

September 2021

The blocking anticyclone that dominated the last 10 days of August maintained its influence well in to the start of September with dry, bright but occasionally hazy conditions as the islands enjoyed a rather late summer.

East to northeast winds down the Channel gradually veered to a warmer southeasterly flow with a mix of sunshine and cloudier spells. We averaged just over 8 hours of sun a day for the first week as daily air temperatures climbed steadily to reach 26.5°C on the 6th and then 27.5°C on the 7th, both figures the highest recorded air temperatures for those dates at the airport. Coincidentally our Sark Met Observatory recorded similar figures, again record high temperatures for that station since their records began. Overnight temperatures stayed up too, falling to just 18.5°C at the airport just after dawn on the 7th, the highest September night minimum for 16 years.

Gradually though, that high which had been with us for over 2 weeks started to drift away over Eastern Europe to allow thundery low pressure to edge up from the southwest. Cloud thickened from the south late on the 7th with an impressive backdrop to sunset that evening as layers of unstable medium level *Alto cumulus Castellanus* rolled in.

Shortly after dawn on the 8th surface winds veered into the west and this damper airflow reduced visibility very shortly after 0700hrs with mist and fog patches sweeping in over the airport. Heavy, thundery showers were also making their presence felt with the first rumbles just after 0800hrs with the heaviest downpours experienced down the west side of Guernsey. The storms cleared away to the north around mid morning, but mist and fog continued to plague us until the small hours of the 9th, with a scattering of showers continuing through until later that day. The last of any mist patches also managed to clear in time for the Annual Air Display around lunchtime with a mixture of sunshine and cloud to greet the crowds.

The extensive area of low pressure responsible for this unsettled spell was slowly edging its way up across the UK with further storms across the country and by the 11th was centred in the North Sea, with pressure starting to build locally from the southwest. More settled conditions returned to our shores through the weekend as this high became established across southern England.



The island of Breghou from Saignie Bay in Sark. Light westerly winds lead to a 'Cloud Street' over Guernsey.

Light winds and clear skies overnight lead to early shallow fog patches in places around the island at first on the 12th, but cloud filled in shortly before dawn which lasted through the day. As that high pressure belt

continued its drift eastward a series of troughs edged up from the south in association with a shallow low in Biscay. A few light showers through the evening of the 13th heralded the arrival of the first of these troughs before more prolonged and heavier spells of rain arrived in the small hours of the 14th, mostly clearing by daybreak. Some 16.6mm of rain fell by 1000hrs that morning making it the wettest day since January 22nd this year. Slow moving, slack low pressure was now the main influence across the British Isles, but with its rather warm origins, temperatures stayed above average though with some mist or fog patches during the evenings of the 14th & 15th.

A brief ridge from late on the 16th helped prolong this rather quiet spell of weather although weak Atlantic fronts out in the western Channel occasionally introduced cloud across the islands. Temperatures continued above average though, with light winds and only the odd light shower. These weak fronts cleared eastward across the UK by the 20th as high pressure once again pushed up from the southwest with more dry and settled weather until late on the 23rd. A series of weak fronts toppled down across the country later that day with cloud thickening and lowering through the afternoon, with drizzle and mist that evening. Outbreaks of rain overnight cleared by morning however, with a clearer, brighter day in the islands albeit with a noticeably fresher feel as temperatures dipped to a more seasonal 14°C.

Low pressure was by now very much the main driver of our weather, covering much of Europe and North Atlantic. Heavy thundery showers to the southeast early on the 26th saw lightning strikes over Jersey resulting in fire and extensive damage to a number of properties on our sister island. The 26th also saw the last of the recent run of warm temperatures as a very active cold front swept in from the west bringing periods of rain overnight in to the 27th followed by a much cooler Polar Maritime flow as air temperatures dipped some 5°C following its clearance around dawn on the 27th, together with winds gusting to 51mph. Fresh westerly winds with a scattering of showers through the day and temperatures reaching only 17.6°C certainly announced a change to more Autumnal weather.

The last few days of the month saw a much more unsettled run of weather as North Atlantic low pressure brought fresh to strong westerly winds, a continuation of showers or longer periods of rain and temperatures slowly dipping to more seasonal figures.

With more than three weeks of the month with above average temperatures, September ended up with a mean temperature 1.3°C warmer than average making it warmer than August this year and only 0.1°C cooler than July. It was the 8th warmest September on record but only the warmest since 2014. The 7th reached 27.5°C, the 3rd highest temperature of the year. Rainfall was slightly below average despite the 13th recording 16.6mm of rain, the wettest day since 22nd January his year. Sunshine was slightly above average with no sunless days noted, the first time for this month in 5 years.

It was also interesting to note that we reached or exceeded 20°C on 11 occasions this month, whereas July and August combined recorded only 10 days equal or higher than 20°C.

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| DAY | DATE | BAROMETER | TEMPERATURE deg C | | | | | | WIND | | | | RAIN | SUN | WEATHER | |
|---------------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|--------|---------------|----------|-----------|--------------|----------|------------|-------------------------|--|-------|
| | | | mb | AIR | | | GRASS | SOIL | | DIR'N | SPEED(knots) | | | | | |
| | | | | at 9a.m. | MAX | MIN | MEAN | MIN | 30cm | | 100cm | 9a.m. | | | | 9a.m. |
| Wed | 1 | 1028.9 | 17.7 | 15.2 | 16.5 | 13.7 | 17.1 | 16.9 | 060 | 12 | 12.3 | 26 | TR | 2.5 | Cloudy occn fair, became fine by evening | |
| Thu | 2 | 1025.3 | 19.7 | 15.0 | 17.4 | 13.1 | 16.9 | 16.8 | 060 | 12 | 13.7 | 29 | NIL | 10.6 | Fine occn fair early am | |
| Fri | 3 | 1020.0 | 19.8 | 15.1 | 17.5 | 13.7 | 17.1 | 16.8 | 060 | 11 | 9.8 | 23 | NIL | 7.9 | Cldy am bec fine pm. Cldy eve w ith haze | |
| Sat | 4 | 1017.0 | 20.8 | 15.8 | 18.3 | 15.0 | 17.7 | 16.7 | 050 | 07 | 7.6 | 18 | NIL | 6.3 | Cldy w ith mist am, bec fine pm but hazy. Mst returning eve | |
| Sun | 5 | 1019.1 | 23.9 | 15.6 | 19.8 | 13.9 | 17.9 | 16.8 | 030 | 03 | 4.8 | 12 | NIL | 7.3 | Thick fog am burnt back to the coast. Fine pm | |
| Mon | 6 | 1022.4 | 26.5 | 16.0 | 21.3 | 12.4 | 18.3 | 16.9 | 060 | 06 | 6.7 | 16 | NIL | 11.7 | Fine | |
| Tue | 7 | 1018.7 | 27.5 | 18.5 | 23.0 | 15.0 | 18.8 | 17.0 | 090 | 14 | 11.8 | 27 | 5.6 | 10.8 | Fine bec cloudy mid eve. Dry air | |
| Wed | 8 | 1010.4 | 23.6 | 16.9 | 20.3 | 15.1 | 18.8 | 17.1 | 310 | 07 | 6.5 | 21 | 3.7 | 1.6 | Cldy occn fair pm. T/storm (0715-0840z). Fog am & eve. Shw rs eve | |
| Thu | 9 | 1008.4 | 20.4 | 16.0 | 18.2 | 13.6 | 18.6 | 17.2 | 190 | 11 | 8.5 | 19 | 0.8 | 2.7 | Fog early, mainly cloudy w ith isolated showers | |
| Fri | 10 | 1013.2 | 18.9 | 15.1 | 17.0 | 15.7 | 18.6 | 17.2 | 250 | 12 | 11.8 | 21 | TR | 0.7 | Early mist & fog w ith isol shw r. Cldy bec fair late eve | |
| Sat | 11 | 1020.1 | 19.1 | 13.4 | 16.3 | 11.7 | 17.9 | 17.3 | 240 | 11 | 8.1 | 18 | NIL | 8.7 | Fair bec fine eve | |
| Sun | 12 | 1020.2 | 18.5 | 13.5 | 16.0 | 8.3 | 17.6 | 17.2 | 170 | 06 | 3.4 | 08 | NIL | 0.7 | Cloudy w ith early morning shallow fog, occn fair later | |
| Mon | 13 | 1016.2 | 21.2 | 13.4 | 17.3 | 10.3 | 17.4 | 17.2 | 090 | 06 | 6.1 | 14 | 16.6 | 5.2 | Fair bec cloudy w ith a few very light showers in evening | |
| Tue | 14 | 1010.5 | 21.5 | 16.0 | 18.8 | 15.6 | 17.9 | 17.1 | 120 | 06 | 7.1 | 15 | NIL | 2.3 | Rain early, occn hvy, clng to fair early pm then mist and fog eve | |
| Wed | 15 | 1015.2 | 18.3 | 14.6 | 16.5 | 12.3 | 18.0 | 17.2 | 020 | 07 | 7.0 | 15 | TR(dew) | 8.9 | Fair bec fine late pm w ith fog late eve | |
| Thu | 16 | 1019.9 | 18.8 | 13.3 | 16.1 | 9.6 | 17.7 | 17.2 | 280 | 07 | 5.5 | 12 | NIL | 10.0 | Cloudy soon clearing to fine | |
| Fri | 17 | 1014.4 | 19.0 | 12.9 | 16.0 | 8.0 | 17.3 | 17.1 | 180 | 09 | 7.1 | 15 | TR | 7.1 | Fair | |
| Sat | 18 | 1013.2 | 20.5 | 16.2 | 18.4 | 14.6 | 17.9 | 17.1 | 120 | 06 | 5.3 | 17 | NIL | 2.4 | Odd spot of rain am, otherwise cldy. Some bright spells after midday | |
| Sun | 19 | 1016.4 | 18.5 | 14.3 | 16.4 | 12.0 | 18.0 | 17.1 | 280 | 10 | 10.9 | 21 | NIL | 7.4 | Cloudy bec fair am | |
| Mon | 20 | 1023.8 | 17.8 | 13.6 | 15.7 | 10.5 | 17.2 | 17.1 | 350 | 11 | 9.1 | 21 | NIL | 11.2 | Fine | |
| Tue | 21 | 1031.1 | 20.2 | 13.3 | 16.8 | 5.7 | 16.8 | 17.1 | 060 | 04 | 4.8 | 14 | TR(dew) | 10.5 | Shallow fog early, otherwise fine. Msty by late eve | |
| Wed | 22 | 1029.8 | 19.9 | 11.9 | 15.9 | 5.0 | 16.6 | 17.0 | 100 | 05 | 4.4 | 13 | NIL | 10.4 | Shallow fog early, otherwise fine. | |
| Thu | 23 | 1024.4 | 18.4 | 11.9 | 15.2 | 5.1 | 16.5 | 16.9 | 300 | 08 | 7.7 | 17 | 0.6 | 4.0 | Cloudy occn fair. Mist & drizzle by eve | |
| Fri | 24 | 1019.4 | 17.8 | 12.7 | 15.3 | 12.2 | 17.0 | 16.8 | 250 | 09 | 5.8 | 14 | NIL | 8.4 | Drizzle am clearing to fine | |
| Sat | 25 | 1014.9 | 19.8 | 11.5 | 15.7 | 6.0 | 16.6 | 16.8 | 120 | 03 | 4.9 | 12 | TR | 5.9 | Shallow fog at first. Fine became fair | |
| Sun | 26 | 1013.8 | 20.0 | 14.8 | 17.4 | 13.0 | 17.0 | 16.7 | 250 | 13 | 10.3 | 26 | 3.4 | 6.4 | Cldy w ith early morning mist, occn fair pm. Lightning @ 0230 to SE | |
| Mon | 27 | 1012.8 | 17.6 | 11.9 | 14.8 | 10.3 | 17.1 | 16.7 | 260 | 19 | 17.3 | 45 | 0.3 | 8.5 | Rain clng by daw n to occn shw rs then bec mainly fine | |
| Tue | 28 | 1018.8 | 17.2 | 12.7 | 15.0 | 10.7 | 16.4 | 16.7 | 210 | 15 | 14.3 | 36 | 9.3 | 0.5 | Cldy w ith shw rs by noon, bec rain late pm & eve, occn hvy | |
| Wed | 29 | 1023.4 | 15.8 | 11.1 | 13.5 | 7.3 | 15.7 | 16.6 | 310 | 12 | 11.8 | 24 | NIL | 10.0 | Light showers early otherwise mainly fine | |
| Thu | 30 | 1025.3 | 17.5 | 9.8 | 13.7 | 4.0 | 15.1 | 16.5 | 210 | 16 | 15.3 | 29 | 5.5 | 1.9 | Cloudy w ith some patchy light rain by evening | |
| MEAN | 1018.9 | 19.9 | 14.1 | 17.0 | 11.1 | 17.4 | 17.0 | NE | 9.3 | 8.7 | TOTAL | 45.8 | 192.5 | | | |
| 30 YEAR AVG | 1017.4 | 18.2 | 13.1 | 15.7 | 10.2 | 16.4 | 16.5 | SW | 10.6 | 10.3 | //// | 55.2 | 183.9 | | | |
| Diff from prev Avg | +0.2°C | +0.2°C | +0.2°C | +0.3°C | +0.4°C | +0.1°C | 0.0°C | W | -0.5Kt | -0.5Kt | | -2.3mm | +3.8hrs | | | |
| EXTREMES | NUMBER | RAIN | WET | SNOW/ | HAL | THNDER | LGHTNG | AIR | GROUND | FOG | FOG | GALE | NO | | | |
| ARE IN | OF DAYS | ≥0.2mm | ≥1.0mm | SLEET | | | | FROST | FROST | | 9a.m. | | SUN | | | |
| BOLD TYPE | WITH | 9 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| RECORDS FROM JANUARY 1947 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | TOTALS FOR YEAR TO DATE | | |
| WETTEST DAY | 43.7mm | DRIEST MONTH | 6.9mm | LOWEST MIN | 5.8°C | WARMEST MNTH | 17.5°C | SUNNIEST MNTH | 266.5hrs | RAINFALL | 521.6 mm | SUNSHINE | 1636.8 hrs | | | |
| DAY/YEAR | 20th/1949 | YEAR | 1997 | DAY/YEAR | 28th/1974 | YEAR | 1949 | YEAR | 1959 | RAIN DAYS | 117 | SUNLESS | 19 | | | |
| WETTEST MNTH | 194.5mm | HIGHEST MAX | 30.6°C | LOWEST GRASS | -1.0°C | COLDEST MNTH | 12.8°C | DULLEST MNTH | 104.5hrs | WET DAYS | 88 | | | | | |
| YEAR | 1952 | DAY/YEAR | 2nd/1961 | DAY/YEAR | 23rd/1979 | YEAR | 1986 | YEAR | 1956 | | | | | | | |