

# Fair Isle Times

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## My Weekend with Grace

Grace came home for the first time in three weeks. It felt like ages since she had been in a lot to see Nana and Gramps. We tried to fit into the weekend as much as we could. One of my favourite bits of the weekend was playing Dominion with everybody. It is a new expansion pack that we have got, so there are lots of exciting new cards. I won by four points! I also really enjoyed Mum's birthday. Her birthday was on Wednesday but Grace wasn't in so she had a prolonged birthday until Saturday. In the morning Mum opened presents one of which was an expansion pack for Wingspan. As soon as we could we played that. At the end of the day we had a birthday barbeque. It was a bit gusty but we were tucked away down by the kiln.

When Grace got back it was the first time we were able to play two player Minecraft that I got for my birthday, so I was very pleased and we had lots of fun designing our houses we were going to make! We also went down to the beach and Grace swam from the pontoon all the way over to the island at the end of the breakwater. Even though it was raining, Grace and I then went to the beach for a bit of a play and she went swimming some more!

On Monday afternoon when I was doing my homework, Dad and I heard some bothered Starlings so when I looked up I saw a Hobby flying over, which is quite rare.

Freyja (11)

## Gunglesund!

Me and my mum went swimming in Gunglesund with Eileen, Luca and Ander. It was our first time going in properly. It is not as cold as North Haven but I didn't wear my wetsuit so I got a bit cold. Luca showed me little pools that were warm so I went in them. The next day Eileen took us to Gunglesund again and Freyja came too. She had a snorkel and flippers. I put my wetsuit on this time and swam up and down two times. I saw puffins flying about too.

Harris (8)



## The Fish

We went fishing with Ewen. Ander caught the first fish. It was a pollack which we call lye here. It was my dad's birthday on Sunday. I put some cinnamon that he doesn't like in his tea! We had a big barbecue. We had beef, lamb, pork, chicken and crab! I loved all of it.

Luca (8)

## **Da week dat's awa this week comes from Skerryholm...**

As one gets older, there is less adherence to the working week, but I always associate Friday as the day for getting the two local 'Times'. Maavi made a pertinent observation recently regarding the use of our resources, reinforced in the Shetland Times reporting the spending of well over 100 grand on supposedly securing the derelict site of the old school, and the demolition work is even yet to start. But our councillors sought attention in other ways, our senior member, no longer allowed to drive, wishes all of us of similar age or older to be dealt with in a similar fashion. Does he not realise that as we all get older, we do get regular medical checks and eye tests, and so we are judged. Statistically, older drivers are safest, and the young the most dangerous. Not to be outdone, another of our representatives has jumped into the very deep, but also very murky waters of our modern but obsessive debates on gender and transgender issues. I personally think that we are confusing more of our young at what is a vulnerable time of their lives, and perhaps doing more harm than good.

Saturday now, and I get the other 'Times' and read the news and gossip in the sunshine. The news is big - Boris leaving Parliament in a huff and Trump found with illegal documents. These are the facts, but the speculation on the future of these two chancers is wide and varied. Added to this, on Sunday is the temporary arrest of our own former First Lady, Nicola, again, at present a fact, but a story which has a long way to run and like the other two, implications which will affect many others at the highest levels of government.

On Saturday evening I watch the European Cup final, won by Manchester City with a fine goal. This was probably the best moment of a game that did not live up to expectations. Conditions were hot, but the match had a sort of end of season feel to it, but it was all worthwhile for the city supporters who turned out in Manchester in the rain to welcome them home on Monday night. Did I hear correctly that the Sheiks have spent a billion pounds on getting that team to the present day?

Sunday morning, and I take the dogs... Bill from Setter is here for his holidays... for a walk to the airstrip to pick up my van. We then go to the Gill of Finniequoy where the dogs have great sport in the deep pools where the burn runs down from the mills. A good shake and Glen is dry. Not so easy for Bill so it's a blessing I have the van to put him in. Invited out for dinner in the evening, I enjoy my meal, as well as listening to the stories of yesteryear around the table. I read recently of someone who had nothing to say, so he said nothing; that was me, perhaps for a change, on Sunday.

Monday now and another fine day, with the 'glass' rising again. The 'Green Isle' arrives from Kirkwall with more 'pods' for FIBO and plan to be here again on Wednesday with the last of them. Unfortunately construction seems to be taking longer, seemingly with a few initial snags to be ironed out.

I hear on local radio of there being a climate change conference in Lerwick over the weekend, along with a demonstration against oil development off Shetland. As our cost of living spirals upwards, I am fearful of those who demand change at any cost, in the name of change and supposedly saving the planet, while in the present we need oil, and if not from west of Shetland, then at whatever cost from the Middle East or even from Russia. Perhaps not up here so much, but elsewhere, protests are commonly led by those with plenty, unconcerned by cost, feeding on others.

Tuesday starts dull, but soon brightens up with light easterly winds. Our ferry sails on schedule...

surely they will be getting a bad wint with all this calm seas. We move the ewes across the road. As I am cutting down on silage, I can feed most of the 'hay park'.

We could do with some rain for the gardens and grass for the sheep, as the braes are getting bare already. The boat returns with a bonny blue trailer, but Brodie is unimpressed, already realising that the interest lies in things with engines.

Wednesday now and I meet the morning plane to meet two ladies visiting the school, and give them a quick tour of the Isle before they leave in the afternoon. They have surely seen the Isle looking like it's been dropped from a sort of magic location. I water the garden and put the sheep back to Meones, and replace a broken wire on my fence at the west road. In between, I do find time to relax in the sun, remembering that it's no always like this... in fact, last summer there were practically no days like this. As hoped, the 'Green Isle' arrived with the last of the large units, and left with a load of scrap from the lighthouse.

It's Thursday now, and on Saturday I'm off on my summer holidays, but most importantly for Calum's graduation in Glasgow. So it is strimming and grass-cutting on the cards for this next couple of days and thankfully it's still lovely weather.

The ferry is in Lerwick today. When this service started it was well used by Islanders for a day trip. I know it does still happen, but much less. Today would have been a kinda special occasion; as the poem says...

"As pretty as a painted ship upon a painted ocean"

I lose Bill the dog, which causes me serious consternation, till Mati brings him down from just up the hill. Surely he could have heard me calling him home, before I searched from North Haven to South Light, and all places in between. But all's well that ends well... for me at least; alas for him... he has CB.

Friday morning and I'll send this off in the ether. Excuse my ramblings which have little to do with a week of tasks... if my story was only that, it could be written on the end of a matchbox, as they say.

Life can only be lived forwards, and understood backwards, so enjoy the sunshine while it lasts, and if you see Bill on the road, I will no longer be responsible!

Jimmy

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**Caption competition entries for last week's photo:**

"Standing on the Poop Deck"

"Do you want relish on your burger?"

"Men get invited to Hen parties here at Houll"

*All above by Nick*

"What's a barbeque?"

*Neil*



## **Your Church Your Community**

Paul Harrington - Development Manager of Community Assets Team HIE, has shared a link to the following Community Ownership Support Service Interactive Workshop in case anyone is interested:

“Your Church Your Community” – guidance for communities exploring future uses for church buildings, takes place on 27th June, 10am to 12 noon.

The link below will take you to the Eventbrite registration page.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/your-church-your-community-tickets-656752242637?aff=odsjtwtweet&utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-source=tw&utm-term=checkoutwidget&s=03>

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## **Furniture**

As everybody probably knows by now, I am planning to leave the isle to go and live closer to my family at the end of term, the beginning of July. As I will be living with mum initially there will be no room to take furniture with me. As a result, sadly, all of the furniture at Brecks must go. If anybody is looking for any furniture please give me a ring (760257) and come and have a look.

Thanks,  
Sue

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## **Harbour improvements**

Janet Burns, Senior Associate Environmental Consultant sent the following update on the harbour improvements:

“Just to let you know that the project team submitted the Fair Isle Harbour Upgrade marine and planning applications this week and SIC has just validated the terrestrial part of the application and it can be found here on the SIC planning portal:

[2023/142/PPF | Upgrade to ferry terminal consisting of expansion of existing noust, erection of new winch house, replacement cradle and slipway, repairs and re-fendering of the existing finger pier and extension to existing breakwater. | North Haven Fair Isle Shetland ZE2 9JU](#)

The application contains the Environmental Statement and Planning Drawings for the works. Hopefully the marine element of the application will also be uploaded soon by Marine Scotland, I will forward those details when they are available.”

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## **Chapel**

This Sunday at 11am, John leading the service. All very welcome to join.

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## **Fair Isle Times summer holiday**

Next week's issue will be the final edition before the summer break, please send any items to Eileen and Hollie by Thursday. Thanks!



**SHETLAND**  
ISLANDS COUNCIL

# Public Meeting

All members of Fair Isle community welcome

Fair Isle Public Hall

Wednesday 21st June 2023

9:30am - 10:30am meeting

10:30am - 11:30am available for Q & A

## Agenda

SIC Fair Isle Ferry Recruitment

Attendees:

Andrew Inkster, Executive Manager, Ferry & Airport Operations, SIC

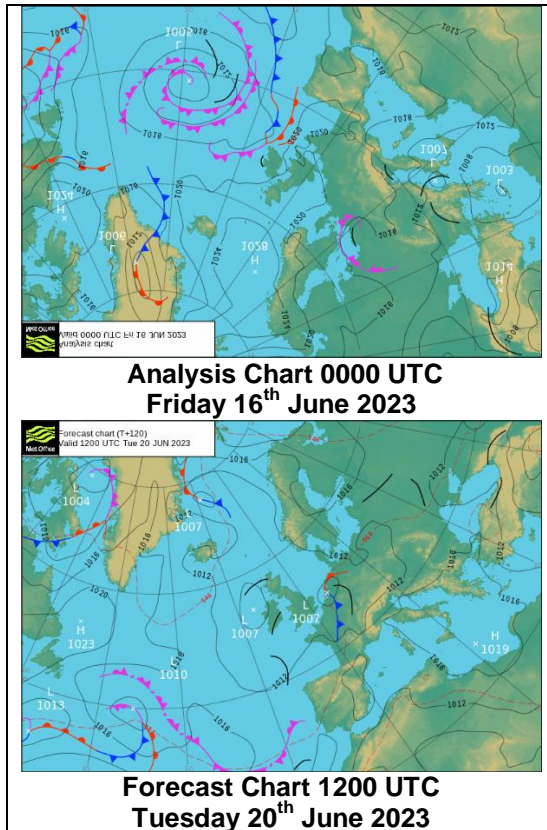
Ana Arnett, Community Involvement & Development Officer, SIC

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## FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



### GENERAL SITUATION 2023

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June

With high pressure across the Norwegian Sea and Scandinavia the current spell of settled weather is expected to continue. However, a weak filling depression west of Ireland is forecast to push heavy showers north across Scotland during the weekend although Shetland is expected to remain unaffected until early next week when high pressure is expected to weaken eastwards – though may build back westwards later next week.

### OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND

Temperatures 15° to 17° Celsius by day, perhaps 18° to 20° inland. Overnight 12°.

**FRIDAY 16<sup>th</sup>:** Following the clearance of the earlier fog the day will be dry, warm and mostly sunny day with F2-3 NE winds. Freshening F3-4. A dry night, but with low cloud encroaching from the east. **Sea State:** Slight or smooth with a 1 metre or less NE'ly wind swell.

**SATURDAY 17<sup>th</sup>:** Staying dry but cloudier and cooler

than of recently with some patchy haar. F3-4 NE winds.

**Sea State:** Slight or smooth with a NE'ly wind swell.

**SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup>:** A cloudy though dry day with risk of haar but some brighter intervals. F2-3 E wind. Risk of haar overnight. **Sea State:** Slight or smooth with a NE'ly wind swell.

### FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK

Temperatures 15° or 16° Celsius by day, 11° overnight.

**MONDAY 19<sup>th</sup>:** Rather cloudy with some patchy low cloud and mist at first. A chance of showers or perhaps a longer period of rain. Moderate ESE winds. **Sea State:** Slight or smooth with a NE'ly wind swell.

**TUESDAY 20<sup>th</sup>:** Any showers dying out then dry and bright with sunny spells between. A moderate SSE winds.

**Sea State:** Slight or smooth with a ESE'ly wind swell.

**WEDNESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> – SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup>:** Mainly dry and bright with sunny or clear spells. Winds generally light and mainly S in direction. Possibly more showers later.

**Sea State Wednesday:** Slight or smooth with a E'ly wind swell.

### **A snapshot of our June weather so far...**

While May is usually the sunniest month of the year on Fair Isle, with an average of 198 hours bright sunshine so May 2023 was disappointingly dull with just 103.9 hours (52.5%).

However, this June is certainly making amends and at the half-way mark the total stands at 112.4 hours (66.4%), with a daily average of 10 hours this past week.

June 2023 has also brought some very welcome warm weather with daytime highs regularly approaching or exceeding 15° Celsius (warm for Fair Isle) this past week with a maximum of 19.2° yesterday (Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>). Part of the reason for 15° degrees feeling warm here is our relatively high humidity, often around 80%. Yesterday's 19.2° was accompanied by a relative humidity of 45 to 50%, otherwise it would have felt uncomfortably HOT!

**Dave Wheeler**