

May 2025

Declining high pressure centred over western Russia continued to feed in a warm southeasterly flow across the islands for the 1st with 23°C reached late that afternoon. By mid evening however, a showery trough nudging up from Biscay brought a few splashes of rain overnight, but the resulting veer in winds to the west saw those temperatures drop sharply by some 5°C in less than 30 minutes just before 9pm. The showers didn't amount to much but this cooler flow persisted overnight and into the 2nd, albeit with clearing skies through the afternoon.

A North Atlantic anticyclone was by now looking to set up a cooler flow down across the UK but a thundery trough broke away from Brittany into the Channel to produce a rather impressive thunderstorm shortly after dawn on the 3rd. Frequent flashes and rumbles were recorded at the airport, together with some hefty downpours and thick fog across the higher parishes. The trough eased back south through the day as that anticyclone brought cooler, fresher conditions to our shores with the winds settling in from the northeast.

These rather cool northeasters persisted for the next few days as the high settled off the north coast of Ireland with mostly fair but rather cool conditions across the islands. We also saw the odd light shower from time to time. Liberation Day on the 9th enjoyed plenty of sunshine, mostly moderate northeasterly winds and temperatures peaking around the mid teens.

Eventually that anticyclone eased away over Scandinavia, and overnight into the 11th another thundery trough pushed up from Northern France, with a scattering of early showers being the precursor to another thunderstorm across the Bailiwick which cleared by mid morning. The low responsible for the storm became slow moving out in the Southwest Approaches and by evening a more organised band of heavy showers yielded 19.2mm of rain, leading to localised flooding across parts of the islands. The showers eased by late evening although it remained misty overnight and at first on the 12th before brightening up that afternoon.



Heavy showers through the evening of the 11th produced 19.2mm of rain at the airport. *Cumulonimbus* with *Cumulus* and *Stratus Fractus* off the south coast cliffs. Photo credit Alex French

Despite a broad but shallow area of low pressure now covering much of Biscay, Western France and Southern UK, conditions locally were now set fair with generally light winds, clear skies and temperatures initially up in

the high teens. However, a building anticyclone off the north coast of Scotland started to extend its influence southward by the 14th pulling down cooler air, and so by the 15th we'd started to notice a drop in air temperatures locally but we continued to enjoy plenty of sunshine.

This high continued to dominate the UK and near continent weather until late on the 20th when it started to relax northward to allow a series of slow moving fronts to push in from the northwest. The first few spots of rain arrived just before dawn on the 21st before clearing to showers around mid morning. Those showers became isolated through the afternoon and again we noticed a drop in air temperatures as a fresher northwesterly flow set in across the Channel. The 22nd enjoyed some 14.5 hours of sunshine following the departure of those showers as once again a brief ridge stretched down across the UK.

The European weather charts were now starting to show a much more unsettled run of weather as that ridge weakened ahead of a string of Atlantic depressions queuing up out to the west. The arrival of the first warm front overnight into the 24th brought rain, drizzle, mist and hill fog to our shores on a freshening southwesterly breeze and these murky conditions lasted all day, making this only the 4th sunless day of this spring to date. The clearing cold front went through just after dawn on the 25th with a resulting veer in the winds to the west and gradually clearing skies.

Low pressure to the north of Scotland steered a rash of heavy showers across the UK but with a broad anticyclone down over the Azores, we escaped the worst of these showers although a fresh westerly breeze kept a lid on our temperatures. These bright but breezy conditions prevailed until late on the 26th as cloud thickened and lowered through the evening heralding the arrival of a warm front in the Southwest Approaches overnight into the 27th. Rain, drizzle, mist and hill fog greeted the new day, together with strong southwesterly winds gusting up to Gale Force 8 around midday. Rather than clearing to the east in the more traditional way, these fronts draped themselves across the south of England, tracking eastward, with further outbreaks of patchy rain and drizzle affecting the islands until just after dawn on the 28th.

Brighter conditions were then enjoyed until later that evening but as those waving fronts neared our shores once more fog thickened overnight, along with patchy drizzle. That fog lifted and cleared slowly after sunrise on the 29th, leaving the islands in a warming westerly flow as temperatures stretched up into the high teens. This warmer flow was being pulled up from the Iberian Peninsula and with associated higher humidities the next couple of mornings saw a thick blanket of cloud across the Channel that only managed to clear around noon each day. A quiet last couple of days to close out the month then, with mostly warm temperatures, light winds and variable amounts of cloud.

Another warmer than average month with above average sunshine although rainfall totals were just above the long term average, thanks largely to that particularly wet evening on the 11th. We noted 2 thunderstorms this month. The warmest day of the month was the 1st with a maximum temperature recorded of 23.0°C, the highest on record for that particular date.

With all 3 months being notably warmer than average, this spring turned out to be the 2nd warmest on record. Impressive sunshine totals across the season, and just 5 days without recorded sunshine, gave us our 5th sunniest spring on record. Whilst May ended with a slightly higher than average precipitation total, a dry start to spring meant the period total was just over 50% of the seasonal average.

Spring	2025	30 Yr Avg	Anomaly/%
Rain (mm)	89.7	166.3	53.9
Sun (hrs)	708.7	574.9	123.3
Mean Max (°C)	14.1	12.6	+1.5
Mean Min (°C)	8.4	7.4	+1.0
Mean (°C)	11.3	10.0	+1.3

MAY 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	mm
Thu	1	1016.0	23.0	13.0	18.0	11.9	15.1	12.3	140	13	9.9	20	TR	9.2	Hazy sunshine with shw rs close by from early eve		
Fri	2	1017.5	17.5	11.8	14.7	12.3	15.2	12.5	340	06	7.1	17	4.9	9.0	Cldy am, bec fair then fine		
Sat	3	1011.8	14.0	11.2	12.6	11.7	15.1	12.8	030	07	7.6	24	2.6	0.1	Cldy. Shw rs, mist & fog am. Shw rs early pm. T/storm 0314-0430z		
Sun	4	1016.5	13.2	8.4	10.8	8.5	14.9	12.8	060	15	11.2	26	TR	12.3	Fine		
Mon	5	1021.2	11.3	7.3	9.3	6.4	13.9	13.0	030	11	10.6	25	NIL	8.9	Fair w ith some bright spells and the odd light show er		
Tue	6	1024.4	12.6	7.6	10.1	5.9	13.2	13.0	050	10	9.6	23	TR	13.4	Mainly fine, occ fair am		
Wed	7	1023.8	12.9	7.3	10.1	4.2	13.5	12.9	050	09	7.7	22	TR	9.3	Cldy with early light rain bec fair/fine w ith thin high cld		
Thu	8	1019.0	13.2	7.9	10.6	6.2	13.7	12.9	070	11	9.0	24	NIL	7.5	Cloudy am, becoming fine by late afternoon		
Fri	9	1018.8	15.2	8.9	12.1	6.9	14.0	12.9	050	11	9.8	23	NIL	12.4	Cloudy bec fine		
Sat	10	1014.8	17.9	10.3	14.1	7.7	14.0	12.9	080	11	10.3	21	6.5	9.4	Fine, incrsng high cloud w ith dist shw rs by early eve		
Sun	11	1008.9	18.2	12.6	15.4	10.4	14.5	12.9	320	02	5.5	22	19.4	6.7	Fair. Shw rs to mid am & eve, occn hvy. T/Storm 0445-0518z		
Mon	12	1009.6	17.2	10.6	13.9	9.5	15.1	13.0	140	10	7.7	18	TR	6.9	Fair. Shw rs and mist am clrng early pm to mainly fair. Shw rs eve		
Tue	13	1016.5	18.9	11.7	15.3	11.0	15.6	13.0	130	09	7.6	17	NIL	12.4	Cloudy early am bec fair or fine, then cloudier late pm		
Wed	14	1019.1	18.6	11.5	15.1	10.7	16.2	13.2	040	07	7.4	19	NIL	13.8	Hazy sunshine		
Thu	15	1024.3	13.9	9.8	11.9	9.6	15.8	13.5	040	09	8.4	19	NIL	13.5	Rather cloudy bec mainly fine. Cloudy from early eve		
Fri	16	1025.9	14.8	9.6	12.2	8.5	15.5	13.6	050	13	8.7	23	NIL	13.8	Fine, dry air pm		
Sat	17	1023.1	14.1	9.3	11.7	5.5	15.1	13.7	070	08	7.0	16	NIL	10.4	Fine, soon becmg cldy. Cloud clrng early pm becmg fine		
Sun	18	1020.4	18.1	8.4	13.3	6.3	15.4	13.7	070	06	6.8	17	NIL	14.1	Fine. Early shallow fog soon clrng. Fine w ith occ dry air		
Mon	19	1018.6	15.1	9.6	12.4	8.2	15.7	13.7	060	13	9.9	24	NIL	13.2	Cldy soon bec fine		
Tue	20	1020.9	17.8	9.9	13.9	7.2	15.3	13.8	040	10	6.9	15	5.6	13.1	Fine but w ith thin high cloud		
Wed	21	1018.0	13.6	10.2	11.9	10.3	15.2	13.8	360	07	6.9	19	0.5	5.2	Cldy. Rain from early am clrng to shw rs. Fair/fine from mid/late pm		
Thu	22	1020.1	17.8	10.2	14.0	9.5	14.9	13.9	290	09	9.9	26	NIL	14.5	Fine		
Fri	23	1021.5	16.9	9.7	13.3	8.2	15.2	13.9	100	05	7.3	18	0.2	13.5	Early fog clrng by daw n to fine w ith inc high cloud		
Sat	24	1018.0	15.2	13.1	14.2	13.0	16.1	13.9	240	13	14.6	27	2.4	NIL	Cldy w ith fog & mist patches w ith occn rain & drz		
Sun	25	1014.4	16.6	12.2	14.4	12.9	15.4	14.0	290	14	15.3	27	TR	8.5	Rain, drz & hill fog before daw n clrng to fair. Lt shw r eve		
Mon	26	1021.1	16.6	11.2	13.9	9.9	15.3	14.0	240	11	14.8	29	0.6	6.8	Xtnsv high cloud. Light rain late eve		
Tue	27	1018.0	15.2	12.9	14.1	12.5	15.1	14.1	230	17	19.3	35	8.4	NIL	Cldy. Rain, drz, mist & fog am. Clrng for a time pm. Rain & drz eve		
Wed	28	1020.5	16.9	12.6	14.8	14.0	15.0	14.1	260	15	14.0	30	0.2	9.0	Early fog, drz, mist clrng by mid am. Fair, fine by late pm. Mist eve		
Thu	29	1023.9	18.7	12.6	15.7	12.5	15.6	14.1	230	09	10.8	21	TR	7.2	Ovc w ith drz, mist & hill fog am, bec fair pm		
Fri	30	1022.0	18.0	13.3	15.7	14.8	16.0	14.1	230	06	6.0	12	TR	6.9	Cldy w ith slt drz pre-daw n bec fair pm, fine eve		
Sat	31	1019.8	18.7	11.4	15.1	11.9	16.6	14.2	290	05	7.1	18	TR	5.5	Rather cloudy w ith mist/fog patches at times		
MEAN	1019.0	16.2	10.5	13.4	9.6	15.1	13.4	NE	9.7	9.5	TOTAL	51.3	286.5				
30 YEAR AVG 1991-2020	1016.9	15.1	9.4	12.3	7.2	13.4	12.2	NE	10.9	10.4	////	49.0	238.9				
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				
		11	7	0	0	2	2	0	0	8	3	0	2	TOTALS FOR YEAR TO DATE			
RECORDS FROM JANUARY 1947														RAINFALL	308.5 mm	SUNSHINE	872.7 hrs
WETTEST DAY DAY/YEAR	40.4mm 24th/1950	DRIEST MONTH YEAR	4.1mm 1989	LOWEST MIN DAY/YEAR	0.1°C 2nd/1979	WARMEST MNTH YEAR	13.9°C 1989	SUNNIEST MNTH YEAR	336.4hrs 1989	RAIN DAYS	62	SUNLESS DAYS	23	WET DAYS	45		
WETTEST MNTH YEAR	128.7mm 1994	HIGHEST MAX DAY/YEAR	25.9 30th/2003	LOWEST GRASS DAY/YEAR	-5.6°C 5th/1979	COLDEST MNTH YEAR	9.9°C 1984	DULLEST MNTH YEAR	136.9hrs 1981								