



VOLUME 46 ISSUE 1

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A Pug's Life by Toodles (yeah, I know)

Day 1

Right then. I thought I'd start a diary. I saw one in Betty's room. Things like 'dear diary' ... No way am I writing that rubbish! No! My story begins on a warm sunny day in Sunderland in a house about five minutes away from a putrid rubbish dump. Oh sorry I forgot, Betty's my owner. Sure she's nice but not once has she let me eat a worm! I mean why would you not let a cute little pug with a tiny waggy tail eat a worm or two when they're on a walk in the park? What's the point of going for a walk if you can't eat worms? Anyway back to the story... It was morning time and that meant my walk. It makes her happy if I bounce up and down and wag my little tail so I do it every day every walk and what's my pay, NO WORMS! Do you know how hard it is to jump up when your belly is full of rubbish? Well, recently Betty's been letting me pick up all the rubbish I want and gets so excited when I do, though she gets me to drop them. Mischievously, I have sneaked a few bottles and sweet wrappers. When I was on my walk everything felt louder and busier, oh yes oh yes oh yes yes yes! I wish I was ill so I could go to the vet (the vet is the best thing ever). Happily, I fake swayed then fell in a heap, only I wasn't faking that.

The next thing I knew I was on the vet bed with a very concerned Betty and her Mum.

Phew! I nearly missed the injection but I woke up just in time. After the vet had finished stabbing me in the leg (ok yeah, I enjoyed it) Betty saw me awake. She jumped for joy and I think she cried. Now, I seriously don't know if she wants me or not. I mean make up your mind.

Day 2

OK, so I barked and nearly nipped her but I didn't nip her (don't you ask if I meant to or not) but she cried when she saw me awake at the vet so it was a test to see whether or not she'd kick me out.

Day 3

Sorry I didn't get much done yesterday I got put in... The room of Doom! (the cupboard under the stairs)... anyway, my walk today was... let's say odd. So I was doing my usual picking up bottles and then boom! Betty looked like a bee who has just drunk five cups of coke! Then five minutes later I was in the car being dragged off somewhere! When we got there, there was a lot of bouncing and general excitement then a weird heavy shiny thing was put around my neck. I saw one of my friends Katty. I asked her what was happening.

Day 4

So it turns out it was a world record for most recycling done by a dog, and that weird metal

thing was a medal! Having chill day! See you tomorrow!

Day 5

I've got a job now...it's my hobby - recycling! There's an extra bonus to the job I get fed all the doggie treats I want to stop me from eating anything I see, though that still can't stop me from sneaking the odd sweetie wrapper!

Freyja (10)

The Christmas Holidays

I had a good time at Christmas. Santa had been and gave me lots of presents. I got clay, craft stuff and toys. I got Heelys too. Heelys are trainers with wheels on the bottom. They are tricky but I am practising in the hall.

At the Christmas tree party, I won corners and pass the parcel. I had fun with my friends.

I am looking after Harriet the sheep for Iain. She is next to our house on her own. She is about to have lambs. I give her food in the afternoon.



Harris (8)

The first week dat's awa of 2023 comes from the isle's foremost octogenarian...

Christmas celebrations are over, and New Year has begun. After a couple of years' gap due to the Covid infection, we again had our special community gathering in the Hall to share a meal, dance, and laugh at the Pantomime performance. The guising on New Year's Eve is always enjoyed, and the messages always give us something upon which to reflect, perhaps even to ourselves as others see us. I wonder what the Prime Minister would say if he could have seen our interpretation of his performance?

Getting back to our daily life, decorations need to be taken down. Over the past couple of weeks, I have admired Jimmy's lights and again wondered if a passing pilot might mistake the lights as indicating the airstrip and attempt a landing. In my conservatory, Alice set up two long strings of fairy lights. Admiring them each night provoked the thought that we might in the future have arranged the lights in a different way following the patterns of our sky at night (a challenge for Lowri). The tides have been so high this week that the old pier was awash. I am grateful that my son Andrew painted the underside of my car as I don't think the sea salt crossing up to the new pier does vehicles any good. Here is perhaps another challenge for those discussing changes for the North Haven. I trust everyone has remembered to send in the survey forms due by the 15th of January. *Editor: you can find out more here: <https://www.shetland.gov.uk/fair-isle-ferry-replacement/pre-planning-application-consultation/4>*

One bright spark suggested that the coming new pier needed to be higher as the present one had sunk somewhat, bearing the weight of all the machines, equipment and units for the build of the new Bird Observatory. The weather seems to have had similar thoughts as several items blew back down the hill to the beach.

Sunday services in the Chapel were interrupted during the height of Covid, and again now, with the number folk coughing and sneezing, one person or one family will do the scheduled worship. Everyone will know it is me performing solo when I ring the bell: the chimes come forth more as a 'dot and carry' and not the regular notes achieved by Stewart. For those reading the FIT off the Isle, our way of continuing worship is

to ring the bell, do a reading and a prayer, then pause for a few moments to remember everyone on the Isle by name.

Many of my hours after dark are filled in an attempt to sort out old documents, Press cuttings from a previous life are quite time-consuming as there is always the temptation to read each paper. And the hours slip away (my dear daughter has threatened to use my burning barrel and get rid of the lot). Recently converting from Windows 10 to Windows 11 has been very trying. Transferring pictures from my mobile to the computer used to be a simple procedure, but now it takes an age – I don't think I can let Lowri return to Denmark as he still has a lot of new tricks to teach and write down for me to follow. Our MP could have been a help on one subject but was not available. It will help to know if contact delays are caused by being occupied with a second job. This idea has been much in the press this week.

Being in contact in another way is very important on the Isle, and that is a debilitating cough so quickly passed to the next person. How different from when I was a child, Dad would give a couple of quiet coughs to indicate, 'That's enough, young man.' The Isle cough count is ten times, which must be interpreted as 'keep your distance.'

An ancient document, plus thoughts on MPs, brought back memories of twelve and fifteen years old. Durham City hosted an annual Miners Gala where Pitmen and families descended on the town, parading in with banners and then on for a gathering of thousands on the old race course. The great and the good gave speeches from a large platform, and later hundreds moved on for a special service in the cathedral. My mother encouraged me to go down to the race course and tuck myself in at the side of the platform with instructions to watch the miners' reaction to items from the speakers. One speaker I particularly liked was Manny Shinwell, who could make his audience laugh and sometimes cry. I must have been 15 when I was walking down a street in Sunderland heading to Binns, the largest shop in town, with a girlfriend when I spotted Manny coming up the street. Perhaps because I was pointing in his direction, he came across and challenged me as to whether I was that young lad who was always stuck under the stage at the gala. After my 'yes', he said "Right young man, tell me something I said from the stage?". I had no hesitation in remembering how he had told the miners he was not going to support them in a strike – the silence was dramatic and threatening. Then he repeated what he had said, adding one word, 'unless'. He challenged them to go home and talk to their wives and all the other wives in the street, for they were the individuals who would carry the burden of looking after the children and putting food on the table, plus cope with possible abusive comments. "If they support your strike, then I will do everything possible in my power to help you win the strike". The crowd's mood changed dramatically. Manny said thank you, see you next year, grinned at my friend with a wink, and walked away.

What else is there this week? A district leadership team for Shetland Methodists had a Zoom meeting, but I did not get connected as we had yet another internet cut-off. Iain and Andy cleared the drain near the Puff-inn, and there went my hope of a skating rink (why not, if we are going to have a swimming pool). For the record, I do appreciate their work.

Hannah and Ed sent amazing pictures from New Zealand, which reminded me of all the years I celebrated my birthdays on the top of mountains. The boat went today, returning home early, so I had time to get back home and light the burning barrel. For the sceptics, this was not for rubbish but to celebrate 'Up Helly Aa' as a way of sharing with granddaughter Kaylee-Ann, who informs me she is off to Scalloway for their celebration.

More Christmas cards arrived. Are they early for this year or late for last year if the envelope also contains a letter?

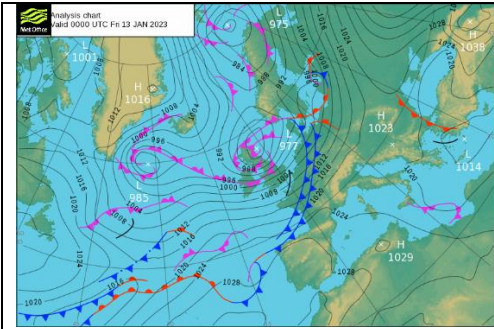
How do I reply?

John at Utra

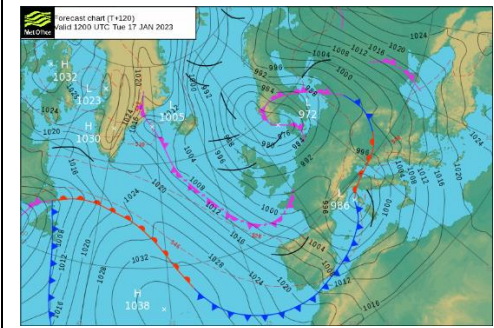
NOTICES:

- **No Sunday service this weekend**
- **Reminder to complete feedback form on new pier developments by 15th Jan here <https://www.shetland.gov.uk/fair-isle-ferry-replacement/pre-planning-application-consultation/4>**

FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



Analysis Chart 0000 UTC
Friday 13th January 2023



Forecast Chart 1200 UTC
Tuesday 17th January 2023

GENERAL SITUATION

Friday 13th January 2023

With a small depression east of Orkney a north-north-easterly airflow covers Shetland. This will freshen north to north-westerly as the low continues eastwards before easing light by Saturday as pressure builds across the Northern Isles. Sunday will see a freshening easterly as a second centre tracks east across Scotland, pushing a front north over Shetland. A strong northerly follows Sunday, easing early next week as the low continues east. With a large anticyclone forecast to develop in mid-Atlantic a northerly airflow continues until midweek when a ridge moves in from the west. A strengthening southerly airflow follows as Atlantic fronts clear east on Friday. The weekend brings a mild, strong south-westerly.

OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND

Temperatures 4° or 5° Celsius today, around 2° tonight. Weekend daytime 4° or 5° Celsius, 1° or 2° overnight with chance of frost.

FRIDAY 13th: Sunny spells and showers, occasionally heavy at first but becoming mainly dry by evening as F5 N'ly winds ease F4 NNW'ly then light and variable overnight. **Sea State:** Mostly rough with a 3 or 4 metre NW'ly wind swell but moderate to rough east of Shetland with a 2 to 3 metre N'ly wind swell.

SATURDAY 14th: Cloudy with outbreaks of rain by afternoon as E'ly winds strengthen F5. Winds strengthening F6 NE'ly overnight. **Sea State:** Mostly rough with a 3 or 4 metre NW'ly wind swell but moderate

to rough east of Shetland with a 2 to 3 metre N'ly wind swell.

SUNDAY 15th: Colder and cloudy with wintry showers. F5-6 NNW'ly winds. **Sea State:** Rough or very rough with a 4 to 5 metre N'ly wind swell.

FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK

Temperatures 3° or 4° Celsius by day. Overnight temperatures around 1° with chance of icy stretches. Milder from midweek at 5° or 6° and 4° overnight.

MONDAY 16th: A cloudy, raw feeling cold day with some wintry showers. Fresh NW'ly winds.

Sea State: Mostly rough with a 3 to 4 metre NW'ly wind swell. **TUESDAY 17th:** Mostly dry though rather cloudy with fresh NW'ly winds. **Sea State:** Mostly moderate or rough with a 2 to 3 metre NW'ly wind swell but moderate east of Shetland. **WEDNESDAY 18th – SUNDAY 22nd:** Chance of showers on Wednesday with some brighter intervals. Fresh NW'ly winds falling light overnight into Thursday then strengthening S'ly later bringing a wet and windy night. Friday an improving day, the weekend mainly dry with a strong, mild SW'ly wind.

Sea State Wednesday: Mostly rough to very rough with a 4 to 5 metre NNW'ly wind swell.

Dave Wheeler

Our regular Maavi appears to have bird flu this week so here is the new generation of peerie maavi for you, by Ander (5)



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