

# Fair Isle Times

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## My Weekend

On Saturday, Harris and Heidi came for tea, also David, Pat and Neil and Hollie. We had lots of fun. The tea was very good, the pudding was even better. We had lots of lovely food.

On Sunday, we went to the South Haven and we found lots and lots of blue glass, well to be exact, 7 pieces. There were some bright blue and some really rich dark blue.

In Argentina we now have a baby cousin! He is a boy called Linus. They live in the most southern bit of Argentina called Ushuaia. He is more than 9 pounds and that's very big!

## Luca (8)



## Out for Tea

On Friday night my parents put on the movie Indiana Jones: Raiders of the Lost Ark. It was a bit scary at the end when they opened the box!

On Saturday, I walked to the rocky beach with my mum. Heidi went on her bike. I found a smashed piece of flint and when I got home I tried to cut some cucumber with it because it was sharp. It kind of worked.

Later on we went to Houll for dinner. Me, Luca, Ander and Heidi played upstairs. We had a game of wrestling. We stayed up quite late.

On Sunday, we watched the movie Maleficent. I like the film Descendants on Disney. The main character Mal is Maleficent's daughter.

## Harris (9)



## Heidi (6)

## My Shopping Weekend!

This weekend Mum and I went out to Lerwick to see Grace perform in a play called Threepenny Opera. It's called this because it was a play that cost three pennies. Grace played the part of a beggar working for the main character's Dad. We went to watch it on Friday; it was brilliant! I have still got the songs stuck in my head! Since the weather didn't look good, we went out on Thursday so we still had a full day before the performance. We did lots of fun shopping, I got a really cool pair of jeans, some flares and lots of leggings and tops!

Later we went shoe shopping (which I love!), to get some running trainers; they are really nice pink and black ones. Whilst we were in town, we stopped at West Side Pine so I got some really sparkly Christmas tree dressy up glasses! We also went to the book shop where I found a new Beano book! Later we went to the Red Cross charity shop where I found some really good Mine Craft books! Then on the way back we went to Boots and, as a bonus, I got to go upstairs and get... Lipstick! It's a really nice colour which I then got to wear to dinner. We went to the Chinese for tea. I got chicken and sweetcorn soup and some honey roasted duck, yum! Whilst we were in Lerwick, we also went to the Gurka Kitchen, Magno, The Golden Coach and Skipidock for lunch where I had one of the best burgers ever and of course... hot chocolate (wherever I could, I got hot chocolate!)

Grace, Mum and I all went swimming loads! The best time was when they had the floating floor down so I could go right to the end but also, because it was Monday (we got stuck out) so not very busy, we were allowed flippers! I love them because it means you can go so much faster and don't even need to use your arms! Whilst we were there, we also met Davie who lives on Foula who I normally only see on school trips!

Freyja (11)



Ander (5)

## Children in Need and UNICEF fundraiser by Fair Isle Primary School

Thank you to everyone who came to our Coffee Morning today. We hope you had a lovely time. An astonishing £500 was raised by our small yet extremely generous community! £250 will be donated to Children in Need and £250 will be donated to UNICEF. A huge thanks to everyone for their contributions, including those who baked, helped in the kitchen and handed in raffle items. It was a huge success and a lovely way to bring our community together!

Gillian, Hollie, Freyja, Harris, Luca, Heidi and Ander

We have a very special *week dat's awa* this week, from our own Fyntan in Antarctica!!



Hello from Antarctica! I have finally arrived after an extended stay in Cape Town, including two attempted flights to Antarctica that had to turn around (once because of weather, once because the plane generator broke). We arrived at a Norwegian station called "Troll" on Monday and then flew to the coastal German station "Neumayer" on Wednesday. I'll spend the next approximately 2 weeks being trained how to drive the skidoos and use other equipment, though I should also have some time to go visit the penguins by the coast. Facilities at Neumayer include a library, gym equipment, an electric piano and ok internet (2.5 Mbps), so it looks like we won't be stuck for entertainment.



The plane which took us to Neumayer from Troll

Goodbye! The plane heading back to Cape Town

Towards the end of November, I set out on an approximately 2 week long traverse for "Kohnen" station, situated 700 km inland and at an altitude of 2892 m. I will be joined by another PhD scientist, a cook, a doctor and 7 engineers who are driving the large vehicles which tow the living containers and equipment.

I'll spend most of the traverse riding on a skidoo (up to ten hours a day) with the other PhD student, following closely behind the main traverse team but veering off at various points to measure the height of bamboo sticks for snow accumulation data. At the end of a full day on the skidoo, we'll return to the main container for dinner and to sleep. We have been warned by several colleagues that this traverse will be physically and mentally demanding.

Arriving at Kohnen in early December we'll take more accumulation measurements around the

station, and test out a new tool for extracting a 1 m long snow core. I'll be joined by my supervisor around the 16th of December, and begin work on taking temperature profiles of the boreholes around the station.



The work load during the traverse and at Kohlen will be be pretty intense, especially given the temperature will average around -40 C before wind chill. We will get a day off for both Christmas and New Year, and the cook will prepare a nice Christmas dinner for us all.

We are due to fly back from Kohlen station to Cape Town, via Troll, on the 20th of January, weather permitting of course.

Fyntan (Burkle)

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Congratulations to Fiona on 30 years of dedicated service at our Post Office, keep it up Fiona!! Here is Fiona when she started, with Annie who ran the Post Office from Shirva for over 30 years



**BT Openreach fibre installation in Isle - update:**

- The submarine cable and optical transmission systems between Fair Isle and Lerwick are live and working correctly. This is a world first in terms of the technical solution.
- Currently we can confirm that BT, Vodafone and Sky have the ability to offer full fibre services on the island using our network. We will keep asking all of our Communications Providers to do the same. This is their choice whether to invest in that capability to offer services to residents on Shetland and Fair Isle.
- We begin live service testing on Monday.
- Our engineers are on the island doing the pre work in customer premises. They are staying on the island until the work is done. 25 Premises are now complete and have all the fibre already pre-installed.
- All being well, we hope to be able to offer full fibre service to residents from next week. Mark D and Joanne will confirm and be able to help you place orders as soon as the technical tests are complete.

Regards  
Andy Whale  
Chief Engineer Openreach

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**Chapel** – this Sunday at 11am, all very welcome to join. Dave B leading the service.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Triona at Quoy, best wishes to you Triona from all at F I Times

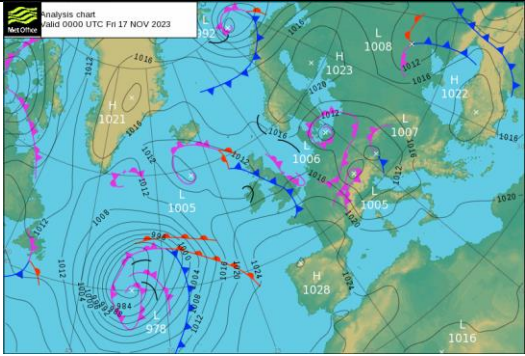
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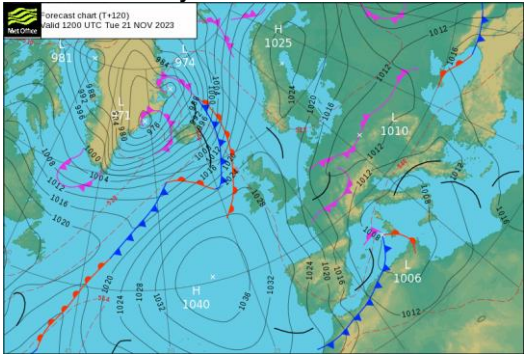
**Interesting beach find** - David and Freyja Parnaby found this beautiful By-the-wind-sailor at Sompal recently, one or two have been found in Fair Isle the past few years but we haven't seen one this big and blue!



**FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST**



Analysis Chart 0000 UTC  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023



Forecast Chart 1200 UTC  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023

**GENERAL SITUATION**

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

A weak ridge will decline ahead of fronts driven northeast by a depression in mid-Atlantic. The occluding fronts are expected to reach Shetland later Saturday along with a strengthening south-east airflow. This will probably ease cyclonic variable on Sunday as the depression tracks northeast across the Northern Isles. Continuing eastward the depression will be followed by a cooler northerly airflow early next week. An anticyclone, forecast to develop mid-Atlantic may then build a ridge eastwards over the UK mid-week but leaves northern Scotland in a strong westerly airflow between the high and low pressure north of Iceland – with the hint of a much colder north-westerly to end the week as low pressure moves east.

**OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND**

Temperatures around 5° Celsius Friday 1° overnight. A milder weekend 8° or 9° by day 6° overnight.

**FRIDAY 17<sup>th</sup>:** Mainly dry with light winds and sunny by afternoon. Clear spells leading to an early frost before a SE breeze develops overnight. **Sea State:** Slight to moderate with a 1 to 2 metre SE'ly wind swell. **SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup>:** SE winds strengthening F6. Rain extending north over Shetland through the afternoon. Heavy rain easing off overnight as winds moderate. **Sea State:** Rough with a 3 metre SE'ly wind swell. **SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup>:** A milder dull, damp and misty day. Light ESE winds. Further rain overnight as SE winds freshen.

**Sea State:** Mostly rough with a 3 metre ESE'ly wind swell.

**FORECAST FOR NEXT** Temperatures around 7° Celsius by day 5° or 6° overnight. Colder later.

**MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup>:** Cloudy with rain clearing later as winds become fresh NW. **Sea State:** Moderate or rough with a 2 to 3 metre NE'ly wind swell. **TUESDAY 21<sup>st</sup>:** Cloudy, scattered showers. Fresh W winds backing SW. Heavy rain overnight. **Sea State:** Moderate with a 2 metre NNE'ly wind swell. **WEDNESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> – SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup>:** Wednesday cloudy with outbreaks of rain and strong WSW winds. Rain on Thursday followed by showers on Friday turning wintry as strong to gale winds veer NNW. A cold windy weekend with wintry showers. **Sea State Wednesday:** In the west and through the Fair Isle Channel increasing very rough with a 5 to 7 metre W'ly wind swell. Rough east of Shetland with a 3 to 4 metre SW wind swell.

**Dave Wheeler**

