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NORSE TIMES

25 JANUARY AD 825

AMAZING SHIPS ARRIVE

Last week three strange ships appeared in South Haven. Each one had a dragon's head and there were four men rowing. They were wearing leather suits and carrying swords, axes and shields. They looked fierce and strong. They had long, rough beards and long hair. The islanders were

frightened and ran away. Some of them rowed away on wooden yoals. The strange, fierce men stayed on Fair Isle to live and farm. No one has seen the people that escaped on the yoals!

By Harris



THE NEWSPAPER

Weird people are here. AD 793

But they are amazing!

At midnight, five fast wooden boats with serpent heads arrived North Haven. There were 34 strong, hairy men on board. They had sheepskin over their backs and carried spears, axes, and swords. They looked fierce but they were quite friendly. They wanted to share the land. They know more than us. They brought a kind of vegetable and meat called

chicken. They came into the community and showed us how to make longhouses. These are stronger houses and much warmer. The Vikings are here to stay!

By Luca.



THE HERE AND NOW NEWSPAPER

SEA MONSTERS

Last month strange ships came ashore! On board, were unusual men that looked part-fish, part-animal and part-man. They came with swords but did not use them. "I was terrified for my little Coblaithe. He was on the beach when they arrived," said Alpia who was digging tatties at the time. Since then, there has been a huge development. They're not monsters! They are just dressed in odd clothing we have never seen before. The strange people are known as Vikings. They are ingenious! They taught us how to grow and farm many new things. Vikings build amazing, rectangular houses. Some of us are trying them out. Others are more questionable. Here is a report on what some of you think about their arrival. "We were fine on our own if you ask me. They're dead suspicious," stated Nadbroicc.

"They saved us from starvation. We are saved," explained Brigid.

"It's as if Macha led them here," an anonymous source told us. There was a lot more statements like these. The population of the isle is torn. That is all from us. Read on to see more points of view. Let's see how you feel about them after reading this...

A NEW LAND

AD 800

"We have struck land. They seem peaceful. We have spared most of them (if you are reading this, Picts, we are probably joking). They wore poor clothes and their houses were round! They didn't have much food and thought we were monsters, especially when we took some of them captive (again probably joking). We have introduced them to chickens and more vegetables. We have decided to stay and take over (we're probably joking). We will help the ones that are still alive. We will try and we will keep them that way. These lands are fertile and spacious. We have already started our first long house. Some of them are copying us - just goes to show how smart we are. They think we didn't use our swords so that's good. Oh no! Picts are reading this RAAIIIIID!

Oh well, not many locals left. We are starting our first settlement. Here are the Picts views after reading this. "Whimper..." (Whoops we seemed to have frightened them a bit, but never mind.)



Da week dat's awa...

Fri 10th - The weather, as anticipated, has stopped the plane from flying. This means Neil is stuck out in Shetland for the weekend, which I don't think he'll mind too much! Eileen and family, bless them, have adopted Don for the period, so I didn't mind one bit when Eileen asks me to recall the week's events and non-events for F.I.T. It's been horrible weather and this morning follows that same pattern with strong to gale force wind blowing through heavy showers. By the afternoon, a few breaks in the cloud brings welcome sunlight into the kitchen, which mirrors Eileen breezing in with the boys and Freyja after school to make colourful cake labels for the baking that will be on sale tomorrow, to raise desperately needed money for the earthquake victims.

Sat 11th - My routine on Saturday is: feed the sour dough starter, put the rubbish and recycling out and clean the house. Weak sunshine and slightly less wind are very welcome. En route to the shop I marvel at a lone crocus poking its yellow head above the wind and rain, looking further into the shelter of the vegetable garden, I see a clump of tiny daffodils in full bloom. A further marvel is the desire of people to help, so after a sociable couple of hours at Houll in the afternoon, the sale of cakes raises almost £800. When I get home, I enjoy another impressive performance by the Scotland Rugby team. My evening is spent in front of the television with my laptop catching up with paperwork, almost there, yippee!! Last thing, I put the sour dough in its tin and leave it in the fridge overnight, ready to bake tomorrow.

Sun 12th - The sour dough comes out of the fridge and straight into a hot oven for 40 minutes and fills the house with the lovely smell of baking. I get materials ready for Sunday school and have a leisurely walk down to the Chapel. It's the first service there this year, reflecting bad weather and viruses dragging on. It's nice to see Barry with brother Sidney there too. Sunday school comprises lots of singing and general fun followed by refreshments and the children entertaining us by playing Wordle with my green and yellow sofa cushions! In the afternoon Dave and I attempt to get to grips with Hall paperwork, almost there! I get home from Field in time to watch the last twenty minutes of the Man Utd game, which turns out to be the best bit of it anyway. Home grown roast lamb and veg for tea at Houll and a chance to catch up with Marie and hear about her travels to Guadeloupe, it sounds amazing.

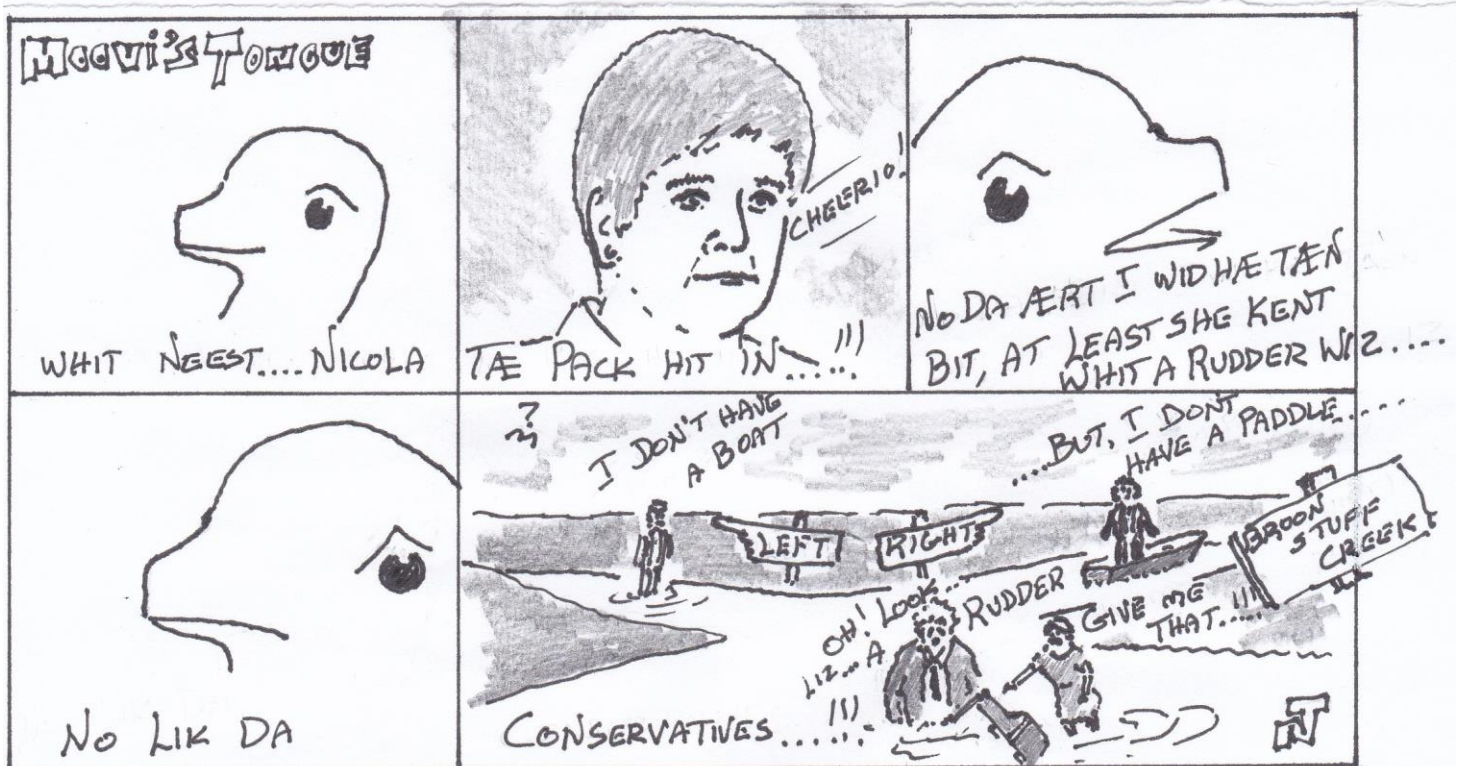
Mon 13th - The weather is good for people and planes all day. It's nice to see the children arriving at school on their bikes. We venture into the school garden for the first time this year and find a lot of little purple crocuses and daffodils buds. The children pull up the remaining beetroot and we see that the fruit bushes have buds. Don meets me outside when I come home at lunch time, which definitely means Neil is home. In the late afternoon, walking round the roads and admiring the sunset, I hear the distinctive sound of a lapwing and watch the bird zig zagging above my head. The new pier works for Fair Isle and Grutness are the main news item on Radio Shetland this evening with work starting at Grutness today and men arriving here tomorrow to start survey works. I finish some more paperwork relaxing in front of Only Connect and University Challenge, only rarely getting any of the answers!

Tues 14th - I pull the blind this morning and see the sky is a beautiful pink and half a moon is shining down towards the rising sun, what a lovely way to start the day. It's weather for the boat to sail, helping anchor the week to the right day! At school, Gillian and I get excited about a new online French resource, which we all have fun exploring. After lunch I spend time preparing the polyhouse for a good scrub and the new growing season, my seed tatties arrive on the boat and before too long the seed propagator will be out and full of this season's seedlings. I go for a walk before sunset and choose to go along the east road. As the shadows lengthen, highlighting the lumps and bumps of ancient use, I imagine the people who have lived here over the centuries. I pass the Bronze Age settlement - the Gud Folks Holes, at Kenaby and the probable, primary Norse settlement at Busta, and find myself glancing over my shoulder in the hope of catching a glimpse of our ancient neighbours.

Wed 15th - A slightly later start to school today and looking at the forecast, I decide to take waterproofs! Wednesday is music day, so out come the ukuleles and we have fun singing a new French round. It was very wet and windy at lunch time, but it is dry by the time I go to the shop for fresh fruit and veg in the early afternoon. Then I spent an absorbing hour or so in the green houses tidying, sorting and taking cuttings, and with my little speaker and BBC sounds on my phone I'm oblivious to much else, but then I see a newsfeed announcing that Nicola Sturgeon is retiring. I'm not a Nationalist but she did gain my respect over her handling of Covid, especially compared to her English counterpart!

Thurs 16th - I have a very leisurely start to the day and am quite happy to be doing an afternoon session at school for a change. I see from a lovely post on Facebook that the Maxwells have now been here for a full year, and I do hope that they will be with us for many more to come. I take the bairns for a walk/run and ask them to look for anything of interest, we find crocuses, narcissus, an array of lichens, loads of juniper berries and a great echo inside one of the water tanks at the cru, there are rocks to clamber over and Luca finds an intact Hays lemonade bottle, complete with its own ecosystem inside, we only just make it back in time for three o'clock! Neil and I take Don for a quick walk and I finish typing my week dat's awa and send it to Eileen. I hope you all have a good weekend.

Pat



THANK YOU!! The cake sale to raise funds for earthquake survivors in Turkiye and Syria has raised £940 so far, with a promise of another donation to bring the total to £1000!!! Fair Isle folk are always amazingly generous (and love cake) but to raise this much is astounding. Many thanks to all my helpers, big and small and to everyone who donated money, ingredients and cake! The money has been equally shared between the Disasters Emergency Committee and UNICEF.

Eileen at Houll



ISLE NOTICES

Good Shepherd news

Scheduled sailing on Tuesday 7th March will now operate on Wednesday 8th March weather permitting of course.

The council will shortly advertise the vacant workboat engineer post. They are hopeful this will supply a few possibilities for crewing our ferry. I'll let you all know when it goes live so the word can be spread. In the meantime, if there is anybody interested in being a deckhand please get in contact, even if it's just for a summer job.

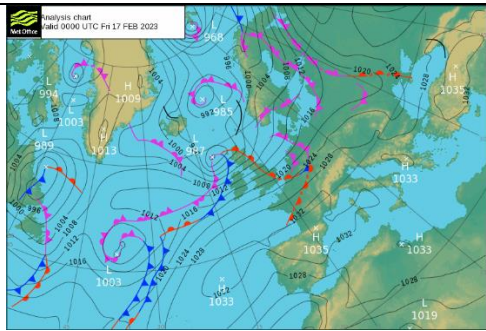
Thank you, Ian

Chapel - Sunday service this weekend will be at Utra, Susannah leading. All welcome.

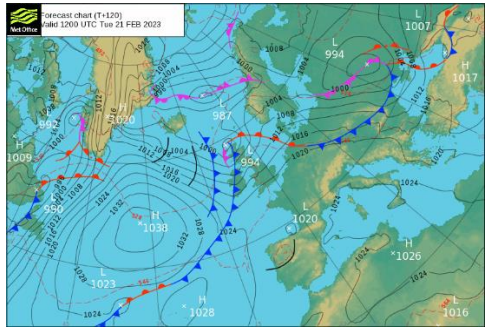
FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST

Friday 17th February 2023

GENERAL SITUATION



**Analysis Chart 0000 UTC
Friday 17th February 2023**



**Forecast Chart 1200 UTC
Tuesday 21st February 2023**

A vigorous depression (named Storm Otto by the Danish weather Service) tracked northeast close to Fair Isle in the early hours (a wet night with 12.4 mm 00-09h), leaving us in the strong north-westerly on its western flank. (FI gale 0825 - 0836 gst 56kn 0832). The airflow will ease later today and more so during Saturday as a ridge builds from the west. A south-westerly airflow will strengthen on Sunday as a large depression west of Iceland drives fronts east towards northern Scotland, these clearing overnight leaving a showery westerly for Monday and Tuesday. Midweek may see a low centre developing over the Irish Sea, veering a strong north-westerly airflow north-easterly. This easing later as Atlantic high pressure extends a ridge close to Shetland.

OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND

Temperatures 5° or 6° Celsius by day 3° or 4° overnight. Today and Saturday. Sunday 7° by day and 5° overnight. **FRIDAY 17th**: Cloudy with blustery showers with F7 to gale F8 or possibly severe gale F9 NW'ly winds gusting 50-60kn. Showers lighter and less frequent in the afternoon as gales moderate. A mainly dry evening and night with NW'ly winds easing F5.

Sea State: Moderate or rough with a 2 or 3 metre W'ly wind swell.

SATURDAY 18th: Brighter with sunshine, the chance of a shower and F4 NW to W'ly winds.

Sea State: Mainly moderate with a 2 metre W'ly wind swell.

SUNDAY 19th: Rather cloudy, a dry morning with occasionally heavy rain by afternoon. F4 W'ly winds backing SW and freshening F5-6 later.

Sea State: Mainly moderate with a 2 metre WNW'ly wind swell.

FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK

7° or 8° Celsius by day, 5° or 6° overnight. Cooler from Wednesday.

MONDAY 20th: Overnight rain dying out then bright with a few showers. Fresh WSW'ly winds.

Sea State: Mostly rough with a 3 metre WSW'ly wind swell. Moderate east of Shetland.

TUESDAY 21st: Cloudy with rain soon arriving as S'ly winds strengthen. **Sea State:** Moderate or rough with a 2 to 3 metre W'ly wind swell. Slight to moderate east of Shetland. **WEDNESDAY 22nd – SUNDAY 26th**: Cooler by Wednesday with rain or showers and strong NE'ly winds. Rest of week unsettled with rain or showers and strong NE'ly winds, easing by the weekend. **Sea State Wednesday:** Mostly rough with a 3 to 4 metre W'ly wind swell. Moderate east of Shetland.

Dave Wheeler