

August 2021

Low pressure over Scandinavia drew down a cool northerly flow across the UK to open up the new month, with a series of heavy showers across the country but most of these showers had died out by the time they reached our shores here in the Channel. As that low filled and eased away northeast, so a slack gradient covered much of the British Isles with the first few days of the month seeing slightly below average temperatures with a mix of sunshine and cloudier spells, and the odd light passing shower.

Gradually though, Atlantic systems out to the west started to spill in and by the 5th a slow moving depression was edging its way across Ireland as associated fronts pushed in to the western Channel with showers giving way to rain and drizzle through the morning. The afternoon briefly saw some sunshine but further rain overnight cleared to showers the next morning. Fresh southwesterly winds saw a number of showers rattle through the Bailiwick through the 6th before easing up briefly ahead of a secondary system moving swiftly in from the west during the 7th. A period of heavier rain that morning cleared through around noon allowing a brighter afternoon but with further showers, occasionally heavy, overnight in to the 8th.

The low responsible for this unsettled start to August was now almost stationary over Central Scotland with bands of heavy rain or showers across all parts of the UK, and strong westerly winds in the Channel. Showers locally continued through the 9th but an open wave depression within this airflow brought low cloud, rain, drizzle and fog through the small hours of the 10th, clearing by mid-morning as that rather unwelcome feature cleared away to the east. Conditions improved markedly following this clearance with over 9 hours of sunshine by day's end, although temperatures were still rather disappointing, reaching just short of 18°C.

High pressure was now starting to build from the southwest but with low pressure still out in the North Atlantic, unsettled conditions continued to prevail over much of the British Isles. The next few days however, started to see a brighter, drier run of weather with daytime maximum temperatures improving and mostly light to moderate southwesterly winds. A few showers early on the 12th soon cleared to a fine, warm day in the islands and we saw the mercury top 20°C for the first time this month.

Light southerly winds introduced a damp flow across the islands early on the 14th with patchy fog that rolled back to the coasts through the morning, but clearing skies allowed temperatures to reach 22.5°C and with 12.6 hours of sunshine, arguably the most pleasant day of the month to date.

Shallow low pressure once again made a return to the charts nudging in to the Southwest Approaches, with a weak cold front easing across the islands early on the 15th with patchy drizzle, mist and fog which cleared mid morning. It remained cloudy for rest of the day with more patchy drizzle later that evening as the associated occluded front cleared slowly southeast over the Bailiwick. Brighter conditions followed on from this clearance as that high re-asserted itself for the 16th. A series of weak fronts were toppling southeast across the UK for the 17th with mostly cloudy conditions here in the Bailiwick, together with a few spots of light rain later that afternoon.

This rather mobile setup to our weather continued with further low pressure now starting to push in from the southwest, replacing that high, with a series of weak frontal systems returning us to largely cloudy conditions with patchy rain & drizzle and with mist and hill fog at times over the next few days. Temperatures reflected this slightly cooler run of weather, struggling into the high teens and disappointing sunshine totals. Rainfall totals remained low though with that 13.0mm back on the 7th by far and away the wettest day of the month.

The 22nd enjoyed a brief ridge between fronts with over 11 hours of sunshine but again temperatures not able to breach that 20°C barrier.

As we started the final week of the month there was at last a more settled look to the charts with a large area of high pressure becoming established over the British Isles, but with a fresh northeasterly breeze of Scandinavian origin setting in along the Channel, temperatures again struggled to make 20°C.



High pressure for the last 10 days of the month helped push sunshine totals up although air temperatures were a little disappointing in the fresh northeasterly breeze. Les Hanois from Pleinmont headland. Photo credit Adam Heaume

High pressure centred over the UK dominated the weather for the remainder of the month, although extensive areas of low cloud within the general flow often provided dull conditions, particularly in the mornings. Temperatures again failed to make 20°C but it remained largely dry.

The average rainfall total for August is 56.6mm but with only 27.0mm of rainfall for the month, and nearly half of that total falling on the 13th, it was the driest August for 12 years. Maximum daytime temperatures only surpassed 20°C twice in the month leading to the mean maximum for August to fall 1.0°C short of the average, but with night minimum mean only 0.3°C down on the average, we ended up only 0.6°C lower than average for the monthly mean. A cool month then, and dull too with only just over 200 hours of sunshine but perhaps not feeling too bad with that lack of rainfall.

With a mean temperature of 16.2°C the summer was pretty much the same as the 30 year average despite being the coolest for 6 years. June and July were slightly warmer and wetter than average, with August being cooler and drier than the long term average. All three months were dull though, leading to the lowest summer sunshine total since 2012. The 3rd week in July was arguably the most pleasant with plenty of sunshine, no rainfall and temperatures peaking at 28.1°C on the 21st.

AUGUST 2021

DAY	DATE	TEMPERATURE deg C											RAIN mm	SUN hrs	WEATHER		
		BAROMETER		AIR				GRASS		SOIL		WIND					
		mb	at 9a.m.	MAX	MIN	MEAN	MIN	30cm	100cm	DIR°N	9a.m.	9a.m.				MEAN	MAX
Sun	1	1013.1	18.7	13.8	16.3	12.0	18.6	17.6	270	08	9.0	18	NIL	3.8	Light drz early otherwise cloudy occn fair		
Mon	2	1016.0	18.1	13.6	15.9	11.6	18.5	17.6	280	07	8.7	19	NIL	6.7	Fine bec mainly cloudy		
Tue	3	1014.5	18.5	13.4	16.0	11.0	18.2	17.5	280	08	6.7	14	0.7	4.8	Sunny periods am, becoming cloudy pm, isol showers by eve		
Wed	4	1013.2	19.8	13.9	16.9	13.8	18.5	17.5	070	06	4.3	12	0.1	6.8	Isol shw r early bec fair then fair/fine pm. Cloudy eve		
Thu	5	1006.3	18.4	13.9	16.2	11.5	18.6	17.5	170	13	13.6	28	2.6	1.2	Cldy w ith shw rs, rain & drz w ith brief fog am. Cldy pm w ith isol shw r		
Fri	6	1004.1	18.6	14.8	16.7	14.4	18.1	17.5	250	20	17.1	31	3.4	6.6	Rain and drizzle early. Some fair periods and isol light show ers		
Sat	7	999.1	17.6	14.0	15.8	13.0	17.9	17.5	240	17	16.1	33	13.0	5.6	Cloudy occn shw rs, rain by late am, fine by eve		
Sun	8	1009.7	18.3	13.4	15.9	11.6	17.4	17.4	250	18	16.0	30	2.3	9.4	Fair w ith shw rs. Cldy eve w ith rain		
Mon	9	1014.3	18.8	14.6	16.7	12.7	17.6	17.3	240	14	13.4	26	2.0	9.4	Cldy w ith shw rs to mid am then fair or fine		
Tue	10	1017.6	17.9	13.8	15.9	14.5	18.0	17.3	280	08	7.1	16	NIL	9.2	Cloudy w ith fog soon clearing to bec fair or fine		
Wed	11	1020.3	18.6	12.4	15.5	8.1	17.8	17.3	200	08	6.3	12	0.1	8.6	Fair		
Thu	12	1019.2	20.7	14.6	17.7	12.6	18.2	17.3	190	08	7.6	14	NIL	9.0	Cloudy w ith occ show ers am, bec fine. Occ fair eve		
Fri	13	1024.4	19.7	14.0	16.9	11.0	18.6	17.3	230	11	7.9	17	NIL	7.9	Cloudy am, bec fine by early pm		
Sat	14	1022.1	22.5	14.2	18.4	10.0	18.5	17.3	190	05	4.6	10	0.1	12.6	Early mist thickening to fog, clng mid am to fine		
Sun	15	1016.9	19.6	14.2	16.9	10.0	19.0	17.4	250	14	14.2	28	0.2	2.6	Cldy am w ith early drz, fog & mist clearing, occn fair pm, drz eve		
Mon	16	1020.8	18.1	14.5	16.3	12.2	18.4	17.5	310	12	11.5	22	NIL	7.2	Cloudy early am, clng to fine. Becoming cloudy pm		
Tue	17	1024.5	17.8	13.4	15.6	9.5	18.0	17.5	300	12	11.1	26	TR	0.7	Cloudy am, some bright spells pm w ith odd spot of rain		
Wed	18	1021.2	18.5	14.7	16.6	12.8	17.9	17.4	260	10	8.9	17	1.0	1.9	Cloudy w ith occn drizzle & mist		
Thu	19	1017.0	17.8	13.7	15.8	12.9	17.9	17.4	200	08	8.9	19	0.6	NIL	Cloudy w ith fog & mist. Intmt drz & rain through day		
Fri	20	1017.2	19.7	14.1	16.9	10.4	17.8	17.3	170	08	6.1	13	0.1	0.6	Cloudy, fog patches am		
Sat	21	1015.1	18.6	15.5	17.1	14.6	18.3	17.3	240	09	10.2	23	0.8	0.8	Cldy w ith occn rain am. Rain, drizzle, fog pm bec fair late pm		
Sun	22	1021.9	19.6	14.6	17.1	12.7	18.1	17.3	290	13	9.9	20	NIL	11.2	Cldy w ith early light shw rs, soon bec fine		
Mon	23	1027.0	19.6	13.4	16.5	8.6	18.0	17.3	050	07	6.8	19	NIL	8.9	Cloudy becoming fine by early afternoon		
Tue	24	1027.6	19.4	13.9	16.7	8.1	17.8	17.3	050	11	10.6	25	NIL	7.7	Cloudy becoming fine by early afternoon		
Wed	25	1023.7	19.3	14.9	17.1	13.6	17.8	17.3	060	13	10.6	25	NIL	12.3	Cloudy soon becoming fine		
Thu	26	1022.2	18.8	13.2	16.0	9.5	17.8	17.2	030	08	6.2	16	NIL	6.8	Cldy w ith early mist patches bec fine mid pm		
Fri	27	1023.0	18.4	12.6	15.5	5.4	17.2	17.2	050	09	6.8	16	NIL	11.8	Early shallow fog then fine occn fair @ noon. Good viz		
Sat	28	1025.7	18.9	12.9	15.9	6.6	17.1	17.1	060	08	6.8	16	NIL	12.5	Fine		
Sun	29	1025.6	19.8	13.5	16.7	7.6	17.2	17.0	030	07	5.9	16	NIL	12.7	Fine, occn shallow fog early am		
Mon	30	1024.6	17.9	13.1	15.5	7.8	17.3	17.0	050	08	9.3	21	TR	2.6	Briefly fair pm, othw se cloudy w ith light shw r am		
Tue	31	1027.7	17.7	15.0	16.4	14.5	17.3	16.9	050	10	9.6	20	NIL	2.8	Odd light show er overnight, cloudy till mid pm, then fair to fine		
MEAN 30 YEAR AVG 1991-2020	1018.6	18.9	13.9	16.4	11.1	18.0	17.3	W	10.3	9.4	TOTAL	27.0	204.7				
Diff from prev Avg	-0.3mb	+0.1°C	+0.1°C	+0.2°C	+0.5°C	0.0°C	0.0°C	W	-0.2Kt	-0.4Kt		+8.9mm	-3.3hrs				
EXTREMES ARE IN BOLD TYPE	NUMBER OF DAYS WITH	RAIN ≥0.2mm	WET ≥1.0mm	SNOW/ SLEET	HAIL	THNDER	LHGTNG	AIR FROST	GROUND FROST	FOG	FOG 9a.m.	GALE	NO SUN				
		10	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	1	TOTALS FOR YEAR TO DATE			
RECORDS FROM JANUARY 1947														RAINFALL	475.8 mm	SUNSHINE	1444.3 hrs
WETTEST DAY DAY/YEAR	55.8mm 22nd/1973	DRIEST MONTH YEAR	3.8mm 1955	LOWEST MIN DAY/YEAR	9.2°C 28th/1986	WARMEST MNTH YEAR	19.3°C 2003	SUNNIEST MNTH YEAR	1955	323.0hrs	RAIN DAYS	108	SUNLESS I	19			
WETTEST MNTH YEAR	122.0mm 1951	HIGHEST MAX DAY/YEAR	34.3 9th/2003	LOWEST GRASS DAY/YEAR	0.8°C 11th/1981	COLDEST MNTH YEAR	14.3°C 1956	DULLEST MNTH YEAR	1992	139.2hrs	WET DAYS	82					