

October 2021

Strong south to southwesterly winds with periods of rain, occasionally heavy, greeted the new month as deep low pressure just south of Iceland drew in a very unsettled, mild, damp and windy train of weather. A cold front clearance mid morning on the 1st heralded a veer in our wind resulting in air temperatures falling away late afternoon to just 11°C by evening.

This clearance was only a brief respite though, as that cold front waved back up into the Channel by dawn on the 2nd with rain becoming persistent and heavy through the morning, clearing for a time late afternoon. Winds picked up too, gusting to 44 knots up at the airport as that next cold front whipped through just after 1630hrs. Again, that cold front waved up over the islands later that evening and overnight with further periods of heavy rain, clearing to showers by the small hours of the 3rd. Totals of 25.1mm (approx 1 inch) of rainfall for the 2nd made it the wettest day of the year to date and the wettest day since December 3rd last year.

Fresher, brighter conditions then prevailed through the 3rd with just a scattering of light showers early afternoon as low pressure centred to the north of Shetland continued to influence our weather. These showers became more organised during the morning of the 4th before the next low within the general circulation swept in shortly after midnight and into the early hours of the 5th with a very active occluded front crossing the Bailiwick with 13.1mm of rain falling between midnight and 0300hrs. This same feature saw some 35mm of rain falling in parts of London in the space of just one hour leading to extensive flash flooding across the capital.

Locally the strong westerly winds eased as that low became slow moving off the coast of Berwick-Upon-Tweed and filled, but still the odd blustery shower across the islands as a transient ridge of high pressure moved in from the west. This ridge brought more settled conditions through the day but as that ridge transferred eastward, so more cloudy and damp conditions rolled in overnight as the next warm front approached our shores. Drizzle and extensive fog greeted the new day on the 7th clearing only slowly through the morning but remaining cloudy throughout.

High pressure building over the North Atlantic was by now starting to transfer east towards the UK introducing a more settled run of weather, although heavy dews and early mist were not uncommon over the next few days as that high settled gently over the British Isles. That high dominated our weather through until late on the 16th by which time a series of Atlantic low pressure systems were queuing up out to the west as that high declined slowly to the east. A couple of weak cold fronts did drop south across eastern parts of the UK during this period but produced only patchy cloud at times by the time they reached the Channel.

Approaching fronts from the west eventually arrived mid morning on the 18th with rain becoming persistent by midday before turning to drizzle with extensive mist and hill fog through the afternoon and evening. The warm front responsible edged away north and east overnight as conditions improved by dawn on the 19th. We remained in a very warm southwesterly flow through the day with temperatures rising to 18.8°C. A cold front out in the Western Channel brought thickening cloud through the afternoon, with rain by midnight which became heavy at times in the early hours of the 20th before clearing to isolated showers that morning.

A rapidly deepening low swept in from the west that afternoon with a rash of heavy and prolonged showers with winds increasing from the south. Late evening saw the worst of this storm with a gale recorded from 2226 hrs to 2325 hrs with a maximum gust recorded of 61 knots (70 mph) at 2257 hrs. Some 11.6mm of rain fell through the afternoon and considerable damage was caused by the winds that evening. The COVID tent on the Albert Pier blew in to the harbour, a shipping container was blown on to the roof of a van, numerous trampolines were blown around and dozens of trees were uprooted. Rather ironically the mast at our automated weather station at Chouet headland was also a casualty of the storm. As this low barrelled its way eastward through the small hours of the 21st so our winds eased down with a scattering of showers remaining

within the airflow through the morning. Light northerly winds and blue skies with excellent visibility greeted the afternoon, albeit with a noticeable drop in temperatures.



High winds late on the 20th caused widespread damage overnight but the 21st dawned clearer with morning showers and plenty of rainbows.

With pressure building from the southwest, the islands enjoyed a quiet few days following that storm although air temperatures became noticeably cooler and with quite a lot of cloud within the general circulation, sunshine was limited at times. That belt of high pressure drifted away eastward across the continent by the 23rd allowing the next series of Atlantic lows to push in from the west as cloud thickened through the morning of the 24th with patchy rain and drizzle that afternoon. That front cleared late afternoon and with low pressure to the north of Scotland and high pressure building slowly to the south, the islands sat in a mild, bright southwesterly flow with just the odd shower at times. Temperatures stayed above average with night time lows still up in double figures.

By late on the 26th however, that high was declining eastward with deep low pressure steering a series of active weather fronts in from the west. The approaching fronts became slow moving across Ireland and northern parts of the UK with a resulting mild southwesterly flow across the islands. Temperatures stayed above average with mostly bright conditions until late on the 28th as that front finally reached our shores. A brief period of rain overnight in to the 29th cleared to blustery showers by dawn, with a noticeable drop in air temperatures in some of those heavier showers. This unsettled run continued as a further band of rain, occasionally heavy, rolled in that night, again clearing to showers by dawn on the 30th.

The last day of the month saw yet another low sweep in from the Atlantic, deepening rapidly as it neared the Southwest Approaches with a brief gale and just over half an inch of rain recorded as it cleared through the Bailiwick that morning. The resulting airflow had now changed to one of more Arctic origins and so air temperatures fell steadily through the day to just single figures by the evening. A series of heavy showers rolled in that evening to end the month with a thunderstorm just before midnight.

With the first 3 weeks of the month seeing above average temperatures and only the last 10 days or so with a more mixed bag of more seasonal values, the mean temperature for October was some 0.7°C above average making it the warmest October for 7 years and the 18th warmest since records began in 1843. Although we noted slightly more rainfall than average, this October was drier than both 2020 & 2019 and the 25.1mm recorded on the 2nd was the wettest day of the year to date.

After 2018, this was the sunniest October since 1994 and the 9th sunniest since 1894. We recorded 2 days with gales and the gust of 61 knots on the 20th was the highest so far this year and the highest October gust for 8 years and the 2nd highest since 1987.

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DAY	DATE	TEMPERATURE deg C											RAIN	SUN	WEATHER	
		BAROMETER		AIR				GRASS		SOIL		WIND				
		mb	AIR			GRASS		SOIL		DIR'N	SPEED(knots)					mm
at 9a.m.	MAX	MIN	MEAN	MIN	30cm	100cm	9a.m.	9a.m.	MEAN	MAX	mm	hrs				
Fri	1	1012.6	17.1	10.9	14.0	13.7	15.7	16.3	250	15	12.9	27	2.5	5.9	Cloudy w/ rain clearing am to become fine. Cloud returning eve	
Sat	2	1001.3	17.3	11.1	14.2	7.1	15.4	16.2	170	16	16.0	44	25.1	NIL	Cldy w/ rain by dawn bec hvly @ noon clng late pm. Rain eve	
Sun	3	1000.1	16.8	10.7	13.8	9.9	15.0	16.1	260	15	15.1	35	3.3	7.9	Early rain bec fine w/ th isol showers. Lightning @ 2325z	
Mon	4	1011.2	17.1	11.2	14.2	10.0	14.8	16.0	220	17	16.7	34	13.3	6.1	Occn showers mainly before dawn, some bright spells pm	
Tue	5	1006.6	15.6	12.4	14.0	9.6	14.9	15.9	290	18	17.8	33	TR	7.9	Heavy rain early am, clng to fine w/ th occ showers	
Wed	6	1023.2	16.6	13.1	14.9	9.9	14.5	15.7	290	11	11.4	24	2.0	5.3	Bec cldy w/ th early shw r, drz late eve	
Thu	7	1026.7	18.3	14.5	16.4	12.6	15.1	15.6	270	06	5.3	12	TR	0.7	Cldy w/ th fog & drz clng mid am but remaining cldy	
Fri	8	1029.0	18.5	13.0	15.8	12.5	15.7	15.6	120	06	7.2	15	NIL	6.3	Patchy drz & mist before dawn, mainly cldy occn fair @ midday	
Sat	9	1028.0	17.7	10.3	14.0	5.9	15.5	15.6	070	05	5.3	12	TR(dew)	9.2	Fine, becoming cloudy eve	
Sun	10	1029.8	17.3	11.9	14.6	7.1	15.2	15.6	020	08	5.8	16	NIL	3.3	Fine w/ th early mist bec cldy by noon. Fine eve	
Mon	11	1032.4	15.7	10.3	13.0	6.0	14.8	15.6	040	07	5.6	15	NIL	6.9	Fine to start then bec fair to cloudy but good sunny periods	
Tue	12	1027.8	15.6	9.8	12.7	3.6	14.1	15.5	330	05	5.2	16	NIL	8.6	Early morning shallow fog then mainly fine occn cloudy	
Wed	13	1028.9	16.9	11.3	14.1	5.6	13.9	15.4	020	05	4.0	09	NIL	4.1	Fine, becoming cloudy by afternoon, fine again by evening	
Thu	14	1027.1	16.0	10.4	13.2	4.9	13.7	15.3	160	06	5.2	12	NIL	9.0	Fine w/ th high cloud late pm & eve. Good viz	
Fri	15	1020.9	16.6	9.8	13.2	4.2	13.6	15.2	310	05	4.1	11	NIL	6.7	Cloudy to start then fair to fine	
Sat	16	1020.9	16.6	11.0	13.8	4.1	13.4	15.0	130	05	5.3	14	NIL	7.4	Shallow fog early, then fine to mid pm w/ th incrsng high cloud	
Sun	17	1016.8	16.4	11.3	13.9	8.7	13.7	14.9	170	10	7.9	16	TR	7.6	Cloudy, clearing to fine pm	
Mon	18	1017.1	17.2	11.3	14.3	5.9	13.9	14.9	170	11	11.7	23	6.3	NIL	Cldy w/ th early rain. Rain from late am bec misty w/ th xtnsv fog pm & eve	
Tue	19	1016.3	18.8	16.2	17.5	14.5	14.7	14.8	180	14	13.3	27	10.7	3.6	Fog & drz clng by dawn n. Mainly cldy occn fair late am & early pm	
Wed	20	1005.5	17.3	12.0	14.7	14.9	15.3	14.8	220	19	21.7	61	15.6	4.5	Fair w/ th hvly rain early. Hvy shw rs by late pm. Gales 2126-2225z	
Thu	21	1009.7	13.3	10.0	11.7	9.1	14.3	14.9	320	10	12.0	40	0.1	7.4	Blustery shw rs dying out am, long sunny spells developing	
Fri	22	1024.5	13.7	8.9	11.3	3.1	13.5	14.9	290	11	7.0	19	TR	1.7	Fine becoming cloudy am w/ th an isolated show er. Good vis	
Sat	23	1026.7	14.2	10.7	12.5	9.4	13.1	14.8	200	08	9.1	20	NIL	4.0	Fair w/ th good vis & occn dry air	
Sun	24	1018.5	15.0	11.4	13.2	8.6	13.0	14.6	180	13	12.7	24	0.8	0.6	Fair bec cloudy w/ th occ drizzle, fair periods eve	
Mon	25	1017.4	16.1	12.3	14.2	10.1	13.4	14.5	240	14	12.6	26	0.8	7.3	Fair or fine w/ th sct show ers	
Tue	26	1021.6	16.7	12.3	14.5	9.6	13.6	14.4	240	16	14.0	25	TR	1.0	Cloudy w/ th occn show ers am	
Wed	27	1022.1	16.9	13.4	15.2	11.6	13.8	14.4	200	13	13.4	23	NIL	7.3	Fair	
Thu	28	1010.4	16.1	13.0	14.6	11.4	13.9	14.4	170	14	17.0	33	2.0	3.7	Fair to cloudy	
Fri	29	998.7	15.5	11.7	13.6	11.3	14.0	14.4	250	19	17.6	34	5.7	5.5	Rain early, became fair w/ th sct show ers am	
Sat	30	996.3	14.9	9.8	12.4	8.9	13.5	14.4	260	13	14.4	31	12.9	6.2	Cloudy w/ th rain clng early am, cloudy w/ th isolated show ers pm	
Sun	31	992.9	14.4	9.4	11.9	9.8	13.3	14.4	250	22	22.2	48	8.4	5.7	Hvy rain clng by dawn n to shw rs, occn hvly pm & eve.	
MEAN		1016.8	16.3	11.5	13.9	8.8	14.3	15.2	S	11.5	11.3	TOTAL	109.5	161.4		
30 YEAR AVG		1015.0	15.3	11.1	13.2	8.4	13.7	14.7	SW	11.9	11.7	////	97.9	120.1		
1991-2020																
Diff from prev Avg		+0.2mb	+0.2°C	+0.3°C	+0.2°C	+0.3°C	+0.1°C	+0.1°C	W	-0.5Kt	-0.7Kt		+3.1mm	+3.0hrs		
EXTREMES		NUMBER	RAIN	WET	SNOW/	HAIL	THNDER	LGHTRNG	AIR	GROUND	FOG	FOG	GALE	NO		
ARE IN		OF DAYS	≥0.2mm	≥1.0mm	SLEET				FROST	FROST		9a.m.		SUN		
BOLD TYPE		WITH	14	12	0	0	1	2	0	0	5	1	2	2		
RECORDS FROM JANUARY 1947																
WETTEST DAY		59.1mm	DRIEST MONTH		3.4mm	LOWEST MIN		3.5°C	WARMEST MNTH		15.2	SUNNIEST MNTH		176.4hrs		
DAY/YEAR		12th/2014	YEAR		1978	DAY/YEAR		28th/2003	YEAR		2001/06	YEAR		1971		
WETTEST MNTH		233.9mm	HIGHEST MAX		23.6°C	LOWEST GRASS		-4.0°C	COLDEST MNTH		9.6°C	DULLEST MNTH		72.6hrs		
YEAR		1960	DAY/YEAR		1st/2011	DAY/YEAR		30th/1983	YEAR		1974	YEAR		1968		
RAINFALL		631.1 mm				SUNSHINE				1798.2 hrs						
RAIN DAYS		131				SUNLESS!				21						
WET DAYS		100														