

January

The new year opened up with a distinct north/south divide as low pressure centred over Norway pulled cold Polar air down over Scotland and northern England, with the associated cold front sitting east/west over Manchester. Milder, tropical air to the south of this front brought cloudier conditions locally, but with air temperatures up in double figures coupled with strong southwesterly winds. As that front dropped south into the Channel through the afternoon of the 1st, rain and drizzle arrived just before noon, becoming heavy at times before eventually clearing to showers overnight into the 2nd. The winds veered sharply into the north and fell away as temperatures dipped into single figures with the arrival of that colder air. Despite this cooler, clearer airmass it remained mostly cloudy through the day with excellent visibility across the islands.

Extensive high pressure out in the North Atlantic largely responsible for this cooler, drier spell continued to extend a ridge down over the Channel through the 3rd but as this anticyclone slipped further eastward into central Europe, warmer air in association with a low edged in slowly from the southwest. Some wintry precipitation started to fall across the Bailiwick shortly after midday on the 4th as warmer air aloft mixed with much colder air lower down over the islands. Initially just 2.8°C around noon this warmer air pulled temperatures up to 12.5°C by midnight with periods of occasionally heavy rain, drizzle, mist and then fog through the afternoon and evening. Winds picked up too, from the south, gusting to F7 at times. The 5th dawned with a thick blanket of low cloud over the islands as we sat between weather fronts with rain, drizzle, mist and hill fog, clearing around midday but remaining cloudy.

The low responsible continued to deepen as it crossed southern and central parts of the UK, with a few more bits and pieces of rain and drizzle before the clearance proper just before dawn on the 6th. Winds veered sharply into the northwest once more with air temperatures dropping by some 5°C as that low started to drag in cooler air from the north. Frequent rain and hail showers rattled in through the day on a blustery northwester, but they became more scattered overnight before becoming isolated through the early hours of the 7th. That low continued its progress northeast up over Norway to allow a brief ridge to cover the Channel that afternoon but cloud thickened that evening as the next system swept in from the southwest overnight.

Rain arrived just before dawn, falling as sleet at times through the morning before turning to more persistent rain and drizzle for the afternoon on fresh easterly winds pulling cold air off the nearby continent. It was a rather messy setup as those fronts stalled in the Channel overnight as that rain and drizzle continued and it wasn't until just before dawn on the 9th that the clearance arrived, once more dragging down cooler, clearer air with a scattering of rain and hail showers through the day.



Showers over the north of Guernsey, as well as Herm and Sark, just before sunset on the 9th.

This rollercoaster of weathers wasn't quite finished yet though, as yet another low swept in overnight with heavy and persistent rain mixed with sleet falling through until mid morning on the 10th. We stayed on the cold side of the air masses this time as we remained cloudy and cool with some patchy rain later that evening.

A building belt of high pressure was by now starting to make inroads across the UK and into the Channel with a promise of a quieter and more settled run of weather over the next few days. Indeed, after a cloudy start, the 11th brightened up nicely by midday with light to moderate southeasterly winds as that high established itself, centred over Normandy. That high continued to dominate through to the 19th although daytime temperatures remained in single figures and cool overnight, patchy fog at times and the odd spot of drizzle. Whilst remaining the dominant feature for our weather locally, that high did start to decline eastward over the continent as low pressure developed out to the west allowing fronts to push in by the 21st.

With lows to both the NW and SW of the British Isles, but making little progress, a series of weak fronts delivered moisture laden air for the next couple of days. Low cloud cloaked the island in mist and hill fog on the morning of the 21st, with rain and drizzle overnight becoming heavier and more persistent for a time during the afternoon of the 22nd.

A rapidly deepening low became the fifth major storm of the winter, with the naming of Storm Éowyn signalling the start of an unsettled weekend of weather ahead. Freshening southwesterly winds accompanied showers arriving late in the morning of 23rd but it soon cleared to an afternoon of winter sunshine, with temperatures getting into double figures for the first time in a fortnight. With Storm Éowyn now west of Ireland, high cloud stretching from the centre of the storm was reaching the Bailiwick. By this time, both Met Eireann and the UK Met Office had in place Red warnings, for damaging and destructive winds affecting Ireland, Northern Ireland and Central and Southwest Scotland. We avoided the most damaging winds experienced further north (114mph in Ireland and 100mph in Scotland) but 24th was a wet, windy and at times misty day. Winds eased through the second half of the day and indeed the following day was a rather calm if cloudy interlude ahead of the next developing North Atlantic Low.

With a freshening southerly, rain arrived soon after dawn on 26th, heavy for a time through the evening. Both Guernsey and Alderney recorded gusts in excess of 50mph (Force 9) but the wind direction kept temperatures above average for the time of year.

Post-frontal unstable air allowed showers, gusty with hail and distant lightning, to develop as the new week began and a succession of troughs crossed the Channel. With the low pressure making slow progress across southern England as it weakened, these showers persisted until the early hours of the 29th.

Storm Ivo, named by the Portuguese Met service, whilst not threatening particularly strong winds for the Bailiwick did deliver some significant rainfall over an 8 hour period on Wednesday 29th. Localised flooding across the Islands caused travel disruption and some temporary road closures. An official 24 hour total of 33.3mm at Guernsey Airport made it the wettest day since August last year, and only added to an already wet month - nearly 60mm above the long term average.

Some weather trivia for those interested in storm naming – Storm Herminia (named by the Spanish Met service) that brought showers at the start of this week, evolved into Storm Ivo as it crossed into Germany. The separate low pressure that caused some localised flooding in the Channel Islands mid-week was also named Storm Ivo!

High pressure building in the North Atlantic extended a ridge across southwest England and brought a welcome day of light to moderate winds, with long sunny periods and excellent visibility, on the 30th. As the first month of the year came to a close, a weak occlusion crossed the UK, with rain and drizzle book-ending January, albeit with a final dose of mid-winter sunshine through the afternoon of the 31st nudging the temperatures into double figures briefly.

For the second consecutive year, the mean temperature for January was below the long-term average and indeed the coolest since 2010. That being said, there was an absence of any noticeably cold spells and the temperature remained above freezing throughout (1.6°C minimum on 18th and 19th). Even with 11 sunless days, the monthly

sunshine total gave us the sunniest January since 2017 but it is likely the month will be remembered for the deluge of rainfall experienced on the 29th. With a third of the month's usual rainfall coming in 8 hours, it's no surprise to hear the reservoir is officially full!

JANUARY 2025

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						
Wed	1	1014.1	12.3	6.1	9.2	8.7	9.9	10.8	230	26	19.0	45	20.8	NIL	Cldy with early isol shw r. Rain & drz from noon occn hvy			
Thu	2	1017.6	7.5	3.3	5.4	4.4	9.8	10.8	360	07	6.8	18	NIL	0.3	Cldy with early rain bec fair later. Xlnt viz			
Fri	3	1026.2	6.2	2.3	4.3	-1.2	7.5	10.8	060	03	3.7	13	NIL	4.7	Fair bec cldy late pm. Xlnt viz & dry air			
Sat	4	1016.2	9.7	1.9	5.8	0.2	7.1	10.6	120	14	13.9	32	22.2	0.1	Cldy. Rain & ice pellets pm bec rain & drz, hvy, fog eve			
Sun	5	991.6	12.7	9.6	11.2	3.5	8.4	10.3	210	22	16.9	32	1.4	NIL	Cldy. Rain, drz & fog am, clrng @ noon to cldy with ptchy rain & drz			
Mon	6	986.7	12.6	4.9	8.8	5.1	9.2	10.2	290	27	20.2	40	4.0	3.5	Cldy occn fair. Rain clrng to frqnt rain/hail shw rs			
Tue	7	1003.4	8.8	3.6	6.2	0.2	8.7	10.2	270	20	13.4	38	4.9	4.2	Fair with sct rain/hail shw rs am			
Wed	8	1001.4	6.8	2.8	4.8	1.4	7.5	10.2	100	14	10.9	32	14.9	NIL	Cldy. Rain/sleet & drz am bec rain, drz & fog ptchs pm			
Thu	9	1009.2	7.1	4.1	5.6	2.7	7.5	10.0	360	10	9.6	26	6.7	5.5	Cldy, rain & drz clrng by daw n to fine. Cldy from mid pm, isol hail shw r			
Fri	10	1016.3	6.3	4.0	5.2	3.8	7.2	9.9	120	14	10.8	23	0.4	NIL	Cldy. Rain & sleet clrng mid am. Ptchy drz pm, rain eve			
Sat	11	1027.9	7.4	2.4	4.9	2.5	7.2	9.8	110	09	6.6	15	NIL	6.8	Cldy bec fair then fine pm			
Sun	12	1039.7	6.7	3.3	5.0	0.2	7.0	9.7	150	08	9.0	18	NIL	7.6	Fine with xlnt viz			
Mon	13	1040.8	5.6	2.3	4.0	1.0	6.0	9.5	160	11	8.1	19	NIL	3.4	Fine bec mainly cldy			
Tue	14	1036.8	9.6	2.3	6.0	-0.2	5.7	9.4	170	07	4.0	10	TR	6.8	Hazy sunshine bec fine late am. Shallow fog eve			
Wed	15	1036.1	9.0	6.0	7.5	0.3	6.1	9.2	110	01	1.8	05	TR	NIL	Cldy & misty with early shallow fog, ptchy drz mid am. Fog & drz eve			
Thu	16	1034.5	8.9	4.8	6.9	2.4	6.9	9.1	080	05	5.8	20	NIL	4.4	Cldy bec fine pm. Early mist & shallow fog. Cldy eve			
Fri	17	1036.3	7.2	2.3	4.8	2.0	6.9	9.1	160	02	6.3	21	NIL	NIL	Cldy			
Sat	18	1030.0	5.0	1.6	3.3	3.1	7.0	9.1	100	04	4.9	15	TR	NIL	Cldy with haze at times			
Sun	19	1020.5	5.6	1.6	3.6	2.7	6.6	9.0	150	07	8.7	19	0.9	0.1	Cldy, haze then mist with rain and drizzle			
Mon	20	1018.3	6.3	2.8	4.6	2.9	6.8	9.0	130	10	9.1	17	NIL	5.6	Cldy with mist before daw n, bec fine and sunny			
Tue	21	1014.4	7.2	1.9	4.6	0.7	6.5	8.9	120	08	9.1	17	1.4	NIL	Cldy, mist and hill fog am, rain from late eve			
Wed	22	1004.3	8.3	4.8	6.6	3.8	7.0	8.9	120	04	4.5	17	6.9	NIL	Cldy, rain, drz and mist bec hvy for a time mid afternoon			
Thu	23	1007.2	10.1	4.1	7.1	1.5	7.1	8.9	220	19	14.7	39	8.1	1.7	Cldy with occ gusty show ers until mid aft			
Fri	24	997.6	10.8	8.7	9.8	5.8	7.8	8.8	240	14	15.2	40	1.4	NIL	Ovcst, rain,drz and mist am, rmng cldy but dry pm			
Sat	25	1007.5	8.8	4.9	6.9	3.7	7.8	8.9	350	05	6.5	25	0.1	0.3	Cldy, light rain and occ shw r early hours, bec fine late eve			
Sun	26	995.0	11.2	5.1	8.2	2.5	7.3	9.0	150	27	21.7	45	13.8	1.3	Cldy with rain am, clrng early afternoon, rain ret by eve, occ hvy.			
Mon	27	986.5	10.5	5.3	7.9	4.0	7.7	8.9	220	25	23.5	45	3.6	4.3	Freq blustery shw rs, fair spells betw een. Hail and lightning am.			
Tue	28	986.2	11.0	7.9	9.5	5.6	7.7	8.9	270	26	22.2	40	3.3	3.3	Cldy with sunny periods & blustery show ers			
Wed	29	1000.9	10.0	6.2	8.1	4.0	7.9	9.0	130	15	13.9	35	33.3	NIL	Ovcst with persistent rain, heavy at times.			
Thu	30	1021.5	8.3	5.2	6.8	3.3	7.6	9.0	350	15	11.3	33	5.8	7.4	Cldy with rain in early hours, bec fair then mainly fine and sunny			
Fri	31	1024.2	10.4	4.0	7.2	0.9	7.3	9.0	260	17	10.6	29	3.6	6.3	Cldy, rain (occ hvy), mist and fog. Clrng mid morn bec fine until eve.			
MEAN		1014.5	8.6	4.2	6.4	2.6	7.4	9.5	SE	12.8	11.1	TOTAL	157.5	77.6	23rd - Storm 'Eow yn' (Met Eireann)			
30 YEAR AVG															26th - Storm Herminia (Spanish Met)			
1991-2020		1017.6	9.0	5.4	7.2	3.1	7.3	8.6	SW	13.2	13.4	////	92.0	62.6	29th - Storm Ivo (Portuguese Met)			
EXTREMES ARE IN BOLD TYPE	NUMBER OF DAYS WITH	RAIN	WET	SNOW/	HAIL	THUNDER	LGHTNG	AIR	GROUND	FOG	FOG	GALE	NO	TOTALS FOR YEAR TO DATE				
		≥0.2mm	≥1.0mm	SLEET				FROST	FROST		9a.m.	SUN						
		19	17	2	6	0	1	0	2	7	1	0	11					
RECORDS FROM JANUARY 1947															RAINFALL	157.5 mm	SUNSHINE	77.6 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	19	SUNLESS DAYS	11	
DAY/YEAR	11th/2001	YEAR		1992	DAY/YEAR		20th/1963	YEAR		2007	YEAR		1998	WET DAYS	17			
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/'07,2/'24	DAY/YEAR		29th/1947	YEAR		1963	YEAR		1966					