

November 2021

Cool, unsettled conditions saw the new month in, as deep low pressure over Scotland dragged cold Polar air down across the British Isles and nearby France with a rash of showers affecting the Bailiwick for the first 5 days. Initially fresh from the west, the winds veered more northerly and eased as high pressure out in the North Atlantic nudged in from the west, but that led to the showers becoming slow moving over the islands at times. On a more positive note, the airflow was particularly clear with excellent visibility outside of the showers. Night time air temperatures dipped to just 6.8°C early on the 5th with grass temperatures hovering just above freezing at the airport at just +1.0°C that same morning.

That high then started to slip southward through the 5th, effectively shutting off the flow of cold air feeding in from the north, instead introducing a slightly milder westerly run of more maritime origins. More unsettled weather rolled in over the top of this descending high bringing rain and wind to northern parts of the UK, with a weak warm front edging southward into the Channel for the small hours of the 6th, with a few spots of rain locally before daybreak. Further weak fronts crossed the UK during the day keeping our weather mostly cloudy, just with the odd spot of rain late afternoon before a band of more organised low cloud and drizzle overnight into the 7th.

The front responsible for that drizzle cleared to the southeast during the day with brighter conditions across the islands but the next weak front, this time a warm front, rolled gently in from the west late afternoon on the 8th. Cloud thickened and lowered that afternoon with rain, drizzle, mist and hill fog patches continuing through the evening, overnight and in to the morning of the 9th. Although that front was now clearing away to the northeast, we remained in a mild, damp southwesterly airflow with low cloud, patchy rain and drizzle and mist at times through the day.

High pressure previously stretching across Central Europe was by now declining away east, but the next high was looking to build in from the Azores with any frontal activity becoming slow moving and weak across the UK. Cloudier conditions prevailed through the 10th, but with excellent visibility, before that cloud broke up and edged northward overnight with the 11th dawning fine and clear. It was not to last however, as that Azores High started to retreat southwest, allowing an Atlantic low to sweep in to the west coast of Scotland with its' associated fronts bringing rain and wind to most parts of the UK through the 12th. Rain and drizzle together with fresh southwesterly winds during the morning of the 12th cleared to scattered showers that afternoon. A building ridge followed this clearance but extensive cloud within the circulation ensured sunshine was a rare commodity. This high continued to extend its' influence through the weekend, with just a few scattered light showers late on the 14th as a couple of weak, slow moving fronts draped themselves across the UK.

The 15th again saw similar conditions with high pressure out to northeast and southwest, with weak, slow moving fronts across the UK slowly dissipating, with cloudy but generally dry conditions across the Bailiwick. Those slow moving fronts arrived in the Channel late on the 16th with cloud thickening and lowering through the afternoon with outbreaks of rain and drizzle that evening. Somewhat brighter conditions arrived by dawn on the 17th, though with a scattering of showers that morning. A broad belt of high pressure stretching in from Biscay led to a settled 24 hours or so although another weak front dropping in to the Channel late on the 18th gave rise to further patchy rain and drizzle that evening and overnight.

The 19th dawned cloudy with outbreaks of mostly light rain and drizzle throughout the day, but any clearer spells enjoyed excellent visibility and some rather interesting rainbows resulting from drizzle falling from low *Stratus* cloud. Extensive thin medium level *Alto cumulus* clouds covered the islands, with light southwest or variable winds.

As that high drifted slowly eastward into Central Europe, low pressure over Scandinavia coupled with a building high in the North Atlantic started to introduce increasingly colder air from more northern climes.

Dawn on the 21st saw air temperatures down in single figures and a fresh northerly wind with a rash of residual showers from a clearing cold front a little earlier.



From the Shingle Bank at L'Eree a rainbow is seen in drizzle falling from low *Stratus* cloud at 300ft with extensive *Alto cumulus* cloud up at 11,000ft. Photo Credit: Wayne Branquet.

Through the afternoon of the 21st, showers began to build up in the southern half of the Channel as this newly introduced cold, dry air flowed down over a relatively warm sea. A few of these showers contained hail and with air temperatures falling to just 7°C by day's end, it certainly felt like winter had at last arrived.

As that North Atlantic high started to edge eastward for the 22nd, the very cold northerly flow down across Britain was effectively shut off, but conditions remained cloudy for the Bailiwick as our surface winds veered into the northeast. A narrow band of showers running down the Channel became established over the islands later that afternoon and continued until late afternoon the following day. That high pressure cell was now starting to return westward, allowing a more northerly flow to return across the country and with a developing low to the north of Scotland, cold air was once again affecting northern and central parts of the UK.

Light showers continued at times locally with mostly cloudy conditions, but the 25th dawned bright with excellent visibility although a cool northerly wind pegged air temperatures back to around 7°C through the day.

Rather unusually, a low pressure system was starting to develop over Iceland which was forecast to transfer southeast onto the North Sea and deepen, before taking a more southerly track down the east coast of the UK. Storm 'Arwen', the first named storm of the winter, started to make itself felt across Scotland early on the 26th with cold air bringing prolonged and heavy sleet and snow showers across northern parts of the UK. Strong winds also affected many areas with a 98mph gust recorded in Brizlee Wood in Northumberland as the storm tracked south.

Locally, our winds started to increase though the day with a scattering of showers and steadily falling air temperatures. By dawn on the 27th, 'Arwen' was off the east coast of Scotland with strong northerly winds across the islands. Air travel was disrupted due to strong crosswinds that morning, but flights resumed that afternoon in Guernsey, however Alderney's airport didn't manage any aircraft at all that day. Apart from a scattering of showers, we recorded very little rainfall in the islands considering the ferocity of the storm, and

whilst it was unusually windy from the north we didn't quite note a full gale at Guernsey Airport, although Alderney did report gusts up to 60mph at times.

By dawn on the 28th our winds had eased but we remained in a cool airflow with excellent visibility through the day until a sprinkling of showers rolled in late evening, clearing by midnight. The winds fell light overnight in to the 29th and by dawn clearer skies saw air temperatures falling to 3.9°C and just 0.4°C on the grass. A more Atlantic based flow was by now spreading in from the west with a cloudy day in the islands but air temperatures climbing steadily. A slow moving warm front arrived later that evening, displacing the last of that cooler air but bringing outbreaks of rain and drizzle to our shores for the first part of the night. The last day of autumn dawned cloudy but dry as mild Atlantic air covered the Channel with further outbreaks of rain and drizzle arriving later that morning, persisting through the afternoon and evening.

With only 38% of the average rainfall, this November became the 10th driest on record (since 1843) and the driest since 2011. It was, however, slightly duller than usual and marginally cooler than the long term average with more winds recorded from a northerly direction. Despite Storm 'Arwen' on the 27th we noted the lowest mean wind speed for November since records started at the airport in 1947. We also recorded just one day with any fog.

Autumn was drier, warmer and sunnier than average and with a mean temperature of 13.6°C, the 10th warmest on record. A very dry November and dry September offset a slightly wetter than average October to provide us with the driest autumn for 6 years and although sunshine was above average we have had sunnier autumns in recent years.

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DAY	DATE	TEMPERATURE deg C							WIND				RAIN	SUN	WEATHER
		BAROMETER		AIR		GRASS	SOIL		DIR'N	SPEED(knots)					
		mb					30cm	100cm	9a.m.	9a.m.	MEAN	MAX			
Mon	1	999.1	13.5	7.9	10.7	7.1	12.6	14.3	270	15	14.4	33	2.9	3.4	Cloudy to fair w ith shw rs, more frqnt pm
Tue	2	1000.4	12.4	7.4	9.9	5.7	12.2	14.1	260	05	5.5	18	9.8	2.1	Fair w ith sct slow moving showers
Wed	3	1004.6	12.2	7.5	9.9	1.5	11.6	14.0	330	06	8.1	21	0.9	5.7	Fair w ith isol shw rs & excellent visibility
Thu	4	1015.7	11.1	8.8	10.0	6.1	11.5	13.8	360	14	10.8	23	NIL	6.5	Ocn show ers early am. Fair becoming cloudy pm, excellent vis
Fri	5	1027.8	11.5	6.8	9.2	1.0	11.1	13.7	020	03	4.4	13	TR	7.1	Fair w ith high cloud am. Xlnt vis
Sat	6	1031.2	13.3	7.8	10.6	1.2	11.0	13.4	260	13	12.9	28	0.5	0.4	Cloudy, briefly fair. Slt rain late pm & drz late eve
Sun	7	1025.7	13.3	10.3	11.8	8.6	11.6	13.3	320	08	10.1	29	NIL	6.0	Cloudy w ith early drizzle bec fair after daw n
Mon	8	1025.8	12.8	8.2	10.5	2.9	11.6	13.2	300	01	4.0	10	3.4	0.7	Fair bec cldy w ith rain, drizzle, mist & fog patches pm & eve
Tue	9	1025.8	13.8	11.5	12.7	8.6	11.9	13.1	310	05	4.7	11	0.3	0.4	Cloudy w ith ocn rain & drizzle, especially early am
Wed	10	1024.7	13.3	11.5	12.4	11.0	12.3	13.1	340	01	3.8	13	TR	NIL	Cloudy w ith ocn light rain
Thu	11	1024.9	13.4	10.0	11.7	6.7	12.2	13.1	170	07	8.6	20	TR	8.0	Fair soon becoming fine
Fri	12	1015.6	14.4	10.7	12.6	7.0	11.9	13.2	230	20	16.3	30	1.5	0.1	Cloudy w ith patchy rain/drizzle am, show ers pm
Sat	13	1018.9	13.8	11.6	12.7	9.9	12.2	13.1	320	09	8.5	24	NIL	0.5	Cloudy w ith patchy light show ers before daw n
Sun	14	1023.7	12.7	11.1	11.9	7.8	12.2	13.1	020	07	6.6	15	TR	0.1	Cloudy w ith ocn light show ers
Mon	15	1026.9	12.4	9.9	11.2	9.9	12.1	13.0	080	02	4.4	12	NIL	0.1	Cloudy w ith early light show er
Tue	16	1025.4	12.8	7.8	10.3	1.9	11.6	13.1	310	02	6.1	20	2.0	0.3	Fine bec cloudy w ith patchy rain/drizzle early eve
Wed	17	1026.0	12.7	8.4	10.6	5.9	11.7	13.0	350	10	6.7	17	NIL	5.3	Early morning show ery rain then cloudy ocn fair pm
Thu	18	1032.1	12.5	8.4	10.5	2.9	11.5	12.9	280	05	5.1	13	1.1	NIL	Cloudy. Rain and drizzle in the evening
Fri	19	1033.1	12.2	9.3	10.8	6.6	11.7	12.9	210	04	3.2	14	0.4	0.9	Cloudy w ith periods of rain/drizzle, ocn mist
Sat	20	1026.2	11.4	9.2	10.3	6.6	11.8	12.8	060	05	4.5	15	4.5	0.1	Cloudy, patchy rain/drizzle late pm
Sun	21	1018.5	11.1	6.9	9.0	7.2	11.7	12.8	010	15	13.1	31	0.1	5.5	Brief prd of hvy rain early clrg to fair w ith shw rs, ocn hail pm
Mon	22	1026.7	10.4	6.4	8.4	4.3	10.8	12.8	040	14	14.0	28	1.8	1.5	Mainly cloudy w ith show ers, briefly fair
Tue	23	1031.2	10.4	8.3	9.4	6.6	10.6	12.6	080	12	9.8	24	TR	0.1	Cloudy w ith sct shw rs until late pm. Fair eve
Wed	24	1024.4	9.9	8.2	9.1	6.3	10.6	12.5	040	04	5.2	12	0.4	NIL	Cloudy w ith ocn light show ers
Thu	25	1017.6	8.9	6.2	7.6	4.5	10.4	12.4	010	14	10.5	27	0.3	6.2	Odd show er before daw n, then fair
Fri	26	1003.4	11.0	5.6	8.3	1.6	9.8	12.2	280	18	16.4	38	1.9	2.4	Fair to cldy w ith frqnt rain shw rs, hail shw rs eve
Sat	27	996.7	7.4	4.6	6.0	2.3	9.3	12.0	350	25	23.5	47	TR	0.1	Cldy w ith frqnt rain shw rs am, ocn hail. Isol shw rs pm. Dry air
Sun	28	1010.2	8.2	4.8	6.5	1.4	8.5	11.9	350	15	12.5	32	0.7	1.9	Fine, became cloudy. Show ers late eve
Mon	29	1017.0	9.2	3.9	6.6	0.4	8.3	11.6	320	03	7.2	24	1.5	2.0	Bec cldy by daw n but w ith xlnt viz. Rain & drz from mid eve
Tue	30	1019.7	11.3	8.7	10.0	2.4	8.8	11.4	270	11	18.6	39	6.6	0.5	Cloudy w ith rain & drizzle early & again from mid morning
MEAN 30 YEAR AVG 1991-2020	1020.0	11.8	8.3	10.0	5.2	11.2	12.9		N	9.1	9.3	TOTAL	40.6	67.9	27th - Storm 'Arwen'
Diff from prev Avg	-1.2mb	+0.3°C	+0.3°C	+0.4°C	+0.4°C	+0.2°C	+0.2°C		SW	-0.3Kt	-0.3Kt		+2.4mm	-1.0hrs	
EXTREMES ARE IN BOLD TYPE	NUMBER OF DAYS	RAIN ≥0.2mm	WET ≥1.0mm	SNOW/ SLEET	HAIL	THUNDER	LGHTNG	AIR FROST	GROUND FROST	FOG	FOG	FOG 9a.m.	GALE	NO SUN	
TOTALS FOR YEAR TO DATE															
RECORDS FROM JANUARY 1947															
WETTEST DAY	39.4mm	DRIEST MONTH			16.1mm	LOWEST MN			-0.8°C	WARMEST MNTH		12.2°C	SUNNIEST MNTH		123.6hrs
DAY/YEAR	15th/1975	YEAR			1978	DAY/YEAR			28th/2010	YEAR		2015	YEAR		2006
WETTEST MNTH	234.7mm	HIGHEST MAX			18.0°C	LOWEST GRASS			-5.6°C	COLDEST MNTH		7.7°C	DULLEST MNTH		35.9hrs
YEAR	2009	DAY/YEAR			1st 2015	DAY/YEAR			29th/1987	YEAR		1993	YEAR		1994
RAINFALL 671.7 mm SUNSHINE 1866.1 hrs RAIN DAYS 149 SUNLESS 24 WET DAYS 111															