

# FAIR ISLE TIMES

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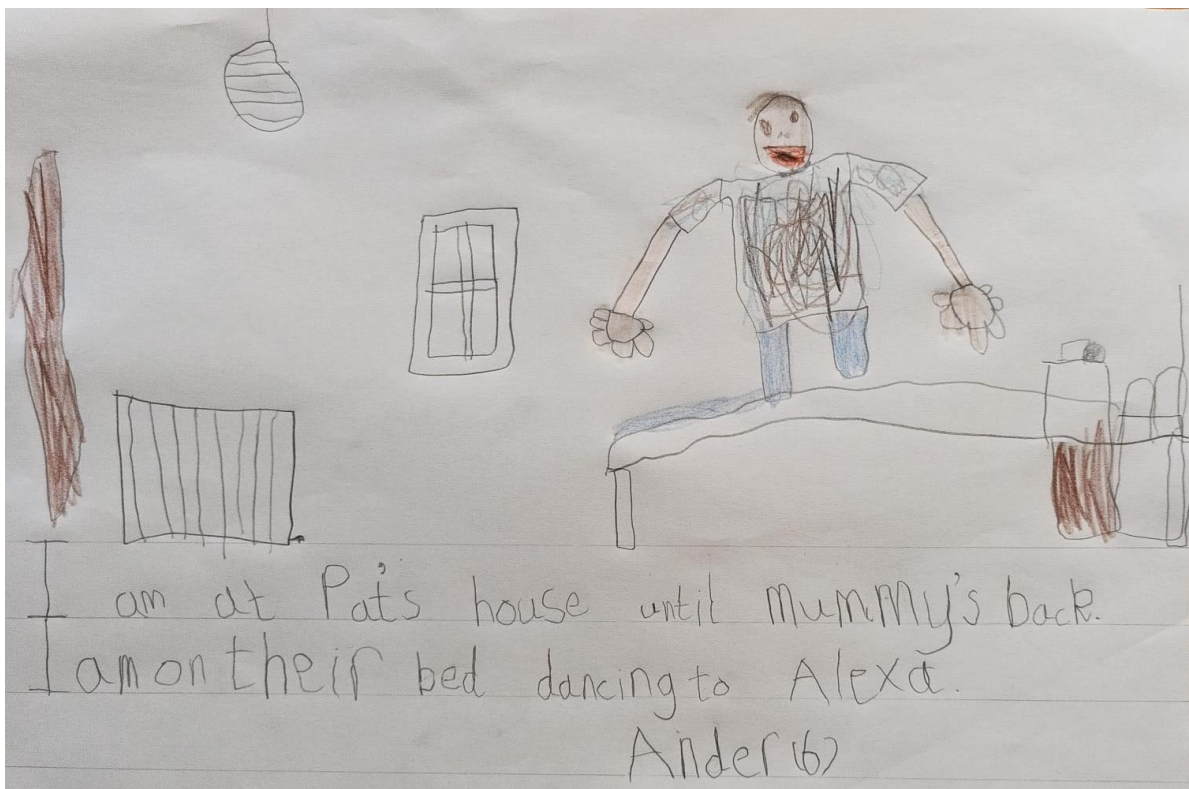
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## I love the snow!

The snow is very fun. It tastes like ice. When I pretend to be an arctic fox, I like to crawl and roll in the snow. It is very deep in some places like the corners of the gardens!

Heidi (6)



Ander (6)

This week, Primary 4,5 and 7 have carried out independent research about a topic of their own choice.

### Facts about Azerbaijan

- The population is 10.14 million.
- The capital city is Baku.
- Countries that border Azerbaijan: Armenia, Georgia, Iran, Russia (Caspian sea)
- It has the Candy Cane mountains. The name is because there are stripes of red and white rock
- Continent : Asia
- Currency: Azerbaijani manat



### Luca (8)

#### Black Ox Beetle

- It is a type of rhinoceros beetle.
- Males have horns for fighting each other over females.
- Major males have 3 horns, the middle is the longest.
- Minor males have 2 horns that are shorter.
- They live for 4 to 6 months.
- They are large and strong



Female



Major Male (sorry we could not find a minor male picture)

#### Ant Lion

- Ant Lions dig a funnel in sand to catch their prey.
- When prey slips into the funnel, the ant lion catches it and injects poison and digestive enzymes into its body.
- Then it sucks out the liquefied guts.
- Finally it throws the empty bug's carcass up into the air out of the funnel!



### Harris (9)

## Health Problems with Dog Breeds



### **Dalmatians**

- Susceptible to inherited congenital deafness (see 1)
- Only breed of dog that can suffer from urate stones in the urinary system (see 2)

### **Pugs**

- Pugs have breathing difficulties because their squashed nose means their nostrils are too thin. (see 3)
- Pugs' cute wrinkly heads sadly mean they are more likely to get skin infections due to the folds.

### **Great Dane**

- The Great Dane suffers from various health issues such as bloating and cardiomyopathy.
- Cardiomyopathy is a disease of the heart that makes it hard to pump blood to the rest of the body.
- Bloating is when the stomach gets stretched by food or gas.

### **Sources of information:**

1. [dalmatians - Google Search](#)
2. The new Encyclopedia of the Dog by Dr Bruce Fogle
3. [Top 9 Pug Health Problems & How to Recognise Them | Purina](#)
4. [Great Dane Life Span & Health Issues - American Kennel Club \(akc.org\)](#)

### **Freyja (11)**

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### **Isle Notices**

**Reminder - The FIDC Annual General Meeting** will be held on 24th January 2023 in the Community Hall at 7PM. An email with links to the Agenda and documentation pertaining to the Articles of Association and Action Plan has been circulated by Eileen. These items will be discussed/voted on at the AGM. Everyone has also been asked to complete a new membership form to allow us to update our membership database. Everyone is invited to attend the AGM, we hope to see many of you there.  
Fair Isle Development Company.

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

### ***Da week or 6 dat's awa sooth!!***

This certainly feels like more than a week, mainly because it lasted more than a week, so I'll have to break the rules a lot and reframe as it happened rather than day by day.

As usual, it was all planned, Mon would come, forecast would be all nice for both boat and planes, get out, fly down to Edinburgh and keep going all the way down to Argentina. Truth is, if that were to happen then it wouldn't be usual, would it? Now, it didn't have to go the opposite way thaaaaat far. It all ended up kicking off a week earlier, Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Dec to be precise, Ander getting ill, mama and boy airlifted to Shetl...Orkney... YES! ORKNEY you read it right.

Luckily, it wasn't too bad and Ander recovered real quick and it was all good in the end. Back to the main story though, the forecast was not looking great, neither for the boat nor planes. It just happened to be that some sort of vessel was picking up scaffolding from Fair Isle, so I ended up jumping onto it and starting my journey south with a 5-hr northbound journey to lovely Scalloway. It was so sudden though that I barely said goodbye to Luca. On the plus side, I spent a lovely evening meal with a resident, whose identity I will protect by referring to this person as "grumpy person" and turning them unrecognizable with the power of AI. We enjoyed a delicious meal at the Steak Hoose in Lerwick.



Made my way down to Edinburgh and to Argentina as planned (for a change) with all flights on time, no luggage delays or anything like that.

Lovely weather, 30 C max, barbeques galore, even a piggy!!! School pals, swimming pool, mosquitos, football... All those things that your winter framed minds wouldn't even think of doing in December 😊. I did them all... in style.





It had been 16 years since my last Christmas and New year at home so it was quite special, nice and there was no cinnamon around whatsoever. Happy days.

And then came the real trip south, to Ushuaia at a latitude of 55 degrees south. I went back to Shetland temperatures instantly, and it was meant to be summer mind you!

But such a stunning place to visit. Certainly a place to go for nature lovers. Plenty of forest walks, lakes to visit, dramatic mountain walks, a national park, boat trips to even more remote places.

I'll summarize it all with some pictures. I know it's not as far south as that clever Shaw lad but it is a good try and it's not a competition anyways!

This is the exact place I am talking about, this tiny "triangular" bit at the very south of Argentina:



Now, the arrow above signals the end of Road #3. This road goes all the way up north to Alaska. I even heard that it is possible to get a "half" passport stamp in Ushuaia and the other half in Alaska, although I didn't enquire any further so it might as well be just an urban myth.

Below is the most southerly lighthouse in the world (or so they say)



There were such a huge number of shipwrecks in the area, that it was very much needed. Not the most exciting placement a light-keeper could get though, in my opinion.

Ask Parnaby about the ones to follow, my knowledge goes as far as knowing that they are birds with a 78% of certainty, when sober.



Some landscapes:





# EXPEDICION ANTARTICA DEL SCOTIA 1902-1904

Primera base permanente en la Antártida - Isla Orcadas del Sur, Argentina



### "Los Documentos de Bariloche"

Para qué fue lo que realmente ocurrió en "Bariloche" en aquellos días...  
"realidad por" geografía de La Plata, en "Bariloche" de los días...  
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Los documentos de "Bariloche" en el Archivo General de la Nación...  
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The Scottish connection of course!!!! The image (left) can be found in a museum, which is set in an old Jail from back in the day, kind of the end of the world Alcatraz.

*Editor:* the image on the left mentions the Bruce expedition which I believe is featured in the Fair Isle Museum, funny how there are Fair Isle connections even there!





Here's the new Shepherd making good progress:



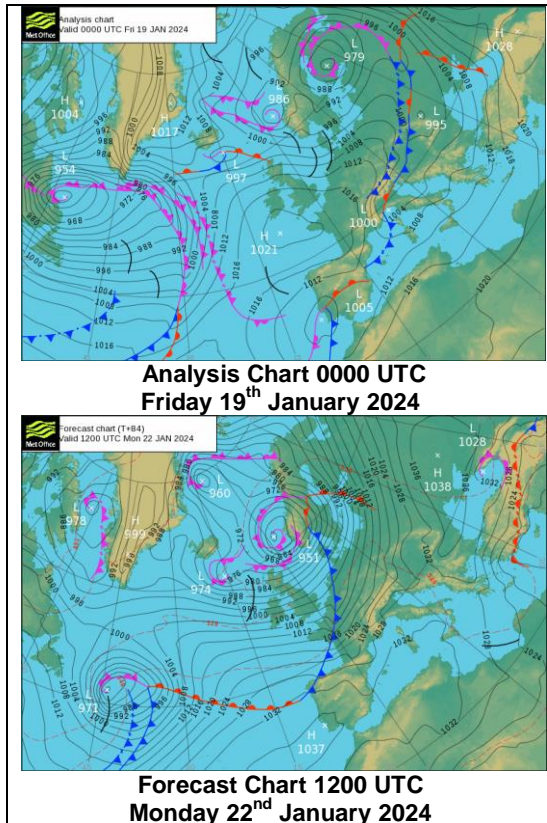
There is also a new institute, "The Southern Institute for Futuristic Sciences" that focuses mainly on technological innovations. They let me play with this new photo camera that takes a pic of you but when it develops it shows your future state about 3 months ahead. I don't see how it can possibly be accurate or true at all, sounds like whole bunch of BS but Eileen seems to be quite impressed with the results (*photo right*)

I really hope you coped with reading this, made it this far and enjoyed the photos. It was indeed a memorable holiday at the end of the world.



Guillermo, Houll

## FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



### GENERAL SITUATION

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

The arctic airflow circulating around low pressure over the Baltic has now eased and over the weekend will be replaced by a strengthening south-westerly airflow and thaw as a slow-moving warm front reaches Shetland. A developing low Atlantic low will deepen on Saturday as it heads towards the British Isles. Already named Storm Isha it is expected to track towards northwest Scotland on Sunday, probably passing just west of Fair Isle early on Monday. It then tracks north along the Norwegian coast leaving Shetland in a strong west to north-westerly airflow easing on Tuesday as a ridge builds from the west. Another north Atlantic depression tracks east to be close to Shetland by Wednesday before continuing east as a filling feature with a short-lived ridge following overnight. By Thursday current predictions suggest a developing wave low brings a very strong south to south-westerly airflow and unsettled weather to end the week.

### OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND

Temperatures around 4° Celsius by day, much the same overnight. Milder on Saturday and Sunday with temperatures rising to 7° or 8° by day falling to 6° overnight.

**FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup>:** A steady thaw setting in, assisted by showers or longer spells of rain. F4-5 W winds increasing F6-7. A cloudy drier evening with lighter winds but rain setting in overnight as S'yly winds strengthen F5-6.

**Sea State:** Moderate or rough with a 3 metre NW'yly wind swell.

**SATURDAY 20<sup>th</sup>:** Becoming milder, with rain bringing a steady thaw. The rain dies out during the morning but it remains cloudy with F6-7 SW winds. Rain in the evening turns heavy overnight as S'yly winds strengthen gale F8 to severe gale F9.

**Sea State:** Rough with a 3 metre SW'yly wind swell.

**SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup>:** Rain clears to sunny spells and showers. Gale F8 to severe gale F9 S to SW winds., Further rain arriving from the south during the evening, occasionally heavy overnight.

**Sea State:** Rough with a 4 metre SW'yly wind swell building very rough with a 5 metre S'yly wind swell.

**FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK** Temperatures 6° Celsius by day 3° or 4° overnight.

**MONDAY 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Any rain soon clearing then sunny spells and showers, Strong to gale or severe gale W'yly winds. Winds begin to ease overnight.

**Sea State:** Very rough with a 5 to 6 metre easing rough with a 4 metre W'yly wind swell.

**TUESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Sunny spells and showers. Fresh to strong W winds.

**Sea State:** Mostly rough with a 4 metre W'yly wind swell turning SW'yly.

**WEDNESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> – SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup>:** Wednesday bright with a few showers and fresh NW'yly wind. Thursday dry start with rain by afternoon as S'yly gale develops. Rest of week cloudy with rain or showers and strong SW winds.

**Sea State Wednesday:** Moderate to rough with a 2 to 3 metre W'yly wind swell turning SW'yly and building 4 metre.

**Dave Wheeler**

## NOTES ON A SNOW EVENT

Yesterday, Friday 18<sup>th</sup>, was brutal at times with  $-3^{\circ}$  and, with near gale force winds gusting to 40kn, an equivalent wind chill of  $-12^{\circ}$  to  $-13^{\circ}$  plus heavy blowing snow reducing visibility to 200m at times! Reminds me of the Christmas Blizzard of 1995. However then northerly winds were gusting to 95mph!

Quite a change this morning with the earlier winds having moved a lot of the 16cm deep snow I recorded yesterday – depositing it in deep drifts blocking roads and up alongside walls. Despite earlier valiant efforts Fair Isle roads were still impassible first thing - though a photograph by Ian Best shows the airstrip has been blown clear of snow. With the temperature approaching  $5^{\circ}$  little wind and outbreaks of rain a steady thaw has started. However with Storm Isha heading our way next week looks to start very windy!

Why this cold snap after a tendency for milder winters? Firstly from my 50 years of Fair Isle weather these temperatures were a much more common occurrence 20 to 30 years ago. We've acclimatised to the new normal, Climate change means we're not as used as we once were to very cold days!

The polar jet stream is a narrow band of air flowing strongly west to east at high altitudes. At the moment it is very weak and has moved further south allowing cold air to flow south from the Arctic. To compound this is we are in an El Niño year, a phenomenon that occurs every three to four years, during which the jet stream shifts course, causing warmer than average sea surface temperatures that, in turn, generate atmospheric waves. These create seismic shifts in winter weather across Europe. During El Niño years, northern Europe can be colder and drier, with southern Europe getting more rain. El Niño summers in the UK can be hotter and drier.

While it is 5C to 6C colder than usual for this time of year in the UK, northern Scandinavia is about 20C colder than usual. The hot side of the jet stream is now down towards the Mediterranean where at the moment temperatures are warmer than usual.

Dave Wheeler

