



VOLUME 46 ISSUE 14

PUBLISHED SINCE 1978

28th APRIL 2023

### **Wrexham**

There is a football club called Wrexham and they just got promoted to League 2.

The thing that is special about this club is that their owners are from America and they are big movie stars. They were founded in 1864 and are the third oldest professional team in the world.

I am happy for them and I hope one day they can play in the Premier League. **Luca (8)**

### **My Sheep**

This weekend was a very chill one so instead I am writing about our sheep as they are a very big part of my life especially with lambing (only three to go!). We have five caddies, one of which has a completely black leg but the rest of which is white! We also have one of our old caddies from the Obs called Little Sam who is very tame (we got two caddies that year so one of them was called Big Sam and the other called Little Sam). I give her what I call VIP access to food. When we feed all the sheep I get a little tub full of feed so she doesn't have to push about at the trough! Sadly she is very old, so this is her last year. On the upside, next year we will get last year's caddies in the flock which is always good as they are easier to move about because they are so tame. We now have lots of lambs which is really nice. My favourite thing is when they jump about, it is so cute! I also help by checking on the sheep to see if there are any lambs. I help feed them as

well as the caddies. I would say the hardest thing to do is round them up especially without a dog. The hardest ones to round up are the Shetland sheep as they are very wild!

I hope you enjoyed reading all about my sheep although it can be quite tricky to look after them at some points. I really enjoy some of it too.

**Freyja (10)**

### **Visitors**

My Gran and Grandpa have been in Fair Isle for a week. When they arrived, I took them for a walk around the island. I showed them Hollie's caddies and we went all the way down to South Light to show them the rocks I like to climb on. I found some sea glass to take home. We went to see Harriet and her lambs and fed them some vegetables. On Friday Freyja, Luca and Ander came over to our house to play and we played Minecraft.

**Harris (8)**



## DA WEEK DAT'S AWA

FRIDAY starts with no wind and we can't see Burkle, so I don't think we'll be seeing the doctor. As the day went on the sun managed to burn off the fog and we ended up with a super day, bright sunshine and a very light E N E wind.

I managed to see one of Tommy's goldfinches, as well as a black redstart, two calloo (long-tailed duck), and three mergansers in the North Haven.

In the afternoon I took Triona up to the Voidal to see the flowering currants at the dam. This has been their best year I can remember, and their lovely red flowers really light up the bleakness of the blasted vegetation on the hill.

We headed up to the Haven and coincided with the *Ruby May*, which was starting a project to survey all the piers in Shetland. It was interesting to see the diver with his umbilical which meant he could talk and relay video to the boat. Changed days since Neil and I started scuba diving in the 1970s.

SATURDAY - Cold and dry with a bitter breeze from the N East.

Counted twelve wood pigeons on the Quoy brae. We've had the biggest number of these this year that I can remember, and are pretty much spread over the whole Isle. In the past they didn't get much of a chance, because they arrived just after the Shetland kale was planted, and they loved them! They were also very tasty so most of them ended up in the oven! Not much else in the way of birds, but we still have a sparrow hawk and merlin which have almost certainly overwintered.

Spent the rest of the afternoon in the workshop trying to find my workbench. I can't believe how fast it can go so completely out of sight. I didn't, however, find anything I didn't know was there, which is most unusual, as there is usually at least one tool I have been searching for, sometimes for years!

SUNDAY - Winter is back with a vengeance, and although we had the Chapel heating on early, when the rain came on we decided it was not weather for our mainly elderly congregation, so the service was cancelled.

After lunch I went on my usual bird run and when I got to the North Haven I could see waves overtopping the breakwater. I could also see that even though the tide was only half ebb, the beach had been totally cleaned of sand. Most people don't realise that when the wind comes in the sand goes out, and it won't return until we get a spell of S. Westerlies. Looking at Bunes from the Golden Water, I saw several waves burst right up to the grass and the whole point completely drenched in spray.

Apart from that my highlights were keeping up with the London Marathon, which really shows what people can and *are* doing to help not only themselves but also every kind of charity, and promote peace and goodwill between nations.

The best part for both Triona and myself is the theme tune from the film "The Trap". It is one of my favourite pieces of music and fits so well with the event.

MONDAY - Still very cold, but at least it's dry.

After feeding the hens and cat, Triona and I head over to Busta to wish Barry a happy birthday, as he is now 83! We had a lovely morning with Anne, Barry, Neil & Pat and Dave & Josie. We all helped Ander with a very nice planetary jigsaw. He is not just enthusiastic, he is extremely bright so it was fun to help him, although truth be told, he could easily have done it himself!

Not many birds around today but I did see a nice male snaful (snow bunting) at the Golden Water.

We then headed to the South Light for coffee & cakes, as it was also Josie's birthday. We also coincided with Pat & Neil, John Best and George the supply teacher, so between Busta, the South Light and showing Gillian and her Dad through the museum, I've had a very sociable day.

TUESDAY - Another cold day with a fresh to strong NNE wind.

What the old men described as "the wind that shuts the mooth o' every fish!" They wouldn't bite when the wind was up in the north, and the tides made the seas unpredictable and extremely dangerous. I have plenty of straw cleaned, so I can get on with Will & Jenny's chair. Triona has just seen a ring ouzel in front of the house, which could be the first for the year, so obviously some birds are moving in spite of the weather.

Went into the workshop and the first thing I managed to do was snap the handle of the brush I use to clean all my machinery. I tried the super glue option, but because there was a bend in it I couldn't get it cramped up properly, so I finished up with wood & screws.

Eileen appeared with some finishing, so coffee took a bit longer than usual so not much more happened in the workshop, but at least everything is brushed & cleaned.

Not a lot to be seen on my afternoon run, but there are a few more bonxies on the hill now and they are managing to find food, as sadly we are losing a few lambs with this cold weather. They will kill lambs, but I think the cold and sleet is the biggest culprit just now. My good deed for the day was coming across Nick just finishing his Hill rota, so he was very grateful for a lift home. Spent the evening catching up with the snooker, which has certainly not been predictable this year, with a few old die-hards managing to get through, but quite a number of the players are younger and not so well known. It will be interesting to see who reaches the final.

WEDNESDAY - Another bright but cold day.

The wind has backed slightly west of north, and I can see showers out to the west. The sea is slightly better so the boat is on its way. Not much in the way of birds so it's a quick coffee & out to the workshop. I had a build-up of bits and pieces of wood in the bottom garage that Triona wanted out of the road, so the bulk of the day was removing nails & cutting firewood & kindlers. I had to go to Skerryholm for petrol, the main topic of conversation was the severe cold!

THURSDAY is a welcome change. Bright and sunny with no wind and a sea that makes you wish your boat is in the water. I see on the A. I. S. that the small boats are at the cod fishing off Sumburgh, so the fish could also be here, as they were in the past.

After picking up the boxes at the shop, Triona and I went to Busta for coffee. We then had a very nice wander with Barry round the Heid o' Tind. We were quite surprised to see the quantity and size of the limpets the shelders had been eating. Then home for some very nice soup & rolls, courtesy of Triona, who always lives up to the mark when it comes to food!

Still fine in the afternoon, but the mills are turning and you can see it's "biggin in" as wir ancestors would say. Nothing exciting around, so I'll give this to Triona who types it up & sends it to Eileen.

Hope you've had a good week & best wishes for the next.

Stewart

## ISLE NOTICES

**Hall subscription reminder.** Thank you to all those who have paid their annual Hall subscription already. For the few households that haven't yet paid, the box is no longer in the shop but you can either give the money to me directly at LSB or pay by bank transfer. This money helps to maintain the hall and pay towards fuel costs etc. The subscription is £20 per person or £40 per household

Bank details are 'Fair Isle Community Hall', Acc 60180316, S.C. 82 66 08

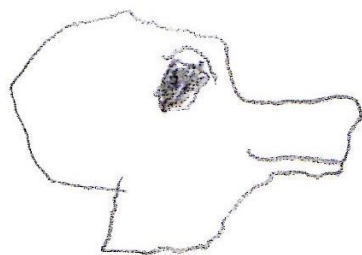
Thank you,

Pat

**Chapel this Sunday with John** – all welcome to join at 11am. Neil will be accompanying the hymns on the guitar. Also, a point of interest, it is 70 years this week since John preached his first service, congratulations on reaching this milestone!

**First cruise ships of the year** – Ocean Nova is due to visit the isle on Sunday 7th May in the morning and again on Tuesday 9th in the afternoon, I will be sending further information to those involved soon and keep folk in touch via the WhatsApp group. Please let me know if you are planning to have a stall in the Hall, we will set up on Saturday. Let's hope for fine weather!

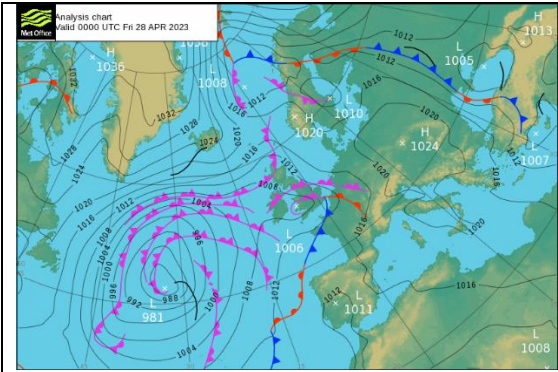
Eileen



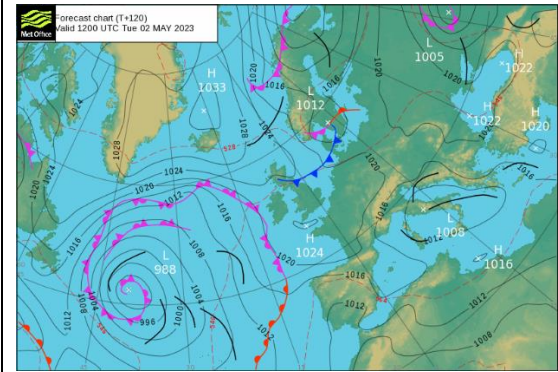
Good to see that Neil is training a replacement cartoonist for when he is too auld for drawin Maavi!!

Whitnest  
Ander5

# FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



Analysis Chart 0000 UTC  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023



Forecast Chart 1200 UTC  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023

## GENERAL SITUATION

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023

A shallow trough of low pressure lying over the Northern Isles will be displaced south as a weak ridge bringing drier air builds from Greenland towards north Scotland. This will be short-lived with a showery trough moving in from the west later on Sunday before being pushed away east as the Azores Anticyclone is forecast to link across the British Isles with the East Greenland High. Pressure is expected to remain relatively high over the UK through much of next week with the North and Northeast continuing cooler than expected for the time of year.

## OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND

Somewhat milder than of late with temperatures around 7° or 8° Celsius by day and 4° overnight.

**FRIDAY 28<sup>th</sup>:** A dull start with occasionally heavy rain, mist and hill fog. Turning drier and brighter through the afternoon though cooler again as the F5 E wind backs NNE. Mostly dry but cloudy overnight.

**Sea State:** Mostly moderate with a 2 metre SE'ly wind swell turning NE.

**SATURDAY 29<sup>th</sup>:** A little brightness but mostly cloudy though dry. F4 NW winds. **Sea State:** Mostly moderate with a 2 metre N'ly wind swell.

**SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup>:** Cloudy with chance of showery rain later. A F3-4 NNE wind. **Sea State:** Mostly moderate with a 2 metre NNW'ly wind swell.

## FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK

Cool for time of year with temperatures generally around 8° Celsius by day, 4° overnight. Possibly the occasional 10° or 11°.

**MONDAY 1<sup>st</sup>:** Some early showers then mainly dry though cloudy. Cool with a light N'ly breeze.

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

**TUESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Perhaps a few brighter moments but generally cloudy with chance of a shower and a moderate NW wind turning NE or E. **Sea State:** Mostly moderate with a 2 metre N'ly wind swell.

**WEDNESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> – SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup>:** Remaining mainly dry and often cloudy with mostly light winds. Any brighter spells along with lighter winds may see daytime temperatures rise into double-digits.

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

Surprisingly the mean daily temperature (so far) for April '23 is 6.6° Celsius. The comparable figure over the period 1974 - 2000 for April is 5.6°.

Sunshine total at 180.7hr is well above the 1976 - 2000 average of 148.7 hours.

Dave Wheeler

