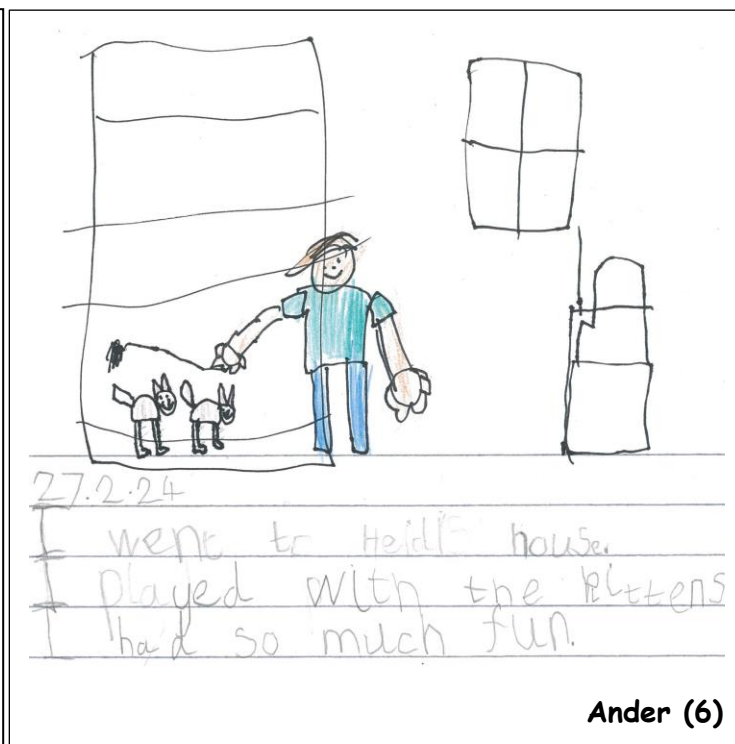


On Saturday we walked to Busta. We met Luca, Ander, Freyja, Grace and Eileen on the way. When we all got to Busta, we decorated biscuits with Alison. They were yummy! We all played football in the garden then we went home.

On Sunday and Monday I played on my Xbox. I played Fortnite and Grounded.

Harris (9)



Chapel - Dave preaching this Sunday (Possibly in Dutch). All welcome to join from 11am. John

Fair Isle Committee AGM and quarterly island meeting – Wednesday 13th March at 7.30 in the Hall Committee Room. All welcome. Please send any items for the agenda to Eileen by Monday 4th March please. Teas and homebakes will be served!

Pier and ferry project updates – I am joining monthly calls with the SIC and team involved in the new pier/ferry project to keep the isle in touch with any developments. Currently they are hoping to start some of the works enlarging the noost in August/September, all being well with contracts etc. If any residents have any queries or feedback, please get in touch with me and I will pass on to the team. Eileen

NTS properties – Rod Robb from Shetland Fireplaces has been commissioned by NTS to come and inspect all the fireplaces in NTS properties in the Isle. This work will be happening in the next few weeks (I will update on dates/times soon). Rod will need access to your properties for around an hour and will also be inspecting the chimney from the roof. Eileen

I have been going through Fair Isle Times archives of late and found this interesting piece in the Fair Isle Times printed 20 years ago, which I thought was worth sharing again. It was written for a 1944 publication by "THE SMALL MAN WITH THE BLACK MOUSTACHE", who was stationed here in the isle during the war

FAIR ISLE.

Life as a soldier can be trying and under the best of circumstances seldom pleasant. Most of us abroad appreciate and fully realise what soldiering overseas can be, especially lads who came through the desert and served in Burma. I'm referring solely to social life or rather what we get in lieu of what we used to get before the war.

I wonder how many of us know that there is an island only a few hours off the coast of Britain and geographically part of Scotland, where life can be as trying as almost any place in the world. The Fair Isle is the name of this island; it is included in the group of islands which form the Shetlands. It is situated twenty three miles South of Sumburgh Head This head is the most southerly part of the Shetlands and juts out into the great Atlantic, proud and defiant. The stretch of water between the two places is considered one of the roughest crossings in the world. That information was given to me by an old sea-faring Shetlander who had returned to his homeland after a life of sailing every sea and ocean in the world.

The morning I left for the Fair Isle was typically Scotch only a great deal worse, the wind was terrific and the rain simply poured out of the sky, an awful start to such an island as the Fair Island. The "Good Shepherd" is the ship that plys back and forth between Sumburgh Head and the Island once a week, weather permitting. Very often the journey is held up for days, sometimes weeks, by appalling weather. The "Good Shepherd" is a remarkable craft, about half as big as a drifter, and manned by four brothers. The voyage was one I shall never forget. At times the ship was stuck up in the air and the list was frightening, most of the way I was seasick and when I finally set foot on the Fair Isle I could have kissed everybody I was so pleased.

My initial state of happiness was short-lived and when I thought about my enforced stay of three months

I shuddered. The area of the island is approximately two square miles and to one accustomed to city life it was a horrible realisation. There was nothing for it but to make the best of a bad job and with that in my mind I made for the hut that was to be my home. I was surprised at the simplicity of the islanders and their very genuine efforts to make me feel at home. Every house had an open door, and a cup of tea and whatever was going, was their first thought whenever I crossed the threshold. Rank or birth did not enter their lives and for these plain honest people the open door policy applied to everyone.

There are roughly fifteen families, one with the name Anderson, four or five Wilsons, and the remainder called Stout. To avoid confusion they refer to one another by odd names. Jimmy Stout lives in a cottage named HOULL, so he is Jimmy Stout Houll. A cousin of Jimmy Stout's lives in the middle of the island and is called Jimmy midway and his wife Mrs. Midway. There are no police, but one old man, I have forgotten his name, is a kind of public administrator. He is postman and a host of other things including preacher. There is a small school house, church and village hall and each plays a big part in the island's life.

Our little detachment of sappers organised a dance which was really a great affair. Everyone on the island turned up and age mattered little. I've been to dances all over Britain but never have I seen one like this. Everybody danced, coats off, pullovers off, and shirt sleeves rolled up, it was wonderful. Old Scotch dances and Shetland reels occupied the biggest part of the evening. Dancing ability meant nothing as long as the spirit was there, and as the island is a 'dry' area strong drink had no part in the jollification.

each family has its own croft from which it obtains most of the food necessities of life. There are a few cows and one bull on the island, also a few sheep. Fishing is done by practically all the menfolk, consequently fish plays a big part in their diet and pre-

war they exported a little to, Scotland or the Shetlands. During the war their only fuel is peat and is collected on a communal basis. It is a treat for a person like myself to see everyone really 'stuck-in'.

Knitting is a very important feature of the island and Fair Isle women are credited with being the finest knitters in the world. They have a style and pattern all their own, cherished and vigourously guarded by the islanders. The Shetland people have, for a number of years back, copied the Fair Isle pattern but I feel that there is still a difference. Spain is responsible for the lovely design. At the time of the Spanish Armada one of the vanquished fleet, whilst fleeing from Drake, was wrecked on the Fair Isle. Some of the crew eventually returned to Spain and the remainder settled on the island. Fair Isle pattern is all that is left of Spain now, but it is a great contribution to the little island. As a matter of interest my wife has a number of Fair Isle garments and they are the envy of her friends.

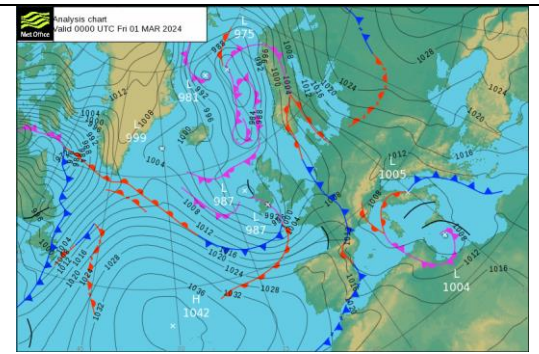
The people live a very, very primitive life, but are kept up-to-date, more or less, by the wireless. Needless to say they would'nt swop the Fair Isle for 'all the tea in China'. After a bad start on the island I was very sorry to leave and will try to visit it again when the war is over.

Spr. Amos.

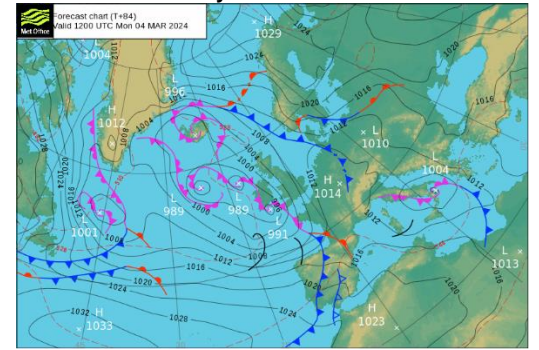
THE SMALL MAN with the BLACK MOUSTACHE.

"This small succulent pill, Ladies and Gentlemen, is not only easy to swallow, but a guaranteed cure for constipation, piles, halitosis, baldness, dyspepsia, indigestion, housemaid's knee and bad breath."

FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



Analysis Chart 0000 UTC
Friday 1st March 2024



Forecast Chart 1200 UTC
Monday 4th March 2024

GENERAL SITUATION

Friday 1st March 2024

The airflow is lighter today as low pressure north of Shetland moves away and a small low swings east across southern England. Shallow low pressure then covers much of the UK weekend with Shetland in its slack south-easterly circulation. Little changes at first next week until an Atlantic depression drives a front north east across the UK and the airflow freshens during Tuesday and Wednesday. However high pressure across Scandinavia is expected to prevent the front reaching Shetland. The latter part of the week sees the high extending to include North East Scotland.

OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND Temperatures 7° or 8° Celsius by day, 4° overnight.

FRIDAY 1st: Mainly dry with some bright or sunny spells later. F4 S winds. A cloudier night with chance of showers. F4 SE winds. **Sea State:** Moderate or rough with a 2 to 3 metre W'ly wind swell.

SATURDAY 2nd: Cloudy with patchy light rain later. F5 ESE winds. **Sea State:** Moderate or rough with a 2 to 3 metre W'ly wind swell later SE'ly

SUNDAY 3rd: Cloudy with chance of a shower. F5 SE winds. **Sea State:** Moderate with a 2 metre SE'ly wind swell.

FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK Temperatures 7° or 8° Celsius by day, 5° overnight.

MONDAY 4th: Cloudy but dry. Fresh SE winds. **Sea State:** Moderate with a 2 metre SE'ly wind swell.

TUESDAY 5th: Cloudy but dry. Fresh occasionally strong SE winds. **Sea State:** Moderate or rough with a 2 to 3 metre SE'ly wind swell.

WEDNESDAY 6th – SUNDAY 10th: Wednesday cloudy but dry. Fresh occasionally strong SE winds. Remainder of week and weekend probably staying dry though rather cloudy' Fresh occasionally strong SE winds easing later. **Sea State Wednesday:** Rough with a 3 metre SE'ly wind swell. **Dave Wheeler**

