

August 2024

A slack ridge of high pressure stretching up from the southwest greeted the new month, with light winds and clear skies leading to some early mist and fog which was reluctant to burn off during the course of the morning of the 1st but those clearing skies did yield some 12.6 hours of sunshine by day's end and temperatures reached 23.6°C.

That ridge held on until late on the 2nd before low pressure off the south coast of Iceland draped a weakening cold front down across the UK with rain arriving shortly before dawn on the 3rd, mixing with drizzle shortly after. As the morning progressed so the cloud thickened and lowered leading to mist and hill fog across the islands but early afternoon saw that front clear away to the southeast with drier conditions following on behind, albeit with an extensive shield of high cloud which only briefly let any sunshine through before sunset.



Extensive Cirrus just before sunset on the 3rd allowed a Parhelia to form 22° to the right of the sun. This optical phenomena is also known as a Mock Sun or Sun Dog. Photo credit B. Bonnefin.

Another ridge built in behind this clearance; with the 4th enjoying a pleasant day across the islands but extensive high cloud made the sunshine a tad hazy at times. The European charts were showing very unsettled conditions across most central and northern parts of the UK, with gales and periods of quite heavy rain, but further south we continued to enjoy much quieter weather as that Azores High did just enough to steer that stormier weather to the north. Overnight in to the 6th featured the next frontal approach from the west though as the Azores High broke down, with rain and drizzle arriving at our shores in the small hours. Patchy hill fog and mist, together with that mixed precipitation all but cleared by late morning as that front scuttled away eastward, leading to a fair afternoon and fine evening.

Flat ridge conditions followed on again following that frontal departure, but it remained cloudy through the 7th with a few spots of rain later that afternoon. Weak warm fronts in association with a low out in the North Atlantic made progress across Ireland and the UK early on the 8th, leading to a cloudy start in the islands with rain and drizzle from mid morning to around mid afternoon. Further rain arrived later that evening on a freshening southwest breeze, with drizzle, mist and fog patches overnight but mostly clearing shortly after the morning commute on the 9th with the rest of the day dry and bright with plenty of sunshine.

The charts continued to show a very mobile pattern for the northern European weather, with low pressure still off to the north of the UK and belts of rather transient high pressure over France and the Mediterranean. A weak warm front eased in to the Southwest Approaches overnight into the 10th, introducing a feed of much warmer air up from the south as temperatures moved into the low 20's. Sea fog that built up during the day crept inland that evening and overnight, but burnt back to the coasts shortly after sunrise on the 11th. A swiftly building anticyclone stretched atop the UK then led to a glorious day across the Bailiwick with 13.4 hours of sunshine

and temperatures reaching 24.3°C. Indeed this warm plume continued overnight into the 12th with air temperatures still at 23.8°C at 0300. Cooler air arrived shortly after dawn as the wind veered into the west, swiftly bringing in thick fog to blanket the islands until later that morning. It remained cloudy following the fog's clearance, with sunshine finally making an appearance later that afternoon.

A nose of high pressure gave us a clear night and bright but slightly cooler day for most of the 13th, although later that evening saw the arrival of the next front across the islands with periods of rain, drizzle and mist overnight into the 14th. The worst of the weather was mostly cleared to the east by dawn, but an extensive cloud shield was reluctant to leave the area with any brightness again limited to the evening.

Still generally unsettled though, it wasn't long before the next frontal system draped itself across the Channel, arriving early afternoon on the 15th, with further rain, drizzle and mist which thickened quite readily into fog that evening and continued overnight. The clearing front eventually went through around midday on the 16th, with a few hours of sunshine later that afternoon and evening. Top temperatures generally around the 20°C mark were just about average for mid August although recent cloudier days were not making it feel much like summer.

Despite deep low pressure still off to the north of Scotland, the weekend of the 17th & 18th was very pleasant, with light northwest to west winds, mostly clear skies and temperatures reaching the high teens as the Azores High to the southwest just did enough to settle our weather. Smoke from extensive wildfires in North America was borne along in the upper atmosphere to arrive over parts of Northern Europe by the 18th with a 'brassy' look to the sky by day, and an impressive sunset later that evening. Thickening cloud through the 19th heralded rain that evening as that high edged away to the east allowing a series of Atlantic fronts to swing in from the west. It was mostly an overnight affair however, with the bulk of that rain, drizzle, mist & fog having cleared by the morning commute on the 20th. Again, the cloud shield extended back beyond the surface fronts so it wasn't until early afternoon that we saw any sunshine, with brisk westerly winds just taking the edge off our temperatures. Another Azores High building in rapidly following this frontal clearance brought a couple of quieter days to enjoy, although a tad breezy at times, but developments across the far side of the Atlantic were looking to affect our weather in the days to come.

Ex-hurricane '*Ernesto*' was making rapid progress eastward and although this system was very much weakened by the time it arrived over the UK late on the 22nd, it still brought strong winds and heavy rainfall initially to mostly central and northern parts of the UK but around noon on the 22nd we started to see some patchy rain and drizzle as the cloud thickened and lowered, with mist and hill fog that evening. The cold front associated with this system cleared through the islands around mid morning on the 23rd after a night of strong winds but with the worst of the rain passing by to the north. Unfortunately that cold front developed into an open wave depression out to the southwest resulting in its return to the Channel by the early hours of the 24th. Rain started falling just before midnight and was fairly steady until just after dawn when we experienced about half an hour of violent rain which yielded some 22.6mm in the hour between 0700 and 0800 local. Widespread flooding across the island was reported before that troublesome front once again cleared away eastward to leave us with a scattering of mostly light showers that dried up by midday.

A fresh westerly flow set in following this clearance with brighter skies, but this cooler airflow left temperatures struggling around the mid teens for the rest of the day. Those winds started to ease down overnight as pressure once again tried to build up from the southwest but freshened again through the morning of the 25th as low pressure over Scotland tightened the gradient down as far as the Channel, with a few isolated showers rattling in from the west.

The next few days continued in the same vein with low pressure very much the driving force for much of the UK, but more settled anticyclonic conditions to the south as a broad belt of high pressure pushed slowly up over France and into the Baltic. Locally we enjoyed a mix of sun and cloud with a few isolated showers and air temperatures into the low 20's. By the 28th that high had become quasi-stationary over Latvia, allowing a series of weakening and slow moving fronts to edge in from the west. These fronts eventually cleared to the east overnight into the 29th, with a swiftly building ridge following in its tracks. Our winds settled in to the northeast

but that previously cleared front down to the south of us slowly wobbled back into the Channel with a cloudy end to the month with a few isolated showers.

A slightly warmer, wetter and sunnier month than average, with 77% of the total rainfall falling on just 3 days (15th, 23rd & 31st). There were no sunless days this month but fog was noted on 14 days, the most we've seen in this month since 1997.

Summer was marginally warmer than the long term average, brighter too but a very wet July pushed the rainfall total about an inch over the average. No exceptionally hot temperatures were noted, the highest being 26.6°C on the last day of July.

Summer	2024	30 Yr Avg	Anomaly/%
Rain (mm)	174.0	147.6	117.9
Sun (hrs)	741.4	726.0	102.1
Mean Max (°C)	19.2	19.1	+0.1
Mean Min (°C)	13.6	13.3	+0.3
Mean (°C)	16.4	16.2	+0.2

AUGUST 2024

DAY	DATE	BAROMETER	TEMPERATURE deg C					WIND				RAIN	SUN	WEATHER			
		hPa	AIR			GRASS	SOIL		DIR'N	SPEED(knots)			mm		hrs		
		at 9a.m.	MAX	MIN	MEAN	MIN	30cm	100cm	9a.m.	9a.m.	MEAN	MAX					
Thu	1	1013.5	23.6	16.5	20.1	15.6	20.4	17.4	350	05	7.0	17	NIL	12.6	Fog, mist and haze am. Clearing by late am to fine		
Fri	2	1015.3	20.5	15.6	18.1	14.7	20.2	17.6	280	11	11.0	21	TR	11.4	Mostly fair or fine occn cldy		
Sat	3	1014.1	18.2	14.9	16.5	16.3	19.8	17.7	230	12	9.4	19	2.8	1.6	Cldy. Rain, drz & mist am with fog @ midday, clrng pm		
Sun	4	1018.0	19.2	13.1	16.1	10.2	18.5	17.7	200	04	4.5	12	NIL	11.9	Fair with predominately high cloud throughout the day		
Mon	5	1014.6	21.5	14.0	17.7	12.6	18.8	17.7	190	10	6.5	14	0.9	8.9	Fair or fine am bec cldy pm & eve		
Tue	6	1011.5	20.4	15.1	17.8	15.5	19.4	17.7	330	07	9.0	20	0.4	6.2	Cldy with rain, drz, mist & fog clrng by late am. Fair/fine pm		
Wed	7	1015.4	20.6	14.6	17.6	13.4	19.1	17.7	230	15	10.9	22	TR	6.4	Fair bec cldy with occn light rain late pm		
Thu	8	1017.2	19.2	15.8	17.5	15.4	19.0	17.7	210	12	12.0	26	1.8	0.2	Cldy. Rain, drz & mist early pm clrng mid pm. Rain, drz & fog late eve		
Fri	9	1018.2	19.7	15.7	17.7	17.7	18.8	17.7	300	12	11.9	25	NIL	10.5	Cldy early am, with drz & fog. Clearing mid am and becmg fine		
Sat	10	1022.0	22.0	14.5	18.3	12.1	18.9	17.7	220	11	5.9	15	NIL	11.0	Fair with coastal fog encroaching late eve		
Sun	11	1018.8	24.3	15.4	19.9	14.0	19.5	17.7	070	10	9.8	24	TR	13.4	Ovnt fog burning back to coast by daw n bec fine		
Mon	12	1009.6	24.3	16.0	20.1	17.6	20.2	17.8	280	11	11.3	25	TR	4.4	Fine bec cldy with rain, drz & fog clrng late am. Fair then fine eve		
Tue	13	1011.0	21.2	13.5	17.3	9.9	20.1	17.8	190	12	7.1	17	1.0	8.6	Fair with good vis bec cldy from mid pm. Rain & drz late eve		
Wed	14	1013.9	19.0	16.2	17.6	16.7	19.7	17.9	330	06	8.1	17	TR	2.1	Cldy with early rain, drz, mist & fog clrng by daw n. Fine by late eve		
Thu	15	1018.6	20.2	13.4	16.8	10.8	18.8	17.9	210	13	12.2	23	8.6	3.4	Bec cldy by daw n, occn fair am. Cldy pm with occn drz. Drz & fog eve		
Fri	16	1016.9	19.3	15.4	17.3	17.5	19.1	17.9	360	04	5.3	19	0.5	2.2	Cldy with rain, drz, mist & fog clrng mid pm. Fair/fine eve, shallow fog		
Sat	17	1016.8	18.2	13.3	15.7	10.4	18.5	17.9	350	08	7.4	17	NIL	9.8	Fine/fair am, high cloud arriving mid pm. Occn dry air pm, xlnv viz		
Sun	18	1017.2	19.7	14.9	17.3	12.5	19.0	17.9	280	09	8.2	17	NIL	8.4	Cldy bec fine by midday. Cldy late eve		
Mon	19	1018.1	20.1	15.4	17.7	13.2	18.8	17.8	190	11	7.7	19	2.4	6.2	Fair with high cloud thru the day. Low er cloud & rain late eve		
Tue	20	1012.2	19.2	15.3	17.3	16.7	19.3	17.8	260	12	12.9	26	TR	9.4	Cldy, early fog & drz clrng to isol shw rs. Fine pm & eve		
Wed	21	1021.9	19.1	14.1	16.6	11.2	18.4	17.8	270	10	10.7	19	NIL	11.8	Fair with xtnsv high cloud & isol shw r early am		
Thu	22	1011.5	18.8	15.2	17.0	13.0	18.8	17.8	220	20	15.1	27	3.6	1.0	Bec cldy with drz & fog from late pm/eve		
Fri	23	1008.9	18.8	15.6	17.2	15.3	18.2	17.7	280	15	12.8	34	36.0	9.8	Cldy with rain & drz, clrng mid am. Fine/fair pm w with rain by midnight		
Sat	24	1002.8	17.9	14.0	15.9	14.0	18.1	17.7	090	06	11.4	25	2.0	4.2	Cldy. Drz & rain (violent 0613-0642z) clrng late am. Fair/fine pm/eve		
Sun	25	1022.6	18.7	13.9	16.3	11.3	17.5	17.6	250	16	14.1	27	TR	10.9	Fair with isol shw r am, fine pm bec cldy eve		
Mon	26	1021.9	20.4	15.3	17.9	13.9	17.6	17.5	230	11	10.9	23	TR	6.7	Cldy with isol shw rs am, clrng to fine pm. Cldy eve		
Tue	27	1018.0	22.4	15.0	18.7	13.2	18.0	17.4	160	12	7.9	17	NIL	10.1	High cloud am, thinning late am to become fine		
Wed	28	1012.7	22.0	16.0	19.0	15.1	18.8	17.4	170	04	8.3	17	TR	5.9	Fair am bec cldy pm with isol shw r, fair/fine eve		
Thu	29	1020.8	19.1	13.8	16.5	11.9	18.5	17.5	320	06	5.7	15	NIL	11.4	Fine bec cldy pm. Fair/fine eve		
Fri	30	1022.2	19.7	13.1	16.4	9.2	18.8	17.5	040	09	6.9	17	TR	9.9	Cldy occn fair		
Sat	31	1019.8	20.1	16.5	18.3	14.8	18.4	17.6	060	13	10.1	24	7.8	2.7	Cldy occn fair/fine with isol shw rs am. Cldy & misty eve		
MEAN		1016.0	20.2	14.9	17.5	13.7	18.9	17.7	SW	10.2	9.4	TOTAL	67.8	233.0			
30 YEAR AVG		1017.0	19.9	14.2	17.1	11.8	18.1	17.2	W	9.7	9.3	/////	56.6	226.8			
1991-2020																	
EXTREMES ARE IN	NUMBER OF DAYS	RAIN	WET	SNOW/ SLEET	HAIL	THNDER	LGHTNG	AIR	GROUND	FOG	FOG	GALE	NO	TOTALS FOR YEAR TO DATE			
		≥0.2mm	≥1.0mm					FROST	FROST		9a.m.		SUN				
BOLD TYPE	WITH		12	9	0	0	0	0	0	14	1	0	0				
RECORDS FROM JANUARY 1947														RAINFALL	558.4 mm	SUNSHINE	1453.9 hrs
WETTEST DAY	55.8mm	DRIEST MONTH		3.8mm	LOWEST MIN		9.2°C	WARMEST MNTH		19.3°C	SUNNIEST MNTH		323.0hrs	RAIN DAYS	114	SUNLESS I	32
DAY/YEAR	22nd/1973	YEAR		1955	DAY/YEAR		28th/1986	YEAR		2022	YEAR		1955	WET DAYS	87		
WETTEST MNTH	122.0mm	HIGHEST MAX		34.3	LOWEST GRASS		0.8°C	COLDEST MNTH		14.3°C	DULLEST MNTH		139.2hrs				
YEAR	1951	DAY/YEAR		9th/2003	DAY/YEAR		11th/1981	YEAR		1956	YEAR		1992				