



FAIR ISLE TIMES



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My Weekend

On Friday Luca, Ander and Freyja came to our house after school. We played Minecraft together and ate snacks. The next morning we all went to the hall for a play for Brodie's birthday. He is 2 now. Then we went to Ruth's house for birthday cake. We made a den in the lounge with the giant sofa cushions. For the rest of the weekend I played Fortnite with Milo. I am now diamond level just like him. Orla, Alex, Murray and I played Fortnite together too.

Harris (9)

My Weekend

On Friday me and Ander went to the Maxwell's house for a play date. We had lots of fun. On Saturday we went to the Hall to have a play for Brodie's birthday, then went to Setter. At Setter we made a den for Brodie. We used Ruth's sofa cushions and Brodie loved it! We ate chocolate cake which was amazing.

Now, updating on your Manchester United news! On Sunday Manchester United beat West Ham 3-0!

Get well Ian!

Luca (8)



6.2.24

I made a dragon with
Holly and Alisha. It is
a girl.

Heidi (6)



6.2.2024

At the weekend it was
Brodie's birthday. We had so
much fun at the hall.

Ander (6)

10 facts you didn't know:

1. Whilst dinosaurs were alive there could have been active volcanos on the moon
2. At least 18 species of spider can catch and eat fish
3. A colossal squid uses their brain to swallow
4. When people sing together in a choir their heartbeats synchronise
5. The atmosphere of Venus is so hot it would cook a pizza in seven seconds
6. Ninjas sent secret messages using coloured grains of rice
7. There are over six billion types of knot
8. Starfish breathe and smell through their feet
9. Bananas glow in UV light
10. Bees have 5 eyes

Freyja (11)

Friday 2nd February

We like a momentous occasion at Houll, whether it's a birthday or anniversary or anything worth celebrating (even a fine day for hanging out claes recently would be worth throwing a party for!) Today, though not momentous for anyone else, is for Guillermo and me – our crystal anniversary - 15 years. I don't think it's fair for only married couples to mark anniversaries. When we started going out I didn't know a word of Spanish and the first phrase he taught me is still one of my favourites:

"Panza llena, corazon contento"

Or "full belly, happy heart" which, as any of you who know me well will confirm, is my kind of saying. I'm hoping for full bellies and happy hearts for at least another 15 years.

So yes, we toasted with pals up at the Schoolhouse while collecting the bairns from their playdate with their pals (we got bubbles, they got Minecraft). We would usually be celebrating with Captain Kenaby as it is his birthday too but an unfortunate tumble means he's not quite in the mood for a '3-cheers' yet.

Saturday 3rd February

More birthdays – it would have been Nanny at Shirva's 102nd birthday today – not that she'd have wanted to be that old. I mind her being cross at a survey once as when filling in the age section, she came under "very old", Nanny was not pleased! We still love and miss her every day, not in a maudlin way, rather appreciating all the wonderful memories and being grateful that we did have her for so long.

A peerie man took centre stage for today though, Brodie of Upper Stoneybrake celebrating 2 years. The bairns were invited for a play and run around at the Hall then we joined them for excellent birthday cake at Setter with the family. I think Brodie likes birthdays as much as I do, with much excitement at the singing of "Happy Birthday", chasing Ander to see his belly button, building dens from granny's sofa and generally having a brilliant fun with everyone. What a happy and dear boy! Saturday evening means Gladiators, my favourite programme as a bairn and thankfully they haven't changed it at all. Luca and Ander can barely sit still while watching it, they are so excited!

Sunday 4th February

We have a quiet and very enjoyable Sunday, Chapel is on but we've not been for a peerie while – I only go to sing hymns and with a bit of a dodgy chest at the moment that is out, so we choose Match of the Day highlights and pyjamas instead. Marie has been knitting like mad recently, so I've been kept very busy (and happy) with lots of finishing to do. Also good finishing her gorgeous blankets when it's so cold, they keep you warm while you work! Mum and Dad come with some kindling for us – we ran out and the rest of the banks wood collected by my cousin Steven in summer is still a bit damp to work with. We have used wheelbarrow loads of his beachcombing finds! Manchester United put on a good show at West Ham and Luca especially enjoys watching a successful game.

Guillermo is even happier later as his team, River Plate cruise to a 5-0 victory in the league there. We don't often have a proper Sunday dinner, but it's roast chicken and all the trimmings tonight, happy full bellies all round.

Monday 5th February

Another birthday – many happy returns to Naomi over in Boston! We finally have a much calmer day and it feels like my lugs have been switched off! We don't choose to bide in Fair Isle for the good winter weather but this past couple of months really have been poor, endless gales and general dirt! Mum and Dad pop down in the morning with a giant carrot (good soil at Steenibrekkar) and for Dad to look at sealing up a very draughty window upstairs. He sorted the gale blowing in under our kitchen sink recently, thank you Daddy, you're the best! I make a chicken pie with the leftovers from last night's tea - decorating the top with the leftover bits of pastry, a la Nannan. Everything is better with pastry!

A bit of paper work and preparation for the Fair Isle Development Company AGM this evening. FIDC is looking at real options for more housing here, with the aim of attracting more folk to come and live here. There is money out there if you know where to look and thankfully our development manager, Jack, seems to know where the pots of gold are hidden. We have a successful and brief meeting, with plenty of progress made, so happy all round. Thank you to all you isle folk for completing your membership forms – I don't think I have ever had such a good response! Mum babysat the boys but we were home in time to do our nightly games with the boys on my phone: Wordle, Worldle, Flagle, Globle, Angle, Connections, WhereTaken World... If we ever have a geography or flag quiz here, make sure you get on Luca and Ander's team!!

Tuesday 6th February

Usual start to the day of getting the boys ready for school, pack lunches (we miss you Sue!!!), school run, tidy kitchen and get on with admin work. I see Emma Williamson, the A&E nurse in from Lerwick which is always nice – my goodness we have missed having our own nurse here this past 6 months! There is even a queue at the surgery - it just shows how much we do need a nurse here the whole time. Thankfully, Laura and Charlie are due to move here on 20th February, for Laura to take up the permanent post, it will be lovely to see lights on at North Shirva once more. I bump into cousin Steven's daughter Alison who is here for a month to work with Marie. She is already a great knitter and artist so I can't wait to see what she learns from Marie. I have a quiet afternoon and finish another blanket from Marie, then get one more tea out of Sunday's chicken – chicken noodle soup which is a Mum classic and thankfully my family like it too!! The boys have a play at Steenibrekkar with Harris and Heidi, I even hear Luca has introduced Heidi to the joy of model planes!

I know I am not the only person who really enjoyed Amy's *week dat's awa* last week, especially the facts – was anyone else super surprised to hear that Australia is wider than the Moon!!? So, in a similar vein, we find an interesting fact while searching online for something: Did you know that the scientific name for nose-picking is **rhinotillexis** and the name for eating your snutters (sorry, yuck!) is **mucophagy**. Sorry if that is too unpleasant to read, but we live in a house with peerie boys so I am used to it!!

Wednesday 7th February

Couldn't believe our eyes when we woke to a white, snowy isle! Thankfully it's only a covering so not too much disruption to normal life here, thanks to our excellent team of gritters! Tingwall is hopeless sadly, so here's hoping for a thaw soon to let folk travel. Shetland got a lot more snow than us the past couple of days. More paperwork (not my favourite task, that's why I try to get it out of the way early in the day). This summer looks busy again with cruise ships, May and June as ever being our most popular months. The mobile signal and therefore most folks' wifi seem to be back working again, what a drag having barely any connectivity for almost a month. We were lucky that Guillermo had set us up with the fast fibre as soon as it was available, but a lot of folk were really cut off – not great! We have a visit from Amy and peerie Brodie in the afternoon – he loves to “*meet friends!*” We get the tent out and plenty of toy cars and all the boys have a super play. All of a sudden Brodie seems to have a huge vocabulary, and his knowledge of car parts is impressive but maybe not surprising! And requested pizza for tea which is always a hit in our house – and we love ham and pineapple! We hear there is a barge coming in the middle of the night, which helps to get boat crew home, but it'll be a long day for them!

Thursday 8th February

A crisp and very peaceful morning dawns – not a breath of wind and another fine layer of snow. With the sunrise the isle looks absolutely gorgeous.



A quick check on the AIS tracker shows the Shepherd leaving the Haven, thank goodness for that. Our crew deserve the utmost respect – never an easy job and they do a brilliant job. The weather has been so bad this winter that good sailing days are few and far between, literally! It'll be another busy trip; plenty of fuel, feeding, shop goods and mail too no doubt. Even a passenger or 2 as Tingwall is out of action to ice again. Another momentous day – today is Stewart and Triona at Quoy's emerald wedding anniversary. 55 years makes our 15 look pretty paltry! I believe it was a much snowier day when they tied the knot in Lerwick in 1969, with some guests barely making it to the ceremony as the snow was feet deep. I am having coffee with Stewart and Triona when our GP calls to say I'm being sent to Lerwick for more tests on my slightly dicky heart, so straight back home to pack and up to meet Oscar Charlie, the search and rescue helicopter at the airstrip. Only my second time on a chopper and in the bright sunshine and snow it was beautiful! Full on moor (thick blizzard) by the time we reach Sumburgh but it soon cleared. Shetlanders are lucky to have the health service we have – the hospital staff are absolutely brilliant. I grabbed a jumper to finish for Marie, and it's a real talking point! Turns out the lady next to me is Captain Eddie Watt's auntie, and she used to work at the knitting factory in Scalloway. She approved of my grafting technique, she called it "fae me and tae me, tae me and fae me" which will make sense to you if you have ever grafted knitwear. Her husband told me he was named after an Isle man called Andrew Eunson who moved to the Ness. Always an isle connection!

Friday 9th February

A boannie calm day in Lerwick and I enjoy seeing boats coming in and out of the sooth mooth of Lerwick harbour. Another visitor knew dad and uncle Stewart and one of the nurses is Laura who is married to Barry and Anne's nephew Kevin. Always nice to see friendly faces. Having been wired up and set free I spend the evening at cousin Mairi's in Norderdale, always lovely to see her and Steve and daughter Laura who is home to get braces off after many long years! I hear Guillermo and the boys are being very well looked after at home, and Luca is better after a bump on the head – if it's not one thing it's another!

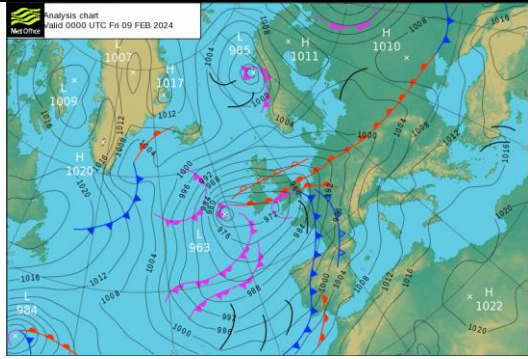
Have a super weekend all, it's white and icy still in Lerwick, let's hope it disappears soon!

Eileen, Houll

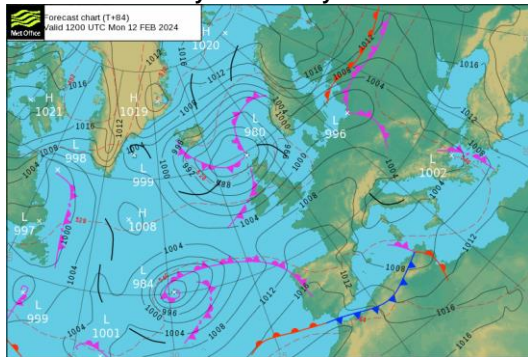
ISLE NOTICE:

Chapel this weekend – will be either in the Chapel itself or perhaps at Utra, news to follow! John leading the service and all welcome

FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



Analysis Chart 0000 UTC
Friday 9th February 2024



Forecast Chart 1200 UTC
Monday 12th February 2024

GENERAL SITUATION

Friday 9th February 2024

With a depression centred across the south-west of the British Isles a strengthening easterly airflow is established over the north of the UK. A warm front pushing north over Scotland will eventually reach Shetland bringing a thaw during the weekend. The strong east to south-easterly airflow turns southerly by Monday as the low moves north to become a slow-moving filling feature north of Shetland. At the same time a new Atlantic depression is already moving east and predicted to continue across southern parts of the UK, leaving northern Scotland in in a showery north to north-westerly airflow from mid-week onwards.

OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND

Friday and Saturday cold at 3° or 4° Celsius by day, 1° overnight. Sunday 4° or 5° by day 3° overnight.

FRIDAY 9th: Bright with an occasional sleet shower. E winds strengthening F5-6. Mainly dry though cloudy overnight with raw F6-7 E winds perhaps occasionally gale F8. **Sea State:** A moderate or rough ESE wind swell building rough or very rough with a 4 to 5 metre wind swell.

SATURDAY 10th: Cloudy with sleet turning to rain. F6-7 E or ESE winds occasionally gale F8. **Sea State:** Very rough with a 5 metre ESE'ly wind swell.

SUNDAY 11th: Cloudy with outbreaks of rain, mainly light at first, perhaps heavier during the evening. F6-7 SE winds. **Sea State:** Rough or very rough with a 4 to 5 metre ESE'ly wind swell.

FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK Temperatures 7° Celsius by day 4° or 5° overnight.

MONDAY 12th: Rain clearing to showers and bright spells then mainly dry by evening with some clear spells overnight. Fresh S winds veering SW. **Sea State:** Rough with a 3 metre ESE'ly wind swell. **TUESDAY 13th:** Bright though with some showers. Moderate or fresh WSW winds. **Sea State:** Mostly moderate with a 2 metre SW'ly wind swell. East of Shetland mostly moderate at 2 metres.

WEDNESDAY 14th – SUNDAY 18th: A few showers Wednesday and Thursday with fresh W winds tending N. N The remainder of the week possibly cooler with a northerly breeze and the chance of an occasional shower. **Sea State Wednesday:** Moderate to rough with a 2 to 3 metre WSW'ly wind swell.

Dave Wheeler

