7	Cldy occn fair am. Rain early am & late pm			
Sat	6	1000.3	15.8	<u>11.9</u>	13.9	10.9	11.9	10.8	170	16	15.2	30	NIL	3.7	Some hazy sunshine, but mainly cloudy			
Sun	7	1011.3	14.5	10.1	12.3	8.0	11.9	11.0	190	14	12.0	24	TR	9.5	Mainly fine am, becmg cldy by early pm, clearing in the evening			
Mon	8	1003.4	12.2	8.7	10.5	8.4	12.1	11.1	140	13	16.4	<u>46</u>	4.1	0.4	Cldy w ith occn rain bec shw rs eve			
Tue	9	1014.2	12.1	6.9	9.5	6.1	11.8	11.2	290	22	<u>20.6</u>	42	0.1	10.9	Cldy with early rain & drz soon clrng to fine with isol shw rs			
Wed	10	1028.4	11.6	7.9	9.8	4.8	11.1	11.2	200	13	12.4	26	3.2	NIL	Cldy by daw n w ith rain, turning to drz, mist & fog pm			
Thu	11	1032.1	14.8	10.3	12.6	<u>11.0</u>	11.5	11.2	240	14	10.2	20	TR	3.0	Xtnsv fog with patchy drz am clrng soon after noon to fair/fine			
Fri	12	<u>1032.2</u>	<u>18.4</u>	9.9	<u>14.2</u>	7.6	11.7	11.2	190	09	7.3	16	NIL	10.7	Fine but with xtnsv high cloud am. Xlnt viz			
Sat	13	1025.3	15.0	10.1	12.6	8.0	<u>13.0</u>	11.2	200	13	11.0	21	NIL	8.3	Fair bec cldy with mist/fog ptchs @ midday, misty eve			
Sun	14	1026.7	12.7	8.1	10.4	5.7	12.5	11.4	340	05	7.5	17	0.1	6.2	Xtnsv high cloud, slt rain early eve clrng to fine			
Mon	15	1014.3	12.3	8.3	10.3	6.0	12.2	11.5	260	<u>25</u>	19.6	40	0.6	5.7	Cldy with occn shw rs am, bright spells pm			
Tue	16	1018.1	12.0	8.5	10.3	6.3	11.6	11.6	310	17	15.0	30	TR	10.0	Mainly cldy am with isol light shw rs, fair from late am then fine pm			
Wed	17	1020.0	11.3	7.5	9.4	4.4	11.9	11.6	330	13	11.3	24	0.2	7.2	Fair am, bec cldy pm with the occn light shw r			
Thu	18	1024.6	12.5	5.6	9.1	3.9	11.0	11.6	040	07	7.9	21	TR	11.9	Bec cldy by daw n, fair/fine from mid am. Xlnt viz			
Fri	19	1021.6	13.1	6.4	9.8	4.8	11.6	11.5	290	14	12.2	24	NIL	6.7	Cldy with few spots of rain mid am bec fair then fine by late pm			
Sat	20	1029.3	<u>10.3</u>	5.9	<u>8.1</u>	3.5	11.6	11.6	050	10	7.7	24	NIL	11.2	Mainly fine, occn cldy am			
Sun	21	1029.0	11.3	5.6	8.5	0.7	11.4	11.6	010	12	7.6	24	NIL	<u>13.2</u>	Fine occn fair am. Dry air & xlnt viz			
Mon	22	1029.5	10.7	6.2	8.5	1.1	11.2	11.6	020	10	5.5	16	1.2	6.7	Fair bec cldy mid am. Rain from mid pm thru eve			
Tue	23	1024.7	11.3	<u>4.9</u>	<u>8.1</u>	2.3	11.8	11.6	010	08	4.5	16	0.2	6.4	Cloudy occn fair. Patchy rain pm			
Wed	24	1018.1	12.0	6.2	9.1	3.0	11.7	11.6	190	06	<u>4.3</u>	14	TR	6.3	Cloudy with light show ers bec fair			
Thu	25	1008.3	12.7	6.1	9.4	0.8	11.5	11.7	230	08	8.0	17	4.6	3.6	Cldy, brfly fair early pm. Shw rs late eve occn hvy. Funnel cloud am			
Fri	26	1001.9	12.8	7.6	10.2	7.3	12.1	11.7	300	<u>02</u>	5.1	12	TR	5.6	Cldy with shw rs am occn hvy. Fair late pm/eve			
Sat	27	1001.4	12.3	6.3	9.3	<u>0.5</u>	12.0	11.8	100	04	6.7	25	11.3	3.0	Bec cldy by daw n, with rain by mid pm, occ heavy late eve			
Sun	28	1007.6	12.7	7.5	10.1	7.1	12.4	11.8	280	08	10.0	21	NIL	9.6	Cldy. Early rain clrng to shw rs by daw n. Fair by noon, fine pm & eve			
Mon	29	1016.1	14.7	8.6	11.7	4.9	12.4	11.8	190	12	12.1	22	NIL	11.5	Fine with high cloud at times, cldy for a time pm. Xlnt viz late pm/eve			
Tue	30	1009.8	14.7	8.8	11.8	8.3	12.8	<u>11.9</u>	160	16	11.2	26	1.3	4.1	Fine until daw n, bec mainly cldy with light rain from mid pm			
MEAN		1015.5	13.0	8.0	10.5	5.8	11.7	11.3	S	12.2	11.2	TOTAL	58.2	194.8				
30 YEAR AVG 1991-2020		1015.3	12.4	7.0	9.7	4.3	10.4	9.9	NE	11.0	10.6	/////	54.0	200.7				
EXTREMES ARE IN BOLD TYPE		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			
		WITH	13	10	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	1	0	1				
RECORDS FROM JANUARY 1947															RAINFALL	346.6 mm	SUNSHINE	444.5 hrs
WETTEST DAY		34.0mm	DRIEST MONTH		2.9mm	LOWEST MIN		-1.4°C	WARMEST MNTH		12.0°C	SUNNIEST MNTH		285.4	RAIN DAYS	73	SUNLESS	24
DAY/YEAR		30th/2017	YEAR		1980	DAY/YEAR		11th/1986	YEAR		2020	YEAR		2021	WET DAYS	56		
WETTEST MNTH		130.4mm	HIGHEST MAX		24.5°C	LOWEST GRASS		-7.0°C	COLDEST MNTH		6.4°C	DULLEST MNTH		122.2hrs				
YEAR		1966	DAY/YEAR		11th/2020	DAY/YEAR		5th/1990	YEAR		1986	YEAR		1981				