

Ice Dome

I had an idea. First, I put some water in a cup and in the freezer. When it froze I took it out. Next I made a dome. I had a big bowl filled with water. Then I put a little bowl in that floated. Then, I put water in the little bowl to make it go deeper and then I left it in the freezer. The next day, I took the bowls out and then it was shaped like a dome. I then made a new one but this time it was going to be a rainbow dome. First, I put a cup of water and I made it red with food colouring. When that froze, I made some orange water that I poured on top of the red layer. When that froze, I made yellow water and it went on and on until... (photo below)



I loved it.

Luca (7)



The Holiday Weekend

On Friday I went to Luca's house for dinner with Heidi, Mum and Dad. Freyja was there too. We had delicious pizza then we watched a movie together. It was a fun night.

On Saturday I went up the Houll with Mum and Heidi. Dad went down to Tommy's to feed the chickens. When I got back home I made some clay models of my favourite characters. You have to cook the clay in the oven to dry it. I painted them with the special paints Santa gave me. The rest of the long weekend was a lazy one!

Harris (8)

My Long Weekend

This weekend was a long weekend! Friday was a chill day (as was most of the weekend) but we did go to Houll for tea - there was lots of pizza! After and before tea I went upstairs to play with Harris, Heidi, Luca and Ander. I made a play house that took up most of the landing and some of the bedroom! It was great!

On Saturday, Grace came home in the morning. With her, we played Spice Road, a game where you have to get cubes to buy point cards. It's very fun! We also played a new Dominion that Dad got for Christmas; he also won it.

Sunday was a very sociable day. We went to church, then coffee at LSB. I made the quickest and best den I have ever made! Then that night we went to watch Newcastle vs Manchester United. Again we all went upstairs to play, but this time with Grace. I remade the playhouse we had last time. It was Epic!

We watched a Bollywood movie on Monday night and in doing so stayed up until 11oclock! Very soon it will be our 13th year on Fair Isle! We are going to have a cake! I had a really good long weekend!

Freyja (10)

NOTICES

Good Shepherd – A reminder that the Good Shepherd will run on Wednesday 8th, not Tuesday 7th – weather permitting.

Hall AGM - Wed 22nd March at 3 o'clock in the Committee Room. This is a public meeting so members of the public are invited to join.

The return of Hall subscriptions - We have decided to keep the annual subscriptions at the same level as before, £20 per adult or £40 per household. This money pays for your use of the Hall over the year. There will be a box for the subscriptions in the shop or feel free to transfer to the Hall account as per details below:

Fair Isle Community Hall, Account number: 60180316, Sort Code 826608

Thank you, Pat

Summer work wanted – Alison Sinclair (Anne and Barry's grand-daughter) will be in the Isle from 3rd to 20th July this summer and she is looking for paid work while she is here, helping round the house or B&Bs for example. If you are interested let Eileen know and she will forward Alison's details. Thanks.

Sunday Service – In the Chapel on Sunday at 11am, all welcome.

Fair Isle Community Association Meeting and AGM – to be held in the Hall on Wednesday 15th March, any items for agenda please send to David Parnaby asap.

Da week dat's awa...

A wise man once said to me that March would come in like a lamb. That wise man was Dad, and he said this on Sunday as we looked forward to what looked to be an unseasonably good week of weather.

Back to last weekend, and it was a long weekend off for the school bairns and staff, with Friday and Monday being holidays. Our boys are big fans of staying in their pyjamas for as long as possible so Friday was designated a 'jammies day' – at least for the most part! Mum and Dad took the boys to Stoneybrek for a while so I could get the Fair Isle Times done and get some prep done for tea. We had a fun evening with friends and feasted on the '3 Ps' of pakora, pizza and patatas bravas, accompanied by naff restaurant music to match each course – perfecto!

Saturday is a lovely day again, some excellent claes-line exhibits this weekend making the most of the dry days. John had asked for advice on what to buy his 5 year old great-grandson for his upcoming birthday, so having a 5 year old in the house we had some ideas, said toy arrived in the post so Ander and I trot down to Utra to deliver it. Guillermo has a meeting with the Development Company in the afternoon so I send him off with shortbread and the boys and I head to Muckle Urigeo to see if we see Freyja's first-for-Fair Isle *barrel jellyfish*. It is still there, though very little

remains as they seem to evaporate. There is a skate, a pretty stinky one at that. We have a good hawk about and clear a bin bag of bruck and take another bag of peerie bits of firewood. Luca does his usual trick of finding something interesting – this time most of a glass bottle stopper – nice. We head home, light the burny barrel and head inside to watch football.

On Sunday we go to Chapel in the morning (I like singing the hymns, regarding God, we have an agreement: I don't believe in him and he doesn't believe in me) then to Mum's to scoff most of a fresh sourdough loaf with lashings of butter. We needed a good walk to burn off the butter, so up to the Hill dyke, west to the banx at Guiniwark, and up Burrashield to the peerie loch at Troiligeo. The boys loved seeing the old rocket house at the Hill dyke, built over 150 years ago. They loved rolling down the steep braes even more! Down to the grand canyon after that for a play in the burn. As usual, Dad picked up a few good pieces of peat washed out in the burn, to take home for the fire. We spend the rest of the day watching football, and for us, the right teams won both the Scottish cup and more importantly, the Carabao cup. First trophy for Manchester United in 6 years, let's hope it is not the last for a while! Steven joins us for tea and shows us all the treasure he has found with his metal detector – very interesting!

The North Haven is a busy place on Monday morning, with the boat *Toplander* coming to take away the huge crane that's been on the pier a while. They had to get the crane onto the sand and on the boat from there – must have been a bit hairy! We had seen a tug hauling a big platform north and it arrived in the Haven and dwarfed everything else. It is here to start drilling holes in preparation for the new improved pier.



Isle folk will be used to seeing me out for daily walks, but at the moment they will also be seeing Guillermo jogging around the roads – a much rarer sight! According to him, he is getting fit so that he can play football in Argentina later this month, I reckon it's just a head start for the Hill caas in the summer. I pop in to see Captain Kenaby on my walk, fine to catch up with news on the east side of the Isle. The post on the Good Shepherd should be advertised shortly, hopefully we will attract some good folk to come and work on the boat and live here. We could do with a few more willing and able bodies here to help with the essential jobs and to make the most of the good life we have here. A few more bairns and folk to help clipping sheep when summer comes will make all the difference.

I finish 'finishing' a very boannie blue jumper for Marie in the evening – of all my peerie jobs here, finishing knitwear is my favourite. It's like a jigsaw puzzle – you get a bag with lots of bits of a jumper and you finish up with a beautiful thing. And just like a jigsaw puzzle, occasionally you realise you put a bit in upside down and back-to-front – but thankfully not this time though!

Tuesday is a beautiful day – again – and the boys are back to school after the long weekend. I have to literally drag them out of their beds, all the fresh air this weekend has fairly worn them out. The boat is away and the isle is lovely and quiet in the calm weather. With Amy and Andy away on holiday we are enjoying looking after the hens, especially since they are back to laying really well. I walk to the boat and take the scenic route through Gilsetter and Finniquoy on the way north. Last week I would have had to swim through Gilsetter, much better today. I find frog spawn in the pool below the Obs, hope it's not come too early and some of the peerie frogs survive. A few of us help to unload the goods at the shop, always a good way to get first glance at nice new things coming in! The boys are

delighted to get delivery of their football boots – essential items for the football training they are hoping to go to when we visit their Nona soon. Not many Fair Isle boys have played in Argentina, we can't wait to see if World Cup fever is still rampant over there. We haven't been for 4 years but my mother in law's 70th seemed like too good an opportunity to miss. I cannot wait for 2 weeks of fantastic food – and not cooking any of it! Temps should be fine for frisle folk – 25 degrees is plenty!

I start Wednesday by getting essential and boring jobs done (I don't just go for walks all day - while I am very lucky not to work full time, there are always emails needing answered, that's life!). We have 23 cruise ships due to visit this summer so I need to get on with filling the Hall freezer with goodies soon. My daily walk takes me to Vaasetter and down to Goorn, always a nice place to go, just hellishly steep to climb up and out of (it is a little rocky headland at the bottom of a steep hill on the east of the Isle). I skip badminton and watch my team have a lucky escape in the F A Cup instead.

Thursday brings even bluer skies, so hens out, washing out, emails done I head east to feed sheep and collect my walking companion, Uncle Barry, for a fine walk in the sun. Barry tells me all about windmills and solar panels, his mind definitely more of an engineering one than mine but I find it interesting all the same.



Looking west from the east road, over da Water, with the Kirk, North Shirva, Stackhoull and Lower Stoneybrek from left to right.

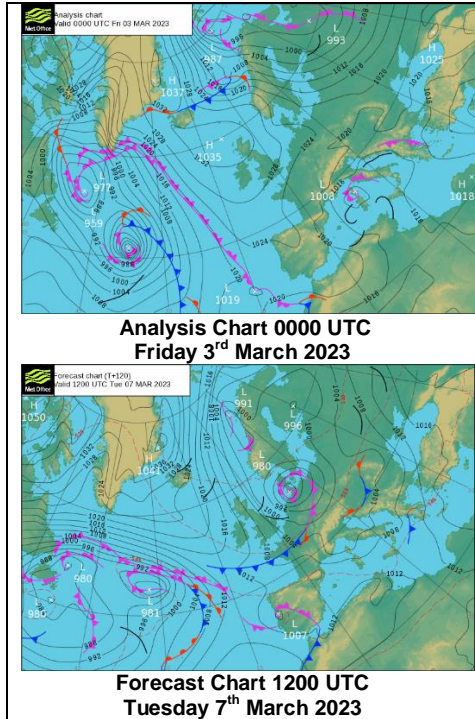
Marie, Anne and I go to the school in the afternoon to do the Peerie Makers sessions – a great initiative bringing knitting back in to schools across Shetland. The bairns learn so quickly and I think Freyja is faster than me – great work. It's World Book Day and I was very ashamed to forget and send my boys to school in regular clothes! Thankfully the school staff came to the rescue and dressed them up, and Anne came to knit as one of my favourite characters – the Paper Bag Princess, a true feminist hero who fights a dragon, rescues her handsome prince, then dumps him as he says she doesn't look right (well, who would after fighting a dragon!?). A quick Hall committee meeting then a lovely cuppa and catch up with Gillian and Triona.

Friday – still bright and dry but probably the last day of this boannie week. I notice that the fuel help payment has been deposited in our bank account – that was quick – only filled in the form on Tuesday! Isle folk (and anyone else off the main fuel/power grid), do fill in the form, it is very quick and obviously we have a good chance of getting the payment. The first of the daffs and crocuses are out, I hope that they have shelter in the upcoming week! On the positive side we will enjoy wind power again!

Have a super weekend!

Eileen at Houll

FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



GENERAL SITUATION

Friday 3rd March 2023

The anticyclone of the past week, now centred off northwest Scotland, will morph into a large area of high pressure extending from southern Ireland to the north of Iceland. In doing so the weak anticyclonic circulation will become a colder Arctic airflow over the weekend. Little changes until later next week when a disturbance in the airflow may bring more frequent wintry showers and stronger winds.

OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND

Temperatures 6° to 8° Celsius today, falling this evening to 4° overnight. The weekend colder, 2° to 4° by day 1° or 0° overnight with isolated ice patches possible.

FRIDAY 3rd: Rather cloudy and mainly dry at first with F4 NW winds freshening F5. Chance of some showers later, turning wintry overnight as winds turn N'ly. Becoming mostly dry by dawn.

Sea State: Mostly slight with a 1 to 2 metre NW'ly wind swell.

SATURDAY 4th: Generally cloudy though mostly dry until later in the day when some wintry showers possible. F4 NNW'ly winds.

Sea State: Mostly slight with a 1 to 2 metre NNW'ly wind swell.

SUNDAY 5th: Cloudy with a few wintry showers. A F4-5 N'ly wind.

Sea State: Mainly moderate with a 2 metre NNW'ly wind swell, N'ly east of Shetland.

FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK

Temperatures around 3° or 4° Celsius by day, 1° to -1° overnight. Risk of icy stretches on untreated surfaces.

MONDAY 6th: Bitterly cold with N'ly winds bringing frequent sleet and snow showers.

Sea State: Mainly moderate with a 2 metre N'ly wind swell, N'ly east of Shetland.

TUESDAY 7th: Perhaps a few brief sunny spells between frequent sleet and snow showers. Another bitterly cold day with strong N'ly winds bringing. **Sea State:** Mostly moderate with a 2 metre N'ly wind swell.

WEDNESDAY 8th – SUNDAY 12th: Wintry showers on Wednesday becoming more frequent on Thursday as winds turn NE'ly. Remaining cold through to the weekend with wintry showers and N'ly winds strengthening for a time. **Sea State Wednesday:** Becoming moderate or rough with a 2 to 3 metre N'ly wind swell. **Dave Wheeler**

