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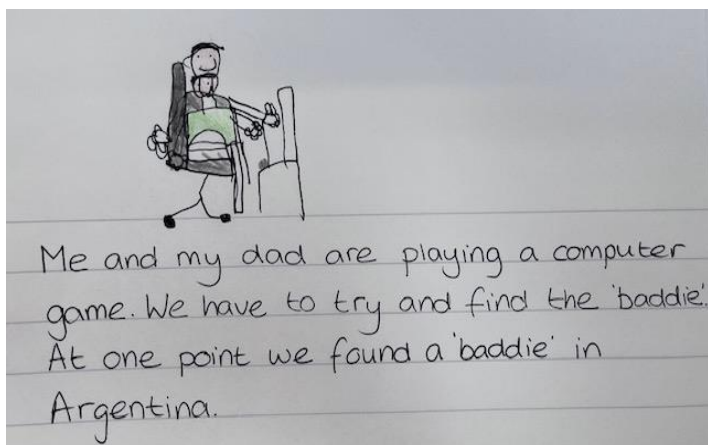
22nd SEPTEMBER 2023

Pencil Sharpening

I did some pencil sharpening for people. I have a really good pencil sharpener! I put a sign up in the shop and people wanted to get pencils sharpened. We donated £20 to Water Aid. It's important because people need clean water. I bet people in Africa would have enjoyed it here today because it was absolutely pouring!

At the weekend we went to the graveyard to see our Nanny and Daddad's new gravestone. We think it looks really good. I wish I remembered Nanny but I do remember Daddad.

Luca (8)



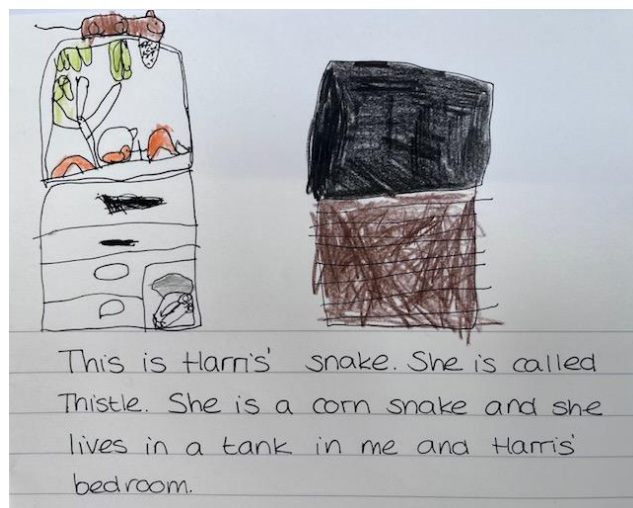
Ander (5)

Quiet Weekend

At the weekend, I played on my Xbox. Orla and I played Fortnite online together and we got a crown win. It was epic! We also played Roblox together.

On Saturday night, I watched another episode of The Mandalorian with my family. Grogu is so cool! I also practised my Darth Maul lightsaber moves and had a battle with mum in the garden.

Harris (9)



Heidi (6)

MR NEEPS' GREAT ADVENTURE
PART II

BY FREYJA (11)

"We'll have to walk rather than hire a car, as I'm not sure they would want a trow and a puffin in their taxi," sighed Mr Neeps. So they strolled into town. On the way they chatted. "You know what? The town isn't too bad," murmured the trow.

"Yep, it's great isn't it! Ooh look! There's the Puffin Republic! I love that shop. Please can we go in, pretty, pretty please?" begged Puffy.

"Alright then," replied Mr Neeps, smiling. When they got inside, there was a model puffin wearing a bright, intricate Fair Isle jumper.

"I have always wanted one of those!" Puffy practically shouted! So, in the end Mr Neeps ended up trading three whole neeps for five jumpers (Puffy wanted some for his friends). "This is great. I got lost looking for a warmer place to live but now I won't have to because I'll be super-duper warm!"

After three hours of shopping, they arrived at the pier. "I have never been on a boat before and I hoped it would stay that way, but oh well if it gets you home..." groaned the trow.

But again, after a while on the boat Mr Neeps started having fun.

"Wow look at those puffins do you know them?" exclaimed Mr Neeps.

"Why yes, I think that is Puffels, Puffed, Puffington and my best friend, the other Puffy! Hi! Over here!" shouted Puffy. The playing puffins swooped down and landed on the side of the boat.

"There you are Puffy! Where have you been?" Puffington asked.

"Oh you know, over to Fair Isle to look for warmth then I met a trow, went to Shetland and got you all these," grinned Puffy showing them all the special jumpers.

"Oh wow!"

"Amazing!"

"Cool!"

Just then the boat arrived at the pier. "Bye Neepy Neep!" giggled Puffy as he glided up into the sky, but Mr Neeps didn't go home. Since he discovered that boats, planes and towns were actually fun... he travelled the world exploring different vegetables and places but came home every month for his delicious neep stew!

The End

**CHROMA is in Fair Isle next week (from 25 Sep)
with a project inspired by
the Wreck of El Gran Grifón**

free concert Saturday 30 Sep 7pm



**We'll jointly make
a new piece about
El Gran Grifón,
then perform it together
at the gig...**

**During the week we'll be in the school
+ open-to-all workshops for the storytelling, music,
crafting costume & scenery (ruffs, macrame, beachcoming!)**

**The music we're bringing includes Renaissance dances, and
tasty musical tapas of Spanish pieces**

more details coming - watch this space, & see you next week!

Stu, Claire, Caroline, Jo and Lydia



Da week dat's awa...

Forgive me readers, you have to listen to me again. Did I forget to ask someone to write *da week dat's awa*? Was there a misunderstanding? Do the editors need to find more willing folk to pester to write? Who knows, but anyway, we are loath to leave empty pages.

Friday 15th was a very busy day for visiting relief nurse Margaret. Since our excellent and much-missed Felicity left a few weeks ago there has been no isle-based medical cover which is not great. While I do support the healthboard not throwing money at expensive agency staff, there must be a happy medium between agency staff and no cover at all. Anyway, Margaret made it in and the folk of Fair Isle kept her very busy and hopefully we are all the better and healthier for it! I seem to spend more and more time in front of a computer screen so a good stramp (dialect for a brisk walk/march) is the perfect antidote. Autumnal colours and cooler air took me eastward to Klingersgeo and Maavi Tongue, where I don't think I saw our own *Maavi*! I've never been down Klingersgeo so make a mental note to go when Ross comes next, he's always keen for an adventure down a banx. Lots of mushrooms at the broo of Shieldigeo but I take none home, we have had more than our fair share thanks to Luca's almost obsession with picking the darn things. If only he ate as many as he found! Talking of which I take the boys for a pre-bedtime drive north and we find a few nice button mushrooms which Luca promises to eat tomorrow. On the way home the Parnabys tempt us with toasted marshmallows and a glass of wine by their excellent firepit and barbecue. Hurrah for nice moments with neighbours, especially with marshmallows!

Saturday is bright and breezy, Guillermo continues his extension to our bbq or *parrilla*, which now boasts a roof, chimney and probably needs planning permission if it gets any bigger. Mum and I take the boys to the kirkyard to see Nanny and Daddad's gravestone which Iain and co have installed – it looks super, thank you so much for getting it in its place. Not a sad visit at all, they both had very long and happy lives so we take a moment to think about the good memories. Luca and Mum find more writing on some of the old headstones which make up the path into the graveyard, hard to see but maybe with paper and crayons we might be able to make out some names or words. A quick ramble to Hestigeo to play then home for a bbq – Guillermo is desperate to test the extension and it seems to work well and uses less charcoal – 10 out of 10!

Our house is a tip. Well, parts of it are, so I task the boys with sorting and dumping some of the toys they don't use. Amy and Andy - be warned that you might be getting a bag of peerie boy toys up to yours! After plenty of tidying the house feels slightly more relaxing, ideal for finishing some lovely colourful hats and headbands Triona has been busy making. We've run out of many of the usual colours of yarn so Triona is having to be very creative with the colours left behind and is coming up with some cracking combinations. It doesn't matter what she makes, it will all sell at next year's cruise ships. I just need to persuade her to make more pink things...

The isle was due another nurse visit on Monday but the fact the power had gone at the surgery, and the bad weather put paid to that. It's a veritable *day o dirt* so we head to Busta after school to visit Auntie Anne and Uncle Barry. Barry and I have had some lovely walks in recent weeks when he regales me with stories of adventures, rescues and often mischief from his younger years. On a walk to Milens Houllan recently (on the north coast of the isle) we could see the new wind farm in Shetland with the binoculars. I am very much pro wind energy but it certainly struck home that we could see the turbines from over 50 miles away. Back to a rainy afternoon at Busta and I have a lovely catch up with my aunt and uncles (Stewart obviously had the right idea too) while the boys eat their own body weights in biscuits and toast. Kids are always hungry after school, but we miss Sue and her fabulous school dinners – packed lunches just aren't the same!

Tuesday comes a day for planes which is great as there are 2 plane loads of folk needing to get in and out after Monday's wash out. The Shepherd gets to Grutness too – a poor day by all accounts, so extra well done to the crew who always do their very best to get folk and freight where they need to be. There have already been 4 or 5 lamb trips, taking isle lambs to market where they continue to get fairly good prices. So far this autumn, the amazing weather we have had has been favourable for shipping lambs (you can't do it in poor weather) but even with my limited seafaring knowledge, I don't expect this week will be any use. Mum and I help unload the shop goods at Stackhoull (excellent opportunity to nosey at new treats coming in) then home for homework and tea. Our bedtime routine with the boys now usually involves lots of games on the phone – Wordle, Nerdle, Globle, Worldle, Flagle, Wheretaken and Connections. They are all great fun and only take a few minutes. The boys (and my) knowledge of maps and flags is really growing and the boys can recognise the outline of many obscure countries now! Talking of

which, a bit of trivia for you all: which are the only two *double* landlocked countries in the World? I.e. not only are they landlocked, but all their surrounding countries are landlocked too? Answer at the end.

Wednesday is a day off admin work for me so I gut the sun porch and take down the cucumber plant which has done really well this year. The room is now a nice place to sit once again, now that all the barefoot-torturing Lego pieces are safely back in their boxes. The boys have a play with the Maxwell bairns after school, much to their delight. We are so lucky that even though there are only 6 bairns here, they get on and are all lovely! We have a parent council meeting in the evening, always one of the nicest meetings I have to take part in. CHRISTMAS was even mentioned for the first time this year. Watch this space...

I go home to catch the end of Manchester United against Bayern Munich, which ended 4-3 against us. Our new goalie is pretty good but made a bit of a howler – oh dear.

Thursday is an admin morning again - Isle folk must get bored of seeing my name pop up in their inbox! I am doing a little planning for upcoming visits of our landlords, the National Trust for Scotland and our development worker Jack, who it will be nice to get to know a bit more in person, rather than over video calls. Lots of background work starting to plan for the new pier and ferry project too. The isle will be very busy the next couple of years, between FIBO works, BT works starting very soon and then 2 years of major works at the Haven. I spend the afternoon making soup and baking in anticipation of Gina and Glen's visit this weekend. I also plan a few things to make for Harvest this weekend. Hope you all come along to the Hall with lovely produce, homebakes and prizes for the raffle on Sunday!! I'm hoping there might still be some isle fruit there and Fiona better be making her EXCELLENT mincemeat for festive mince pies! We have decided to share the money raised between our usual charity of the Goodwill Children's Village in India and The Red Cross for the appeal to help folk in Libya and Morocco. Watching the news the past week has been hard work, not much good news to see. Our weather can be dreadful but we do not suffer from floods or earthquakes, something I am very grateful for. Hopefully we can help in some small way by sending much needed funds.

Friday arrives with disappointing news that the plane has 'gone tech'. Booo to that. Good news is that they hope to get it sorted and weather should permit a flight Saturday lunchtime to get our visitors and the high school kids home. I know Grace particularly enjoys the harvest weekend so I really hope that the plane is fixed and flying in time!

Next week will be nice and busy, Hurtigruten's ship *Maud* is due on Tuesday with 398 passengers, we have an important isle meeting and our friends from Chroma are due back for a week of music and creativity based around *El Gran Grifón*, the Spanish Armada ship wrecked here on the 27th September 1588 – 435 years ago this week.

Have a super weekend everyone, hope you all have lovely things planned.

Eileen at Houll

p.s. the answer is Liechtenstein and Uzbekistan

Fair Isle Committee and Community Association quarterly meeting – A reminder the next isle meeting is Wednesday 27th September in the Committee Room from 7.30pm – 9pm

Prescriptions – Until we have a nurse on the isle, Levenwick Medical Practice will be **posting** all isle patients' prescriptions by Royal Mail Recorded Delivery on a **Monday**, meaning they should arrive here on Tuesday/Wednesday.

Reminder – Harvest this weekend and Chroma are visiting next week! See poster below!

Fair Isle Harvest 2023

Join us for the harvest 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).

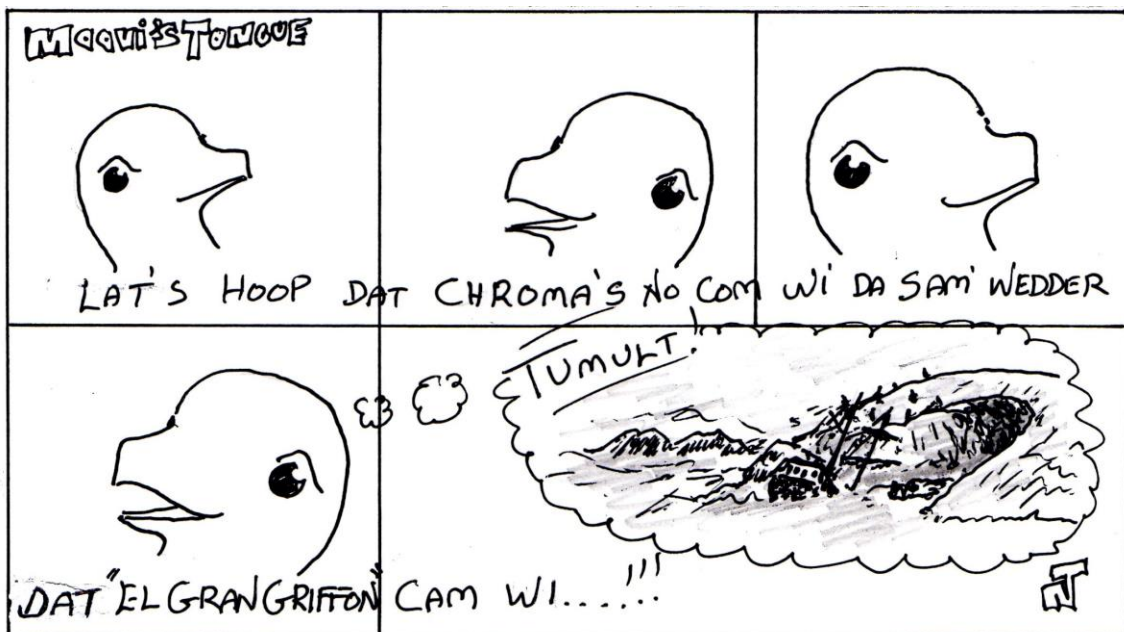
This year we are fundraising for the Goodwill Children's Village in India & the Red Cross Libya & Morocco appeal

Please tell guests and visitors too! Everyone very welcome to join!

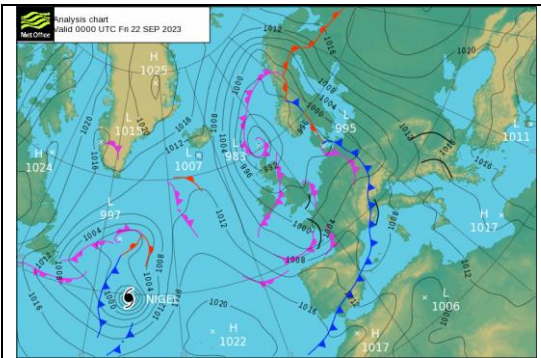
Thanks to Fair Isle Times reader Sarah who was inspired by the Maavi Tongue a couple of weeks ago (where "we all look at the same moon") to share this thoughtful poem which you might enjoy:

Zazen on Ching-t'ing Mountain by Li Bai, translated by Sam Hamill

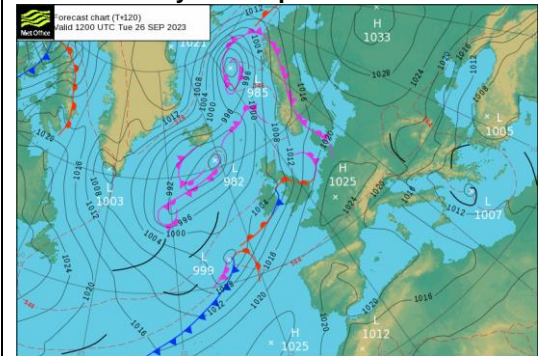
The birds have vanished down the sky.
Now the last cloud drains away.
We sit together, the mountain and me,
until only the mountain remains.



FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



Analysis Chart 0000 UTC
Friday 22nd September 2023



Forecast Chart 1200 UTC
Tuesday 26th September 2023

GENERAL SITUATION

Friday 22nd September 2023

A depression near Shetland will drift northeast as a filling feature, a weak short-lived ridge following east on Saturday. A vigorous depression slow-moving southwest of Iceland, drawing in the remains of ex-hurricane Nigel, then drives its fronts east on Sunday. Low pressure is forecast to remain slow-moving to the northwest and north of Scotland for the first part of next week maintaining a strong south-westerly airflow across Shetland. This eases mid-week but soon strengthens southerly as a small low centre swings in off the Atlantic towards northwest Scotland, quickly followed by a second centre maintaining unsettled autumnal conditions.

OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND

Temperatures 13° Celsius by day 11° overnight.

FRIDAY 22nd: A cool and rather cloudy day with blustery showers. Windy with W winds veering NW and increasing F6. Windy with further showers overnight.

Sea State: Building moderate or rough with a 2 to 3 metre NW'ly wind swell.

SATURDAY 23rd: Showers dying out as F5 NW winds slowly ease, gradually backing F4 SW with brighter spells developing.

Sea State: Moderate or rough with a 2 to 3 metre NW'ly wind swell.

SUNDAY 24th: Mostly cloudy, dry at first but rain later as S winds freshen F5.

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

FORECAST FOR NEXT Temperatures around 13° Celsius by day 10° overnight.

MONDAY 25th: Showers, sunny spells between. Strong SW winds.

Sea State: Rough with a 3 metre S'ly wind swell.

TUESDAY 26th: A bright day with scattered showers. Fresh S winds, occasionally strong at first.

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

WEDNESDAY 27th – SUNDAY 1st: Strengthening SSE winds bringing rain later Wednesday. Rain clearing to showers Thursday as cyclonic winds become strong W to NW. Rain or showers Friday though winds lighter. Saturday perhaps starting fine before more wet and windy weather follows for Sunday with chance of gales.

Sea State Wednesday: Mainly moderate with a 2 metre SW'ly wind swell. Later becoming SE'ly and building rough.

Dave Wheeler