



VOLUME 46 ISSUE 10

PUBLISHED SINCE 1978

17th MARCH 2023

My Weekend

Although we had snow at the start of the week, by the middle of the week it had nearly all gone, but then by Saturday there were the deepest snowdrifts I have seen on Fair Isle - they went up to my knees! I went sledging with Harris and was very lucky to get a new handmade sledge from Neil (thanks Neil, it's really great)! Dad and I went on a walk after feeding the sheep in the morning. It took us ages to get us anywhere because I kept going in the snowdrifts to play. We went to Gilly Burn where the snow drifts were really deep on the hill and played some more. Then we walked through the fields to Schoolhouse to pick up Harris to go sledging in the Shirva hay-park. On the way from Schoolhouse to Shirva, there were more big snowdrifts between USB and LSB so we had to jump in them too! Even Gillian joined in with sledging. It was lots of fun. Then we went in for some hot chocolate. I was then invited to Schoolhouse. We played Minecraft and had crisps and Irn Bru!

Sunday was a chill day. We played a game of Risk, which I won and we watched the new David Attenborough series, 'Wild Isles'. It reminded me that not everyone gets to live

next door to gannets and puffins and we are very lucky that we get to do so.

On Monday, after school, I went to Houll. We played spies and reported to each other what Eileen was doing. It was lots of fun! Then before I left, Eileen gave me an early birthday present, which is a very cosy, pink winter coat!

Freyja (10)

Snow Fun

On Friday we all went to Freyja's for a cinema night. We had popcorn and crisps. On Saturday I went sledging with Freyja, David and Mum. On the way to Shirva, Freyja and I jumped into the snow drifts. It was so deep and I stuck my face right into it! There was just enough snow for us to sledge. Mum went down too. After that we went in for hot chocolate and biscuits. Freyja came to my house and we played Minecraft One Block World. On Sunday, I went for a walk with Dad and did parkour on the grassy banks. Parkour is when you do tricks and jumps.

Harris (8)



A Movie Day

We went to Freyja's house on Friday afternoon to watch a movie. The film was called "Cloudy with a chance of meatballs 2". The film was good. Nannan and Daddad came to babysit us when Mummy and Daddy went to darts. We had some fun playing games. Brodie came to visit us on Saturday afternoon. Amy brought us a melt-able Percy Pig that was strawberry flavoured, we had to put it in warm milk to melt it, it had marshmallows in it and tasted like strawberry - woohoo!! Brodie was hilarious.

Luca (7)



Fair Isle in the Viking Age and in *Orkneyinga saga*

Judith Jesch, Professor of Viking Studies at the University of Nottingham, has got in touch to let us know about some plans she is hatching. She is currently working on a new translation of *Orkneyinga saga* which will have more extensive and more up-to-date notes than the current Penguin translation. In connection with this she is planning a project focusing on some of the smaller communities mentioned in the saga, including Fair Isle. She and her researchers are hoping to visit several times between February 2024 and May 2025 to learn more about the island, its place-names and its Viking and Norse history. They are particularly interested in creating materials based on the saga, on the place-names and on the archaeology of the island, for schoolchildren, residents and visitors, but with input from islanders and their perspectives. Judith visited the island for one glorious day in August 2021 (see photo) and is very much looking forward to returning. To learn more about Judith see her webpage <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/csva/people/judith.jesch>. If you would like to talk to her about the project, please feel free to email judith.jesch@nottingham.ac.uk

Professor Judith Jesch, FBA, Centre for the Study of the Viking Age

NOTICES

Hall AGM – New date – Thursday 30th March at 3pm in the Committee Room. This is a public meeting so members of the public are invited to join.

Telephone bank scam – just a warning that someone in the isle received a scam call pretending to be from their bank recently, just a reminder to all to be very cautious if your bank calls – it is likely to be a scam! Hang up and call your bank back directly to check if you are concerned.

Chapel – Sunday at 11am, all welcome to join in, Neil leading.

Da week dat's awa...

FRIDAY Well, I did say to the pilot "We won't be seeing you this week". No plane, no weather for flying, snow and ice at Tingwall all week. Snow for sledging, the brae to the east of wirris (our house) is splendid for sledging, not inclined to 'hurtle' as you might on the Houll... A week o' fine weather otherwise, light winds and sunshine. I wonder what it'll take to change the C.A.A.'s mind. The boat goes to get a full load of feeding etc, we really appreciate the crew and their hard work.

SATURDAY Still snow lying, last touches to the sledge I'm making, the right-angle brackets are very handy for strengthening the aforesaid construction, I have one left. David very kindly came with four of a different design, but I've taken to emptying boxes of *far too good to throw away BRUK* on the garage floor, and found another two of the type I'm using, only needed one, still have enough for one quarter of another sledge... Hmmmm...

SUNDAY Still some snow lying. Chapel with John leading, thanks John. Great hymns to test the vocal cords, it's always good to start the week with a positive thought. The afternoon spent at Houll, Man United were playing Southampton, a nil all draw. The keepers made some amazing saves to keep it thus, better than the Six Nations Rugby's nine million to seven that the French beat Scotland by... Ach...

MONDAY Clear the workshop bench, the east one, easier said than done... A morning spent sorting through more BRUK, the plane can't get for the other reason (the flights are, very much, a hit or a miss here): WIND... "A fine ert" is all you can say, it's gusting 47kts - "whit neest". Had what was left of the curried lamb's shoulder for lunch, mmm, it's always better the second day. A suitable use of a shoulder.

TUESDAY Snow overnight means the Shetland schools are closed, our one is still open, two or three cm here contrasts strongly with two or three feet of snow in Shetland. Still no flights, wind is outside limits, not that the airstrip is free for use, 60 percent coverage at Tingwall Airport. Attack the muckle workshop bench to clear more bruk, trip over some firewood still to be chopped up in the process, end up chopping up same... Oh well... The muckle bench can wait. I've noticed this is in English with just one or two frisle words, it must be easier for the computer or something ... Hmm! Fierce showers.

WEDNESDAY Snow mostly gone, temperatures a balmy 4 degrees - a lovely day! The washing is put on first thing and hung out by quarter to ten, what a lovely day. I can't go inside. Set the fire - aaagh it's too fine for a fire! The weather - I'm not used to this! I clean out the porch: everything goes on the pavement. Don looks bewildered, both doors open, a nice through draught. I sweep and wash and it is dry in no time. Then to put new bedding etc for Don dog, then a trip to the shop... What a lovely day. I check the traps for signs of rats. We are lucky to live on an isle with no rats, but, with all this coming and going of work boats etc, we are checking various sites to make sure. It is lovely weather (oops, did I say that before?) so we go for a walk to the Heid o' Tind. The other flapper skate that came ashore is in the hole o' Muckle Urigeo.

Wow. We go to the meeting in the evening, it's difficult to object to anything when your mouth is full of brownie...

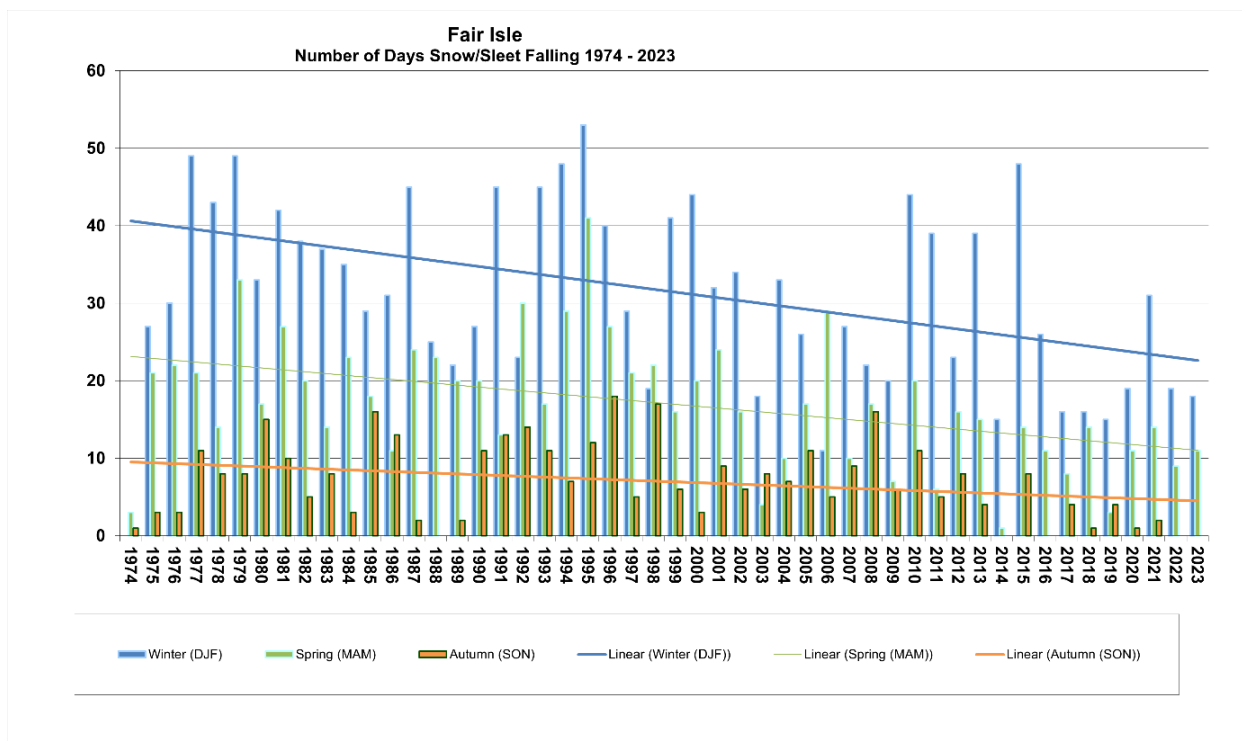
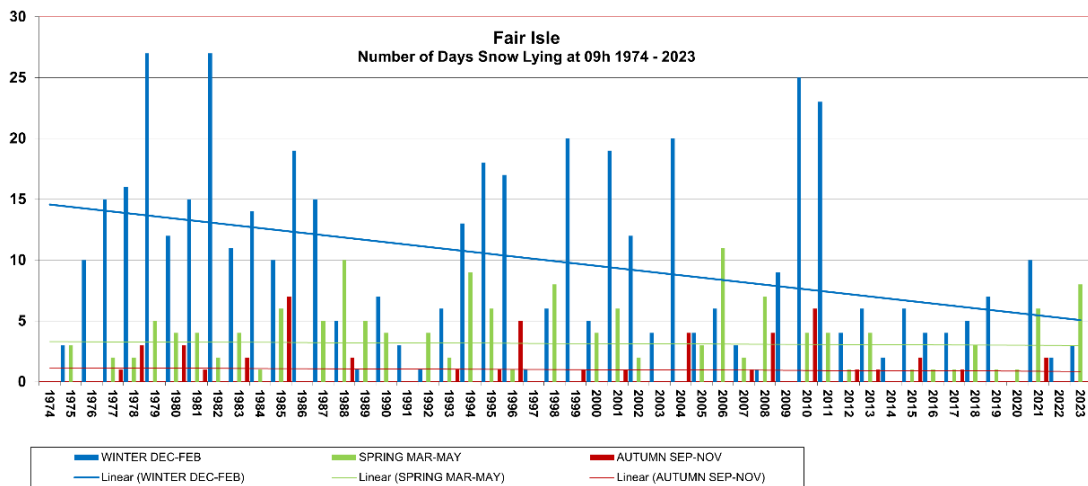
THURSDAY Will the plane come? Will it not come? That is the question. The cloud lowers menacingly... No plane! The wind increases equally menacingly, it's now outside limits for more than one reason, cloud on the deck, crosswinds 130/21 gusting 31, hopeless. I put the new windscreen wiper mechanism on the Houll car Hotdog, success. Aaaargh, trying to do a cartoon for the Times, but have blank page-itis, not good, spend the whole afternoon staring at a blank Maavi Tongue. Then think of Sunday, Mothering Sunday no less, no inspiration alas but it's my turn to do the service...

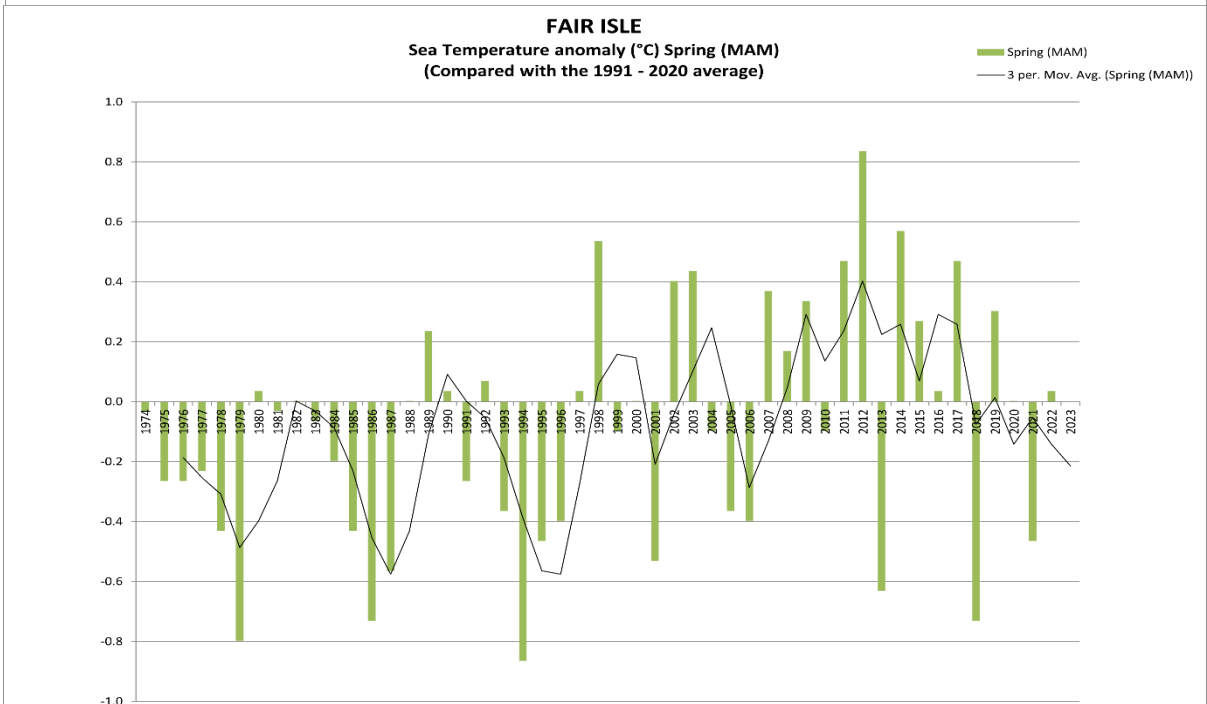
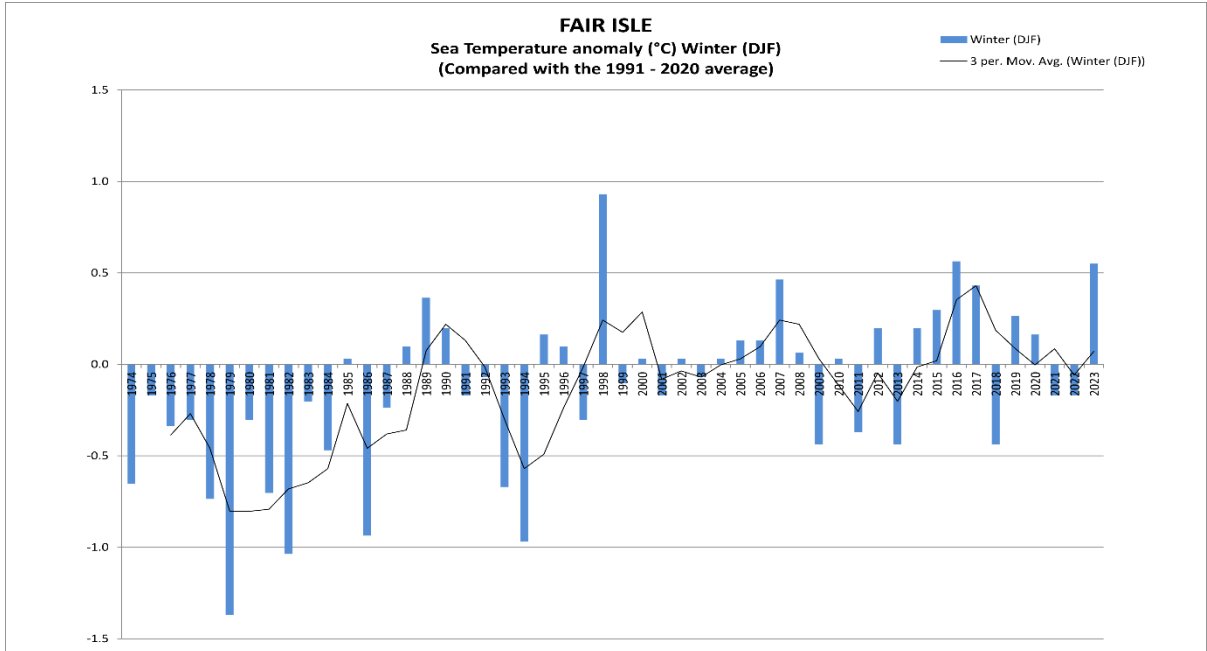
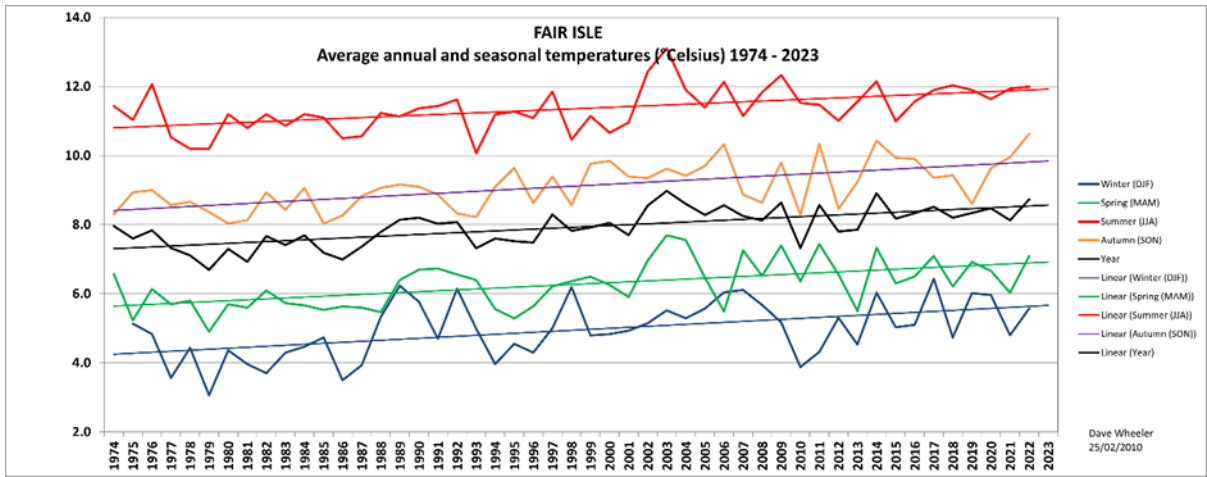
Finally get Maavi done. Phew!!!

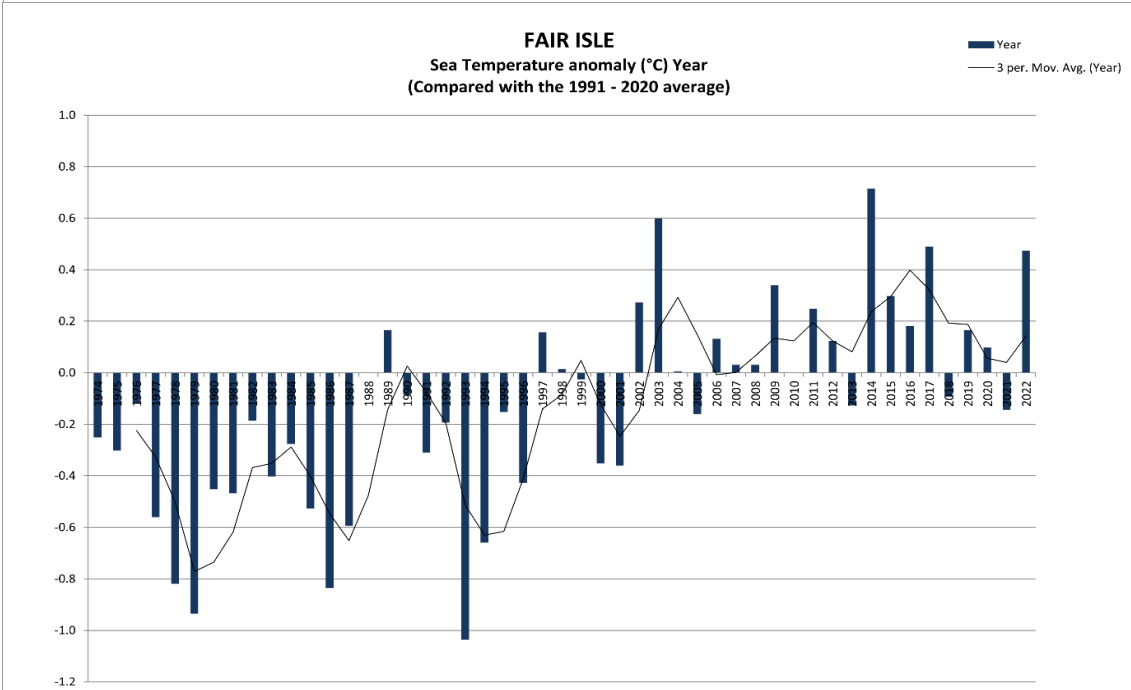
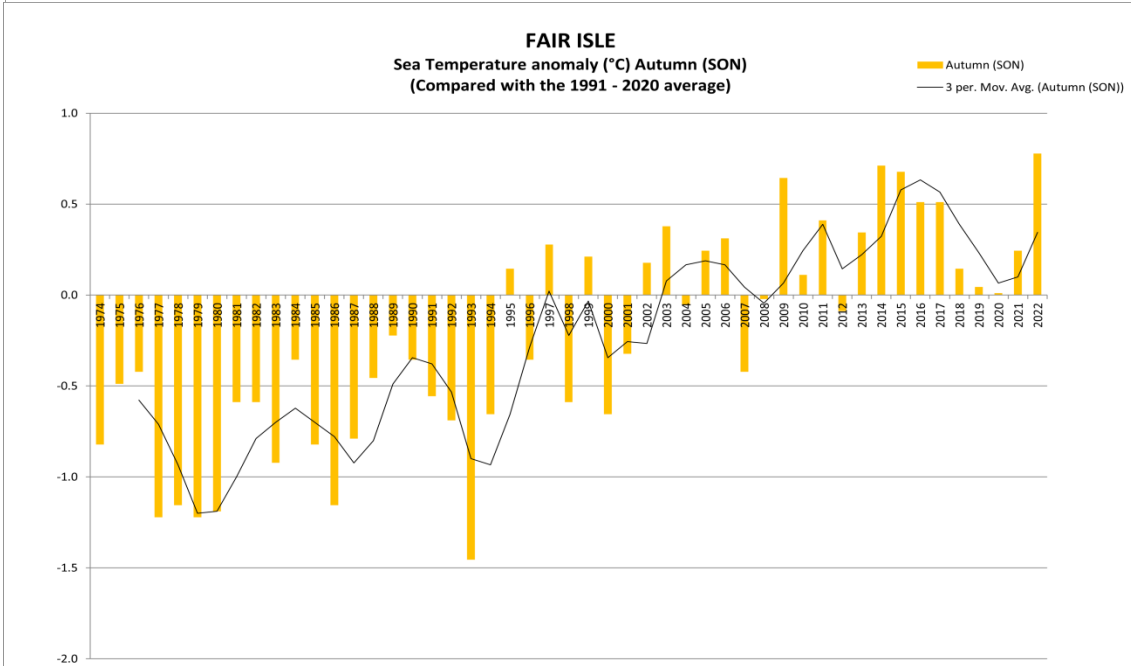
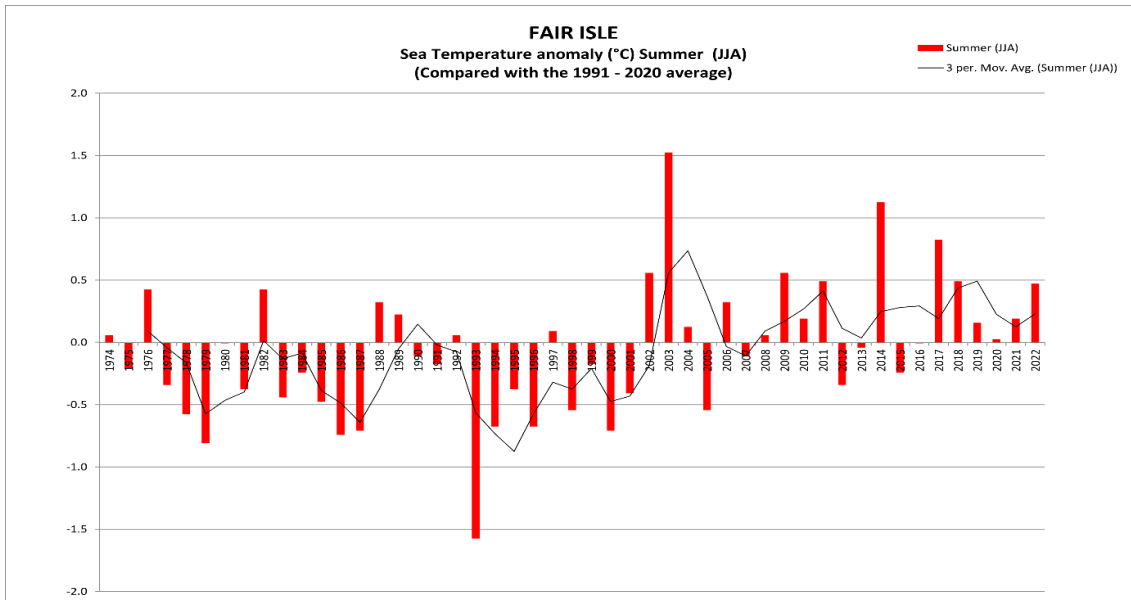
Neil at Steenibrekkar

Fair Isle Climate 1974 -2023
Temperature and Snow Cover

With the recent snow events in mind I thought it perhaps appropriate to share some data illustrating how climate change appears to be affecting our weather. To me the most obvious is the lack of winter snow and how what there is seems to occur more often in spring rather than winter. This may be happening because the warming of the sea during summer is happening later in the year than previously while winter sea temperatures are lowest later in spring.







FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST

Friday 17th March 2023

GENERAL SITUATION

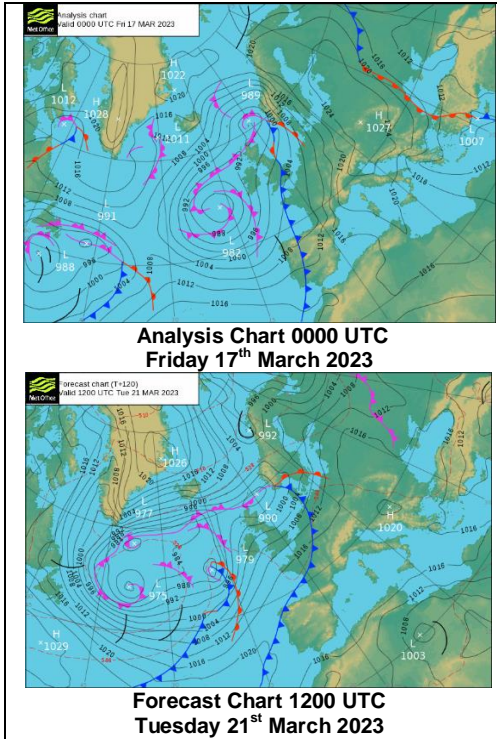
A complex area of low pressure covering much of the British Isles will drift north during the next 24-hours taking one centre just north of Shetland away while the second centre presently off south-west Ireland moves over northern Scotland. As this centre tracks across Shetland towards southwest Norway a strong but brief north-westerly airflow follows before a ridge brings a quieter spell on Sunday. The next Atlantic depression drives further fronts across the Northern Isles during the first part of next week followed by a northerly airflow to end the week as low pressure moves away into southern Scandinavia.

OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND

Temperatures 7° or 8° Celsius by day 3° or 4° overnight. Sunday a colder 5° with 1° overnight

FRIDAY 17th: A brighter day possibly with the odd shower otherwise mostly dry. Mainly dry with clear spells overnight, F5 W'y winds veering NW then N'y. **Sea State:** Mostly moderate with a 2 metre E'y wind swell.

SATURDAY 18th: Mainly dry though rather cloudy with the odd light shower possible later. F5-6 ESE'y winds. Some rain overnight, possibly with sleet later. **Sea State:** Moderate to rough with a 2 to 3 metre NE'y wind swell.



SUNDAY 19th: Early rain or sleet dying out then sunny intervals, isolated showers. Mainly dry and bright. F5 NNW'y winds easing F4. Risk of an overnight frost as skies clear and wind falls light. **Sea State:** Mainly moderate with a 2 metre N'y wind swell.

FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK A cool week with temperatures 4° or 5° Celsius by day, 1° to 3° overnight with chance of frost.

MONDAY 20th: A bright cold start then clouding over later as SE'y winds freshen with rain arriving from the southwest overnight. **Sea State:** Slight to moderate with a 1 to 2 metre N'y wind swell.

TUESDAY 21st: A cold day with scattered wintry showers and fresh ENE'y winds. **Sea State:** Moderate to rough with a 2 to 3 metre NE'y wind swell.

WEDNESDAY 22nd – SUNDAY 26th: The end of the week cloudy with showers, some wintry, and fresh ENE'y winds turning NE'y then N'y by the weekend. **Sea State Wednesday:** Moderate or rough with a 2 to 3 metre NE'y wind swell.

Dave Wheeler

