

## The Pembrokeshire Dangler

I am sitting here writing this on November 6<sup>th</sup> as yet another cold heavy shower batters the windows on the northern side of the house. When the showers miss us, we can smugly sit in the conservatory in the sunshine and watch the impressive huge clouds pass north-to-south just offshore. We are in the midst of a Pembrokeshire Dangler – you may have seen “Derek the Weather” explaining this on television but in case you haven’t here goes: (*information from Wikipedia and www.uk.sci.weather* )

“The Pembrokeshire Dangler is a convergence zone which forms a line of continuous showers aligned north-south across the Irish sea; it often occurs during late autumn and winter, since the environmental factors required for its formation such as warm sea temperatures and cold Arctic air aloft are usually only met at this time of year.”

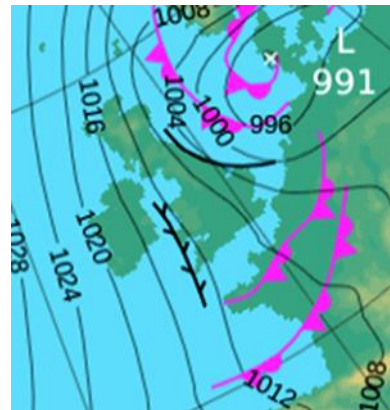
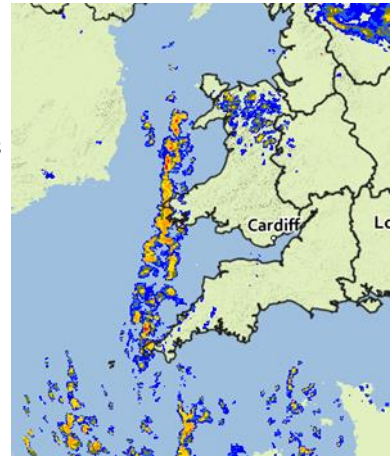
“It is a line of showery precipitation which forms in a NNW to NNE airflow, typically from north of Pembrokeshire to Cornwall. This often results in frequent showers, or even more persistent rain, in quite a narrow band. It is by no means an unusual phenomenon, occurring several times a year, particularly in autumn and winter. The long fetch across ‘warm’ water from the Irish Sea to Cornwall, provides the right conditions for showers to form. The shape of the Pembrokeshire Peninsula has the effect of concentrating this unstable northerly flow, in the same way as an obstruction in a stream would concentrate the flow around it.”

You can see the convergence zone on the Met Office pressure chart for Nov 6<sup>th</sup> - it is the dark line with the small “branches” on the side.

And you can see the results on the rainfall radar – this long patch of showers has not moved for at least 24 hours, except to move slightly inland.

The “Dangler” can be very inconvenient for us, especially when it occurs on Bonfire Night as it did this year. However it can be more serious for Cornwall. On 25 November 2005 the Pembrokeshire Dangler gave nearly 8 inches of snow across Bodmin Moor and across parts of northwest Devon, causing considerable disruption.

There is a really good video explanation of all this by Liam Dutton on YouTube - just search for Pembrokeshire Dangler. It has only just been posted so Liam was obviously inspired by the same events as I was!



Rosemary Royle