

January 2021

The cool snap that closed out 2020 rolled in to the new year as a cold pool of low pressure just off St Nazaire in northern Biscay drew cold Polar air down across the UK and in to the Channel. A scattering of heavy hail showers early on the 1st led to some residual icy surfaces across the Bailiwick that morning, but these mostly cleared by noon. Further showers of rain & hail in association with a weak occluded front lying along the south coast of the UK arrived that evening, clearing by the morning of the 2nd.

High pressure out in the near Atlantic was encouraging this northerly flow across the country, whilst that low pressure in Biscay remained quasi-stationary. Generally fair conditions prevailed over the next couple of days, with scattered rain & hail showers, occasionally with sleet. By the 4th that Atlantic high had toppled eastward across the UK to be centred over Norway, with a more pronounced easterly flow being established down the Channel. A band of heavy and persistent rain that afternoon continued overnight before clearing to scattered rain & hail showers on the 5th.

The cool, showery flow continued over the next few days as high pressure re-established itself out to the west of the British Isles, with a slack gradient now covering much of France and Central Europe. Locally our winds fell light, and with clearing skies overnight we recorded grass temperatures down to -4.9°C by dawn on the 8th. A band of slow moving showers that morning saw some snow mixed in with the rain, as air temperatures fell away to just 1.8°C for a time.

The weekend of the 9th & 10th saw a nose of high pressure edge into the southwest counties, flattening out any remaining showers and delivering just a hint of warmer temperatures to come. However, clear skies overnight did lead to 4 consecutive sharp ground frosts from the 7th. As our winds backed in to the west by the morning of the 11th, so air temperatures slowly increased as a more Atlantic flow developed across the UK. Low pressure was by now starting to track across northern parts of Scotland, displacing that high, with associated fronts bringing periods of rain to many parts of the country. Outbreaks of rain and drizzle through the morning of the 12th led to some patchy mist and hill fog later in the day as air temperatures reached double figures for the first time this year.

Unsettled, damp and misty conditions prevailed for the next few days as we remained in a broad swathe of mild Atlantic air, but the clearing cold front went through around noon on the 14th allowing a brief glimpse of sunshine that afternoon. Ridge conditions briefly kept things quiet for a couple of days, but with the next low pressure deepening out in the North Atlantic, further rain with strong southerly winds arrived by dawn on the 16th. The associated cold front cleared through fairly smartly by afternoon, with another ridge building in behind.

This rollercoaster of systems continued into the 18th as the next low swung in from the west, with rain turning to drizzle that afternoon, and patchy hill fog overnight in to the 19th. This unsettled run gave us mostly cloudy conditions, with outbreaks of rain and drizzle and fresh to strong southwesterly winds through until late evening on the 20th. Storm '*Christoph*' was the system responsible for this particular run of poor weather across the country, bringing strong winds and high rainfall amounts to many central and northern parts of the UK. The clearing cold front late on the 20th introduced a much cooler, showery airflow to our shores; indeed the passage of that front gave us our highest recorded gust of the month at 56 knots (64mph), just after 9pm that evening.

A further low raced in across northern France following this clearance on the 21st with a band of rain, occasionally heavy that afternoon and air temperatures falling to just 5°C, as cold Polar air dug in from the north. Heavy snow was affecting large parts of the UK by now, but the relative warmth of the Channel kept our precipitation to mostly rain with sleet or hail mixed in. A further low moving eastward across Brittany in the small hours of the 23rd led to a period of heavy rain & sleet locally as air temperatures dipped to just 1.2°C, but the day dawned bright with plenty of sunshine, albeit on the chilly side.

Yet another system swung in overnight in to the 24th with further heavy rain turning swiftly to wintry showers through the day. One particularly heavy hail shower that afternoon left the higher Parishes with an impressive dusting of ice before melting gently away. The 25th welcomed a temporary ridge across the southwest, centred off Ushant leading to some 8 hours of sunshine recorded at the airport, the sunniest day of the month. Clear skies that night lead to another extensive ground frost, the 12th of the month and more ground frosts already recorded this month than we saw for the whole of last year.



A heavy hail shower during the afternoon of the 24th left a white carpet of ice in parts of the island.

Unfortunately that ridge was edging slowly away to the east to allow a return to milder, damper, Atlantic air once more, as rain arrived just before dawn on the 26th. A succession of systems rolled across the British Isles for the next 3 days with extensive low cloud, mist and hill fog, together with outbreaks of rain & drizzle.

Brighter conditions greeted us on the 29th following an overnight cold frontal clearance, but it was a brief respite before cloud thickened and lowered through the afternoon with rain, mist & hill fog later that evening. Overcast conditions then prevailed for the last 2 days of the month, with more murky conditions. Indeed, the last 6 days of the month yielded just over 2 inches of rain but just 3.4 hours of sunshine.

With a rollercoaster of temperatures through the month, incidences of fog, hail, ground frosts and snow/sleet were all much higher than average. The mean temperature for the month though, ended up 0.5°C below the new 30 year average for January. However, the month will probably be best remembered for yet more rain; just over twice the average for January at 188.4mm, a tad below the total for December just gone. This month also ended up as the 3rd wettest January at the airport, after 2001 & 1988 and the 5th wettest January since our records began in 1843.

10 sunless days through January made for a gloomy month at just 55.1 hours total sunshine.

January 2021

DAY	DATE	BAROMETER	TEMPERATURE deg C						WIND				RAIN	SUN	WEATHER		
			AIR			GRASS	SOIL		DIR'N	SPEED(knots)							
			at 9a.m.	MAX	MIN	MEAN	MIN	30cm	100cm	9a.m.	9a.m.	MEAN				MAX	mm
Fri	1	1012.0	6.6	0.8	3.7	-4.2	6.6	9.9	040	04	5.1	17	1.9	4.3	Hoar frost, isol hail shwrs am. Rain/hail shwrs eve		
Sat	2	1017.6	6.7	3.5	5.1	-1.2	6.6	9.8	360	09	7.8	20	6.8	0.5	Cldy with rain/hail shwrs early am & evening		
Sun	3	1014.6	6.6	0.9	3.8	0.0	6.5	9.6	030	10	8.0	21	10.2	0.5	Cldy with rain shwrs, occn with hail & sleet am		
Mon	4	1016.5	5.7	2.3	4.0	-0.6	6.5	9.4	030	13	11.3	30	20.8	NIL	Cldy with rain/sleet shwrs bec rain, hvy & persistent		
Tue	5	1018.4	5.6	3.4	4.5	1.3	6.3	9.3	030	11	11.6	28	16.4	0.4	Early rain clrng to sct rain/sleet/hail show ers		
Wed	6	1018.7	6.3	2.5	4.4	1.9	6.2	9.1	080	04	5.2	16	13.0	1.3	Cloudy, scattered rain/hail show ers		
Thu	7	1019.5	5.6	1.9	3.8	-1.1	6.0	8.9	040	04	3.7	15	7.5	5.7	Isolated w intry show ers early becoming fine		
Fri	8	1017.3	6.5	1.8	4.2	-4.9	5.3	8.8	230	06	5.1	15	4.2	1.5	Cldy with rain/hail shwrs am, fair pm		
Sat	9	1024.5	6.6	2.2	4.4	-3.7	5.1	8.6	070	04	5.0	12	NIL	6.5	Fine with hoar frost am & eve		
Sun	10	1027.9	6.1	2.1	4.1	-4.6	4.8	8.4	350	07	5.1	13	NIL	2.0	Fair with early hoar frost bec cloudy		
Mon	11	1024.2	9.1	6.1	7.6	4.1	5.4	8.2	260	11	14.1	36	0.4	NIL	Cloudy with scattered show ers		
Tue	12	1017.3	10.4	8.1	9.3	6.4	6.5	8.2	280	23	19.3	35	0.8	NIL	Overcast with rain, drizzle mist and some hill fog pm		
Wed	13	1023.7	10.1	8.9	9.5	8.1	7.5	8.2	290	18	15.8	29	1.1	0.2	Cloudy with drizzle or rain		
Thu	14	1018.2	10.5	8.0	9.3	7.9	8.0	8.3	280	18	17.7	31	TR	0.1	Cloudy. Drizzle and fog patches clrng by noon		
Fri	15	1029.7	8.4	2.4	5.4	3.9	7.7	8.5	020	08	7.2	22	3.1	1.8	Fair to fine pm otherwise cloudy. Brief ground frost late pm		
Sat	16	1020.7	10.2	5.0	7.6	-2.0	7.2	8.6	200	18	13.7	30	2.5	NIL	Rain, drizzle, mist & hill fog, clearing by noon. Occn fair pm		
Sun	17	1026.9	8.9	5.8	7.4	3.6	7.4	8.6	330	14	9.1	24	0.5	5.3	Fair or fine		
Mon	18	1026.7	9.2	4.8	7.0	0.4	7.0	8.6	220	07	11.5	27	4.5	0.3	Mainly cldy. Shwrs early, rain drizzle and fog patches by eve		
Tue	19	1012.3	11.0	9.0	10.0	7.4	7.7	8.7	230	20	18.0	33	1.2	0.2	Cloudy. Drizzle & fog early am. Rain eve		
Wed	20	992.8	10.4	9.4	9.9	8.8	8.2	8.7	190	17	20.1	56	1.3	0.1	Light intermittent rain & drizzle, clearing late eve		
Thu	21	992.3	10.2	4.7	7.5	4.2	8.1	8.8	230	21	12.5	33	11.5	NIL	Cldy with occn shwrs, bec rain, hvy at times pm & eve		
Fri	22	995.0	8.6	4.4	6.5	-1.0	7.3	8.9	280	04	9.8	28	16.9	3.8	Fair to fine with scattered rain/hail show ers		
Sat	23	994.1	7.0	1.2	4.1	0.0	6.8	8.8	020	08	7.8	23	5.9	5.8	Heavy rain, occn sleet early am, clrng to fine		
Sun	24	997.9	7.5	2.4	5.0	-3.6	6.2	8.7	280	16	15.2	40	3.0	3.4	Early frost. Rain clrng to fair with frqnt rain/hail shwrs		
Mon	25	1011.4	6.6	2.4	4.5	-0.9	5.9	8.6	360	07	8.0	27	TR	8.0	Fine with hoar frost eve		
Tue	26	1019.2	8.4	2.0	5.2	-3.6	5.7	8.4	180	14	14.3	30	2.6	NIL	O/cast. Lt rain am. Drz, occ hvy rain, mist late pm/eve. Fog late eve		
Wed	27	1015.1	10.7	8.4	9.6	6.7	6.6	8.3	260	12	12.4	24	15.0	NIL	Overcast rain/drizzle and extensive fog		
Thu	28	1007.9	11.4	10.5	11.0	10.1	7.9	8.2	250	19	18.7	38	8.0	NIL	Overcast rain/drizzle, fog, rain eve occn hvy clrng late		
Fri	29	1004.3	10.8	8.2	9.5	7.1	8.5	8.3	270	25	18.6	40	14.1	3.4	Shwrs until daw n. Cldy occn fair pm. Rain arriving late eve		
Sat	30	991.2	10.4	9.1	9.8	6.6	8.6	8.5	170	10	12.6	30	6.0	NIL	Overcast with rain, drz, mist & patchy hill fog		
Sun	31	999.5	10.0	6.2	8.1	6.0	8.5	8.6	120	06	9.4	25	9.2	NIL	Overcast. Rain, drz & mist am. Hvy rain & fog pm, clrng eve		
MEAN		1013.1	8.5	4.8	6.6	2.0	6.9	8.7	W	11.9	11.4	TOTAL	188.4	55.1			
30 YEAR AVG		1017.6	9.0	5.4	7.2	3.1	7.3	8.6	SW	13.2	13.4	/////	92.0	62.6			
1991-2020																	
Diff from prev Avg		-0.3mb	+0.3°C	+0.4°C	+0.3°C	+0.3°C	+0.4°C	+0.4°C	SW	-0.8Kt	-0.8Kt		-0.5mm	+1.6hrs			
EXTREMES	NUMBER	RAIN	WET	SNOW/	HAIL	THNDR	LGHTNG	AIR	GROUND	FOG	FOG	GALE	NO				
ARE IN	OF DAYS	≥0.2mm	≥1.0mm	SLEET				FROST	FROST			9a.m.	SUN				
BOLD TYPE	WITH	27	24	6	11	0	0	0	12	12	1	0	10		TOTALS FOR YEAR TO DATE		
RECORDS FROM JANUARY 1947														RAINFALL	188.4 mm	SUNSHINE	55.1 hrs
WETTEST DAY	35.8mm	DRIEST MONTH	15.4mm	LOWEST MIN	-7.8°C	WARMEST MNTH	9.0°C	SUNNIEST MNTH	112.8hrs	RAIN DAYS	27	SUNLESS DAYS	10				
DAY/YEAR	11th/2001	YEAR	1992	DAY/YEAR	20th/1963	YEAR	2007	YEAR	1998	WET DAYS	24						
WETTEST MNTH	210.0mm	HIGHEST MAX	13.3°C	LOWEST GRASS	-10.0°C	COLDEST MONTH	1.5°C	DULLEST MNTH	26.0hrs								
YEAR	2001	DAY/YEAR	4th/'48,9th/'07	DAY/YEAR	29th/1947	YEAR	1963	YEAR	1966								