

March 2025

Clear skies and excellent visibility in the early hours of the 1st, with a minimum overnight temperature of 3.3°C, reminded us that it's not quite time to turn off the heating. However, other than a slow moving shower that morning, high pressure kept us on the right side of a north/south split over the British Isles, and a strengthening sun made it feel warmer than the 9.1°C maximum recorded. The following day, whilst remaining dry, started off cloudy but with some hazy sunshine through the afternoon. Overnight on 2nd, the E/NE wind eased to a light force 2 allowing the ground temperatures to drop below freezing in some sheltered spots (although not at the airport) providing a sprinkling of frost as the sun rose on the 3rd. High pressure covering most of Europe was now centred over the south of England giving us mostly clear skies, light winds from the east and plenty of sunshine on the first Monday of Meteorological Spring. With very little in the way of cloud overnight and decreasing wind speeds, the air temperature dropped to 2.1°C overnight, and cold air at the surface allowed the ground temperature to fall just below zero (-0.4°C). For the second consecutive day, sunrise was accompanied by a light ground frost and with little change in the setup another fine day followed nudging the temperature up to 10.7°C in the strengthening spring sunshine.

High pressure was now drifting slowly east over the continent, and a warm front edged in from the Atlantic, delivering moist air on the morning of the 5th. Some patchy low cloud led to a brief period of hill fog at the airport just after sunrise, but this was very short lived and sunshine accompanied the morning commute ahead of another fine day. A shift in wind direction the previous day, to a southeasterly, kept the overnight temperature on the milder side compared to recent days. The presence of high pressure over the near continent was enough to prevent weak fronts making too much progress over the British Isles. However, increasing high cloud was starting to spread in from the west through the morning of Thursday 6th, giving hazy sunshine for a time, but this cloud broke up through the afternoon allowing more widespread sunshine. After just 6 days of spring, sunshine totals for the month were already more than double the average – the next 6 days would turn out to be quite the opposite!

By Friday 7th, high pressure had now pushed further east and was centred off Greece. This allowed fronts associated with multiple shallow lows in the North Atlantic to start affecting our weather. One of these lows, named storm Jana by the Spanish Met service, produced significant rainfall, snow and stormy weather over the Iberian Peninsula, and would turn out to be the first of 4 named storms (with Konrad, Laurence, Martinho) in 2 weeks over southwestern Europe.



9th March – Stratocumulus clouds with some distant rain, looking north from Port Soif.

Southeasterly winds were drawing mild air from Africa but we were under a veil of medium and high cloud through most of the day. The following day brought the first drop of rain since the 1st day of the month but this and the very light rain that would follow on Sunday 9th didn't amount to anything measurable. In fact, recorded rainfall at Guernsey Airport up to the 9th totalled just 0.1mm.

A weak cold front extending across the Bay of Biscay delivered spells of patchy light rain on Monday 10th, this combined with increasing low cloud started to affect the visibility through the night into Tuesday 11th. Further rain and drizzle contributed to a morning of mist and haze and whilst it remained dry after lunch the cloud stuck around and the odd shower affected the islands through the evening.

With high pressure now situated southwest of Iceland, the wind direction was now north-northeast and as such we were now in a polar airflow. This coupled with a distinct lack of sunshine made the coming days feel more like winter than spring, especially with the odd rain and hail shower thrown into the mix. The compromise was some excellent visibility at times. Having recorded just 6.4 hours of sunshine in the previous 6 days, brighter skies returned on the 13th and 14th but the odd shower did interrupt the sunshine. Even with increasing sunny spells, daytime temperatures remained in single figures as a result of the continuing northerly flow.

The usual prevailing southwest wind has been distinctly absent over the past month or so, a trend that continued into the second half of March. With high pressure again centred over the British Isles, weather conditions in the Bailiwick over the weekend of 15th and 16th were rather benign – Saturday being the brighter day of the two with the odd shower on both.

Sandwiched between two weak occlusions, Monday 17th turned out to be a pleasant day, another with light to moderate easterlies and lots of sunshine. Going into the 18th, high pressure moved east over Europe but this had little effect on our weather and for the 2nd day running we recorded 10 hours of sunshine at the airport. Increasing cloud the following day gave for a dull morning with just some brief sunshine in the afternoon and the odd spot of rain before a return to fine weather on the 20th. This was a day of two halves though as increasing high cloud after lunchtime turned the sunshine hazy but this didn't stop us recording our warmest day of the year to date (15.6°C).

Fronts associated with low pressure situated NW of Spain, and slowly moving north, extended over the southern half of the British Isles and we had a brief spell of light rain on the morning of Friday 21st. With a SE wind direction, overnight temperatures remained on the mild side for the time of year, just about dropping into single figures. The following day was a quiet one, with cloud briefly clearing after sunset but returning in the early hours of Sunday morning, accompanied by a more sustained spell of rain and a lowering cloud base giving a brief spell of fog before sunrise. March had so far been an exceptionally dry month, and this spell of rain provided us with a third of the total recorded for the month.

The final week of March started with another spell of murkiness - hill fog, rain and drizzle. A stalling occlusion led to a day of low cloud with mist and haze throughout, only the second day without sunshine this month. By Tuesday 25th a building ridge of high pressure extended towards the English Channel. This was bringing moist air on a westerly breeze, something that had been unusually lacking recently. As the high pressure continued to build, increasing sunny periods developed that afternoon.

Winds fell light and variable into Wednesday 26th as the centre of the high passed over Guernsey. With strengthening sunshine but still cool sea surface temperatures, patches of sea fog developed around Alderney before moving towards Guernsey. We also recorded the warmest temperature of the month, reaching 16.2°C at the airport that afternoon. The following day saw little change, with further coastal mist and fog but plenty of sunshine. Ahead of the weekend, a couple of weak cold fronts gave some very light rain and drizzle but their passing left us with clear skies on Friday afternoon that lasted into Saturday afternoon, when thin high cloud returned.

As the clocks sprung forward in the early hours of Sunday 30th, any early risers were greeted by rain, drizzle and fog, courtesy of a warm sector passing over the Bailiwick. By mid morning, conditions had improved

significantly and the afternoon was one of long sunny spells. The final day of the month saw pretty much uninterrupted sunshine, adding 11.9 hours to the monthly total and contributing to the sunniest March since 2012.

MARCH 2025

DAY	DATE	BAROMETER	TEMPERATURE deg C						WIND				RAIN	SUN	W E A T H E R					
		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								
Sat	1	1033.4	9.1	3.3	6.2	0.4	8.0	9.2	040	04	7.9	20	0.1	7.4	Mainly sunny, occ shw rs am.					
Sun	2	1034.3	8.9	3.7	6.3	2.3	7.6	9.1	060	10	8.3	19	NIL	7.6	Mainly sunny					
Mon	3	1030.2	9.6	2.5	6.1	0.1	7.3	9.1	070	05	6.1	17	TR(dew)	9.4	Mainly sunny w ith some patch cloud, sunhine hazy at times					
Tue	4	1026.9	10.7	2.1	6.4	-0.4	7.0	9.0	100	05	4.7	13	NIL	9.4	Hoar frost and mist soon clearing bec fine w ith hazy sunshine					
Wed	5	1023.3	12.6	3.5	8.1	0.6	7.2	8.9	150	10	8.2	15	NIL	9.9	Early morning mist, haze and fog but soon becoming fine					
Thu	6	1014.0	13.3	8.0	10.7	4.5	8.0	8.9	150	09	10.9	22	NIL	8.9	Mainly fine w ith high cld from late am. Bec fine again mid pm.					
Fri	7	1010.2	12.9	9.7	11.3	6.9	8.6	8.9	140	12	10.7	20	NIL	1.7	Mainly cloudy w ith some sunny periods					
Sat	8	1004.9	13.4	9.8	11.6	7.2	9.1	8.9	120	14	12.1	22	TR	0.5	Cloudy w ith the occ patchy rain/shw rs, some bright spells					
Sun	9	999.1	13.7	9.8	11.8	7.7	9.2	9.1	100	11	9.4	18	TR	0.3	Cloudy w ith the the odd spot of light rain in the eve					
Mon	10	1000.9	11.7	9.5	10.6	8.4	9.7	9.2	110	12	6.9	17	1.8	1.9	Cloudy w ith patchy rain, becmg more persistant by late eve.					
Tue	11	1006.3	9.8	6.5	8.2	7.3	9.8	9.3	050	14	9.8	25	0.8	NIL	Cldy/ovc w ith rain & drz until mid aft. Isolated shw r in eve.					
Wed	12	1004.7	7.9	2.9	5.4	3.9	8.9	9.4	030	04	5.0	22	2.2	2.0	Cloudy w ith show ers, sunny periods pm.					
Thu	13	1004.1	7.4	2.8	5.1	2.1	8.2	9.4	020	12	8.7	21	TR	6.3	Cloudy w ith show ers, sunny periods pm					
Fri	14	1008.7	8.2	2.9	5.6	0.4	7.8	9.4	070	08	7.5	20	1.0	8.6	Mainly fine, w ith isolated rain and hail show ers					
Sat	15	1020.2	7.9	4.4	6.2	2.6	7.9	9.3	040	12	11.0	25	TR	5.9	Fair bec cloudy late aft , iso rain and hail shw rs. Xlnt viz,dry air					
Sun	16	1022.8	7.3	3.7	5.5	1.7	7.6	9.2	040	11	10.8	24	TR	1.2	Mainly cldy w ith light rain & hail show ers, some fair periods eve.					
Mon	17	1025.4	10.0	4.7	7.4	2.3	7.4	9.1	080	14	13.8	26	NIL	10.6	Fine and sunny					
Tue	18	1019.8	10.5	4.8	7.7	2.5	7.7	9.1	100	16	13.6	25	TR	10.3	Fine and sunny					
Wed	19	1019.2	13.7	6.6	10.2	3.8	8.2	9.1	140	09	9.7	20	NIL	1.5	Cloudy w ith sunny periods					
Thu	20	1018.4	15.6	9.9	12.8	7.2	9.1	9.1	130	13	11.8	22	TR	7.7	Fine in the am, becmg cldy, w ith xtensive high cld by mid pm.					
Fri	21	1003.4	14.0	10.7	12.4	8.7	9.8	9.1	120	13	13.5	28	NIL	0.1	Mainly cldy, brief light rain am.					
Sat	22	997.6	14.9	9.4	12.2	7.7	9.8	9.3	130	12	9.4	22	4.0	3.5	Mainly cldy, bright spells bec. fair/fine after dark.					
Sun	23	1001.7	13.4	8.6	11.0	5.6	10.3	9.3	360	10	8.2	20	0.5	6.0	Early am fog ptchs, mist, bec cldy w ith sunny periods, rain late pm					
Mon	24	1016.9	10.3	7.7	9.0	8.8	10.4	9.5	030	09	7.1	20	NIL	NIL	Overcast, drzl and fog before sunrise, hazy thereafter					
Tue	25	1025.1	11.6	7.2	9.4	7.2	10.0	9.7	290	08	6.9	17	TR	4.5	Cldy, mist and haze until mid morning, some bright spells pm					
Wed	26	1025.6	16.2	8.4	12.3	8.7	10.5	9.8	130	04	3.9	09	TR(fog)	7.2	Cldy w ith mist & haze am, bec fine w ith sea fog pm.					
Thu	27	1024.0	12.9	4.4	8.7	4.8	10.4	9.9	180	02	4.7	13	0.2	6.0	Early morn fog bec mainly sunny w ith coastal mist/fog patches.					
Fri	28	1015.4	12.1	7.8	10.0	8.3	10.9	10.0	320	07	12.4	24	0.3	7.3	Cloudy w ith rain,drizzle,mist & fog patches bec fine/sunny pm					
Sat	29	1025.8	11.5	5.9	8.7	3.7	10.2	10.1	320	07	9.3	23	0.1	9.9	Mainly fine and sunny, increasing high cloud through afternoon.					
Sun	30	1024.1	12.9	8.9	10.9	8.6	10.7	10.1	300	13	11.3	23	NIL	9.6	Cldy/ovc w ith fog & drz until mid am, bec fair then fine.					
Mon	31	1027.6	15.4	7.6	11.5	6.1	10.7	10.2	090	07	8.9	24	NIL	11.9	Fine and sunny					
MEAN		1016.6	11.6	6.4	9.0	4.8	9.0	9.3	SE	9.6	9.1	TOTAL	11.0	177.1						
30 YEAR AVG 1991-2020		1017.2	10.2	5.8	8.0	3.1	8.1	8.4	SW	11.8	11.7	////	63.3	135.3						
EXTREMES ARE IN BOLD TYPE		NUMBER OF DAYS WITH	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					
			8	4	0	5	0	0	0	1	7	0	0	2						
RECORDS FROM JANUARY 1947															RAINFALL		229.8 mm	SUNSHINE		341.1 hrs
WETTEST DAY DAY/YEAR		30.0mm 28th/1960	DRIEST MONTH YEAR		2.7mm 1961	LOWEST MIN DAY/YEAR		-2.2°C 10th/11th/1958	WARMEST MNTH YEAR		10.3°C 1957	SUNNIEST MNTH YEAR		214.8 2009	RAIN DAYS	43	SUNLESS DAYS	20		
WETTEST MNTH YEAR		179.6mm 2001	HIGHEST MAX DAY/YEAR		19.6°C 30th/2021	LOWEST GRASS DAY/YEAR		-9.4°C 3rd/1965	COLDEST MNTH YEAR		4.4°C 1962	DULLEST MNTH YEAR		67.4hrs 1964	WET DAYS	33				