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### Spring is here (almost)!

Last week was a really nice week so we spent some time in the school garden. Don was also there so we got to play with him a bit. We started off by turning the compost to find the soil and also air it, which helps it to decompose quicker. Next, we cleared the runners off the strawberries. There were also slugs and slug eggs! Yuck! As it is turning spring, flowers and new plants are coming; unfortunately that includes thistles! There were at least five to pull up! After that Neil (who brought Don) took away some of the fence that was blocking the light for the plants in the fruit cage. It is now much better! Last year we planted some small Christmas trees, but sadly they are now dead so we pulled them up. Freyja took one home to use for bird cover and we kept one in school to play with. We pulled up the Christmas trees so we had room to plant more things including a Black Thorn.



It was **World Book Day** on the Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. We dressed up as our favourite character from a book. Ander was Percy the Park keeper. Heidi was Mog the cat. Luca was Wally from Where's Wally. Harris was Six from Little Nightmares. Freyja was Jelly (the jellyfish) from Narwhal and Jelly. Gillian was Witch Rose from Rich Witch Poor Witch. Pat was The Cat in the Hat. Hollie was Harry Potter. Ann even dressed up for Peerie Makers in the afternoon! She was The Paper Bag Princess!



We did a live lesson with BBC. It was about different genres of books. Michael Rosen gave us some tips for writing our own stories. We also listened to author, Swapno Haddow, read some of her World Book Day book called 'Dave Pigeon: Bookshop Chaos.' We did a draw-along with the illustrator, Sheena Dempsey. We all did a great job, including Pat! We enjoyed sharing stories with nursery. It was a fun day!



## Delivering Thank You Letters in the Snow

This week has been very snowy so we did not get out on our school trip with Foula which was a bit disappointing, but we did have something to be thankful for! Last week Triona and Stewart gave us a big donation to our School Fund. We are so grateful for their kindness and generosity as it will help us go on school trips or to buy some special resources for the school. On Monday, we decided to write thank you cards in the morning and then we visited Quoy in the afternoon to deliver them. It was a bit blustery but we decided to walk down anyway. We threw snowballs at Gillian on the way down! We gave Stewart and Triona our cards and chatted for a while. We had tasty jellybeans and mini chocolate eggs! It was a good afternoon. Luca and Freyja went straight home from Quoy, while Harris and Gillian faced the North wind on their walk up to Schoolhouse. It was nippy on the face so walking backwards helped!



## NOTICES

**Fair Isle Community Association Meeting and AGM** – in the Committee room on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30. A good attendance is requested, thank you.

**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.

**Hall subscriptions reminder** – for anyone who has not yet paid, cost is £20 per adult or £40 per household. This money pays for your use of the Hall over the year. There is 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

**Sunday Service** – In the Chapel on Sunday at 11am with John leading, all welcome.

## Da week dat's awa...

I landed at Sumburgh on Monday 6th to snow and ice, and the prospect of not getting home as planned.

I've been in Manchester for a week of Teddy catch up. My knees are done having crawled and chased a toddling grandchild, but all very worth it.

My trip started (Mon 27th Feb) with a training session at the Lerwick fire station. This mostly established that, whilst willing, I fail to grasp the precise method of recording training & info into a fire service management system. It appears I constantly miss out vital sections. A few hours later I declare I may never crack the mystical system but will try harder. I was reminded that I promised this the last time the training was delivered!

That evening allowed for an in-person Community Council meeting. Many items on the agenda are very Dunrossness specific. One hot topic was the over enthusiastic digging of ditches that could, quite literally, swallow you up, and was recently experienced by the clerk whilst chasing a cow!

Unfortunately, the story won't feature in the minutes.

A new agenda item ensures attending sooth end councillors give a Council update. Bryan Peterson had his starter for ten - meaning ten minutes maximum.

I left Shetland on the Tuesday at 0830 and was in Manchester just after 1130. Not bad. Judy and Teddy were free to pick me up as she was on a teachers' strike day. Thankfully, she wasn't wielding a placard. Teachers definitely need more pay. I know a little of what goes into the job (not my job) as hours in the classroom are matched with hours before and after school. I say this to keep in with Gillian! I never know when I might need to negotiate my Art time slots. Judy certainly had a heap of marking, planning etc to fit in each day.



Scott was luckily on 'days off' so we did the play parks around Didsbury. All swings, slides, climbing frames etc, no matter how big, were fully explored. There was a great adult and toddler swing which Scott probably enjoyed more than Teddy.

We pootled in the garden a lot and discovered that hitting a metal table with a big stick is both very noisy and thoroughly rewarding. Thankfully the neighbours, on both sides, have young children or I'd still be apologising for the racket.

I buy some reins for Teddy (a turtle backpack style set) which at least allowed for freer/safer walking out past the lane they live in. He wasn't impressed to start with but later he wasn't for parting without them.

During the week, Cara drives us up to Kendal for lunch with Hannah, Alice and Lowri. They were having a few days in the Lakes. We spent an enjoyable couple of hours stuffing our faces and chatting. Teddy maxed-out on aunties and uncle, who generously obliged the wee fella's every whim. He was suitably zonked on the drive home.

A trip out to Trafford Palazzo saw us visit the Sea Life centre. Teddy enjoyed it all - he doesn't know sharks have teeth. The Lego shop was a must, and I buy some for Vinjar (Teddy's cousin in Norway) but none for Scott. Aahh.

The Palazzo is a strange venue, described as '...the place for everyday adventures'. The decor is Italian/Roman style with murals, columns, statues, and a central fountain of naked mermaids holding urns. We considered buying bras or vests to cover the obvious chill they were displaying!

So a fun week full of play, stories, walks, meals in and out, coffee with Judy's parents, some babysitting, visits from Cara and Alex, and a much needed haircut. My mobile is suffering from burnout, and begging for mercy, as I snap loads of pictures of Teddy.

Robert has held the fort whilst I've been away. This includes, by default, keeping an eye on Dad. Although, Dad probably thinks it's the other way round.

As Tuesday (7th) dawns it is obvious that there will be no flights in to Fair Isle. A number of flights from south have turned back to mainland airports. The snow showers have been heavy, especially north of Lerwick with some areas cut off and all schools shut, including Fair Isle Primary.

I'm staying in Sandwick so my niece Kaylee-Ann is keeping me busy. She is doing disability inclusion training and some sports coaching. Many of you know of Kaylee-Ann and will appreciate the effort she puts in, and her achievements. Her and her Granda are learning Norwegian - godt gjort at de prøvde. I'll stick to the drum lessons delivered by Kaylee-Ann when I visit.

I venture a walk in the snow but can't persuade Kaylee-Ann or Wendy outside, not even for a snowball fight. Rubber boots would have helped but the size options available were 6 or 11. No use to me.

Another day in a winter wonderland. Andrew having headed to Lerwick returns as his training event was cancelled. I quiz Dave, along with everyone else no doubt, for the chances of getting home. The response isn't favourable.

We take a run out to Scalloway for lunch at the Cornerstone café. It's popular with Kaylee-Ann, who seems to know everyone. Later we walk the Rompa road and Kaylee-Ann builds a snowman.

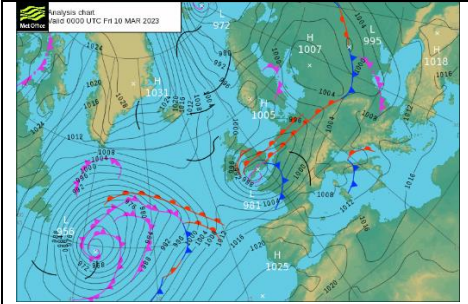
Following a few messages and calls, there's a chance that stranded islanders might be able to get a seat on the 'Ruby May' heading to the isle to collect some Danish visitors stuck in Fair Isle. Thanks go to them for putting the offer out. I'll be glad to get home despite the mode of transport.

In other news: Wild Isles with David Attenborough will feature Shetland - BBC1 this Sunday.

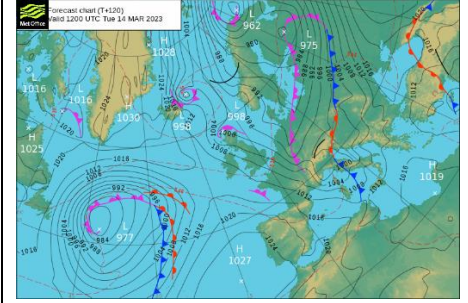
See you soon...  
Fiona, Stackhoull

*(Editor – Fiona did make it home, and not green in the face whatsoever!!)*

**FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST**



Analysis Chart 0000 UTC  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023



Forecast Chart 1200 UTC  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**GENERAL SITUATION**

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Northern Scotland lies in a cold, slack northerly airflow to the north of a depression currently clearing east over southern England. As the low continues east, a cold showery northerly airflow will freshen across Shetland tonight. As another depression tracks northeast towards the British Isles, milder air will try to push northeast across Scotland during the weekend though it seems unlikely to reach the Northern Isles with a north-easterly airflow developing by Monday as the low moves into southern Scandinavia. By Tuesday it is likely the Northern Isles will be back in a cold northerly airflow until Thursday when a depression tracking east across mainland Scotland brings a temporary easterly airflow soon backing northerly again.

**OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND**

Temperatures around 2° Celsius by day and -1° overnight. Slightly less cold Sunday.

**FRIDAY 10<sup>th</sup>:** Remaining cold, sunny spells and scattered wintry showers to start becoming more frequent, of snow and heavier this afternoon and evening. F3-4 N'ly winds freshening F5. A cold night with snow showers and a F5-6 N'ly wind.

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

**SATURDAY 11<sup>th</sup>:** A cold day with some snow showers and F5-6 NNW'ly winds easing a little through the day. E'ly winds strengthening overnight bringing further wintry showers.

**Sea State:** Mostly moderate with a 2 metre N'ly wind swell but increasing 2 to 3 metre in the north.

**SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup>:** A rather cloudy raw day with scattered wintry showers and a F5-6 NW'ly wind. **Sea State:** Mainly moderate with a 2 metre N'ly wind swell.

**FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK**

Temperatures around 3° Celsius by day, -1° overnight. A milder midweek at 4° or 5° then colder again.

**MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup>:** Generally cloudy with scattered wintry showers. Feeling bitterly cold in fresh occasionally strong N'ly winds. Snow possible later and overnight. **Sea State:** Mainly moderate with a 2 metre NNW'ly wind swell.

**TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup>:** A cold brighter day with frequent wintry showers and fresh to strong N'ly winds.

**Sea State:** Mostly moderate with a 2 metre N'ly wind swell.

**WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> – SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup>:** Still the odd wintry shower on Wednesday along with sunny spells and fresh N'ly winds. Freshening E'ly winds on Thursday with rain or sleet. Lighter winds on Friday freshening NE'ly for the weekend bringing showers, probably wintry. **Sea State Wednesday:** Mostly moderate with a 2 metre N'ly wind swell.

Dave Wheeler

