

September 2024

An energetic trough moving up from the south in association with a shallow low over northern France produced a short but rather sharp thunderstorm shortly after sunrise on the 1st, with some heavy downpours leading to some localised flooding across the islands. Following the clearance of this trough we remained in a damp and misty, flow which thickened into fog later that evening before clearing briefly through the early hours of the 2nd. Further fronts nudged in from the west by dawn, however, with periods of rain, drizzle, mist and fog across the Bailiwick until around noon before clearing for the afternoon. Patchy rain and drizzle early morning on the 3rd dried up and we saw clear skies for the afternoon with temperatures in the high teens.

Fronts were still draped across the British Isles as we went into the 4th but with an Azores High building out to the southwest, our winds started to veer into the northwest with a fresher, clearer airflow across the islands with just the odd isolated shower rolling through. That ridge was rather short lived however, as by the 5th it had declined to the southwest to allow a depression over eastern France to establish a showery northerly flow across the Channel. There were some breaks in those showers as our winds gradually veered more easterly with a mix of cloud and brighter conditions until a more organised area of heavy rainfall in association with another low pushing up through France.

This rain arrived a little later than originally forecast, with the first few spots falling around mid evening on the 7th, quickly becoming heavy and persistent overnight. Moderate easterly winds veered into the southwest then west and freshened by the morning of the 8th and then following a brief dry spell around dawn, further rain and drizzle, again heavy at times, fell that morning. All told we recorded about 25mm (1 inch) of rainfall from this system, but Jersey noted some 73.2mm of rain at the Howard Davis Farm site, that's almost 3 inches, for the same period.

As that low moved away to the northeast, our winds further veered northwest with a scattering of showers rolling across the Channel later that afternoon. The 8th was the first sunless day since the 25th July but the skies slowly cleared through the afternoon of the 9th as a much cooler plunge of air was pulled down the western flank of that departing low over East Anglia. Another Atlantic depression was following in swiftly behind that last system, however, with a warm front dropping down across the UK to arrive in the Channel shortly after dawn on the 10th. Patchy rain and drizzle together with strong westerly winds made for another unpleasant day in the islands, but with the clearing cold front whistling through around midnight, the 11th dawned bright and clear with a noticeable chill in the air as our airmass became Polar sourced with just 12.4°C on the mercury to start the day.



Herm and Jethou as viewed from the west coast of Sark on the 11th. Cool and clear conditions with *Cumulus* and *Stratocumulus* in evidence over the islands. Photo credit B Bonnefin.

A mix of fluffy *Cumulus* clouds with the odd fleeting shower, clear skies and easing northwesterly winds ensured a better day across the Bailiwick for the 11th, albeit it with a rather disappointing maximum temperature of just 15.7°C by day's end. The Azores High started to build in from the southwest through the 12th though, effectively shutting off that cool northerly flow with just a few isolated showers that afternoon. Clear skies overnight into the 13th saw air temperatures dip into single figures for the first time since mid April as that high became slow moving over northern France.

Fair or fine conditions with excellent visibility prevailed for the next couple of days but increasing cloud through the 15th heralded the arrival of a weak front that dropped down south over the UK to arrive in the Channel around mid morning on the 16th. Patchy rain and drizzle cleared readily by midday to return us to brighter skies for the afternoon, again with excellent visibility. With high pressure now centred over the North Sea our winds veered into the northeast, but we enjoyed a dry and reasonably bright run of weather, although haze and mist took the edge off our visibility as our airflow became more Eastern European sourced by the 19th.

That high was still dominating much of Northern Europe by the 20th, although a scattering of thundery showers pushed up from France with lightning observed to the south of the islands later that evening. The 21st dawned clear after some overnight mist but cloud thickened through the afternoon as further showers nudged up from the south, again with distant lightning observed through the evening. Further showers overnight together with mist and hill fog patches cleared only slowly through the morning of the 22nd but a glance at the charts showed unsettled shallow low pressure over the UK replacing that anticyclone of the last week or so. Cloudier conditions with occasional showers over the next few days with moderate, mostly westerly winds ultimately led to a deeper low swinging in across the UK with frequent blustery showers and strong winds for the 26th. The low responsible was reluctant to clear away over the North Sea resulting in those showers and strong winds only easing late on the 27th.

Pressure started to build in from the North Atlantic as that low finally did ease away to the northeast, with our winds veering into a cooler northwesterly direction. Clearer skies and improved visibility across the islands made for an improved weekend, but as that settling anticyclone tracked east into Central Europe through the 29th, so the next vigorous depression was gearing up out to the west, introducing rain and strong southerly winds across the islands early that afternoon. Flights were disrupted that evening due to strong crosswinds and it wasn't until later in the evening that we saw a veer in direction. The small hours of the 30th saw the highest gust of the month at 44 knots (51mph).

This depression was slow to clear to the northeast as it ran up against a blocking anticyclone over the Baltic Sea, resulting in a gloomy finish to the month with patchy rain and drizzle clearing to isolated showers by evening. The winds continued their veer to the west and easing down to a moderate F4.

With a mean temperature of 15.3°C, this was the coolest September since 2017 and with only 132.3 hours of sunshine it was the dullest September since 1967 and the 10th dullest on record. The 16th to the 20th was probably the best of the month, with no rainfall and 34.0 hours of sunshine across the 5 days.

SEPTEMBER 2024

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						
Sun	1	1011.8	20.4	17.2	18.8	16.1	18.6	17.6	030	07	6.1	22	0.8	0.6	Cldy & misty. Hvy shw rs & fog to mid am. Fog eve. T/storm (0546-0637z)			
Mon	2	1011.3	18.5	16.0	17.3	15.7	18.8	17.6	180	10	10.0	19	1.1	0.5	Rain, drz, mist & hill fog clrng late am but remaining cldy			
Tue	3	1015.4	18.6	15.3	17.0	14.5	18.8	17.6	300	09	9.3	20	0.1	5.7	Cldy w ith patchy rain & drz am bec fine pm. Cldy eve			
Wed	4	1018.5	18.4	13.9	16.2	13.9	18.3	17.6	330	04	6.7	16	1.0	6.5	Cldy w ith isol shw rs am, occn fair pm. Xlnt viz			
Thu	5	1012.6	15.7	11.8	13.8	11.9	17.7	17.6	360	07	5.4	19	4.1	1.1	Cldy w ith shw rs, occn hvy, turning to rain, clearing early pm			
Fri	6	1010.3	19.5	11.3	15.4	9.8	17.0	17.6	120	08	6.1	14	TR	3.6	Bec cldy by daw n w ith isol shw rs late pm & eve			
Sat	7	1008.6	19.0	15.9	17.5	14.6	17.7	17.5	070	04	6.1	16	19.2	0.5	Cldy w ith isol shw rs late am, bec freq & hvy eve			
Sun	8	1005.6	16.9	14.5	15.7	14.5	18.0	17.4	220	16	11.5	27	6.1	NIL	Cldy. Rain, drz & mist am, occn hvy, clrng to sct shw rs pm & eve			
Mon	9	1014.3	16.6	13.1	14.9	14.1	17.3	17.4	320	13	12.4	24	0.1	4.7	Cldy w ith light rain early am bec fair pm			
Tue	10	1015.1	18.5	12.9	15.7	10.5	16.7	17.3	250	19	17.8	33	3.8	1.4	Cldy w ith rain & drz am clrng by noon, retrng late pm & eve			
Wed	11	1014.1	15.7	12.4	14.1	9.5	16.3	17.1	300	12	11.9	27	TR	7.5	Fair or fine w ith isol shw rs. Xlnt viz			
Thu	12	1018.6	15.6	10.4	13.0	6.9	15.6	17.0	320	07	8.9	22	1.1	9.7	Mainly fine bec fair w ith shw rs pm bec isol eve. Excellent viz			
Fri	13	1029.7	15.5	9.9	12.7	6.1	15.2	16.9	050	05	3.6	14	NIL	7.9	Fine bec fair pm, cldy eve. Xlnt viz			
Sat	14	1032.2	16.7	9.7	13.2	5.2	15.4	16.8	180	09	4.3	14	NIL	11.2	Fine. Xlnt viz			
Sun	15	1029.3	18.1	10.3	14.2	5.8	14.9	16.4	230	04	4.3	09	0.3	10.6	Fine am w ith excellent vis. Extnsv high cloud pm & eve			
Mon	16	1028.4	18.4	13.0	15.7	10.0	15.8	16.3	350	04	5.7	14	NIL	5.3	Cldy am w ith occn rain & drz, clrng mid am to fair/cldy w ith xlnt viz			
Tue	17	1029.3	17.8	13.0	15.4	9.2	15.7	16.3	040	10	11.2	29	NIL	10.8	Fine occn fair. Bec cldy by late eve			
Wed	18	1024.6	18.5	16.3	17.4	14.6	16.4	16.3	060	14	13.2	28	NIL	3.1	Cldy, bec fair by late pm. Fine eve. Late haze			
Thu	19	1021.0	19.5	16.7	18.1	15.5	16.8	16.3	050	15	12.7	30	NIL	7.4	Cldy w ith mist then haze, bec fine pm & eve			
Fri	20	1018.1	19.2	16.0	17.6	15.5	17.1	16.4	050	13	11.6	26	NIL	7.4	Cldy w ith haze am bec fine late am. Misty eve w ith ltng late eve			
Sat	21	1015.6	20.2	14.6	17.4	11.6	17.0	16.4	120	08	5.5	12	11.5	6.5	Fine w ith early mist bec cldy pm w ith shw rs late pm & eve. Ltng late eve			
Sun	22	1010.5	17.9	14.4	16.2	15.8	17.5	16.5	220	08	7.9	19	TR	0.8	Cldy. Early hvy shw rs w ith mist & fog clrng mid am			
Mon	23	1007.5	17.4	13.9	15.7	12.1	17.2	16.6	210	09	9.7	19	2.1	3.5	Fair bec cldy early am w ith shw rs from late pm			
Tue	24	1006.5	16.5	12.5	14.5	13.3	17.3	16.6	310	09	8.8	18	1.6	0.5	Cldy w ith shw rs early am clrng by daw n			
Wed	25	1001.7	15.9	11.9	13.9	9.8	16.4	16.6	190	10	11.6	23	2.8	NIL	Cldy. Rain by daw n occn w ith drz pm, clrng late pm. Rain late eve			
Thu	26	988.2	16.5	12.6	14.6	13.0	16.3	16.5	220	20	22.1	42	8.0	5.3	Fair w ith early rain & drz clrng to frqnt shw rs			
Fri	27	998.6	14.4	11.0	12.7	9.8	15.3	16.5	010	20	16.0	39	0.1	2.1	Cldy w ith frqnt shw rs clrng mid pm to fair then fine eve			
Sat	28	1025.7	15.0	10.0	12.5	7.6	14.9	16.4	320	08	6.3	16	NIL	7.6	Fair w ith isol shw rs am. Xlnt viz			
Sun	29	1019.0	14.9	9.1	12.0	7.5	14.4	16.1	150	21	19.2	38	5.7	0.4	Cldy w ith rain from early pm			
Mon	30	1007.3	15.4	13.6	14.5	12.9	14.8	16.0	270	21	20.7	44	TR	0.1	Cldy w ith rain & drz am bec patchy pm. Isol shw rs early eve			
MEAN		1015.0	17.4	13.1	15.3	11.6	16.6	16.8	NW	10.8	10.2	TOTAL	69.5	132.3				
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				
1991-2020																		
EXTREMES		NUMBER	RAIN	WET	SNOW/	HAIL	THNDR	LGHTNG	AIR	GROUND	FOG	FOG	GALE	NO	TOTALS FOR YEAR TO DATE			
ARE IN		OF DAYS	≥0.2mm	≥1.0mm	SLEET				FROST	FROST		9a.m.		SUN				
BOLD TYPE		WITH	15	13	0	0	1	3	0	0	3	1	0	2				
RECORDS FROM JANUARY 1947															RAINFALL	627.9 mm	SUNSHINE	1586.2 hrs
WETTEST DAY		43.7mm	DRIEST MONTH		6.9mm	LOWEST MIN		5.8°C	WARMEST MNTH		18.3°C	SUNNIEST MNTH		266.5hrs	RAIN DAYS	129	SUNLESS I	34
DAY/YEAR		20th/1949	YEAR		1997	DAY/YEAR		28th/1974	YEAR		2023	YEAR		1959	WET DAYS	100		
WETTEST MNTH		194.5mm	HIGHEST MAX		30.6°C	LOWEST GRASS		-1.0°C	COLDEST MNTH		12.8°C	DULLEST MNTH		104.5hrs				
YEAR		1952	DAY/YEAR		2nd/1961	DAY/YEAR		23rd/1979	YEAR		1986	YEAR		1956				