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My Crazy Week

Last week was a bit crazy because me and Gillian were ill so we missed three days of school. Nana, Gramps and Grace were also here (Grace for her Birthday and Nana and Gramps for Grace and I's birthdays). Grace was due out the Monday morning plane but got stuck for the rest of the week because of fog. We decided to keep her in for Friday and home school whilst I was at school. That meant we had her for another weekend which was epic! During that time we played a lot of games! We played a really fun one on Grace's birthday where we played a murder mystery that takes a very long time but is really fun! You get given cards which give you your nationality and job which means you can get quite tricky accents! Grace won which is no surprise as her character did it! We also played a new Dominion which Grace got for her birthday. It is really cool with lots of new cards, we are all very excited. We also played Monopoly which Dad won though I was quite close.

Saturday, we watched Eurovision. I especially liked Finland's and Germany's performances though Germany was a bit weird.

Saturday evening, we drove up to north lighthouse, looked at puffins for a while, then some of us walked back. When we arrived back at Shirva, Dad, Grace and I watched some new Star Wars that has come out with a cup of hot chocolate. It was great fun!

Freyja (10)

(This is the last time I will write ten in FIT because my birthday is on Saturday!)

My Holiday

We went to Aberdeen. We went to Aberdeen because we were going to see Strictly the Professionals. We went with Pat (go on then, Nannan). We went on a plane of course, not a boat as it would have taken way too many hours and we would have been sick too many times!

We stayed in a hotel which was right next to the bus station, it was a good hotel. We went to Wagamama for lunch. We went to Codona's and there was a soft play in it. Then we found out there were dodgems so we played on them. I basically broke Nannan's knee off because I was driving so well! Only some bits were hard to control! We had a great time.

After we came back from Aberdeen, we were going to get a school trip. Freyja and Harris didn't make it out but the Foula ones did and we got to do lots of stuff. We went on the climbing wall and I got to write my name on a special board because I climbed the whole wall only using the orange grips which was good. I've never even gotten up the wall before. On my second climb I started shivering as I was so high up! On my third try I was still shaking but I still got to the top.

Luca (8)

My Weekend

We didn't get to go on our school trip last week because it was foggy. Luca and Ander were stuck in Lerwick so it was just me, Freyja and Heidi. Luca was back on Friday. It was sunny so I went for a cycle with Dad after school. We didn't get far because we stopped at Stackhoull to play with Luca and Ander. When we finished playing me and dad went back home. We didn't do much at the weekend. Mum and Heidi were unwell so me and dad played the Xbox loads!

Harris (8)

ISLE NOTICES

CHAPEL – no service this Sunday

FAIR ISLE COMMON GRAZING - A public meeting for the above common grazings will be held for the purpose of appointing a new Grazings Committee, in the Committee Room, Fair Isle Community Hall, Monday 22nd May at 7.30pm.

Dave Wheeler, Grazings Clerk.

GOOD SHEPHERD SAILING INFO – Please note that there will not be a sailing to Grutness on Thursday 25th May, sailings next week will be Tuesday and Saturday weather permitting as usual. Thanks, Ian

POST OFFICE – The Post Office will be closed Saturday 20th May, Shop will be open as usual. Fiona

CRUISE SHIP VISITS - We are due to have 3 ships visiting w/c 22nd May, on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday mornings. The Hall and Museum will be open as usual so please remind any guests and visitors that they are welcome to come along for tea and homebakes at the Hall those mornings.

HAPPY 11TH BIRTHDAY TO FAIR ISLE PRIMARY'S HEAD GIRL FREYJA!!

Thank you for all your fantastic writing for the Times, Freyja, keep it up!

Da week dat's awa...

Guess who forgot to ask someone to do da week dat's awa... In my defence we only got back to the Isle on Thursday afternoon after an extended foggy week in Lerwick. Seems like we've been away an awful lot recently – Argentina or Aberdeen. Where's next? Amsterdam? Antigua? Antananarivo? Arbroath, maybe? So, I'm staying put for a while. Home is very much where the heart is. Aberdeen was fun though, we got to see the Strictly Professionals (shame we weren't allowed to have a go on stage!), went bowling, to the cinema and had a day with Uncle Ross which was by far the best part. Our delayed stay in Lerwick was lovely too, thanks to cousin Mairi for hosting and looking after us and thanks also to Fliss for the loan of her incredibly posh car. Our poor old Kia, *Hot Dog*, seems a bit clunky after that.

It was fine to be home so we enjoyed the weekend and tried to get back into sensible bedtimes and food. We made very good use of the Dowry and Fjara, my favourite places to eat in town. We had very good fish in Fjara and the service was equally good, which is worth noting when Shetland, while improving hugely in recent years, doesn't always quite live up to expectations, customer service wise. It was super to meet the new Foula teacher and the school bairns and families too. Our bairns make such good friendships on the peerie isles school trips, and it is so important to have those connections. Luca will start the high school in 4 years which will be here before we know it. Fine to know he'll be in good company.

So, back to the weekend, we managed to more or less avoid the coronation, which was fine by me. I find the historical nature of it interesting but the expense of it when we are constantly being told there is not money for essential folk and services galls me. This weekend was Eurovision so we invited the Obs gang up to watch with us. I'm sure I remember there being better music in previous years, it was pretty awful this year but we had a fun evening all the same. No chapel on Sunday as a few folk are under the weather so

we had a fine quiet family morning. I took some very nice Norwegian folk to the museum in the morning and stayed for almost 2 hours, they were very interesting and interested in the isle and especially the similarities in the place names and language. I always like to learn more about languages, and Scandinavian languages are something I know very little about, maybe I'll start to learn Norsk...

I spend some time with Hollie labelling knitwear, then was planning on baking but the sun came out so Guillermo and I took the boys for a peerie walk/cycle/scooter and ended up in the *far east* having a cuppa with Captain Kenaby. He grows ridiculously flamboyant amaryllis and I wanted to see them at their best. I'm the mad lily wife according to him – well, Houll is a good place for lilies and they are my favourite kind of plants because you fire the bulbs in some soil, completely ignore them and they flower like mad a few months later.

Back to Monday, and truth be told I don't remember what we did: there were planes and a boat with the forecast looking poor for the following day. Nice for supply teacher George to get in meaning Gillian could get out to Shetland for meetings. Luca must have been at school and Ander and I must have gotten up to something, probably lots of washing after a week away, but you can make up more interesting things yourselves! Mum found an interesting thing in her yard at Stoneybrek – a squid! There must be a very annoyed bird somewhere wondering where on Earth he dropped his lunch.

Tuesday started our week of visiting cruise ships. A small one, the *Greg Mortimer*, on Tuesday afternoon, and a very nice bunch of folk came ashore and enjoyed some time in the isle. The boat is quite an unusual one, called an X-Bow ship, which makes it a smoother journey apparently. The bow of the boat slopes downwards rather than upwards, looking a bit upside down to me. I got home to find very excited boys boiling a lobster they had caught in our creel. There were actually 2 but the other was a female with lots of berries so she was put back of course.

Another ship on Wednesday, this time the *Ocean Adventurer* and another lovely bunch of folk who were very happy to have made it to the isle. Amy and I always have a fun in the kitchen serving teas and homebakes, and get the usual questions "How many folk live here?", "Have you always lived here?" etc etc. Dad likes to reply to the question "Have you lived here all your life?" with "Not yet!" which I think is the best reply ever! I might pinch that one. A lot of these ships have Argentinian crew aboard and I had a chat with a man who was very surprised to find someone with an Argentinian accent in the North Sea. Most of the ships which visit Fair Isle head to the Antarctic in our winter, and Ushuaia where my sister in law lives, is the main port. She actually met Paul Harvey, well-known to Fair Isle and Shetland folk alike, recently there. He was with a group of Scottish folk, she heard the accent and said her brother lived in Fair Isle – and of course got the shock of her life when he said – "Oh – that must be Guillermo!" Small world.

Thursday brought the return of *the Greg Mortimer*, with a new crew and group of passengers, though we didn't see too many at the Hall but our Museum, ranger Sally and the drivers were fine and busy. With Hollie in nursery and Deryk on the boat, I stopped by Burkle to check if there had been any progress with their final ewe to lamb. Success! I arrive to find 2 splendid lambs, thankfully not needing any help from this inept-with-sheep person. Lambing is earlier here than in the rest of Shetland so most folk are thankfully now done for this year. More baking for me after school and a nice play in the Hall for the boys. The Shepherd went to Lerwick for their useful fortnightly trip, meaning it'll be pie-day in Stackhoull Stores in the morning!

I have had some Fair Isle souvenirs made - little notebooks and greetings cards using swatches made by Triona, they arrived last week so I have been getting them ready to sell at the cruise ships, fine to have something different to offer visitors. They seem to be popular so far so I might branch out!

Friday was to be the 'big' day of the week with the largest ship of the summer so far, Silver Wind, due to visit. With 220 passengers it is at the limits of what we can manage here but we were all ready when they cancelled as they were struggling to get folk off the boat and into the Haven. A shame for the guests and for the folk here who are all on standby, but never mind, we still have plenty more due to visit! It came a boannie day here in the isle, but I can still hear the swell so it's maybe not a surprise. It's a bit misty first thing so planes were affected but I did see Marshall the pilot stopping at Dad's house briefly after flying up with a plane load of workmen. With all this fine weather we are desperate to see progress on the FIBO site, I believe a boat is due tonight with more machinery, so fingers crossed for that. As it is a long weekend for the school it's nice to see the high school kids back home and with the sun out it seems like a

good afternoon to head to the Haven for a play along with Gillian and her bairns and Grace and Freyja too. We spend all afternoon enjoying the lee of the Haven and the sunshine, most of us stayed dry and we had some splendid finds, a cuckoo ray (no doubt Luca will fill you in on this next week), a 2-spot goby, a scaad mans heed (urchin), star fish and a squat lobster, didn't manage to catch the last two though. It was so good to have a fine day out and hopefully the first of many this summer. That's my week dat's awa, now who will I pick on for next week? Prepare to check your phone for a message from me...

All the best,
Eileen at Houll

FAIR ISLE
DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

JOB VACANCY

ADMIN SUPPORT WORKER

Fair Isle Development Company is looking for an enthusiastic part time administration worker to provide support in the delivery of projects and initiatives for community benefit on Fair Isle.

- 7 hours per week
- £14 per hour (self employed)
- Work from home

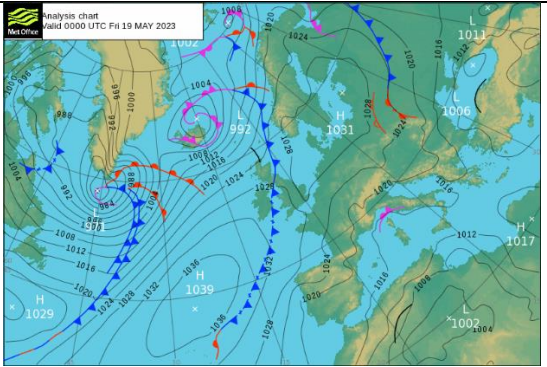
This post is funded
with assistance from
National Trust Scotland

For more information and a job description email:
development.officer@fairisle.org.uk

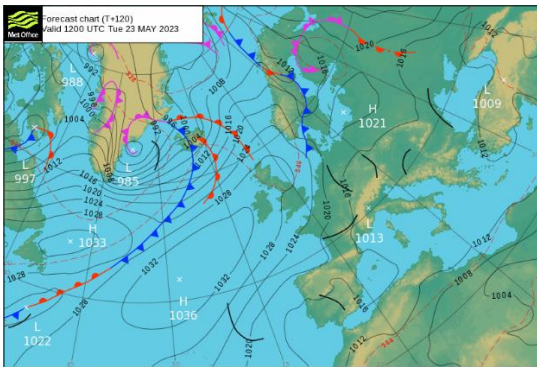
Closing date for applications: **29/05/2023 5PM**



FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



**Analysis Chart 0000 UTC
Friday 19th May 2023**



**Forecast Chart 1200 UTC
Tuesday 23rd May 2023**

GENERAL SITUATION

Friday 19th May 2023

A cold front crossed east earlier today leaving the Northern Isles in a brighter south-westerly airflow. Further fronts will follow during the weekend as low pressure persists close to Iceland bringing unsettled conditions. As the low weakens a building Atlantic anticyclone will push a ridge and brighter conditions towards Scotland later Sunday and into the start of next week. Then a reinvigorated Icelandic low, drifting east, is likely to bring further unsettled conditions for midweek through to the weekend.

OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND

Temperatures around 11° Celsius by day and 7° or 8° overnight.

FRIDAY 19th: Mainly dry with sunny spells and F4 SW winds. A cloudier night with a little light rain later. F4 SSW winds. **Sea State:** Moderate with a 2 metre W'ly wind swell, slight east of Shetland.

SATURDAY 20th: Dry at first but thickening clouds bringing rain during the afternoon. F4 SW winds. Rain dying out overnight. **Sea State:** Moderate with a 2 metre W'ly wind swell, slight east of Shetland.

SUNDAY 21st: A dull, damp, misty start loudy, gradually becoming mostly dry with a few brighter spells. F3-4 W winds. **Sea State:** Moderate or rough with a 2 to 3 metre W'ly wind swell, moderate east of Shetland.

FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK

Temperatures around 11° Celsius by day, 7° overnight.

MONDAY 22nd: Mainly dry, cloudy at first brighter with sunny spells later. Moderate SW winds, occasionally fresh. **Sea State:** Moderate or rough with a 2 to 3 metre W'ly wind swell, moderate east of

Shetland.

TUESDAY 23rd: Dry and bright with some sunny spells and fresh WSW winds.

Sea State: Moderate or rough with a 2 to 3 metre W'ly wind swell, moderate east of Shetland.

WEDNESDAY 24th – SUNDAY 28th: Wednesday probably starting with rain and strong SW winds, clearing to showers later as winds veer W'ly. Showers dying out later in the week as winds ease SW'ly. The weekend mainly dry with moderate winds. **Sea State Wednesday:** Moderate with a 2 metre W'ly wind swell, slight east of Shetland.

Dave Wheeler

