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Luca and Freyja have been working on persuasive writing this week. They kept the topic close to home and wrote advertisements to come and live in Fair Isle! Perhaps the NTS might want to use their work in the future!?!

Come and live in fabulous Fair Isle

I think Fair Isle is an amazing place to live and has lovely people. Firstly it has beautiful views and it is the perfect place for nature-lovers. Would you like to see cute puffins hunting sandeels? Or orcas catching seals? We have brilliant beaches for rock pooling. You might catch fresh crabs for tea!

In winter Fair Isle is magnificent for stargazing. You can sometimes see Mars, Jupiter and Saturn and millions of stars. How incredible!

Finally, we have everything you need. There is a super shop and fantastic school and a huge hall.

COME AND LIVE ON OUR BEAUTIFUL ISLAND!

Luca (8)

Once in a life time opportunity

Do you want to live in an utterly unique island? Do you want to be part of a friendly welcoming close-knit community? Then this rare experience to move to Britain's most remote inhabited island is for YOU!

Firstly, Fair Isle is a beautiful island with nature everywhere! It has stunning views with a huge variety of wildlife and is famous for bird migration. Adorable puffins return to the isle each year for the mating season. The seas are rich with sea life and cetaceans. Observing orcas hunting by the cliffs is an unforgettable experience occurring throughout the year.

In addition to this, Fair Isle has an amazing lifestyle - crofting, teaching and working on the boat. No more stuffy offices or long work days! As well as all this, there is an abundance of events across the year, such as the Harvest Fundraiser, the school's Children in Need Coffee morning and Christmas show, as well as the Christmas party every year, with a panto, games and dances. Of course don't forget the visiting cruise ships! Every summer there is an opportunity to buy and sell island products such as knitwear and merchandise designed by the school children and delicious home bakes.

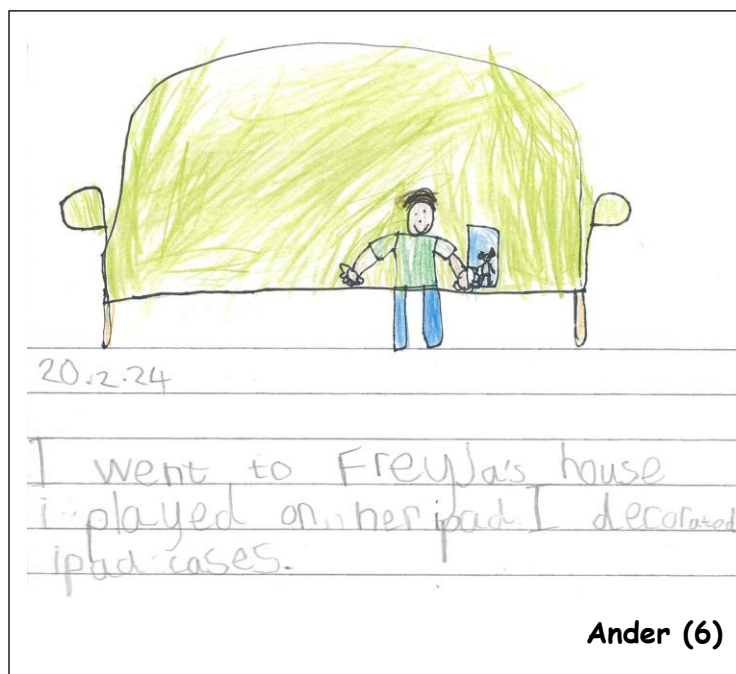
In conclusion Fair Isle is a dream home for those that love nature and being part of a wonderful community. If you like this style of living then apply to live on the island via the National Trust for Scotland as a fabulous three bedroom family home is available. Our island needs a school cook and a ferry crew member. **SIGN UP TODAY!**

Freyja (11)

Going to Lerwick

We went to Lerwick on Monday because we had to see the doctor. We walked to Tesco to get some food. We got slime. When we got back to our room we played with the slime and ate strawberries and blueberries. The next day we went to hospital and saw Dr Alex. The nurse weighed us and checked our heights. After that we got the taxi bus to Tingwall. We had to wait for a long time! We had a little walk. We played What's the Time Mr Wolf. Then we got the plane back to Fair Isle.

Harris (9) and Heidi (6)



Ander (6)

Da week dat's awa – this week we hear from Alison Sinclair who is back in Fair Isle staying with family and friends and learning some new skills too!

When Eileen asked me to write de week dat's awa, I thought it be a good opportunity to give you an update on the Dutchies: We'll start with me!

After spending 5 months in Denmark, I braced myself for 45 people on an island 25 miles away from any bar or club (don't think the Trench can even be qualified as a club). But, unsurprisingly, Fair Isle has been an absolute delight. This is the first time I'm here in a 'normal' month. Quite refreshing after the combined 2 hours of sleep I had in Denmark. Next month I'll be renovating a house in Ariege (Southern France) with an Irish theatre major where I'll stay for about 3 months, followed by 4 weeks in Indonesia with my best friend, so loads of excitement ahead!

This week, I have been working for Marie, and hats off to her. It's been amazing watching her run her business; she's an inspiration. The online knitting course she made is amazing. A few days after I arrived her friend came from the Netherlands. Having a fellow Dutch person to practice with felt like time was flying by on the knitting machine.

Highlights of my week include painting sessions with John, a nostalgic lunch with Freyja in Shirva (have not been there for years), and visits with family. I have been lending a hand at the school, getting a taste of different roles as I explore potential studies. Oh, and can we please take a moment to celebrate Ander and Luca's times of 2:10 and 1:15 on the monkey bar race course - how impressive! Being back on Fair Isle always makes me feel nostalgic, so I have been watching the old classics to bring back fond memories (Wallis and Gromit of course).

I must say I'm doing very well altogether. It's been an incredible few months and I've learned a great deal about myself. Although I'm only 18, I'm officially declaring myself an adult-in-progress. You see I cracked the code, it turns out being an adult is just a series of well-disguised attempts to remember where you left your keys and pretending to have your life together.

Now, I'm savouring my time on the island—a little holiday before diving into the hard work awaiting me in France.

P.S. Steven Sinclair: please get a haircut!

Now from Steven in the Netherlands (Alison's dad):

Thursday 15th: A busy day at work, in the evening I wanted to take Silvia out for dinner, so I booked a nice place and we got all dressed-up. I would appear to be one of "those people" who are over reliant on navigation systems (me having not a brilliant sense of direction). The navigation seemed to be taking us on an unusual route, but I decided to "blindly trust" the system and at one stage took a turn onto a sand road that was in a forest, initially it was ok, but gradually deteriorated until the ruts got so deep that we ended up getting stuck. It was now 7.30pm, I was not able to push very hard to get us out of the mud. After calling the restaurant to cancel our booking I called some friends and asked them if they could help us. It was wonderful when the cavalry arrived, with some rubber boots for me and with 4 people we managed to push our way out. By the time we escaped the kitchen in the restaurant had closed, so we just went home again and made some dinner. Not the evening we expected but an adventure.

Friday 16th: Up early and drove down to Amsterdam to catch my flight to Edinburgh for Iain's stag do. It was an uneventful trip (which is usually a good sign - with no delays). We all met up at a Chinese restaurant, it was lovely to see Iain and Ross again. After a good meal (Ross and I shared some aromatic crispy duck with pancakes, one of the foods I miss when not in the UK, the Dutch Chinese restaurants do not make such good crispy duck) we headed out for drinks, good to be out in Edinburgh, reminded me of my days as a student there many moons ago.

Saturday 17th: Met up with Annette Sheppard for lunch (it had been about 10 years since I saw her last) so it was great to catch up. Then went out to see Iain, Ross and Iain's friends who were in a bar where you could play games like pool and air hockey. Iain then went with his friends to the Cowgate area of Edinburgh (for those of you not familiar with the city this is one of the nightlife parts of town). Ross and I went to meet up with John Mouat (originally from Braefield in Shetland) who now lives in Edinburgh. I have a lot of happy memories of weekends staying in Braefield when I was at secondary school, then we met up again with Iain and his friends at a bar. After a great Indian meal, Martin (Inge's husband) joined us and gave us all a lift back to John's flat for some great conversation and a few drinks. It turns out that the voice recognition technology of 'Siri' does not cope very well with Shetland accents.

Sunday 18th: Ross and I hung out in the morning until it was time for Ross to catch a train back to Glasgow and me to get my flight back to Amsterdam, then drive home. But it was a brilliant weekend full of meeting up with family & old friends and re-visiting familiar places from my student days.

Monday 19th: Back to work, super busy, there always seems to some crisis somewhere in the world that I need to help out with. After work a friend from work who is based at our site in Limerick in Ireland came back home to join us for dinner, we had an Indonesian take out and a lot of laughs as we share a very similar sense of humour 😊.

Tuesday 20th: Working from home today, which means I had time in between meetings to cut up some firewood. Went to my vegetable garden to get some leeks and made a very tasty leek and courgette soup. It is amazing to have so many fresh vegetables from the garden. It has been such a wet winter that the area where Silvia has her Icelandic horses is a sea of mud and one of her horses had been rolling in the mud and was completely covered, hopefully as spring approaches the ground will start to dry out. In the evening Silvia and I went to the gym (which is actually where we first met) and had a very sweaty work out.

Wednesday 21st: More work and meetings; my afternoons/evenings tend to be the busiest as it is when my American colleagues wake up. Will be driving down to Roosendaal in the Netherlands this afternoon as I have some work to do there on Thursday. Looking forward to this weekend as Silvia and I are heading to Germany to visit her best friend who she has known since high school.

Now over to big sister Marin:

As I'm writing this I can barely believe that the sun is actually out here in Copenhagen. I can however believe that I am stuck inside working all day. I cannot complain though: I have been enjoying plenty of walks though this wonderful city, and am very much enjoying my time here.

Last weekend I went for my third dip of the year in the sea, which is as painful as it sounds. It feels like the North Haven on steroids, and after a quick Google I learn that the water here is a shuddering 2 degrees (compared to the tropical 5 degrees of the North haven). Although it is freezing, I love the tingling sensation your body gets once you've gotten some properly warm clothes on. Almost as much as I enjoy the rush of caffeine from the £6 oat milk latte I allowed myself.

I am finishing my master thesis in April, so have taken up boxing to get out of the writer's block I have been having of late. Unlike my prejudice suggested, I only see a few crooked noses, although that could just be genetics. Luckily, people are very welcoming, and I am managing to keep up with the group's chats in Danish. Apart from that, my dear Uncle, or Ian as he is also called, came to Copenhagen and we, together with Lowri and Catarina, went for a lovely Argentinian meal. It was honestly so nice to have a night with family, I don't get that a lot living abroad.

I have also started waitressing in a ramen restaurant, ramen being a Japanese noodle soup, to afford living in this amazing, but money-eating city. Customers keep asking me how spicy our 'spicy ramen' is, but I still get tears in my eyes when a dish had too much black pepper, so I don't think I'm a good reference. On that note, I'd better get back to work!

And finally over to middle sister Anne:

Hello folks, I hope you are all doing well! Here is a little update from me. After spending four months in Dublin and a great holiday in Vietnam, I have finally come back to the Netherlands. I moved back to Groningen 3 weeks ago and have now started my (hopefully) final year of studying. I am happy to be back, but also find that there are some things that I have had to get used to again. When I lived in Dublin, my room was in a busy street with loads of bars on it. I sometimes woke up in the middle of the night because people were singing 'Sweet Caroline, da da da' or 'You're my wonder wall' outside my window. It was such fun to experience living in a place where there was so much going on, and I still need to get used to how quiet Groningen is compared to Dublin (even though it is nice to sleep without earplugs in)

The holiday in Vietnam was also a great experience. I went with Neeltje, a friend from uni. It was so nice to have a travel buddy and we did and saw a lot. I finally learned how to eat with chopsticks, can now speak some basic Vietnamese and even got a bit of a tan. The people were very friendly and I was surprised at how safe it is as a country to travel in. If I would get the chance, I would definitely go again. I have now started to write my thesis and have gone back to my job at the hospital. I recently had my first night shift, which I had never done before. This was an experience. It felt like having a huge hangover, which is never fun. I am happy to get back to my job again though, and am enjoying my thesis and courses so far :)

Alison, Steven, Marin and Anne Sinclair – Busta, The Netherlands and Denmark

ISLE NOTICES

Good Shepherd sailing – the ferry is planning to sail to Grutness this coming Monday 26th February, leaving the pier here around 12 midday, to fit in with the plane arriving here shortly before. They hope to be home again around 6ish but please check with the sailings information line on Monday for updates: 01595 743978.

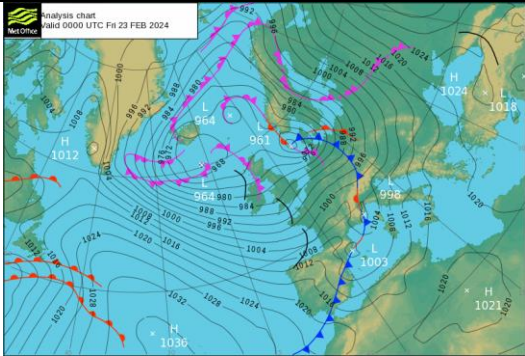
Chapel – All welcome to join in worship, Sunday at 11am at the Chapel, Neil leading the service.

Welcome! Huge welcome to our newest residents Laura and Charlie who have arrived in the isle this week. We wish you all the best and look forward to getting to know you both! Good weather will come, we promise!!

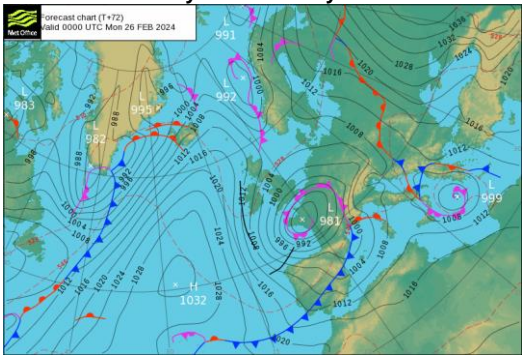
Cruiseships 2024 – I thought it might be useful to share the schedule we have for ships so far this summer, some busy spells ahead! Eileen

08/05/24	Wed	Ocean Nova
10/05/24	Fri	Ocean Nova
18/05/24	Sat	Sea Spirit
22/05/24	Wed	Sea Spirit
26/05/24	Sun	Ocean Nova
29/05/24	Wed	Spitsbergen
30/05/24	Thur	Seabourne Venture
01/06/24	Sat	Hebridean Princess
02/06/24	Sun	Island Sky
03/06/24	Mon	MV Ortelius
04/06/24	Tues	Greg Mortimer
05/06/24	Wed	Island Sky
09/06/24	Sun	Greg Mortimer
10/06/24	Mon	Hebridean Princess
18/06/24	Tue	Hebridean Princess
25/06/24	Tue	Island Sky
28/06/24	Fri	Island Sky
30/06/24	Sun	Maud
15/07/24	Mon	Hebridean Sky
16/07/24	Tue	Island Sky
18/07/24	Thu	Island Sky

FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



Analysis Chart 0000 UTC
Friday 23rd February 2024



Forecast Chart 0000 UTC
Monday 26th February 2024

GENERAL SITUATION

Friday 23rd February 2024

A slack area of low pressure covers Shetland, but as the centre of low pressure drifts north a north-westerly airflow will develop later in the weekend. A ridge of high pressure topples east across the Northern Isles on Monday with a southerly airflow freshening ahead of fronts pushed east on Tuesday. A slack airflow follows on Wednesday, strengthening southerly on Thursday ahead of further fronts driven east by the next depression tracking east to the south of Iceland. Secondary lows, developing on its southern flank and currently expected to track east to the south of Shetland, then bring further unsettled conditions and risk of strong winds.

OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND

Temperatures around 6° Celsius by day, 3° overnight with risk of grass frost.

FRIDAY 23rd: Early showers then mainly dry with sunny intervals. F3-4 WSW winds. Clear spells, light winds with chance of frost overnight. **Sea State:** Moderate or rough with a 2 to 3 metre W'ly wind swell.

SATURDAY 24th: Chance of showers but often dry and bright with F3-4 SW winds. **Sea State:** Mostly rough with a 3 to 4 metre W'ly wind swell. Slight to moderate east of Shetland SW 1 to 2 metre.

SUNDAY 25th: Showers later as light winds freshen F4 NW. **Sea State:** Moderate or rough with a 2 to 3 metre NW'ly wind swell.

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

MONDAY 26th: Early showers then dry and bright. Moderate NW winds backing SW. Rain spreading east overnight as S winds strengthen. **Sea State:** Moderate or rough with a 2 to 3 metre NW'ly wind swell.

TUESDAY 27th: Cloudy with rain clearing to showers as strong S winds veer fresh W. **Sea State:** Rough with a 3 to 4 metre SW'ly wind swell.

WEDNESDAY 28th – SUNDAY 3rd: Wednesday brighter with showers and lighter winds. Rain on Thursday with strong to gale S winds. Then further rain or showers with lighter winds Friday and Saturday. W winds strengthening on Sunday. **Sea State Wednesday:** Rough with a 3 to 4 metre W'ly wind swell but mostly moderate at 2 metre east of Shetland.

Dave Wheeler

