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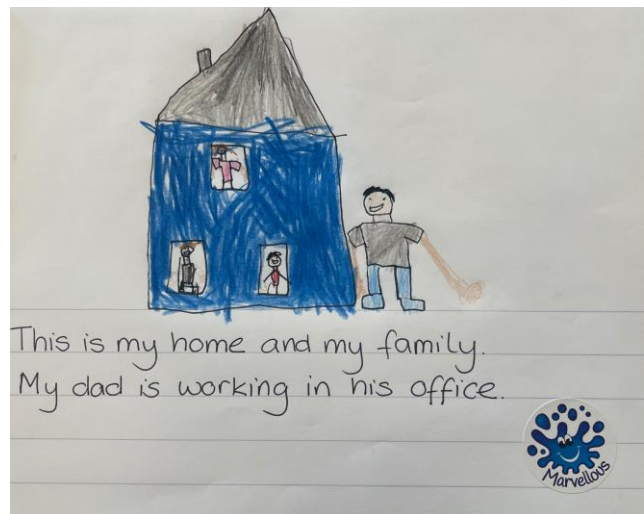
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This week, **Primary 1** drew pictures of their houses.



By Heidi



By Ander

Primary 4-7 wrote imaginative stories based on Fair Isle. We hope you enjoy reading them!

The Fair Isle Disaster

By Luca (8)

It was an amazing, sunny day in Fair Isle. Birds were chirping and sheep were bleating. The North Haven was full of people because there were lots of yachts from all over the world. The sand was warm and the water, like usual, was freezing! There were lots of fish in the water and one pipefish washed up on the sand. Suddenly... BOOM! A cliff fell down into the water. It made a huge wave and the people sprinted away. Then BOOM again! Another cliff went down like an arrow. It made a ginormous SPLASH and a tidal wave rose up like a mountain. It rolled like a boulder and exploded a yacht. Then it rolled on and squashed the pier. Two days later they found the Good Shepherd on the roof of the Bird Observatory!

THE END

Naughty Mac

By Harris (9)

It was a dark night on Fair Isle. The sea was calm and quiet. The half-moon sparkled in the black sky. A seagull screeched and some sheep bleated noisily. Mac the dog was very mischievous. He saw the door wasn't locked. He looked. He sneaked out and jumped into the field and chased the sheep. Suddenly a clever sheep leapt over the fence and the others followed. Mac chased them along the road. The sheep dashed into the school playground and scrambled up the slide. Next they jumped on the roof! Mac could not get on the roof. The sheep couldn't get down. They started bleating loudly in a panic. Mac barked and barked at the sheep but they were stuck. The noise woke up Andy and he ran to see what was going on. He called Deryk and Hollie. They drove up to the school and were shocked to see their sheep on the roof and Mac hiding under the picnic bench. Iain came down with a tractor. He lifted the loader up high and Andy climbed on the roof. They took one sheep down at time. Deryk put them in the trailer. Finally all the sheep were put back in their field. Hollie made sure the door was locked every night!

MR NEEPS' GREAT ADVENTURE

PART 1

BY FREYJA (11)

Once upon a time in a deep dark tunnel lived a trow, Mr Neeps. You see Mr Neeps' parents were very fond of neeps and so was he. This is why, if you were ever to walk into his cosy tunnel, you would be surrounded with neeps! In the ceiling were neeps! In the floor were neeps! Even in the musty, peat-smelling walls, neeps grew like weeds. Loose peat tickled the trow's toes as he cooked his favourite neep stew. While he was waiting, he leapt into the neep ball pit to play, happily munching on a raw neep like an apple!

Later that day, when he had just finished the tremendously delicious stew, Mr Neeps heard a strange sound outside. It couldn't be a puffin this far from shore, or could it? He climbed up the ladder into the dark cold night. He could hear sheep bleating, distant horns from the cars on Shetland and waves crashing against the rugged shore. He peered to the side, then he glanced down, he looked to the other side, and then he peeked up. It was a puffin, only it was a baby!

"Hello there. What is your name?" asked Mr Neeps.

"Puffy," announced the baby puffin, "I made friends with Luca, Harris and Freyja at the school last time I got lost, however, they are fast asleep! I wonder if you could help me get back to Bressay?"

"Um... well... urm it is very dark now, come inside until the morning," stuttered the trow. The reason for stalling was that Mr Neeps was terrified, absolutely terrified, of towns and of his neeps dying. Thankfully one problem he could fix! Recently he had met a lovely but mischievous dog named Mac. In

fact the sheep bleating was getting louder and that meant only one thing - Mac was chasing them! Chasing them right past the tunnel! The floor shook, dusty peat fell from the ceiling then **sreeeeeeeeeeeeeeeech!** Mac stopped outside and ran in.

"Neepy Neeeeeep! (Mac's name for Mr Neeps) Hi! Hi friend! Yay! How are you, are you great? I know I'm great. Did you know I was just chasing sheep? Hollie will be sooo cross!" Mac yelped excitedly whilst jumping at the poor trow!

"Well actually, I'm not great my neeps might die as I have to go on a trip. I was wondering if you could water them like you are now," sighed the trow, glancing Mac's drool everywhere.

"Yes, yes, of course, anything for a friend," mumbled Mac chewing on a neep like a ball!
So Mr Neeps and the puffling set off the next morning. Mr Neeps gulped as they got on the morning plane. They arrived in bright noisy Shetland half an hour later (the wind slowed them down)
(..... to be continued)

NOTICES: Chapel – Sunday at 11am with Neil leading the service, all very welcome to join

Katie Cubbon (Project Officer for the DR MPA) and Peg Shaw (Community Support Specialist from Fauna & Flora, carrying on from Kerri Whiteside with bespoke support for the DR MPA) visited the island last weekend and Katie wanted to pass on this message:

Thank you to everyone for their warm welcome and generous hospitality over the weekend. Peg and I had a wonderful time getting to know folk and exploring your beautiful island in the (mostly) sunshine. Thanks to those who made it out to the hall on Sunday afternoon, it was great to learn more about your involvement and interests within the MPA project. Special thanks to Susannah and Eileen for organising and providing the delicious baking. For those of you we didn't get a chance to meet over the weekend, I (Katie) will be returning to Fair Isle in December, so hope to catch up with some of you then if not before.



Da Week Dat's Awa – from the Obs team at South Light

Georgia

Saturday 9th

We are well into daily autumn census again now, and it's me in the north – it starts as another clear and sunny morning, and with the record September temperatures from the two days previously, I predict that I'm going to be in for a long and sweaty slog around the hills. Fortunately a thick blanket of cloud rolls over mid-morning, just as I'm about to tackle climbing up Dronger and the back of Ward Hill, and I find myself feeling guilty for being thankful for the lack of sunshine – us Brits will never be satisfied with the weather! It is quiet for birds, with a lone Crossbill following me along the north-west cliffs and a Kestrel harassing the many Pipits and Starlings the only migrants of note. The current winds (a light south-westerly) don't particularly inspire me to get back out in the afternoon, so I go through the photos I had taken of my Gannet productivity monitoring plots as I went around the north that morning, checking on sizes of chicks and noting any that had fledged. It's looking to be a pretty good year for Gannet productivity, with lots of successful fledglings and still some large and healthy-looking chicks in the plots, which is a relief after last year being the worst productivity figure since monitoring began due to the unforgiving impact of Avian Influenza. After finishing up the seabird admin, I make a tiny bit more progress on a sleeveless jumper that I am test-knitting by hand for Marie, and then it's me on dinner duty, so I make Swedish-style meatballs with cheese and leek mash and peas – spending a couple of hours in the kitchen is a fantastic excuse to crack open a cold beer and listen to a favourite playlist, which I always enjoy immensely.

Sunday 10th

I'm in the south-east for census this morning, and thankfully it has cooled down a bit, although the air still remains feeling muggy. I finally catch up with the Yellow-browed Warbler that is still hanging out at Burkle, as it clearly hasn't been put off with Del catching and ringing it a couple of days ago! They are such fantastic little birds with tonnes of character, and one of the iconic species of autumn migration – it's even better seeing them in Fair Isle, where these stripy woodland sprites exchange trees and branches for angelica stalks and fence lines. I carry on through the crofts and reach Da Water, where I suddenly hear something *whooshing* in at speed - I look and see an orange and rusty-red bird with dangly legs making a beeline for some long grass, and instantly know that it's a Corncrake, landing not too far in front of me! I go and try and see it on the ground, but these masters of disguise are tricky to see once they are hidden in some cover, so I end up flushing it towards Klinger's Geo and having nice views of it in flight again. It is a new species for the year list, and often one that is quite hard to get, so I am very happy with that.

The rest of census is uneventful, although I hadn't been back at South Light for long when Alex messages to say he has trapped a Merlin in Gully, a species not often caught. Myself, Sally and Matt all head up so that Sally can ring it and so that we can have a look and take some photos – although it is a fierce looking creature, it is a tiny juvenile male, so it's hard not to find it cute more than anything. I'm sure it would disagree!



Sally

Monday 11th

The morning started with the cruise ship's arrival at the pier. I'd timed it correctly and when I got there at 0900 the passengers were making their way off the ship and onto the first zodiac. I then spent the next hour and a half greeting all the passengers as they arrived in Fair Isle, telling them about the work at the bird observatory (both the building work and the actual monitoring we get up to), and leaving them with a fairly fool-proof set of directions to get to the museum. Once they'd let me know no more passengers were coming ashore, I asked if I could have a trip onto the ship as she looked very swanky and new. Plus I hadn't experienced being on any of the cruise ships this summer even though I'd heard plenty about them! Luckily for me, the crew were game, and I hopped in one of their zodiacs and made the voyage out to the ship. The cruise ship was called the Scenic Eclipse II. She has a sister ship that's been around for a few years but this one has only been operational for the last six months, so she's still got that new ship feel! And as swish as she looked from the outside, it was nothing compared to how luxurious it was inside. She has at least two swimming pools and saunas (my guide said he'd forgotten how many swimming pools were onboard, and he's only been there for two months!).

There's a spa with every facility you could think of, six different restaurants to choose from (which all serve different food), many different lounges, a theatre and a helicopter! Oh, and when they're next in Miami (which I believe is a couple of months), they're picking up a custom submarine that they will be able to take passengers on excursions with. I realise I'm selling this ship awfully well however, the minimum nightly cost is around £800 so I won't be jumping aboard as a guest anytime soon.

My afternoon was rather mundane in comparison. Most of it was spent tidying up data sheets and entering them into an online spreadsheet from my guillemot surveying over the summer. It was my turn to make dinner this evening so I tried a honey, soy, miso, chicken and veg traybake which I think turned out rather well!



It was our current long-term volunteer Matt's last day today as the weather turns later in the week and he didn't feel like missing connections to get home to Cornwall, I don't blame him! And before calling it a night, one of my university friends is at the tail-end of her masters and asked me to give her thesis a proofread and comment on it. So, just some light bedtime reading for me. In my opinion, though I may be biased, it was well-written, succinct and informative. Considering I'd not read a paper thoroughly in a good few months, it was great to start with something I thought was accessible, in the best of ways!

Tuesday 12th

Today's start was much earlier as I set an alarm to see if I could spot the comet above Fair Isle. When I looked out the window just before 5 am and saw it was already quite light, and rather cloudy over the horizon, I decided sleep was the way forward. Some people around the world got some good photos of it which appeared promptly in my Facebook feed later in the day. The morning properly started with an email from Gillian asking about a rock pooling session with the school this week. After making arrangements with Nick and setting the date for Wednesday I was back to sorting out the data sheets on my computer. As Matt left on the rocky Good Shepherd this morning, Sam, our new and final volunteer of this year, arrived on an equally rocky GS in the afternoon. It was a nice quiet afternoon, with me finishing up on my computer and the obs team chilling and catching up before having dinner together. The day ended similarly to how it started, with me having a look out the window at the northern lights above the island. Fingers crossed we have some more clear nights in the future to be looking out for them!

Alex

Wednesday 13th

The day dawns bright and calm, but my head is anything but bright in the morning, with an unsettled night's sleep meaning I wake with a headache and feeling generally rubbish. I suspect our wake-up in the early hours of "HELLO ALL? AURORA IS SHOWING WELL!!" from a very well-meaning Dave next-door may not have helped, but I appreciated the kind sentiment much more than resenting being dragged from my sleep. Still though, I'm afraid I didn't rise to go and look – sorry Dave!

Fortunately, a slow breakfast and all-important mug of coffee works its restorative magic, and by the time I need to head out for census at 09:00 I'm feeling much better. It's just as well, as today is a day to make the most of, with lots to pack in before the weather turns on Thursday. After a pleasant but uneventful tour of the SW census route (with Georgia in the north, and Sally taking our new volunteer Sam around the SE) it's time for a quick lunch, and then out to do it all again, this time showing Sam the route.

A second wander of the SW reveals little to nothing that wasn't there this morning, with the exception of a bright male Crossbill, and a pod of Risso's Dolphin milling off Raeva. It has been a strong early autumn for Crossbill as many around the isle will have noticed, with noisy flocks of red, green and brown bouncing around the isle and fuelling up on thistle seeds – a vital food source on their journey southwards. This year they seem to much prefer the thistles to the seeding thrift – both a far cry from their usual highly specialised diet of pine cones, but they adapt as they must on migration.



After a double census, it's timed for a well-earned beer and a low-effort tea of pizzas, chips and salad – gourmet food you will not find in my repertoire, but every so often a good 'beige meal' really hits the spot! The latest episode of Ahsoka (a Star Wars series) and it's time to catch up on some sleep.

Thursday 14th

A somewhat different start to yesterday, as after a deep sleep the alarm wakes me to rain and strong gusting winds. The rain doesn't last however, and what looked yesterday to be a washout morning turns out to be quite productive. Immediately upon stepping out of the door, Georgia spots Orca in the heavy swell off South Light, and the next hour or so is spent watching three of these incredible animals as they linger offshore, seemingly fishing. A perpetual cloud of Gannets above betrays their location – very useful as the huge waves make keeping track of them tricky. Though we've seen Orca several times now over the few years we've been here, watching them fishing in these sea conditions is new and exciting – quite a different encounter to tracking a close pod of seal-hunters around the isle in flat seas.

The high winds make being on the cliffs somewhat dangerous so there's no census today, but we bird the easier bits of the isle regardless, picking up a few common migrants and scarcities blown in by this fierce little system. The avian highlight of the day is also at sea, with a strong movement of Common Tern past the isle – a total of 59 are logged flying south, mostly past South Light. Common Tern last successfully bred in the isle in 2012, and this is the highest day-count since the 80s, when they were regular breeders in good numbers. Tonight's high tide and big swell means our wader nets in Muckle Uri Geo are at risk of being washed away overnight, so after tea and Log we brave the winds and flying foam to take them in. As we walk away, a group of Turnstone drop into the pool, with more than a touch of smugness.

Fair Isle Harvest 2023

Join us for the harvest weekend, next weekend!

Saturday 23rd September at 2pm

Please bring any veg, home produce and craft items for display to the Chapel which we will then take up to the Hall for Sunday afternoon.

Sunday 24th September

- **Chapel at 11am – all welcome to celebrate the year's harvest**

Sunday 24th September

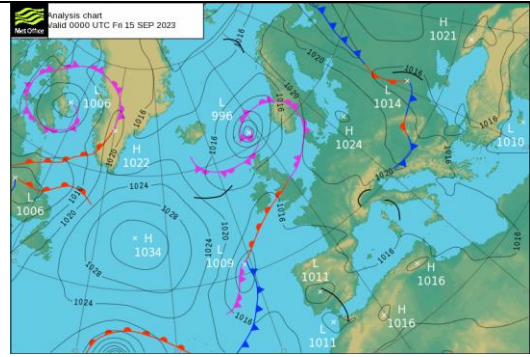
- **3.30pm at Fair Isle Hall** for delicious home bakes, tea & coffee; sales table and raffle (please bring items for sale/raffle by 3pm – prize donations gratefully received)

This year we are fundraising for the Goodwill Children's Village in India & another charity (to be decided)

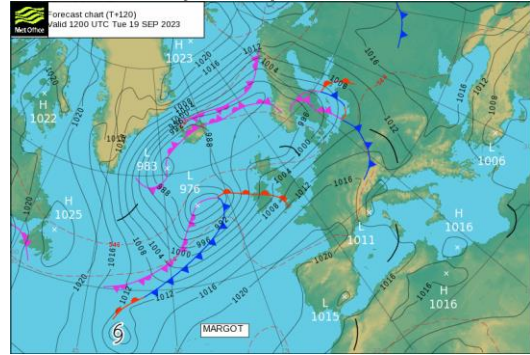
Everyone very welcome to join

FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST

Friday 15th September 2023



**Analysis Chart 0000 UTC
Friday 15th September 2023**



**Forecast Chart 1200 UTC
Tuesday 19th September 2023**

GENERAL SITUATION

As the recent depression continues to move away a weak ridge will build northeast across northern Scotland for the weekend before declining eastwards as a trough extends down the west side of Scotland from a deepening low near Iceland and another low moves north from Biscay. As a result a south-easterly airflow will strengthen on Monday ahead of fronts swinging east. During midweek it looks like the Biscay low is absorbed into the northern low with the low then centred close to Shetland for the remainder of the week. As this finally moves away north an Atlantic depression is predicted to be swinging in towards the South West - driving its fronts northeast to perhaps reach Fair Isle on Sunday with a strengthening southeasterly airflow backing north-easterly.

OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND

Temperatures 13° Celsius by day 9° overnight. **FRIDAY 15th:** A bright day with an isolated shower and some sunny spells. F4-5 WSW wind easing F3-4 NW. Mostly dry with clear spells and an easing NW wind overnight. **Sea State:** Moderate or rough with a 2 to 3 metre W'ly wind swell. **SATURDAY 16th:** Dry and bright with sunny or clear spells and F2-3 NW winds. **Sea State:** Slight to moderate with a 1 to 2 metre NNW'ly wind swell. **SUNDAY 17th:** Dry with sunny spells. Light winds at first but a F4 SSE breeze developing through the day, freshening F4-5. Rain arriving overnight **Sea State:** Slight with a 1 metre S'ly wind swell.

FORECAST FOR NEXT

Temperatures around 13° or 14° Celsius by day 10° or 11° overnight. **MONDAY 18th:** Cloudy with rain, persistent and heavy for a time accompanied by low cloud and mist. Possible chance of thunder. Fresh to strong SE winds easing later as the rain turns showery. **Sea State:** Becoming rough with a 3 metre SE'ly wind swell. **TUESDAY 19th:** A brighter day with scattered showers and sunny spells. Fresh WSW winds. **Sea State:** Moderate or rough with a 2 to 3 metre W'ly wind swell but slight east of Shetland. **WEDNESDAY 20th – SUNDAY 24th:** After a bright start Wednesday cloud thickens as SE winds strengthen with a wet and windy afternoon and evening with some improvement overnight. Thursday bright with scattered showers and moderate SSE winds. Then changeable with rain or showers and some drier brighter interludes. Winds moderate or fresh SE backing NE. becoming cyclonic variable Friday and Saturday, increasing fresh SE backing NE on Sunday with rain. **Sea State Wednesday:** Mainly moderate with a 2 metre NNE'ly wind swell.

Dave Wheeler

