

Fair Isle Times

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Fun Weekend

On Friday, we had dinner at Houll and played for ages. On Saturday, I was out for a walk with mum and Heidi, and I checked Sweetie and her baby Suffolks. I saw Luca and Ander in the field. Then I played at Houll on the trampoline for ages. Luca and I walked to meet mum at Felicity's but she was still feeding the cats so we played with Don by the shop. We ripped off pieces of Angelica and got him to sit and lie down before we threw it for him.

On Sunday, mum and I used mouldable plastic to make a model of Six (a character). Mum put very very hot water over a bunch of tiny plastic balls. After 30 seconds she picked out the blob and I could mould it into shape but you had to be fast as it turns to solid plastic very quickly.

Harris (8)



My Weekend

On Saturday, Harris came to play. We played a game in our garden because it was nice and sunny. It was a Minecraft game. We found an old box and we had some rope, so we put the rope on the box so that we could put stuff in and drag it. It was useful. We were collecting stones and wood and old thistles. We basically collected all the materials we found around us, even pottery and rusty metal! We chucked them into the field and made a base. It was lovely because Harris came to play.

We went to eat crepes at Marie's on Monday, the crepes were yummy. Thank you for inviting us Marie!

Luca (8)

My Adventurous Week

This week I missed a day of school because I went to Shetland for an appointment. When we got there, we put our stuff at the flat then went to the swimming pool with Grace for two hours! Then we went out for a meal at the Gurkha Kitchen, but they were full, so we got a takeaway instead. The next day we had lunch at the Great Wall. We went to Harry's and I bought a soft, soft toy, I think it is a sea monster. I also got a spy pen, some nice new shoes and I got an ice cream.

On Friday we were meant to be going to Lerwick for a school trip but it was cancelled because of the weather. Although next week, we are going on another school trip, I hope the weather is better then!

This weekend we decided we were going to go on a scavenger hunt up Ward Hill (which is 217m high!), as we do almost every year. We also had to go on Hill Rota. We drove to the Haven and had a look on the beach for some of the items on our scavenger hunt list, then we went and checked Bunes in case there were any abandoned lambs. We checked Roskillie then we walked up Ward Hill. After a while we got to the top of the very windy Ward Hill, so we had our packed lunch on the lee slope. Tomato soup followed by sweets - yummy! Some of the scavenger hunt things were tricky to find. Five types of different coloured flower was hard. We had to find something we could eat, and then eat it, so we found some scurvy grass where we were having lunch and each ate a leaf, it was surprisingly nice! The last thing we ticked off was 'an egg or eggshell', which in the end was the Haribo sweetie egg in our packed lunch! Then we came back down and walked to Shirva (we left the car at the Haven!) and just had time to get ready before we went to Houll for dinner (which was also yummy!).

Freyja (10)



Congratulations to Rachel at Barkland on finding this awesome Flapper Skate egg case in the Isle recently – certainly one of the best mermaid's purses you can see!! What a beautiful find!

Fair Isle Times interview – this week we are getting to know Sally, the Fair Isle Ranger for 2023...

Name: Sally Kunzig

Age: 23

How long has Fair Isle been your home? I arrived on the 27th of March 2023, so as of writing this, 39 days! I'm here until the end of October and very excited to see all the different seasons that occur during that time – I have a feeling it'll feel like more than just 3!

Who do you live with? I'm living down at South Light with the FIBO team, Alex, Georgia and Patrick. Luckily also now with working heating and hot water!

What is your earliest memory? I have a notoriously bad memory, but recently I have been going through all my old photos (to prepare my hard drives for the barrage of seabird photos I'm bound to be taking this summer), so instead of a memory, here are some photos of me when I was very young! (The first is when I was around two and my sweet tooth has only grown since then 😊. The second is the classic first day at primary school photo.)



When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up and why? After watching reruns of Blue Planet when I was about 8, and seeing someone with the job title card 'Marine Biologist' under their name on TV, I said that's what I wanted to do! My family and I are from Berkshire (totally landlocked) and used to go on summer holidays down to Cornwall, so I knew I loved playing in the sea, looking into rockpools and when I realised I could actually do marine biology as a job, I took it and ran with it!

What do you do for a living? I am the ranger for FIBO this season, hence living here on Fair Isle. Before being here I finished my undergraduate degree in Marine Biology and Coastal Ecology from the University of Plymouth – so fresh out of university and ready to learn about the real world...ish 😊

If you didn't live in Fair Isle, what would you like to do for a living? If not this island, then I suspect I would be on another island also doing seabird monitoring. The funny thing about marine biology degrees is that you don't actually learn about fish all that much. There's a wide variety of teachings on ecology and conservation, or genetics if that's your interest, during the whole degree, with examples from every type of marine taxa you can think of. It was only during my second year at university that I worked out that ornithology was the part of the marine world that interested me the most... and so I've sort of worked

backwards from there. Building up practical skills like bird ID and ringing are a bonus for me to get to work with all different seabird species. Essentially, I'm already living the dream!

If you had a free, 'fantasy' 24 hours with no travel restrictions – where would you go and what would you do? I would love to go to Costa Rica and just exist in the biodiversity there. Go SCUBA diving, visit the cloud rainforests, see an abundance of birds (that I almost definitely couldn't name!) and just live and breathe the wildlife there. Either that or renting a beach villa somewhere warm and inviting all my friends to come out diving, drinking and chatting, just have a good time together!

I've also read this as if I could go somewhere fantastical where would that be, and I would go straight to Berk from the How to Train Your Dragon books – which honestly, isn't too dissimilar from Fair Isle (just missing the dragons!).

What is the most enjoyable thing you do? SCUBA diving. It's fantastically peaceful under the water. I've been lucky enough to dive in a bunch of exciting locations, many of my favourites actually being in the UK. After diving with some friends of mine at university, they encouraged me to get a camera and housing to enjoy being underwater even more...and they were right. A couple of my favourite photos...



Cuttlefish in Porthkerris, Cornwall, 2020.



Young grey seal off Lundy, 2021.

What is the hardest thing you do? Also probably SCUBA diving! Not only is the equipment a bit finicky at times, and heavy to lug down rocky shores to get to the fun diving locations, but during my degree I did the HSE ProSCUBA course that gave me a commercial diving licence. It was great fun, but a lot of hard work!



Me in a full-face mask with comms fitted, diving in a quarry, demonstrating how to collect a water sample underwater, 2019.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years' time? If I've not been down to the Southern Ocean to do seabird research, then I would definitely like to be there in 10 years. Ideally, I will get to do that before then, and instead I'll be finishing off a PhD on the behavioural ecology of a seabird species. Lots of hard work in my future, and many more islands covered in seabirds!

What has occupied your time this week? I've led my first guided walk (today!) which was encouraging for the rest of the tourist season. I've spent a lot of time doing Shorewatches for cetaceans off South Light, and even with all the time I spent looking out to sea, Patrick was the first to see two harbour porpoises off SL one afternoon this week. Luckily I managed to see them before they swam off somewhere out of sight! I also did the monthly biosecurity check of all the monitoring boxes around the island this week – everyone will be glad to hear the mice are ok and there's no sign of anything else. Hoping it stays that way for the rest of this season!



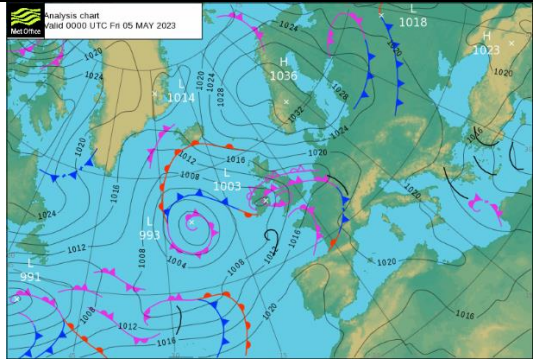
Me about to do a Shorewatch off South Light this week.



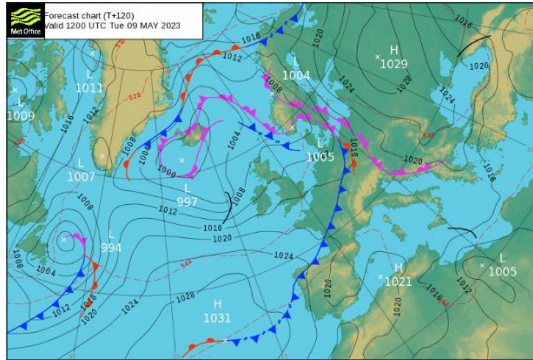
There are always a few particularly boannie lambs in the Hill, but huge thanks to Georgia for capturing these photos of some real beauties!

Chapel on Sunday at 11am with Susannah – might change depending on whether cruise ship comes!

FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



Analysis Chart 0000 UTC
Friday 5th May 2023



Forecast Chart 1200 UTC
Tuesday 9th May 2023

GENERAL SITUATION

Friday 5th May 2023

A depression west of the British Isles is strengthening the south-easterly airflow of an anticyclone. A depression west of the British Isles is strengthening the south-easterly airflow as an anticyclone centred across western Scandinavia blocks its progress, deflecting it away towards Iceland during the next few days. With high pressure forecast to decline eastwards low pressure southwest of Iceland will be the dominant feature of our weather, with an unsettled lighter southerly airflow for the start of next week, this gradually becoming a lighter west to north-westerly as the filling low drifts east to the south of Iceland.

OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND

Temperatures around 9° Celsius by day and 7° or 8° overnight. **FRIDAY 5th:** Some early brightness otherwise cloudy and dry though patchy light rain possible late evening and overnight. Strong F6 SE winds.

Sea State: Mostly moderate with a 2 metre SE wind swell.

SATURDAY 6th: Cloudy and misty with patchy light rain and hill fog. F6 SSE winds.

Sea State: Rough with a 3 to 4 metre SE wind swell.

SUNDAY 7th: Cloudy with patchy light rain, mist and hill fog. F6 SSE winds.

Sea State: Mostly moderate with a 2 metre SE wind swell.

FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK

Temperatures 10° or 11° Celsius by day, 8° overnight/ **MONDAY 8th:** Cloudy with outbreaks of mostly light rain. Some mist and low cloud becoming drier and clearer by evening as strong SE winds veer S and ease. **Sea State:** Moderate or rough at first with a 2 metre SE wind swell. **TUESDAY 9th:** Cloudy with scattered showers and fresh SW winds. **Sea State:** Mostly slight with a 1 metre S wind swell. **WEDNESDAY 10th – SUNDAY 14th:** An occasional shower on Wednesday otherwise mainly dry though cloudy with mostly moderate SW winds. Thursday dry with light NW winds, the week then ending changeable with some showery rain and mostly light winds. **Sea State Wednesday:** Mostly slight with a 1 metre SW wind swell.

Dave Wheeler

