

Fair Isle Times

VOLUME 46 ISSUE 33

PUBLISHED SINCE 1978

10th NOVEMBER 2023

Setting up the Fire

I like setting up the fire. Two weeks ago I learned how to set up the fire. I think it's fun. I put scrunpled up paper at the bottom and then put some kindling on top in the shape of a railway track. Then a wee bit more paper and finally a bit more of tiny kindling and a big bit of wood on top. You can also use cardboard but it's not as good as paper, shiny paper is not very good either. One thing to keep in mind is to keep oxygen around it, otherwise it'll go out.

On Sunday, we went up to the Grand Canyon to pick blewits. We got about seven. The biggest was the size of a little apple while the smallest was the size of the top of an egg. I took them home and mum cooked them in garlic butter and they were delicious.

Luca (8)

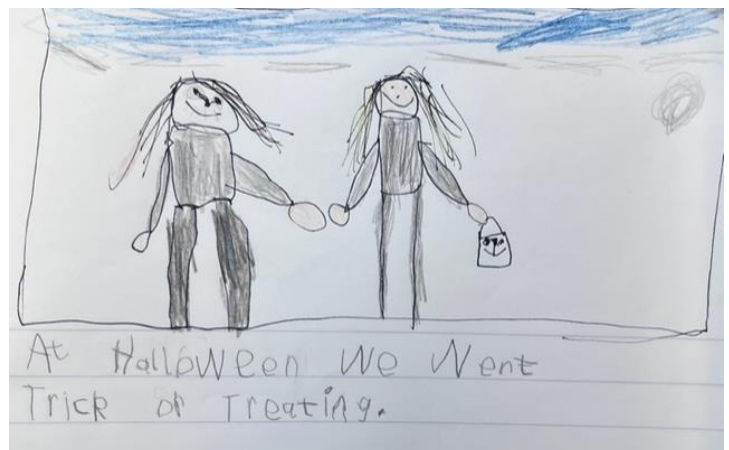


My Weekend

This weekend I played on my Xbox. I played LITTLE NIGHT MARES, Fortnite OG and Roblox.

I went on a night walk with my mum. We went past the fire station, then back along the little path to the generators and then down the path by the solar panels. Then we went up the road back to my house. It was very dark and it was very fun.

Harris (9)



Heidi (6)

Ander (5)

WW1

The First World War started in 1914 and ended in 1918. Before the First World War there were growing tensions between the most powerful countries in Europe. There were also problems between the rich and the powerful and poorer people in many countries which eventually led to the Black Hand assassinating Arch Duke Franz Ferdinand, heir of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. As a result, Austria-Hungary then threatened war on Serbia if their demands were not met. Serbia refused and so in July 28, 1914 Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.

The war grew as each side's allies joined. Unfortunately, at this time Germany were also seeking power and so started building battle ships. Britain then heard of this and decided to build battle ships and increase their army which then increased the fighting. The two main groups were Great Britain, France and Russia called The Triple Entente. They were fighting against Italy, Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire called The Triple Alliance. However, in 1915 Italy switched sides.

During the war 50million people died and many more were injured. At the time there were not the same rules on weapons so any people who survived gas attacks had health problems for the rest of their lives. Sadly, you can still see some of the effects of World War 1 in the conflicts countries have with each other in Europe today.

Freyja (11)

Fair Isle Primary School Coffee Morning

are going hold a fund raiser to raise money for two charities

**Delicious
cakes!**

Raffle!



FRIDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2023

From 10.00am at the hall

Please give a donation at the door!

ALL WELCOME!

**Games to
enter for a
£1 a go**

The children would like to do a **raffle** this year! If you can **contribute** an item for the raffle table we would be so grateful! Please drop into the hall the **day before**. Thank you!



Remembrance Sunday All welcome to join in the service of remembrance at the Chapel at 11am, please arrive by 10.55 to observe the silence at 11am. A short service followed by commemoration at the War Memorial in the graveyard

Da week dat's awa...

I think Eileen knew I had no good excuse left not to be writing what I was up to this week... My knitting holiday season finished last week and I'm finally slowing down. I have written what happened every day on *post-its* so hopefully the recollection process will be painless. The painful bit is remembering everything I thought I would achieve this week and I would get to tell you about, and realizing I haven't even started on some of those things... But my mum has come from France for three weeks and the weather is amazing so I had to just take each day as it comes without stressing about work.



FRIDAY

The day started with plane duty under the rain and that should just not be allowed! As well as changes to the timetable! It's been really difficult to get in my head that the plane is now at 9am on Friday instead of 10am.

For both space and sanity reasons my mum is staying for a couple of weeks in Lower Leogh, it's been nice for her to have her own place. She can do things at her own pace and she loves the studio space. Since she retired she has taken on ceramics and makes the most beautiful animals, lately an Elephant mum and baby... I'm so proud I had to show you a picture! She also has a potter wheel so she challenged herself to make a drawing a day of a mug idea. If you ask me the bigger the better when it comes to tea cups!



Exciting development on the island, fibre optic is being installed. A couple of workmen are staying in Taft, they have accommodation in portacabins down at the harbour but I think the standard was really poor so they were happy to move in with me for a bit. They have been no trouble to me as they are cooking their own meals and I've been visiting mum in Lower Leogh most of the evenings so a perfect deal!

I went to borrow back some wool Anne at Busta borrowed from me a few months ago. It's special wool. My mum likes the thinner yarn from Jamieson's of Shetland, *Ultra*. It's 50% lambswool and 50% shetland wool, it's a fair bit softer and lighter weight. She has a few knitting plans but so far the weather has just been too nice for knitting!

I went to the plane again, that's the only note on my *post-it* - so sadly no gossip from it as I can't remember who travelled that day, or is it privileged information anyway?!

At this time of the year my daily goal is managing to walk Fly twice a day after sunrise and before sunset! Sometimes I have to go with a flashlight. Somehow it seems like Fly doesn't care at all about walking in the dark!

SATURDAY

I start the day with a walk, picking up my mum on my way south to check on the beautiful skies and stunning colours of the sunrise.

The bothy gets cold in the winter, it was only 9°C when I got there but with the fire on, two hours later it was already too hot at 25°C, and I had to open the window! I only light the fire if I spend the whole day there and I knew I had to. I had the biggest, longest jumper of my career so far to knit.

Daniel and Sophie returned this summer, I met them in 2018 when they came with their classic car on a photography tour of the UK. We kept in touch ever since, Daniel is a super talented photographer so I was happy to hire him for new photography to update my website. I think even by Netherlands standards he's pretty impressively tall, part of the payment for the pictures was a jumper that would fit him well, which I think is pretty hard to come by. We created the colourway together and it couldn't be more fitting to the colours of the island at the moment. It was so nice to spend the day knitting by the fire. It's a pretty complicated design so I just listen to music, it had been a long time since I was last able to knit all day!

I went to Lower Leogh for lunch and brought Mum back with me to spend the afternoon at Pund.

The bothy is a relaxing place, we got a beautiful sunset and shortly after I went to walk Fly, still in daylight. I then went back to Pund to finish knitting the jumper. It's crazy how much I can achieve in one day when I don't have anything else to do!

SUNDAY

Will I say that every day? Today was the nicest sunrise, with amazing contrasts, we went to the south of the island again with absolutely wonderful colours, just like the jumper I'm knitting. I put some pictures too cause I don't think it's easy to imagine it but striking once you have the picture!

I dosed the sheep at Pund with the wrong type of Cydectin a month or so ago so I had to do it again this morning, along with Spot-on. My mum has a bad knee so she helped with guiding the sheep to the cru but couldn't do much more than keeping count of how many sheep I did. Thanks to Iain I got some of the right Cydectin for this time of the year so they should all be good! Crofting is such a learning curve, the main problem is I always think I will remember the following year and I never do. I need to start writing down things in a notebook I won't lose but so far I've only managed to say it! Now that I have written it down here I will have to do it.

Lunch was delicious, it always feel like cheating because it's the least effort to nicer taste I know: shop-bought tortellini with butter cream cheese and smoked salmon. Ready in under 5 minutes.

In the afternoon I started finishing Daniel's jumper while listening to an audiobook. This time of the year I'm somehow drawn to listening to the Harry Potter saga again, probably every two or three years once I've forgotten enough of it! There are advantages to a brain that doesn't remember details very well... I also like not to have to waste time picking something new every two days, I will be sorted for a few weeks!

In the evening I catch up with Mum and we play cards and drink tea. I'm often asked if I miss France, I really don't but I do miss my family and my friends a lot. Just being able to go for a cuppa, play for a couple of hours, and then go back home, this is so precious.

MONDAY

Trying to spice things up a bit this morning so Fly and I picked up Mum and drove to the North light for our morning walk. Another sunny morning with almost no wind.

While in Lerwick meeting up with Mum last week I bought an extra survival suit for her thinking of the last few storms we just had but she only used it once so far and was too hot! We better have good winds coming otherwise this will have been a waste of money...

I made a smoked haddock risotto from Marian Armitage's book "Food Made in Shetland", it was delicious - best fish risotto recipe.

We catch up with my sister on WhatsApp, she is a bit like a broken record at the moment... She is looking for a flat to move in with her boyfriend and the housing situation in Switzerland is CRAZY. She has been visiting flats and putting applications in for places that won't be available (finished build) until October 2024! I thought it was to buy a flat but it's to rent, very few people can afford to buy there and the rent market is very competitive...

This reminded me to look into the housing survey that was circulated, I started drafting my answers but as everyone knows it's a subject dear to my heart so I will need to find a bit more time to make my thoughts make more sense before submitting it. I'm really happy the development company is looking into this and I hope there will be lots of responses so we get a good idea of what the island's needs are.

TUESDAY

Busy, busy day today, two planes, thankfully both SIC-A and SIC-B came so not too much waiting around for us firecrew. The Snolda is in too, standing in for the Good Shepherd that is still out for refit. The Toplander brought a new lot of workmen for the fibre optic and took away the ones that we had working the last few weeks.

I get a good excuse to catch up with Kathy, freshly back from her travels, as I notice a bird is trapped in her car (this is my extent of bird identification - it was a smallish bird). Her travel adventures are such that I keep a mental note never to travel with her, she has the worst luck when it comes to transport and weather! It's lovely to see her light on in the dark nights, welcome back!

Fly and I went to Pund to practice getting the lambs in the cru as I think their time is coming. She doesn't listen to me but I must admit she probably knows better so she gets the lambs in the cru by herself while I close the gate...

A friend of my mum wanted a few scarves so I spent a few hours designing some swatches with the colours she chose and thankfully she picked two options I liked.

In the evening I enjoy having Taft for myself once more and catching up with one of my favourite British shows: "Ghosts" on BBC, the new season is really good, and I hope there will be another one.

It is a very funny program, not too sure how to describe it but worth watching the first few episodes. I would have never watched it if someone had pitched it to me but I loved it the moment I started watching it!

WEDNESDAY

Time is up for the lambs, Fly and I went to put them in the cru and my seven male ones from the hill were picked up by Iain, they will soon be in the freezer. I'm so grateful for his help as there is no chance I could do this myself.

The next stop is the shop with fully stocked shelves you wouldn't know the boat has been away!

I hate it on the mainland when shops start stocking Christmas things very early but on Fair Isle, I always look forward to the treat corner Fiona and Robert have at Christmas. It always feels special to be able to get fancy chocolates and lovely presents!

I pick up Mum and we go to John's for coffee. It was nice to catch up as during the knitting holiday season I send my guests and usually use the time they are with him to clean or cook, but never get to spend much time with John myself! It was good to see his latest painting as well as older drawings - I love how he explores different techniques and is enjoying trying new things, great inspiration!

The rain came out of nowhere, well it was in the forecast but after the beautiful few days we just had, it did feel like a shock... I picked up Eileen and we went to Pund to pick some wool. She started her knitting machine journey and I'm happy to share how wonderful they are. She wants to knit a few presents for her family in Argentina. With the wool we went back to Taft as it's easier for me, I can carry on working on other things while keeping an eye on her! By the end of the afternoon, she had a scarf ready, and there was a lot of chatting!

In the evening I get to try the spinning wheel Eileen lent to my last guest a few weeks ago. I am no spinning expert, I cherish the memories I have of Old Stewart teaching me but I hadn't tried it in a few years. I'm glad I still remember

the basics but I need a lot of practice. Not sure I will have time but it was good to feel the wool through my fingers again.

THURSDAY

Lovely weather this morning again, enjoyed walking Fly, on my own, Mum is sleeping in, it's almost like she thinks she is on holiday!

I've been putting off booking travel for going home for Christmas but somehow I end up looking for flights so after 45 minutes trying to find the best itinerary I decide to just book it so I don't have to do this again! There is so much to take into account: prices, complexity, chances of being stuck/missing a connection, etc.

I think I have a pretty good plan: Plane out of Fair Isle, boat out of Shetland, train to Edinburgh (a few days with Eve there), plane to Paris, fast train to Marseille, a couple of nights with my friend Cloë (who has visited Fair Isle a couple of times already) and then she will drive us up to my parents' as she's from the same area. What can possibly go wrong?!

Mum and I then had a lovely time at Schoolton, Elizabeth's carrot cake was delicious and it was nice to speak in French as my mum's English is quite limited. They both share the hardship of only seeing their daughters a few months of the year but at least it's easier for my mum to travel from France than going to the US from Fair Isle...

With the sun out I can take "in-situ" pictures of the jumper I made this week and I must say I am pretty pleased with the result, I couldn't fit it on my standard jumper board... The jumper is 33" long so I had to be creative!



Then the plane made it in, arrived empty but left with 8 passengers so well worth the trip! With the other firefighters, we practiced our incident response, it's always good to refresh what we are meant to do. And then back to the station for the weekly checks.

It's dark by the time I get home to walk Fly and apparently, I even missed a green flash at sunset... I'm green with envy! Hopefully another few beautiful sunsets in the next few days, finger crossed.

Dinner is the best. Mum brought me a gift from France, it's a portable "raclette" device. Raclette is the name of a cheese and a dish you eat in France. You set a big electric device in the middle of the table with 8 or 10 slots for little mini pans that you use to melt your cheese in. It's got a heating element, then you have boiled potatoes, lots of

types of hams and charcuterie with it, and maybe caramelized onions if you're that kind of family (we are NOT)... Anyway, that was maybe a confusing description, just google "French Raclette".

Mum got me a thing that is just two mini pans that go on top of a metal frame, you put 3 tealight candles in it and it melts the cheese in minutes and it's just like the real deal. It was a piece of French winter right there on Fair Isle. Amazing. That was the second time we had one but now the cheese is finished... I will have to bring more back in January! I wonder if it would work with Cheddar...

At the top of the list of things I wanted to do this week was: designing a new website so I can use Daniel's beautiful pictures and start taking bookings for next year... And tidy up my bedroom so I can start painting the walls. When we moved to Taft we painted everything white because it was easier than picking colours but I just got some grey paint and I'm excited for a change. Talking about change, it's been two (maybe more) years since I got Hollie's old treadmill and I think I can count on one hand how many times I've used it. Well, obviously after two years I think I need to accept the fact I don't need one and I need to rehome it. It's very well-behaved and works just fine if you're the type of person that likes to run inside. It's been folded in my bedroom for way too long and I need the space so I can paint the walls so does anyone fancy a great (according to others that used it) treadmill? PLEASE! I can't bear the constant reminder of my lack of motivation every morning when I get up (yes that's my sales strategy - by the way, it's free...)

In summary, I need the weather to get really windy so my Mum can use her survival suit, and for someone to realize winter is rubbish for outdoor exercise, and decide they want a treadmill, then I can paint my bedroom and wake up happy every morning, the butterfly effect!

Have a lovely week!
Marie at Taft

'Plan for Community Councils' Area and Composition. Phase One Public Consultation asks the public to consider various options for community council areas. Fair Isle is currently part of Dunrossness CC.

The Consultation process will be held over one 12-week period, with further consultation later.

Any person or organisation can make representation no later than 5pm on Friday 12th January 2024 by

Email CommunityCouncilReview@shetland.gov.uk

Or in writing to Community Council Review, Solarhus, 3 North Ness, Lerwick, ZE1 0LZ.

A copy of the plan is available at the shop alongside paper response forms & pre-paid envelopes.

More information about the Community Council Scheme Review can be found online at

www.shetland.gov.uk/ccschemereview

For residents of Fair Isle, Fetlar, Foula, Papa Stour and Skerries, an online meeting will take place on Microsoft Teams from 7pm-8.30pm on Wednesday 29 November 2023. Island residents are asked to contact Michael Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer, to request a Teams link to join this meeting - Michael.duncan@shetland.gov.uk

Housing Survey – FI Dev Company, A reminder to islanders to complete the survey sent over before 17th November please. Paper or Word doc copies available from Eileen if needed, thanks



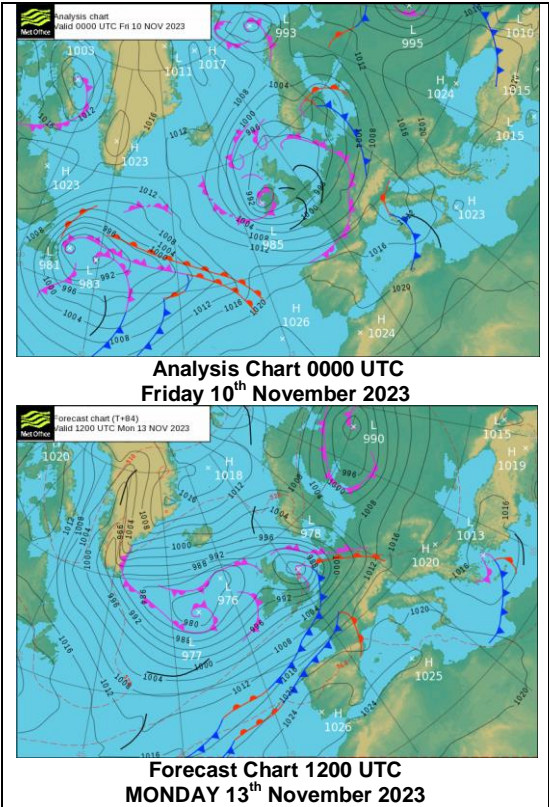
Halloween Caption Competition

"And this is why you don't fertilize carrots with steroids"
Guillermo

"Your carriage awaits!" *Naomi*

"...And this is why Nick has to be home *before* midnight..."
Eileen

FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



GENERAL SITUATION

Friday 10th November 2023

A shallow low over the North Sea will feed in showers on a north-easterly airflow. Showers die out and the airflow eases during the next few days as the low slips away eastwards and a weak ridge builds across the UK. A south-easterly airflow strengthens on Monday as the next North Atlantic depression drives a frontal trough northeast over British Isles towards Shetland. The depression, slow-moving to the west of Scotland at first, is forecast to drift north past Shetland as a filling feature later in the week. As it does so an unsettled south-easterly airflow, feeding in showers or bands of rain becomes a showery southwest to westerly.

OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND

Temperatures today and Saturday 7° or 8° Celsius 3° to 5° night. For Sunday 8° or 9° by day 7° overnight.

FRIDAY 10th: Mainly cloudy with showers or longer spells of rain for much of the day. F5 NE winds. Becoming drier in the evening with some clear spells. A chilly night with clear spells and showers, possibly wintry. Fresh NNE winds. **Sea State:** Mostly moderate with a 2 metre W'ly wind swell but NE'ly east of Shetland.

SATURDAY 11th: Bright or sunny spells and scattered showers, a few perhaps wintry. Fewer showers in the afternoon as easing N to NE winds falling light and variable. **Sea State:** Mostly moderate with

a 2 metre NNE'ly wind swell.

SUNDAY 12th: Dry with sunshine turning hazy as high cloud spreads in and a light S to SE breeze freshens. **Sea State:** Mostly slight with a 1 metre N'ly wind swell.

FORECAST FOR NEXT Temperatures 9° or 10° Celsius by day 7° or 8° overnight. **MONDAY 13th:** Cloudy with rain at times. Strong SE to E winds. **Sea State:** Moderate or rough with a 2 to 3 metre SE'ly wind swell. **TUESDAY 14th:** Cloudy, rain or showers at times and fresh SE winds. **Sea State:** Moderate or rough with a 2 to 3 metre SE'ly wind swell. **WEDNESDAY 15th – SUNDAY 19th:** Wednesday and Thursday cloudy with outbreaks of rain and fresh to strong SE winds. Reasonably fine on Friday with light winds but possibly followed by a wet and windy weekend with risk of gale. **Sea State Wednesday:** Moderate or rough with a 2 to 3 metre SW'ly wind swell. **Dave Wheeler**

